



The DoveTale

July 2004

Woodworkers of SouthEast Texas

Officers:

President Ray Ward, 898-4542
President elect Richard Osborn, 860-4817
Secretary Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Treasurer Howard Hartman, 835-0564

Committees:

Newsletter Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Shows Rod Ruppel, 898-7041
Librarian Kenneth Bodden, 962-4997
Purchases Jerry Shivers, 794-2274
Membership Richard Hicks, 982-5226
Programs Pete Nealley, 866-2268
Web Master Rob Emanuel, 729-9315
Projects Bill Chanley, 866-5967

Members:	92	Present:	26	Visitors:	0
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[Our Next Meeting will be Aug 23rd](#)

[July 26th Meeting](#)

Our July meeting was held at Acadian Hardwoods. Business items included:

- Howard Hartman – \$2,708.55
- Richard Hicks – Membership at 92
- Rob Emanuel – Suggested the addition of a new magazine on DVD to the library. Club voted to subscribe.
- Rob Emanuel says to be sure to check out our website: www.wwet.org
- Rob Emanuel hosted the Saturday Toy Building kickoff at Woodworker's Paradise

[Raffles](#)

Don Lemp won the \$150 Acadian Hardwoods gift certificate raffle. He bought 10 tickets at the July meeting – pretty good payoff on his \$10 investment. What's the next Raffle item? We need your input – contact Steve Brady or one of the club officers with your ideas.

[Our next meeting](#)

Our next regular meeting will be at Dr. Vardiman's shop. He should be just about finished with his boat and it will be good to

see the finishing touches he's added. The meeting starts at 7PM. **Be sure to bring a chair and mosquito spray!** As usual, I'll be there early to take pictures of your show & tell items.

Directions to Dr. Vardiman's shop:

From the Eastex Freeway, go West on HWY 105 past Al Cook's Nursery. Dr. Vardiman's house is the second one on the left past Al Cook's Nursery. His driveway is lined with trees and the shop is in the back.

[2004 Meeting Schedule](#)

Pete Nealley, our program chairman, announced the tentative program schedule for the rest of 2004. We have some great meetings planned so mark your calendars as follows:

[Regular Monday Night Meetings @ 7PM](#)

August 23rd – Dr. Vardiman's shop

Progress on his boat project

September 27th Acadian -

To Be Announced

October 25th – Acadian – Waid Gauthier

Finishing Techniques

November 22nd – Acadian – Bill Chanley & Rob

Emanuel

Sort and Prepare Toys for Distribution

NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER!

Saturday Program Meetings @ 1PM

August 14th – Sue Caldwell, Intarsia and shop tour at Randall Wright's shop in Orange.

September ??? – Special Guest Presenter – Date and Location to be Announced Later

October 16th – Bill Chanley & Rob Emanuel – Toy Making Workshop II at Woodworker's Paradise

November 6th – Lyman Frugia – Ornament Turning at his shop in Rose City.

this worthwhile project – we just need some more toy builders. Remember our goal this year is 1,000 toys, which translates to a lot of smiling faces at Christmas. It's also a good way to improve your woodworking skills with free materials. For information or materials, contact:

Bill Chanley - 866-5967

Rob Emanuel - 729-9315

Richard Hicks - 982-5226

Saturday Meeting

We had a good turnout (14) at Woodworker's Paradise to kick off our 2004 Toy Building



program. Bill Chanley had to work so Rob Emanuel hosted the meeting. Everyone pitched in – some traced patterns, some

cut blanks and we managed to keep 4 scroll saws running all afternoon! Several members got their first chance to use a scroll saw (luckily one of the better saws). Everyone enjoyed the fun and fellowship



and we made about 100 toys in the process. Several members took boxes of blanks with them to finish up at home. We'll have another Toy Building meeting on Saturday, October 16th at Woodworker's Paradise.

Bill and Rob have materials available to make additional toys. If you want to make some extra toys, just let them know what materials you need. The club has allocated funds for

Show & Tell



Carl Gage, one of our newest members, brought his adirondack chair. Sure looks comfortable, but not real portable.



