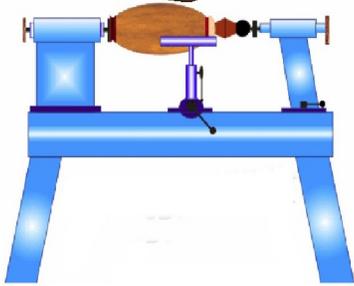


# GOLD TRIANGLE WOODTURNERS



## NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE WOODTURNERS

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

Center for the Visual Arts 400 E. Hickory, Denton, TX

June 2009

*Our next meeting is 7:00pm June 1st*

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### Neal's NEWS

*Our demonstrator for June is our own John "Mr. President" Solberg. John will be demonstrating the techniques for turning "Wobble Bowls".*



The Wobble Bowl

The idea for the Wobble Bowl came from a picture in one of my wife's magazines of a platter that was turned off center. As I looked at it I couldn't help but wonder how the base looked and how it would sit on a table. While asleep that evening I had this inspiration of making an off center turning that didn't have a so called bottom to sit upon. Hence the Wobble Bowl.

We will start with a 5" square, 2" thick piece of wood and discuss the layout required to start the project. From there I band saw the corners and turn it round. I will start with it on center and turn and finish the top. Sanding and finishing has to be done now as there will be no way to get back to this stage at a later time so it is just easier to do it now. The blank will then be turned around in the lathe (bottom toward the tail stock) and a tenon will be established for mounting on a scroll chuck. I will now define the edge thickness and may even remount it back on center to finalize that thickness. A rough shape of the bottom of the bowl will be turned at this time as well. The piece will now be mounted in the scroll chuck on the tenon and the inside of the bowl will be turned. Again this should be sanded and finished after turning as it is the only time this area is available while mounted on the lathe. Care must be taken when sanding as there are some sharp edges that tend to jump out at you. Now the piece will again be reversed and mounted on either a jam chuck or a vacuum chuck and the bottom of the bowl will be turned and finished. There are some pitfalls that I have learned along the way and we will discuss them as the bowl is being turned.

This has become a fun project and one that can be completed in a couple of hours. It is interesting because it utilizes several forms of turning and mounting; between centers both on and off center, mounted in a scroll chuck off center, and finished off center either in a vacuum chuck or jam chuck. All of these will be discussed and demonstrated. Give it a try. I think you will find it rewarding to complete.

# THIS MONTH'S BIO

My name is John Solberg. Many of you know me as the current president of Golden Triangle Woodturners. Glynn has asked me to do a short bio for the newsletter.

I was born in Pasadena California but moved to Northfield, a small town in Minnesota 45 miles south of Minneapolis, when I was about 6 months old. I attended Augsburg College in Minneapolis majoring in Math and Physics. While at Augsburg I met a gal named CJ and we were married in 1967. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force I started my career at a small magnetics company in Minneapolis as a transformer design engineer. After a couple other career moves I ended up working for ITT Cannon for 25 years. It was in 1984 that they transferred me to Texas as the Central Region Manager. I retired in 2001 when the industry went through a major down sizing.



About seven years ago my wife asked me to join her at a woodcarving session that she was attending at the Keller Middle School. She indicated that they had lathes that perhaps I could use while she was carving. I was introduced to turning that evening by turning my first pen. That was all it took. The next week I was the proud owner of my first lathe. In 2007 we attended the AAW National Symposium in Portland. Powermatic was offering a symposium special on their 3520B lathe that was too good to turn down, so that is now my lathe of choice. My shop currently consists of 1/2 of our double car garage. In the near future I hope to add additional space in the back yard that I can call a shop.

All of my grandparents are immigrants of Norway, so when I heard about the Norwegian Woodturning Cruise that took place last year it was natural that we wanted to attend. It was the highlight of my woodturning experience. We spent 12 days cruising the Fjords of Norway and enjoying the talents of some of the worlds best woodturners. For a woodturner it was a trip of a lifetime.



You may have noticed a couple of changes to the newsletter this month. I have added an index on page 1, a calendar at the end of the Upcoming Events section and a list of club officers. If there are any additions or changes you think would benefit the newsletter please let me know.

Be sure to checkout the Articles of Interest section for a great safety article by Alan Lacer on lathe speed.

The dog days of summer are not far off so why not get a couple of turner friends together and do a marathon **BOWL-TURN** for Empty Bowls. Three people could turn 20+ bowls in one day (less drying time) by distributing the effort. Two buddies and I have plans to do just that. You may think 20 is a lot of bowls for one day, but I have turned 7 by myself in about 6 hours.

