



CAPITAL AREA WOODWORKERS WOODSHOP ADVISOR



on the web at <http://www.cawspi.org>

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The February Meeting

by Tom McCue and Jan Smith

Our **February meeting** was held at KICK's on **Wed., Feb. 6th, 2008**. We welcomed **new members Clay Crocker and Craig McGuire**.

It was mentioned that we **need volunteers** to take over the responsibilities of two of our long-time members. We need someone to **take over Gene Shutt's responsibilities**. (Gene has done innumerable things for our Club over the years and we owe him a **huge thanks!**) One of the things Gene has done so well was take care of our meal attendance, schedule dates of our meetings with the locations we were at, make and update name badges and lug them to meetings in our big box, collect money for meals (even though at KICK's he didn't have to do this), and probably many more things behind the scenes of which most of us were unaware. Also, while **Larry Catron**, our Librarian, is temporarily incapacitated, **we need someone to oversee his duties, too**. If interested, please let an Officer know.

Election of Officers was also held (even though usually this has been done in January). Our new **President** is, of course, **Mike McGrath**. **Mike Robertson** was elected officially as our **President-Elect for 2009**. **Chuck Frank** and **Frank Thornton** were re-elected as **webmaster** and **treasurer** respectively. **Dick Metcalf** agreed to act as an **at-large member of the board**.

Unbeknownst to all, KICK's had no buffet available due to some remodeling, so sandwiches and fries were served. The remodeled bar will be primarily a pizza, salad, and potato bar. They will also be closed on Monday and Tuesday nights from here on out.

A committee made up of **Bob Fox, Mike Robertson and John ?** was formed to **investigate other venues for our meetings**. Bob Fox indicated that he had checked into the new MCL Cafeteria a couple months ago and they have meeting rooms available, and we would not have to guarantee a minimum number of meals.

Pres. McGrath proposed finding a **facility that could accomodate actual demonstrations** every three months or so. The committee will also look into possible locations for this purpose. (**Tom Stack, after the meeting, offered to use his three-car garage equipped with a 220 volt outlet for this purpose.**)

A brief discussion was held on whether a **single night or alternating nights** for monthly meetings is best. The **majority preferred alternating nights**, but the final determination would be based on where the meetings were held.

The **Collinsville Woodworkers Show** is scheduled for the weekend of **Feb. 8th, 9th and 10th**. Anyone interested in carpooling could meet at the truck stop at the Auburn exit from I-55.

Mike brought up the **Christmas toy program** that Club members used to participate in but was dropped when it was discovered that the toys were sometimes taken home by charity staff, or were being auctioned off at prices that were well below what the toys were worth. A suggestion was made that the toys be sold by the Club to assure a fair price, and then the proceeds would be donated to charity. Another proposal was to have members join together to mass produce toys and distribute them through efforts such as Friend-In-Deed. It was also suggested

that items such as chessboards could be built to sell to older generations to raise money.

Larry Catron announced that the **Unity Church**, 417 East Cordelia, Springfield, wants to install a dishwasher in its kitchen, and is **looking for someone to build some cabinetry to accomodate the installation**. Members can contact **Larry or Ann Logan** (at the church) **if interested in submitting a bid**.

Dan Schmoker announced that he is presenting a **hands-on clinic on safe use of chainsaws and logging on Feb. 18th and 19th at his tree farm**.

The **WorkSharp unit** is temporarily being held by **Jerry Szachnitowski**, who can be reached at **217-241-0381 if you wish to use it**.

The Program: SketchUp

Frank Thornton delivered our program for the evening and it was a brief introduction to SketchUp, a 3-D Computer Assisted Drawing program downloadable free from Google. He showed a movie which demonstrated how the program can be used to generate 3-D drawings of various projects, including a table, bookcase, and cabinet, complete with dimensions, parts lists, and plugins which can generate cut lists. The drawings can be rotated, shown in transparent/skeleton format, parts (such as doors, etc.) animated, displayed in monochrome or can have numerous colors and textures applied to the various surfaces to depict more realism. Frank also demonstrated other capabilities of the program, including boat design.

The professional version is \$495, whereas SketchUp version 6 is free. The free version, however, is loaded with features and runs both on PC and MAC platforms. The minimum requirements for PC is Pentium III running Windows 2000 and 128 MB of RAM. Macintosh requires a minimum G4 with 512 MB of RAM. It can be obtained at: sketchup.google.com/download.html

Frank gave a number of reasons why members

might be interested in learning SketchUp:

It's a tool that might improve your woodworking.

You might learn something new.

You're old and your brain needs exercise.

You can get some quality time with your grandchildren as they show you how to use it.

Although the program has a learning curve, it is very intuitive, and it doesn't take long to become relatively proficient with the program.

The projects can be shown in "scenes," such as front, side, back, top, inside, exploded, wire frame, and component views, all with or without dimensions. The program also includes shadowing that realistically changes as the item is rotated.

There are also shop tool components, such as table saws, jointers, etc. available that would be very useful in laying out a workshop.

