

The South Central Penn Turner

Newsletter of the South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners, September-October 2002



R. Valen Frye (Tribute p. 2)

Future Meetings:

September 3, 2002

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Elmer Absher's shop
2530 Pin Oak Drive, York PA
(717) 843-1627

Directions. Going east on US. 30, Turn left onto Toronita Street first traffic light east of I-83 overpass (AT ROUND THE CLOCK DINNER). Travel about 3/4 mile to North Point Drive on left (SIGN TO WHITE OAK MANOR CONDO'S). Turn left onto North Point Drive and go up hill to First Condo's and park on Condo side of street. That Condo number will be 2531. Walk across lawn to the right of that Condo and 2530 unit is across drive. Elmer's shop is at the rear of 2530, basement level. For those who were at Elmer's before and used the exit off North George Street, that's an OK way also.

Program: Show and tell (bring your recent projects); Club business meeting (reorganization issues); Wood auction (bring your excess wood); Use of the metal lathe.

October 1, 2002

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Valen's workshop
535 Conewago Creek Road, Manchester, PA.

Directions: From York, take exit 28 (old exit 12) off I-83. Go east on Susquehanna Trail (about 1/4 mile) to a right onto Conewago Creek Rd. Go approximately 0.8 mile to 535 Conewago Creek Rd. on your right (Look for Valen's red barn on right)

Program: Show and tell; club business, and tool making and blacksmithing instruction. Todd White will have his forge there for forgings and heat-treating steel.

Presidents Column:

By Jerry Kopenhaver

Sorry to say our founding president Valen Frye died August 5, 2002. Please place my name <kopenhaver@pa.net> in your e-mail address book as a point of contact for our club until we elect another president. Currently I am the club treasurer and filling in for Valen. Thank you!

Our club secretary responsible for the newsletter is Glenn Zepp
zeppga@blazenet.net

The newsletter: Published bi-monthly, material is actively solicited for the newsletter and every effort will be made to use appropriate material from the membership. Unsolicited material from non-members also will be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and appropriateness. No placement of material is guaranteed. Ads will be accepted free from members and may run for two consecutive issues. Contact the editor for the deadline for ads and material to be placed in the newsletter.
Glenn Zepp

A Friend Remembered

Richard Valen Frye, 72, of Manchester, PA, died Monday, August 5, 2002, at Memorial Hospital, York.

“I was shocked,” “I couldn’t believe it,” “I was floored”—these were some of reactions heard from our members in describing their feelings on learning the news. All who knew Valen were saddened and found it hard to believe that someone who exuded such vibrancy and passion for life died.

The obituary tells us Valen was a retired manufacturing manager for the

SCPA Woodturners Information

President:

Vice-Pres.: Dave Barkby 717/292-0173

Secretary/newsletter:

Glenn Zepp 717/337-9571

Treasurer: Jerry Kopenhaver 717/432-2753

Librarian: Dick Becker 717/755-0794

The South Central Pennsylvania Woodturners is a Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). Membership dues are \$20/year. For membership, send a check, payable to “SCPA Woodturners”, to the treasurer, Jerry Kopenhaver at 50 Warrington Way, Wellsville, PA. 17365. AAW membership information can be found at www.woodturner.org.

Treasurers Report (Aug. 23, 2002)

Jerry Kopenhaver

Balance \$1362.54

former Berg Electronics of Central Pa and Dupont in Wilmington, DE; an Army Veteran; a graduate of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH; the founder and President of the South Central PA Woodturners Association and a sailing enthusiast.

Also, we learn that he is survived by his wife of 48 years, Carol M. Frye; a son, Aaron Frye, Boston, MA; three daughters, Darcie E. Frye, Carlisle, Dana C. Frye-Field, Takoma Park, MD, and Amy Deuel, York; two sister, Gharyl Boston and Linda Cathcart, both of Laporte, IN; and five grandchildren.

Obituaries report the facts. To capture the essence of a person, however, listen to the reminiscence of family and friends. We had the opportunity to do that when nearly 100 people gathered at Valen’s home on Friday afternoon, August 9, 2002, to comfort one another and to celebrate Valen’s life.

Valen did not adhere to any formalized religion, but admired the simplicity of the Quaker life, and the gathering reflected this spirit. His children and numerous friends recalled their memories of Valen in a spontaneous sharing of stories.

