



## The News

**Future Meetings** Here is a list of what is planned for the regular monthly meetings. If you have any comments or questions, please air them at the next regular meeting or at the Board Meeting, which you are free to attend. We always need you input.

**August 21** We've been very spoiled the last few years by Shorty Mueller and Perry Liljander hosting this meeting at the Alma Aerie. We'll see if Shorty still has plenty of charcoal and chicken. Ken Grunke will demonstrate the making of one of his trumpet vases.

The UFO's we've heard so much about are expected to appear. So come on up to Area 51 and check out the aerial display.

**September 11, 12** Bob Rosand, a big name turner from Bloomsburg, PA will be here for two days, September 11 & 12, at B&B Studios. Note that this is not the regular 3rd weekend. Like Dick Sing, Bob is a big guy who makes small stuff, but makes it very well. Plus, he can help those of you who need to improve your ambidexterity, because Bob is left-handed and has a lot of insight into the unique problems lefties encounter when using conventional lathes.

**October 16** Ed Holz will be hosting at his shop in Sparta near the scenic shores of Perch Lake. Dave Dapkus will be discussing cutting, carving, chipping, burning—anything but turning.

**November 20** Gary Friemann will again be hosting at his shop in Spring Grove, MN and Duane Hill will be explaining some of his mistakes and how he fixed them. So if you want to learn more about "design opportunities" be sure to drive down to our southern quadrant for this interesting and offbeat session.

**December 18** In Winona at Falch Studios, we'll have a demon-

stration of coring systems.

**Woodworking School** [from our shameless Commerce Division] Prairie River Woodworking, in Merrill, WI [actually just south of Merrill, WI at Exit 205—the Hwy Q Exit of I-39] is open for business. Mark Duginske and his staff [names like Toshio Odate, Linda Surowiec, Wayne Barton and others] are holding classes in this brand new facility with students learning everything from the bandsaw to the lathe with a few dovetails and workbenches thrown in with the carving. For information pick up a brochure at the next meeting, or surf to <http://www.prairieriverwoodworking.com>

**Nonprofit Status** This is going forward. There'll be more news on this after Amy moves to Sparta. We will need volunteers for a working and monitoring subcommittee, who will help Aaron after some training by Amy [of the volunteers—Aaron is already trained]. It's anticipated that we'll need these volunteers at about the end of this calendar year.

**Wood Trading** The reciprocal shipment from the Woodturners in Phoenix is en route and should arrive just before the July meeting.

**Mobiles** We still need volunteers to make balloons. Terry Snowden will coordinate and Ansel Heram has already made the baskets. It's for a good cause.

**Nuptials** Rich Egan will be married in October. The following comes from fiancée Sally: "Duane—I was wondering if the Wood Turners would be willing to create 20 - 25 turned bowls. ..." There have been some volunteers. See Rich or Duane Hill for info.

**Treasurer Report** Our cash balance is ~\$19. We need your suggestions for items to add to the library.

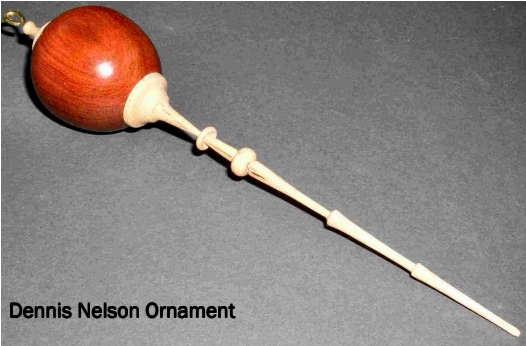
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turner from Maine, and he is very interested in doing one in the winter (go figure). David also does some of the development work for Oneway. He has some very practical ideas. Also, Kirk Deheer from Utah is interested. Kirk was the assistant at the Utah 5 class last year. He does a lot of coloring and working with alternate materials. He does a lot of small craft items. He sells his turnings at several craft shows throughout the US. Kirk also runs the booth for Craft Supplies at the Woodworking Show as it tours around the country. He would be willing to do a demo when the show is next in Minneapolis. However, because of his commitment to the Woodworking Shows, he is tied up Friday through Sunday when they would be in Minneapolis. His demo would have to be during the week. Are there any others you would specifically like to see demo at our club? How about a return engagement from Alan Lacer? Again, let the officers know your thoughts.

