

# WOODCHUCK CHATTER



March 10, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 3

## 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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### Next Meeting: March 20, 2008

The March 20th meeting will be 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".

Topic: Turning Vase Forms and End-Grain hollowing with the hook tool.

Techniques/areas covered:



Removing the blank from the tree and grain orientation.

Spindle turning techniques for the outside profiles  
Deep hollowing with a hook tool.

### Pay Up, Please

Annual 2008 dues for WTNV membership are still being accepted. At twenty dollars it is still a great bargain. Please make check payable to **WTNV** and send them to our treasurer, Ted Fink at PO Box 850; Shelburne, VT 05482. Thank you.

### February Meeting Notes

Monthly Meeting 2/21/2008

Meeting called to order by president Russ Fellows. The members and visitors introduced themselves.

#### Old Business

Minutes ok.

No expenses in the past month as reported by Ted. Russ brought up insurance again – very important

to check your coverage.

Mickey Palmer is making a video that will be available in the club library when completed. The video shows Russ & Arny making their versions of segmented/laminated vessels.

Web Site: Members can submit three photos

(Continued on page 3)

## Woodchuck Chatter

### Woodchuck Turners of Northern Vermont

#### Board of Directors

President: Russ Fellows  
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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.

## Random Shots



President Russ recently gave me a nudge about including an article which is in the latest *American Woodturner*. The article is titled "Food-Safe Finishes" by Bob Flexner. The article isn't in electronic format, which would make it easy to use by a computer jockey. There's also the question of permission to copy, which I bet AW would be glad to give out. I urge you to read the article in full. Yes, you need to either find AW on the newsstand of your favorite Big Box bookstore or better yet, become a member of AAW & get the quarterly magazine.

This is only a précis of the article, which delves into why the question has paralyzed so many woodworkers over the last 30 or so years.

Most paints and varnishes contain driers to speed curing. Driers usually have a metal ingredient, and many metals are toxic to some extent. Prior to the Consumer Safety Commission banned lead in paints in 1978, most paint manufacturers had already stopped using it years before. Since 1979, warnings of lead in clear finishes has been moot. Behlen and other manufacturers typically label part of their line as food safe, primarily as a

marketing strategy. As a conscientious craftsman, wouldn't you feel better about using a finish which was clearly labeled "food safe"? Certainly.

Bob Flexner lowers the rhetoric with this article first by pointing out that the USDA regards the non-lead driers in paints as safe for food contact. Second, he gives us a test for further safety. Smell the finished article. If you can smell any solvent odor, the finish isn't cured. Curing binds the solids so they can't be transferred. A secondary thought is that you probably wouldn't want to eat a salad liberally dressed in most solvents.

Arny

## From the Chairman of The Board

Greetings fellow Woodchucks! Ah the hint of Spring in the air.....and I hope it finds you all well and busy "chewing away" in your shops! Of course we all know that even though we have had a couple days in the 50s, we have a long way to go before the doors can be left open! It is however, always a little victory to leave January and February behind! Since the April issue of "Chatter" may not reach you in time, I want to remind you that on Wednesday April 9th my partner and I will be hosting the Spring Woodchuck board meeting at our home in Jericho and it is open to all. We welcome input from all members. Our home is an early-eighties-vintage earth-sheltered structure if that piques your curiosity, and I am happy to give shop tours as well. If you would like to attend, please let me know by Sunday the 6th, either by email to [skunkmen@together.net](mailto:skunkmen@together.net) or phone 899-3059. I will mention this at the meeting on March 20th also.

I was very surprised to discover that as of a couple days ago, according to the Vermont Crafts Council website (<http://www.vermontcrafts.com/>) they were still accepting applications for Open Studio Weekend. As I mentioned back at our November meeting, normally this event is closed by mid-December. So if you have any thoughts of participating but thought you had missed it, check it out immediately. This door could close any minute! Other very time-sensitive notes that I mentioned at last month's meeting: Vermont Woodnet (<http://www.vtwoodnet.org/>) is sponsoring two seminars that might be of interest to you, one on digital photography and one on marketing. These seminars are in the very near future, so check their website for availability. By our next meeting it will be too late! Hope to see you all at our next meeting on the 20th at our new meeting place in Shelburne. If you haven't yet attended, directions are posted elsewhere in this issue of "Chatter".

