

# THE SAWDUST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHARLOTTE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 17, Issue 7

July 2010

## Newsletter

If anyone would like to contribute articles, information or provide suggestions for the newsletter, please send them to me. We need to make this a group effort.

Thanks also to Peter Stoffel, who assists with note taking at the meetings, and to Mike Smith for the photos he provides : - much appreciated.

Roger Callahan ([roger\\_callahan@bellsouth.net](mailto:roger_callahan@bellsouth.net)) - Secretary



## Mountain Dulcimer Classes

Mark Willingham will lead a class for those interested in making a mountain dulcimer as a project.

Five (5) or Six (6) people max per class and it is expected the project will take 5 to 6 weeks of classes. The timeframe for starting is likely late September and leaning towards Monday evening classes.

There will be a \$25 - \$30 fee to cover the hardware needed for the dulcimer and participants would bring the wood (cherry, walnut, maple, cedar, spruce ...) they want to use for the project.

If interested (and you did not sign up at the meeting) contact Mark ( email: [mwillingham@bellsouth.net](mailto:mwillingham@bellsouth.net)).



## Band Saw Box Class

Tony Profera ([tprofera@hotmail.com](mailto:tprofera@hotmail.com)) is willing to do a class on Band saw boxes If you are interested contact Tony.



## For Those Who Purchased HIDE GLUE

Please see Wayne Manahan at a CWA meeting to pick-up and pay for the Hide Glue you may have ordered. Wayne has separated and weighted the glue into packets for you. Contact Wayne at ([WManahan@VNet.Net](mailto:WManahan@VNet.Net))



## Workbenches: - Design, Construction, Vises and Accessories

Dave Powles presentation, demonstrations and the discussions provided a wealth of information about the design, construction, vises and accessories (appliances) to a very well attended CWA members' monthly meeting on July 20th.

Dave brought his bench to discuss the various components and lessons learned from his experiences.



Dave noted that interest in hand tools is growing once again. From an earlier survey of CWA members the table saw was at the top of the list as a key piece of shop equipment. However, work benches received much mention. There is a lot that a bench can do to help one's woodworking. He noted the benches we had in the Junior high shop weren't too bad for their purposes.

Some Bench Styles:

- No right or wrong in bench style.
- Roubo (French) Bench seems to be the most popular today. (See Figure #2 on page 5)
  - Efficient to use
  - Easy to build
  - A slab supported by four legs. No stretchers. Just a basic slab in suspension.

(cont'd on page 2 )

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 17: **CHARLOTTE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION MEETING** \*\* Bring 'show and tell' - recent projects, items, etc. to share with members.

August 24- 28: **International Woodworking Fair 2010, Atlanta, GA** ( see <http://www.iwfatlanta.com/>)

August 28: **JPM CLEAN UP DAY AT THE SHOP**  
Need helpers to assist - please put it on your calendar.

September 11: **WOOD WORKING & CARPENTRY MERIT BADGE** - (plan on assisting the Boy Scouts at the JPM shop.)

### WOODCRAFT STORE IN CHARLOTTE UPCOMING CLASSES:

Jul 31 (Sat.) Carve a Hound Dog - 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Aug 8 (Sun) Turn a Lidded Box - 12:30pm - 4:30pm  
Aug 12 (Thur) Scroll Saw Box - 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Aug 21 (Sat) Picture Framing - 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Aug 21 (Sat) Basic Router: Part I - 1:30pm - 4:30pm  
Aug 22 (Sun) Lathe VII: Natural Edge Bowl - 12:30pm - 4:30pm  
Aug 28(Sat) Basic Lathe - Full Day - 9:30am - 4:30pm



### Treasurer's Report: as of 6/30/10

Opening balance	2080.40
Deposits	145.00
Checks	16.23
Closing balance	2209.17



### Other Items from the Woodpile

Bruce Bogust showed and discussed a dowel plate he made for rounding dowel material that may not be perfectly rounded to size. He also showed a square tipped screwdriver and dovetail chisel he made.

