

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



January 11, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 1

## THE NEWSLETTER OF WOODCHUCK TURNERS OF NORTHERN VERMONT

An Affiliate of American Association of Woodturners

[WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org](http://WWW.WOODCHUCKSVT.org)

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The January 2008 meeting will take place on the **4th Thursday of the month, the 24th**, at our new location, The Shelburne Art Center woodshop. Starting time is the same, 7 PM.

Directions: From the 4 corners light at the center of Shelburne village, Proceed about 250 feet west on Harbor Rd. Immediately before the RR tracks on the right is the Shelburne Art Center studios and workshops. The wood shop is the one farthest from the road. Parking is to the left just before the RR tracks in the

"SHELBURNE STATION".

The January meeting is an extended 'show and tell' where all members are encouraged to bring in anything they have learned in the last year and educate the rest of us. It can consist of a new tool or technique, unique piece of wood, a success, a failure or anything else that might be of interest to woodturners.



### Greetings From Skunk Hollow



Happy New Year my stalwart fellow members,

I will be ringing in the new year with shoulder surgery! (not a

new injury.....a longstanding problem, finally getting fixed) My date is next Tuesday the 8th. While it seems quite likely I will survive the procedure, it is the recovery and rehab that will be the real trial! Based on what they are telling me, I doubt I will be sufficiently back on my feet to make the January meeting, as I know the first three or four weeks I will be little more than in "couch potato" mode. I will

keep you posted on the progress, and, if all goes well, should be OK for February.

Thanks!!

**Russ**

PS Joe, because of your self-confessed 'spirit of informality' with e-mail, I will call you! ;-)

Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

Board of Directors

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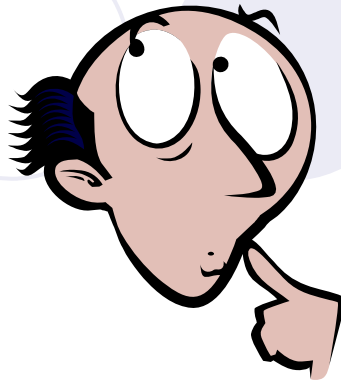
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Woodchuck Chatter will be published monthly. Deadline for submissions is the 7th of the month. Please E-mail all submissions to the Editor in text or Word format. Visuals can be submitted as JPEG or TIFF.



Happy New Year to y'all. Your Scribe has spent the part of the month that wasn't Christmas-oriented working on Woodchuck items.

You will see that I have attached two versions of the complete index to Woodchuck Chatter. This is the first Index I have ever written, so it may not be totally consistent. I hope it's useful, any way. I would appreciate any thoughts on how to make it better. The Index is available because that curmudgeon, Hav Smith, "suggested" that no good publication should be without one.

I also have the info in an Excel data format which I would be happy to share so you could sort in any fashion you wish.

The look of Chatter has also been modified slightly, more or less just to wake up the readers.

While I was building up the Index, I glanced through the last year's issues. Somehow, it felt like a time warp. I didn't remember writing some things when I did. I was especially amused—and abashed—at what I wrote last January about wanting to get done. I hope the rest of you did better than I did. I did some cleanup, I sharpened some tools, and I knew what I had for wood to work with. We did do one Elderhostel last year instead of 2, but our motor home never left its shelter. Both of us had prolonged health problems, unfortunately. That's why I didn't get more turning or travelling done.

It really cut my enthusiasm for everything. So, I'll print out that last New Year column and try again.

One project I have worked on for the 'chucks is copying our original tape library to DVD. That's not complete yet, but it's well past the half-way mark. I put a tape in, fire up the DVD writing program, and half-watch, half-listen as I work on something else at the computer. There are some really interesting work methods

shown, and some fine collections of work. I sometimes get put off by the British accents and terms, but I soldier through anyway.

I am still ambivalent about how much ornamentation a vessel can have before it is no longer primarily a turning.

My column here seems to have turned more into a philosophy exercise than into the hot news about woodworking in general, turning in particular. I'm OK with that. Everything that I do, is only part of what I do, and the edges overlap. One thing I strive for is to not become so entangled in any activity that I drop all else I'm interested in. So, if I interject some outlandish stuff into my random shots, enjoy it and don't call the guys in white suits with butterfly nets. I'm just fine and still a Woodchuck turner at heart.

