

Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Next Meeting Date:
August 25, 2005

Meeting Start Time
6:30 PM

R.D. Evans Recreational Center

This Month's Demonstrator:
John Horn

Turning a Peppermill

For our August demonstration John Horn will present his SWAT demonstration, "The Art of the Peppermill".

Although peppermills have been around for a very long time, there have been improvements lately in the mechanisms and new designs that are attracting a lot of media attention along with the attention of connoisseurs interested in "haut niveau de moulin à poivre" (roughly, high-class peppermill).

A peppermill is not only a useful table accessory, but

it can be a functional work of art as well. While producing one that will actually work is not technically difficult, there are a number of details that must be considered in the proper order when making your first peppermill mechanism to fit into the body of the mill. We will explore the turning, drilling, fitting, and technical aspects of making a peppermill.

Design considerations which must be addressed as you explore your own creative desires will be an integral part of the demonstration. Creating your own shape for the peppermill can be rewarding. Custom designs bring your work to a new plane as it becomes art instead of just a functional kitchen item. Need a gift for a wedding, a birthday, a holiday, or just any occasion? A hand crafted peppermill will be cherished for a very long time and your cost will be a lot less than you would pay for a department store gift.



Eighty-seven year old "Pinky" Martin developed his own style, sent one to the very popular Sara Molton on the Food Network. Sara then gave one to Oprah Winfrey on her live television show. Pinky was flooded with orders and now has quit taking orders because he is booked up for three years in advance for his custom designed peppermills that sell for \$250 each.

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Making Good Shavings

Here is a quiz: What is the most important topic related to woodturning? I will give you a hint – it is the topic that we talk the least about. You probably guessed it – SAFETY!

Last month Orv Dunlap, a member the Dallas Area Woodturners, passed away. According to his widow, he died because of lung damage caused by dust he inhaled while turning and woodworking.

None of us like to contemplate or imagine that this could happen to us. However when we hear about the loss of a fellow turner due to lung damage we need to pause and consider whether we are taking the proper precautions to protect ourselves from wood dust.

Most of us are tool junkies and have bought more tools than we need. I am even willing to admit that I have a few tools that I have never used. We have many kinds of tools for many purposes. Even sandpaper is a tool. I would bet that few of use ever think of safety equipment as tools.

Sometime a simple change of perspective can aid in adopting better habits. Perhaps if we began to think of safety equipment as our most important tools we would buy better equipment and, more importantly, use it every time!

Regards,
Paul Tiefel

Collaborative Project Report

I would like to thank all the talented craftsmen who contributed to the collaborative project, the peppermill pictured to the left. It was one of the best at the show. The winner of "Best of Shoe" was an exceptional item. Please go to www.woodturner.org and navigate to the 2005 Collaborative project for a picture.

The participants in the project were: John Horn (spokes), Ken Diehl (assembly), John Herber (coffee cup), Dwayne Hines (coupling), Fred Denke (project leader), Bob Lewis (handle), Mike Jones (base bowl), Paul Tiefel (assembly), Ken Phillips (donated wood), Butch Flenner (gears).

Fred Denke - Team Leader



Update on WNT Freedom Pen Project Activity

Phil Joines, Louis Oberheu, Ken Phillips, Dr. Alan Siebenthall, Max Taylor, and Paul Tiefel.

The Woodturners of North Texas efforts in the Freedom Pen Project has resulted in 135 pens being turned thus far ... and a few more have been promised before we ship them off.



During our Freedom Pen Turning project at the North Richland Hills Library on July 9, we were only able to turn 36 pens because of the time that we spent interacting with the news media and the public. On August 13, a number of us met over at Jeff Carrell's shop to complete the volume of pens that needed to be turned. Cards were written with each pen that was turned to the service people in the Mid-East expressing our support of their efforts in serving our nation.



Stormy Boudreaux sanding up a storm

In addition to Jeff Carrell, the following people, in alphabetical order, participated in some way as a part of the follow up activity on August 13, Jack Babine, Bill Boehme, Stormy Boudreaux, Wayne Clowers, John Herber, Dewayne Hines, John Horn, Dan Hudkins, Keith Johnson, Randy Johnson, Circe Joines,



Randy Johnson gets "pressed" into service

If you would like to turn a few pens to be sent along with the ones we have already produced, please bring them to the club meeting on August 25. We will replace the kits that you used with those that were donated to us. While



"Skewmeister" John Horn

turning all of the pens that we have been able to produce, there is yet a desperate need for even more pens. Help us send these pens and more to our service people as a reminder that we remember them and that we support them as they serve our nation.