It is a very powerful program that can be very useful to woodworkers.

Mike passed around a sign-up sheet for anybody interested in a one/or more workshop on SketchUp. Perhaps this could be several hours on a Saturday morning. He also wanted to know if those interested had laptop computers. We also will be looking into venues to accomodate the workshops. Essentially we will be teaching the program to each other.

The next item in the notes Tom sent me was Show and Tell. However, there was nothing below this entry so I have to assume there were no items.

In the 50/50 drawing, Larry Catron took home \$17. Congratulations!

Tom reports we did have a meal refund winner but he didn't get the winner's name.

Portrait of a Woodworker-- James Schriber

by Don Gottschalk

This month we are covering another of our new members of several months. Jim Schriber has been a member of our club for a short time but is really into building things for people he knows.

He was born and raised in Iowa. He attended grade school and high school in his hometown and then went to Iowa State University where he got a degree in Industrial Engineering. After that he got a job with General Motors as a field representative and worked at that for nine years, traveling throughout Illinois. He continued working in the truck and car business for most of his adult life. He retired in 2005 and now stays at home and does all the house work as his wife is still working. It is really nice of his wife to let him do all the cleaning, laundry and other household needs while he is at home every day.

He was married in 1968 and together he and his wife had three boys. No girls. The boys are now grown and out of the home. One lives near Springfield and the other two live near St. Louis. It is really nice that he gets to see them often. His wife is still employed by the state on a full time basis.

Jim's father was a woodworker and therefore Jim got some early exposure to the hobby but he did not really get into it until he saw a TV program entitled the Router Workshop about six years ago. With that as his motivation, he has turned an 8' x 30' room in his basement into his shop. He told me that every time he has started to build something he had to go out and buy a tool or machine. He is fairly well equipped now and enjoys making furniture and other things.

While not doing the required house work or woodworking, he enjoys hunting pheasants with friends in South Dakota and trapshooting. We are happy to have you as a member and will get to know you better.

Tool Sale

John Sheedy has raised the idea of a tool sale. The biggest difference from previous attempts is that **John has a site (a building he owns)**. The tentative dates could include the **last weekend in March (28th and 29th) or early April**. This will be discussed at the March meeting. John's idea is that it would be more of a **consignment sale** as opposed to a garage sale. Come with your ideas and we can get this done!

“Sawdust for Brains” or “February Thoughts”

by Mike McGrath

This month's program will again be at KICK's with **John Wood presenting a program on boat building in Maine**. Should be very interesting.

We again are faced with finding a new eatery. Hopefully, Mike, John and Bob can find us a place which will serve our needs for years to come. The Club needs a stable environment where we can meet regularly. **Do we wish to continue to meet for dinner or should we look for a space where we can do demonstrations and skip dinner?**

I attended the **Collinsville show** with Mike Robertson and Dick Metcalf. It was my first visit and I found it quite enlightening. I was able to control myself and not spend a fortune. **I made contact with one vendor who is willing to come to Springfield to demonstrate his products**. I will schedule with him when our meeting venue is stabilized. **Tom was contacted by the Milwaukee rep. who is willing to come present his tools**.

We have **14 members interested in the SketchUp** program. I am still trying to track down a classroom where we could have a training session. Hopefully, at the next meeting, we will have a spot.

The Club still needs a couple of willing members to help out by taking over for Gene Shutt and Larry Catron. Please contact me if you can assist.

Upcoming March Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Weds., Mar. 5th** at our regular meeting site at **KICK's** (the old Furrows bldg. at **2744 S. 6th St.**). (**KICK's will now be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.**) The social hour is 5:30-6:15pm, dinner at 6:15pm, followed by the program about 7pm. This month **John Woods will present a program on boat building in Maine.** This should be very interesting!

Officer's Meeting

The March Officer's/Advisory Meeting will be **Mon., Mar. 10th at 7pm.** at Gene Shutt's house. At this point I am assuming it is still at Gene's house. We will announce at the meeting if this location is different. Any interested member may join them if interested or have something to bring up.

Upcoming April Meeting

As of this newsletter, I do not know what the April meeting topic will be. Since we have a committee looking into possible other locations for our meetings, I am not sure whether it will be on Mon., April 7th as per our regular schedule or some other day. Hopefully we will know more soon and can get this information as to topic, date and location into the next newsletter.

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Open Shops

Be thinking ahead to when would be a good time for you to host an Open Shop! Jan will send around a sign-up sheet at the next few meetings. (Sorry, I haven't been there recently to do that!)

If you are interested in having one this month, just let us know at the meeting or phone Chuck Frank who can get the info. on the web or sent out in an e-mail!

*The **WOODSHOP ADVISOR** is a monthly publication of the Capital Area Woodworkers Club. Its sole purpose is to keep members of the club aware of the club activities, special events and new developments in the field. The Advisor is the right of paid membership. **Dues of the club are \$12/year if you receive the Advisor via e-mail and \$20/year for the Advisor sent by mail to your address.** For more information contact one of the officers.*

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