



The CAW Newsletter is the official publication of the *Capital Area Woodturners, Inc.*, a chapter of the AAW, and is published for the information of its members.



Capital Area Woodturners

Newsletter

www.capwoodturners.org



WHAT TO LOOK FOR THIS MONTH

Monthly CAW meeting featuring woodturner and CAW member Don Riggs
(see Don's story, as told by his CAW friends, pg. 2-3)

Annual CAW Tailgate Swap Meet

(see the President's message for details pg. 5)

Saturday, July 9 – 8:30 am to 3:00 pm – Bryant HS – No demo fee

LUNCH

Orders will be taken for Primo subs for lunch. \$8.00 for sub, drink and chips. Order will be placed with Primo' by 10:00 am. Please see one of the order takers to place and pay for your order. If you do not place and pay for your order, please do not take a sub. **Simple enough, but every meeting some folks forget.**

THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE

Safety Glasses, Klingspor Sandpaper (assorted), Pen Blanks, Mylands Sanding Sealer, Travel Mug Kit, Marblewood Blank (2x6x6), Durham Ambrosia Maple, \$20 Craft Supply Coupon, Graeme Priddle Demo Piece.

DATES IN JULY

July 9, Saturday — Monthly Meeting featuring Don Riggs (8:30 am – 3:00 pm)

July 13 Wednesday — Skill Enhancement Workshops at Bryant HS (9:00 am -3:00 pm; \$5 fee if using any tools (lathe, band saw, drill press, etc.) Must be AAW member to use any tools. Watching is free. **Please note only one Skills Enhancement this month.**

LOOKING AHEAD

August 13, Saturday, CAW Monthly Meeting

September 10, Saturday, CAW Monthly Meeting



ABOUT DON RIGGS

By Mike Kenny

Don Riggs is a retired Naval Aviator who does woodturning as a hobby. A little over half of his 31 ½ years in the Navy were spent at sea flying A-4 Skyhawks and F-4 Phantoms from numerous aircraft carriers all over the world. He was Commanding Officer of Fighter Squadron 142 and the Wing Commander at NAS Corpus Christie, Texas. He made a total of 965 Carrier landings, of which 296 were at night. He flew 97 Combat Missions in North Viet Nam. He also spent 2 years as an Exchange Officer in the US Air Force at Nellis Air Force Base flying the MACH 2, F-105 Thunderchief. Ashore he had assignments in Personnel Management, attended the Navy Post Graduate School and the Army War College, and the last 5 years at the Bureau of Naval Personnel he was the Deputy responsible for assigning all Officers and Enlisted Personnel in the Navy.

Don's woodturning began in 1986 when he saw some bowls another woodturner was selling at the Henderson Hall Marine Corps Exchange. He did not really learn to turn, however, until he joined the Capital Area Woodturners (CAW) in 1994. He taught woodturning for Fairfax County Adult Education Program for a number of years and assisted CA Savoy, in holding bi-monthly Skill Enhancement classes for members of CAW until he moved to the Smith Mountain Lake, VA (SML) area in 2008. He has conducted woodturning demonstrations throughout Virginia at various woodturning clubs and was a demonstrator at two of the Virginia Woodturning Symposiums. He is a member of SML Woodturners, Blue Ridge Woodturners and Capital Area Woodturners. After being invited the second time to demonstrate at the SML Club, Don's wife liked the area and they decided to find a home in the area. He has built a 30x40 shop where he has 4 lathes and there are very few days when no chips are piling up on the floor.

Some of the items Don will show us this month include; turning a ball, a long stem goblet, a mirror using a Talon Chuck, light pulls, and anything else by request or that may strike his fancy.

By Frank Jessup

Circa 1991, I'm at a Washington Woodworkers Guild meeting when a new member (Don Riggs) arrived. At least for me, we were immediate friends. I was already a member of the turners when he became one. Up to that point he had a cheap Sears single tube lathe very prone to vibration and was turning kiln dried wood. I was turning on a Shopsmith that I gave up on as it was going through its third set of bearings.