*Glynn Cox*  
Editor

## President's Patter

April was a very busy month for Golden Triangle Woodturners. We had two wonderful demonstrations with Don Schol doing “Non Traditional uses of the Lathe” and Al Stirt turning a platter and adding color and texture. We also participated in the weekend long Arts and Jazz Festival where GTW had a booth. That was a very successful weekend as about 12 members turned cars and tops for the kids and introduced our club to many potential new members. Thanks to each of you that helped make that weekend such a success. Our thanks also to Gene Colley and Canyon Studios for bringing Al Stirt to the club.

The AAW Symposium in Albuquerque is rapidly approaching. It will be June 26 - 28 and promises to be a major woodturning event. It is the largest event of its type in the world and will include first class woodturners from all over the world with many great demonstrations along with a large selection of vendors. I hope many of you are planning on attending.

I have been asked to do the demonstration in June on turning a “Wobble Bowl”. I have been experimenting with off center turning and this is the output of some of that experimentation. It uses many phases of turning; between centers both on center and off, mounted in a chuck to turn the bowl portion, and then finishing the bottom with either a jam chuck or a vacuum chuck. I enjoy turning them and I hope you will find the demonstration both entertaining and informative. It is a fun project. Following Al Stirt though was not part of my plans. Neal Brand will conduct the meeting that evening

Don't forget those Empty Bowls. October will be upon us before we know it and we have committed to support the program with 150 bowls. Let's not wait until the last minute to get them turned. We are keeping track of each bowl turned in and again this year we will be doing something special for those who have turned bowls

*John Solberg*

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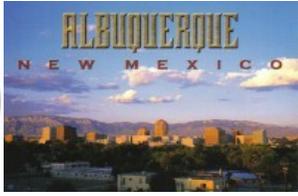
## Welcome New Members

Dick Koch, Plano

Bob Ragborg, Denton

Oren Zehner, Roanoke

# UPCOMING EVENTS



The AAW 2009 Symposium is being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico this year. The dates are June 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. This year's symposium features many internationally known demonstrators along with a chance to win the raffle.

Take time to visit Old Town Albuquerque, the Sandia Peak Tram or the great art studios of Santa Fe.

It is only a 11 hour drive (or less depending on the weight of your foot and bladder capacity).

Go to <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2009/> for more information.

## ***Freedom Pen Turnathon***



Wood World is sponsoring the 2009 Annual Freedom Pen Turnathon at their store in Dallas. Wood World continues to support our club and this would be a good opportunity to return that support.

- ✦ July 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 9:00 am till 4:00pm
- ✦ Wood World 13650 TI Blvd, Dallas
- ✦ Free Cold Drinks and Hot Dogs and many great door prizes
- ✦ Plus many un-advertised specials and tons of awards will be given



This year's turnathon is dedicated to Art Hendrix



Southwest Association of Turners Symposium is being held in Wichita Falls on October 16<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Several outstanding demonstrators are being featured including Stuart Batty, Mike Mahoney, Jimmy Clews and others.

You really need to attend this one. It is close, inexpensive and has great events. Go to <http://www.swaturners.org/welcome/welcome.shtml> for more information.

It is time to make hotel reservations. This link will take you to the sponsoring hotel and other nearby hotels with special SWAT rates.

<http://www.swaturners.org/info/hotels.shtml>

Registration information will be coming soon.



It is not too early to start turning bowls for the October Empty Bowls program. Our goal this year is 150 bowls. Last year we donated 179. They are counting on our support again this year.

Empty Bowls of Denton is a community ministry of Christ The Servant Lutheran Church, where people of the church work in ecumenical-civic partnership with members of the Denton community to support [Our Daily Bread](#) soup kitchen and the Denton Community Food Center, enabling them to feed nutritious meals to the hungry of Denton.

Christ The Servant Lutheran Church will host the 10th Annual Empty Bowls Soup Luncheon and Silent Auction from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on "Make A Difference Day," Saturday, October 24, 2009, at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, located at [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church](#). Handcrafted clay ware and wooden bowls donated by local and regional fine artists, student artists, and the [Golden Triangle Woodturners](#), as well as bowls designed by church members throughout the year, are offered at the luncheon. All proceeds are donated to [Our Daily Bread](#) soup kitchen and the [Denton Community Food Center](#).

