



# Monthly Messenger

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association

Volume 5 Issue 8  
August 2005

## President's Message

The days are already getting shorter, the tomatoes are starting to turn red and school will be back in session before we know it. Depressing? It's sad to see summer fly by when winter crawls but there are some benefits ahead. We will be holding our first woodworker's swap meet on October 22 at the St. Cloud Armory. This is going to be a lot of fun and a great way to acquire good used tools, lumber and other woodworking paraphernalia. It is also going to be a great way to redistribute the collections of stuff that we have accumulated over the years. There will be a small fee for renting a space, but this will definitely be a very cost-effective way of selling off surplus stuff. So now is the time to start planning on the big shop clean-out or start making your list of equipment or supplies you want to buy. Before you know it the first annual CMWA Woodworker's Swap Meet will be here. Mark it on your calendar today!

Roland Johnson

## New for 2005

We have installed a mailing list feature on the CMWA website.

It is similar to the Yahoo! Mailing lists, if any of you are members of any lists on Yahoo. The mailing list can be used to ask woodworking questions of fellow members or distribute other CMWA communications. When you send an email to the mailing list, it is instantly sent to all the registered members.

To sign up, go to [www.thecmwa.com](http://www.thecmwa.com) and click on the link to take you to the registration page. After entering your email address and creating a password, you will be sent an email to confirm your registration. Once you're a member, writing an email to [woodworking@thecmwa.com](mailto:woodworking@thecmwa.com) will send that email to all members of the list. All emails will be archived on thecmwa.com website to allow visitors to find information at a later date.

## CMWA Meeting Recap

Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7PM Recap adapted from secretary's meeting minutes

### • Belt Sander Demonstration:

CMWA President, Roland Johnson, demonstrated the use and care of the belt sander.

- Be sure to flatten the aluminum platen (base plate) with a file.
- Keep the rollers clean and their edges smooth.
- Ryobi Belt Sanders are designed to be flipped over for use as a table sander.
- They can also flush sand on their right side.
- Make lots of pencil marks on your wood project to be sure to identify where you've missed spots while you're sanding.
- Use slow and steady movements.
- Cross-grain sanding is always best for fast stock removal.
- Never belt sand veneered surfaces.
- Always follow thru on the range of belt grits; never skip over the next finest grit.
- When finish-sanding with the grain, don't reach, and be sure the cord can move freely with your arms.
- Don't use the trigger lock. Doing so can easily cause mis-haps.
- Belt sanding is not acceptable for finish sanding.
- One-handed sanders, such as the Skil Sand Cat, are great for assembly work. They use standard 2-1/2" x 16" belts.
- 409 household cleaner and a nylon brush work well to clean loaded belts.
- Roland likes to use 3M belts because of the non-lapped seam, which makes them perfect for installation either way (non-directional). They also hold up well.
- You can easily sharpen tools with your belt sander.
- When you buy a new belt sander, remove the cork surface from the platen, discard it, and flatten the aluminum platted right away with a file.

### • Next Meeting:

- Will be a tour of **Komo Machine, Inc.**  
11 Industrial Blvd, Sauk Rapids  
See map page 4.

## August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 CMWA	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Next Meeting:** August 17th at 7:00 PM at **Komo Machine, Inc.** See Map page 4.

**Board Meeting:** August 17th at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids

### Central Minnesota Woodworker's Assoc.

The CMWA is a group of men and women from around the St. Cloud Minnesota area who share a common interest in the art and business of woodworking. We meet monthly in Sauk Rapids and share information, techniques and topics of interest in the area of woodworking.

### August Meeting

We will be meeting at Komo Machine, Inc. in Sauk Rapids for a tour of their facility. According to the company's web site (komo.com), Komo was founded in 1966 by William Koska and George Molus. "By 1980, Komo Machine had become the largest single manufacturer of automated urethane process machines in North America." They moved into their new 175,000 sq ft facility in Sauk Rapids in 1987. "From custom-engineered factory automation systems to precision computer numerically controlled machine tools, our unique mix of technologies and wealth of our diverse manufacturing experiences helps us to create more responsive, more effective production solutions."

