

The Newsletter of Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

Website: WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org

July 11, 2018



Volume 15, Number 7

July 18th Meeting at Skunk Hollow Studios

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Directions to the July 18th meeting at the home and studio of Russ Fellows (Skunk Hollow Studios, LLC) 26 John Davis Dr., Jericho, Vermont, 802-899-3059.

From the east/I-89: Take exit II, Richmond, Essex Jct. Turn right at end of ramp. Right again immediately at the light. This is the River Rd/Rt. 117. Go 3 1/2 miles, turn right on Skunk Hollow Rd. Go 2 1/2 miles, turn left on John Davis. Go all the way to the end, number 26.

From the Burlington area: Take Route 15 from Winooski going east. Go past St Mike's College and Ft Ethan Allen (both on left) and continue on to Essex Junction. At the Five Corners bear left, staying on Rt. 15. Stay on Rt. 15 through Essex Center and on to Jericho. There are

signs. Once you are in the village of Jericho, (look for the big Red Mill at the bridge) you will see the world-famous Joe's Snack Bar.....turn right. Turn right again at the stop sign. Turn right again at the next stop sign.....about 1/2 mile. This is the start of Skunk Hollow Rd.....turn right yet again! The first drive on the right is John Davis Dr....take it! Go to the end, number

Another Round Table meeting! This month we will talk about finishing techniques—how much we sand, what finishes we use, how we apply finishes—anything we do to make our work look the way we like it. Please bring samples. Also, it would be great if you brought something for the raffle table.

June Meeting, 6/20/2018 —Harvie Porter

Nick Rosato called the meeting to order at 7 PM. There were 24 in attendance.

Thanks went to Arny Spahn for another fine issue of Chatter.

Upcoming meetings: July 18 will be a Jay Bailey has been updating the

will again be at the end of August. A aged to visit the site at woodpoll of the members present showed

a preference for a Sunday meeting. Al Stirt will be presenting. Sept 19 Janet Collins is working to get an online presenter. Oct 10 is board meeting. Oct 17 will be tools, jigs and homemade fixtures.

round table on perfect wood prepara- website. He is looking for material to tion and finishing. The annual picnic add to the site. Members are encour-

(Continued on page 4)

Woodchuck Website Now rejuvenated and live!! HTTP://WOODCHUCKSVT.ORG/

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Web Master Jay Bailey 22 Cobble Hill Meadows Barre, VT 05641 (802) 479-1458 tjaybailey@yahoo.com I know there are a number of different ways to sharpen turning tools. If you are happy with the method you use and get repeatable forms and edges, you should probably stick with what you are using. The Tormek system is very versatile. The Sorby belt system is also versatile and produces a usable edge with a relatively inexpensive sandpaper belt.

Whatever system you use I recommend you buy or develop a set of jigs and fixtures so you get a repeatable shape and edge to your tools. The ideal system is fast to set up, sturdy, and repeatable.

I use both the traditional types of gouges—bowl, spindle, and roughing gouges, and I also use the newer kinds, the ones with replaceable carbide bits.

To sharpen my traditional gouges, I'm switching over to the new CBN wheels on my slow-speed grinder. I also use the Oneway Wolverine sharpening jigs. The Wolverine set consists of two bases, one for each wheel; the grinding jig, the flat platform, and the Vari-Grind tool holder. The full kit goes for about \$153 including the Vari-Grind jig, from Craft Supplies. This setup permits me to replicate the cutting angles on all my gouges. Adding the skew grinding jig permits me to control that tool as well.

I have been using a 180-grit CBN wheel for some time. I recently read an article which talked about how the wood reacts to tools with various edges ground with different grit wheels. The finer the grind, the smoother the surface of the wood becomes. Wood, depending on its hardness, "likes" different cutting angles. A very hard wood needs a higher angle cutting edge. The edge lasts longer while producing the same surface on the wood. A coarser stone on that tool, produces a rougher finish. It makes sense that a coarse grinding wheel transfers to the wood like a coarse grade of sandpaper does and a fine stone would transfer to the tool like a fine grade of sandpaper would.

I wanted to change my coarse white wheel to a fine grit CBN wheel to improve my turning.

