



# Shavings

Hill Country Turners  
Monthly Newsletter



Volume #18

Issue #5 May 31, 2012

## Next Meeting June 13, 2013

### MEETING PLACE

**Hill Country Turners** meet in the basement of the KACC (Kerr Arts & Cultural Center) at 228 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, Texas at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The formal meeting starts at 6:30.

### May Meeting

#### - Treasurer's Report from Will Aymond

Checking Account Balance	\$4,123.47
Petty Cash Balance	\$ 204.25

#### SWAT Report

The results of the special election held in April were reported: Wayne Furr President, Ken Morton Vice President, Buddy Compton Vice President Elect.

#### Upcoming Programs- Please Note!

The June demonstration will be tool handles with Uel Clanton and Joe Johnson. July will be box making with Anna Rachinsky. (Don't forget to be thinking about making a box for beads of courage!) **The August meeting date has been changed by group vote to August 21, Wednesday before SWAT, to accommodate John Lucus' travel schedule and he is confirmed as presenter.**

#### Thompson Tools Order

Our club is the pilot for this program. George has coordinated an order, basically the same deal as Craft Supplies (10% off and free shipping) no minimum order. An order will be placed once or twice a year.

#### Vendor Opportunity

Contact Kirk Bates for details on the Mesquite Show (held by TMAA) 28-30 June 2013 at the Alzafar Shrine Center in San Antonio.

#### Demo Notes

Joe Johnson presented a knowledgeable demonstration on vacuum chucking. His handout is available on the website ([hillcountryturners.org](http://hillcountryturners.org) under the projects section) as a standard PDF (adobe reader) type document, or you can email a request to Joe ([JohnsonJ8A@stx.rr.com](mailto:JohnsonJ8A@stx.rr.com)).

A vacuum chuck is good for production turning, to hold bowl to turn off tenon, or to rework a piece, or if you just want one. An off-the-shelf system bought at full retail value is around \$1K. Joe bargain shops some items from a surplus place in Nebraska ([surpluscenter.com](http://surpluscenter.com), I think). He makes the base out of wood. The following table summarizes Joe's pointers when putting your system together. A system with a 110 motor can be put together for approximately \$345.

Part	Approximate Cost	Considerations
Vacuum Motor 220v gas rotary	ebay \$55 (10 years ago) retail \$450	• loud (Harold Dykes added a muffler to his)

Part	Approximate Cost	Considerations
110v diaphragm Venturi type	retail \$200 (not quoted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quieter</li> <li>• built into new Powermatic 4224</li> <li>• disadvantage is that it uses an air compressor</li> </ul>
Filter	(p/o Misc. Items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• filters dust to protect vacuum pump</li> </ul>
Vacuum Gauge	(p/o Misc. Items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• get the biggest one you can get for ease of seeing the numbers</li> <li>• 15 in is probably adequate for most purposes</li> </ul>
Fitting to connect everything	(p/o Misc. Items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• needle valve to bleed air into the system</li> <li>• a ball or gate valve is okay, but needle is better</li> </ul>
Spindle Adapter	\$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joes favorite is JT</li> <li>• with the Powermatic 3420 an adapter is not necessary</li> <li>• you may also need a hand wheel adapter (\$35)</li> <li>• you many need to take the handle off to screw on the adapter</li> <li>• Oneway has one available</li> <li>• Holdfast's is inexpensive and uses a Morse taper</li> <li>• You can build your own (Ask Joe for details)</li> </ul>
Vacuum Chuck	\$5 if you make your own	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expensive to buy</li> <li>• You can make your own with an unused face plate, wood, pvc pipe fittings and craft foam</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous Items (hoses, quick disconnects, gauges, fittings, filter)	\$40	

### **Making a Vacuum Chuck**

Use a tight grained wood (ex., maple) or MDF. Cut a groove into the wood the size of the pipe fitting either the inside diameter or outside diameter measurement for a press fit. Expand the groove a bit to enhance the epoxy hold. Epoxy the pipe fitting into the groove. Cut a square of craft foam that covers the end of the pipe fitting. (Use only a single layer of foam to minimize flexing.) Spray adhesive onto the craft foam and stick on the end of the pipe fitting. Put the wood/pipe fitting assembly on a face plate. Turn to make it true. Use the point end of the skew to trim the foam.

### **Downward Holding Force**

Parts are best held when a large surface area is presented to the chuck surface.

Joe used this chart to explain why using the biggest vacuum chuck to fit your piece is best.

Chuck Diameter	lbs of downward holding force
2"	23.5
4"	94
8"	376

For example, a piece being held by an 8" vacuum chuck at 15" Hg has 376 lbs of downward holding force applied to it. The more surface area a part has, the stronger the hold, the more aggressively material can be removed.

