

# SPSW Board of Directors

## Virtual Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2020

The meeting was **called to order** by President John Howard at 7:00pm. A quorum was established by the following attending Board Members: John Howard, President; David Best, Vice-President; Fred Abeles, Secretary; Suzette Edwards, Treasurer/Newsletter; Doug Reynolds, Woodrat; Ramon Lyn, AV Coordinator; Michael Poirier, Mentorship; Ken Light, Store Sales; Tim Spaulding, Webmaster; Pat McCart, Industry Coordinator; Jeff Marshall; Member at Large

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion by Suzette Edwards, seconded by Dave Best to Approve the minutes of the June meeting as published. The motion carried.

**Last Meeting** – IRD with Ed Pretty (Canada) – Most thought the meeting went very well and all of us came out of it with something new to try. Fred had hoped that there would be some new techniques that we could use for the more experienced turners but there was something in it for everyone. Ken liked his use of the skew. Suzette really liked his bowl gouge technique for hollowing the inside of a bowl where he would go up and around to come to the center. She tried that and got almost no tear out. John wondered when using a skew for a planing cut, he would get spirals and Ed suggested that he was using too much pressure. John tried easing up on the pressure and it really improved his cut.

**AAW Virtual Symposium** – Several people from our club participated and most thought the \$20 fee charged was very much worth the investment. Fred Abeles even won one of the gift certificates awarded during the symposium.

**Future Meetings** – August 20<sup>th</sup> will feature Scott Grove showing his method of doing Calcite inlays and does both turning and flat work as shown on his U-Tube websites. Since he is located on the East Coast, our meeting will start at 6:30 instead of our regular 7:00pm time. September 17<sup>th</sup> will feature Eric Lofstrom doing his skew clinic. October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature Glen Lucas from Ireland and we will share expenses with the Olympia club and we're hoping for attendance in excess of 100 as we have paid an additional fee to accommodate up to 500. A suggestion was made for November to maybe have Cindy Drozda doing her finial demo for which she is so famous for. Ramon suggested Mike Mahoney and John mentioned the way he does pepper mills would be interesting. Jimmy Clewes was mentioned as well as Trent Bosch. Ken mentioned Mike Meredith as he does a demo on combining wood with Alupalite.

**Sawdust Sessions** – have been officially cancelled until we can again safely meet in person.

**Old Business** – Western Washington Fair (Puyallup) has been cancelled for this year. John still hasn't heard from the Fife Center on their status. He is suspecting that his contact Sarah isn't working there. They have refunded us for 3 month's meetings so far and didn't charge us for July as they were going to be closed for remodeling so they still owe us for June. They'll owe us for August as well as September as

there will probably not be meetings then either. Suzette recommended that they refund us for the balance of the year and we would just pay for the month's that we may use after that.

Maureen Harkness (the recipient of the Cindy Drozda demo piece) has received it and is tickled to pieces with it.

The July wood auction and picnic didn't happen and we have reserved the Northlake Improvement center for September hoping it could happen then. Date would be September 19<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday. John feels strongly it won't happen then either. The center has setup new rulings for people that use the building that it must be professionally cleaned afterwards but we haven't heard what that entails nor what the cost would be. Ramon said he knows of a company that does professional cleaning that we could use if necessary. Dave asked if we could still have the auction on somebody's large piece of property without having a dinner. John will check into it since we have an abundance of some very nice wood.

Nominations – Election time is coming up next month. Pat McCart, immediate past president is in charge of the nominating committee. Dave Best has already indicated that he will not continue in his present position but is willing to continue on the board. John has said that he would be willing to continue as President for another year. Most of the other board members indicated that they will be willing to continue for another year.

**New Business** – Ken has an idea to expand the offerings of the store sales. He has found a source for slimline pen kits from China for 70-75 cents each in quantities of 200 including some extra items. He thinks we could sell them for \$1.50 each and still make a profit. We need to be concerned with being in competition with our sponsors and also having to arranging for shipping and/or delivery. John is suggesting that we hold off any action until we are able to hold in-person meetings again. Doug is concerned because he has had pen blanks available at the meetings and hasn't sold any so he's wondering if the pen kits would actually sell. John has asked Ken to put together a listing of the most popular selling store items and we could try to include it in the newsletter and see what the response is. Consensus of the board is to hold off ordering any pen kits and related items for a while.