Pen Guru, Jeff Carrell

An Engineer's Eye for the Woodturning Guy

by Bill Boehme

Part 2: Variable speed lathes

Variable speed lathes have become increasingly popular in recent years and can be found in two different flavors: Mechanical drives which use variable width pulleys, also sometimes known as “Reeves” pulleys, to change the drive ratio from the motor to the spindle and electronic drives that work by changing the speed of the motor itself. In addition to the benefits of each type, there are also downsides in either cost or performance. This article looks at the relative merits and disadvantages of each of these two types of drives.

Mechanical variable speed drives can be found on newer mid-price range lathes such as the Delta 1440 and Jet 1442. Mechanical variable speed drives may have either one or two variable width pulleys, but the overall complexity is less when using two variable pulleys and also is more suitable for a lathe with a movable headstock. The Delta and Jet lathes both use a pair of Reeves pulleys in which the spindle pulley is adjusted through a geared linkage controlled by a locking lever arm on the headstock and the other variable pulley on the motor is spring loaded to push the two halves of the pulley together until it is balanced by the v-belt belt tension. The changeable effective diameters of the two pulleys are responsible for the variable speed of the spindle while the motor speed always remains constant.

The greatest advantage of mechanical variable speed drives is that they, like a stepped pulley drive, will deliver the same horsepower to the lathe's spindle regardless of the spindle speed. And the good news about this is that when the spindle is turning slower than the motor is turning, more torque will be available at the spindle. This is fortunate because more torque is needed at low spindle speeds. Of course, the opposite is true at high spindle speeds, but very light cuts are normally made at high speeds

so high torque is not needed there.

The major disadvantage of the mid-price range lathes with mechanical variable speed drives is that they typically use die-cast zinc pulleys which are soft and tend to wear out much quicker than fixed speed zinc pulleys and cast iron pulleys.

Variable speed electronic drives exist for both DC and AC motors. This article looks at AC drives since they are the more commonly used of the two types of drives on new woodturning lathes these days. Electronic drives feature many benefits and are free of many of the problems encountered in a mechanical variable drive, but they also bring along their own unique set of problems that should be considered carefully before deciding to “upgrade” to an electronic variable speed lathe or modify an existing lathe to electronic variable speed control.

The greatest advantage of an electronic variable speed lathe is the simplicity of the mechanical part of the drive. Most of these lathes have fixed pulley drives featuring one to three speed ranges. A few models such as the Nova DVR and Poolewood lathes are direct drive with the spindle being an extension of the motor arbor. Electronic drive systems also tend to run smoothly and quietly, but not necessarily at all speeds and load conditions.

Probably the most significant drawback to electronic variable speed drives (not counting their high cost) is one of which buyers may not be aware: the available horsepower decreases as the motor speed decreases, which means that the available torque at low speeds will be no greater than it is at its “base” operating speed (“base” meaning the speed of the motor if it were connected directly to the AC power line). That is why many lathes with electronic speed control have stepped pulleys to allow the equivalent of “downshifting to a lower gear” to increase available torque at the spindle. The Powermatic 3520 is an example of a lathe with a two-step pulley with recommended speed ranges for each. On one hand, this helps to improve low speed torque and on the

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SWAT Symposium Update

It is time to begin making plans and pre-registering for the SWAT Symposium at the Wichita Falls MPEC on September 30 through October 2. The demonstration schedule (with a brief description of each demonstration), along with hotel listings and a registration form are listed on the SWAT website, www.swaturners.org.

There will also be a pen turning venue this year that will be lead by Jeff Carrell, both for seasoned pen turners and as a good introduction for beginners. There will also be lathes and materials to turn some Freedom Pens.

The traditional Two for One Raffle will be held at the banquet on Saturday evening, with some great gallery quality turnings donated by the lead demonstrators as well as talented regional turners to be raffled at the banquet. The winning tickets will be returned to the hopper and will be eligible to win some great prizes on Sunday.