Cheers,  
Russ Fellows



## Tips From The Wise Woodchuck

### How to sand the inside of small holes.

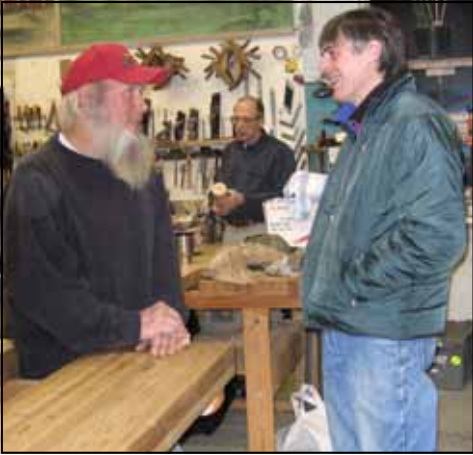
I roll up a piece of 400p abrasive paper in a tiny tube that is a little longer than the hole depth--leave something with which to hang on. It should be a little smaller in diameter than the hole. Sometimes a little working in and out is all that is needed. For something like the spool adapter sanding can be done while the lathe is turning. You will quickly learn that the direction of the wrap around the tube must be the same as the

direction of lathe rotation. Otherwise it instantly jams in the hole. When you reverse the lathe simply pull out the tube and turn it around end for end. Turn both ways to cut off the fibers left by the drill. **Dick Montague**



(Continued from page 1)

of their work to Jim Cunningham for publishing on the web site.



Woodbury's – Scott is still in operation and will contact us if/when his status changes.

Bob Bouvier – Vermont WoodNet is offering two seminars of interest:

Photoshop Elements

Marketing - UVM Extension Forestry, VT Small Business Development Center and VT WoodNet are jointly sponsoring this marketing workshop for small woodworkers and other interested parties.

The workshop on Elements starts on 3/25. This will be offered at two sites at the same time. CVU for the greater Burlington area and Randolph VTC. The marketing course is a one day event 3/11 @ UVM and on 3/19 @VTC.



Next Woodchuck meeting 3/20 @ Shelburne Art Center

Board Meeting 4/9 @ Russ Fellows in Jericho

National Symposium June 20-22, Richmond VA

Discussion on bulk purchasing for items like CA Glue, Epoxy, Anchor-seal. Russ will



start a list of items and interested parties.

Joe Powers had some wood that he wished to have turned for a display at Shelburne Farms.



Raffle: Several pieces of sycamore, spalted maple, etc.



OK, Ted; what kind of wood is it??

Show & Tell



He showed several nice pieces, including this one of Camphor wood.



# Ted's Turn: Discounts & Education

## Member Discount Summary

Four purveyors of woodturning and general woodworking equipment, tools, accessories and supplies have offered our members merchandise discounts/benefits. The first 2 listed here (Klingspor and Hartville) require that you sign up and have your information on a list which I update at least annually in writing to them. The third (Woodworker's Supply) is the most recent addition. I have not used their discount program yet so, if you have any feedback once you have used them, please let me know.

1) Klingspor is primarily in the business of selling abrasives but they continue to expand their scope to include tools and other supplies.

They offer a 10% discount on everything in their catalog except power tools. Also, **phone orders only.**

[www.woodworkingshop.com](http://www.woodworkingshop.com)

1 800 228 0000

2) Hartville Tool of Hartville, OH has a full range of woodworking tools, equipment and accessories and have recently greatly ex-

panded their woodturning-related offerings. The current discount is 15% until mid summer 2008 then it drops to 10% thereafter.

[www.hartvelletool.com](http://www.hartvelletool.com) | 800 345 2396. Once you have signed up and registered online your discounts will come up automatically when purchase online.

3) Woodworker's Supply has just started what they are calling their **Pro Woodworker Program**. As a member of WTNV you are eligible for this program even if you are not a professional woodworker. To register go to their website [www.pro.woodworker.com](http://www.pro.woodworker.com). Choose "woodworking club" under the "business type" section. I spoke with the program director, Mark Tompkins, who stated the amount of discount varies. It is minimal on equipment, better on hand tools and best on supplies due to the markup on the respective categories of items. Call 1 800 321 9841 to register if you do not wish to do so online.

4) Craft Supply continues to supply Merchandise Certificates of which I just received nine. They have

been reduced to \$10 each and will be raffled at monthly meetings.

[www.woodturningcatalog.com](http://www.woodturningcatalog.com) | 800 551 8876. Also new offering: all club members can receive a 10% discount on all abrasive discs and finishes but you must mention the source code **CLUB-MEM**. It is the responsibility of the member to mention this source code when ordering since the sales rep will not ask for it.

Ted Fink 802 985 2923

## Educational Opportunity

Jacques Vesery has asked me to send out this message. Please address any inquiries directly to Jacques.