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## Workbenches - Design, Construction, Vises and Accessories

(continued from page 1)

- British or English Bench (See Figure #5 on page 5)
  - Lighter. Take less material to build
- European Cabinet Maker or Scandinavian Bench
  - Closest is Figure # on page 5.
  - A FIVE leg bench. The fifth leg supports the shoulder vice
- Design Issues
  - If it worked in the old days, it probably works now. We don't have to re-invent the wheel. But we can personalize it.
- Height
  - Bench height should be from the floor to where the pinky joins the hand
  - Or, from the floor to your up-turned palm.
  - If you are planning on hand planing, borrow someone's bench and see if you like it. A lower bench height lets you use your legs more than your shoulders/arms. You can always add a small rise bench on top of your low bench.
  - If you are strictly a power tool user you will probably want it a little higher.
- Length
  - Unlimited. The longer the better
  - When you go to plane a board, you are limited by the space between the dog holes. If you have the room let it go long.
  - There are ways around a short bench, but longer is better.
- Weight
  - It can't be too heavy
  - You can weight it down with play sand in lower shelf.
- Width
  - Probably no less than 18". No more than 24"
  - You want to be able to reach across it.
  - If you can work from both sides you can go wider.
- Tool Tray?
  - Either love 'em or hate 'em.
  - The tray gets in the way of putting a bar clamp across the width of the bench.
  - Build it with a removable bottom.
  - Lets you clean out the crap and lets you put the bar clamps in there.
  - Dave likes a tool cart that he can roll around. But each shop needs the right answer.

(continued on page 3)

## Workbenches: - Design, Construction, Vises and Accessories

(cont'd from page 2)

- Top Thickness
  - The thicker the better
    - 4' minimum 6" better
  - Want something substantial.
  - Torsion box? Sure! Fill it with sand to weight it down. It would be stiff. May have trouble with hold fasts.
  - Two doors?
    - Possible if you glued them together with a tight bond you will be okay.
    - If you have any gaps between the doors you may be some unwanted flex when you pound on it.
- Leg placement & stretchers
  - Legs: Move them out to the edges.
  - Try to eliminate stringers/stretchers.
- Wood Species
  - Chris Swartz- buy cheap wide boards (10 – 12") and cut them down.
    - Laminate and glue it back together again.
    - Can use cheap lumber S.P.F. (Spruce, Pine & Fir).
  - Maple and birch would be nicest.
  - Question: If you are using a disposable top (some kind of hardboard) how flat does the top need to be? How flat does the under layer need to be? Answer: Very Flat.
    - Will use it as a reference surface when you built things, use your bench hook, etc....
- Other Considerations
  - Out-feed Table
    - Does it need to double as an out-feed table for some of your other tools?
  - Tool Storage
    - In a small shop, you may need to use the underside of the bench for additional storage.
    - Don't build drawers up against the bottom of the work surface. The bottom is important for hold downs & clamping (You need space between the top.).
- Construction
  - Important that the bench does not rack or sway
  - Use the minimum of stretchers
    - Place the stretcher about 3" off the floor. You can hook your foot/toe under the stretcher to pull your body across the board as you work with hand tools.
  - If you going to take the time to build it, take the time to make it right.
  - Adding a power strip to the back of the bench and an outlet to the front is handy.
  - Sand is a wonderful stabilizer and a great shock absorber.
    - A bag of play sand is \$3.00 for 50 lbs.
    - Put it in a tray on the bottom of the bench.

### - Vises

- Location
  - Face vise or Front Vise
  - Tail Vise or End Vise
  - You can use the same vise for different locations. You can position most of them anywhere on the bench.
  - Put the end vise on the right side of the bench if you are right handed. And the face vise on the left side of the bench.
- Types of Vises
  - Shoulder (Example, figure 1's face vise)
    - Advantage: great for cutting dovetails.
    - To prevent racking, you can build anti-racker blocks in different width dimensions for use in the vise.
  - Twin Screw
    - Can be a little aggravating
    - Usually an end vice in most cases.
    - Have a bicycle chain that runs between them. Turns the two screws together. No racking
    - Usually set far apart to fit a 24" case piece.
    - Can hold wide panels on the table top by putting stops in the table.
    - Cost about \$225. You need to make the jaws.
  - Leg Vice (Example Similar to Fig 2 or Fig 5)
    - A good vice.
    - Aggravation is that you have shift the pin at the bottom depending on your work to get good clamping strength.
  - Pattern Makers Vice
    - You can turn the vice ever way from Sunday. Get you piece in any position. 360 degree rotation. Very flexible.
    - Wide jaws that open 14"
    - A Tucker costs \$700. Lee Valley.
    - Emmert (antique) on e-bay \$500
    - Knock offs from China \$225 for the small size.
    - Stands off from the front of the bench.
  - Cast Iron (Single Screw)
    - Standard vice. Cast iron, single screw.
    - Most common vice. A little metal dog on the top that can extend.
    - Can extend the wood jaws out to the side to make it a shoulder vice. (need to use racking blocks)
    - Can be used to spread work apart. A quick release version will only apply pressure for clamping, not spreading.
  - Single Screw wood vice w/ steel screw
    - The screw is steel, the rest of the vice is wood.
    - You can buy the parts and make the wood parts yourself.
  - Integral Tail (Traditional) Figure 1 tail vice vs. Figure 3 tail vice
    - The tail in figure #1 supports the work as you extend it out. The vice in Figure 3 has the work hanging in the air between the jaws of the vice as you extend it out.

