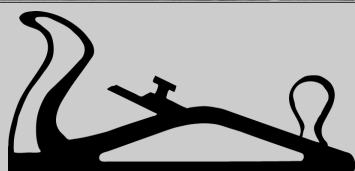


Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild



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.



All activities will be announced by email as they are scheduled during 2021.

Message from the President

Hello SWG,

I wish I had some good news for planning this year's activities. You may have already noticed in our emails that the Annual General Meeting is postponed and perhaps cancelled. There will be a vote by mail option to elect the officials and steering committee members which may likely be a continuation of our established and functioning crew.

The biggest accomplishment for 2020 is the addition to our website of a Virtual Gallery (VG). Jeff Roberts worked diligently with interested members to create a display page for salable pieces. Herb Harris made sure that photos were of a quality to match and fit into such a presentation. And Dennis Knauert volunteered his photography skills to help a few of us that didn't have good photos of our pieces. We are keeping this feature available to all members who wish to sell specific pieces for a flat \$60 'entrance' fee. You get to have a couple of photos in the VG slide show that can lead folks to either your own page on the SWG website with your information and more photos or connect them directly to your personal website. All sales aspects are your responsibility - from payments to delivery. Contact Jeff if you wish to participate in the VG. We encourage you to tell friends and family and spread the word about our VG!

Last year's Insight into Woodworking classes were quickly interrupted by covid and we are trying to figure out a way to offer some classes this year. David Stan is contacting our teachers to see who might be involved and a time frame for the classes. We are thinking of a couple possible time frames in spring as well as fall (Sept-Oct.). He hopes to develop a plan for us on how and when to present the classes. However, we may still be required to delay classes again if covid doesn't improve. A fairly big concern is that our on-site coordinator John Webb has been having his own health issues that could prevent him from assisting this year. I wish to acknowledge his

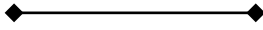
involvement in making the classes function each week over many years! His consistent and humble support for the teachers and the students has allowed so many to partake of these sessions. We hope the best for him and are now reaching out to our membership to find someone to take on this critical role in supporting our classes. If you would consider being the class coordinator who attends each class and would like to know more about this role then PLEASE contact Tom or David!

I will not plan any Shop-Chats until it's clear that we are allowed to meet in small groups safely. And we can only hope that our fall show is possible. Most of us are used to being isolated in our shops as keeping to ourselves is fairly normal when we are working on a project. Our networking efforts must focus on reaching members by email and I encourage you to do so.

Paying for your 2021 membership gets you a current Merchant Discount card so you can continue making 'fine' sawdust and chips. However, I do find that the best deals arrive either from other SWG members or the public that are cleaning up their spaces, downsizing, and/or moving. Recently we were able to connect with a widow whose husband was a talented carver of both wood and marble. His collection of tools was varied, functional, and versatile. I was able to collect many basic 'household' tools for my daughter to use: pliers, hammers, socket wrenches, ladders, etc. I could not resist purchasing a bunch of unusual tools for my own use: a 45 deg angled blade (slicer) block plane, a box of scrapers, a few quality knives and chisels, and some small 'palm' planes with varying sole shapes. I understand that Russell Beebe and some of his carving students were able to glean many nice old gouges. It's heartening to see these tools go to local people who may use them instead of getting tossed out or sent to auction. To me these older tools are treasures that have proved themselves and deserve a second life.

Keep using our e-network to ask

questions, show off a recent proud project, locate some extra wood, or borrow a specialty tool. We can stay connected even at a distance. Work smart and stay sharp - to be safe!



I started this bench about 6 years ago when we removed a wall in our living room. I thought to reuse the studs and make a workbench for the shop. Got a large chunk of walnut and rough milled the studs and made a base. The top pieces have been sitting around on the base clamped together since then. Seven weeks ago I got back into it and finally completed it last week. It has been more challenging than I thought.

I had been waiting for others to bring a workbench project up for years because I've had so many questions, etc. So that's why I thought maybe others might be thinking along the same lines! It's been great to have 2 vises and a nice flat place to work!

- Gary Adler



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!

WATCH OUT FOR INTERNET SCAMS!

I sold a woodworking machine on WoodWeb this winter (an internet site for selling/buying woodworking machines). My first offer was interesting. A couple days after first showing interest the buyer said the original price was fine and that he would take care of shipping by having a third party pick up the equipment. He said he would send me a cashier's check for the price of the machine along with the cost for shipping. I could cash the check at my local bank. Note that cashier's checks are considered just like cash and banks cash them easily. I was suppose to hold onto the cash and when the shipping agent arrived I would fork over the cost of shipping. Hmmm. What prevents me from just keeping all the money and absconding to Reno? ***I have the cash in my possession and so what could go wrong?***

So, here's the deal. A quick internet search told me how this scam works. Cashier checks are actually quite easy to fake. My local bank will cash the check immediately. HOWEVER, the cashier's check must be cleared by the issuing bank as well - and this can take up to two weeks! After two weeks the issuing bank calls my bank and reports a forgery. My bank calls me and demands its money back. However, I do not have all the money because in the meantime I gave some yahoo driver a bunch of money along with my machine.

The bottom line is to treat everything on the internet (including email) with suspicion and caution. Just as one drives their car defensively one should drive their internet activity defensively as well. Do not be paranoid - just defensive. If something seems suspicious then perform a quick research on the internet to determine if indeed you should be suspicious. This story can apply to anything one is selling over the internet - including fine furniture.

Now, I could have told the buyer that I would require that I hold onto the cashier's check for the amount of time it cleared the issuing bank. However, I did not want to deal with this person anymore. In particular, I certainly did not want to provide anymore personal information beyond my email such as my address and phone number, etc. Note that some online marketplaces keep one's actual email hidden from buyers by using a proxy email. Ebay does this.

- Herbert Edwin Harris III



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.

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Jay Treiger

REMINDERS: Please send contact information updates to Herbert Edwin Harris III.