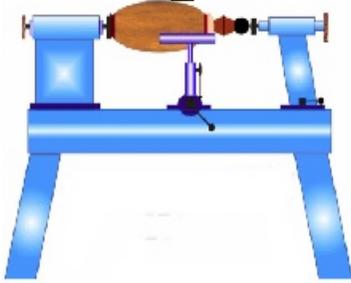


# GTW TURNINGS



## NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE WOODTURNERS

<http://www.goldentrianglewoodturners.org/>  
Center for the Visual Arts 400 E. Hickory, Denton, TX

January 2010

*Our next meeting is 7:00pm January 4th*

### Index

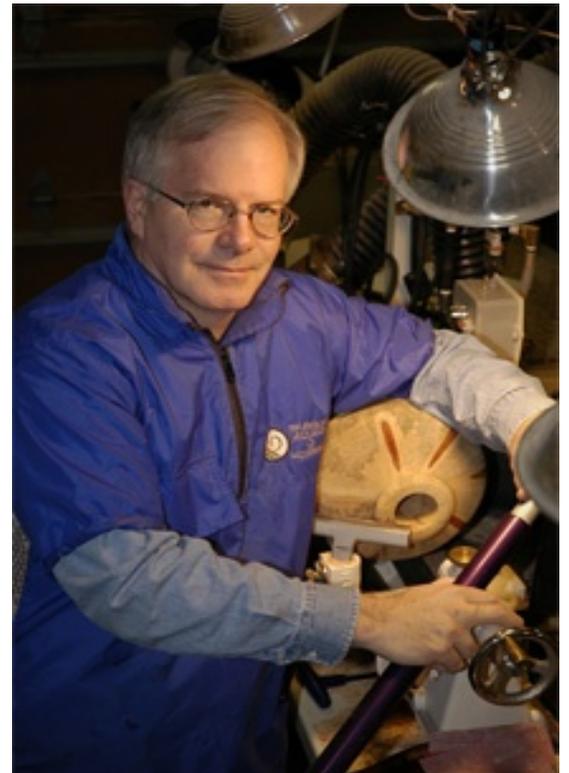
Neal's News	1
Biography	2
Editor's Blog	2
President's Patter	3
Upcoming Events	3
Bring Backs	4
Club Photos	4
Officers	5
Articles	6

### Neal's NEWS

## *This Month's Demo is...* **Common And Specialty Chucks** *By Oren Zehner*

We are delighted that Oren Zehner will be giving the January demonstration. Oren became a GTW member last year when he moved from Oklahoma to Roanoke. Before moving, he had a 29 year career teaching woodturning, woodworking, cabinet making, and drafting in high school and in vocational schools. See the July 2009 newsletter for more information on Oren.

This month, Oren's demonstration is titled Common and Specialty Chucks for use on the Wood Lathe. He plans to demonstrate the proper use of a variety of chucks. Some of the chucks he will demonstrate are commercially available while some can be made in your shop. With all of Oren's experience both teaching and turning, everyone will learn something new from Oren's demonstration.



# THIS MONTH'S BIO

My name is Chuck Raney and I am the new club activities coordinator. I was born and raised in Fort Lupton, Colorado. I'm one of nine children. Actually I'm considered the surprise as I have an older twin sister (by 5 minutes) and was totally unexpected. I'm the 3rd youngest. I joined the Navy after High School and served 23 years. For 12 of those years I rode submarines. I eventually made my way to become the Senior Medical Enlisted Advisor to the Atlantic Fleet Surgeon.

I have my Master's degree from Golden Gate University. I completed all my coursework and passed my competency exams for completion of a doctorate, but unfortunately due to too much traveling and work; I did not complete the dissertation.

I took woodshop in school, but when I joined the Navy did not keep up that practice. I was watching the traveling antique show on PBS about 1 year ago and saw a wood bowl and thought I'd like to do that. I have since bought a mini-jet and started turning about one year ago.

I have three grown children. My oldest son has followed my footsteps (somewhat) and joined the Navy two years ago. He is currently stationed on the USS George Washington (an aircraft carrier) and is living with his wife and two daughter's in Yokosuka, Japan.

My middle son is a woodworker. His junior year in high school he signed up for some technical classes and has been doing this since he graduated. He has worked building houses and most recently worked building kitchen cabinets. He now lives in Chicago. His wife joined the Navy about six months ago and is currently waiting to go to school.

My youngest daughter is working on her doctorate in psychology. She currently does home counseling for children with drug and behavior problems.

