



TWA Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom videoconference; use the link, meeting ID and password below to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82652871915?pwd=MnlvL0NYMUx2UWRrTo4vWXpRTS9LUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5287 1915

Password: 842525

Speaker: Bill Burton

Topic: Guitar Building for (non-Luthier) Woodworkers

Bill Burton is a woodworker who happens to make some guitars and other stringed instruments, among other projects. He made his first instrument – a mountain dulcimer – back in the early 70’s in his father’s workshop. Over the next few years, he made several dulcimers and a banjo. Then for quite a few years, Bill had neither the space nor time to do much woodworking. After moving to Cary in 2003, he began putting together his workshop. There, he has made a few cabinets, some chairs, lots of boxes, furniture, cutting boards, etc. About 10 years ago, he made his first mandolin. He waited until his retirement 3 years ago to make his first guitar. He is now working on his fourth acoustic 6 string.

Bill believes that making a guitar is a good project for honing many skills a woodworker needs, which can then be applied to other projects. It forces you to improve your accuracy in measuring and marking. You learn about steam bending, building jigs and fixtures, alternative ways of clamping, working with thin woods, carving, (the neck) inlay work, finishing and polishing, etc.

He will demonstrate some of the processes required to build a guitar. His goal is to show that it is possible for a mere mortal woodworker to make a guitar.



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TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—APRIL 20, 2021

(meeting minutes: James Sapp)

Roy Brookhart opened the meeting conducted using Zoom virtual technology. There were 31 people in attendance. There was one new member joining the meeting, Jonathan Sapp.

Roy Brookhart asked the attendees if they were interested in additional on-line meetings for special interest groups discussions, member project show-and-tells, member-led workshops, Toys for Tots workshop virtual visits, etc. A specific date and time, such as the first Tuesday of the month, would be set aside for the meeting. There would be no featured speaker such as we have at our regular meetings. Feedback at the meeting was favorable enough to start the ball rolling. There will be more news on this in the near future.

Roy discussed restarting our regular in-person meetings with Klingspor. The store indicated that our meetings will not resume until Klingspor starts holding their woodworking classes again. The

timeline for woodworking classes has not been established and is dependent on the mandates from the governor's office. After we get approval to resume meetings, we will need to determine how many people can be accommodated (social distance constraints), the mask-wearing requirements, how to continue to utilize on-line technology to allow remote attendance and perhaps speakers, and perhaps other issues.

George Mills took us on a very interesting tour of his shop. He started out showing some of the pieces of furniture that he has built for his house but were too big to share in show and tell sessions at our regular meetings. George's shop utilizes his garage and the space above it. Most of his woodworking is done in a 20' by 25' room upstairs. The ceiling is 8' but slopes down at the edges. Equipment includes a contractor style table saw, a 6" jointer, chop saw, DeWalt 735 thicknesser, flat sander and router table. On the

ground floor, George has a radial arm saw that he can cut up to 16' long boards as well as a 16" restored bandsaw. He also stores his finishes on the ground floor. But the highlight of the tour was George's two 1920's era restored fire trucks that occupy most of the space on the ground floor. George showed us the restoration work he has done that included a considerable amount of rebuilding of the wooden parts of the fire truck. His restoration work is nearly finished and he will be driving the trucks in festivals this coming summer. Thanks for a great tour, George.

At the May 18th meeting, the speaker will be Bill Burton discussing guitar building for non-luthier woodworkers. He will demonstrate some of the processes required to build a guitar. His goal is to show that it is possible for a mere mortal woodworker to make a guitar.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

TWA is happy to welcome the following new member:

- Jonathan Sapp

Ken Serdar, Membership Committee



Roy Brookhart led a discussion of future meetings for the club (photos: Mark Firley)

DON'T FRET FURNITURE DESIGN—VIC TESOLIN

(meeting minutes: James Sapp)

The featured speaker at the April meeting was Vic Tesolin. Building from plans is a great way to get started in woodworking, but at some point, you may want to design your own projects. In this presentation, Vic took us through his process for designing a piece of furniture involving the skills of sketching, refining ideas, working in 3D, building maquettes (1/4 scale models) and full-scale models, and creating materials lists.