<b>CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR</b>	
<b>June 1</b>	<b>7:00pm GTWT Meeting</b>
<b>June 25</b>	<b>Freedom Pen Turnathon 9:00am to 4:00pm</b>
<b>June 26 through 28</b>	<b>AAW National Symposium, Albuquerque</b>
<b>July 6</b>	<b>7:00pm GTWT Meeting</b>
<b>August 3</b>	<b>7:00pm GTWT Meeting</b>
<b>September 7</b>	<b>7:00pm GTWT Meeting</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>7:00pm GTWT Meeting</b>
<b>October 16 through 18</b>	<b>SWAT, Wichita Falls</b>
<b>October 24</b>	<b>Empty Bowls Luncheon &amp; Auction</b>

**Bring Back Winners**

*John Solberg  
Neal Brand  
Dave Gelnet*

*Tom O'Grady  
Terri Sargent (x2)  
Clem Steubing*

*Bring back winners remember to bring a wood turning related item, preferably one you turned, back next meeting.*

# Photo Highlights of last meeting



# Denton Arts and Jazz Festival



# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The following article is presented thanks to Mr. Alan Lacer. Visit his website at <http://www.alanlacer.com/>

- Speed Zone
- By Alan Lacer

What speed do I turn at? A number of years ago in a class at Arrowmont, someone asked the instructor that question. After some thought he responded, "well I guess it should go around." What an insight! On one level you might think he was being a wise guy, but on another he was close to the answer. You really can turn at a wide range of speeds-and do excellent work. However, there are a number of factors that one balances in choosing a speed, and this is why I have never been a fan of the "speed selection charts" that often come with your lathe.



Now we are into a red zone: large diameter (17"), heavy, out-of-round/balance, blank. If the lathe can handle such a piece, I progress from a point just below vibration to a modest speed as it becomes more balanced. However, with a rim speed of 51mph at 1000rpm I never find it necessary to crank up much speed.

When working small diameter miniatures you really can raise the speed to fairly high levels. However, I was getting clean cuts on this piece at speeds easily below 1000 rpm.



- Diameters and Rim Speed

The rpm of the spindle is sometimes the least important number for me-and add the fact that even my most expensive lathe does not give a digital readout of rpm. No, the speed of the outside edge or surface may be far more telling in determining speed. (Comparison: the outer edge of a 10" table saw blade at 4000rpm is traveling at 119mph, while the 1/2" router bit at 25,000rpm is only traveling at 37mph). Simply look at the chart of rim speeds at different diameters, and see the dramatic differences. A miniature running at 1200 rpm may look like it is hardly moving, while a large bowl may overpower you and your lathe-which may place you into a danger zone.

- Mass of the Object

The real impact of an object on the lathe is its velocity times its mass. So, a pen blank won't have a lot of force at 1800rpm-even if it came off the lathe-while the 14 lb wet bowl blank at 1800rpm can be lethal. The higher the speed the greater the forces-and at some very high rpm even the pen blank has real force.

- Balance of the Object

Look at what a few ounces of lead in the wrong spot on a front wheel of your car can do: causes a two ton monster to shake and rattle at certain speeds. We have the same problem in wood turning: out of round, inconsistent densities of the material, or pieces with voids, can all lead to excessive vibration at certain speeds. And in reality, we may have some pieces that never balance-forcing us to work at slower speeds than we may desire.

- Stability of the Lathe

This is related to everything I have already mentioned: some lathes simply start shaking with almost anything on them! And vibration is a curse to the machinist and the woodturner: we will have a rough ride, quality usually suffers, and it raises safety issues if we don't have some degree of stability of the lathe itself. Also, some lathes have awful stands/legs, flimsy headstock spindles, headstock bearings that are too few, under built or just too close together-all of these factors impact lathe stability and therefore the speed you can turn at.

And one more factor: the low end speed of some lathes are simply not slow enough to do much bowl turning-they simply run too fast and are too under built. Serious considerations in choosing a lathe if your interests are with bowls and vessels.

## Speed Zone Cont.

- The Skill of the Turner

With NASCAR racing and wood turning, a true professional can often work at higher speeds. As your skill and control improve you can work at greater speeds. However, unless you are a production turner working on a piece rate schedule, high speeds are not really the answer-so be careful here, as even some production turners have had serious accidents related to speed. In most cases folks don't really care how quickly you made something, only how well it turned out.

- The Material

I often hear it said that you get a better cut at higher speeds. Sometimes, but in reality there are still other factors related to the material that will effect the quality of the cutting action. The moisture content is one (generally the wetter the wood the cleaner the cutting action), orientation of the grain as well as consistency in grain direction (cutting against the grain or grain that is wild and erratic causes problems), species (compare the cutting qualities of fir against pear-don't even seem like the same material, i.e. "wood"). Sometimes I do get a cleaner cut by raising the speed (you are getting more cuts per inch of travel)-but sometimes I do better by not raising the speed and only slowing my feed rate (I move slower, and thereby get more cuts per inch of travel). And add to this the question of tool sharpness-working at higher speed becomes a smaller component of the equation. Finally, too much speed can contribute to the problem of ribbing or chatter-when due to the material flexing or distorting due to rate of speed.

