



THE NEXT MEETING **June 23** AT  
**THE TABLE TENNIS CLUB**  
 1407 E HARRY

VOLUME 17

ISSUE 6

**Social Gathering @ 6:30 PM**  
**Meeting Starts @ 7:00 PM**

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**Subject Of The Upcoming Meeting**

The mechanics of vacuum clamping, methods of generating vacuum, and the pros and cons of using this method for securing parts with Gary Vreeland. There will be a demonstration of homemade vacuum clamps, and an explanation of where to get commercial clamps.

**From The President's Corner –**

I may forget to say thank you for the help I get in putting together and carrying out our monthly programs and holding the recent Veneering seminar. A special thanks is extended to those who have prepared for and presented programs this year, and I don't want to forget those who bring snacks for our social period.

The Sunflower Woodworker's Guild is blessed with people who work tirelessly to make the Guild a success. Unfortunately some members are not involved and I think miss a rare

opportunity to make a contribution. Recently I asked one of our members if they could do a program presentation, and in all modesty he said I don't have anything I could contribute. I believe that each and every member has something to offer. Let me know if you have something in mind you believe would be of interest to members, or some new skill or technique you've learned recently. Members can contribute in many ways including bringing items you've made recently for show and tell. Show and tell items are always interesting.

You can contribute by simply asking a question during our meetings. Nearly all questions lead to further, and sometimes lengthy, discussions and that's when learning takes place. The Guild is all about sharing and learning. Please become involved, because each individual has unique ideas which I hope you'll share.

Four members held their shops open on Saturday May 24 and I want to thank each of them for taking the time to do so. Unfortunately this was during the Memorial Day weekend and the attendance was somewhat less than expected.

I talked to John Haskins, who owns a sawmill near Derby, this week and we tentatively agreed on a late June date where he will demonstrate his sawmill in action for Guild members. Presently the time is tentative, but we will firm up the date as we get closer to the end of June. I should be able to tell you what the date for this

outing is for certain by next meeting. Don't miss the opportunity to see a sawmill in action.

Of course don't forget to get your 2X4 project built for showing during the July meeting. Judging will take place and prizes will be awarded. Further, this should be a fun project.

## **Sunflower WWG meeting minutes May 2008**

**Guests:** Loren Laird (Salina)  
Austin Hamilton (Halstead)  
Robert Johnstone  
Brad Cooley  
Bill Patton

**Old Business:** The memorial library carcass is complete. I'm sure that Les Hastings would welcome helpers to complete the doors and finishing.

A couple of months ago, we handed out samples of Gorilla white glue for members to comment on, the majority thought it has a fast tack time but other than that, it is a PVA glue.

Remember, July is the 2x4 challenge completion, so get going.

Ray Smith is helping Chuck Schumacher with the Toy Program.

**Show and Tell:** Bill DeGarmo showed a toy jeep with trailer that he and some others are building for the Toy Program.

Bill Barnes donated some grazing deer knick-knacks to the guild for pattern making.

John Rhoads showed a toy dragster and a heavy-duty airplane that will stand up to some real playing.

Ray Smith demonstrated a couple of ways to tear sandpaper sheets and then explained his hacksaw blade equipped ripping jig. Pretty slick! He also showed a tablesaw jig for making accurate miters that he saw at Larry Roth's shop.

Ray Albert showed a cedar spiral column made with 2 chords, as they are nearly always multiples of 2. He hollowed out the center using a drill press and then finished up with a rasp. He wants to make a 3-chord column just because it is a challenge.

Mike Hutton showed some samples of veneer that those that went to the Bill Hull veneering seminar got to experience first-hand. Pommele sapele, maccassar ebony, lacewood and English sycamore are just a few examples of the world of veneering.

**Program:** Gary Vreeland showed and explained the benefits of vacuum clamping in the woodworking shop.

Gary explained that vacuum is the lack of pressure on one side of a body. By removing the air on one side, the atmosphere applies the weight of the column of air over the area. In other words, the amount of "pressure" is dependent on the altitude at where you are. You can't apply the same clamping pressure in Denver, as you would at sea level due to the greater elevation. The difference is negligible for woodworkers; you get approximately 1700 pounds per square foot of clamping area! He demonstrated the power and speed of vacuum clamping.

Gary obtained his venturi vacuum pump from QualityVak on the web <http://www.qualityvak.com/>. The common methods of creating a vacuum are either by a venturi air-powered pump or a variety of electric powered pumps. Gary got his air powered pump because he already owned an air compressor and space is limited in his shop. His pump cost around \$100 and is quite capable for doing any vacuum clamping chores around the shop. The venturi creates suction by blowing high-speed air over a hole where the Bernoulli principle takes place. A venturi pump requires approximately a 3 HP compressor to keep up with the air demand required.

He makes his routing and clamping jigs from MDF and seals them with a couple of coats of polyurethane, but anything that would seal the porosity will do. He makes his own hose nipples from 7/16 diameter dowels that he drills the middle out for the airflow and tapers the outside to allow the 3/8 vinyl hose to slip over easily. His tape that he uses for the faces of the jigs is Macklinburg Duncan closed cell weatherstripping that he gets at any hardware store that is long lasting for a couple of dollars. Gary cautioned that if you get the vacuum area too small, it will slip and he would not recommend less than approximately 4 inches square for routing jigs. To demonstrate the clamping power, he clamped a table vertically to the demonstration table and asked members to pull it off. Gary presented an impressive use of the atmosphere around us to quickly jig up and enjoy woodworking.