I saw an ad in the AAW Journal last month and went to the website of Woodturners Wonders to look at their product line; specifically their CBN wheels. The ad mentioned grits from 80 to 1000, and prices as low as \$100. Woodturners Wonders, I found, sells a lot of different items, including the entire line of Rikon machines. I bought their "Spartan" 600-grit wheel. I also bought a trial pack of 3" mesh sanding discs—similar to the Abranet discs. That's another topic.

I was surprised to get a personal note from the company thanking me for my order. That's remarkable service. I also picked up a tip concerning use of the wheel. I have always sharpened my spindle roughing gouge by placing the end of the gouge handle against the long jig of the Wolverine system and adjusting the gouge bevel against the wheel. They suggest that there is a danger of the gouge slipping off and damaging both the gouge and the wheel. The suggestion is to use the flat plate jig adjusted to the right angle, bring the gouge to the wheel, and roll it from side to side for sharpening. I tried it; it works, and the edge is perfect.

As a test, I sharpened a bowl gouge on the 180-grit CBN wheel and formed a piece of basswood on my lathe at 1500 RPM. –the two left photos on P. 3. Using the same gouge, I then sharpened it with the 600-grit CBN wheel and made another two passes on the same piece of basswood, the two pictures on the right, page 3. I can detect a finer surface on the second sharpened tool, and a better gleam on the surface of the second turned workpiece. I was also surprised to see (middle picture) ribbon-like shavings from the second pass. The initial pass produced a volume of crumbs as shavings.

This is just one test; further testing may refine the study.

Arny

Treasurer's Report April 2018

Balance forward

\$4056.19 Dues \$25.00 Raffle \$38.00 Glue \$.00 Sawdust donations \$5.00 Total Income \$68.00 Balance ending \$4124.19 Karen Drennen/Treasurer

Reminder: Unless you have paid your annual dues by April 1st your name must be removed from the discount list.

Dues through June 2018

The Board of Directors of The Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont gratefully acknowledges the payment of dues from the following members for 2018:

Jay Bailey, Ted Beebe, Dale Bergdahl, Chris Bishop, Bradford Blaisdell, Dave Buchholtz, James Bushey, Sal Chiarelli, Janet Collins, Karen Cutler, Michael Deweese,

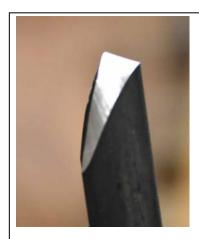
Brad Dinwiddie, Karen Drennen, Greg Drew, Barry Genzlinger, William Durkee, Andrew Durling, Cheryl Ferry, David Ferry, Ted Fink, Joe Fortin, George Gibson, Michael Glod, Linda Hollingdale, Jim Holzschuh, Brad Jackson, Kevin Jenness, Eddie Krasnow, Chris Lumbra, Bob Martin, Timothy Montgomery, Sean Murray, Ted Nelson, William Nestork, Stephen O'Donnell, Bengt Ohman, Mickey Palmer, Mike Papin, Harvie Porter, Randy Ramsden, Brian Reed, Lawrence Rice, David Robistow, Nick Rosato, Sam Sanderson, David Scrase, Edwards Smith, Nancy Smith, Arny Spahn, Cil Spahn, Adam Wagner (50) (Scott Bennett, Russ Fellows, Dick Montague, Michael Mode, Hav Smith and Al Stirt are Honorary Lifetime members, (6)

If you have paid your dues for the year but do not see your name listed here please contact me to correct that error of omission.

Snowflake2017@comcast.net
Dues for 2018 are \$25. Checks should
be made out to "WTNV" and sent
to: Karen Drennen, 12 Winters Court,
Swanton VT 05488

Please note: The following privileges are only available to dues-paying members: Video library use, mentoring program ,bulk purchase discounts such as CA glue and Anchor Seal, Klingspor and Hartville Tool discount lists, (to remain on the discount lists dues must be paid by April 1st each year).

The Sharper, The Better





Sharpened with the 180-grit CBN wheel







Sharpened with the 600-grit CBN wheel

June Meeting Continued

(Continued from page 1)

chucksvt.org and give feedback. Russ Fellows said the next Sawdust Session will be on July 11 as the first Wednesday falls on July 4. Sessions will continue on the first Wednesday in August and September. Tom Dunne is downsizing his shop and has wood to sell for a discount. The raffle was held with 19 participants.