I currently live in Melissa and am enjoying any spare time in my garage turning wood. I work for Dell-Perot systems as a Program Manager. I currently work on a contract with the Veteran's Administration with their Laboratory project. I found the Golden Triangle club on the Internet and joined the club last February. I have taken a couple of classes and am learning quickly how much fun and how much angst woodturning can be. I look forward to taking more classes and learning from all the experts at the club.



Already ten years into the new century (how time flies) and think how woodturning has changed. New lathes, new tools, new techniques, new materials, new friends and associations. It has been a great time to be a woodturner. I got back into woodturning in 2004, after a less than ideal initiation in the 90s, and now that I know pretty well how to sharpen my turning tools I greatly enjoy the hobby.

Our club continues to grow both in numbers and quality of programs and abilities of members. I am seeing turnings that obviously took more talent and artistic ability than I saw 5 years ago...mine included. But we can do more. John's "Bowl of the month club" program for Empty Bowls is a good start but we need more member support of our other community projects like the Arts and Jazz Festival. I see the same few people turning tops and cars for the kids at all the venues. So **JOIN IN FOR A GREAT 2010!**

*The following comments are those of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the attitude of the club officers or members.*

A club member sent me a link to a new woodturning organization called "Conventional Woodturners Association" <http://www.conventionaltturners.org/index.htm>. This association is dedicated to advancing turning that does not use any embellishment other than possibly stain or dye in finishing. That includes no segmented, carved or pierced objects. I am pretty much a purist but I think this goes a little too far toward puritanism. I believe that this association has come about because of the decidedly "liberal artistic" bent of the AAW. I am not at all saying that is completely bad because there many beautiful pieces being produced using turning in conjunction with carving and other embellishments. I am a AAW member and support their mission, but I have been dismayed with many of the pieces depicted in the American Woodturner Journal because if any turning was done it is completely lost in the embellishments. That is fine for arts sake, or Fine Woodworking magazine, but it should not be called a "turning" and embraced by the AAW. If it is a turning it should look like a turning not flat work or a carving.

*Glynn Cox* Editor



# President's Patter

Happy New Year to each of you. 2010 should be an exciting year for Golden Triangle Woodturners. Neal has already started putting together an exciting slate of demonstrators and the year will start out with something we all can use. Oren Zehner will be demonstrating various ways of chucking, it should provide for a very educational evening. Remember this is your club and if you want to see a demonstration on a particular subject or have a particular demonstrator in mind please let one of the board know. We will do our best to make this years demonstrations educational and enlightening for everyone.

If you missed the Christmas party you missed a fun evening. Along with the bring backs there were 34 various raffle items, so almost every one walked away with something. There was also the gift exchange with some wonderful and unique items. Dinner with BBQ brisket, turkey, and sausage, along with all the trimmings that members brought made for a holiday feast to remember. There was even a surprise slide show of photos from the past years meetings. If you want to see it, it can be found on the web site. Congratulations to John Beasley on winning the Binh Pho demonstration piece as our quarterly raffle item.

January is membership month so please try to get your dues for 2010 paid. Please fill out a membership form so the we have all of the current information about you on file. The Board has decided that if you did not renew your membership in 2009 (last year) that you would no longer be kept on the membership roster. So for those of you who receive this newsletter but were not a paid member last year, this will be the last you will receive unless you renew this year. Don't forget your AAW membership as well. We would like to be a Star Club with AAW. That means 100% of our members are also members of AAW. The GTW club can't survive without you, our members, and the AAW can't survive with out members as well. If you are not an AAW member please consider joining.

Speaking of AAW, the national symposium will be held June 18 to June 20 in Hartford CT this year. I went on line to get hotel reservations at the host hotel and it is already booked. There are still rooms available in the alternate hotels listed on the AAW web site. So if you are planning on attending you might want to consider getting hotel reservations now. It appears that there will be a real good turnout this year.

*John Solberg*

## CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

January 4	7:00pm GTW Meeting
February 1	7:00pm GTW Meeting

## UPCOMING EVENTS



The AAW 2010 Symposium is being held in Hartford, Connecticut this year. The dates are June 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's symposium features many internationally known demonstrators along with a chance to win several great raffles.

Go to <http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2010/> for more information.