### **General Tips**

- If you have problems with leaks around the threads, you can use a nylon washer.

- Use a low speed and no excessive pressure.
- Use the tool rest or tailstock up to support or keep from flying off
- Use tail stock nubbin and tail stock to center the bowl on the chuck
- Vacuum reservoirs are not really necessary
- Consider a switch for pump if it doesn't have one
- Position switch to be within arm's reach when working at the lathe
- Don't be aggressive – you don't want a check
- Working within the diameter of the chuck is best because it minimizes tool pressure flexing the piece and letting air in
- You can use vacuum chucks for jam chucks



### June Meeting

Uel Clanton and Joe Johnson will be giving a demo on tool handles, both fixed tool and interchangeable tool.

### Show and Tell

Tom Whiting showed a bowl of live oak from neighbor's yard with a paste wax and mineral oil finish. Jerry deGroot brought a mesquite piece to take to SWAT and 2 other mesquite bowls, each with increasing amounts of sapwood. The one with the most sapwood really warped, the one with the least sapwood had less warping.



### Club Challenge

George Taylor announced that club members would be judging the Club Challenge. Each member got one vote.

There were 9 entrants in the Club Challenge. Each entry had unique features.

- Larry Walton had a double dish with a handle.
- Harold Dykes used the core as the foot, giving his piece a little extra height.
- Jerry De Groot scalloped the rim of his bowl.
- Uel Clanton added spots of color.
- Joe Johnson made an artistic bowl with a small foot.
- Will Aymond's bowl had a pottery-type shape with a fine rim.
- Tom Canfield's bowl had round mahogany inserts.
- James Hampton thought outside the box and tilted the bowl on a pedestal.
- Roger Felps' bowl featured a square foot.

When the votes were all in and counted, **James Hampton's** bowl received the most votes. Here, in above order, are the entries:



### Ingram School

A group went to the Ingram Schools to participate with other civic organizations and show the children a bit of turning. This is an annual event and Uel Clanton, Bill Hussey, Chuck Felton and Joe Johnson have been there for us.



### Texas Arts and Crafts Fair

What is there to say? Here are some pictures. Brave and intrepid souls all.



## Refreshments 2013

Month	Meeting Date	Drinks	Sweets
June	13th	Roger Arnold	Harold Dykes
July	11th	Keith Longnecker	Joe Johnson
August	8th	Uel Clanton	Kirk Bates
September	12th	Dale Lemons	Jim Weir & Kathy Hampton
October	10th	Jim Whisnand	Bill Hussey
November	14th	Larry Walton	Don Kaiser
December	12th	Christmas Party	Christmas Party
January '14	9th	?	George Taylor

## HCT Mentoring Program

It has always been a practice to encourage new members to visit in the shops of other members to help them get oriented to turning. Now we are offering for new turners a special list of members eager to help along with their area of interest. Even some less-than-new members who would like to talk to someone in a special area might take advantage of the help with special interests

The following members have volunteered to serve as Club Mentors. If you have a woodturning or tool/equipment question, call one of these individuals. They would be happy to help.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Specialty</u>
Roger Arnold	830-866-3670	Shop Practices	Uel Clanton	830-896-5288	General/Spindles
L. A. Cude	901-355-7046	Lacquer Finish	Chuck Felton	830-792-5249	General
James Johnson	830-895-4170	All	Joe Johnson	830-896-5924	General
John Jones	830-536-4503	General	K. Longnecker	830-257-6033	Split Turning/Pens
Ken Morton	210-833-7148	Natural Edge	Raul Pena	830-6342545	General

## “THE BIG CHIPS” of HCT

*Hill country turners is a chapter of the American Association of Woodturners dedicated to providing education, information and a place to meet and discuss woodworking and woodturning.*

President	<b>Ken Morton</b>	(210) 833-7148	ken@woodshouter.com
Vice President	<b>George Taylor</b>	(830) 751-2109	gat54@mac.com
Treasurer	<b>Will Aymond</b>	(830) 285-2702	waymond@stx.rr.com
Secretary	<b>Kathy Hampton</b>	(830) 634-3002	johnsoj8a@stx.rr.com
Past President	<b>Joe Johnson</b>	(830) 896-5924	huzz@windstream.net
Special Events	<b>Bill Hussey</b>	(830) 896-8093	jerrew@hotmail.com
Newsletter/Webmaster	<b>Jerre Williams</b>	(830) 895-3206	
KACC Liaison	<b>Uel Clanton</b>	(830) 896-5288	
SWAT Representative	<b>Jim Whisnand</b>	(830) 755-8603	jswhizcal@aol.com
Audio-Video Director	<b>Tom Whiting</b>	(443) 243-6933	twhiting@stx.rr.com
Website	<b><a href="http://www.hillcountryturners.org">http://www.hillcountryturners.org</a></b>		