Practical furniture design involves determining what to build, where to place it, the overriding style of the room it will occupy, and the constraints placed on it. Inspiration for furniture design can come from many sources, including the surrounding space and the work of furniture designers and builders that may be found in books, documents, museums and galleries. In his inspiration process, Vic pays attention to shapes but not details. Buildings, bridges, and structures can inspire shapes and forms for tables, stands and cabinetry, for example. Nature is another great source of inspiration. Shapes of leaves, flower blossoms, grasses, trees, as well as species from the animal kingdom often spark creative ideas for furniture. Nature can introduce curves to the design - something that can bring real interest to a piece of furniture.

Books are another source of inspiration, and those that Vic has found especially helpful in his furniture design process are:

- Furniture World Styles from Classical to Contemporary by Judith Miller
- A Cabinet Maker's Notebook by James Krenov
- Arts & Crafts Furniture by Kevin

Rodel and Jonathan Binzen

- Designing Furniture from Concept to Shop Drawing by Seth Stem
- Studio Furniture of the Renwick Gallery – Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Encyclopedia of Furniture Making by Ernest Joyce

To provide an example of his design process, Vic took us through a case study where he designed and built a contemporary glass/wood coffee table for a client. The process started with the client's requirements – an oval shaped glass top that needed to work with an existing chair and sofa and should not obstruct the bar area in his living space. The client also wanted the piece to be as large as possible but not appear huge. Given that input, Vic went about making simple pencil sketches, not worrying about scale but focusing on his inspirational resources. He boiled these ideas down to a few and went on to refine the selected sketches using 3D tools. He started working in 1/4 scale, proceeding on to make a maquette. He typically makes these out of poplar using a glue gun to connect the pieces. In the case study, Vic presented the maquette to the client, who approved the design. Vic reviews his designs against the four main requirements of any furniture piece. Does it function correctly, provide comfort and durability and is it aesthetically pleasing?

He next created full size drawings. Bubinga was chosen for the wood construction as it coordinated well with furnishings in the client's room while the glass top was a requirement



Vic provided an interesting presentation, followed by a brief tour of his shop (photos: Mark Firley)

of the client. Vic then determined the order of operations to build the table. Sometimes, Vic builds complete full-sized mock ups especially for chairs, benches or stools where drawings can't tell how they will fit and feel. For this case study, Vic had to develop the clamping process for assembling his curved wood pieces. He also constructed the bending form for making the bubinga veneered curved pieces using his vacuum bag clamp. The client was happy with the final product.

Vic took us on a quick tour of his 400 square foot shop. He has recently reorganized it to place the dust collector in the center of his shop surrounded by his table saw, bandsaw and jointer/planer, keeping connecting piping short. On one side of his shop Vic has a wall of windows that allows natural sunlight for his work. Much of his hand tools and workbench are positioned near the window to maximize this source of light.

UPCOMING MEETING

Meeting Topic: Toys for Tots Kick-off Meeting (36th Year)

Speaker: Fred Ford

Date: Tuesday, June 15

In the last five years we have seen our number of toys produced go from the 2000s to the 4000s. In 2016 we produced 2739 toys and in 2020 we produced 4539. As we all know, a lot of those were Volkswagens (probably 1500 maybe more), but there has also been a real improvement in quality and variety. At our kick-off meeting you will see some of the toys that we are producing this year.

I have asked each of the workshop hosts to show their plans and prototypes for this years production and share them with us. You will see some interesting new models and some modified old models. I have also asked that the hosts show and demonstrate some of the jigs that are used in the production of these toys. I have also asked the hosts to bring to our attention any jigs they have in their workshops that they find helpful in making other projects.

I would like to ask all of our non-host members to look through their repertoire of jigs and be prepared to show them to the rest of us. Jigs are an important part of woodworking and please give this some consideration. I'm sure the other members will appreciate it. If you find something you would like to show just give me a call so that that I can add you to the agenda. Telephone number is (919) 469-9575.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have donated to the Toys for Tots program when you have renewed your membership. This is very helpful and necessary to keep the program going. Because of generosity of us and others outside of the club we have been able to keep the expenses to the club for the Toys for Tots program at about \$191 per year.

I hope to see you all on ZOOM in June. With any luck, you will see a jig that will save you time and make your project more accurate.

Fred Ford
Program Host

TOYS FOR TOTS STATUS REPORT

It's only April and we are off to a good start with the Toys for Tots program this year. We are fully staffed to start all workshops. I'm hoping that by the end of June we will be starting to go back to the normal way of producing toys in the hosts workshops. I know we all miss getting together with the comradeship that it brings.