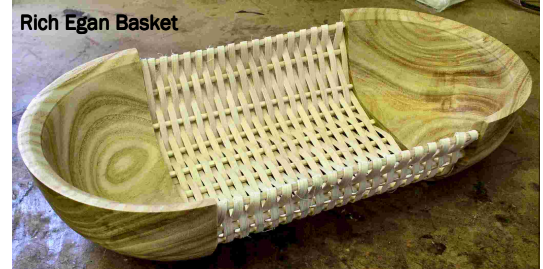
As the temperature is starting to climb (actually the humidity is rising), I am very glad I put a small air conditioner in my shop a couple of years ago (I know I'm a wimp. Real men sweat in their shops!). I know I will be spending time there this summer. Hopefully you will also be spending some time with your lathe as the summer progresses. Lets keep everyone safe and keep those chips flying. Look me up during Tool Day if you want more information on any of the three techniques mentioned earlier. If people are interested, we could do a mentoring session on each of them. See you at B&B's for Tool Day on July 17!

Also, remember to congratulate Aaron on his recent wedding [June 24]. I don't know whether to congratulate Amy (his new bride) or offer condolences (just kidding Aaron).

**Meeting Review** The last meeting was held 19 June 04, at Falch Studio in Winona, Minn-eee-sooh-tah. We saw a really informative demonstration of chucking systems and special applications as well as a particularly good Instant Gallery. Here are just a few pictures from the meeting. About a hundred more can be found on our website, thanks to our resident Photog, Art Ustby. <http://www.crwoodturner.com/> It's becoming obvious that the meeting topics are getting more advanced and the work being produced by the members is getting much better. We look forward to more of this at future meetings.



Dennis Nelson Ornament



Rich Egan Basket



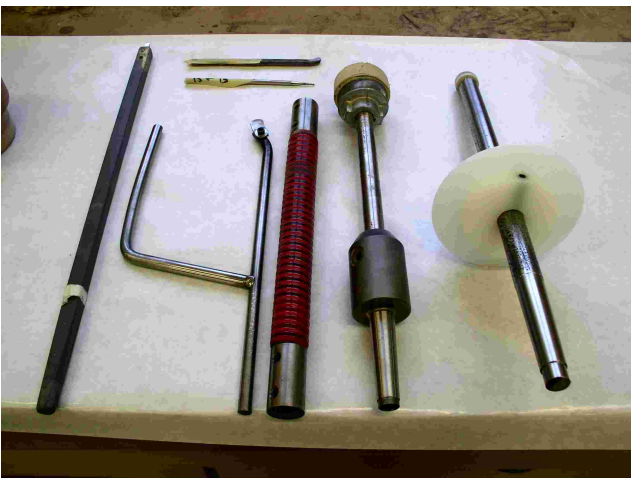
Denis Falch BIG Bowl



A Grunke Box



Pam Reilly Box



Tool Day Options



Pam Reilly Bowl

**News from Craft Supply:**  
 A new discount program is available to group members. Contact Duane Hill for details. This month, ending July 15, you can get 15% off on Artisan Dyes as well as any of the products from Myland, HUT, and Liberon. This does not require a group buy. Another set of specials is available right after this one.

**CRW Library News:**  
 We would like to have all items returned to our library at this next meeting. Our taskmaster Librarian assures us that there will be no fines or other punitive measures for late returns—this time. So take advantage of our amnesty program and get those late items brought back. So we can complete our cataloguing process and better serve all the membership.

**La Crosse Library Display:**  
 We have the entryway display at the downtown La Crosse Library filled with beautiful turned objects, thanks to the efforts of Tom Mruz. Check it out the next time you're in the area. Some pictures of this are also on our website.

**Door Prizes** Meetings now have Door Prizes. Yes! You can win valuable prizes by just showing up, but only if you sign in.

**Swap Meet** Bring your jun...er, valuable redundant tools and stuff, priced to sell, and we'll have buyers with ready cash. Somewhat woodworking related is preferred

**“Area 51” Challenge**  
 Takes place at the secret rendezvous location in the Alma Hills on the secret date, August 21, 2004.

**Rules**

- All entries must be turned from wood (more than 50% of the entry has to be turned from wood)
- Entries must be at least 4” in diameter and 1” thick. Entries can be any shape. Basically, anything that can fly.