(continued on page 4)

## Workbenches: - Design, Construction, Vises and Accessories

(cont'd from page 3)

- Bench Accessories
  - Bench Dogs
    - Square vs. round. (Hard to make a lot of square holes.)
    - Many prefer the square. But usually need to be put them in during construction.
    - A square dog can hold a piece down to the bench surface. After a little tension is put on the board in the dog, give it a tap to pull the piece down to the top.
    - A round dog will grip an odd shape in the bench
    - A round dog can be added to a bench later.
  - Size
    - $\frac{3}{4}$ " and  $\frac{7}{8}$ " round diameter
    - Most all are  $\frac{3}{4}$  unless you buy a version at Woodcraft that is  $\frac{7}{8}$ ".
  - Wonder Dogs
    - Best substitute for a tail vice.
    - Dog with a small jaw that you can screw open & closed.
    - Must mount at the end of the bench.
    - Question: Is there a standard spacing for dog holes? About  $\frac{1}{2}$  the travel of the vice you are using.
    - The closer they are the less you have to screw that vice in and out.
  - Hold Downs
    - In use for many years
    - Best with thick (6") bench tops
    - Very handy
    - Some are very long. You need clearance on the underside of the bench.
    - On a finished piece of wood, put a small piece of scrap under the face of the clamp so that you don't dent you piece when you whack/tighten the hold-down
  - Stops
    - Can be anything.
    - Some benches have a board at the end that you can raise up and hold in position with two wing nuts.
  - Bench Hooks
    - Very very handy
    - Quick to use.
  - Shooting Boards
  - Jacks or slaves
    - A slave is a separate stand that sits on the floor that you can adjust up & down for support
    - A jack slides along the front of the bench and has holes for pegs to support the board.
  - Miter box
    - Especially useful for small pieces of material.

- What would you like your bench to do?
  - Assemble disassemble joints
  - Face planing narrow boards. Or belt sanding
  - Face planing across grain
  - Planing or sanding assemblies
  - Example: Sanding the pins or tails of a drawer box: You can hold the entire piece to run a belt sander or hand plane.
  - Drilling, sanding, routing
  - Making molding
  - Carving
  - Dovetailing
  - Planing edges and ends

### Final thoughts

- Do you need a massive old-school bench? After visiting many woodworkers both production and hobbyists, I know you don't need a good bench to do good work. Why build one? It sure makes all work easier.

Dave using a bench hook on the edge of his bench to handsaw a board.



