



Mike Maffitt: Editor



SPOON JIG PLANS:
See Page 18

MSWG
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Cover Photo:
A group of bottle stoppers created by
Glen Alexander.

FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

Page 03 - SHOP TALK: RICHARD LEE

Page 06 - WOOD SPIN: BLACK LOCUST

Page 08 - PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Page 10 - JUNE GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Page 12 - INSTANT GALLERY

Page 15 - UPCOMING DEMOS AND EVENTS

Page 16 - JUNE MEETING RECAP

Page 18 - JOHN JOHNSON'S SPOON JIG PLANS

Page 23 - A LITTLE HUMOR:

Page 24 - OUR SPONSORS & SUPPLIERS



BLACK LOCUST LOG

SHOP TALK

With:
**RICHARD
LEE**



7

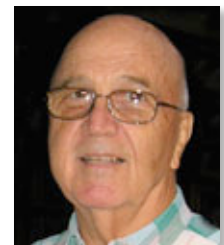
The home shop of Richard Lee¹ is a model for all of us to emulate. It is large enough and well enough equipped for almost any project involving wood, either flatwork or turned. It harbors old hand tools (breast drill², hand planes, draw knives and more) from his carpenter father, and a high quality commercial table saw in the center³ with long side table and a spacious out-feed table beyond. Against one wall is a radial arm saw set up as a cutoff or mitre saw, and nearby, mounted on wheels, are his planer, jointer, extended height bandsaw⁴,

<http://www.midsouthwoodturners.com/>

3

CONTENTS

**Ray
Tanner**



(cont. on next page.)

<http://www.woodturner.org/>



router table, and 12" disk sander. Richard has several tool boxes which contain his extensive collection of screwdrivers⁵, pliers, wrenches, hammers, handsaws, battery drill motors, sanders, pneumatic staplers, and brad drivers, etc. He built a special rolling rack for his wood clamps⁶.



Richard was born in Washington, D.C. and became a machinist with his first job at the US Naval Gun Factory there. He simultaneously served for several years as batboy for the Washington Senators, beginning in 1941. He has a Ted Williams bat⁷ given to him by Ted, and he knew Joe DiMaggio and a number of other famous players of that era. Ten years later he was assigned to the US Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, FL. His next assignment was as an instrument maker and then Shop Supervisor at the Redstone Arsenal. The job from which he retired about 20 years ago was at the Memphis Defense Support Agency. He and his wife, Wanda, have three daughters and several grandchildren.



Richard has two lathes, a 12" Delta (reversible) with 16 speeds, now about 50 years old but in excellent condition, and a Craftsman Variable Speed Wood Lathe⁸ purchased just a few years back during a special sale at the Sears warehouse. He no longer has a metal lathe but still has his machinists gauges, micrometers,

(cont. on next page.)



6



9

standards, etc., and an arbor press⁹ – all in first class condition and readily accessible. Richard's shop is an absolute model of organization – screws, bolts, nuts, drill bits¹⁰, router bits, small parts and 90% of his large wood supply are clearly labeled (each piece with its thickness, width, length and variety¹¹). His cabinetry skills are fully evident in his air compressor cart¹², his dovetail jointed file box, his workbench, drill press base unit, wall cabinets and other shop storage units as well as three walls of his double garage covered in cabinetry of his manufacture. Richard especially enjoys building gadgets and special tools to further his woodwork.

Until the recent bee colony collapse, Richard had more than a dozen bee hives in his backyard; he harvested both honey and beeswax, and taught others how to raise bees. Behind his shop is a large flower garden¹³ which his wife tends with great zeal and detailed record keeping.



8



10



11



12



13

WOOD SPIN

Black Locust

This is another in the irregular series concerning native trees which provide interesting turning woods. Over the past three years this series has featured Bradford/Callery pear, sweet gum, black gum, and osage orange, plus a general article on my favorite turning woods. Persimmon remains my favorite wood, but black locust ranks high on my list of favorites and this wood is very much unappreciated.

