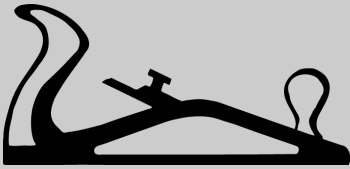


# Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild



## SHOP CHATS

Shop-Chats are our method of getting together during the year to see what other members are doing and how they go about it. Exploring other shops can often reveal ways to improve one's own shop. We try to find new locations and/or new members to have us over for a visit so that we have 'fresh' shops to tour. We hope to 'explore' your work, hear tool opinions, and tips for getting 'it' done right. Sharing snacks and stories allows us to learn more about our skilled members.



## NO SHOP CHATS SCHEDULED FOR THE DURATION OF 2020!



...Although feel free to chat about my shop door. Someone asked if I ran out of straight lumber.

- Herbert Edwin Harris III

## Message from the President

### Hello SWG!

Hope you have been doing OK in these days of fire alertness. I have not heard from any SWG members that are victims of the fires - as of yet. Any victims struggling to pull together their life options at this time would most likely consider notifying the SWG as the very last thing on their list.

We have determined that it makes sense to follow the 'path' of other events and call OFF our live show. As could be predicted, I've heard back from many of our craftspeople to say that they would NOT consider showing this year. Only a few have suggested that they would be willing as long as appropriate safety measures were taken. For the Steering Committee it is clear that most do not support the idea of holding and assisting a live event. It's the officer's and Steering Committee's reasoning that a smaller show (which could get cancelled anytime up to the last week) is not worth organizing. Although OSF has not said 'no way' (yet), they did suggest that Carpenter Hall 'might' be an option. I do not think that showing in Carpenter Hall is a good idea. It's not easy to setup and take down there and regardless we may not have enough volunteer support to help. Calling off the show is the safest decision for us and OSF in terms of safety and minimizing wasted effort and money.

Given that, we now can focus energy and dollars to promoting an online gallery concept and announcing our decision to the public. I do think and hope we may still get access to the window(s) by the Great Hall to announce our 'sabbatical' and promote our Guild and online gallery. We have already started talking to Jeff Roberts (the Guild's website administrator) about adding a gallery to our website. The Clayfolk team (they normally show at the Medford Army but have cancelled their live event as well) has an online gallery that is providing inspiration for changes to our website. In a nutshell, their gallery has thumbnail photos with names that, when clicked on,

takes one to the craftperson's website, webpage, or a simple contact info page.

If we implement an online gallery we do NOT plan on having any sales run through our website or SWG account. This would be handled independently by those guild members that participate in the online gallery. Also, while we do NOT plan to collect 5% from any of these sales, it has yet to be determined whether or not we would charge members a flat fee to help pay for any enhancements required to our website to make the gallery happen.

We hope that you understand this decision and support what we see as our next best option. Note that our concept of an online gallery is in the very early stages. We will provide more information as we go along. Oh yes, as to be expected, there will be NO Shop-Chats scheduled for this fall.

*May we all stay safe.*

*- Tom, Jens, Herb, and the Steering Committee too...*

### ***On a tangential topic....***

What do we get involved with when business slows down and we have time to catch up on shop maintenance? Herb has taken photos and done inventory on his shop equipment in case he needs to give information to his insurance company. Others have probably done clean up and tool sharpening until everything is tidy and shiny. For me, in between numerous small projects and chair repairs, I got into replacing power cords!

It started after I loaned my old Bosch random orbit sander to a friend. It was ratty and taped up a bit when I gave it to him so it was no surprise when it came back and I could see the wires. I plugged it in and 'pop-goes-my-fuse'. Remember those? I have an old screw-in fuse box right in my shop to protect my main panel. Not sure that makes much sense but it's

what I set up years ago. I asked the guy if he had had any trouble with the sander. He said it ran fine and he felt bad that the cord had snapped. I went down to Ashland Hardware and found a 2-pronged replacement cord. Then I opened up the sander body and found the screws to release the old cord. After screwing the new cord to those contact points and putting it back together I indeed fixed the sander without a hitch!

So what's next? OK, I'll do the same for my Bosch pad sander that was suffering the same issue: old cracked cord rubber. That went smoothly too, so I must be getting good at this!