Instant Gallery Challenge

For the past two years SWAT has made a dedicated effort to expand and emphasize our Instant Gallery. This year we are going to feature a "Beginning Turner's Corner" in an effort to encourage new turners to display their pieces. So for NEW and OLD turners, start planning now the items you will be displaying.

Lead Turners for 2005

The four Lead Turners have been selected. They are Bonnie Klein, Malcolm Tibbetts, Mark Sfirri, and Alan Lacer. These four internationally known turners will assure attendees of a first class experience at this year's Symposium.

Variable Speed Lathes (continued from page 4)

other hand, they are able to provide a reasonable maximum speed. This actually makes lathes such as the Powermatic 3520 somewhat of a hybrid between a stepped pulley fixed-speed drive and an electronic variable speed drive.

The bottom line for mechanical variable speed lathes is that their cost is attractive and they produce high torque at low speeds, but the mechanical components tend to wear out quickly compared to other types of lathes and they can also be noisy which is a characteristic of this type of variable speed drive.

The bottom line for electronic variable speed lathes is that they are rather expensive, mechanically simple, and usually are quiet running. Their biggest disadvantage is that available horsepower drops off as speed is decreased. Two remedies for that problem are to have two or more speed ranges on the lathe and to compensate by using a larger motor.

Advertisements

ANCHORSEAL®

Now Available

The club has purchased a 55-gallon drum of Anchorseal sealant for green wood and it is available to members for \$7.00 per gallon. It is being stored at Larry Roberts' place, 6409 Calender in southwest Arlington. Contact James Haynes for payment.

Rules for advertisements: Free adds are available only to WNT members. The deadline for submission or cancellation of an ad is the 10th of the month to be placed in that month's newsletter. Ads will only run for one issue unless notified otherwise. If you wish to continue running an ad for more than one month, please advise the editor, Bill Boehme, by the 10th of the month. Also, if you decide to cancel an ad, please notify the editor by the 10th of the month.

July Bring-Back Raffle Winners

Here are the names of the July "Bring Back" winners: Wayne Ealey (2), Don Cunningham (2), Bryan Philips (2), Ron Hale, James Haynes, Jack Babine, Dewayne Hines, Keith Harper, Jeff Carrell, Humberto Hernandez, Steve Ott, Charles Smith, Larry Roberts, Stormy Boudreaux. If you were a winner in July, please bring back an item in August for the "Bring Back" raffle.

Board of Directors

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WNT WEB SITE:

<http://www.woodturnersofnorthtexas.org/>

The Woodturners of North Texas newsletter is published monthly. Inputs are due to the editor by the tenth of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

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Calendar of Events

August 25 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM

R.D. Evans Rec. Center 7:00pm

Demonstrator: John Horn -- Peppermill Turning.

August 30 -

WNT Board meeting at The Olive Garden Restaurant in south Arlington on the southwest corner of Cooper and I-20 (close to Rockler's Hardware). All WNT members are invited to attend. If you would like to join the group for dinner, it begins at 6 PM and the business meeting starts at 7 PM.

September 22 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM

NOTE: The meeting date has been moved up one week so that it will not conflict with SWAT

R.D. Evans Rec. Center 7:00pm

Demonstrator: Jimmie Arledge -- Five Turned Gift Ideas

September 27 -

WNT Board meeting at The Olive Garden Restaurant in south Arlington on the southwest corner of Cooper and I-20 (close to Rockler's Hardware). All WNT members are invited to attend. If you would like to join the group for dinner, it begins at 6 PM and the business meeting starts at 7 PM.

October 27 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM

R.D. Evans Rec. Center 7:00pm

Demonstrator: Fred Denke -- Which is Better the Gouge or the Skew?

November 1 -

WNT Board meeting at The Olive Garden Restaurant in south Arlington on the southwest corner of Cooper and I-20 (close to Rockler's Hardware). All WNT members are invited to attend. If you would like to join the group for dinner, it begins at 6 PM and the business meeting starts at 7 PM.

November 17 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM

NOTE: The meeting date has been moved up one week due to the Thanksgiving holiday

R.D. Evans Rec. Center 7:00pm

Demonstrator: Mike Jones -- Making Art Out of Trash Wood