People who turn a variety of local woods and like working with osage orange will love black locust, as the two woods share many characteristics. Both are very hard and dense, rot resistant, demonstrate beautiful patterns, and polish like glass. However, unlike osage orange, black locust does not darken when exposed to UV rays over a period of years and this wood does not crack quite as easily as osage orange. Also, black locust demonstrates more variety of appearance with rich swirls of variegated sapwood and heartwood. Surprisingly, both are attacked by borers and often have



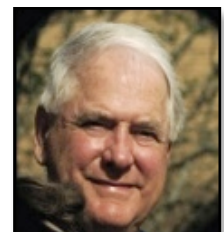
hollow centers and extensive beetle channels and damage, which just enhances their appearance in my opinion. Beetles do all of my carving and hollowing.

Because of its resistance to rotting, farmers and cattlemen consider this tree to be the Fence Post Tree, and it is stated that a black locust post will wear out two post holes. The wood is also prized as top quality firewood as it burns slowly and very hot. Flooring and outdoor furniture contractors are impressed with this wood -- if the public knew the durability and beauty of this wood, it would be in high demand and very expensive, rather than priced not much above

(cont. on next page.)



**Emmett
Manley**





pine. I did locate one company on the internet, Black Locust Lumber, which only deals in this amazing wood.

Most fast growing woods are soft but black locust grows rapidly yet is hard and dense -- the wood is second only to osage orange as the hardest in North America. These trees are spread by underground rhizomes so large groves of locust trees can become established over a short period of time; in fact, these trees are now considered an invasive species in some areas. Black locust is easy to identify with its deeply furrowed bark, the compound leaves (with multiple small leaflets) and numerous small thorns near branches. The trees bloom in mid-Spring with profuse white blossoms which help to locate the trees in the forest or along roadsides. The scientific name, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, alerts us to the compound leaves



which appear similar to those of the acacia trees of Australia.

This is an absolutely beautiful wood when turned and it is fairly easy to turn for such a dense wood. If you need a wood to hold edges, this is an excellent choice. The aroma when turning this wood is distinctive but not unpleasant or irritating. Another interesting characteristic of importance to the woodturner is the fact that even small diameter saplings, 1-4" often are nearly total heartwood, revealing all the beauty of this species. This wood is ideal for making small objects -- bottle stoppers, honey dippers, stick pens, lidded containers, ring stands, etc

Anticipating a question, black locust is much different from honey locust, although the much less common honey locust is also a prized turning wood. We may address honey locust at some point in the future, but recall that honey locust has smooth plate-like scaly bark, really long thorns (3 or 4 inches) and those one foot long black seed pods with the sweet aroma. A totally different tree.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



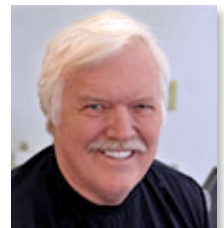
Last month if I counted right we had 45 members in attendance, not bad for another hot/dry summer day. I was pleasantly surprised by the items in the instant gallery and Presidents Challenge. The critique's at the instant gallery is proving successful as a learning tool as well as generating new ideas.

In the June meeting we had Tate Thomas showing us how to turn pepper mills and Rich Pohlan showing us how he makes some unusual and interesting bowls with the scroll saw and disk sander. This month's demo will have Larry Sefton showing us some embellishing techniques he learned from Jennifer Shirley and Clay Foster. I am looking forward to this demo as

this couple is well recognized in the woodturning community for their embellishing. Now it's only natural that the Presidents Challenge for Aug will be anything embellished, so pay attention and take good notes. Next month Joel Benson will give us a demo in green wood bowl turning. That afternoon we will have a "hands on" where we will mentor anyone willing to do so in rough

(cont. on next page.)

**Skip
Wilbur**



turning a green bowl. The plan is to bring back the roughed out bowl to Oktoberfest and finish it out. I encourage anyone who has never turned a green bowl before to join us that afternoon for some fun behind the lathe (perhaps bring a shower cap?).

It is my job to motivate and your job is to be motivated. Your BOD, seasoned MSWG members and I are doing everything we can to make sure you have the best woodturning education and experience necessary. We work hard to bring in demonstrators, make available woodturning books/DVD's, and provide "hands on" training, but you've got to do your part as well. At the end of the day we can have the best demonstrators, the most up-to-date library, and plenty of "hands on" sessions – none of it will matter unless you fulfill your responsibility. Pay attention during a demo, go home and try it, check out a book or DVD, bring in a piece for the instant gallery, Presidents Challenge or even Mid-South Perspective and most of all practice.