Looking around I saw that my original (from the mid '70s) Rockwell 3/8" variable speed drill needed a similar repair. So back to the hardware store for another 2-pronged 'beauty.' The handle came apart and I was looking at the variable speed trigger with the wires going in - but no screws to pin the wires. HHHmmm, upon taking a closer look I pulled the switch out of the case to find that the wires were just 'pushed' into place. So I had to tug on those to get them out. Unfortunately, this switch was made up of multiple parts that included press-fit spring bars to hold the wiring. As you can imagine I had to put on stronger glasses to see how to re-assemble it! After several tries, some sweating, some swearing, and some delicate handling I got the new cord in place and the wires slipped into their spring clips. Next, I had to jiggle the part back into the handle and around the trigger with the numerous wires! Hold it tight and lock it together with a handle bolt.

Then I noticed a small piece, a little white metal 'plate' with 2 shiny spots on one side. I had no idea where it had been located. I took everything apart to find the right spot to return it to. Going inside the switch didn't show me anything obvious so I guessed at a spot and eventually managed to keep it from sliding around while putting all the loose springs and wires back in position. Yes, I got the handle back together and was ready to test the tool. I plugged it in and it was suddenly on full power drive! Yikes, it was 'hot-wired' now, bypassing the trigger!

It was time to disassemble it once more and try a different place for that ~ 3/16" x ~ 5/8" plate. After the familiar struggle and a new position for the plate I plugged the sander to the outlet and got no response, even when squeezing the trigger. Whoops, now what? I started digging into my collection of purchased tool pamphlets. I found the Rockwell Drill envelope only to discover that the switch was listed as one part and did not have it's own internal diagram. I tried some online resources to locate some info on this - unsuccessfully.

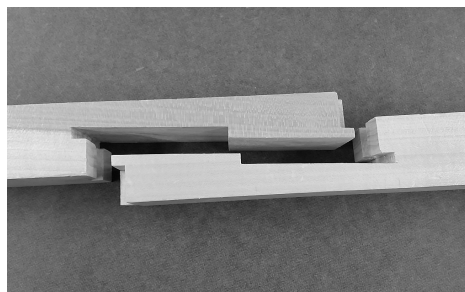
Maybe someone else would know how to search this out but not me. I was very frustrated by this time. This tool had served me so steadily since the start of my woodworking career. Was it to become a lawn ornament?

Some days later I was telling this story to a pal. He said that he could use a power drill to run some sanding drums and a working switch or variable speeds wasn't necessary. So back in the shop I went to 'fix' the drill and put the little plate back into the 'direct drive' position. Got it together, plugged in, and it started right up! So now my friend has a tough 'sanding driver' with a new cord. I may still try to track down that part, or the switch diagram, but who has such 40 year old information or Rockwell parts? Anybody know where to look?

As you know, I do try to bounce back when derailed so it wasn't long before I got another cord to put on my old variable speed Bosch jig saw. I was going to be smart and careful this time. If it looked at all tricky I would put it back together and use more electrical tape to wrap up the cord. Fortunately for me, those folks at Bosch were thinking ahead and the layout and connections were straight forward with simple screw connection points. In less than a 1/2 hour I was done with the assembly and testing with the new cord wrapped evenly around the tool. Maybe I'm (like) a pro after all!!!!

Well folks, there's enough going on beyond our control and so we have to be careful with what we get ourselves into - literally. Be wise, think twice, take your own-sweet-time, use more (duct) tape, and whatever else is needed to keep yourself out of worse trouble.

*Stay sharp - Tom*



*By the way, if you ever forget the schedule for our various meetings, Jeff has included a month-by-month event calendar on our website. Go to the Event section, then click on Calendar!*



## 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.

## 2020 OFFICERS

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Tom Phillips

**Treasurer**  
Jens Sehm

**Secretary**  
Herbert Edwin Harris III

**Webmaster**  
Jeff Roberts

**Steering Committee**  
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Eric Olson, Tom Phillips,  
Morgan Pierce, Jeff Roberts,  
Will Sears, Jens Sehm,  
David Stan, Wayne Tarris,  
Jay Treiger

REMINDERS: Please send contact information updates to Herb Harris.