Show and tell: Karen Drennan showed the group some bowls of maple, ash and natural edged cherry. Harvie Porter, Secretary Russ Fellows shared a natural edged bowl of silver maple, a Norfolk pine platter, and a laminated platter.

Chris Bishop shared a bowl of cherry. Nick Rosato shared some mahogany pepper mills. He uses a Crushgrind brand mechanism. He also explained the process he uses to create wine decanter bases. He also presented a winged bowl made from a piece of cherry tree with a burl. The meeting then adjourned to Russ Fellows' presentation of prepping and mounting wood for turning.

Respectfully submitted,





Some of the many raffle items.



Nick showed a new type of pepper grinder using plastics and ceramics. Top right: he had Sean Murray burn titles on the grinders.

Bottom right: an internal groove is needed to snap the mechanism into the wood. Far right: This tool from Sorby is calibrated to put the groove into the wood at the right place.







June Meeting Continued









Karen's Maple bowls.



Her natural-edge bowl.



Tom Dunne brought a part of his collection of exotic planks for sale. He has more. jthomasdunne@gmail.com

802 388 6981



Russ continues to teach us what can be done with wood. Bottom: Norfolk Pine turned perpendicular, rather than parallel to the branches.

June Demo—Prepping for Turning









Crotchwood is a significant source of figured wood. The ideal crotch angle for good "feather" is 30 degrees. To capture good figure, saw either side of the crotch as Nick shows (left picture) and turn down into the crotch. Go too far and you cut through the figure.. You can also cut parallel to the pith (picture above) and get good results. By splitting the wood evenly, it is possible to get two turnings from one log. To the right, Nick talks about using smaller branchings to produce oval, natural-edge vases. It requires skill and care, as much of the rotation of the workpiece is edges flying by the tool.



Tom Dunne talked about using hot glue and braces to attach odd-shaped pieces to MDF backers.





Russ is also an advocate of hot glue. Here he shows an industrial-size glue gun with the larger stick of glue. The stuff can be soaked off with denatured alcohol.

(Continued on Page 7)

June Demo—Prepping for Turning



Russ shows the various shapes possible out of a log.



Making templates of various sizes allows you to get the largest blank out of a log. Nail the template to the round side and bandsaw around it.



Here, Russ points to the segment for a bowl, using a half-log for it's biggest turning.











This is a big driver for roughing out large bowls. It is clamped in position in the jaws of a 4-jaw chuck. Bring the tailstock up and adjust position to center and balance the back of the stock.

bark. These mounting methods pretty much preclude shifting the back end of the stock for better centering.

These are 2 other mounting options.

good solid wood especially through

For security, drill a same-size hole into

(Continued on Page 8)

June Demo—Prepping for Turning



Nick tackles some multi-piece jobs. Here are 2 "saucers" which will be attached to the bases of wine decanters by Simon Pierce Glass. Nick developed jigs and fixtures to allow him to repeat each task and end up with near identical results each time.



Nick was supplied with walnut blocks cut to nearly the precise outer dimensions of the finished saucers.



The first fixture mounts in a chuck and sets the large diameter of the saucer.



The second jig sets the diameter of the base.



This jig is attached to the live center and holds the wood—after a preliminary cutting of a vacancy— to register the piece into a vacuum chuck.



This jig allows Nick to set the depth of the cut.



By registering the piece in the vacuum chuck and removing the jig, Nick can finish turning the interior and get a good, concentric rim and depth.

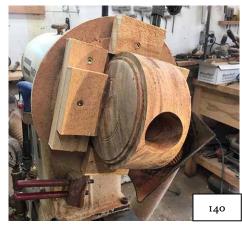
(Continued on Page 8)

It was nice to see such a good turnout for photo also shows significant bark incluour first monthly meeting back at our summer "campus" in Jericho! A summary will appear elsewhere in this issue of Chatter, but I will just say here that I think the "round robin" format worked very well. It was all subject matter we have covered before, but is always helpful to review from time to time, and the input from other members only added to it. By coincidence a few days later I had a chance to use the technique to chuck up an irregularly shaped piece that Tom Dunne talked about. Photo #139 below shows the piece held against a chunk of MDF mounted on a faceplate. The blocks of wood were screwed onto the MDF, and a bead of hot glue was put everywhere the blocks touched the workpiece. A hole was bored with a Forstner bit and cleaned up with a carbide scraper, photo # 140. I then soaked it in alcohol which dissolved the glue residue, photo#141. All worked well.