We learned that Valen had a very wide range of interests. In addition to his love of wood and woodworking, he was an avid sailing enthusiast, held a private pilot's license, loved classical music and opera, exhibited a passion for learning, and traveled extensively. Numerous persons related humorous stories of their experiences on sailing excursions with Valen. Several coworkers and friends mentioned Valen's proclivity for breaking pencils when he was frustrated.

His children remembered him as a good father. They recalled the many hours spent with him in his workshop, outings on the water, and a family trip to Europe. Darcie said her father viewed the world through an artistic lens, which was reflected in his love for fine woodworking and the arts.

Some of the woodturners present recalled Valen's knack for teaching. Dick Becker called him a "great teacher and mentor," and several other club members mentioned how much they learned from Valen's instruction. In a personal conversation, Carol, his wife, indicated that Valen often said to her that he liked teaching.

Jerry Kopenhaver says that Valen was a business major, but should have been an engineer because he thrived on solving problems. Valen also enjoyed discussions of religion and politics and loved to banter with close friends. He held definite opinions and stood firm for what he thought was right

Numerous adjectives—inventive, adventurous, stubborn, curious, passionate, compassionate, analytical, intense, and others—were used liberally that afternoon in relating stories about Valen. Perhaps the statement that best summarized Valen's spirit was "he lived life with gusto and passion."

We all feel the loss in Valen's death. He was a leader among leaders in our woodturners group. The Club's loss pales, however, compared to that of his family and friends. All of us feel the sorrow, and we convey our sympathy to Carol and her family.

Notes from July Meeting:

Renowned woodturner Harry Memelink from New Zealand spent two days with the club on July 1 and 2 giving hands-on instruction during the day and demonstrating the use of the Exocet hollowing tool at our regular evening meeting on July 2. Seven club members (Elmer Absher, Don Jackson, Chuck Landis, Sam Riemond, David Reed Smith, John Stewart, and Dean Swagert) participated in the hands-on sessions.

The Exocet tool consists of a double-ended cutter piece and an adjustable chip breaker, which controls the depth of cut. The Exocet hollowing tool is featured in the Craft Supplies USA *Woodturners Catalog*.

Memelink used the Exocet tool to turn a hollow form from a maple burl block. On the question of shape, he said shape may be determined in one of three ways: 1) *accidental*- a turning mistake forces a redesign of an original idea, 2) *planned*- shape is decided and the wood forced to fit the idea, and 3) *let-the-wood-speak*- shape is selected to make



Disassembled Exocet tool; from left, the shaft, double-edge cutter piece, and adjustable chip breaker

the best use of figure, contour, imperfections, or other features in the wood. Memelink selected the shape of his demonstration piece to take advantage of the uneven contour of the burl wood.

Memelink used the serrated jaws on the *Oneway Stronghold* chuck to create a corrugated tenon on the turning piece. A corrugated tenon creates a more secure grip and facilitates accuracy when rechucking. He cut grooves on the tenon by simultaneously tightening the jaws and rotating the chuck around the tenon with the chuck's T-Handle Hex Wrench.

Asked what lathe speed he turns at, Memelink said 800-1200 rpm, depending on the wood. Ash, for example, he would turn at a slower speed than some softer woods. Also, he slows the lathe when the wood shows signs of weakness such as when nearing the final thinness on a hollow form. As the wall becomes thinner, it weakens and the danger of the piece coming apart increases. Concerned about a thin-



Harry Memelink discusses sanding while working on demonstration piece

walled hollow piece coming apart? Memelink suggested wrapping it in shrink-wrap. He applied CA glue to stress fractures and weak areas in his demonstration piece to minimize the chances of the wood breaking apart.

Memelink tries to end up with a wall thickness of 2-3mm or about 1/8 inch. Sanding? He starts with 120 grit paper and works his way up to 400 or 600 grit. He used a cordless drill to power sand the demonstration piece.



(Left) Red cedar hollow form by Dale McCoy (7" w x 12" h)



(Right) Box elder hollow form by Dave Barkby (6" w x 10" h)



(Left) Box elder hollow form with dyed lip, by Dave Barkby (6½" w x 8" h)



(Right) Reverse-turned project by Lloyd Shelleman (2" w x 5" h)



(Left) Selection of projects turned during hands-on session with Harry Memelink
(Right) Homemade skew chisel and double-ended gouge by Elmer Absher



(Left) Oak Burl bowl by Glenn Zepp 7½" w x 2" h



(Right) Small bowls by Glenn Zepp; maple and cherry