



The Turning Point

The newsletter of the Siouxland Woodturners
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

April 2015

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May Meeting...

The next meeting is May 2 at 1:00 p.m. at Harrisburg High School. Be sure to read the details in Al's president's message below. Also Vern Munson will share some new segmented turning techniques he has been working on over the winter.

From the President...

Hello all, and thank you to all attendees for making April a fool free meeting! Great to see new faces, welcome, and hope to see more next time.

Glad to hear Jim is on the mend and we all continue to wish him a speedy recovery.

Center stage at the meeting was the "Big Bowl" which we got mounted on "The Lathe", huge pat on the back for Doug, Jack and John who have put hours into this project. You guys get 1st say as to where the bowl will be displayed, the rest of us can bring some ideas of other venues. The bowl will be at next month's meeting too, so feel free to step up and have a go. Also if anyone wants to share pictures/videos please email one of us so we can get it on the web site. Mine did not turn out very well!

Next meeting is Race Day, please join in and if you don't want to race, then still bring in your cars so they can be donated (to a Drs. Waiting room, or day care??) Just make sure that it has no toxic finish, or loose bits.

Ok, believe this or not, and I have absolutely no idea why, but I woke at 3 am this morning and what was on my mind???? A chess set! I had this idea and just had to get up and write it down (my wife thinks I'm mad!!) After mentioning the chess sets at the meeting a member approached me and thought that it might be easier to have several smaller groups make different sets, that way more people can have a go, and should be easier to agree on size, material, color etc. and may be easier to duplicate. So unless there is any objection I think this is a good idea, and what we should aim for. Once we get underway I think that Jim and Ranah should get 1st pick of the sets and where the benefits should go. (Medical bills, Sanford etc.!) So let's take this project and see what we can come up with. The sets will be used to raise club funds. The idea that woke me was to use bullet casings of different sizes, turn bases and tips, for example, 9mm for pawns and maybe 50 caliber for King and Queen? If you have some shells or shotgun cartridges, give it some thought and bring along in May, (could be very unique or a complete bust!!) The knights are going to be the hardest of all, no matter what "set", if you know or can think of an easy way to do these, please speak up. Other sets could be the colored plywood, segmented, big, small and any size in between. What big and small are is still to be decided!

If you are now inspired to go turn.....GREAT! Just be safe! I have included a couple of pictures of an "Oh, flipping heck" moment that I didn't actually know had happened until the weekend. Just glad it hit the dry wall and not someone!

Have fun and see you at next meeting armed with a car, chess piece (or 2) and a head full of ideas to share!!

Happy Turning,

Thanks.

Al Hird

April 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes...

The April meeting was called to order at 1:15 by President Al Hird. There were 32 turners in attendance. Introductions were made. Al then turned to a discussion of Jim Sample's health status. Jim suffered an aortic aneurysm and is currently rehabbing at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls. Jim is the reason that the Siouxland Woodturners Club exists – he is our founder, past president, mentor, teacher and an inspiration to all who have taken the time to partake of his wisdom, skill and humor. Several members (Corky, Royce, John and others) have visited him and report he's "looking good today". There was also a mention made of a Snickers bar that was briefly seen in Jim's vicinity (not sure that was on the medications list!). Everyone wishes Jim a quick recovery! Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Jim and Ranah.

A. **Minutes of last meeting:** Motion made and passed to accept the minutes of the March meeting as presented.

B. **Treasurer's report:** Frank presented a balance of \$2695.99.

C. **Library report:** No report.

D. **Community Ed report:** Sue reported that all classes have gone very well. There is one class remaining, that being "Green Bowls' on Tuesday April 14th. Classes for the Fall term of Community Education will soon need to be decided upon. A class on bottle stoppers is planned. Any other suggestions would be appreciated and those ideas should be directed to Sue. Money collected from class materials has been used to purchase 3 Slimline pen mandrels/bushings and duck call bushings.

E. **Membership report:** Al had several badges available for member pickup. Frank reported 40 paid members currently on the books. There was a discussion concerning how to keep the email list manageable. Motion made and passed that requires members to pay dues by the July meeting or that person will be removed from the email list.

F. Old Business:

1. Sue voiced a concern about the lack of good quality turning tools currently in the Club's tool chest. Many tools have been donated and/or purchased at a garage sale/pawn shop. They are showing their age. Students in the Community Ed classes do not always have adequate tools to learn with. Motion made and passed to purchase 8 new turning tools. If you have suggestions as to specific tools, talk to Sue or Al as they will do the research and purchasing. These tools will be available not only for students, they will be in the Club's tool chest for member check-out as well. Al had checked with Stan Houston on the price for a small lathe—one is currently on sale for approximately \$300. Motion made and passed to purchase small lathe from Stan Houston ASAP.