I'm a little late getting Chatter out. We had windstorms Wednesday which took out our power. It was late Thursday before we got it back. No power, no computer.

I have about run out of cast-off wooden pieces to use as kindling, so I better get back to work downstairs.

Arny

Book Review

"The Woodturner's Companion" by Ron Roszkiewicz, ISBN 0-8069-7940-2, 243 pages, \$16.95.

This book in softcover, original printing in 1984, is a valuable resource for the woodturning student. Ron explains the reasons behind each tool used in turning in great depth. There are paragraphs devoted to cutting tools, holding tools, wood, and measuring.

The blurb on the back cover states that Ron was a tool designer and catalogue director for Woodcraft Supply Corp., which explains why he is so thorough in discussing the way each tool is made, how to sharpen them, and how to use them to achieve the best results. The book is not project oriented but method oriented. It is a great study for the person who wants to know why a given tool or technique is best in a given application. For example, Ron tells us that the use of any scraper on a hardwood spindle is counter productive because the tool tears up the surface, requiring sanding, which softens the shapes of the cuts.

He goes on to say that the results of bad technique in spindle turning is the reason so many turners choose to turn large bowls and other vessels.

Ron's choice of tools for spindle-turning is first, the roughing gouge. Next is the parting tool, used to make initial cuts to define the proportions of the object. Spindle gouges are then used to form the concave surfaces of the work. He recommends a symmetrical fingernail grind with no flat spots. Skews are also dealt with, and his recommendation is a flat bevel, with the sharp tool body corners nicely rounded & polished.

The tone of the book is that of a text for study toward a bachelor's degree in practical fine arts.



Arny Spahn

This is an important announcement from the AAW Insurance Advisory Committee. Most professional turners know that their homeowner's insurance policy does not cover their private business activities, inventory, teaching, equipment and property. Most of them have either done without insurance at great risk, or at great expense and effort, have found an agent to cover them. On the other hand, most of the rest of us assume that our homeowner's policy insures us even if we do some sales of our work or occasional teaching. Laws that regulate insurance vary from state to state. In North Carolina, it used to be that activities that were occasional in nature and did not amount to a "substantial" amount of income were covered by one's homeowner's policy. A few years ago, it changed to say that "any" activity that was commercial in nature, no matter how few dollars were involved, was not covered. That means that if someone came to my home to buy a piece and was injured, or if my shop burned, or my tools were stolen, or I taught a private class, I would not be covered. Each member should check with your own insurance agent to see if all of your activities are covered by your homeowner's insurance policy.

As a service to our members (no part of the premiums go to AAW), the AAW has sought out group policies that individual members can purchase at reasonable rates to cover their commercial activities of woodturning. The first policy that we have found can insure AAW members in the USA with the exception of California, Hawaii, Louisiana, and Washington DC. This policy will cover woodturners whether they work from their home or from a separate studio. Since we first announced this policy 2 years ago, many AAW members have signed up. We have also found a second policy

that will cover in all states but only if the studio is in the home. If someone can recommend insurers that will cover Canadian, foreign, or members in these excluded locations with separate studios, please let the AAW know. Smith, Bell, and Thompson Insurance of Hilb, Rogal and Hobbs, a large and well-respected national firm offers the policies that the AAW is sponsoring. They have been offering a similar policy to members of the American Crafts Council (ACC). The first underlying policy is with OCG, the Ohio Casualty Group. This policy includes \$1,000,000 general liability, \$1,000,000 for products liability, \$10,000 medical expense, \$300,000 fire legal liability, and with building and personal property for any amount of your choosing, from \$2,500 up to \$100,000. The second policy is with RLI Insurance Company and includes the same liability limits with options for personal property in any amount from 5,000 up to 50,000 for your in home studio operations.

Each person's coverage will be the same except for the building and personal property coverage. Your premium will be based on your location and how much building and personal property coverage that you request. To apply and receive a premium quote, download an application at [http://www.woodturner.org/community/pop/insurance\\_info.html](http://www.woodturner.org/community/pop/insurance_info.html), print it, fill it out, and mail or fax it to the address on the application. You must be an AAW member to apply.