I would like you to know about a demonstration opportunity for your local chapter this Summer. Nick Agar is a Professional Woodturner who will be in the US as a demonstrator for the AAW Symposium in Richmond June 19-22. Nick has demonstrated at international conferences and symposiums and also conducts classes from his studio in Devon, UK. He exhibits extensively in the UK and his commissioned work is

in constant demand with a wide range of clients including HRH Prince of Wales. He has also been featured on BBC and ITV lifestyle television programs. Nick specializes in large diameter and off center turnings with a wide variety of finishing techniques.

Nick will be available June 11th thru the 17th and after the symposium June 23rd thru the 27th for demos and/ or workshops. This is an opportunity to save your club/ chapter on travel from the UK, with Nick already on the east coast. To arrange a demo or to get more information, you can contact me by email --

[jvesery@tidewater.net](mailto:jvesery@tidewater.net) -- or email Nick directly -- [nick@turningintoart.com](mailto:nick@turningintoart.com)--.

You can also check out Nick's website at -- [www.turningintoart.com](http://www.turningintoart.com)--

I hope your group can take advantage of Nick's brief time in the US this Summer.

Thanks  
Jacques Vesery

## Wanna Buy Some Wood??

We had a visitor at our last meeting, a sawmill operator named Gerald Bouchard. He's in Charlotte and has a number of woods in stock or ready to - as the culinary folks put it- fabricate to order. The basic stock available right now is a variety of pen blanks, both 2.5"



and 5" lengths. He showed us a few in Montmorency cherry, maple, hardhack (hop hornbeam), birch, white cedar, shagbark hickory, and but'nut. He also had some carving/turning

blocks of basswood, which is an excellent wood for decorated vessels. Gerald tells us that he has white pine, red pine, cherry, maple, and basswood down & waiting for warmer weather to haul in. He's willing to work with you to provide custom sizes and (probably)



raw or kiln dried stuff to order. Here is his contact info:  
Gerald A. Bouchard  
A2W Woodworks LLC  
803-425-3445  
802-425-6291  
(home)

Email [GAMJB@GMAVT.NET](mailto:GAMJB@GMAVT.NET)



Here's an item I made with a block of basswood.

**Arny**

Last month it was suggested I wrote enough for two months. Sharpening and conditioning the tools and rest were covered as ways to improve control of your turning. The article detailed what is sharpening, what makes a quality edge, and my case for removing the grinding burr. For those of you who went to sleep half way through I will leave the topic for you to finish and touch on a project that can be both simple or test your skills, uses little material, and is very much appreciated by those who receive it.



**The spool adapter:**

It allows large/long spools with oversized holes to fit and feed the thread smoothly from the small diameter thread holder of a sewing machine. Much high quality thread used by quilters and other fiber crafters comes this way.

The hole in the spool and the pin on the sewing machines vary by brand and model. Getting it accurate improves smoothness of thread feed. I use a micrometer or vernier or dial caliper to measure the pin. Select a drill a few thousandths oversize. I also sand another bit away while smoothing the hole. I find the 119 piece drill set with fraction, letter, and number drills an invaluable tool for a wide range of work in the shop. Even a cheap set will do for most work. If you do not have all drill sizes, make holes in scrap using all the closest. Try each and use the best fit. (Almost every project is an opportunity to enhance the tool inventory). For the OD (hole in the spool) I leave more room. Spools are sometimes uneven so about .035 to .050" smaller than the hole works. You can count on your favorite fiber worker to change or need a different brand occasionally or his or her favorite brand may change spool hole size. This is good—a chance to make an improved version.

My workflow: This is for one. Production is another story.

1. Select the wood. I use attractive wood that will feel good when polished with no finish and will not stain the thread. Cherry is good, Cocobolo is bad. You will need a

stick about 3/4" square by 4" long plus what is needed to hold it on the lathe. I use about 4-3/4 total if I'm using a screw center. This is one of my favorite methods to hold small work. For very rare or valuable wood I glue on a scrap block.

2. Drill the long hole for the machine pin a little long. It is much more accurate to turn around the hole rather than drill the hole afterwards. For my screw center I drill a 3/16" hole centered on the other end to match the length of the screw. I then wax the hole with a "Q-tip" to ease screwing on the blank. If you use a spur center, punch a dent in the end. A (3/8") diameter spur center works well for small work. You can get close without as much danger of contact.