# Bring Back Winners

Glynn Cox  
Dick Koch  
Leroy Hammons  
Pete Tkacs (x2)  
Mike Nelson  
Neal Brand  
Don (and Maryetta) Cunningham (x2)

Clem Steubing  
Terri Sargent  
John Solberg  
Chuck Raney  
Sharon Ayers  
JR Johnson

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

## Photo Highlights of last meeting





# 2010 Club Officers

President John Solberg  
 Vice President Neal Brand  
 Secretary Mike Nelson  
 Treasurer Chris Morgan  
 Activities Chuck Raney

Membership Mike Nelson 214-387-9077  
 Past President Peter Tkacs 214-662-2200  
 Librarian Peter Tkacs 214-707-0776  
 Newsletter Editor Glynn Cox 817-337-0210

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## *Turning a Santa Claus Nutcracker with John Horn, Texas' Turning Santa*

Part II

By Ron Hampton

Photographs by Josh Moore

And special thanks to Woodturning Design Magazine  
for allowing the use of the article



Editors note:

In part I of the article (December 2009 newsletter) the legs, arms, body parts and crank were detailed. A lathe mounted shop made sanding disc was also developed to help in the fabrication of the boots, legs and hands.

This final part will complete the body, arms, belt buckle and base and detail final painting.

Now that Christmas is over you may have time to make this cute little guy before next Christmas rolls around.



### Turning Body Round

Rough turning the body of the Santa to make it cylindrical may look daunting in the beginning with the cavity for the crank exposed like a cavern, but it should not be a challenge at all. (See figures 11 and 12) Just treat it like making any other square piece of wood round by placing your sharp (I repeat, sharp) roughing gouge at the correct cutting angle and let the wood come to the tool without forcing the tool into the wood. Dull tools make you use extra force to make a cut which causes catches in this kind of situation. Setting the lathe RPM speed just under the speed where the lathe begins to vibrate will also help to keep the tool from catching in the cavity.



Figure 11



Figure 12

### Square Glued Body

While the body is square or mostly square is a good time to drill the hole completely through the body for the arms and the crank. (See figure 13) Waiting until the body is completely round makes this operation rather risky to make an accurate hole that is aligned properly.



Figure 13

## Shaping the body

The body can be shaped either by taking measurements from the plans or making a template with the major points of the highs and lows then connecting the curves from one point to the other. Placing the plan directly behind the lathe where you can easily see the shape you desire is a big help. Use sharp tools. (See figure 14)



Figure 14

## Turning the Nose

Use your 4-jaw chuck to hold a  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three fourths) inch X  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three fourths) inch X 2 inch turning blank. (See figure 15) Shape the nose just to look like a bell, then when completed sand away the back side until it fits the curve of the face. (See figure 16) This part is tricky to hold without sanding off your fingerprints. Try sanding most of the back side of the nose before it is completely separated from the waste material. Good luck.

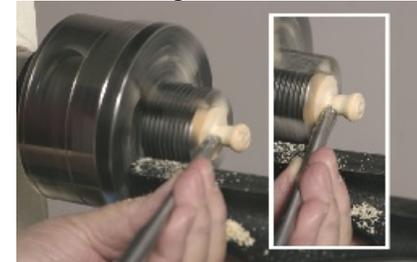


Figure 15

## Belt Buckle

The belt buckle can be made from a scrap piece left over from some of the waste of the legs or arms. The buckle is a carving, not a turning. Cut a rectangular piece of wood and shape it with a Dremel tool and sanding disc.



Figure 16

## Sanding Arms to Correct Angle

Sanding the arms should be performed after the body is completely turned. Then determine how much of an angle must be used to fit the bend of the arm to the shape of the body. Start with the same angle sanded on both ends of the arm at the elbow. (See figure 17 insert) Place the arm together in a straight line. Gradually rotate the top part of the arm until you have a natural bend at the elbow. (See figure 17)



Figure 17

## Drilling Hole for Dowel in Arm

Drilling a hole in the arm for the  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch dowel can be accomplished with a hand drill but if you have a drill press you may control the process more easily. Use a  $\frac{1}{4}$  drill bit. (See figure 18)



Figure 18

## Turning Base

To make the nutcracker more stable, a base is desirable. The design can be rather flexible but it should be rather simple. (See figure 19)



Figure 19

## Painting Assembled Santa

After the toes of the boots are glued and the angle of the arms are set and glued, it is time to start the painting process. Before the arms and legs are attached to the body, they may be painted more easily than when they are attached. Let each color of the acrylic paints dry before applying the next color. Two coats will be required to completely cover up the wood grain, which is not particularly attractive any way in this project. (See figure 20) A fabric paint called white "Puff" paint can be applied to the suit cuffs, the top of the boots, and the trim on the hat to suggest a fur appearance. It is applied like raised dots placed very closely together. This technique increases the three dimensional quality of the paint. (See figure 21) The eyes and lips are painted with your choice of color for the eyes. A blue grey seems to work well. After two coats of colors are applied, a coat or two of clear glossy or satin sealer makes the project have a really finished appearance. The beard is made of faux (fake) fur available from most fabric or hobbies stores. The application of the beard is probably the most difficult part of the entire project. There is no magic formula for fitting the beard to the face but making a cutout of paper and fitting it to the face for a pattern may help. A portion of the beard is glued to the crank. After the body parts are painted completely, the legs and base may be glued to the body. You may leave the arms loose with the dowels inserted in the holes in the body. If they keep falling off, consider gluing them in place as well.