We all have challenges in our lives that can make it difficult to put the time in behind the lathe. I know, I've been there – I get it. Don't be afraid of failure or producing a piece that you think is not just right – bring it to the instant gallery and let's talk about it. Some of the most successful turners in the world are ones who have had multiple failures. Don't let your failures define you – let them teach you. No one has ever been born a good turner, they become one by trying new and challenging ideas and practice. Don't be afraid to ask for help, anyone on the BOD will either be able to help you or know where to go for the answer. Let's develop and nurture this craft/art together.

Here's another way to take up your woodturning skills another level – schools. There are numerous schools within a day's drive of Memphis that teach woodturning. You end up with 6 days of total woodturning emersion with quality instruction and woodturning friends and

experience that will last a long time. Interested? Do a Google search and check out: John C. Campbell Folk School, Arrowmont, Marc Adams School of Woodworking, Arkansas Craft School, Appalachian Craft School or Kelly Mehler's School of Woodworking.

Now that you have been motivated, it's time to turn something for the Presidents Challenge. The challenge this month is to "turn something you have never turned before". You see, that category is applicable to everyone, no excuses. Try to duplicate something from a picture and bring that picture in along with the piece and let us check it out or perhaps download a project from the internet (woodturningvideos.weebly.com/) or the AAW web site and bring in the project plans with it. For some turners who turn pens, download a picture of a different type pen and try it, then let us see it. Step out of your comfort zone.

"I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it"

– Pablo Picasso



**Two of the greatest qualities in life are:
Patience and Wisdom**



Meeting called to order by Skip Wilbur
44 in attendance.

Minutes from May were approved and seconded

Treasurer's report given, approved and seconded

General:	\$1328.00
Joan Fund:	\$2344.00
Education Fund:	\$2565.00
Total:	<u>\$6238.00</u>

New Members:

- Roy Grant - New Turner
- Chad Dalton - Guest.

Schools or Classes:

- Woodwork Shop - Natural edged vessel.
- Skip will be leaving Sunday for Arrowmont.

CBU: Pieces must be submitted by September 7, 2012. Keith Burns has agreed to judge along with a panel of 2 outside judges

from the art community. You may submit up to 5 pieces of which 3 may be included depending on participation.

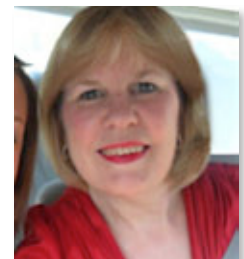
Demo's:

July – Larry Sefton will be demoing the techniques he learned at a class he attended led by Jennifer Shirley & Clay Foster.

August- Joel Benson will be turning a green wood bowl or twice turned vessel. Afterwards we will have a hands on class demonstrating the same technique for anyone who would like to produce one. The piece will be brought back for Octoberfest to be finished turned.

(cont. on next page.)

Terry Maffitt



September - Mike & Cynthia Gibson will be doing an all day workshop on their pyrography technique. They recently had a teapot sell for \$4200.00

Octoberfest - working on details.

President's Challenge:

Something you've never turned before. Ideas & links will be coming in an email from Skip.

www.woodturningvideos.weebly.com

John Johnson Spoon Jig:

Tony Sobczak came up with a spoon jig document. The hinge is available at Lowes. The Jig is published in this newsletter.

Turning Discounts:

Passed a list around to sign for release of your name for a discount from supply houses.

For Sale:

Bob Smith has a vacuum pump for sale for \$150.00, no instructions. Various pipes for dust collection for \$50.00. Call for details

Demo:

Tate Thomas demonstrated Pepper Mills, Ray Tanner gave a talk on safe turning speeds and Keith Burns talked about the symposium in Provo, Utah. Rich Pohland gave a demonstration on making bowls using a scroll saw.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



JUNE 2012

INSTANT GALLERY



Maple and Ebony ring holder with ornamental embellishments. Great job Bill.

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Osage Orange with Ebony flame, Spalted Oak with Ebony flame and Black Locust with Holly flame ring holders.

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Segmented maple and corian handled cup. Bill said the recipient is a Vols fan so the orange Corian is appropriate.

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An awesome assembly of bottle stoppers. Great presentation rack to show them off.

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A great trio of ring holders by Dennis. Great job.

