JC Charles Says “Skew It!”

JANUARY DEMO PUTS A ‘SPIN’ ON TURNING

By Cortland Hun

We are one of the luckiest clubs to have some masters of the skew, and we were treated to one of them with the demo form JC Charles.

JC’s first demo was turning a spinning top; JC has turned 100’s maybe 1,000’s of tops many of them going to the San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers Toy drive every Christmas.

JC started out by turning the handle which is a yoke. The handle was turned down from a 1 x 2 x 6 piece of wood; he got the hand part turned as well as the outer part of the yoke. The yoke is the part that will hold the top spindle. He turned it all with a couple of skews.

For any us who are afraid of the skew JC made it look so easy, plus he told us what he was doing. Once turned the yoke would be taken to the band saw or scroll saw tuned on its side and made into a Y. Sanded on the inside and then taken to the drill press where a ¼" vertical hole would be drilled though the top of both Y ends.

JC likes to use a piece of Corian for the tops body. JC starts out with a piece that has been rough cut out on the bandsaw, about ½ to ¾” thick and 2 ½-3” in diameter with a ¼” hold in the center. Again JC grabs a skew to finish the body into a nice round including some decorative enhancements to the body.

JC then takes a piece of ¾ x ¼ x 6” piece of hard wood to form the crown and tip. Yes Mr. Skew turned the crown (top) of the spindle down to fit within the body. Once the crown fit a slid into the body JC turned down the point end of the spindle. Using the skew the end was turned down to not a pointy point but a nice semi rounded point.

The spindle and body are combined once sanded and finished. JC used bee’s wax for the finish.

To spin the top the crown of the spindle is slid into the yoke and a 30” piece of string is wound around the spindle (the string is between the Y of the yoke).

Holding onto the handle with one hand and pulling the string with the other the top will spin for along time on a hard surface. I have seen some of JC’s tops spin for over 4 minutes. A great gift for any kid in your house; no matter what the age.

The second demo that JC did for us was a tremor the word is from the French and is basically a French Totem Pole.

The object is to turn objects stacked on top of each other. Oh yes I may have forgotten to tell you the objects are only about 3/8 to ¼” in diameter and must be turned using a skew.

The secondary object is to make as many objects on the “stick” over say 12-14” long. The objects although maybe not in order that JC turned were, wine glass on top of a wine bottle which was on top of a cup and saucer, followed by another wine bottle and wine glass, wine bottle champagne glass etc.

Each of the bottles and glasses are of varying lengths but now were more than maybe an inch long.

JC says this is fun stuff! Let me tell you JC made it look fun and easy. I tired it and I ended us with a few Skewer sticks! JC is truly a master of the skew and can easily be referred to as Mr. Skew!
The meeting was called to order by out-going club President Ray Gomez at 9:35am, January 30, 2010 at the Fowler Library. Approximately 42 members and guests were in attendance. Ray explained that he was very proud of the accomplishments of the club during his tenure as president, which included receiving an AAW grant for video equipment and top notch professional demonstrators, but that none of it could have happened without the membership. The meeting was then turned over to Tye Putman, incoming President.

Tye presented Ray with a gift certificate to Ideal Saw Works for his service as president. Tye announced that we would be conducting a vote for vice-president by ballot and that each paid member could vote on the paper ballot for nomanies Jack Ritchie or Scott Hampton, and to place your ballots in the ballot box. The ballots would be counted by two appointed members and overseen by outgoing Treasurer Bob Samson. Since there was no one running to oppose Secretary Cortland Hunt and Craig Miller as the new Treasurer, no vote was needed for these two office positions. Votes were counted and Jack Ritchie was elected Vice-President.

Tye announced that in the upcoming year we had all of the meetings planned with three of the meetings being back to basics intermixed with top notch club members Howard Atamian, Scott Hampton and Bill Clark demonstrating at the other three meetings. (In case you missed it Bill Clark was featured in the last issue of Woodturning Design magazine.) The “back to basic” meetings would include a demonstration on how to teardown, service and use your chain saw correctly by a representative of Stiel Chainsaws; Setting up, tuning and proper cutting techniques of your band saw; Sharpening of your tools.