Crotchwood follow up: we had three



the meeting. The first one I cut in half through the axis parallel to the pith of the branches. Photo #142 shows the flame that resulted. Being soft maple it was not dramatic, kind of long and feather-like. The big piece of ash (which turned out to be basswood! Apologies to whoever got a piece of it in the raffle, it was misidentified!) I cut perpendicular to the branches, and as Nick had suggested, it produced a much wider flame pattern. Photo # 149 shows this quite clearly, but because it is basswood and not cherry or maple, it isn't real spectacular. Maybe after it is turned, sanded, and oiled? The



sion, but I will still rough out a platter, just to see what it does yield for figure. As Ted Fink pointed out to us at the meeting, the crotch needs to be a broader U shape....over 30 degrees?....to be free of bark. This one was not! A couple days after the meeting, Karen Drennen came in to work on the big walnut crotch she had brought in to the meeting for help with. At the meeting we had decided not to cut it down to fit her lathe, so she was back to work on it on my bigger lathe. When we had cut it open.....along the pith....we noted very nice flame figure, but we didn't know how deep it was. We decided to make one thin slab for a platter and a shallow bowl out of one half and a deeper natural edge bowl from the other half, hoping the crotch figure would be preserved in the bottom of the bowl? Right now we have three nice blanks with a lot of good figure showing. She will return in a week to work some more on them. We should pieces of crotch wood under discussion at have something to show at the next meeting!

For further study on crotch wood, Lyle

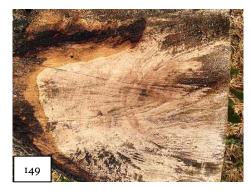


Jamieson has a good video on YouTube on how to make a walnut crotch platter.

Next Sawdust Session is Wednesday, July 11, 5:00 PM, at my studio in Jericho. Next regular meeting is Wednesday July 18, at 7:00, also at my studio in Jericho. Or just stop by if you're in the neighborhood!

Cheers!

Russ Fellows Skunkmen@gmail.com 802-343-0393

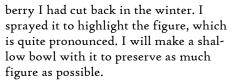


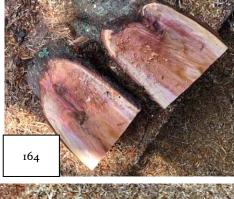


Skunk Hollow Chips & Dust—Russ Fellows Continued

Writing from Florida now.....yes, I know, who goes to Florida in July??....answer: Family gathering. Our club down here had gotten a big load of Norfolk Pine and Cuban mahogany (remember my comment previously about an embarrassment of riches?) the day before I got here, so of course I got involved in processing it! There were several crotch pieces so I thought it would be interesting to compare the two different ways to open a crotch piece. A bit surprisingly, Cuban mahogany, although it has nice even grain, it is not highly figured. Photo # 163 shows the figure when cut along the pith, and Photo # 164 perpendicular to the pith. The latter definitely shows more flame character, but it's not possible to tell how deep it will go until it gets hollowed out. Both pieces had some bark inclusion, so maybe neither will end up being good to finish? Yes Ted, both were well under the minimum 30 degrees! 🚇 By way of comparison, Photo # 171 shows a piece of china-









Russ

SANDING, SANDING - Ted Beebe

I have been turning for about 7 years, and the more I turn; the more I experiment; the more I evolve as a turner. I belong to a club in Florida and one in Vermont, and between the two clubs, there is a tremendous amount of experience and talent. Everything that I know about turning has come from the clubs, club mentors, and experimenting. As I evolve and grow, I find that I reach new levels in some areas, and I get stuck in other areas.

I don't know how many times in the past I have made a few bowls of a certain type, and I have decided that I really like that style; that will be my signature bowl from now on. Shortly thereafter, I am working on a new project and I am heading in a new direction. That is evolution and it is all good.

The one area where I haven't evolved is in the final pass with a gouge or sheer scraper. Some of my friends will make a nice clean cut that allows them to start sanding with 120, or 220 grit. Not me; I'm a sander. I almost always start with

80 grit, and sometimes 60. Sometimes I even do a little shaping with the sandpaper. Most good turners would probably agree that this is not the proper way to finish the turning of a bowl, and I would agree with them. But for me, for now, it gets the job done.