3. Mount for turning. For the screw center I place the long hole over the point of the live center and bring the stock to the screw. I turn the stock onto the screw then tighten the tailstock (going back and forth) until it is well started. Make it as tight as you can without stripping threads. If turning between centers, place the hole over the live center point and bring it into the dent. If your wood is very hard, back off the tailstock and tap the stock against the spur ctr. If more than a tap is needed and your lathe has small bearings, seat the spur center on the bench. Turn to the correct diameter leaving a bit for sanding. If you have an empty spool (dust in the thread will not be appreciated) check the fit. At this point I turn the bottom. Making it even a little shorter will loosen it on the live center point. I generally sand and polish the bottom then re-

tighten the center.

4. I make the cuts for the stem and knob of the handle leaving enough at the top to allow sanding pressure. I do chatter or other decorative cuts and then sand. If you put the sharpening article to use you should be able to start with 220 or 320 "p" grade paper. I then go to 400, reverse spin direction, then 800, reverse, then 1000. I then polish with Tripoli compound on a small piece of toweling; both forward rotation and reverse. **NOTE: any piece of cloth large enough to wrap around your finger is dangerous if it catches on the work**



or lathe. If not sure use a high grade of paper towel such as Viva. Your project will now have a nice feel, like the handle of a well used and cared for tool, it requires no finish, and will only get better with age.

5. I now cut it from the headstock with a skew or shallow flute gouge. There is something to watch here. Make the



last 1/100 to 1/64" away from the end a little. Too close and you can pull a fiber out of the end leaving a small hole. I generally do not want this, but if it happens you can drill it out, glue

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## In House Demos:

- March 20. End grain turning. Covered boxes.
- April 9. Spring Board meeting.
- April 17. Thread chasing. Threaded lids. Craig Hall.
- May 22. Green bowl turning. Ralph Tursini.
- June 19. Drying green wood.
- July 17. Open.
- August 21. Picnic meeting.

# February Meeting Notes continued



Demo: A collaborative on the Alan Lacer hook tool making process and Demo of its use.

Bill, Craig, Hall, Ralph Tursini.



3. Heat to straw color to temper., then bend to shape.



6. Grind the hook to an edge.



1. Grind a piece of tool rod to an angle at one end.



7. Use a diamond hone for final sharpening.



2. Important basic tools: Torch & fire extinguisher



4. Quench in oil to cool.



This is what the finished tool should look like with case hardening.



5. Re-heat to proper temp. For hardness. A wax stick w. appropriate melting point measures temp.



And this is how it looks in use.

Several members also brought other tools to demonstrate hollow turning. Ralph brought a Martel tool and Randy brought a Pro-Forme tool.

## Lessons From The Sharpening Bench continued

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in a piece of silver or brass wire, and make a feature of it.

6. Once off the lathe I sand and polish or carve and polish the end. I buff the entire piece with Tripoli on a buffing wheel.

Martha, my wife, read this article and wanted to leave you with this note:

*"I feel quite proud to have a turned wooden spool adaptor at quilting classes and meetings. It is*

*much admired by those with plastic models. Several quilters have persuaded Dick to make them one. It's fast becoming a popular item (and so is Dick)"—Martha*

I take fame anywhere, anyway.--Dick

If you have questions, comments, or other points of view on the above or any turning topic, please contact me. It is easy to write volumes about turning, but more satisfying to cover issues and topics you folks find most intriguing or useful. E-

mail may be best for now, but if you find life saner without cyberspace, leave a message. It is sometimes better to talk. If you wish I will call you back on a low cost phone. We can talk for an hour cheaper than gas to drive the length of Burlington.

Richard Montague  
802-584-3486 and for a while  
502-387-3616

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

*"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it."—Ralph Waldo*

## AAW News



I need your help. As you know, each year the AAW holds three competitions involving the Local Chapters – the Chapter Collaborative, the website competition, and the newsletter competition. Details of these

events are on the AAW website ([www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)). The winners are announced at the Symposium Banquet and auction. Quite honestly, last year these competitions did not receive anywhere near the attention and recognition that they should have. As your new (since Nov. 2007) Chapters and Membership chairman, these events fall under my purview, and I am very concerned that because of the shortcomings of last year, we may not get as many entries as we should this year.

Generally, we don't find out how many entries we have until the Symposium – this is particularly true in the case of the Chapter Collabora-

tive. Here is where I'd like to enlist the help of the Chapter Presidents. Please let me know if your Chapter plans to enter one or more of these competitions. Be assured that this year in Richmond the Local Chapters will get the attention they deserve. I will announce the winners, a photo will be projected on the big screen, and those participants who are at the Banquet will be invited to come forward, receive their award, and get the big round of applause they have earned. In addition, the AAW Star Chapters will be recognized and will receive their specially designed plaques.