John Jordon www.stubbylathe.com will be our next professional demonstrator on March 20th at Ideal Saw in Fresno from 9:00am-4:00pm, the cost is $30.00. John will also be available for hands on training for 5-10 members at a cost between $100-125.00 on the 19th, which includes lunch at Howard Atamian’s shop.

Dale Larson www.finewoodartists.com will be here May 14th at Ideal Saw in Fresno for our second professional demonstrator of the year (so far) from 9:00am-4:00pm, the cost is $30.00. Other demonstrators that are under consideration are Eli Avisera in August or September.

We will also be applying for another AAW grant in 2010.

Stan Stephens mentioned to the club that we would be voting on new amended by-laws for the club at the March 27th meeting and that they would be sent to each member via email or snail mail prior to the meeting.

Tye turned the meeting over to our new vice-president Jack Ritchie, because he had to leave early.

Meeting was closed at 12:15 by Jack Ritchie.

Hello Fellow Woodturners,

I’m sorry I had to leave our last meeting early. I didn’t get to see all of JC Charles’s skew demo. My father-in-law told me it was very informative. I did see JC turn the spin top. He sure makes it look easy. I was told that the trembling stick was a real challenge piece. Thank you JC for the great demo. I’m impressed at how smooth he can talk and turn.

Organizing the next club demo has taken some time to put together. I never thought that the natural disasters from around the world would effect our next meeting. Dan Hull from Pacific Stihl was going to come and speak on chain saw safety. Dan has been very busy with the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile by supplying and training safety crews. At the meeting we will have a one hour video on chainsaw safety and some safety manuals. We will also vote on the new by-laws.

Our show and tell should be interesting with the new club challenge. Terry Gilliland put this together with some great projects for you guys. He also has put together some good prizes for the challenge. Lastly we will also talk about our latest professional demonstrator, John Jordon.

See you at the meeting,

Tye Putman

---

President
Tye Putman.................297-1930
Vice President
Jack Ritchie...............564-8547
Treasurer
Craig Miller..............635-1547
Secretary
Cortland Hunt..............798-0970

Executive Board
Jerry Sandstrom
Newsletter Editor
Scott D. Hampton........733-9948
Email........woodburner@comcast.net
Website, Eric Dyck........288-5100
Raffle Tickets........Terry Gilliland
Librarian..................Ken Maggard

Meeting Dates: The Sequoia Woodturners meet the last Saturday of the month, every-other-month starting in January each year. Location and time of meeting will be announced in the newsletter and on the website.

Club Website: www.sequoiawoodturners.org
Dennis Ivans- A spalted natural edge bowl from elm, a bowl from pistachio, labeled with a special branding iron.

Mike Cunningham- (our new member) A calculator base from paduk, a walnut bowl with turquoise inlace, a bowl from African madrone with turquoise inlace, a lidded bowl from jojoba, and a bowl from western red cedar.

Gordon Bone- A natural edge bowl from almond, a very thin bowl from pine and an ornament from white fir.

Perry Coy- a bowl from manzanita and a lidded box from timber bamboo.

Bruce Auernheimer- a bottle stopper from Zimbaue, decorated with inlace.

Bill Milliken- A pepper mill from bubinga, a pepper mill from walnut, and a bowl laminated from 3”x3”x3” from pine.

Jim Collins- A lidded box with eggs from manzanita and a bowl filled with candy from manzanita.

Larry McCartney- A large lidded bowl with a tall finial from walnut (a flying saucer) and two large laminated bowls from walnut.

Bob Sansome- a bowl from manehing and a bowl from pecan.

Chuck Smith- A candle holder from tan oak and a bowl from Italian alder.

Terry Gilliland- A large platter, laminated from walnut and maple.
FEB. 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Sun Hong Kong Restaurant
Kingsburg, California
February 11, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm Thursday February 11, 2010 by President Tye Putman. Present were Vice President Jack Ritchie; Secretary Cortland Hunt; Treasurer Craig Miller; Directors Howard Atamian; Ken Maggard; Ken Kenoyer; Terry Gilliland; Newsletter Editor Scott Hampton; Absent Membership Director Stan Stephens

Tye, Stan and Craig will be meeting with the bank to change the names for the club checking account in the week ahead.

A note was sent and presented from Eric Dyck regarding a software program he feels is needed for work on our website. The software is Intuos4 at a cost of $360+. A motion was made by Scott Hampton and seconded by Ken Maggard that at this time we do not have enough information to make a decision and tabled to the next board meeting. Motion Carried.

