

# OREGON WOOD WORKS

## BACK IN THE WORLD

BOB OSWALD, PRESIDENT

Yes, the old man has returned from the sea. It was truly a grand adventure, one which words will never be able to fully describe. It was a boat ride. It was a classroom. It was making some incredible new friends. It was a stretch and I'm ready for a break, back in familiar waters. But it was a venture I'll never forget and am so glad I had the opportunity to experience.

I'll likely do a little guild presentation after I digest and re-process all the data to find things of interest to you. That will have to include an 'outside our own experience' use of Purple Heart and Sapele.

And while sextant navigation was replaced by daytime triangulation of land based objects on marine charts, backed up by a GPS naturally, I did have the opportunity to attend a celestial navigation class that has many elements of interest to woodworkers. Let me work on that.

I chose this adventure as an opportunity to sail, to sail a grand tall ship. And my ex-

pectations were far exceeded by this beautiful and living ship, 97 years old, and some incredible weather days in the Puget Sound.

I was hired to teach, way outside a comfort zone of woodworking, in areas like water quality, plankton, inter-tidal creatures, adaptation, survival, the world under the surface of the sea. Lots to learn. A little of it stuck, enough to survive about 15 "classroom" sessions in a dynamic environment of sailing a big ship. Every class was interrupted at least with the call from the conn, "READY ABOUT" and it's all hands to the sails.

I expected to meet new people of course, that taken for granted, I did. A crew of 12 volunteers, (all of grandchild age by the way), give or take in any particular week plus five employees, the captain, chief mate, engineer, cook and program director. And....

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Tool of the Month

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NEXT MEETING—OCTOBER 20, 2009 7:00 PM

## WINDSOR CHAIR: THE TRADITION

Franklin High School, 5405 SE Woodward Portland, OR

Ed Mattson, former president and enthusiast of this rich history of chairs, lives part time in High Wycombe, UK - otherwise known as the chair-making capitol of England.

He will do program on the rich and fascinating tradition of this centuries-old industry. You'll see management of the vast beech forests of this region (with some stunning photos), the tradition of the old bodgers, the invention of the Windsor chair and what the industry has become today.

Social time begins at 6:30. General meeting at 7:00.

Board meeting at 5:30pm. Members are welcome to attend.

Directions: Crossing the Ross Island Bridge eastbound, take SE Powell to 52nd, turn North to SE Woodward, then right on Woodward; the shop is on the corner on the left.

## PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

This bit about people, about friendship, turned out to be the highlight and the true reward of this experience. You can not live twenty-four hours a day for five weeks, in conditions of no privacy, with people who have no ego, no expounding about their own glories and not come to love them dearly. It gives me deep pause as I write this, to remember those parting hugs, those soft “*thank you’s*”, those, “*hope we meet again’s*”.

And so it goes with the Guild, friends you make, lessons you learn from them. You simply have to ‘not be shy’, open your own mind, listen to others to discover this great treasure of friendship.

## 501(C)3

BOB OSWALD

The Guild is considering converting to a full non-profit status. Are there any attorneys in the Guild who would like to help? Call me please at 503-985-7137

## A LITTLE GUILD BUSINESS

BOB OSWALD

### Name Badge Update

Feedback indicates people really like having name badges at the meetings. Here’s a small suggestion—Add your location to the bottom of the badge. You may find someone to carpool with, or consult in your shop or theirs.

## JOINERY ART SHOW

The Joinery is having a woodworking show. The dates of our show are November 5-7th. Friday Sat and Sunday.

What we are looking for are unique wooden items that The Joinery does not build. Boxes, bowls, musical instruments, boats, kayaks and skateboards, you name it. If it’s wood it’s good.

There is no charge for this show. We will be advertising it big. Renovo wood bikes will be showing along with a surfboard maker. Our goal is to have at least fifteen additional people displaying a product.

All interested people email [rosy@thejoinery.com](mailto:rosy@thejoinery.com)

Marc Gaudin  
 Founder/Headslacker  
 503-788-8547  
 Cell 503-341-8806  
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## IN THE BEGINNING...

BOB OSWALD

Guild member Bill wrote to me a while back:

I called Les Schwab to schedule some work. I asked the clerk, “When did Les Schwaub die”. His response was that he had no idea. I had read Les’ book and was very impressed with his ability to grow from OK Rubber Welders into the operation it is today. I got to thinking that I don’t know much about the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers. Like:

1. When did it start?
2. Who started it?
3. Where did the meetings take place?
4. How many members did they start with?
5. How many members do we have today?
6. Are there any founding members available to talk to us about the beginning of the club?