2. The "Race Car" challenge resulted in several being displayed and discussed. Race Day is planned for the May meeting as the current prototypes still need some retooling, retrofitting, rethinking, returning, or burning. Dimensions are to be no greater than 5" wide, 12" long; no more than 2 pounds in weight. Al suggested that we consider donating the finished models to a hospital/doctor's office waiting room or someplace similar chosen by the turner.

3. There is one bottle of Pen Finish left – see Doug if you are interested. Club still has small amount of Anchor Seal to sell. After brief discussion, Doug agreed to check on current price and suggested that there be a sign-up sheet passed at the May meeting for the pre-selling of the Anchor Seal. Storage for longer than a year poses a problem (since 55 gallon drum is the most cost-effective way to purchase). It would be best if those needing some would purchase desired amount and take it home upon receipt.

4. The number of "Pens for the Military" completed is 100. We will need 70 more by August. Jim Sample sent a bag of pen blanks to the meeting for sharing—it was decided to use those for the military pens. Thanks, Jim! Doug has cartridges for the pens. Rex is planning to order more pen kits. Doug suggests we hold pens and distribute them to the service members once they have returned home (they tend to have too much trouble getting them through Customs when they are returning from overseas, often having them confiscated).

5. There is a donated Sears lathe that is now functional (thanks, Doug) and could be used by new turners wanting to try turning before they invest in their own equipment. Motion made and passed to allow check-out of Sears lathe in 3 months increments (longer, if no waiting list) by new turners.

G. New Business:

1. AL brought up the issue of the Club seeking 501.C.3 Non-Profit status (as recommended by AAW). Frank had looked into this about 10 years ago and the decision was made not to pursue at that time (when it was somewhat inexpensive and less complicated). Royce and Frank explained that the process is now quite lengthy and complex, plus costly (\$350 ??), with very little real benefit to the Club. Royce agreed to research and report on this at the next meeting.

2. There was a discussion about providing coffee during the meetings. Motion made and passed to purchase 30 cup percolator, coffee, filters, and cups for Club use. Corky will take care of this. There will be a collection can so drinkers can contribute, hopefully making it self-sustaining.

3. Plans for the summer meetings were decided upon.

- May 2, 1:00, Harrisburg HS
 - Vern Munson – segmented turning
 - Car Race
 - Wood Stabilizing Demo (Doug will contact gentleman to see if he can come)
- June 6, TBD, Siouxland Woodworkers Guild
 - 1108 W Blackhawk
- July 11, 10:00, Al Hird's farm
 - Egan (directions will be provided)
 - Grilling/beverages
 - Wood to saw and share
- August 1, TBD, FBT Sawmill
 - 1055 11th St, Steen MN

4. Doug is planning a trip and will be purchasing some alabaster that is tested and fit for turning. Be about \$1/lb. Plan on placing your order at the next meeting.

5. Baltic "Riverpark Days" is July 17-19. Vendors may set for free on Saturday. This might be a chance to sell your creations. For info call 529-5497 (Baltic City Hall).

6. Jack and Doug went to Mt Vernon and picked up some colored plywood, walnut, maple, etc. from the factory that make gunstocks. They left some pens with company personnel as a thank you from the Club. They hope to maintain good relations with these folks so we can periodically obtain wood from them. With that in mind, it would be best if Jack and Doug are our "contacts" with this company and not have individuals go to their factory, take up time during their busy work day and maybe discourage them from wanting to do business with us in the future. Doug wanted suggestions on how to price the wood—it was agreed that they should make boxes of wood available for members at prices based on the cost of the wood plus their travel costs.

7. Al would like the Club to consider a project of making a chess set (end grain board, turned chess pieces). For the next meeting, bring your ideas, make a piece, do some research—let's see what we come up with. Our goal could be to sell or donate the finished project.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25. Members shared a variety of projects for Show and Tell. Al brought box elder for anyone needing wood. After the meeting, some members helped new turners learn about wood, tools and techniques. Others worked on the "Big Bowl" project. The bowl was securely mounted on Doug's fabricated lathe with the help of numerous members/supervisors/safety personnel. The bowl turned true and turning began. All those who were involved in the planning and building of this bowl and lathe should be proud of their ingenuity!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Lynch, Secretary

Community Education Classes...

The Spring Community Education classes have been completed. Sue Smith reports a good turnout for all of the classes. Sue is now working on the class lineup for the next term of classes starting in the fall. Bring your suggestions to the meeting.

April Meeting Show and Tell Table...

MY APOLOGIES. I took a lot of pictures of the big bowl project but neglected to take pictures of the Show and Tell items.



