ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS' GUILD
Volume 18 Issue 10 October 2026

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 13 at 7 PM

The October meeting will be at the Guild shop, lower level of 302 South 8th Street. We are back in the Guild shop again and you will see how much things have changed. We will catch up on projects, check our finances, and see what is happening with the Guild before seeing projects in the Sho-N-Tell portion of the meeting. After that Ralph Alvarez will give a demonstration on installing drawers using rails. Come and get together with others who enjoy working wood and maybe even learn something.

September Meeting Notes

Because of the September heat, we met at the Pony Bar again in the air conditioned comfort and the hospitality of the Pony Express Museum. Lynn greeted the audience and introduced the officers. He asked for the treasurer's report and it was given by Rusty Cook. The report approval motion was made by Steve Bunse, seconded by Jim Jones, and approved by the audience unanimously. Lynn announced that Ralph Alvarez has accepted the position of shop manager effective immediately. No major changes will occur with he personnel change.

New Business:

- Lynn started with a discussion of the CNC/laser proposal asking what the audience thought of the program that Kevin presented at the prior meeting of the Guild. Kevin gave some more information about each and answered questions posed by the audience. The general consensus was that the CNC would be a better fit with he jobs that the Guild does currently. It will be good if the CNC had the ability to add a laser at a later time. The purchase had been discussed in a prior meeting and was awaiting a decision of what the membership wanted. (See the September Program for further action on the laser.)

- Lynn announced that there will be a disposition of extra tools and other items for the Guild members after all has been sorted out from the earlier cleanup. This will be on Saturday, September 13 from 9 to 11 AM. Members can come and take anything available for there own use for free. Anything remaining will be donated or junked.

- John Cool said he had spoken with Jeff Atkins, St. Joseph Parks and Rec Director, who had mentioned that the Parks Department might want to get rid of there sawmill that resides at the Parks Department Headquarters. Jeff said he might donate it to the Guild, if the Guild is interested. John had photos showing the mill which is considerably larger than our existing mill. Discussion was favorable for acquiring the mill. However, finding a location was the biggest concern. A Guild member will try to contact Jeff to go and get some measurements of the Parks Department mill for space consideration.

- Jim Jones stated he acquired several containers of casters and wheels that he is going to donate to the Guild for future use. Thanks to Jim for the very nice gift.

Old Business

- Lynn stated that the ownership of the building is still in limbo. He said he believed that the building has to be emptied of the Rader's glass inventory and other possessions before the building will be officially sold to the new owners.

Future projects

- Roger reported that AFL-CIO Community Services has requested at least 50 doll cradles similar to what the Guild has provided in past years. We would need to get the plywood soon so the parts can be cut out. Rusty is going to

contact both Metro Hardwoods and the parent company, Liberty Hardwoods, to see if we can purchase better quality plywood for the cradles. Kevin Crawford volunteered to runs the parts on his CNC again. Ralph Alvarez made a motion that the Guild purchase new bits for Kevin as a thank you for his use of his CNC. Steve Bunse seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Not really a project, but Lynn said the Monday and Wednesday activities are moving back to the shop beginning September 14. We encourage members to use the shop facilities for building projects or for when they don't have a particular tool. There may be the opportunity to have the shop open on Saturday mornings from 9 to about 11:30 AM. Details on that will be coming later. To be able to work in the Guild shop, you must be a Guild member (dues paid) and you must pass the safety test.

Past Project Summary

- Lynn went over the summary of prices of the items that sold at the Noyes Home Take A Seat Auction in August. Guild and Guild member projects contributed a good amount to the auction total.

Sho-N-Tell

Don St. Cyr — Two large measuring sticks to check his grand kids growth. One was made with mahogany and hickory while the other was made with maple and poplar. He had help from Kevin Crawford and his CNC to make the markings on each stick. Don then covered the sticks with black lacquer, let it dry, and sanded it off to reveal sharp markings. He added a hanger on the back of each so the stick can be hung on the wall.

Rusty Cook — A rocking chair built on the same pattern of those made for the Noyes Home auction last year. His is made of oak for the major parts with walnut inserts in the vertical components. He used brass pins instead of wood dowels in the joints.



Don holding his measuring sticks.



Rusty talking about his chair.



A closer photo of Rusty's chair.

Frank Shores — An Edison light bulb mounted on a base (no it wasn't a wood project, but very unique). He was helping clean out a old house for a friend and found a box full of these bulbs.



Frank holding his Edison bulb.



Dave and Jim admiring the Edison bulb.

Kevin Crawford — A unique child's chair made from plywood in the shape of a butterfly. He had seen this as an adult chair and scaled it down to fit a child. The plywood was cut on the CNC.