We have almost doubled our production over the last few years and we have been stressing the importance of staying within our budget of late. I would like to thank all of you for what you are doing to help us meet the challenge.

The problem has been confounded by our loss of membership. We have dropped from 500 members (dues 20,000/year) to less than 100 members (dues 4,000/year) over the last 15 years. Although Toys for Tots has received only about \$200 per year from the club treasury, we still must do everything we can to continue to help the financial situation.

In a seven-year study conducted by Jack Kite, he found that we had raised \$9,329 in donations over that period. Pete Bucki, a former member, led the charge in obtaining donations from the membership and the community at large. Donations were primarily through gifts of tools which Pete auctioned off both inside the club and in the community at large.

Dick Raup has volunteered to head a new committee for collecting donations. He is holding off for a while because we believe that an auction over ZOOM will not be very productive. If you happen to have some tools that you are considering removing from your tool room please consider donating them to Toys for Tots and holding them for auctions to start as soon as we can start having in-person meetings.

There is another source of income to Toys for Tots which I will label "Unreported Generosity". This includes items that are purchased or donated by the hosts and members. I have talked to several hosts to try to get a feel for how much money is spent in that manner; I estimate the value to be between \$50 and \$300 per workshop. In the recent past we have had 17 workshops so that would be donations between \$850 to \$5,100. Maybe \$2,000 per year?? That being said, let me assure you there is no requirement for anyone to bear the cost of the program. You all bear the cost of wear and tear on machinery, router bits, saw blades, and occasional culinary delights for the team members. All that we hope for is that you continue to turn out the wonderful toys to make thousands of children happy on Christmas morning.

Fred Ford
Chairman of the TWA Toys for Tots Program

PAREIDOLIA

Roy Brookhart sent along this picture. Have you seen anything interesting in your lumber lately? Rip with the feathers?

How fast was the ostrich running when it hit the tree?



TREASURER'S REPORT (MARCH)

Beginning Balance: \$9,791.62
 Income: \$190.00
 Expense: \$169.66
 Ending Balance: \$9,811.96
 Does not include Petty Cash of \$86.00

Submitted by Jack Kite, Treasurer

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send newsletter content for future newsletters to Fred Ford (fredford22@ gmail.com) or Karin Pihel (karin.pihel@ gmail.com).

Contributions for each newsletter are due by the last day of the previous month.

MENTORS

Mentor	Service/Skill Offered	Phone Number	Email Address
Bernie Bogdon	Relief Carving	(919) 850-0739	sabile_27615@yahoo.com
Hugh Fish	Chairs, Joinery, Machinery & Power Tools, Mantles, Routers, Tables and TV Cabinets, Turning	(919) 467-5696	hughpatfish@yahoo.com
John Margeson	Baby Furniture, Beds, Bookcase, Chairs, Chest, Decks, Tables	(919) 876-3476	jmalice@bellsouth.net
Mike Resar	Baby furniture, Beds, Bookcase, Cabinets, Chest, Drafting, Dressers, Tables, TV Cabinets	(919) 876-1664	atwaterla@ncleg.net
Allen Campbell	Simple inlay, Staining/dyeing, Pen turning, Cabriole legs	(919) 772-4551	aacjr@nc.rr.com
Cecil Raynor	Joinery, Finishing, Tables, Chairs	(919) 815-9155	cecil_raynor@yahoo.com
Amy Dowden James Sapp	Google SketchUp	(919) 932-6252 (919) 586-7280	amydowden1@gmail.com james.b.sapp@gmail.com
Ken Serdar	CNC woodworking		ken.serdar@gmail.com

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

POSITION

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Vice President
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At Large Board Member
At-Large Board Member
At-Large Board Member

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Roy Brookhart
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Jack Kite
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Dick Raup
Joe Sabo

COMMITTEE

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CHAIRPERSON / MEMBERS

Mark Firley - Judy Sanwald, Fred Ford, Terry Tenhouse, Allen Campbell, Jeff Leimberger, Terry Brown, Hal Brown, Mike Payst, Bob Nauman, Bob Andrews, Jerry Rhoades

Fred Ford/Cecil Raynor — Pete Hodges, Bob Gabor, Terry Tenhouse, Hugh Fish and Judy Sanwald, Jim Rhodes, Mark Firley, Les Hall, Joe Sabo, Alex Knittel, Bill Burton, Bob Guenther; Bob Andrews, Ken Serdar, Roy Brookhart, Tom Hegele

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Jerry Rhoades
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