The answer to (5) as of today is 257 with 33 professional and 224 general members.

Regarding (6), there are a few past presidents around who served many years ago. They still receive the newsletter today and even come to a meeting occasionally. Don’t know about the founders.

So, all you folks out there, got any info on the first 4 questions as well as anything else of interest about those early days? I’ll publish what I receive next month.

## WOODWORKING SHOW

BOB OSWALD

The Guild will be exhibiting at the Woodworking Show, November 12-14, at the Expo center. We’ll need a few people to be in the booth, telling folks about what we do. Easy duty in that you just tell them why you joined and what you get out of the Guild. There will be brochures available to hand out. Free admission comes with committing a few hours.

We’ll talk about it at the next meeting. Be prepared to raise your hand.



\$\$\$ FOR SALE \$\$\$

### CRAFTSMAN TABLE SAW

Electronic (digital) saw with Biesemeyer fence added. Good condition. \$300. Call Jim Hall at 503-655-1716 or [ochall@comcast.net](mailto:ochall@comcast.net)

## SURVEY RESULTS

ARIEL ENRIQUEZ

**Y**ou were recently given the opportunity to share your thoughts and opinions regarding how you saw things going on around the Guild.

Your input is very important to the Board.

All of the great things we enjoy, seminars, meetings, group projects, newsletter and also the companionship can always be improved by your suggestions.

I offer my sincerest "Thank You" to the twenty-three members who took the effort to help us out with this task..

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The first two questions yielded the results we expected. Most of our members consider themselves to be somewhere in the intermediate to hobbyist skill level and the biggest motivation for joining the Guild was to learn new techniques and/or improve existing skills.

Consistent with what part of the Guild was most liked, seminars and general meetings were topped only by the newsletter. Frankly, the newsletter rates highest in several categories.

We netted some very good ideas general meeting topics also. One idea was "Ask-the-pros", an open-floor Q&A from the audience, covering any woodworking questions from any member. Several members suggested more "demos" of techniques by our own more-experienced members. It seems the main draw for meetings is a member's expectation to walk away having learned something new.

The next query asked to pick seminars we could offer. Most popular were "Finishing" and "Carcase joinery", followed very closely by "Chair making", "Sharpening" and "Tool making".

Topics outside these core categories were quite varied, including: "how to establish a "home" shop for the Guild"...table saws and router jigs"...designing chairs and lamps"...making joints (for beginners)"..."how to market my work"...furniture design"...repairing/refurbishing old tools"...drawing" and "making furniture to last 1000 years". These are all great ideas for future offerings.

The "hands-on" type of seminar are most popular, not surprisingly. We'll plan on moving in this direction.

On newsletter topics feedback, and what is most popular, at the top were the "learning from mistakes" and "how-to" articles. Following those were "events going on" and "project plans". Unfortunately, of the four types mentioned here, "project plans" are not something that tends to frequent our pages. Those articles require many pages to do one project and quite frankly, Bob has enough to do with the newsletter as is. (Bob says: And there are tons of ideas in many of the great magazines) Now, if a member should wish to contribute a "how-to make \_\_\_" article, well it will be wel-

comed and we'll find a way to process it. More than a few members stated that the newsletter was "fine" and "terrific" just the way it is and a couple of requests were made to not "mess" with a good thing! I agree with that completely.

One very nice finding came from question 11 which asked how the member's experience with the Guild has been thus far. Fully 87% of the respondents rated their experience as either good (11:23) or terrific (9:23). We're happy that you're happy. Keeping it that way will require everyone's contributions.

Asked where the Guild is doing well, right at the forefront came the newsletter and the Basics Courses. One member went on to say that the \$100 spent on the Basics' course was the best value ever received in woodworking. We owe a big measure of appreciation to Gig Lewis for creating the course. It's become a huge generator of new membership. Also mentioned was the "New member Orientation" (another creation of Gig's) as well as the wide variety of well-priced seminars we offer. "Generally excellent meetings" and "visits to other shops" were also mentioned.