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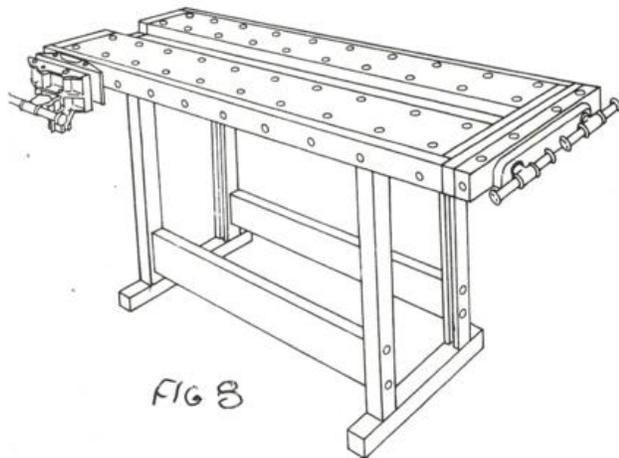
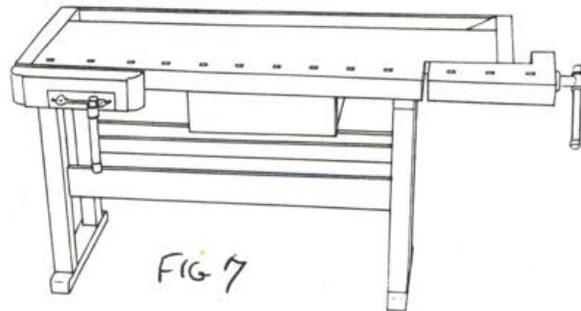
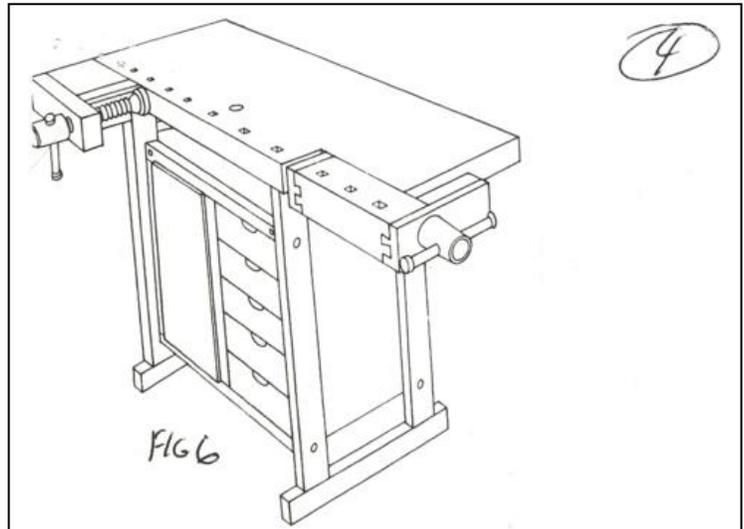
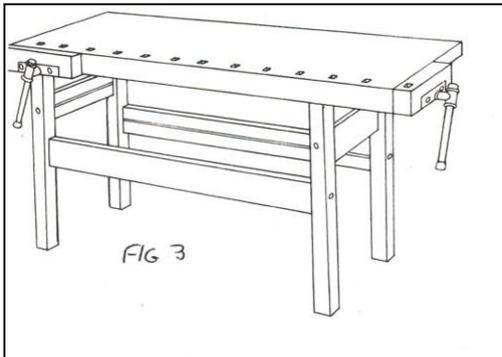
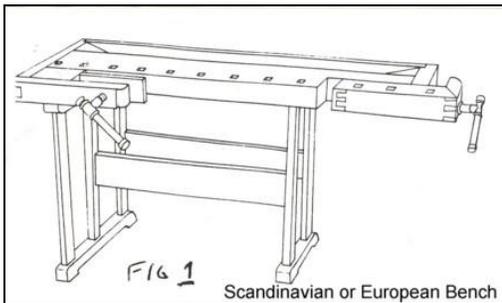
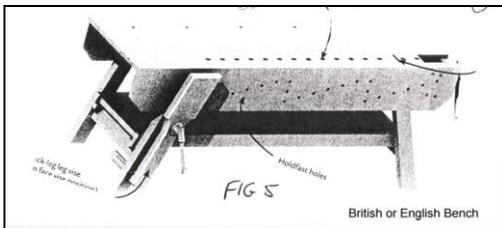
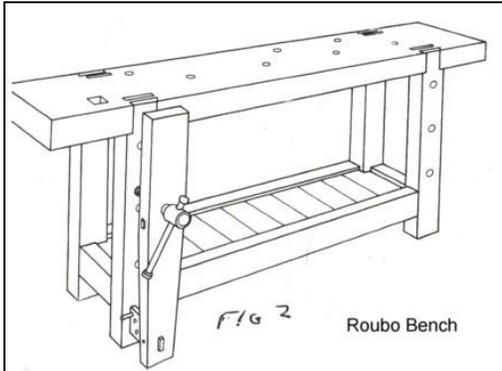
FYI (editor):

See *Christopher Schwarz* 4/26/10 *Woodworking Magazine* blog article discussing round vs. square dogs:

<http://blog.woodworking-magazine.com/blog/I+Have+A+Dog+In+This+Fight.aspx>

# Workbenches: - Design, Construction, Vises and Accessories

Some figures referenced by Dave:



## Boy Scouts of America

### *Woodworking Merit Badge:*

We anticipate another session for 20 scouts sometime in the Fall. Please be prepared to assist.

### *Explorers Post:*

We have had keen interest from area Scouts. An Explorer Post (A co-ed teenage division of Boy Scouts for 14 - 21 year olds) has been exploring a variety of areas of wood working in the broadest sense including framing, cabinet making, furniture making, wood turning, etc. They' meet at JPM generally meet once a month on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Post members that want to also join CWA get a student membership rate of \$15/ year.

