

OTOW WOODSHOP NEWS

MAY 2023



Upcoming Shop Orientations & Events

Schedule for May: see shop calendar for additional dates

Wood turning Sessions Every Monday and Tuesday in May
except May 30th
6pm - 8:30pm (*shop closed for general use*)

Wood Shop Orientations
Tuesdays May 2nd and 16th - 8am-9am

ReSawing Opportunities
Tuesdays May 9th and May 23rd 9:30am - 11:30am

To attend these sessions, you must sign up on the
shop calendar posted on this website

If you have any questions, email Dave Keitz
keitzda70@gmail.com

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*Publishing Team:
Ed Casper and Susan Yenne*

Dave Keitz

Education Chairman and Maintenance Chairman

Former President of OTOW Woodshop

by Susan Yenne



Dave

The first thing Dave Keitz made out of wood was a cannon that would shoot rubber bands at his toy soldiers.

His father, a carpenter, had a small woodshop in the basement of the western New York home where Keitz grew up. He puttered around there until leaving for college at the University of Rochester. After a stint in the Navy working on Admiral Hyman Rickover's nuclear power program, he went to work as a chemical engineer for Dupont in Richmond, Virginia.

He eventually built his own workshop in his basement, at first with only hand tools. He remembers saving up for his first power tools, a radial arm saw and a power drill.

"In the beginning, when we didn't have much money, I would make our furniture, like bookcases and simple chairs," he said. Eventually, his creations became more elaborate and more fun.

His wife of 55-plus years, Jan, once asked him to make a replica of a Stickley reclining chair, an arts and crafts linear style started by the Stickley brothers in New York at the turn of the 20th century. After buying a set of drawings at the Stickley Museum, he spent more than a year to get it just right. It has become his favorite project in a lifetime of woodworking.



The OTOW woodshop was one of the main reasons the Keitzes moved to our community in late 2010. The option to make the golf cart garage into a small woodshop for his lathe was an added bonus.

"At that point, the OTOW woodshop was mainly for sawing boards and equipment-borrowing," Keitz said. It had about 70 members, and the equipment was not very good or reliable.

Over the next dozen years, Keitz helped grow the woodshop to about 270 members and equipment to complete almost any project.

He's a past president and now holds the title of education chairman and maintenance chairman. He stepped away from the top role so others would step up and assure the club's future, he said.

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About five years ago, he started demonstrations so members could learn to use more tools safely. This year, he will spend about 300 hours giving two-hour demonstrations on several tools and more extensive classes on the lathe.

“Helping people get started is very rewarding,” he said. “Once people learn, they will stick with it if they’re getting satisfaction.”

Keitz figures he’s mentored about 100 people. “It’s important to be there when people need the help or they lose interest, and that’s a missed opportunity.”

He goes to the shop nearly every day, to help someone specifically, to fix equipment or to build things that will help the shop function better.

For instance, he built a 30-by-30 jig sled to help make more accurate and repeat cuts on the table saw. He sees it being used almost daily, which gives him great satisfaction.

Being in the shop for several hours each day makes him available so members can ask for help or just questions.

“It’s so important to remain approachable. I want people to feel comfortable asking me anything,” he said.

Every now and then, shop time collides with family time and he might have to reschedule. But he describes his wife as one of his biggest supporters – even when their house became overrun with wooden bowls.

He had never used a lathe until he visited a friend in 2007. After several turning sessions, he went home and bought the exact same lathe and started making bowls.

For a few years, the Keitzes went to arts and crafts fairs to sell bowls and talk with those who appreciated the woodworking. Once the collection was considerably downsized, he realized he would need to make more bowls for the next fair.

“At that point, it became work, and we stopped,” he said. “I do miss interacting with folks at those fairs.”

But now he has a shop full of members, including about 80 “regulars.” And although he’s a teacher and mentor, he’s always ready to learn more.