### AAW Professional Insurance Program Summary

Below is a summary of the policy benefits to any insured member. The policy will pay the actual amount of the loss sustained up to the following limits:

Building: Building amount that you choose

- Business Personal Property Limit: Contents amount that you choose
- Loss of Income Limit: Actual loss Sustained
- Money & Securities Limits: (On Premises) \$10,000
- Sign Coverage: \$10,000
- Valuable Papers Limit: \$25,000
- Accounts Receivable Limit: \$25,000
- Seasonal Increase Limit: 25% of Contents
- In-Transit Limit/Off Premises Limit: \$25,000
- Employee Dishonesty \$10,000
- Fire Department Service Charge \$15,000
- Interior Glass \$100/pane, \$1,000/occurrence
- Pollutant Clean \$10,000
- Personal Effects \$2,500/5,000
- Newly Acquired Property (Building) 25% up to \$100,000 (Contents) \$25,000
- Debris Removal \$25,000
- Jewelry - Theft Limitation \$5,000
- Business Computer \$25,000
- COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY
- Each Occurrence Limit: \$1,000,000
- Products Liability \$1,000,000
- Aggregate Limit: \$2,000,000
- Medical Expenses \$10,000
- Fire Legal Liability Limit: \$300,000
- CONDITIONS:
- DEDUCTIBLE: \$500
- VALUATION: Replacement Cost
- COINSURANCE: None
- COVERAGE: Special (All Risk)

## Treasurer's report

### Treasurer's Report

#### (from December)

Balance Forward	\$2626.12
Income:	
Raffle	32
Dues	20
Expenses:	
SKB Party goods	40
Bnk Chg.	50.56
DVD's #3	80.96
Balance Forward	\$2506.60



### Treasurer's Report

#### (January)

Current balance \$2506.60 unchanged from last report.

Ted Fink

## In House Demos:

January 24.  
Round table on  
skills, techniques.  
February 21. Hook  
tools. A follow-up to  
Al Lacer's  
presentation.  
March 20.  
End grain turning.  
Covered boxes.  
April 9.  
Spring Board  
meeting.  
April 17.  
Thread chasing.  
Threaded lids. Craig  
Hall.  
May 15.  
Green bowl turning.  
Ralph Tursini.  
June 19.  
Drying green wood.  
July 17.  
Open.  
August 21.  
Picnic meeting.

## Lessons From The Sharpening Bench –Tuning Your Turning



“Ted’s Turn” by Ted Fink has retired for now and Ted has been one of my best examples that teachers can always learn from their students. For 50 years I have taught turning and a wide range of “shop” and technical subjects to students from 8 to 80. I mention this because when you get advice or see information, part of judging its accuracy or value is to know the source and understand the author’s point of view. For example, for a given set of circumstances, I think there is a “right” way. Please note the first part of that sentence. A person in a wheelchair or with bad knees cannot move the upper body in the smooth balanced way that gives the most control to the tool movement. The rapid efficient cut used by Richard Raffan to hollow a box, sometimes called “the Raffan cut”, is one I first saw him make years ago at a workshop in Saskatoon. If you are making boxes or other similar pieces it is an excellent technique. But, if you are using your last piece of special wood for a project with a deadline, this may not be the time to refer to Raffan’s *Turning Wood* book and make your first attempt at this somewhat risky cut.

In addition to there being a right way for each circumstance, I am suspicious of hard and fast “RULES.” An example is, “The tool rest should be 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch below the lathe axis (i.e., point of the live center). I believe the height should be what gives you the most control of the cut. This means that you are in a neutral position, not reaching up or down. The height may need adjusting as you reduce work diameter or change tool size or even if you use

the same tool in a different attitude to the work. When showing a shorter or taller person a technique, they are apt to be more comfortable (translate: have more control) with small changes in tool rest position. Another tool rest rule is that it should be as close as possible to the work. This may give a slight advantage in leverage, but it can also lead to the intersection of the bevel heel and the tool body scratching or grooving the tool rest. These nicks will catch the tool as it moves and prevent the smooth motion necessary for controlled cuts. I like thinking in terms of positioning the tool rest for maximum control while causing no damage. There are techniques that allow control when reaching beyond the rest. When you run into a “rule” think about the intent and make your own based on understanding what will let you control the results in the most efficient way consistent with your needs, skill level, time, and temperament.