I will say, however, that I have evolved as a sander. So many times I have completed the turning and sanding and I apply the first coat of finish only to realize that I can now see sanding marks or tool marks. You would think that I would learn after having that happen a couple of times, but it has taken me years, and I still miss the marks sometimes. I am doing better as a sander, but I still need to take my sanding to a new level. Most good turners would probably not consider sanding a skill, but I am going to go out on a limb and call it a skill that turners need to develop. As I look at the work of fairly new turners, and sometimes not so new (including my own), I often see room for improvement. Let's stamp out sanding marks and tool marks and be the best sanders we can be. Oh, and one more thing................ I also need to work on that other final pass skill. Maybe I need to spend some time with a club mentor who will likely tell me to use sharper tools, more speed, learn how to sharpen a negative rake scraper, and just use the darn thing. I can do that.

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In the course of helping newer turners learn what the various lathe tools are for, I make reference to carbide alternatives, but until a couple weeks ago, had only one myself to show them, a Hunter hollowing tool with a # 4 cutter, that I use mostly for hollowing out travel mugs. I had seen Harrison Specialties (https:// www.harrisonspecialties.com/) carbide tools advertised, so decided to give them a try. They have been around for a while, were fairly large and not geared toward smaller work pieces. Now, in down-sized form, they are available singly or in different sized kits. I chose the smaller kit, which included a handle and four bits. photo #154 shows what arrived a few days later, safely packaged in high density foam, each bit with an additional plastic tip. Made in Minnesota, and of good quality, I had selected a diamond point, a square point attached at 45 degrees to the handle, a square point with slightly radiused edges, and a 6 mm round, see photo # 178. I already had the larger round Hunter. Fast forward a week. I volunteered to do a demo for my Florida club while down there over the 4th of July holiday, and picked a "wing bowl from a cube" to show them. I had made a Hollow-form this way recently, so thought it would be a good exercise to share. In doing this piece, you make a cube of your selected wood as precisely as possible, and mount it on the lathe on opposing tips. Because in mounting it this way the grain is presented in such a way that you are cutting neither end nor side grain, but rather on the oblique with no "uphill" or "downhill"! This creates a big potential for tear out, and, after several tries with various tools was "tamed" only with my new carbide tools, the radiused square for the outside, and the 6mm round for the inside. See photo #175. It didn't hurt that the tools were brand new and VERY sharp!

The other test was a tool handle I made for a friend out of a block of cast epoxy. This material turns very easily, but sands with great difficulty! I thought maybe the carbide would give me a cleaner cut, which it did, and reduce the amount of sanding, which it did not! Photo # 176

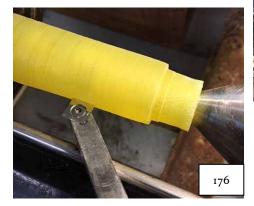
shows the 45 degree square on the piece, photo # 177 shows the nice "angel hair" shavings it made. I still had to sand and polish through all the grits to get the epoxy to shine, which was what I wanted, as I had embedded a piece of burl in the casting. I will have a couple epoxy pieces for "show & tell" at future meetings.

Summary: would I recommend carbide tools? Yes. They are a good addition to your tool arsenal, but will not replace the primary gouges and scrapers needed for the work most us do. They are really detailing tools, and great at that.

Russ Fellows











Woodchuck Chatter

The Resource Page—Additions Welcome If you see any corrections needed, please let us know.