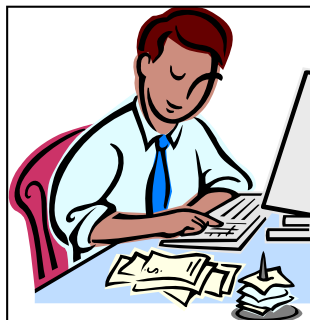
Please let me hear from you. Contact me directly at my personal e-mail ([lgenender@aol.com](mailto:lgenender@aol.com)) or by phone (214-363-1425). I thank you in advance for your help.

Best Regards,  
Larry Genender  
AAW Chapters and Membership Chairman

## Treasurer's report

### Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward	\$3027.60
Income	
raffle	\$28
dues	\$120
Expenses	
none	
Balance Forward	\$3175.60
Ted Fink, Treas.	



### Welcome Newest Member

Rob Tarule  
79 Lost Nation Rd.  
Essex Jct. VT 05452  
802 879 5379

[RTARULE@comcast.net](mailto:RTARULE@comcast.net)

website:  
[www.heartofthewood.com](http://www.heartofthewood.com)

### 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](mailto:craighall@hotmail.com)*

*Dick Montague: General turning, all aspects plus tool sharpening.  
802-584-3486  
[Montageturn@hotmail.com](mailto:Montageturn@hotmail.com)*

*Ralph Tursini: Spindles & bowls, vacuum chucking.  
802-899-6863  
[Tursini@pshift.com](mailto:Tursini@pshift.com)*

*Ted Fink: Bowls, spindles, & boxes.  
802-985-2923  
[jantedfink@gmail.com](mailto:jantedfink@gmail.com)*

*Russ Fellows: Segmented vessels.  
802-899-3059  
[skunkmen@together.net](mailto:skunkmen@together.net)*

*Bill Walsh: tool sharpening  
802 482 215  
[billiriquois@yahoo.com](mailto:billiriquois@yahoo.com)*

## Greetings From Skunk Hollow

I continue to make good progress with my recovery from shoulder surgery! While I cannot say that it is anywhere near complete, the totally inactive phase is now over and I am slowly easing back into all my routines. For about a week now I have been putting daily time in my shop, being very careful not to stress my right arm too much. This means a slightly unorthodox turning style as for "security" I need to keep my elbow in close to my body! The technique is working on small pieces....I have not yet attempted anything larger. As you can see from the attached picture, I have

been busy with assembling some pieces, the procedures of which involve less stress for my shoulder. I now have nine or ten waiting to be turned. The one in the left foreground is a vessel I am doing from the piece of spalted maple I won in last month's lottery (thanks Ralph!) and the one in the right foreground is my "interplanetary" design (named by others!). I came up with this idea a couple years ago and then forgot about it until I visited the home of a friend who had bought the original one, so I decided to try another using one of my new jigs on the drill press to do the holes for colored plugs. This

was where I had had trouble in the first one. I hope to have both pieces done by the meeting on the 20th and will bring them in.

As always, I want to extend an invitation to all "Woodchucks" to come out and visit me in "Skunk Hollow" (for those of you who don't know Jericho, this IS a real place!) . I am almost always there and welcome visitors. Give me a call! 899-3059.

See you on the 20th.

Russ Fellows



## 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

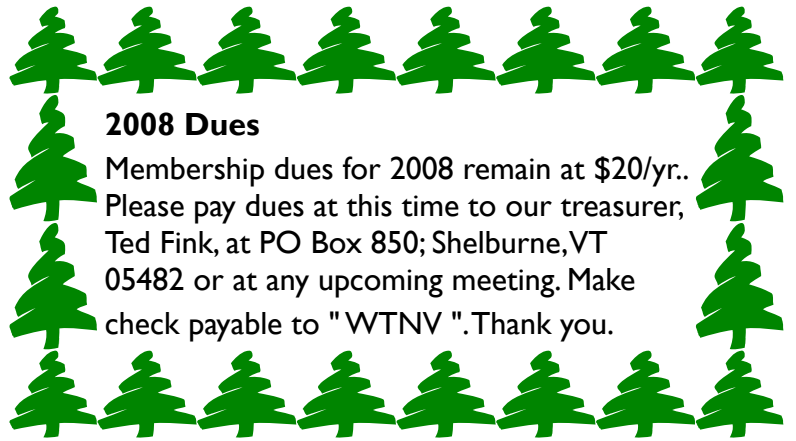
must also notify the editor of Chatter so you can be listed in Future Woodchuck Sightings.

The demonstration must have wood turning as the main subject.



The Newsletter of  
Woodchuck Turners  
of Northern Vermont

Publisher:  
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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.

More Demonstration Photos



Pro-Forme tool in use.



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.