Another tip that gives more control is to dress that part of your tool rest touched by the tool. First file it straight and remove all scratches and nicks. Unless it is very bad, a single-cut file should do. The double cut will remove metal faster but leave a rougher surface. I like to leave a radius along the tool contact area with no corners. After filing, sand using a flat block. I use 220, 320, and 400 followed by a quick rub with a block into which has been rubbed Tripoli buffing compound. (I wipe down with a rag between grits as you would with wood.) I then wipe with “Top Coat” or wax. Be sure to rub off the surface wax as it is often sticky and creates the problem you are trying to fix. In a day of turning I check the rest often and give it a quick sand and wax if needed. Related to this is sanding and polishing the shaft of the tool anywhere it might touch the rest. If you look and run your fingernail along most new tools you can see and feel the fine edges left from grinding or

abrading the surface. These act like a fine sharp file on your rest. A one-time sanding with the length of the tool followed by buffing on a cloth wheel using white (stainless), green (chromium oxide), Tripoli, or other metal compound followed by wax and a wipe will give the tool a silky smooth movement along the rest. Any tool with a sharp square edge along its length should have that edge rounded slightly, then sanded, polished and waxed. The corner of square edged tools will remove a shaving from the rest if moved along at an angle while cutting (shear scraping or skew work). HS Steel, after all, was developed for metal cutting. All of this may sound like a lot of work. It is not unless your rest is in very bad shape. In this case it is important to take whatever time is needed. Once smooth, a minute or so once in a while will pay big dividends in control.

You may have noticed my use of “control”. I believe the effort and time to turn knowledge and skills into the habits-of-mind needed to control the tools, materials and equipment of turning will make you free to create what you wish. I like to consider from time to time a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, “*The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.*” If the amount of food you put on the table depends on the amount of turning you put out the door you may have other quotes or priorities that guide you. I still believe there is a right way for your circumstance and that in the end the above quote will apply.

If you have questions, comments, quotes, or other points of view on the above or any turning topic, please give me a call or send an e-mail.

Richard Montague  
802-584-3486

[montagueturn@hotmail.com](mailto:montagueturn@hotmail.com)



Kip Christensen has informed the AAW that the Utah Symposium will no longer be held at Brigham Young University. In 2008 the Utah Symposium will be held at the Utah Valley State College, which is close to

BYU, on May 22 - 24, 2008. This change in dates is important to the entire woodturning community because the dates no longer conflict with the AAW Richmond Symposium on June 20 - 22 2008. Attendees and demonstrators are now free to attend both Symposia instead of having to choose between one and the other.

For some reason Kip will not be able to get the word out very soon, so the AAW wishes to do so via this mass e-mail to the Chapter Presidents. Please inform your members of this change in place and dates. Angelo can be reached at [angelo@woodturner.org](mailto:angelo@woodturner.org).

Dear AAW Members,

Welcome to the New Year and best wishes from everyone at the AAW headquarters in St. Paul. We are enjoying a real Minnesota winter for a change, with plenty of snow and hundreds of skaters daily using the rink right outside our offices and gallery in historic Landmark Center. 2007 was a year of change for your association. I am honored the board selected me as AAW's first full-time executive director just over a year ago. After a year on the job I am more excited than ever about the association's continued growth and truly amazing record of accomplishment as well as by the potential to do even more to better serve our members in the future.

A few highlights of the past year:

- We welcome Tom Wirsing and Corey Anderson to the AAW board of directors and, at the same time, thank Tony Cortese and Sean Troy for their service to AAW during their tenure as board members.

- We have had several staff changes at AAW. Tib Shaw became the first full-time coordinator at the AAW Gallery of Wood Art in Landmark Center. Under Tib's leadership and creative initiatives we already are seeing increased visibility and attendance. Linda Ferber is the new AAW office manager. Linda brings years of administrative experience to her position and is a woodturner as well. She replaces Eunice Wynn who is retiring in March, 2008 after over fifteen years of service. We thank Eunice for her dedication and long service to AAW.