Kevin showing his chair.



A closer view of Kevin's chair.

Roger Martin — A variety of toys made of wood. He had one rattle made in the shape of an elephant and several toys made so the child can pull each of them across the room. The rattle is made of maple and the pull toys are of oak and pine.



Roger speaking about his toys.



One of Roger's toys.



More of Roger's toys.



The elephant baby rattle Roger made.

Several in the audience wanted to know the source of the patterns. Roger said most of the patterns came from a website began by Steve Good called Scrollsaw Workshop. The website is **scrollsawworkshop.blogspot.com**. *Steve died earlier this year and Bear Woods Supply Company has taken the website over allowing people to continue accessing over 5,000 free patterns that Steve created before he died. The website has a very good search function to look for toys, Christmas decorations, and a great many other items.*

September Program

Kevin Crawford brought a small laser and provided a program showing us how to set up and operate the laser for a small project that evening. Kevin brought a Creality Falcon A1 laser which is a small, desk top size laser suitable for home use. It is a lower power diode machine. Kevin mentioned that there are other, larger lasers with more power using other systems to create the image on the surface of the item in the laser. A computer, such as a laptop, and certain software is required for setting up and operating the laser. Kevin recommended Lightburn software as it has a lot of capabilities when using the laser. An exhaust fan is also required to vent the fumes away from the box holding the laser and the object to be imaged.



Beginning the laser process.



Explaining the honeycomb



Setting the image up on the computer.

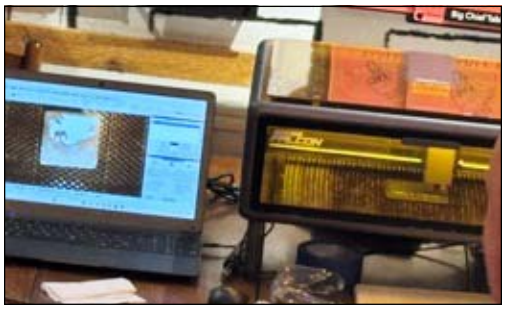


Showing parts of the laser.



Showing the coaster he will laser.

Once the software is loaded and the computer is hooked up to the laser, the process can begin. The item to be imaged is positioned in the box on the honeycomb surface. The honeycomb allows the laser to operate without burning the reverse side of the object by allowing air to contact the back side. The Creality Falcon A1 uses a internal camera to position the item so the laser will start at a certain point. Once the starting point has been determined, the laser can be started to create the image on the surface of the object. The Creality, being small, is slower than the more powerful lasers. It creates the image using thousands of microscopic dots as it crosses the object. Kevin had a slate coaster at the meeting on which he created a woodland scene. When the laser was done creating the image, he gave the coaster to a young lady in the audience.



The laser running etching the image on the coaster.

Kevin stated that photographs can be modified by the laser software to enhance the image and get it ready for printing. He mentioned that the imagination is the only limit as to what can be done with the laser. He said that the Creality was a good starter laser for home, but that the bed size limited the size of the object that can be done. He recommended, that if the Guild was interested in a laser purchase, that we consider one with a 30" x 48" bed so we can do larger projects. After a short discussion, Jim Jones made a motion the Guild purchase a 30" x 48" bed laser. The motion was seconded by Ralph Alvarez and the motion carried. Kevin is tasked with ordering the laser. Rusty Cook had already obtained a laptop computer that can be used with the appropriate software. We are excited to see it soon and we thank Kevin for his presentation and all his research and explanation at the past meetings.

Membership

January is renewal month for the Guild annual membership dues of $30. The membership helps cover the costs of our shop, the treats at most meetings, and this newsletter and to maintain our website and mailing list. Paid membership provides you with a card that allows you to get a discount at Metro Hardwoods, Woodcraft, and the Rockler store. Guild Life Memberships ($100) are for those 70 and above and that amount covers your dues forever! Treasurer Rusty Cook will be happy take your dues at meetings. If you are unable to attend, you can mail the check to him at the address at the end of this newsletter. If you would like the discount card mailed to you, please include a stamped, self addressed envelope when sending the dues to Rusty.

.Upcoming Events

- Stoney Creek Craft Show, **November 13-14**, Stoney Creek Event Center
- Army National Guard Christmas Party, **December 6**, National Guard Center, 301 N. Woodbine

Social Media

Don't forget that the Guild has a Facebook page, St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild, and a website, www.stjosephwoodguild.com, that you can use to let others know about your hobby.

Caps and Shirts

Guild logo ball caps and tee shirts (in limited sizes) are available for sale. The cost is minimal for either. Contact Roger Martin if you are interested.

ST. JOSEPH WOODWORKERS GUILD OFFICERS 2025-2026

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