Volume 15, Number 7

- 1) Lathrop Maple Supply, Hewitt Rd, Bristol, Vermont, 802-453-2897. With a newly expanded inventory area, Tom has a fantastic supply of local and imported wood. His new division, "Exclusively Vermont, LLC, specializes in high quality Vermont lumber and mill products and FSC stock is available.
- 2) Hayley Wood Products in Colchester.(http://www.hayleywoodproducts.com/).
- 3) Sutherland Welles Ltd., No. Hyde Park, VT, 800-322-1245. (<u>www.sutherlandwelles.com</u>). Right here in our own back yard, they make the best Tung oil products in the U S. Call with an order and it goes out the same day!
- 4) Bad Dogs Burl Source,(<u>www.burlsource.com</u>) They are down in Belchertown, MA and have an incredible inventory of Australian and North American burls. 413-213-0248
- 5) Johnson Lumber, Route 116 in Bristol, VT. 802-453-4884. Another good "local" source for hardwood lumber of all kinds.
- 6) <u>www.exoticwoodsusa.com</u>. They offer a 15% discount to any member of an AAW chapter. Type in 'exoticwoodsusaaaw' in the coupon code box.
- 7)Griffin Exotic Woods These folks came up in a search for something else, and I ended up buying a couple things from them. Their prices were fair and the service was good. http://www.exoticwood.biz/
- 8) Sinclair Mill Works in North Danville VT http://www.sinclairmillworks.com/home.htm. 802-748-0948. He specializes in figure Vermont species. His prices are very reasonable.
- 9) Woodturning Videos and eBooks by Steven D. Russell http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/. This website is full of tips & instructions for turners.
- 10) Mike Jackofsky—hollowing tools. <u>www.mikejackofsky.com</u>. Also sells thru Craft Supply.
- 11) Business cards and other printed goods: Vistaprint.com
- 12) Laser engraving—Maple Land Mark Woodcraft. 800-421-4223 They are in Middlebury. www.maplelandmark.com
- 13) Les Dougherty & Susan Curington Owners, North Woods Figured Wood North Woods,. LLC PO Box 808 Forest Grove OR 97116 800-556-3106, 503-357-9953 www.nwfiguredwoods.com offers lifetime 15% discount on any website wood purchase. Use "WOODTURNERS" coupon code at checkout. www.nwfiguredwoods.com
- 14) Paw Prints Printing <u>WWW.paw-prints.com</u> 802 865 2872 Gregory Drive South Burlington, VT 05403
- 15) Your NEW colored plywood source. trethaway@comcast.net. Has scraps of colored plywood for resale. Listed on eBay as scratch1oto12.
- 16) The Tree House, hardwoods & mill shop. Native woods, priced from \$5.00. 1891 Williston Rd., 802-497-3530. www.treehousehardwoods.com
- 17) Suffolk Saw of New England, Jeff & Danielle Mellott; 33 Gaudet Dr., Belmont, NH, 03220 877-550-7297

In House Demos:

All demos and dates are tentative until they appear on Page 1 of the newsletter.

July 18th—At Skunk Hollow—Surface Prep. & Finishes—Round Table

August 18th or 25th (?)

Annual Picnic—Al Stirt
will be invited to
demonstrate.

★ September 19th—Board
 ★ nominations—Possible
 ★ Remote Demo featuring a
 ★ nationally known turner
 ↓ Location TBA

October 10th—Board meeting at Sal Chiarelli-s home in Essex.

October 17th— At CVU—
 Tools you have made/
 modified, jigs & fixtures.

Classified Ads

Free To Members

6" Delta jointer, 2nd set new knives. \$275 Joe Fortin 498-4276

Woodchuck Mentors

These Woodchucks are able and willing to help other Woodchucks wanting some hands-on instruction.

Craig Hall: Bowls, spindles, & hollow forms.
802-644-5344
craighall@hotmail.com
Cambridge

Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening. 802-584-3486
Montagueturn@gmail.com

Ralph Tursini: Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking. 802-899-6863

Groton

info@vermontwoodturning.com Cambridge

Russ Fellows: Segmented vessels. 802-899-3059 skunkmen@gmail.com Jericho

Bill Walsh: tool sharpening 802-839-6332 billiriquois@yahoo.com Northfield

Greg Drew: Tool skills. Finishes.. Portable mill & chainsaw work. 802-527-6207 personal-woodsmythe@yahoo.com Georgia

Nick Rosato The Sculpted Tree 802-999-2976

nickrosato@gmail.com
General turning

WTNV Liability Insurance

Liability Insurance Policy

As of April 2013 we are covered by a liability policy with the following limits: Each occurrence: 2M; Damage to rented premises: 1M; Med expenses: 10K; Personal injury: 2M; General aggregate: 4M; Products aggregate: 4M.

The Hartford; Agent; Michael George: (317) 735 4072; mgeorge@amj_ins.com

This policy covers all members at all

WTNV events.

If you are demonstrating, this policy will not cover any claim if you are being compensated either by commission or sale of your turnings. In other words, this does not serve as an individual business policy.