



**April 2024**

*Survey Results - Part 1; Education; Giving Back to the Community; Grouper*

## Message from the Wood Shop President!

Fellow Members,

This edition of the newsletter continues building on our communications strategy of providing you with concise articles on a more frequent schedule. Article suggestions and content submissions are always welcome!

### Survey Analysis (Part 1) -

Since so many of you (163!) took the time to respond to our survey, I wanted to provide some key takeaways on what you told us. This will be a multi-part series, with more to come!

#### Question - *"Tell us how you use the Wood Shop?"*

In general, member's anticipated shop usage tracked very well to our historical data capture – high, medium and low anticipated usage was split, give or take a few percentage points, pretty evenly at one-third (1/3) each.

*This is a leading indicator that a greater percentage of members plan on using the shop more and, potentially, the shop will be getting busier than in the past, especially in the mornings. Even so, there are plenty of times during the day where the shop is currently not busy. We will be analyzing our historical useage times to publish typical busy and non-busy periods to members to help them plan their activities.*

#### Question - *"What tools do you borrow the most?"*

Around one-half of members utilize the ability to borrow tools, and for the most part, we are able to meet your needs.

## Question - "How are we doing?"

Members took the time to leave lots of positive comments on equipment upgrades, shop cleanliness, maintenance and education, and they are being passed on to the members who volunteer and make that all happen!

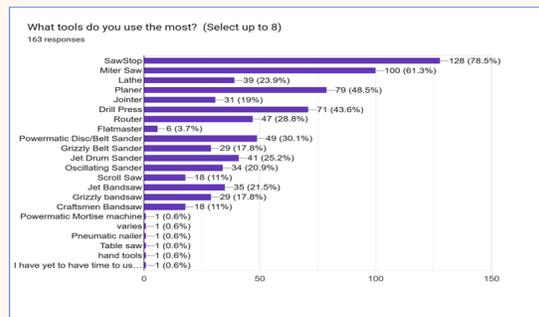
Please remember that the shop cannot function without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers - please consider pitching in and helping out!

## Question - "What can the shop do better?"

For this question many expressed the need for more space and issues surrounding the sometimes-crowded conditions.

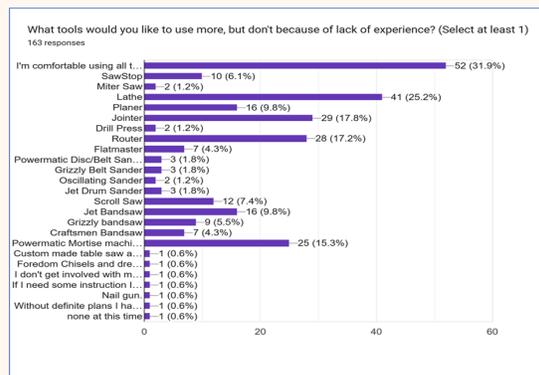
*I want to take a moment and add my comments here - While we are dependent on OTOW for our space we are planning to address the issue in a more direct manner this year - more to come on that topic. We also do fully understand that sometimes the shop can get crowded and I wanted to remark that while it can be at times frustrating, I am grateful to see the consideration of members to each other when it does get crowded.*

You gave us good feedback on what tool you use the most, and that's helpful to our planning, now and into the future!

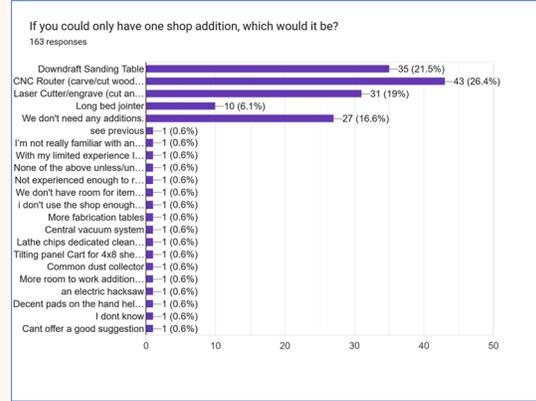


More great feedback was on your tool experience, with one-third of you expressing your ability across all our tools (and most likely corresponding to our high usage members).

Understanding this chart more will help create education and other opportunities for you to become more proficient in those tools you want to use



The last result I wanted to leave you with is your feedback on the next shop additions. These will all be items we will be discussing as we move forward



## Focus on Education

One of the shops' charters is education and we've been spending a bit of time thinking how to re-vamp our approach and wanted to share that with members. In a nutshell, our education offerings, whether written, classroom or video will (1) encourage safe use of shop equipment (2) remind members that they are personally responsible for their actions (3) provide educational opportunities to develop a basic understanding of how to safely use power tools and (4) help build woodworking skills.

Based on your survey responses, one of the areas we want to expand on is providing more opportunities to learn by doing. What content to offer and how to manage different skill levels are all things that need to be worked out.

In order to maximize participation during the evening hours we are looking at creating standard sessions 2-hours in length one night a week from 6-8 pm. The frequency of this during the month is still to be determined.

In order to help us select the best night to conduct these sessions, please provide your feedback [here](#) .

In addition, if we find there is greater interest in daytime sessions, we may consider some limited 2-hour closings.

We will keep you up to date as work progresses in this area!

## Giving Back to the Community!

Article created by Rick Pivetz!

## The Woodshop Provided Helping Hands to The Paradise Players

We hope many of you are aware of an exciting play production coming on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Paradise Players will present "The Platinum Girls Las Vegas Adventure". Their club approached the woodshop club several months ago to build the sets for the stage.



set in modular sections. Some sections were so large we used a storage unit as a temporary woodshop. Fun was had by all and we look forward to seeing our craftwork used in the play. We hope to see you all there!

For us sawdust eaters, anytime we can play with wood and tools makes us happy. A team of volunteers was formed and with materials provided by The Paradise Players, construction began. Over the course of several hundred man-hours, we built the entire



## Grouper

Have a Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement medical plan? Many plans include a grouper benefit. Check to see if you are eligible. Eligible members will receive a check directly from Grouper to cover their membership dues at OTOW Woodshop.

Already belong to Element3/Grouper in another OTOW club? Call 833-906-1700 to register.



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