- Recommendations for Choosing a Speed:

- First, be aware of the speed your lathe is set even before you mount a piece or turn it on! Some serious accidents have occurred by not heeding this warning. Next, weigh all the factors for a particular piece on the lathe, especially diameter and mass. And the less stable your lathe and the less experience you have, get the blank as close to round and well centered before turning-primarily an issue in bowls, platters, vessels and the like. For between center work, I saw off the corners when the diameters go above 4" -below that a large roughing gouge handles the "out of round" quite safely.
- It is always better to start at the slower speeds and gradually bring up the speed-not the other way around! In teaching beginners I miss one safety feature on many school lathes: to turn off the lathe you had to move the lever past the slowest speed-this created a situation that you could not turn the lathe on at a high speed. Therefore, the first speed you encountered was the slowest of that machine, however, this does raise the question: can you turn too slow? If the cutting action is "choppy" and labored, then speed up to the next level on your machine-if that next level leads to excessive vibration or a sense of being out of control, you may have to live with turning at a slower speed. And very critical, work at a speed that feels safe, controlled and comfortable for YOU.
- Finally, a sharp tool at the right cutting angle seems far, far more important than cranking up the speed to "do a better job."

		Speed of Lathe-- Turned Object at Different RPM					
RIM SIZE (outside dia.)		250 rpm	450 rpm	600 rpm	1,200 rpm	1800 rpm	3,000 rpm
	1/2" dia.	.4 mph	.7 mph	.9 mph	1.8 mph	2.7 mph	4.5 mph
	6" dia	4.5 mph	8.0 mph	10.7 mph	21.4 mph	32.1 mph	54.0 mph
	12" dia	8.9 mph	16.0 mph	21.4 mph	42.8 mph	64.2 mph	108.0 mph
	14" dia	10.4 mph	18.7 mph	25.0 mph	49.9 mph	74.9 mph	125.0 mph

Alan Lacer is a contributing editor to American Woodturner living near River Falls, WI.

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American Woodturner Issue Spring 2004 Volume 19, No. 1

# 2009 Club Officers

President	John Solberg	940-387-3089
Vice President	Neal Brand	940-383-1248
Secretary	Mike Nelson	214-387-9077
Treasurer	Chris Morgan	940-321-1151
Activities	John Downs	972-874-0600
Membership	Mike Nelson	214-387-9077
Past President	Peter Tkacs	214-662-2200
Librarian	Sharon Ayers	214-707-0776
Newsletter Editor	Glynn Cox	817-337-0210

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**GIANT TENT SALE**  
**AT OUR SPRINGFIELD, MO FACILITY**

If you have ever been to a Grizzly® "Scratch & Dent" Tent Sale, you understand why woodworkers and metalworkers form long lines to get in early. Grizzly® will liquidate an impressive quantity of scratched, dented and as-is woodworking and metalworking machines, tools, and accessories, as well as samples and one-of-a-kind items. This is definitely an event that no bargain hunter should miss.

**2009 SCHEDULE**  
**Saturday, June 6th**  
**3am - 3pm**

**SPRINGFIELD, MO**  
 Grizzly  
 1815 W. Battlefield  
 Springfield, MO 65807  
 417-887-9191  
 fax: 417-887-6154

**HOTEL INFO**  
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**STEP INSIDE** our spacious showroom for Spectacular Showroom Specials

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONCE A YEAR EVENT!**

**All sales are on a first come first served basis, so get there early for the best deals and the largest selection!**

This is not exactly what I was thinking for a classified ad but it is something that I think would be interesting to many members, particularly tool nuts like me. I have attended this sale for three years and have had a GREAT time. There are some real bargains to be had. They setup several big tents and have rows of saws, lathes, sanders, dust collectors, mills, hand tools, etc. The condition can be "new" or "fell off the back of a semi". Problem descriptions are well provided. I bought a new metal lathe that had a slightly bent drip pan for 50% off and a Vicmarc type wood lathe chuck for \$30 among several other major tools.

This is about an 8 hour drive (453 miles from Denton) and you need to be there at least one hour before opening time as the line gets long. It would be possible to leave Friday evening and get home Saturday evening if you had more than one driver.

If you need any more incentive contact me, Glynn Cox .