Figure 20



Figure 21

## Marking Holes for Legs

After the body is turned, the socket for the leg tenon should be marked for drilling. Begin by holding the legs together until they are touching in the middle, then mark the place for the socket holes. People have a tendency to squeeze on the legs if they are using the nutcracker to actually crack nuts. Placing the legs together adds strength and reduces the possibility of someone breaking the tenon when the legs are held.



Figure 22

## Drilling Holes for Legs

Use a 1/2 drill bit for the sockets of the leg tenons. Accurate positioning of the holes is critical. A leaning Santa is not really desirable. (See figure 23)



Figure 23

## Attaching the Arms and Crank Mechanism

The arms and crank share the same hole that you drilled earlier. Cut a hard wood dowel that is long enough to go through the body and support the arms. Thread the dowel through the crank. Attach the arms to the ¼ inch hardwood dowel rod. Test fit the arm's position before gluing. Be sure that no glue gets onto the crank mechanism. (See figure 24)



Figure 24

## Conclusion

Congratulations! You have just created a beautiful Santa Claus Nutcracker that will be treasured by your family for many generations. Although you may not look as much like Santa Claus as John Horn does, you can now make a beautiful Santa Claus Nutcracker. And with that we will say “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”

## SUPPLIES

**Wood: Common 2X4s with a minimum of knots for the body parts and base.**

**Almost any hardwood for the crank.**

**¼ inch hardwood dowel rod**

**Tools: lathe, roughing gouge, 3/8 or ½ inch spindle gouge, (optional) skew, (optional) narrow parting tool.**

**Drill press or hand drill and tri square.**

**¼ inch drill bit extending a minimum of 4 inches beyond the drill chuck.**

**3/8 drill bit.**

**Dead center preferred over the normal spur drive.**

**Band saw or other narrow kerfed saw.**

**Disk sander and (optional) drum sander.**

**Spackling compound for fitting error corrections.**

**Assorted sandpaper grits from 100-240 grits.**

**Choice of wood glue.**

**Acrylic craft paints in red, black, blue grey, flesh, “Puff” white fabric paint for fur appearance on the costume trim and clear glossy or satin sealer. \***