Bruce Bogust mentioned the Post is finishing up portable tool boxes. Next the Explorers will be working on a 'three legged stool' project, which will give them simple turning, wood planning, and jointing experience.



## JPM Shop Use

Any current CWA member who would like to use the shop is welcome to do so! All that is needed is to schedule the time! If you have something specific you need to do and you need our tools or a bigger shop to work in, please do so!

JPM has plans to expand again by adding 3-phase power. Additionally a large classroom will be added. It is planned to accommodate groups of up to 25 people!

CWA will be looking into the acquisition of assorted "Big Iron" (3 phase) shop equipment such as Jointers, Planers, and Table saws. A wide belt thickness sander was noted as good piece of equipment for CWA to have.

To use the shop contact Jim Emory at:  
[JimE@JacksonPark.Org](mailto:JimE@JacksonPark.Org).



**The CWA meeting raffle** could benefit from your donation. If you have any tools (old or new) or shop supplies you would like to donate to be raffled, please bring them to the meeting and let Mike Smith know.



## SHOP TOURS

Mike Smith organizes club membership shop tours. The goal is to have shop tours scheduled that are in the same general geographic area to reduce the distances traveled between shops and permit time to adequately tour several shops in a day.

Please sign up even if you don't have a fancy shop

If you would like to put your shop on the shop tour list, please contact Mike at:  
[mikececilsmith@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mikececilsmith@carolina.rr.com)

Note: all shop tours are for active CWA members only. Please refrain from bringing guests, family members, friends, dogs etc...

Once enough shops are committed a date will be set.



## CWA MEETING PRESENTERS

All members are asked to keep an eye out for anyone that might make be a suitable program presenter for our CWA club meetings. Who knows, it might even be you!

### Recent presentations have included:

- Carving
- Woodworking Project Photography
- Bandsaw Setup and Bandsaw Blades
- Turning an Offset Padfoot Table Leg
- Marquetry
- Sharpening
- Dulcimer making
- Shaker Table Build Workshop
- Wheel making
- Windsor chair making
- Spoon Carving
- Fitting a Drawer
- Power Carving
- Bandsaw Boxes
- Hide Glue
- Tuning up a Wide Board
- Workbenches

**If you know of someone with a woodworking skill that could be of interest please contact Dave Powles at: (704) 506-0403.**

## Continue to Invite Potential New Members to Our Meetings

Dues are \$30.00 for new members and \$25.00 for renewals. Make checks payable to "Charlotte Woodworkers Assoc." or "CWA".

We welcome our returning and new members and encourage you to bring your woodworking friends to our meetings, so they can also join CWA.

Fred Miller collects dues during the monthly meetings or mail your dues to Fred at 1208 Salem Drive Charlotte NC 28209. The membership application is available on our website -

<http://www.charlottewoodworkers.org/>



## Boy Scout Woodworking Merit Badge (Spring Session)

JPM has been holding shop sessions for 20 Boy Scouts to work towards receiving a woodworking merit badge.

Jim Emery is seeking volunteers from CWA membership to assist with Saturday workshops, as another session will be offered this Fall. Workshop sessions are anticipated to be held as morning and afternoon sessions.

This is an outstanding way to introduce young people to woodworking. With many school shop programs being phased out this may be the only contact our youth have to a woodshop and the craft of woodworking.

If you would like to put your name on that list to help or would like to find out more please contact Fred Miller at: [fredmiller2@gmail.com](mailto:fredmiller2@gmail.com).

Watch for additional information to be published to the CWA Google group.



## Regular CWA Meeting Time and Place

Meetings of the Charlotte Woodworker's Association are held the third Tuesday of each month, except for December. Meetings are held at Jackson Park Ministries Woodshop at Sentry Post Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Please check the web site

([www.charlottewoodworkers.org](http://www.charlottewoodworkers.org)) for directions.

Note: you may see construction on Sentry Post Drive as they have been working the area of late.

A social and refreshment time starts at 5:30pm; our meeting starts at 6:30pm. Come to the meeting early and get to know your fellow woodworking enthusiasts!



## CWA Google Groups

### **There is a new method for CWA membership to communicate!**

With a single email we can let you know what's happening. You can also view all the 2009 published club newsletters.