Tye and Scott Hampton presented their request for a new PTZ camera (pan, tilt, zoom) and lighting truss/rigging that would allow us to mount lights and a camera above our demonstrators. The camera if RF and can be operated from Scott’s location so that he does not have to manually move the camera. The costs are around $300 for the camera and $175 for the lighting truss. Motion made by Cortland Hunt and seconded by Howard Atamian for the purchases. Motion Carried.

Club Challenge-Terry has funded the prizes in the upcoming challenges. Motion was made by Howard Atamian and seconded by Jack Ritchie to give Terry the $250 that was used. Motion Carried.

Directors voted to repair the DVR burner that is used to burn DVD’s for the club’s video library a cost of about $190. Ken Maggard volunteered to take over the library so that Tye does not have to wear that hat.

The board voted to purchase a chuck for the club lathe along with castors and face shield. Exact cost is unknown at this time.

Cortland Hunt reported for Stan at the time of the meeting we had received 40 paid memberships and three complementary memberships. Dues are due by the March meeting, he will be sending out reminders along with demo and meeting reminders via email.

Ken Kenoyer reported that the plans are almost complete for the upcoming beginner turning classes that are open to Sequoia Woodturners and San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers. The class will be limited to 10 students that will be held over a 3 day period (a Saturday, and then another Saturday and Sunday). The first class will be held at Bob Samson’s shop in Visalia and the next two meetings at Tulare Western High School shop class. All students must have their own approved tools. Day 1 will be sharpening-Craig Miller teaching; Day 2 will be turning spindles-Howard Atamian teaching; Day 3 will be bowl turning-Tye Putman teaching. We will need teaching assistants for the classes, if you are interested. The board voted that students who sign-up for all three days will receive a membership to the club.

As a board we have decided to hold our regular club meetings in the following order/manner so they will run smoother. The meetings will begin promptly at 9:30 am with all members in their seats. We will begin with any and all reports and “Q and A”, followed by a break, the woodturning demo, followed by another quick break; Show and tell and then the raffle.

Tye was approached by Jason Dogey and Mark Roberts who asked if they can make a presentation at the March meeting on their venture. They have formed a business called Ark of Wood, which features custom built wood projects. They will photograph turnings, furniture, tools, etc. that are hand made for sale and put them on their website.

Some discussion was made regarding the club’s proposed by-laws with a couple of recommendations and explanations as to the new proposed by-laws. Cortland reminded all that the new revision will be sent via email and snail mail to all 2009 paid members before the March meeting where they will be presented and voted on by the membership.

NOTE:
As the March meeting is the last meeting in which current dues for the 2010 membership must be paid in full, we ask those members who haven’t yet paid their dues to please do so before the meeting officially begins, or you will not be allowed to vote on any club business during the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm
The Sequoia Woodturners Present Our Continuing...

Professional Woodturning Seminar Series

One Of Oregon’s Finest Bowl and Vessel Woodturning Artists...

Dale Larson

All-Day Seminar...

Friday, May 14th

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Lunch Will Be Served
You Must Purchase Tickets In Advance To Join In For Lunch

Tickets: $30.00 Per Person

To Purchase Tickets, Send Payment To...
Tye Putman
7202 N. Bonadelle Ave.
Fresno, CA 93720

Seminars Will Be Presented At...
Ideal Saw Works
351 “O” Street, Fresno, CA 93721 • (559) 237-0809

For More Information About This Upcoming Event... Please Call Tye Putman • (559) 297-1930 or Scott Hampton • (559) 730-6029
The Sequoia Woodturners Newsletter is Looking for Contributing Writers

Do you have the time to become a newsletter writer? I am looking for a few members who will like to write some articles for our club’s newsletter. Articles wanted include: How-To-Woodturn, Member Profiles, Woodturning Event Articles, Etc. Also, if you have an idea for an article(s) that you will like to submit, please feel free to give me a call or send me an email. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Scott D. Hampton, Editor

The Sequoia Woodturners Newsletter is the Official publication of the Sequoia Woodturners and is published every two months prior to the next meeting. Copies of the newsletter are sent to all paid members and also to the AAW Local Chapter Committee Chairman.

The Sequoia Woodturners
1833 S. Crenshaw
Visalia, CA 93277