- The 2007 Portland, Oregon symposium was a great success, and we look forward to another well-attended symposium June 20-22, 2008 at Richmond, Virginia.

- AAW's membership base continues to grow. At the end of 2007 there were over 13,000 active members and 277 local chapters. AAW has members on every continent except Antarctica, and we are working on that! Our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your interest and support.

- The new AAW Star Chapter program that recognizes local chapters which achieve 100% membership in AAW is off to an excellent start with seven chapters so recognized during the first year of this program. These Chapters are:  
Central Florida Woodturners  
Central Illinois Woodturners  
Gold Country Turners (California)  
Northwest Michigan Woodturners  
Peace River Woodturners (Florida)  
San Diego Woodturners  
Southern Oregon Woodturners

- Throughout 2007 the AAW board of directors engaged in a board development and strategic planning process designed to help focus time and effort on shared long-range strategic policy issues. The board approved a complete set of new board policies late in 2007. A new AAW strategic plan is nearing completion and should be ready for board review and adoption during the first quarter of 2008.

(Continued on page 6)

#### Woodchuck Mentors

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

*Craig Hall: Bowls, spindles, & hollow forms.*

*802-644-5344*

*craighall@hotmail.com*

*Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.*

*802-584-3486*

*Montagueturn@hotmail.com*

*Ralph Tursini: Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking.*

*802-899-6863*

*Tursini@pshift.com*

*Ted Fink: Bowls, spindles, & boxes.*

*802-985-2923*

*jantedfink@gmail.com*

*Russ Fellows: Segmented vessels.*

*802-899-3059*

*skunkmen@together.net*

## Policy on AAW Liability Insurance

Members of WTNV who are giving public demonstrations are covered by the AAW-sponsored liability policy under the following conditions:

You must be a member of

AAW and WTNV.

The event must be "sanctioned" by WTNV. That is, you must notify the Treasurer, who will provide a copy of the cover sheet for the policy. You

must also notify the editor of Chatter so you can be listed in Future Woodchuck Sightings.

The demonstration must have wood turning as the main subject.

Classifieds:

I operate a cabinet shop in Charlotte and have a General 260 (with 20" riser) for sale. It is in good condition, and I would like \$2,000.

Perhaps this might be of interest to one of the Woodchucks.

Thanks,  
Rich Steele

(802)425-5665

[rsbrass@gmavt.net](mailto:rsbrass@gmavt.net)

(Continued from page 5)

• During 2007 we acquired and installed new integrated membership database management software. This new software system already is making it easier for AAW members to renew or change their membership profile information, register for the annual symposium, order merchandise and cast ballots in the annual board election.

• Board, staff and professional members are working together to restructure the AAW Professional Outreach Program to better serve and recognize the needs of this group of AAW members.

These are just a few of the things AAW has been working on during the past year. As always, feel free to contact us via letter, email or telephone whenever you have questions or need information about the association or woodturning in general.

Thank you.

Lawrence Sommer  
AAW Executive Director

Scholarships

This announcement to all AAW POP members is to advise you of the availability of scholarships to attend Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colorado. The deadline for 2008 scholarships is soon so if you are interested, be sure and submit your application as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity to study under other "Masters" and further your own artistic career.

Visit <http://www.andersonranch.org/workshops/index.php?page=scholarships> for more information and an application.

Good luck.

John Hill  
AAW Chapters and Membership Committee  
[Johnhill6@verizon.net](mailto:Johnhill6@verizon.net)

To update your personal information, click on this link or cut and paste it into your browser:

<http://woodturner.org/community/members/signup.pl?submit=Update&uid=MFSMHTpCmXAnS8dURrn3>

Then update your information, click on Save, and your new information will be added to the database.

AAW Chapter Liability Insurance certificate

Each year, the AAW furnishes a certificate of insurance called an ACORD, to each AAW chapter. These will be mailed out by the insurance company in the next two weeks. They will mail them to the person that was listed as your chapter contact as of January 1, 2008. If you don't receive yours, please check with the person in your chapter that was listed as the contact last year as it should be mailed to them.