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What a delicate beautifully finished piece of art. Classic Graeme Priddle piece.

**G
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Awesome closed bowl and hollow form from similar woods. The wood has nice movement which really enhances the closed bowl.

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A fantastic collection of baby rattles very well done and finished.

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JERRY
HOSIER
& RAY TANNER



The baby rattle from Jerry Hosier is made from plywood while the bottle stopper by Ray Tanner is likely Walnut. The ring holder is unknown.

KEITH
BURNS



A gorgeous Yew hollow form textured with a fish scaler. Classic Burns finial.

JOEL
BENSON



A well formed cherry bowl.

KEITH
BURNS



A Maple lidded bowl with the classic Burns finial. Awesome figure in the wood.

JOHN
JOHNSON



Bottle stoppers on stands. One is modeled after a model A spark plug. The wood appears to be walnut.

LARRY
SEFTON



A newly learned finishing technique which will soon be a demonstration Looks great..

JOHN
JOHNSON



Nicely turned Honey Dippers out of Maple.

MATT
GARNER



Great job on the President's Challenge with this Ash entry by Matt.



A nicely turned tray from locally harvested Cherry.

**R
A
Y
TANNER**



A nice collection of ring holders.

**R
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C
K
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N
E
& UNKNOWN**



A nice set of wormy bowls. Wood appears to be Winged Leaf Elm.

**R
I
C
H
P
OHLAND**



A nicely done Maple baby rattle and Big Leaf Maple Burl bottle stopper.

**S
K
I
P
WILBUR**



Rick says he isn't sure but it looks like a Diamondwood laminated ball. Great form.

**R
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A beautiful Maple Stool. Great job Skip.

**S
K
I
P
WILBUR**



The wood is not noted but it looks like Cherry. Nice hollow form Rick. African Blackwood finial.