## 2X4 Challenge

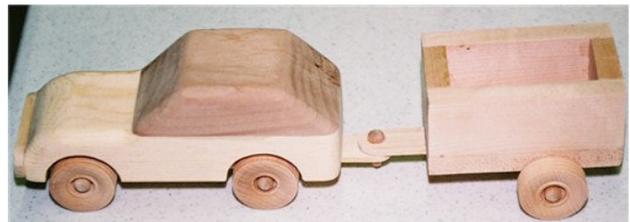
In case you missed it in the earlier reports, the guild is sponsoring a contest for members to express your creativity within the limitations of a standard 2X4 that you can get from your neighborhood lumberyard or home center. Read the basic rules in the secretary's report, run down and get your 2X4 and start making sawdust.

The contest will be judged in July and there will be prizes offered.

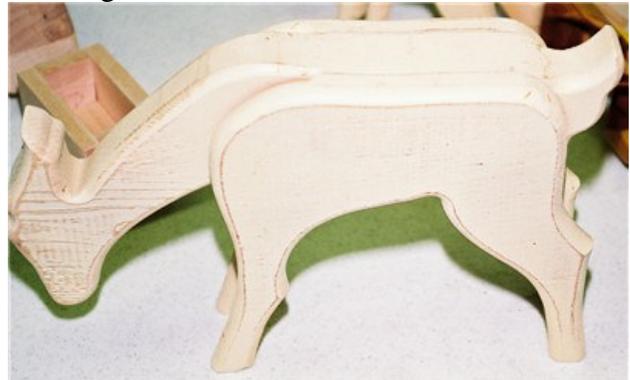
This should be a fun contest.

If you need ideas, go to [www.lumberjocks.com](http://www.lumberjocks.com) and search their website for 2X4 you will find a link to the winners of a contest sponsored by that group.

May Meeting pictures



Bill Degarmo car and trailer



Bill Barnes Deer



John Rhoads dragster



Larry Roth Miter jig



Ray Albert spiral column

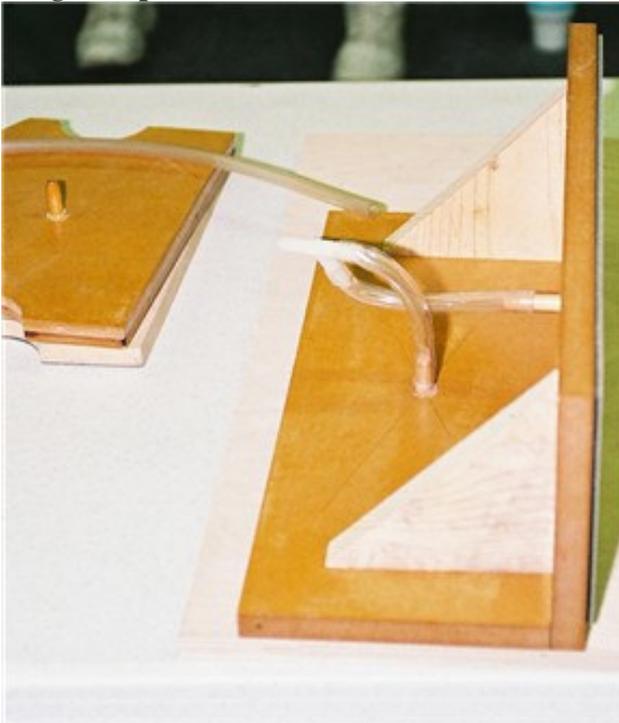


Mike Hutton veneering samples

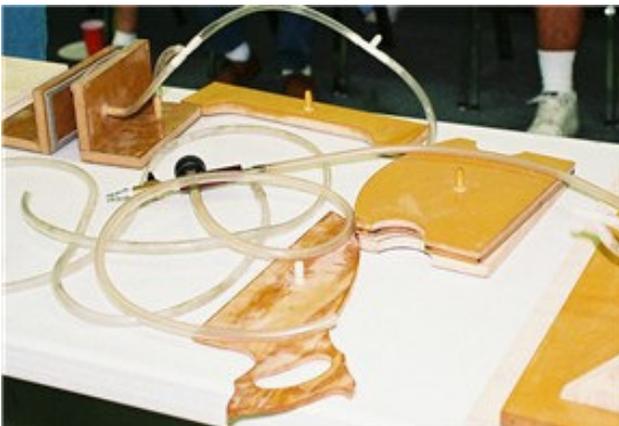


Gary Vreeland

**Program pictures**



Holding  
fixture



Templates and vacuum jigs



The power of vacuum

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Sunflower Woodworkers Guild membership is voluntary. Our paid dues list will be consolidated after the June meeting, eliminating from that list all those who have not paid their '08 dues. This list determines who gets the Knothole. New and previous members will need to submit new applications when joining.

Newsletter of the Sunflower Woodworkers Guild  
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