Most landlords that may require your chapter to have liability insurance will accept a copy of this ACORD as proof of insurance. If however, one requires that they be named as an additional named insured, please furnish the AAW office a letter requesting that the landlord be added and give them the exact name and address of the person or company to be added. Since the AAW furnishes this insurance to the chapters and does not charge the chapters for this benefit, many chapters appreciate this coverage and donate \$1 per chapter member to the AAW. This is not required but is greatly appreciated.

If you have questions, please just let me know.

Thanks  
John Hill –AAW Insurance Advisory Committee

AAW Board Nominations

You will note that I'm sending you this message as Nominating Committee Chair, not the usual Chap-

ters Chair. Yes, I am a glutton for punishment!!

It is time to begin the process of electing three new members to the AAW Board. A principal responsibility of the Nominating Committee is to "seek out and encourage qualified candidates" to offer themselves as candidates for the Board. The qualifications and process of electing new Board members is outlined completely on p.28 of the Resource Directory. While the AAW leadership is aware of some people who would be good Board members, we certainly do not know even a fraction of the 13,200+ AAW members who would be a good Board member.

Please look over your Chapter membership list and see if you can identify someone who you think might be a good Board member. Please do not overlook yourself, because as Chapter President you already have demonstrated a willingness to lead.

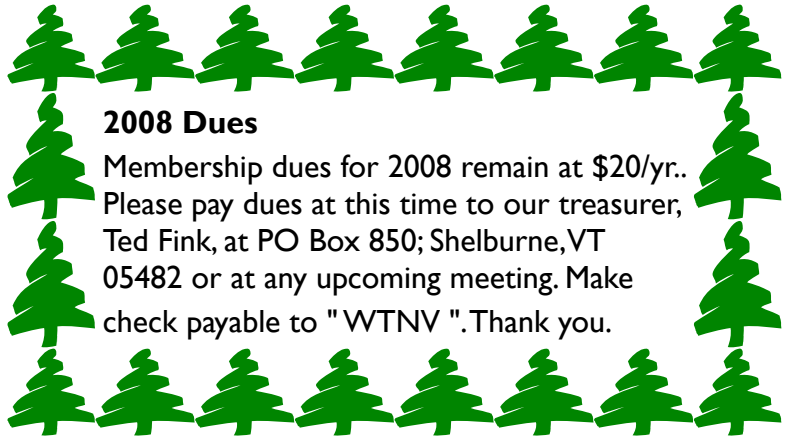
The members of the Nominating Committee are Don Derry, John Hill and me. Please let one of us know the names and contact information of anyone you think might have the interest and ability to run for the Board. We will approach these persons and initiate the process -- all I am asking you to do is identify those people.

As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or comments.

Regards, Larry

**The Newsletter of  
Woodchuck Turners  
of Northern Vermont**

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Randolph, VT  
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**2008 Dues**

Membership dues for 2008 remain at \$20/yr.. Please pay dues at this time to our treasurer, Ted Fink, at PO Box 850; Shelburne, VT 05482 or at any upcoming meeting. Make check payable to "WTNV ". Thank you.

## Policy On Borrowing The Club Lathe and Tent

This is the policy which was formulated at the October 2004 Board meeting. It was first printed in the October 2004 Woodchuck Chatter.

The primary goal in buying these tools is to have good equipment available so we can demonstrate in public, thereby attracting new members and recruiting would-be turners.

All members in good standing (paid up dues) are eligible to bor-

row the equipment primarily for demonstration purposes. We may borrow the equipment for ONE WEEK at a time. The Treasurer is responsible for knowing where the equipment is at any time; therefore the borrower is responsible to sign the equipment out—by phone or in person— and back in.

The lathe and its parts are a unit. Don't ask to borrow only the chuck or other parts.

The borrower is responsible for transporting the equipment to and from its storage location. The

borrower is responsible for returning the equipment in excellent condition with all its parts intact.

The borrower is responsible for any liability rising from the use of the equipment.

Only club members may operate our lathe to avoid litigation by untrained turners.

The Chapter has first dibs on all equipment so that we can show our stuff at public events.