Where can we do better? If you attended the August meeting then you saw some action taken to address the very number one item that members have found wanting. That meeting saw the inaugural implementation of a combined audio/visual system for use in the general meetings. The lack of those things wasn't news to us but the survey definitely drove the issue over the top and now it's being rectified and it will get even better. Our collective thanks go to Roger Crooks and Mike Denham for moving this process along. In addition to the audio/visual topic, we got called to offer more classes for beginners, find an "improved meeting place" and more "demos".

Finally, and a recurring complaint,, several members asked for some sort of "ice-breakers" at the general meetings. Well folks, all I can say is that we're all on an equal footing here. There's no place for shyness or at least there shouldn't be. If you're a shy person then the best way to get past that is to stick your hand out and introduce yourself to the member next to you. If that's too big a step for you then another way is to get involved in a seminar or join a group project. There are all sorts of ways of getting into the mix. Don't forget to wear a nametag too; it's a great aide in easing into a conversation and you'll always find a stack of them along with a big felt pen somewhere near the front of the room.

### CONCLUSIONS?

We believe we are going in the right direction and we have more new, good ideas for growth. One best way to make sure some of this happens is for YOU to come help us. Attend a Board meeting. Offer your services.

Again, my personal thanks to all the respondents. Your voices will help us immensely in deciding the evolution of this wonderful organization.

# SHOP ORGANIZATION: AN UPDATE

BOB OSWALD

Organization on the schooner Adventuress is vital. Space is at a premium, kind of like most shops I guess. Equipment needs to be in a consistent place, lines stowed where you can find them quickly and accurately. And my personal stuff, it took two weeks to conquer gear drift. Red & white LED headlamp always (ALWAYS) in the right front pocket. Toothbrush and paste in the lower right leg pocket, and so on.

And not back at home, I'm looking around the shop and realizing how much storage space I seem to have. Not all the drawers are filled, what a great thing. And there have been a few newsletter articles about designing cabinets, about specific storage suggestions. It seems like time for a re-cap in the hope that it will launch you (if you need it) into a winter project to organize your shop.

There are many implementations for storage and I've seen some great ideas in visits to different member shops over the past two years. If you have a system for anything part of the shop that you think someone would like to know, send me a photo and a few sentences about it.

As I took the photos to depict the progress, I was amazed at how far the shop has come in two years. Sometimes it still looks messy. Part of the reason is that there is still work to do.

Take a tip from our sponsors. Visit there store and look at the general layout. You'll find like items grouped together. All the lathe accessories, tools and related items are in one part of an aisle. Sanding supplies as well as finishing typically occupy a section of their own. As this shop has started to on some of those characteristics, it's getting easier to find a home for new things and for getting better control of organization.

## Parts Cabinets



Clamp racks—one of several



Chisels, Turning



Hardware, screws



Sandpaper corralled



Small Parts Cabinets & Trays

## Jigs — Lumber — Finishing

The things that take real estate



Jigs, some of them



Lumber—2000 bf up off the floor



Finishing

# SHOP

BOB OSWALD

## Work Centers



Table saw wing—blades



Lathe tools, chucks, accessories



Router center—all the tools



Disk and Belt Sanding



Sharpening & Air Tool Center

## Storage under Machines



Workbench Drawers—half are empty



Miscellaneous



Drum sanding & planes



Planer—user manuals



Miter Saw & Bandsaw Blades



## SOMETIMES SIMPLE IS ALL YOU HAVE

BOB OSWALD

On Adventuress' deck at Port Townsend, a maintenance day, Mate Sarah, who learned that I had some manual skills somewhere along the line, said "Bob, I'd like you to make some rub rails for Adventuress' fenders". Off to the deck cabin we went where she lifted a couple of cushions and extracted a treasure, eight feet of half round, heavily tarnished bronze rail, recovered from a dumpster a year ago. "I've been wanting to do this project for MONTHS!" she said though a big and happy grin.

Simple job requirement. Cut it into short lengths and screw two strips each on the cap rail, port and starboard sides, where the ball fenders hang. She showed me where the three-eighth inch lines that suspend the fenders have been rubbing varnish and even wood away. Final directions, make 'em look good. Not too long, not too short.. And off she went to launch the next project (which happened to be slushing the main and fore mast rigging, but that's another story and a task for much younger people).

It conveniently turned out that eight feet of this rail, one half inch across the flat, one quarter inch to the peak of the arch, would make twenty strips, five and a half inches long with a foot to spare for mistakes (or dropping one into the harbor).

