



# Northern Rockies Woodworking Guild

October 5, 2015

NRWG.org

Volume 11, Issue 1

## Officers

**President**  
Jay Stanley

**Vice President**  
George Stanislao

**Treasurer**  
Ivan Flock

**Secretary**  
Dean Center

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, October  
13

7 pm

Bozeman High  
Wood Shop

## Topic

Jay Stanley will demonstrate turning a plate, wet sanded with oil and tips from 3 days with Glenn Lucas

## Minutes of the last Meeting

The meeting was called to order precisely on time by President George Stanislao. 19 folks were present. Guests tonight were John and Laurie Weisner who spend summers in Montana and winters in Alabama.

### Treasurer's Report

Rick gave the report and I believe he said we have \$1553.72 after recent expenses.

Rick introduced Ron Brown who is the new wood and auto shop teacher. He comes to us from Conrad, and has been teaching a variety of subjects, including art, for 26 years. His favorite shop tool is the lathe.

### Rudy Lopez Workshop

Dates are Friday October 3 to Sunday October 4, starting at 8:30 each day. The format will be our traditional one, with a focus on high school students on Friday, a demo orientated to the general turning public on Saturday, and a Hands-on on Sunday. Cost for the demonstrator will be \$1695, and Tom will provide room and board. (Thank you, Tom!)

Members decided we will charge \$50 for 1 or 2 days of the demos, and \$125 for 5 people in the hands-on. Currently subscribed for the hands-on are Jay, Bob Green, Rich, George, and Don. Alternates are Eric #1 and Ivan #2. Tom asked that hands on participants pay at least a down payment at the meeting, or as soon as possible.

### Election of New Officers

Jay Stanley will move up from VP to President. George was drafted to serve as Vice-President. We would really like a volunteer for 2 years as Treasurer, though Rick said he would continue if no one else steps up. Dean has 1 more year on his current term as Secretary.

### Dues are due—Still just \$20.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, at which time Jay will do an impersonation of Glenn Lucas.

NOTE: Ivan volunteered to be the Treasurer. Thank you, Ivan!

## Rudy Lopez Workshop

Reports from attendees are that the student portion went well. Rudy kept their attention and succeeded in completing 5 projects in 5 periods! Initial feedback suggests he also succeeded in stimulating interest in turning.

The Saturday portion was less well attended than previous workshops and we'll need to talk about why that might be. His delivery was lively, entertaining, and interesting.

The Hands On day also was undersubscribed after several members who had said they would attend changed their minds. More cause for discussion. With open places, 2 of our more experienced students were given spots and had a fun day making objects under Rudy's (and Tony's) supervision.

Overall, it was a good workshop.



## Notes from the Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium

I was fortunate to attend this great symposium again this year. It's much like the Utah Symposium, with slightly smaller class sizes, and Colorado local instructors instead of Wasatch Front locals. As always, the experiences with the biggest impact weren't the ones I expected.

The vendor showcase or demo part of the RMWT Symposium this year had some very worthwhile demos. Alan Batty was demonstrating some of his tools and aids, on wood spinning about 40,000 rpm—even Jimmy Clewes would have ducked. Mike Hunter of Hunter Wood Tools demonstrated his carbide cutting tools and allowed the attendees to try them out in an impromptu 'Hands-on' which was very useful (and successful as I dropped coin on a tool at a symposium for the first time). I was also able to check out the difference between the 2 styles of Robust tool rest, so I know which one I want when the time comes.

I wanted to see Sam Angelo demonstrate, as he lives just over the hill in Worland, Wyo, making him a plausible candidate to bring to Bozeman. Sam is definitely a good guy and quite skilled, but I'm sorry to say his presentation did not score well on the Robinson-excitometer. He would be great as a 1 on 1 teacher in his shop, but not for a group presentation.

Surprisingly, a guy I'd never heard of was terrific in front of a group. Mike (“Everybody calls me Roper”) Roper is an instructor in the fine woodworking program at Red Rocks Community College in Denver, a fairly highly regarded program. He looks like a hipster or artist with his funky glasses and soul patch on his chin. Until he starts teaching, you might not take him seriously, but he's lively, entertaining, self-deprecating, clear, concise and answers your questions just as you think of them. I learned a ton in just a couple of hours.

I also had 2 classes with Glenn Lucas, and was able to sit in the second row without arriving 3 hours in advance. He's a wonder. He is likeable, experienced, analytical, and very clear. Not only does he figure out what's going on during woodturning so he can get the best result, he separates out what is valuable to a production turner and what is valuable to an amateur, and presents the material that we need to know. Plus he practices with all the options for various tasks, so he can (and does) explain the differences. He teaches the student how to use the tools the student has or likes, even though he himself doesn't use in his work. He really gets what teaching is all about and brings a tremendous and varied skill set to the job. He's not going to teach you hollow forms or piercing, but if you want to learn why tools do what they do and how to use them to achieve your goals in making bowls, there is no one better.

The last session was another surprise. I was planning to observe how an experienced teacher goes about teaching skew techniques and ended up helping out with the class. What can I say, I'm a helpful guy.

The 2016 Rocky Mountain Symposium will presumably be in September again, in Loveland/Ft. Collins, CO.

The dates for the Utah Symposium for 2016 were just announced—May 12, 13, 14. Super Wednesday must be May 11.

Dean Center