

The CNEW Skew

Copyright © 2007 Central New England Woodturners

Volume 20 Issue 8

August 2007

President's Message

Are We Having Fun? I hope this finds everybody in good health and enjoying summer, we missed some of you at the picnic on August 4th we had a good time and plenty of food which we had donated by everybody who came and brought a dish, also one of our members, Dominic Leroux who is the owner of Leroux Meats in Holden MA. (a wholesale meat supplier to restaurants etc.). It was a very enjoyable afternoon, with a huge Thanks to Ray & Lisa Boutotte for letting us use their house and yard for the picnic.

A few days later Dominic called me to offer some black walnut to our members for their taking and Dave Eaton kindly sent out an e-mail to notify everybody of the wood. For those without e-mail, contact Dominic at 508-829-9844 for the location of the wood (if it's still there).

I am looking forward to the September meeting for another interesting demonstration.

I would like to thank our members for participating in the Marshfield Fair which happened in mid-August. I would also like to thank each person who has donated to the Freedom Project as I know that each person that receives a wheel chair will be grateful for the convenience it provides in their lives each day.

For Now Have Fun and Enjoy Life,

AL

Editorial

Hope everyone has been having a good summer and doing lots of creative things. My wife Hazel and I got especially creative and produced a collaborative piece for the ConneXtions exhibit being run jointly by the AAW and ISGB. We learned two lessons from this exercise. First, do not leave lots of work till the week before the deadline. Second, if you must teach an old dog new tricks, do not do so an hour before the show goes on. I was up until 3am two days before the piece had to be in Saint Paul trying to glue gold thread to brass pins.



Contents

President's Message	1
Editorial	1
Club Officers	2
Coming Events	2
Vacuum Chucking	4
Picnic Photos	5

Club Officers and Contact Info for 2007

President, Al Faul	president@cnew.org
VP, Internal, Reid Gilmore	internal_vp@cnew.org
VP, External, Mary Maguire	external_vp@cnew.org
Secretary, Tim Elliott	secretary@cnew.org
Treasurer, Norma Hogan	treasurer@cnew.org
Newsletter, Graeme Young	newsletter_editor@cnew.org
Video Librarian, Al Faul	video_librarian@cnew.org
Book Librarian, Ray Boutotte	librarian@cnew.org
Webmaster, Dave Eaton	webmaster@cnew.org
Photography, Henry Fairlie	photography@cnew.org

A.R.T. Demo Day

A.R.T. invite you for the second time to join us for a demo day with JoHannes Michelsen. Our club, Association of Revolutionary Turners has JoHannes (re-)scheduled for a demo day on **Saturday Sept 8**, at Middlesex Community College in Bedford MA, and we would like anyone interested to join us. The fee is a real bargain at \$25 per person. We decided to charge non-A.R.T. members the same fee as we're charging ourselves to give everyone the same opportunity to see a great world class turner show his magic and techniques of turning his awesome wooden hats. Also we will be raffling a range rider hat turned that day amongst the group attending, so this is a chance to go home with one of JoHannes's wonderful hats.

I need to get an idea as to how many are interested so if need be I can put a cap on number of attendees. First come, first served. We have a pretty large space so hopefully there will be no need to turn anyone away. Also if you have any questions, or need more info please feel free to write me. More details to come.

Mike Souter (mss2468@aol.com) 978-390-7111
Vice President Association of Revolutionary Turners

WoodWorks 2008

This just in from Judy Frank of WoodWorks:

It was great seeing pictures of your club booth at WoodWorks, Springfield 2007, especially the Project Good will write-up. It's not too early to gear up for a bigger, better, more profitable Project Goodwill at WoodWorks, W. Springfield 2008! Personally, I felt it was a great success at the last show and with more space and more planning and more people pitching in every year it can grow. Let's shoot for exponential growth every year.

Plus, to encourage **lots** of entries into the SawDust Cafe Instant Gallery Competition we have *finally* smartened up and will accept entries for one, two or three days. Details can be found on our web site: <http://www.woodworksevents.com/gallery.shtml> . Please, please I urge you as a club to start rounding up your Gallery pieces. In fact we may, just maybe, make it a requirement for complimentary booth space and electricity to have a minimum number of pieces submitted to the Instant Gallery. I'd rather not have to keep tabs, okay folks? :-)

Well, as summer comes to a close [I know, not yet - - we still have Labor Day and several good sunshine and beach days left] I hope you begin to think about CNEW's presence at WoodWorks, W. Springfield 2008! It's my favorite show that we do and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you every January. Sorry, if I don't remember your names, but your spirit and camaraderie stay with me during the year.

Arrowmont School Totem Pole Project

Message from Sean Troy (AAW Chapters and Membership Committee):

The following is in regards to a phone conversation I had this morning with Dave Hankey from Arrowmont. If your chapter would be interested in being involved with this, please contact me or Dave. I was involved some years ago with making one of the sections and it was a blast. Your imagination is your only limit. The dimensions are 20" dia. by 24" high with a hole that will fit over a 3" pipe – the hole could be 3½" or 3¼". We need two more to complete our second pole. Any help you can give us will be great. We also need to have all of the totems refinished that might be a good project for some club members to come to Arrowmont for a couple of days or a weekend and work with us.

So should CNEW contribute to the Arrowmont totem poles again? It is my understanding that the club produced a totem for the original poles, which went up during the 1990 AAW Symposium. Here's Alan Lacer's write-up on the event (from the AAW website).