New OTOW club forming

OTOW Woodcarvers

My name is David Bride. I moved to OTOW in July of 2022 and became a member of our Wood Shop shortly thereafter. I have been a woodworker since Jr High School shop classes. I made a few unsuccessful attempts at wood carving over the years. After retiring, I took a wood carving class through an adult education course in southern Wisconsin. The instructor was very good and got me by the hurdle, which I believe stops many beginning carvers, that is having a sharp tool. Mastering tool sharpening is not a simple task to many of us. My instructor introduced me to carving tools from Warren Cutlery. They sell handles with replaceable blades that come from the factory very sharp. This allows you to use a sharp blade for your project and then replace the blade with a new one for a few bucks. Now I can spend my time carving instead of sharpening.

I like to carve "In the Round". This results in an object carved on all sides as opposed to a "Relief" carving which is usually done into the surface of stock.



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The Carving club was invited to display some of their work in the “Spring Art Fling” held in the hobby buildings art room. It was a huge success for the artist and carvers. Lots of people attended the 3-hour event. Hope we get invited back next year. Here’s a picture of Tom manning the table.



Our OTOW Carving Club, which meets every Thursday from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Art room of the Hobby building (opposite end of the building from the Wood-shop), has some very advanced carvers and also beginners. All are very willing to discuss and share info and past experiences.

If you are interested in carving
stop by and bring a knife or a chisel
and start carving with us.

Need more info contact:
Rich @ 404-558-3855
Tom @ 352-586-1171

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Interesting and Timely Tip
by
John O'Brien

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

By John O'Brien

As I observe people working in our shop, I am amazed how many people are working without any hearing protection or eye protection. For this shop tip, I am going to be concentrating on hearing protection in the shop.

I recently had been fitted for hearing aids. I am still relatively young as retirees go, but still my hearing loss had reached a level where I needed to do something about it. I have worked around loud wood-working machinery most all my life. I also have done a fair amount of hunting. 50 years of loud noise has taken its toll on my hearing that cannot be reversed. Did you know that one in 10 Americans has a hearing loss that affects his or her ability to understand normal speech? When you experience a noise that is too loud, it starts to kill the inner ear's nerve endings. Long term exposure to loud noise can destroy these nerve endings. The more nerve endings that die, the greater your loss of hearing. There is no way to restore life to dead nerve endings; the damage is permanent. The longer you are exposed to a loud noise, the more damage can occur. The closer you are to the source of noise, the more damaging it can be.

We have done a lot in the shop to reduce noise, especially our dust collection system. However, we still have several pieces of equipment that are way above the safe noise level. I personally wear earmuff type hearing protection the whole time I am in the shop. Any time the wood planer is operating, the cut-off saw, the router table, and even the table saws, the noise given off by this machinery is excessive and could further damage your hearing.

If you have good hearing now or even have impaired hearing, it makes good sense to protect what hearing you have left. There are many options to protect your hearing. Even if you just use the foam hearing plugs, that is better than nothing at all. However, a good pair of hearing muffs can be purchased at the big box stores for under \$25 and you would be amazed at how quiet your surroundings would be while working in the wood-shop.

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Share a brief summary of a project or tip of yours with the members?

***In a recent woodshop survey 19% of respondent indicated they
would be willing to provide project information and 7% indicated
they would be willing to provide woodworking tips***

That's Fantastic!

***For those willing to share
we offer the following suggested format for each:***

For Project Info:

If possible - keep your article to 2 or 3 pages.

If you have them - pictures throughout the project would be great to include.

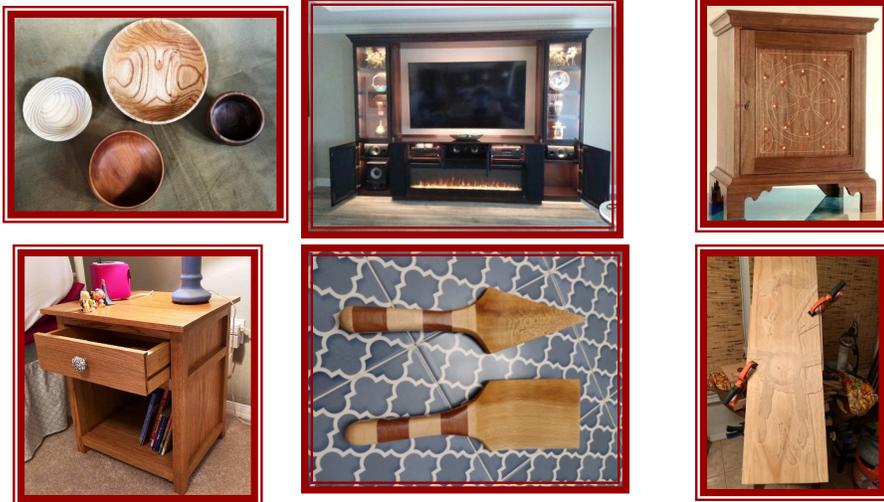
Discuss any issues during the process - “good”, “bad” and “ugly”