**R
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A beautiful Walnut twice turned bowl. About 18" diameter.

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REYNOLDS**

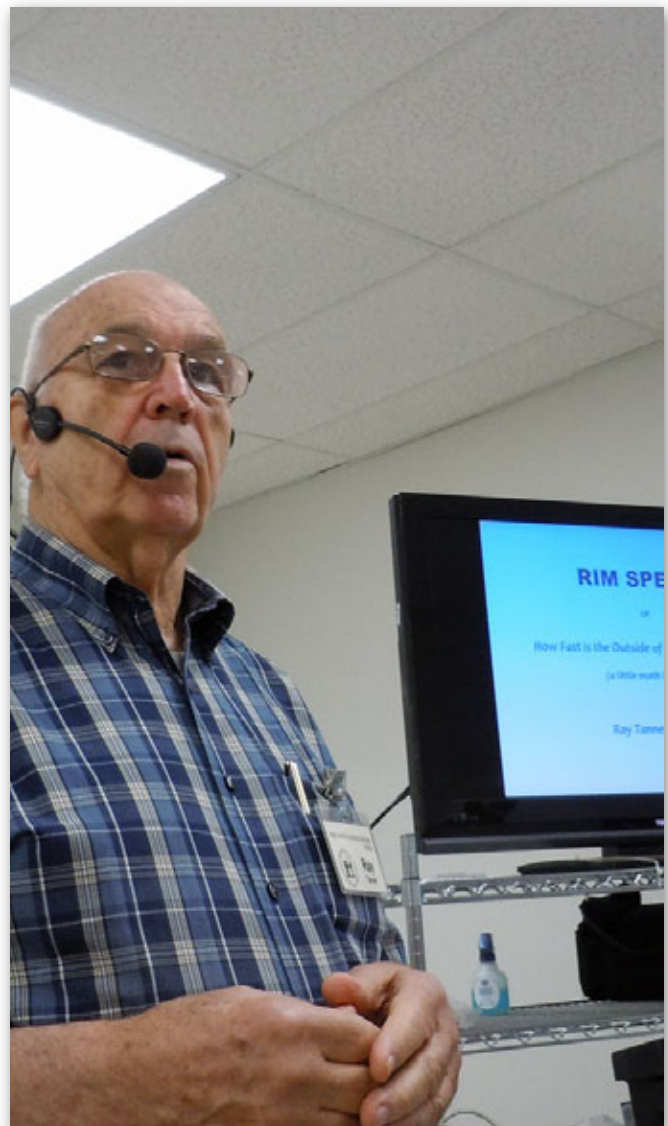
UPCOMING DEMOS & EVENTS

- **July 14th, 2012 WEST TN WOODTURNERS**
 - Cliff & William Valentine will be demoing a full sized cowboy hat.
- **July 28th, 2012 MSWG**
 - Larry Sefton will demo what he learned during a class taught by Clay Foster and Jennifer Shirley.
 - Discussion on sanding techniques.
- **August 25th, 2012 MSWG**
 - Joel Benson will demonstrate green bowl turning followed by a hands on class on the same subject. Pieces will be brought back to Octoberfest to be finished out. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has never attempted a twice turned bowl.
- **September 22nd, 2012 MSWG**
 - Mike & Cynthia Gibson will do a demo. A husband and wife team, they do fantastic pyrography techniques.
- **October 27th, 2012 MSWG**
 - Octoberfest at Joel Benson's home. Rich Pohland may do his saw mill, lathe set aside for those who did green wood turning in Aug to finish bowl. Set up for those people having trouble with sharpening to bring in tools. Perhaps a couple ornament demo's getting ready for Nov ornament contest.
- **Nov 17th, 2012 MSWG**
 - CBU pieces due. Turn these in at general meeting.
 - May turn in up to 5 pieces but only 3 pieces maximum will be selected to be displayed at CBU. If there is a light turnout for pieces being submitted, a 4th piece will be chosen from the previous pieces submitted. We will need 35 – 40 pieces to be displayed. This is a big deal as thousands of people will see the display.
- **Dec 22nd, 2012 MSWG**
 - Christmas party. Details to follow.
- **Feb 23rd – 24th, 2013 MSWG**
 - Mark Gardner will be demonstrating. The following day he will host a paid event for a hands on class. Details to follow.

June Meeting Recap: Pepper Mills, Safety, Symposiums and Scroll Saw Bowls

Tate Thomas gave a well done and thorough demonstration about the turning and assembly techniques of making a pepper mill. He illustrated his idea of making and using a template for consistency. Great job Tate.

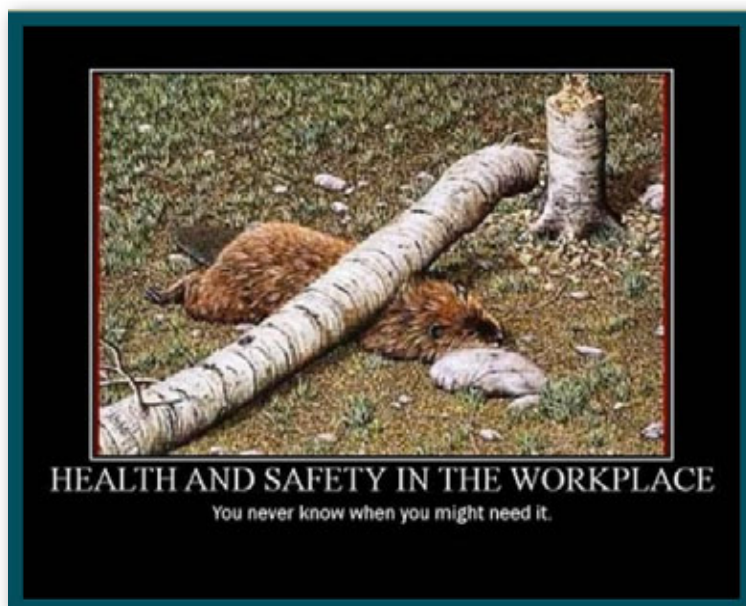
Ray Tanner talked about safety and the speed an object is moving at the outside of the object in relation to the lathe speed. Great stuff Ray and a great job heading up the safety committee.



Keith Burns gave a recap of the Provo, Utah symposium and what a great time he had. The only downside, he states, was the vendor area. He said there was a great slate of demonstrators and it was very well run.



Rich Pohland talked about making bowls using a scroll saw. The concept is great and allows you to make many different shapes you couldn't make on the lathe. My apologies to Rich, I was so interested I forgot to take pictures of any of his bowls. Sorry Rich but great job in your demo.