The Unity Totem project turned out far better than anyone's wildest dreams. In the end, 24 local chapters participated with some of the most innovative and exciting turning I have ever encountered. The pieces ranged from forms [turned] from a single block, to pieces which had as many as 40 to 50 separate turnings attached to a central component.

Several weeks before the Symposium, two pipe bases were set into two four-foot deep holes with a concrete slab to support the totems. On a cold and rainy first day of the Symposium, the segments were slipped over the pipe that passed through all segments. It went up effortlessly with the help of the Arrowmont staff, as well as several AAW members. Thanks to everyone who had a part in planning, making, and assembling the project. The finished totems had the appearance of growing directly from the woods surrounding Arrowmont. The real excitement will be watching the weathering process take effect over the next few years.

Spirit of Wood Show

The Spirit of Wood carving, turning and scrollsawing show will be at Middlesex Community College in Bedford, MA on October 21st. We have had a booth at this show in past years but support has been limited. If we are to participate as a club this year, we need people to commit to manning the booth – and actually show up!

The show also has a competition, if anyone is interested in submitting turned (or, indeed, carved) work for judging.

For details, contact Roger Melanson at (978) 368 5923 or rolmel@comcast.net.



THE ARROWMONT TOTEM POLES, 1990

A Vacuum System for Holding Work on the Lathe (Part 3)

© Hal Mahon

Testing and Trouble Shooting

In testing with the intake vacuum line shut off by its quick disconnect, the AC pump shown below would run for less than a minute and then shut down. This did not happen with any of the other pumps I tried. The cause for automatic shutdown is not firmly explained. As soon as I connected the pump to the Vacuum System Manifold the problem went away. Apparently the extremely high vacuum with no external connection (and presumably no incoming air from a minute leak) caused an overload of the 11,600 BTUh pump. In actual operation with a vacuum chuck on my lathe, over time and under a variety of conditions, there has never been a subsequent shut down.

There is a difference between the Gast and the AC refrigerator pump when power is shut off. The Gast pump does not hold its vacuum with its power shut off. The vacuum inside the vacuum chuck and bowl returns to zero within a few moments. The AC pump holds its vacuum when power is shut off. Because I included a quick disconnect valve in my vacuum manifold design I can admit air into the vacuum chuck and quickly remove my bowl. Thus this difference between these two pumps is insignificant for my use. Others might find this difference important.

I compared the time to evacuate the ten gallon portable air tank to 25" of mercury for the Gast and the AC pump mounted as shown here. My Gast vacuum pump pulled the air down to 25" Hg in about 3 seconds, but could go to no higher vacuum. The AC pump in Figure 7 required 10 seconds to evacuate the ten gallon tank to 25" Hg and then continued to a vacuum of 28.5" Hg.



Conclusion

There is little difference in performance between the two pumps. The Gast vacuum pump and AC pump both work well. The Gast is faster in pump down, but the difference in time is not important at all. My biggest disappointment with the Gast pump is that it is not tightly enclosed against dust. My AC vacuum pump is totally sealed, and pulls a better vacuum, a slightly important factor when using a 2" diameter chuck for small work. My time, the cost of a copper pipe fitting and an On/Off switch with enclosure consisted of my costs over my Gast pump. (The parts shown in the manifold section of the Schematic are needed for both pumps.) I cannot say how long will either pump last. Having already done it once, I can swap in a free new AC pump from the recycling center in an hour should I suffer a failure. In conclusion my preference favors the 11,600 BTUh air conditioner vacuum pump over my commercial Gast pump primarily because of its lack of total enclosure against dust.



The Picnic



Mickey Goodman



Charlie Croteau with friend Ann, Hazel Young



Richard Vose



Mary & Joe Harbey with Phil Bowman



Gene Spadi, Mike Stone and someone I don't know



Richard Vose turning a top



Dave Eaton turning a goblet



Charlie Croteau unwrapping a Goodwill item made by Mike Stone and the item – a segmented vase



Mike Stone turning with a gouge about as big as the lathe



Ray Boutotte shows two pieces made by ... his father?
Sorry Ray, I forgot some of the details



Al Faul



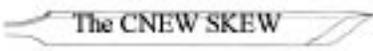
A better picture of Mike's segmented vase, if not of Mike



Dave Eaton preparing to fire up the lathe



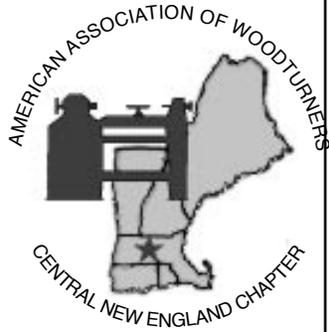
Mike Stone and Mary Maguire



**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND
WOODTURNERS**

Central New England
Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center for Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-753-8183
Fax: 508-797-5626
Email: treasurer@cnew.org



*Central New England Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*



On the web: www.cnew.org

To join or renew your membership, print this form and either bring it to the next meeting with cash or check for \$20 made payable to CNEW, or mail the form along with a check to:

Treasurer
Central New England Woodturners
c/o Worcester Center For Crafts
25 Sagamore Road
Worcester, MA 01650

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

If you wish, please let us know more about you and your interests.

Old member New member Turning how many years? _____

Selling your work? Yes No Where? _____

What programs would you like to see at our meetings?

Would you be interested in demonstrating at one of our meetings? Yes No