### Central Minnesota Woodworker's Assoc.

**President** Roland Johnson  
**Vice President** Dan Iburg  
**Treasurer** Cindy Johnson  
**Secretary** John Wilson

**Board of Directors** Jeff Madden, Darren McKeever, Scott Schroeder

**Newsletter** Darren McKeever  
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## Las Vegas AWFS Show

by Roland Johnson

I just returned from the AWFS show in Las Vegas and it was HOT! The temperature was in the low hundreds but the really hot stuff was in the exhibition halls of the Las Vegas Convention Center! There are lots of new tools and products on the horizon that are going to make woodworking easier and more enjoyable. We live in great times!

Vacuum Pressing Systems has developed a new clamp system called the VacuClamp and it consists of an aluminum vacuum pad that works with any vacuum pump to provide a great way to hold boards while they are routed, sanded or carved. The clamps have a release valve that operates each side of the pad independently allowing the pad to stay stuck to the bench while the board is detached and reattached. A foot pedal releases the pressure while a button on the top of the pad is depressed when the board is pushed down on the pad to allow the vacuum to pull the board tight to the pad. Quick, positive clamping with 1800 lbs per square foot of clamping pressure! Several pads can be linked together with a simple piece of tubing (supplied with the pad and foot pedal) further increasing the clamping capacity. For more information check out [www.vacupress.com](http://www.vacupress.com)

Powermatic has a new cabinet saw that has a cast-iron base with built-in casters that retract into the base by means of the tilt wheel on the saw (pull out to retract the casters- push in to tilt the blade), a super-stout cast iron trunion/arbor assembly, an improved dust collection system and a lot of other features that will make this a serious contender in the cabinet saw segment. The new saw will not replace the venerated Powermatic 66 table saw, but will be produced as an alternative with some really attractive pricing. The new saw will be made in Taiwan while the 66 will continue to be made in McMinnville Tennessee.

Powermatic has also released a new lathe, the 3520B, that has loads of innovative features and was designed with input from Ernie Conover, a longtime turner and frequent contributor to Fine Woodworking. Ernie teaches turning and chair making classes at [www.conoverworkshops.com](http://www.conoverworkshops.com). You can check Powermatic out at [www.wmhtools.com](http://www.wmhtools.com).

Rikon Power Tools has released an entry level lathe that should prove to be a real winner. The machine has lots of nice features, has a lathe bed that can be extended by purchasing reasonably priced extensions and appeared to be well made and a real bargain at a bit less than \$200.00. [www.rikontools.com](http://www.rikontools.com)

Leigh has a new dovetail jig, the D1600, that handles boards up to 16 inches wide, has some slick new features and is priced about a hundred bucks less than the D4 (24-inch) model.

Delta has a new hybrid cabinet saw that lets a woodworker enjoy the benefits of superior dust collection that cabinet saws have with a price approaching a contractor's saw. The saw has a more powerful 1-3/4 horse motor for more ripping power and a well placed paddle switch that is easy to reach for quick shut-downs.

The Drill Doctor has revamped their line of drill-bit sharpeners making them easier to use and keeping the prices for the machines affordable to the hobbyist.

These are just a few of the items I checked out, there were tons of other new, exciting tools and products that will make our hobby easier and more fun. If you ever get the opportunity to attend the AWFS show or the IWF show that is in Atlanta (they alternate years), do it, it's a tool junkies wildest dream.



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## Table Saw Demonstration

Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association members have expressed interest in learning more about one of the most versatile tools in the shop, the table saw. If any member is interested in sharing their table saw knowledge with the CMWA, please let us know. You can email [president@thecmwa.com](mailto:president@thecmwa.com), call 320-968-7005, or talk to Roland Johnson or any other board member at an upcoming meeting.



www.thecmwa.com  
320-968-7005  
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**Komo Machine, Inc.**  
11 Industrial Blvd, Sauk Rapids



**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday, August 17th at 7:00 PM**  
**at Komo Machine, Inc.**

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