Waid Gauthier brought pictures of some of the cabinet he just completed. He made them with Aspen and used a light stain to make them look like aged pine.



Wesley Cole brought a goblet he turned – I'm not sure what kind of wood he used. Really nice finish!



Pete Nealley brought several show & tell items; A walnut vase, a natural edged olive wood plate, a gum vase and, just to prove he does other woodworking items, he brought pictures of a glider and some tables.



Jody Cowart brought pictures of his new shop. It was a lot of hard work, but he has a nice place to work.



Dick Osborn brought a book that he used to make a friend a very complicated arbor.



Rob Emanuel brought pictures of his new work table. He built it from plans in WOOD magazine. He also brought a drawer he made for his shop table. The rails and the side of the drawer are all one piece – all you do is add the front, back and bottom. Our friends at Acadian sell them in various sizes. Quick way to make a drawer!



Program

Earl Rutherford and I presented a program about photographing your woodworking projects. I stressed that there are some aspects of photography that you can control regardless of the type camera you are using.

Lighting:

If possible, move your project outside in the shade or pick a cloudy day. Avoid harsh, direct sunlight. Use daylight film or the 'daylight white balance' on your camera if it has one. Generally, this gives the best overall lighting and avoids shadows. If you can't move it outside, be sure to use indoor film and try to take the picture from an angle to avoid seeing the reflection of the flash in your picture. Items with a high gloss finish or glass fronts are especially hard to photograph without reflections.

Background:

If possible, you should avoid anything extra in your picture that will divert attention from your project. Resist the temptation to take your picture with your project on your workbench with your tools in the background



John Phelps brought a flexible English saw he uses to do flush cuts on things like dowels. There's no set in the teeth so it doesn't damage the surface. He also brought his homemade table saw tapering jig.



or the kitchen table with the salt & pepper shaker in the background. I usually put my project on a piece of black velvet on a tall table outside. I usually tape a piece of colored mat board on the wall behind it. Since my camera is adjustable, I've also used foliage for the background and set the camera in portrait mode to cause the background to be blurred.

Earl covered a lot of aspects of photography - the most important being exposure control.

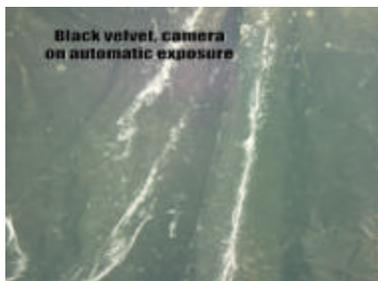
Exposure Control:

Exposure controls on most cameras will try to adjust everything to a neutral gray color. This means that pictures with a lot of bright white areas will be adjusted to gray. Likewise, pictures with a lot of black will darken the white areas and lighten the black areas. For example:



This picture has a combination of whites, blacks, grays and colors. It was taken with the exposure control set to automatic. Notice that the whites are very overexposed - just a white blob. And,

the black camera bag looks dark gray. The neutral gray card is too light.



This is the black velvet from the picture taken by itself with the exposure control set on automatic. The meter told the camera to adjust it to gray by under exposing it.



And this is the bright white cotton rag and the camera turned it gray by over exposing it.

There are several ways to correct this problem and the solution will depend on the type of camera you are using. If you have a fully adjustable camera, you can buy a 18% gray photo card from a camera store. Set



the card in front of your project and take an exposure reading of just the gray card. Then manually set and lock the exposure of your camera to those settings. On cameras that are not adjustable but

have automatic exposure controls, sometimes you can place the 18% gray card in front of your project, press the button halfway down and hold it, remove the card and press the button completely to take the picture. But, be careful - most cameras will also measure and lock the focus distance as well as the exposure values. This could cause your picture to be out of focus.



With some planning and effort, you can take very professional looking pictures of your projects. Here's a good example; good background, item sitting on a piece of black velvet and properly exposed.