**Three categories:**

- Best use of turning
- Best artistic
- Longest flight.

CRW members will vote on the best use of turning and best artistic categories. A “fly off” will be held for the longest flight. Pieces that are to be flown may only be powered by human force. This means that anything which be thrown, pulled, or tossed by human muscle. Pull strings (like with a top) may be used. Windup devices incorporating a propeller and/or rubber band may also be used. Motors of any sort may NOT be used. Compressed air may not be used.

No one person may win more than one category.

**2004 Utah Symposium**  
Duane Hill, Bill Gautsch, Denis Falch, Dave Dapkus

The four of us left early in the morning (7:00 flight) of June 9 for Salt Lake City. We were excited, but somewhat saddened that the fifth person of our group, Art Ustby, was not able to make it due to a recent death in his family. We decided to get a quick bite to eat in the Minneapolis airport, between flights. We arrived in Salt Lake City around 11:00. Picked up our rental car and proceeded to Provo and Craft Supplies.

The Wednesday preceding the Utah Symposium is designated as Super Wednesday at Craft Supplies. They have a big garage sale going on (close outs, specials etc.) and multiple demonstrations going on. This year, there were 13 demonstration sites at Craft Supplies. All of these demos were free. We arrived at Craft Supplies about 1:00 and proceeded to stand in line for some food. We then spent an enjoyable afternoon looking at demos and picking up those all-important supplies. Craft Supplies will ship those supplies right to your door (if you ship there is no sales tax. If you don't ship, you pay Utah sales tax, so it is almost a wash). The two veterans, Denis and Duane, had packed an extra suitcase in our bags so that we could bring our treasures home. Dave did this also, but Bill had plenty of room in his.

Wednesday evening, Denis had made arrangements for us to meet with Skip, the owner of The Burl Source. Skip works out of his home in Sandy, Utah. He has a great supply of burls from Australia and the other lands “Down Under”. While we were there, Skip showed us some of the stuff he has turned and

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carved, so we could get an idea of what the wood looked like. He also showed us his shop. After the tour, we went to his garage (where the burls are) and started picking pieces we would like. We ended up shipping a sizeable amount back to Denis' place. Some of the burls we picked up were red mallee, brown mallee, Tasmanian myrtle, Tingleberry (for Tim McCaleb). Bill also picked up several egg blank size pieces for Brigitta's collection. You should be seeing some great pieces from these in the next few months.

The actual Symposium started on Thursday morning with an opening session. Here you got a chance to see whom the demonstrators were, what they would be demonstrating and some of their work. There were several hundred people at the opening session (approximately 700 attended the symposium). At the end of the morning session, they opened the doors and everyone rushed out to get a good seat at the first session. Thus started the activities for the next three days.

I (Duane) had the opportunity to sit in on sessions with Linda Salter (segmentation), Andi Wolfe (carving and burning), Art Liestman (surface decoration), Stuart Batty (sharpening), Vic Wood (using hot melt glue as a chuck), Lane Phillips (how to cut a tree for optimum figure), and David Lancaster. I would have to say that my favorite session was Stuart Batty's sharpening demonstration. He had some very good points on the how and why of sharpening properly. Even some good techniques on how to make a swept-back bowl gouge without a sharpening jig.

I also had a chance to sit in on the Mike Mahoney/Stuart Batty demo of two ways to turn a bowl. They did this last year at Utah and then at the AAW Symposium in Pasadena. They also have a DVD out of this presentation. If you get a chance, you should check out the DVD. I don't know which you will do more of - learn or laugh.

Thursday night was highlighted by the opening of the Beneath the Bark exhibit at the BYU Museum of Art. This exhibit had works from every person who has demonstrated at the Utah Symposium. There were some very impressive works there. You can view the exhibit in the book "Beneath the Bark" which commemorates the 25 years of the Utah Symposium. I think all four of us picked up a copy, along with a couple of other copies. Also, Thursday night had several of the artists available for book signings. There were huge lines everywhere for signings.

Besides the demonstrations on Friday, there was a big picnic up on one of the mountains outside Provo. What a view! There was also a swap meet held after the picnic. Think of a giant garage sale for woodturners!

