

July 18, 1994
Number 17

LAST MEETING

The last meeting was held at our regular location with Ken Schaefer and Bob Schmitz doing honors on "TOPS". Bob Schmitz, a pro on tops, has made all types of tops for several years. Some are large diameter flat ones with a low center of gravity. Others are like the type many of the older members remember that require a string to be wound around the top and the top to be thrown toward the ground where it spins on its metal spike. Bob also had tops which used a yoke or cap to hold the top until it was spinning, then the cap was withdrawn.

Bob reviewed how the wood for tops could be held on the lathe using screw chucks, three jaw chucks, Nova Chucks, and Jacob's Chuck.

Ken showed how to design a top based on the principle of a gyroscope. After reducing the weight at the center of the blank by drilling four holes, he fashioned a top like the gyroscope with a heavy edge. The four holes near the center of the blank produced a transparent effect that was interesting but did not contribute to the length of time the top remained spinning. The conclusion was that wood tops made on the principle of the gyroscope do not seem to have the same spinning properties due to the lack of mass.

Three lathes were in use after the main meeting was over. Some turners ended up with tops which could be taken home, whereas others added to the firebox supply. Turning Ken's perforated tops required a light touch and cuts which sometimes created more scrap than finished tops. All seemed to enjoy the experiences and that was the purpose of the hands-on period.

DOOR PRIZE

The Club again thanks Woodcraft for providing a 1/8" diameter gouge as a door prize. Additional prizes came from Bob Schmitz who brought some pine logs which had interesting sap patterns.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Woodcraft Supply on July 24, 1994, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Gary Johnson will give a report on the AAW Symposium which was recently held at Ft. Collins, Colorado. In addition, Tom Tyler will give a run down on Challenge Five.

The Woodturners of St. Louis Newsletter is published monthly and mailed to the Chapter Members and to other selected woodturners.

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Meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of each Month at Woodcraft Supply, 12511 Olive Street Road, (Dierberg Center)

1PM to 4PM

(Bring a guest or friend!)