In October of 1994, Jim Lilley won a 20" X 96" D C powered General lathe at Arrowmont and sold it to me for half retail. In late November we came into the biggest and best burl I've experienced. A 20" chainsaw wouldn't reach through with cuts from both sides. In fact, we burned up one saw on that burl. Neither of us knew anything about green wood so we requested Phil Brown to come show us how to turn green wood. At the previous meeting of the turners a new member (CA Savoy) had shown up and I could tell from his telephone number that he was local so I invited him and a few others to the Phil Brown demo in my garage on December 6, 1994. It was downhill from there with many Saturday's spent in one another's company (Don, CA, and myself) while chain sawing wood.

In 1997, many of the CAW members went to a week long course at Arrowmont (including Don, CA, Jane Hart and myself). In fact, of the folks who started CAW, only Bob Marshall and Phil Brown remain active, then I think by seniority of membership, it's me, Don Riggs and CA Savoy.

The CAW has met many different places over the years. At one point Don arranged for the CAW to meet at Don's work warehouse and then CA got us into Bryant where the deal was get the equipment working and teach classes. Don and CA taught woodturning and I started a program for flat work. Until Don moved he



helped CA with the Skill Enhancement sessions at Bryant.

Today Don lives down by SML VA where he is in two local clubs and is a lifetime member of CAW. In recent years Don has demonstrated in North Carolina, Maryland, and at least 6 Clubs in Virginia. He has mentored many, helped even more turners and has even had his own show down at SML.

Though Don isn't local, several of the CAW crowd have visited his club. He has also demonstrated in my shop twice recently and is due to visit again for belated birthday cake on July 8. (July 4 is his b'day.) He also has another demo scheduled for the Montgomery Country Club, which Bob Pezold and I plan to attend.

I would call Don an efficient and practical turner and an excellent teacher. He will probably start his demonstration by turning a wooden ball. It'll take him a few minutes to do as he'll be explaining as he goes but I've seen him turn a ball in two minutes! He mostly turns utilitarian/functional objects but his cuts and mental vision are such that even back when, he'd go home after a demonstration and turn what was demonstrated just to make sure he understood and could do what was shown.

I've traveled as far as SML to see Don demonstrate and for the last few years, I've been at every demonstrations he did that were closer. I think I've learned something at every single one of those demonstrations. For every turner, excellent or novice, it would be your loss if you miss Don's demonstration on July 9.

By Susan Headley

I was a novice taking a course from Don. He was a wealth of knowledge but was able to give you the confidence to turn a piece your first class. He was able to give me the beginners information and not make me feel like the "dopey wife" taking the course because he was interested in it. By the end of the course, I was comfortable around a lathe with safety, using various chisels and even a skew! He never pulled the tool from my hand as in "watch the master" mode, but verbally guided me through each step myself. Being a teacher, this is the perfect way to teach. Even though he shared the beginner information with me, he also gave me tidbits of upper level material. I could tell he knew his wood! I would recommend any demo he is offering. He is a doll!



What Happened Last Month by Richard Allen

The CAW picnic was last month. I counted 40 folks attending. There were a fair number of spouses so the member count was 30 or less.





CAW President's Message (Gerry Headley)

We had a small, but nice turnout at the picnic last month. Forty to fifty people showed up to share food, stories, and woodturning. The setting was great. The Coast Guard vastly improved the picnic area over what it was before. They have a new deck with lots of shading and electrical outlets – just what we needed. It was easier getting in too - only one ID plus the vehicle registration and insurance. The weather could not have been better, either. It was sunny, warm, and with a nice breeze. So, why not more folks? Our picnics and Christmas parties always seem to draw about half the normal crowd. If there is something you think is missing from these events that makes them less attractive to come to, please drop me a line and let me know at gerryh3333@aol.com. We want to make each gathering something attractive for all of our membership.