Saturday had more sessions and closing remarks. We didn't stick around for the closing remarks, choosing instead to go back to Craft Supplies and pick up some extra goodies. We then headed back to Salt Lake, in order to be ready for our early (6:00) morning flight back.

For me (Duane), it was a very fun time. I learned a lot, met some old friends and acquaintances, and had a great time. This symposium has a very different feel than the AAW one. This one feels very much like a family. I will definitely be looking to come back in the near future. The one thing I will say is make sure you get rested up before you come, because you will be on the go the whole time you are there.

For me (Dave), I can't think of much to add except for the beauty of Provo and the BYU campus. I also really appreciated the friendliness of the people at Craft Supplies, Tree Line and the symposium in general. My favorite thing was probably the swap meet: buckthorn and box elder burl by the truckload, good deals on Mountain mahogany, African Blackwood, pink ivory, books by Dick Sing, videos by Curt Theobald, and lots of new and used tools.

## Equipment Review: General International's Maxi-lathe Model 25-100

### Overview

#### Features:

10" swing, 15" between centers  
Headstock spindle: 1" x 8 tpi; Morse taper 2; 3/8"+ hole through spindle  
Spindle speeds: 480, 1270, 1960, 2730, 3300, 4023 rpm  
1/2 hp. AC induction motor

### Pros

#### Heavy cast iron

Section thickness on the castings is between 3/8" and 1/2". This unit is fairly heavy, almost too heavy for the average per-

son--I was able to lift it from the floor up to a 36" bench but not without a heavy groan, and almost a strained back. Removing the tailstock doesn't help a lot since it needs to be fairly light because it's bound to be moved off and on the lathe many times. The lathe weighs 106 lbs total.

#### Quality construction

The bed is milled nice and flat, but not so smooth that the tool rest banjo slips under heavy use--a problem I've heard of in other lathes. The overall finish of machined surfaces and the painting is equal to or above the quality of the Jet mini-lathe.

#### Adequate power

With a 10" x 2" slab of air-dried red oak mounted on the face-

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plate, I was able to stall the spindle only after forcing a moderately deep cut with a bowl gouge, which had started to lose its edge after some use on the oak. Don't expect to be able to take 1/2" peeling cuts on dry wood with this lathe--but 1/4" deep cuts with a sharp gouge at the lowest speed range in green wood would be realistic. The Maxi-lathe can handle the maximum diameter available, if you don't push it too hard.

### **Convenient paddle switch on the tail end of the bed**

A great safety feature--in a crisis, you'll most likely be at the tail end of the lathe, so just hit the paddle to cut the power. Only one disadvantage--it's too easy to accidentally cut the power if you lean against it. A bit annoying if you are in the middle of a cut! The switch has a "key" insert to prevent unauthorized use--remove from the switch and hide it or put in your pocket. Another good safety feature if children are around.

### **More capacity than other minilathes**

Between centers capacity is about 2" longer than the Jet minilathe.

### **Hollow tailstock spindle**

With the tailstock ram out for cleaning, I noticed that the tailstock feed screw hole was much larger than I expected. I wondered why until I looked at the manual--the tailstock feed screw is hollow, with a 3/8" hole through. This is a pretty neat feature if you use lamp augers for boring spindles, and have the proper hollow tailstock center.

### **Bed extension available**

Like the Jet mini, a cast iron extension is available, and is bolted to a machined surface at the tail end of the bed--although there are only two holes for this purpose.

## **Cons**

### **Lack of sufficient bearing support for headstock**

The headstock bearings are only about 4" apart, typical for bench top lathes in this class. This increases the likelihood of tool chatter when turning pieces with an overhang of more than 6" without tailstock support, for example hollow forms. It may also increase bearing wear when turning such forms. A steady rest would be a good accessory, but is not available for this lathe (yet).

A related issue is the outboard shaft, holding the 6-step pulley and hand wheel. This 5/8" diameter shaft, with a through-hole slightly larger than 3/8", hangs free about 3 1/2" (without bearing support) and takes the stress of a portion of the motor's weight to keep proper belt tension. This can be asking for trou-

ble--will the relatively thin-walled shaft hold up to many hours of use without snapping? I also wonder if this will cause increased bearing wear, compared to a headstock with the pulleys between the spindle bearings.

### **Tool post too small**

I think a 5/8" tool post is too wimpy for a lathe of this size, 3/4" would be more appropriate.