**Faux fur for the beard.\*\***

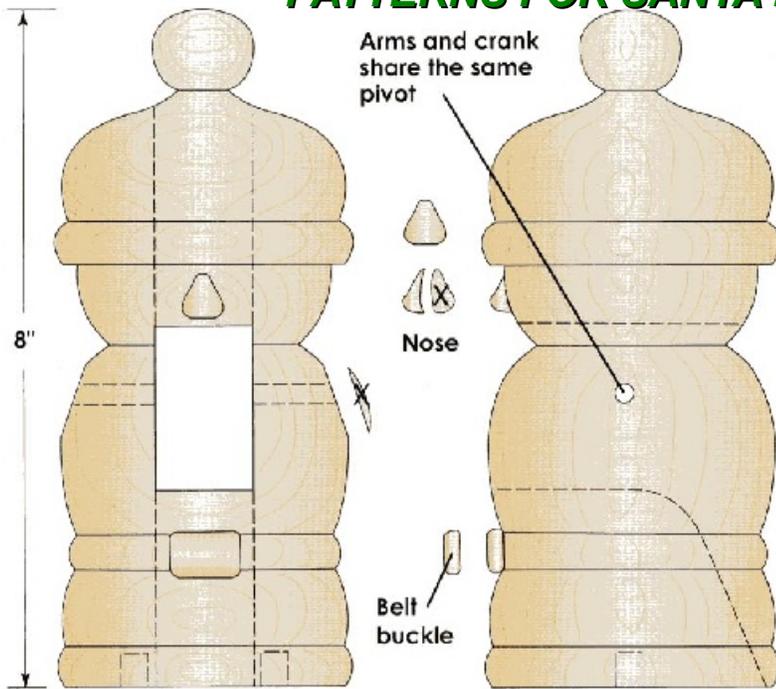
**Fine and medium craft brushes. \***

**E-6000 craft glue for beard \***

**\*Available from most hobby and craft stores.**

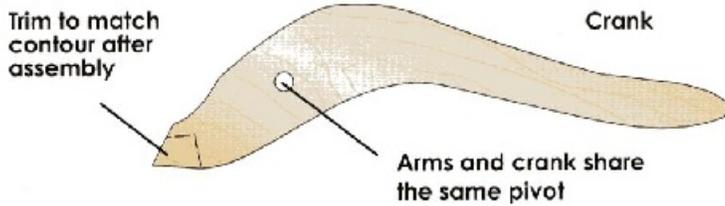
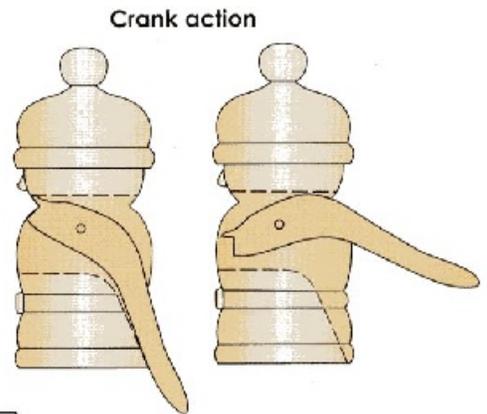
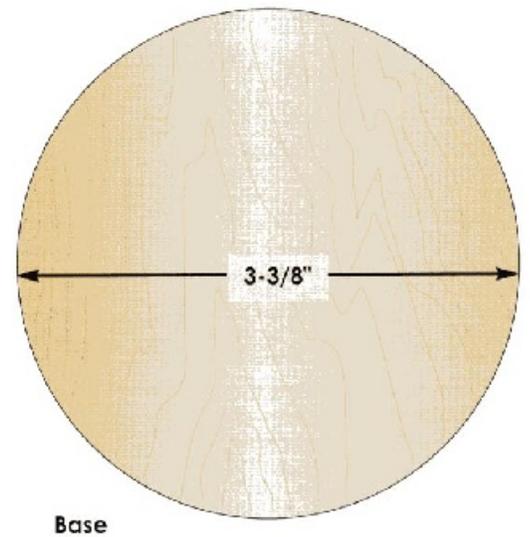
**\*\*Available from fabric stores or hobby stores.**

# PATTERNS FOR SANTA NUTCRACKER

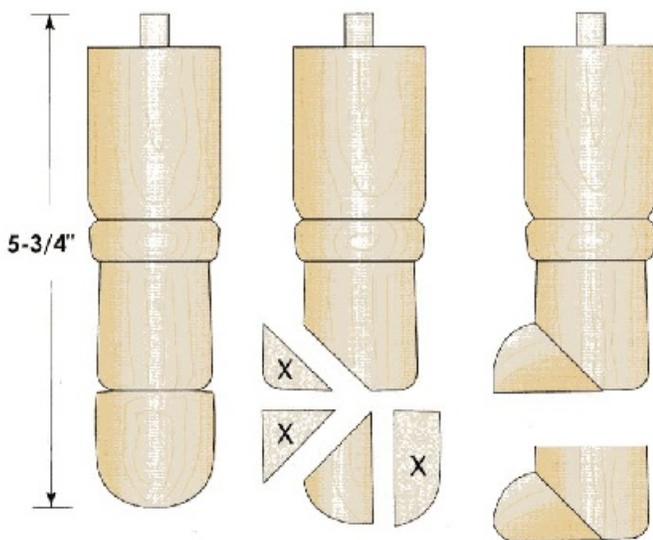


**Front view**  
Shows three layers of lamination (dashed lines)

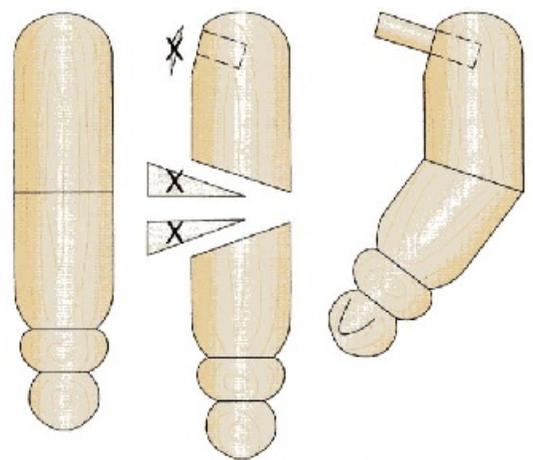
**Side view**  
Shows opening for crank (dashed lines)



**KEY**  
X = Waste



Turn, cut away waste, glue, and shape (make two)



Turn, cut away waste, glue, and shape (make two)

Patterns are not full-size  
(Patterns were adapted from Bonnie Klein's Santa)