**Director's Reports** – Dave Best – No report except for wondering about November demonstrator and John is working on that. Fred Abeles- Nothing more to report. Suzette Edwards – Started adding reports from PayPal to Treasurer's report. We're still adding members. We're at about 140 members now which is where we ended up last year so we're doing well so far this year. The newsletter is in need of photos from members so please email them to Suzette. Tim Spaulding reported that he sent his report in writing and a copy is included with these minutes. Tim indicated that any Microsoft associated email accounts have had their spam filters ramped up so they may not be receiving our emails. He's done what he can on our end but because we're using a shared server which seems to be causing problems. We'll have to monitor the situation and let members know to search their junk mail folders. Ramon suggested setting up a section on our secure website where members could login and get the information. John mentioned he recently spoke with Nancy Sweazey and she is doing as well as can be expected and is continuing her cancer therapy. Ken Light had nothing further to add. Pat McCart recently visited Jim Cotter's home and his widow gave Pat some usable wood from Jim's collection that he will bring to the wood auction. Ramon reported that he spoke to Glen Lucas' Cornelia and she acts as Glen's co-host and would prefer any questions of Glen be asked in the chat section of the meeting and she will present it to Glen during the meeting. Jeff Marshall had nothing further to add and Michael Poirier reported that the small group of

members is still meeting weekly at Brad Husby's shop discussing, lately, sharpening techniques. Doug Reynolds reported that we have enough wood available for 2 or 3 years worth of auctions and he is concerned about participation when we are actually able to hold one. He is still being contacted by people that have wood available so he is being very selective in what offers he accepts mostly because of available storage for the wood.

**Adjournment** – Tim Spaulding moved and Ramon Lyn seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. The motion carried.

## June 2020 SPSW Webmaster Report

This report is for the four weeks since the last report. There have been no new posts. The May BoD minutes and the July newsletter were added.

There have been 296 sessions (visits) (avg. 10.6/day) made by 249 users (visitors) totaling 594 pageviews and an average of 2.01 pages/session. There were 1.2 sessions per user. For this report period the average sessions are up to 10.6 from 16 per day, and the average pages per session are unchanged. Of those 249 users, 92% are new. The highest daily number of sessions was 22 on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and the lowest was 2 on three July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Of the 296 sessions, 91 were on mobile devices (59 on iPhones) and 25 on tablets (19 on iPads). The average time spent on the site for returning users was 1:01, for new users was 2:02. **This is the first time that new users have spent more time on the site than returning users.**

Of the 296 sessions, 131 (44 %) were from Google, 86 (29%) were direct (user typed in our URL or bookmarked) and 23 (8%) were from Pinterest. Chrome was the most popular browser for users (41%) compared to Safari (31%) and Edge (6%).

Of the 296 sessions, 64 (22%) continued to a second page, 39 (13%) continued to a third page and 30 (10%) continued to a fourth. The most popular page is the home page (128 pageviews), followed by the calendar (33 pageviews) and the post on the Carving Accident (22 pageviews).

Of the users that Google identifies, 65% of this report's users are age 55 and older, while 17% were identified as under 35 years old. **Like last month, these stats show a younger demographic visiting our site. 76% of the users are men.** The age and gender statistics are limited by what Google collects. 7% are home & garden do-it-yourselfers, 7% are food and cooking enthusiasts and 7% are hobbies and outdoor enthusiasts. 97% have an interest in home & garden, i.e. tools, improvement, services, décor and furnishings. It may be that stuck at home in the quarantine has people thinking of ways to improve their homes.

There were users from 166 cities in 32 countries on 6 continents. The highest numbers of users were from Seattle – 18, Tacoma – 6 and Perth, Australia – 6. By country, the US was highest at 60%, Canada at 7% and Australia and the U.K. at 4% each. U.S. English was used by 58% of the users, while 5% used British English and 3% used Korean. 21% of the users used what Google just calls "English".

There are 124 subscribers to the SPSW Members mailing list and 29 on the black list (many I removed who haven't paid dues since 2017). There are 70 approved members on the website.

There are now 260 non-members that have signed up to receive the monthly newsletter. Per the mailer program, there are 199 addresses on the Black List, 0 that were bouncing (email address doesn't exist now) that have now been removed and 0 that have not confirmed.

Our Facebook page has 99 likes and 108 follows. Our Twitter account has 430 followers. I have created an Instagram page on which we currently have 122 followers.