

Chapter 89 NAWCC
January 21, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Date and Location The first meeting of 2017, entering our 49th year as a club, was held on January 21st at the Brunswick United Masonic Lodge #8. The Executive Council members arrived early for a 10 a.m. meeting, and then our regular social hour continued from 11 a.m. to noon for coffee and conversation.

Call to Order, Attendees Twenty six members and guests sat down to an excellent meal prepared at the Lodge.

[** Please note: the kitchen crew requests that we try to avoid the areas between the dining tables in the hall prior to the meal, so that they can set the tables and bring out the serving dishes in a timely manner. Thanks!]

After the luncheon, the tables were cleared and the kitchen windows closed so clean-up could continue while President Harry Hepburn opened the business meeting at 12:40 pm.

Guests and New Members No new members were present this time. Self-introductions proceeded around the room, and guests at this meeting included Barbara Lea, Joanne Fournier, and Marilyn Karl.

Secretary's Report The minutes from the November meeting were accepted as printed and mailed out to everyone.

Treasurer's Report Bruce reported that our current balance, with bills all paid up, was \$4526.58. He is anticipating some additional income from dues to be deposited. Bruce explained a new Chapter Contest for fundraising - an idea presented by Jim Lea. Starting at the next meeting everyone will have a chance to take a look at a sealed glass jar with some pieces of clock chain inside. For \$1 per guess, members can submit estimates of the total length contained in the jar. When the contest finishes, Jim will reveal the exact length, and the person whose estimate is closest (without going over) will win 50% of the total money from bids.

Old Business (1) Tim Martel presented a certificate to Paul Fournier as the most recent recipient of the Cal Morgan Award for Chapter 89. Paul has done an excellent job of organizing and teaching the clock repair workshops in many of the months alternating with our regular meetings. He closes his shop a bit early on those Saturdays and brings materials and tools up to the Masonic Lodge to provide instruction and advice for others in the group. We appreciate the sharing of his knowledge, training, and experience, and Paul's name will be added to the Award plaque.

(2) Mark and Bruce reported that the items donated to the November auction for the benefit of the Chapter brought in a little over \$1500 to the treasury.

Upcoming Events Paul reminded everyone about upcoming workshops. The general plan at this point is to have sessions on escapements in February, pivot work in April, and bushings in June. If anyone has requests on other topics, please contact Paul.

Announcements Harry discussed our meal costs for the Chapter meetings. The Executive Council had talked about adjustments based on increasing costs, but has decided to limit the meeting

registration fee at \$15 per person this year. The Chapter will cover any overages, if too few members attend to break even.

[Sorry for the confusion on the January meeting announcement form! -Mark]

Secondly, Harry mentioned that there can be some benefits from deductions on your tax forms if you are registered as a dealer. Please contact Harry if you would like some tips in this regard.

50:50 Drawing Tim VonReyn won the first drawing in the 50:50 raffle, and Marilyn Karl had the second drawing ticket.

Show and Tell (1) Jim Lea showed a book that he had for sale – Watchmaking by George Daniels. Jim explained that Mr. Daniels is considered the pre-eminent watchmaker of modern times, having made complete watches by hand for selected clients. A Fellow of the British Horological Institute, he invented the coaxial escapement that was later adopted by Omega for their high-end watches.

(2) Paul Fournier brought a lyre-shaped movement from a Terry and Andrews shelf clock, probably from the 1830 to 1840 era. Both the movement and alarm mechanisms have thick heavy brass mainsprings. If clocks are found with brass springs and are cleaned well, Paul reported that the mainsprings often don't need lubrication due to the lead content of the brass.

(3) Paul also showed a unique dial from an old Dutch tall clock. This clock strikes on two bells in a pattern called "Dutch striking". This dial appeared to be of heavy brass, and had a number of indicator windows. The round moon dial opening at the top shows the phase, but there is also a curved opening to show the number of days through the moon cycle. There is a separate opening where a date wheel shows, and then at the bottom of the dial there are windows for another wheel which show the day of the week and an associated figure, presumably of mythological origin, and also astrological signs.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm

Presentation

Tom Zimmerman gave a great demonstration and talk on some wood-turning techniques and other tips from his workshop. He showed some examples of live centers and dead centers to hold the workpiece between the headstock and tailstock of the lathe. Tom brought some examples of turning tools. For initial roughing-out of wood projects, gouges of different sizes are used. Then, for smoothing and finer turning, skewers and chisels are used. He showed some special shapes and custom-ground chisels that could be used for concave areas, inside radius cutting, and for banding.

Tom mentioned that old files and other pieces of hardened steel are good stock pieces for making special turning tools. Having a solid handle is a helpful safety feature for lathe tool stability, and Tom showed some handles that he had made from large Shaker pegs and from sections of old fancy chair spindles.

Keeping the turning tools sharp is essential. Tom often uses an old belt sander to improve the cutting edge angle, and then honing is done using a sharpening stone in the hand with the tool clamped solidly. Gouges often cut the wood better if the "wire edge" or burr is left on the edge after sharpening.

Another helpful tip for turning a piece to a desired shape is to watch the top edge or silhouette of the workpiece while turning, instead of constantly watching the tool point, to make adjustments.

Tom explained that he sometimes needs to reconstruct a missing part for a clock. If he has a picture or photo of the entire clock, he can often obtain the dimensions of the desired part by measuring a known dimension on the photo. For example, if he knows that the dial is actually 9" in diameter, and it measures 3" on a picture, then he can use the ratio to obtain the real size of the missing piece.

On a different topic, Tom demonstrated a wooden jig that he had made to help in the delicate task of fusing together the cut ends of a lathe belting material which was cut to the right length. This device allowed him to align the angle-cut ends of the belt material and hold them in position so that he could use both hands to melt the ends of the belting and push them together.

He also brought a glass-cutting table that he had made to use in his shop. This solid Formica-covered board with a right-angle alignment edge helped to safely hold a pane of glass so that he could measure and cut off excess material. For cutting glass cleanly, Tom recommends a carbide wheel in the cutter. Some type of lubrication is also recommended, and he keeps a squeeze bottle of mineral spirits handy. With a sharp cutter and proper pressure, almost any width can be removed from a piece of glass, almost down to the thickness of the glass. He would like to hear the cutter create a sound like the tearing of silk fabric.

Tom demonstrated a method of cutting a glass circle - a method which avoids multiple tangent relief cuts and a ragged edge. Using a quality German-made circle cutter with a central suction cup, he makes one continuous cut for the circumference. Then only one relief cut is made from the circle out to an edge of the glass. Finally, the pane is supported off the table with the middle of the circle on a block, and heat from a butane torch is applied to the circumference. A slight expansion causes the outside waste piece to crack off and fall away, leaving a clean round center disc.

As a final shop tip, Tom showed a technique of clamping glue blocks inside a clock case where regular spring clamps or screw clamps could not hold. He cuts arc sections of old clock mainsprings and shapes them to appropriate lengths to use as inside 'pushers' in places where outside 'squeezers' would not fit.



Photo by Phil Carthage of Tom Zimmerman's custom-turned tool handles