A quick tour of the engineer's locker revealed a hacksaw with one dull and one relatively sharp blade. An even quicker attempt to cut the piece of bronze revealed the futility of that project. Bronze is HARD!! Turns out there was an angle grinder stowed under bunk 27 that had a couple brand new cut off wheels and other attachments.

I can run an angle grinder although it's obvious that this will not have quite the same precision as my Leigh dovetail jig. Ok, need a vise—there's one in the Engineer's locker, which happens to be a space about 6 feet long, 6 feet high with 2 feet of standing space in front of the cluttered and overloaded workbench. Eight foot of bronze isn't going to fit in here. AND we're right next to the battery compartment, a closet full of car batteries on steroids. Hydrogen, sparks... yikes.

It turns out that you can hold a rod with a flat side relatively firmly against a dock piling with your foot while driving the grinder cutoff saw. Sparks and debris and screaming banshees and a half hour, produced 21 parts that actually were within about 1/8" of each other in length, thanks to a few years of building fine furniture with a caliper. By matching pairs they would ultimately look like they were all the same size.

Now to drill two holes at the ends and counter sink them for bronze screws. A search for screws turned up

stainless square drives. We wanted bronze, to match. Luckily we were moored near the Center for Wooden Boats in Port Townsend, who just happened to have a great inventory of marine hardware for sale.

Purchasing 42 of them (2 spares to save a 2 block walk back to the store, and back on the dock with a hand drill, led to another impossible task. Drilling forty 1/8" holes with a DeWalt hand drill was clearly going to be a Herculean task. Back to the wooden boat center, hat in hand, pleading gently for use of a drill press, I was more than welcomed. However, what I thought was going to be a five minute job took almost an hour with drilling and counter sinking. Bronze Is HARD. I saved a bag of bronze filings for my memory of this task.

The ends, back on the dock, need to be rounded. The well trained foot and dock piling and another hour on the angle grinder with a grinding tool, turned out pretty decent results.

Tarnish that must have been 50 years old had to be removed to give these rails the bright brassy look of everything else on the boat. A trip downtown to a different marine hardware store produced enough 220 grit wet-or-dry sandpaper to do the job. When applied vigorously for another two hours, all of them did come up to a pretty respectable shine. The right tool would have been a buffing wheel and some rouge.

Screwing them on, after screwing up the courage to drill holes in the varnish rail of this beautiful boat, went quickly. I thought they looked pretty good considering the conditions under which they were born.

Sarah came by for inspection — tension — she was so ecstatic. I do love having a happy customer. A pretty simple project took all day with inventive use of primitive tools, but it reminded me that life can be good, even without the top end name brand tools. Sarah now thinks I can do anything. Captain Daniel says, "I hope you come back next year. I've got a ton of woodworking projects for you."

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BOB OSWALD

Hello to Lawrence Newman, Jenny Villarreal, Dale Price, Deborah Reeves, Phil Scott, John Watts, Bill Hamilton, Jim Madaras, Jeff Reardon, Dale Waters and Richard Lowensohn

We're happy to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to me at the next meeting. I'd like to know who you are.

*The Guild of Oregon Woodworkers is a group of professional and amateur woodworkers like you, committed to developing our craftsmanship and woodworking business skills. The Guild offers many benefits for members, including:*

- *monthly educational meetings*
- *monthly newsletter*
- *mentoring program to help members develop their skills in specific areas*
- *discounts*
- *woodworking shows*
- *network of business partners (the key to our development as members and as a Guild, providing additional learning opportunities)*
- *and a network of support.*

*For information on how you can become a member, see the Guild website listed below.*

## GUILD OF OREGON WOODWORKERS

P.O. Box 13744, Portland, OR 97213-0744

### CLASSES, SEMINARS, DEMOS, AND SUCH....

**Northwest Woodworking Studio** 503-284-1644, [www.northwestwoodworking.com](http://www.northwestwoodworking.com)

**Rockler Woodworking** 503-672-7266, [www.rockler.com](http://www.rockler.com)

**Oregon College of Art and Craft** 503-297-5544, [www.ocac.edu](http://www.ocac.edu)

**Woodcraft** 503-684-1428, [www.woodcraft.com](http://www.woodcraft.com)

**Woodcrafters** 503-231-0226, 212 NE 6th Avenue, Portland, [www.woodcrafters.us](http://www.woodcrafters.us)

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**We're on the Web!**

[www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com](http://www.GuildOfOregonWoodworkers.com)