### **Note: You Can Join This Group on Your Own!**

To join:

Paste the entire line below in your web browser's address bar:

<http://groups.google.com/group/charlotte-woodworkers?hl=en>

- Hit "enter", Click the link "Join this Group" (on the right).
- Create a Google account if necessary (all they want is an email address and password). Please save your password in a secure place for future use.
- Once "signed in" select the radio button "Email" at the bottom and enter a nickname.
- Send an email out to the group to introduce yourself!
- Use "charlotte-woodworkers@googlegroups.com" as the "send to" in any email communication to all members of the group.



### **Best Quote of Last Few Months**

“After visiting many woodworkers both production and hobbyists, I know you don't need a good bench to do good work. Why build one? It sure makes all work easier.”

*Dave Powles*

## *The CWA Library*

Books and DVDs are available from the CWA library for a buck a month. Contact Maurice Blackburn at [MBlackburn1@Carolina.RR.Com](mailto:MBlackburn1@Carolina.RR.Com)

Also, please help your fellow woodworker and make your club newsletter even better by contributing a short book review.

Remember, your review is redeemable for a free DVD rental from the CWA library!

Send your book review to Roger Callahan ([roger\\_callahan@bellsouth.net](mailto:roger_callahan@bellsouth.net))



## **The Classified Section**

An email was sent to the CWA Google Group following the July meeting announcing two opportunities to buy some woodworking equipment, tools, etc.

1. Belk's Refinishing at 1008 N. Tyron St in Charlotte is going out of business and a member mentioned there is a 20 inch planer, dust collecting equipment, a compressor, scroll saw and other items that are for sale. Call 704-618-9811 for further details.

2. One of our charter CWA members has a large variety of equipment and tools he is selling. (see the Google Group site for a listing.) Contact Bill Skinner 704-910-3221.

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Other tools may be posted on the JPM shop bulletin board, so check the board at meetings.

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This space is reserved for classified ads! If you have any woodworking items for sale that you think would be of interest to the membership please contact: Roger Callahan ([roger\\_callahan@bellsouth.net](mailto:roger_callahan@bellsouth.net))

Include a complete description of the items(s) and a picture or 2 (if possible).



## 2010 CWA Officers



Bruce Bogust  
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Vice President, in-charge of programming  
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Sorry, no e-mail available



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Librarian  
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Wayne Manahan  
Web Site  
(704) 786-0768  
[WManahan@VNet.Net](mailto:WManahan@VNet.Net)

# Directions to Jackson Park Ministries



From the intersection of I-85 and Billy Graham Parkway:

- 1.) Take Billy Graham Parkway South.
- 2.) Turn Right on Paul Brown Blvd / West Blvd. (this will be after the main entrance to the airport)
- 3.) Turn Right on Airport Drive.
- 4.) First left on Sentry Post Drive.
- 5.) At the end of Sentry Post Drive there is driveway on the left. Enter here. Using the photo above, drive down the driveway and around to the warehouse with the "x" on the top.

From the intersection of South Tryon Street and Billy Graham Parkway (where Woodlawn turns in to Billy Graham). Also exit 6 from I-77.):

- 1.) Take Billy Graham Parkway North.
- 2.) Turn Left on Paul Brown Blvd / West Blvd. (this will be at the light after the Tyvola Road exit)
- 3.) Follow from Step 3 above...

## CWA SPONSORS

*Please thank them every time you use their services.*

### **Woodcraft**

1725 Windsor Square Drive  
Matthews, NC 28105  
(704) 847-8300

[Charlotte Store](#)

### **WHOLESALE TOOLS**

4200 Barringer Drive  
Charlotte NC 28217  
1-800-438-3580 (Service)

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

5% - 20% discount with current membership card.

### **Klingspor's Woodworking Shop**

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

800-288-0000

### **FARRIS BELT & SAW**

235 Foster Ave.  
Charlotte, NC 28203

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

704-527-6166

complete sharpening services and abrasives

### **Horizon Forest Products**

Greenville, S.C.

<http://www.horizonforest.com/>

Local Charlotte Salesman Chad Mitchell, 704-401-6426

## CWA MENTOR PROGRAM

The following members have offered their help to anyone interested in learning skills or new techniques in their area of interest. Contact each person to arrange times to get together if interested.

Wayne Manahan

Sharpening

704.786.0768

[wmanahan@vnet.net](mailto:wmanahan@vnet.net)

If you are willing to mentor new woodworkers please let us know. Thank you!



*"I have a lightning hammer –never strikes the same place twice.*

*-John Leake*

Roger Callahan  
3334 Whistley Green Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28269

BUILD RATE  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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