For the July meeting, we will have Don Riggs coming to CAW. Don is a lifetime member and for good reason. He is a highly skilled turner who can teach both basic and advanced turners a thing or two they would not have known before. He is very affable and will captivate you with his stories and techniques. Whether you have been turning for years or have just started, you will get a lot out of Don's demo. When he told me what he planned to demo, it sounded like he was planning his own mini-symposium. Of course, he plans to show how to turn a sphere – a skill building exercise that is not as easy as it sounds. He rattled off a number of other things he was going to do, but my grey matter just could not remember them all. If you have any friends that expressed any interest at all in woodturning, bring them to this demo. Don will show us the grace, skill, and variety we all want as turners. This will be a **free demo** – if you see anyone taking a demo fee at the door, tackle him and call the police.

We will have a lunch run with orders taken in the morning. Eight dollars will buy you a Primo's sub, chips, and a soda. Just make sure you put your order in before the business meeting so you get something to eat. Again, if you eat someone else's lunch without paying, we will have to tackle you and call the police.

We will be having our Second (Third?) Annual Tailgate Swap Meet at this July's CAW meeting. What's involved? Simply this: Remember those tools, wood, or other items that once caught your eye and imagination? You used them or just admired them until something else came along? And now they sit perfectly useful on your shop shelf or under another pile somewhere. Bring them to the July meeting with a price tag to sell and you can sell those items for cash and maybe find someone else's dreams to be a part of your own. This is a perfect opportunity to let go of something you have too much of to someone who has too little. It will also be a great opportunity for those that are looking for supplies to stock up cheap. You can either sell from your tailgate in the parking lot or on a table in the hallways of the school. Sales should only occur before the business meeting or during lunch so as not to interrupt our demonstration. I know I'll be bringing bowl blanks, tools, and other supplies. I can't wait to see what you bring, too.

One note about safety - woodturning is an enjoyable adventure, but it is potentially dangerous if we fail to take proper precautions. We all want to avoid accidents as much as possible, but we would really rather not learn about safety the hard way. We have four articles on the CAW website about turning safety, but we could use more. If you have any safety tips, bring them to the meeting to share or write a short article for the newsletter and website. Your contributions may mean the sparing of an accident that you learned the hard way. It could save even more than that – a digit, a bone, or even a life.

Turn safe out there,

Gerry Headley
CAW President



About Our Members (by Phil Brown)

Patrick O'Brien received the wood award for his palm piece given by the Creative Craft Council. The 28th biennial CCC exhibition at Strathmore Mansion will be up through July 9th. Location and hours are in the June newsletter.

Frank Stepanski was very excited to have completed attractive box bases in maple, myrtle and walnut for the ceramic bird-figure tops made by a potter friend. Frank hopes they complete more collaborative work. See photos at the June 13th entry at: <http://danfinneganpottery.blogspot.com/>

Nate Johnson teaches the Art Of Wood Burning on August 6th. And Tom Boley teaches Bowl Turning on July 30th and September 3rd, and Turning a Three-Legged Stool on August 20th at WoodCraft of Leesburg, VA. Call 703-737-7880 or see: www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=575&page=classes

Don't be shy! Promote yourself. Tell us about your woodturning activities in the CAW Newsletter. Send your information to Phil Brown, philfbrown@comcast.net, or call 301-767-9863. Latest deadline is the 22nd of the month just before the event date.

CALL FOR ENTRY

Craft Forms 2011, 16th National Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Craft, December 2, 2011 – January 21, 2012. Entry Deadline is SEPTEMBER 25, 2011, and fee is \$40 for two pieces. For information and forms, go to: www.craftformsentry.com



Upcoming Meeting & Event Information (Mike Kinney)

DonRiggs	07/09/11
Keith Tompkins	08/13/11
TBD	09/10/11
TBD	10/08/11
Alan Lacer	11/12/11
Holiday Ball	12/10/11

CAW New Members

Ken McCreless	Springfield, VA
Aaron Strokes	Woodbridge, VA



Vendors



CAW - ONEWAY PRODUCTS

CA places ONEWAY order through out the month.