SPOON JIG BY: JOHN JOHNSON

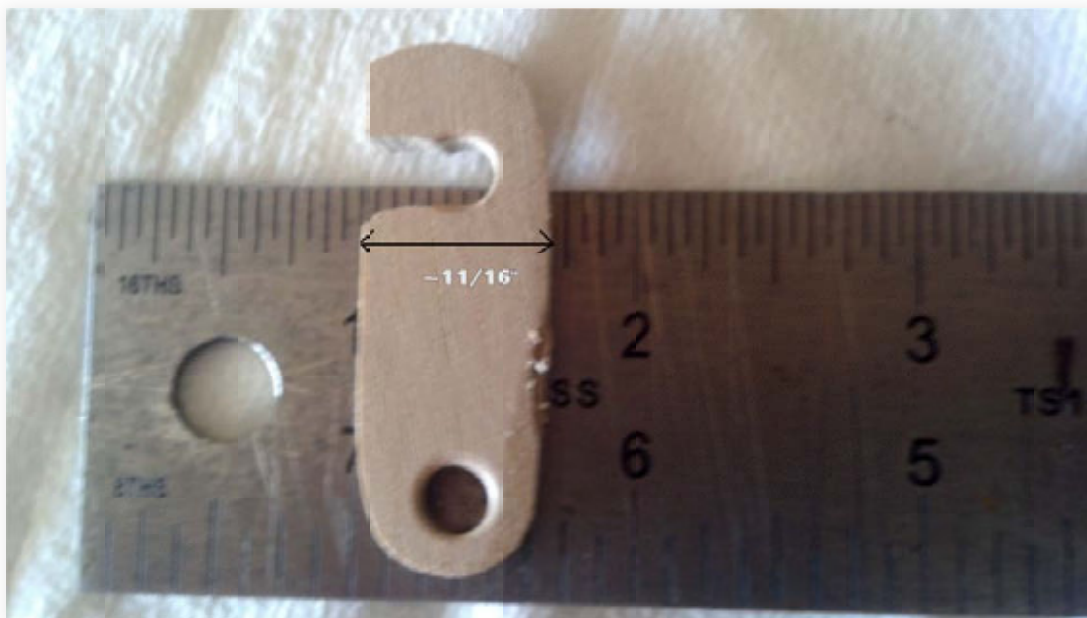


Hardware List:

- 3 ea ¼ x 20 carriage bolts 2-1/2"
- 3 ea 1/4 x 20 wingnuts
- 3 ea ¼" washers
- 2 ea #8 x 5/8" wood screws
- 2 ea 1" drywall screws
- 2 ea 1 ¼" drywall screws
- 1 ea hinge (I used hinge #228898, Model #NS1710-BP, from Lowes and it required no bending)
- 2 ea 7" x 7" ¾" plywood or other lumber