### **Speed range is too wide**

At least in the lower range, it jumps from 480 to 1270--a speed between these two would help after roughing a large bowl, where 1270 might be just a little too fast for cutting on the outer diameter.

### **Heavy, hard to lug around**

Here, a pro is also a con--but I think the advantages of more mass "outweigh" the disadvantages (pun intended).

### **Clamp handles**

The banjo clamp handle often unscrews during operation--a little Loctite is probably the answer here.

Tool post clamp handle sometimes slips on screw when tightening, and doesn't give enough clamping pressure unless tightened hard.

### **Spindle nose**

The spindle nose has a good-sized (1-7/8" diameter) flange behind the threads, which would give a solid backing for any chuck or faceplate were it not for a raised area, about 1 1/2" diameter, sticking out about 1/16"--I don't understand the reason for this but it pretty much negates the advantage of the flange's diameter unless it were to be machined off. Or a pocket would have to be machined in every faceplate, chuck, or other accessory to accommodate this protrusion.

### **Tailstock ram movement is stiff**

I cleaned and lubricated the tailstock ram, but not the screw or its bearing in the outboard end of the tailstock. The tailstock wheel feels stiff to turn; it's not a ball bearing like a high-end lathe would have. Just a bit annoying when drilling in the lathe, while cranking the ram in and out.

### **Belt change is inconvenient on motor pulley**

At least it's difficult changing to the speeds on the high rpm range, with the hatch on the outboard end.

## **Suggestions for improvement**

### **Included knockout bar needs a knob**

The supplied knockout bar was simply a straight shaft without a

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knob. One could easily whack it with a mallet, but a bar with some weight behind it saves having to reach for another tool to knock the spur center out. I machined a steel knob on my metal lathe and press fit it onto the shaft.

**Allow the banjo clamp handle to swing either way**

The banjo clamp mechanism is the widely used and effective eccentric shaft design seen on most new modern lathes. Other lathes I've used allow the handle to swing either right or left to tighten the banjo, so one can angle the banjo either way without the handle hitting the bed. But the General's banjo has a stop pin on the left side, so it only tightens to the right. A simple solution is to pull the roll pin out, but it's stuck in there too good

even with vise grips on it.

**Put the belt-change hatch in front**

**Beef up the headstock**

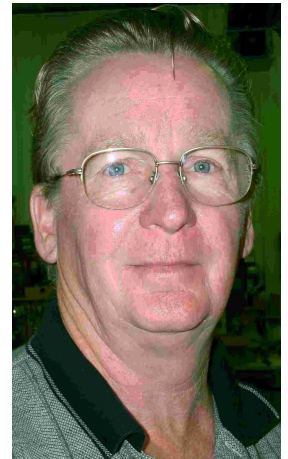
**Summary Comment**

I've had this lathe in my shop for about 6 weeks, and use it almost every day--it's a fine, smooth-running machine which would make a great first lathe, or a secondary lathe for advanced turners. And it's got the General name--you can't go wrong with that!

**by Ken Grunke**

**New Members:**

Welcome to Pam Reilly from Rochester, MN and Dennis Nelson from New Lisbon, WI. As you saw in the Instant Gallery, neither of these are novices, and we look forward to learning more about them and their work.



**Boiler Plate:**

We have all been warned about being careful, and too often we ignore the warnings. Here is a reminder from fellow member Brother Finbar McMullen that you can never be too careful, even in your own back yard.



*Coulee Region Woodturners Chapter of American Association of Woodturners*

*Stamp goes  
here.*

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Mail Merge Document.**

**"A Turn For the Better"**

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**Next Meeting—At the Brigitta & Bill Gautsch  
Studio. 9:00 AM Saturday,  
17 July 2004.**

Here's a map to help those who aren't sure where we will meet.

N4671 Old Hickory Drive in Onalaska. I90 to Wisconsin Highway 16 to County Road OS to Meadow Wood to Old Hickory, then to the end at the top of the hill.

We'll start the program promptly, so you'll need to be a little early just to get one of The Uecker Seats. Remember—you have to bring your own chair to have a place to sit.

If you get lost or delayed, call (608) 783-7171 before the meeting for help or directions.

We'll have coffee, so donuts are ALWAYS welcome. Especially Chocolate.