Picture of final project and any final thoughts.

For Woodworking tips:

Try to keep you article to 2 pages maximum.

Along with your text - As the old saying goes - “pictures are worth a 1000 words”



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Sample of projects submitted by members in previous
issues of the wood shop publication

WOODSHOP RULES

OTOW Woodshop has **only** 15 rules.
It is expected **every** woodshop member be familiar with all 15.

This issue briefly covers 2 of these rules
Rule #11 and Rule #12



Rule #11

Some form of appropriate eye protection should always be worn in the shop. Glasses made for vision correction do not provide adequate eye protection. Safety goggles are available in the shop at the end of the tool bench near the entry door.



A face shield must be worn when using a lathe. Face shields are available in the shop on the shelf under the 12 inch Rikon lathe in the Northeast corner.

Goggles or a face shield must be worn when using a grinder or power wire wheels.

Members should use appropriate cleaning agents to wipe clean and return any face shields or goggles when they are finished working for the day.

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WOODSHOP RULES

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Rule #12

Referencing Clean Work Area & Equipment Courtesy

Each member must clean the work areas used by them before leaving the shop for the day. If a work area is, or will be, used by another member before the first member cleans it, the last member to use it must do the cleanup.



If the member's work requires back and forth use of more than one work area, each area need not be cleaned immediately after each use unless the messy condition would interfere with use of the work area by another member or result in tracking the mess into other areas of the shop.

If a member has a machine set up for a specific cutting operation, the machine should not be idle for more than 15 minutes unless there is a redundant machine available.

The machine setup should be returned to its normal state at the completion of the operation. Members must not alter a machine set up by another member without attempting to determine who set it up and determine a course of action with that person.



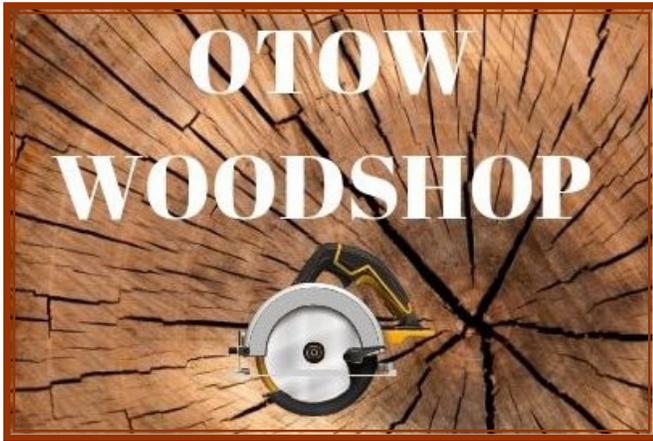
Members may be asked, from time-to-time, to participate in overall Shop cleaning efforts. Members who consistently refuse to participate will be in violation of the By-Laws, Article 5, Section 1, and subject to Shop use restrictions or membership termination.

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Reminder:

Woodshop is closed for general use

every Monday and Tuesday in May between 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
(turning sessions are given during this time)



*To learn more
about the Woodshop
click on the following link
www.otowwoodshop.com*

*If you have questions/comments/
suggested topics/ projects etc. use
the "Comments" section of
www.otowwoodshop.com*

Please include your phone number along with your name

*All woodshop members
are invited to attend Board Meetings
meetings held Monthly (except August)
on the third Monday @ 3:00 pm
Location - meeting room adjacent to the woodshop*

*Annual Woodshop Meeting
is to be held in the Recreation Center at 10 AM on the 12th of December*

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