Check your catalog or call up ONEWAY website at www.oneway.on to see what's available and email your order to CA at cadjsavoy@cox.net

Orders can be picked up at Bryant during monthly meeting, at SE workshops on the second Wed. and last Tue. of each month or can be shipped directly to you.

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20% OFF!!! MOST PRODUCTS PLUS SHIPPING!!!

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Happy and Safe Turning!!! *CA SAVOY*



2Sand. com is a Maryland-based coated abrasive specialist serving woodworking and woodturning workshops, founded on the principles of fast service, fair prices, and superior products. We carry sanding discs, sandpaper sheets, and woodturning tools, and we can ship them to you today. If we offer a product on our web site then we have it in stock and ready to ship. R. J. Stroman, a CAW member, operates 2sand. com.

Contact **Rob** at RJ@2Sand.com or (800) 516-7621 or visit their website at: [www. 2sand. com](http://www.2sand.com)

Penn State Industries



Whether making gifts for your family or items to sell in craft shows, it's time to get your order in for Penn State pen or project kits. Check out the new Penn State website at www.pennstateind.com and email **Amy Rothberg** at amy@landingcrafts.com with your orders or questions. Also note that Amy is a Teknatool dealer of Nova and Super Nova chucks and accessories.



The Sanding Glove®

Janet and Bruce Hoover have been serving the woodturning community for more than ten years with cutting edge abrasives technology, specialized sanding tools, and the most extensive line of disc holders, and interface pads in the industry. Our product selection has been expanded to

include the complete line of FOREDOM tools including the *new* Angle Grinder attachment, UVEX Safety gear, Multistar live centers. **ALL NEW!** Advanced Lathe Tools *Boring Bar systems, center steady, laser guide, & Tool Rests w/3/8" case-hardened top rod.*

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Bryant Display Window: George Salinas

Raffle/Auction: Walt Fink, Mike DeWan

CAW Clothing: Ben Johnson

Mentor Program: Annie Simpson

Group Buys: Frank Jessup

Coffee Center: Lou Norris, Ray Bowers

Wood Identification: Ed Karch

Donuts: Robin Watson, Ray Bowers

Video Recording: Frank Stepanski, Jeff Schnell



If your contact information changes, including your email or mailing address, please contact Phil Mannino at phileman@cox.net

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Frank Jessup: woodatfl6@cox.net

Large lathes: Stubby, PM 3520, Jet 1642's, Woodfast, must be reserved in advance of SE date. Contact CA at cadjsavoy@cox.net

YOU MUST ALSO BE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS IF YOU WANT TO USE ANY OF THE TOOLS.

Monthly Meeting Information

Bryant Adult Education Center
2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, VA
Map with driving directions here:
www.fcps.edu/maps/bryant.htm

Directions: From VA or MD, take I-495/I-95 towards the Wilson Bridge over the Potomac River. Take Exit 177A (Rt. 1 South) on the VA side. Approximately 1.9 miles south, you will pass the Beacon mall complex with Lowe's on your right. Drive past the main entrance to Beacon mall, go 4 more stop lights (about 1/2 mile.) The 4th stop light is Popkins Lane. Turn left and go two blocks. Bryant Center entry is on the right. Drive to the East side of the building. Parking is on the side or in the rear of the building. The entrance to the wood working shop and meeting rooms is off the back corner of the east side of Bryant Center

CAW Mentor Program

Contact -Annie Simpson
e-mail - simpson.annie@gmail.com
Phone – 703-391-7950

Do you want help with a specific project or to improve your general woodturning skills? Then the CAW mentoring program is for you. Contact Annie Simpson for an explanation of the process and/or assistance in finding a mentor in your area.