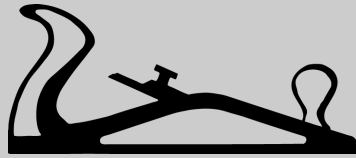


Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild

www.siskiyouguild.org



SHOP CHATS

These are informal and informational gatherings for members and friends to meet, share their shops, projects and ideas with each other. If you can carpool, great, and bring a snack or beverage to share if you can. Any member is welcome any time to announce an impromptu shop-chat if they have a special project, tool, or idea they want to share with SWG members. Just send Tom an email with the date, time and place.

Feb. 20th: 10:00 am~noon at Gerald Notch's shop.

#2245 Hillside Dr., Central Point 541-779-1828
gpnotch@gmail.com
He has a small house to show us (before it goes off to his client) and a guest cottage (180 sq. ft.) on his property. I hope his shop is bigger than the buildings he creates!

March 26th: 10:00am~noon at Morgan Pierce's shop.

#700 Butler Creek RD. Ashland OR 541-864-9955 and piercewoodwork@aol.com
Butler Crk. Rd. is near Ashland exit 19. Take Eagle Mill heading east, then turn north on Butler (over 1-5). Morgan's got the BIG Bandsaw attitude these days, and plenty good stories too.

Message from the President

Hello Wood-Slicers,

What is it about a wheel that is so wonderful? Our world has been greatly affected by such a simple concept of round rotation. You may think I'm gushing about drill bits and saw blades - which have their useful qualities. But this message is more about outside of the shop experiences (though the impact on our work is a factor). Why is it that so many woodworkers have bicycles in their history and/or regular life? There are a couple of authors in Fine Woodworking magazine that mention one of their hobbies as cycling. It's no surprise that people who spend a lot of time using heavy materials, complex measurements, and refining details during a day would desire some fresh air experiences to complete their week.

I wonder which came first - the lure of the tricycle or the first whittling knife. I'd guess that for most of us our first taste of 'freedom', going where we (hopefully) wanted, at a speed that we (hopefully) controlled, was behind the handlebars. The carving of sticks came after we had shown some skill in being safe doing other kid stuff. We learned to go from 3 wheels to 2 (some 1), and on to our 4 wheeled vehicles as we grew up. Yet there is something about those early accomplishments, especially learning to balance and steer a bicycle that stands out.

There is an important link here (yes, the bike chain "link" led to the chainsaw) about doing things for our-selves, being able to see and feel the results of our efforts. There is also the refreshment factor of feeling the wind, hearing the birds, dodging the road junk, traffic safety, and getting the body moving by being active in ways that work does not allow. There is, too, this wonderment about how these 'simple' devices function, which gets greatly elaborated upon once we

start taking apart and 'repairing' various parts of the system. Now we could get into the whole gear ratio, torque, wheel size, tire diameter tangents, but let's focus on the basic concept, namely that we can see how this contraption operates, how each part does its job for the good of all in gaining a mechanical advantage. Not only is this a training ground for repairing almost anything, but gaining the confidence to do your own work and get a good result. (You won't be here if your brakes didn't work!)

I had a chance to read about the Wright brothers and found their story compelling. The first mechanical object they built was a printing press. Later they built 'safety' (modern) bicycles to support their aerodynamic pursuits. These guys went 'back to the bird' trying to solve the equation on how to fly. They were HUGE problem solvers with very practical minds. They went from working on glider tech to using wind tunnel testing and building their own motors (in the bike shop) to power their way into repeatable air-flight. It was the 'thinkers' behind the tools that made the biggest leaps in progress through taking many small steps. Did their bike rides help them to sort out some tricky issues or help their mental wheels spin effectively? Was the wind blowing 'through' their ears while rolling down a hill the first taste of 'it-felt-like-I-was-flying'?

