



# Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 4

April 2008



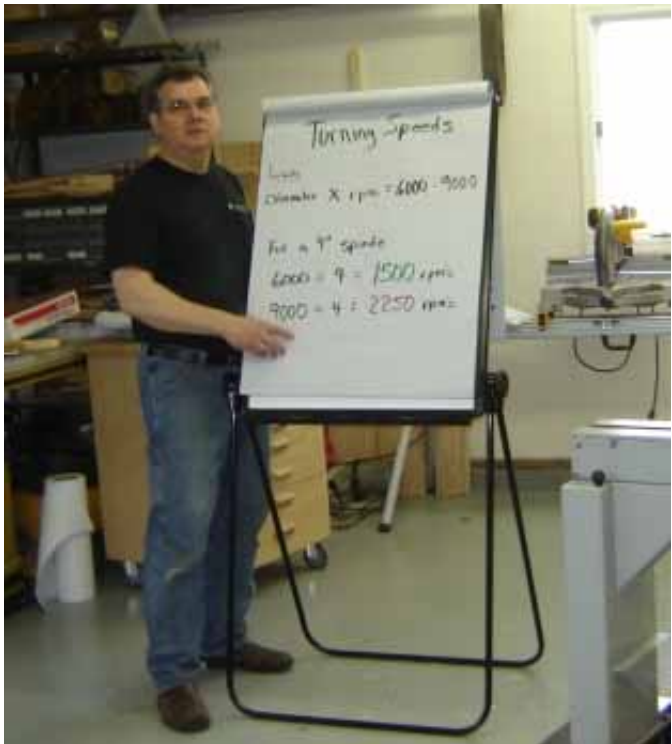
Rollie Johnson presents the Leigh dovetail jig..

Our March meeting topic was a continuation of the Leigh dovetail jig. Rollie Johnson presented the jig with its benefits and limitations and we watched a video of the jig in operation. It is probably the most versatile dovetail jig on the market, but may be a little more difficult to use at first. The consensus is that once you understand how to use it, it's a very good investment for anyone planning on doing dovetails. The jig shown is aluminum. There is a less expensive model made from a composite material now available.

Kurt Zniewski brought in two new tools for us to look at. They were the Lei Neilson marking gage and The Grippers, which are a new safety hold down/push system.

John Skalla displayed a box that he built and some miscellaneous turnings.

The Woodturning group had a challenge to create wooden Easter eggs. It was interesting to see and hear about what went into the making of a wooden egg. Gary went so far as to color one of his eggs with miracle grow.



Gary Mrozek discusses turning speeds.

The meeting topic for the April meeting will be refacing a cabinet with veneer using hide glue and an iron.

Please continue to bring in your new tools and projects.

The Woodturners Group had another great turnout for their second monthly gathering on Saturday April 5th. The group met at the shop of Gary Mrozek. The focus of the meeting was around the Spindle Roughing Gouge. The next Turners Group meeting will be May 10th at Dick Beumer's shop (see map) 3750 15th Street NE, Sauk Rapids, 56379. The discussion will be turning a bowl. (See page 2 and insert for details)

We will be starting a second special interest group. The group will benefit those who are interested in the business aspect of woodworking. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 AM. The location is yet to be determined. If you would like to learn more about the group call Scott @ 320-259-4893. (See page 3 and insert for details)

**Central Minnesota Woodworker's Association**

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.

- President: Tom Doom
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- Newsletter Editor: Scott Randall
- Website Manager: Darren McKeever

April 2008

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

**Next Meeting:** Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at **Sauk Rapids – Rice Middle School** Map page 4.

**Board Meeting:** Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Coborn's in Sauk Rapids.

**More March Meeting Happenings**



Kurt Zniewski demos "The Grippers"



John Skalla discusses his box experiences



Members look over the show and tell items

We'd like to welcome seven new members to the CMWA this month. Please welcome the following new members:

William Baker of Cold Spring  
 Bill Riner of Sartell  
 John Bartlett of Sartell

Wendell Pou of Foley  
 Albert Keppers of St. Cloud  
 Rany Schwartz of Sauk Rapids

Larry Sampson of St. Cloud

I will be creating a special interest group dedicated to the business aspect of woodworking. If you're a hobbyist, a part time woodworker looking for a second income or someone who would like to earn a living from woodworking, this group may be for you. The group is intended to improve your woodworking business skills by expanding your knowledge base and exposing each other to new methods and ideas.

The idea to create the business group grew from the necessity to find a new job. I've always wanted to create wood products of my own designs and earn a living by doing what I enjoy.

Most businesses, in general, provide a product or service, and sell it for a price. The challenge then becomes connecting the ideal customer with the product or service. Most serious craftsman or artisans don't have the problem of too many customers. In fact, they are experiencing an existence doing what they love and surviving on "Starving Artist's" wages. They spend much of their time, that could be spent "creating", on sales and marketing.

As I began researching my new start-up, I found that there are an incredible number of businesses who make the same thing but are taking vastly different approaches to how they market their products. Some may gain customers through reputation, some advertise in paper media, some show in galleries, some sell online, some go to shows, some sell by direct mailings, some network directly with their customers, some set up shops, ect...Most people were limiting themselves to one or two forms of the above marketing techniques. I started asking why and found that they didn't have the time, tools, experience, expertise, contacts or money to pursue them.

My thoughts were to create a group of woodworkers with a variety of experiences, talents and ideas. This combined pool of people would help each other significantly expand their customer base by introducing new and unfamiliar marketing methods. The collective of woodworkers would have the combined tools, expertise, contacts, talents and other resources necessary to eliminate the obstacles which currently prevent many of us from reaching potential customers.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the "Business Borg of Woodworkers", contact me at (320)259-4893. (See attached insert)

Scott Randall

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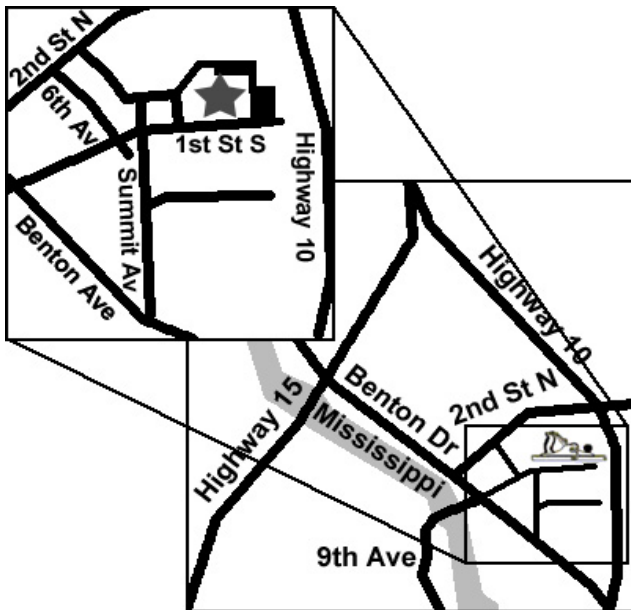
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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**  
**Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School**  
**Enter Door 16 (around back) – Room 916**



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