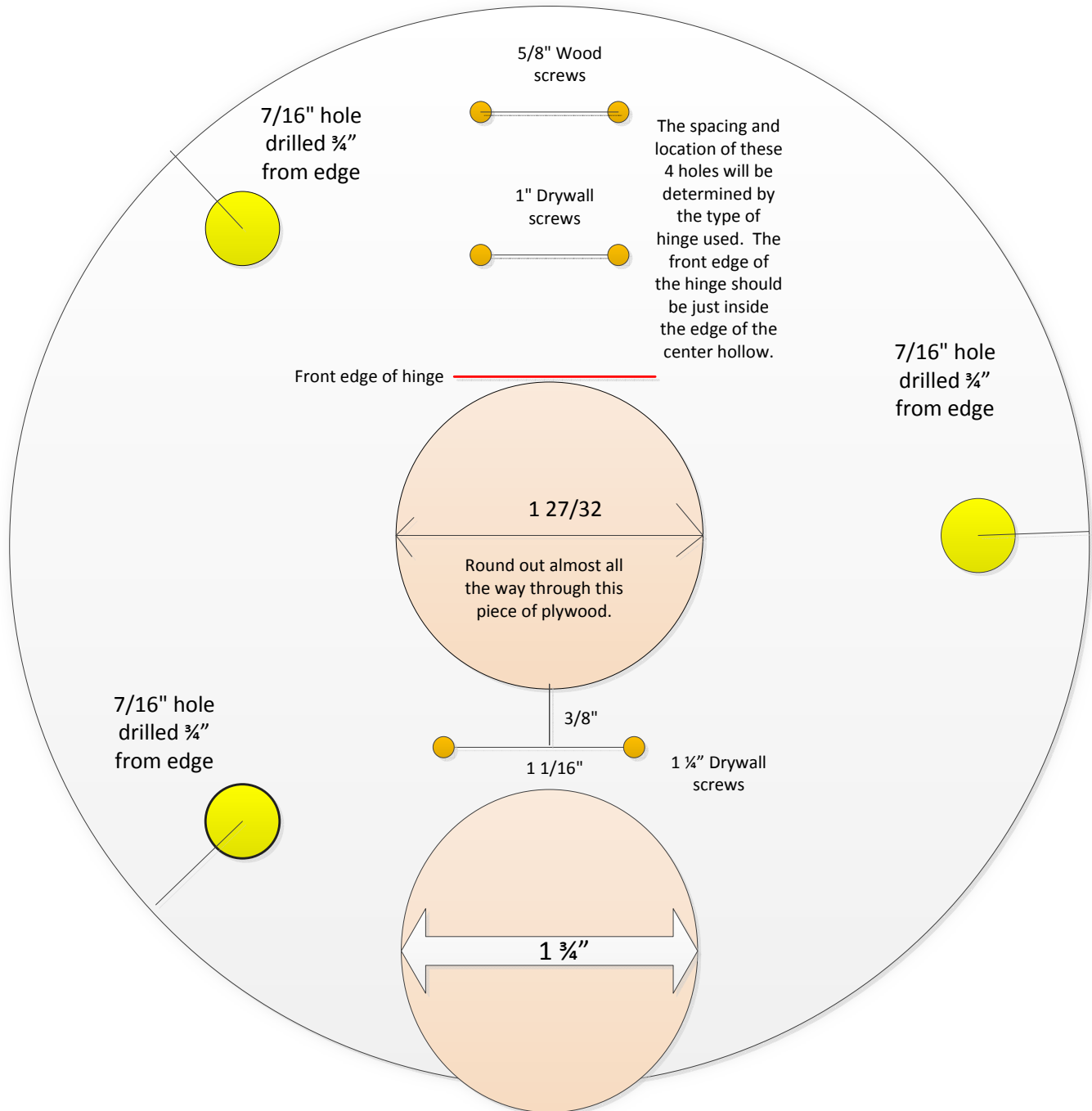








Jig is made out of two 3/4" pieces of plywood, 6-3/8" in diameter



A LITTLE HUMOR

THE STORY OF 3 CONTRACTORS

Three contractors were visiting a tourist attraction on the same day. One was from New York, another from Texas, and the third from Florida.

At the end of the tour, the guard asked them what they did for a living. When they all replied that they were contractors, the guard said, "Hey, we need one of the rear fences redone. Why don't you guys take a look at it and give me a bid?"

So, to the back fence they all went to check it out.

First to step up was the Florida contractor. He took out his tape measure and pencil, did some measuring and said, "Well I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

Next was the Texas contractor. He also took out his tape measure and pencil, did some quick figuring and said, "Looks like I can do this job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

Without so much as moving, the New York contractor said, "\$2,700."

The guard, incredulous, looked at him and said, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?"

"Easy," he said \$1,000 for me, \$1,000 for you and we hire the guy from Texas."

ENGINEERS AND LAWYERS

There are two big conferences in NY....one for Engineers and one for Lawyers. They are both being held in the same building downtown. On the first day of the conference, two groups run into each other at the train station and chat while waiting in line to buy tickets into the city.

When they reach the counter, the three lawyers each buy tickets and watch as the three Engineers buy only a single ticket. "How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks a lawyer. "Watch and you'll see," answers an Engineer.

They all board the train. The lawyers take their respective seats, but all three Engineers cram into a restroom and close the door behind them. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on. The lawyers saw this and agreed it was quite a clever idea.

So after the conference, the lawyers decide to copy the Engineers on the return trip and save some money (recognizing the Engineers' superior intellect). When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the Engineers don't buy a ticket at all. "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed lawyer. "Watch and you'll see," answers an Engineer.

When they board the train the three lawyers cram into a restroom and the three Engineers cram into another one nearby. The train departs. Shortly afterward, one of the Engineers leaves his restroom and walks over to the restroom where the lawyers are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket, please."

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