So here we are years later where our world of transportation and equipment is jam packed with wheels. Those experiences of putting out energy and directing it towards a functional result still rings close to home for folks like us that are project and process oriented. Did you know Stephen Bacon once rode track bikes (fixies)? Or that Christof Buchler used to ride his "clunker" in clogs from Talent to Ashland to play football bare-footed? Or that Bill

Harriff worked taking blind people on bike rides? He got hit during a sponsored ride while in Australia and passed away a couple of days after. Jens brought his bike with him from Germany. Russell Beebe, Jay Treiger, Dan Sheret, and Herb Harris have made long bike tours. Herb now works in a bike parts warehouse these days for a steady income. That brings to mind Mallory Hicklin who can and does build his own bikes and motorcycles, etc. And there was Ted Ballard who found his way to southern Oregon while on his motorbike.

Not to bore you with personal details, but I went from a single speed sting-ray as a kid in San Francisco to my dad's old Raleigh 10 spd (sometimes just 5). Then in high school I rode a Raleigh Comp road bike with sew-up tires in wooly shorts and shirt, doing laps in Golden Gate park or riding over the Bridge to Mill Valley, Mt. Tam., and beyond. I only have 4 of my own bikes (2 mt. and 2 road) and I'm 'storing' my son's dual suspension dirt machine until he has time to use it again. It's just under 30 lbs, fit's me OK, has hydro-disc brakes, modern angles and a rear shock 'brain' - feels almost like flying!

Think back to when you flipped your bike over to fix a flat tire or just crank the power train in the air. Did you clean the frame? Use an adjustable crescent wrench? Oil a chain? Pump up a tire or two? Then steering down the driveway, rolling forward into the big world, out to engage with the day - the wind, the sounds, and smells of life. These are the do-it-yourself training moments, knuckle scrapers, that we persevere through to fix or create something that is important to us as youngsters. The lure of wood's warmth and character has drawn us into the wood-shop, where gears, true angles, bearings, chains, and more can reflect directly on the parts developed prior to 1900. The determination necessary to take some wood or steel tubing, prepare and shape it, cut and fit it, assemble then sand it, finish and add the hardware, has been growing in us from our early days. As important as it is to be a good mechanic in the shop, it's good to have balance in one's life (and on one's wheels) by getting out for that bike ride, run, ball game, or quiet walk to somewhere or nowhere in particular.

May wooden projects keep you dusty. May your family and friends

gather often. May good health keep you on-your-feet. May 2016 be kind to us all!

Stay Sharp, Tom



Mallory recently finished a sideboard for his wife: "...The next one I do for Tami or for sale there will be jigs made and no more of this willy-nilly free hand stuff..."

SWG 2015 Activity Schedule

• Annual General Meeting:

Sat. Jan. 30th from 10:00 am ~ noon
At the AHS shop on Eastern corner of Siskiyou Blvd. and Morse St. in Ashland. This is our biggest gathering of members during the year. We hope to fill the room and let people introduce themselves, assisting us in 'putting a face' to the many names on our SWG list. The coming year's activities will be presented and planned for. Election of the Officers and Steering Committee will be held. Seating, coffee, and muffins will be available. Bring a chair if you prefer.

• ShopChats:

These simple tours allow members to connect and learn about some new methods and tools. We will have a sign-up sheet at the AGM to continue developing our visit schedule for the year. Final TBA dates and places will go out in a postcard, e-notice and put on our website.

• Insight Into Woodworking:

Teachers' meeting and dinner at Brent's home, Feb 16th, starting at 5pm. Classes start March 1st., first night location is at Herb Harris' shop. Contact Brent Poulton for more info: <b.e.poulton@gmail.com>



OUR MISSION

The Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild is a regional association of woodworkers encouraging a wide range of skills, knowledge, and interests. Our mission is to offer fellowship by providing networking among our members. We value the principles and practices of fine woodworking by encouraging technical discussion and development. We promote an appreciation of quality workmanship to the general public by providing access to our products, experience, and design expertise through shows, classes, and other events.

2015 OFFICERS

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Brent Poulton, Wayne Tarris,
Jens Selm, Will Sears,
Dan Fischer, Eric Olson,
Herbert Edwin Harris III

REMINDERS: Please send contact information updates to Herb Harris. To save on mailing costs, notify Herb if you wish to receive only e-copies of our mailings. Also, we HIGHLY encourage members to post their bio's on our members website page! Contact our webmaster Eric Olson for more information!