

# Alabama Woodturners Association



# Newsletter

AUGUST 2022

A member of the American Association of Woodturners

**MEETING IN PERSON THIS MONTH**

Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am  
[www.alabamawoodturners.com](http://www.alabamawoodturners.com)

## AUGUST AWA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Last month I watched our meeting from home again, thanks to zoom. Covid has left me with this strange occurrence of waking up in the morning soaking wet and nauseous, about once a week. No one has any idea why it keeps happening, except that it is the result of Covid, like not being able to taste food. So, while I was watching the demo, I realized something. The video and sound were great on zoom. That is no accident. Scott does a fantastic job with videoing our meetings and making sure they are coming through on zoom with excellent quality. It is easy to take for granted when the picture is always in focus, and picture is from the angle it needs to be.

So sorry that we had problems with the lathe but know that the demo lathe has been worked on, as well as some of our class lathes. I took several tool rests home and filed them smooth, because they were developing dings, and making smooth passes on them was getting harder and harder. They should be in good shape for a while.

In my last class for teaching folks how to turn pens, I learned something. I was concentrating so much on teaching folks how to make a pen, that I was not giving great instructions on how to use a spindle roughing gouge. Even with something as simple as making a pen, technique can be taught on how to use a tool. Every time I turn something, I learn something. And every time I teach, I learn something.

Many thanks to Harold Deason for taking care of the meeting the last two months. Having read Carl's description of the August demonstration, I am looking forward to learning how to use the tool sharpening devices I have in my shop. Turning is always so much easier when the tool is sharp but getting that tool sharp may not always be as easy as it seems.

We had talked about having a round robin type demo for September, but several of those people will have booths at The Tinglewood Festival in Montevallo that day. We will need to come up with a demonstrator for September. I think a lot of us will want to go to Montevallo after the meeting, because there will be some great artists there that we can all get ideas from. Having three of our members there will give us some good exposure and the opportunity to recruit new members.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting in August. The president's challenge for September is to turn something you have never turned before. That means that what you bring may not be perfect, and that is ok! If we are trying something new, it won't be perfect. Maybe tells us how you would have made your project differently, or better, or if you did it again, what different tool would you have used? See you soon!

Terry

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# JULY DEMO BY TOMMY HARTLINE



# AUGUST DEMO BY CARL CUMMINS

## Sharpening Woodturning Tools

by Carl Cummins

I have heard many turners express frustration with trying to sharpen tools, so it is worth taking time to discuss. Like everything else in turning, there are many options. I will focus first on the Oneway Wolverine System (because this is what most of us have) and many jigs used with it. I will also mention some of the other sharpening systems available.

This demo will cover recommended grinds for the common tools (gouges, skews, etc) including a variety of options, especially bowl gouges: traditional, Irish/Ellsworth, 40/40.

The afternoon workshop at RMM will provide the opportunity for hands-on practice of these techniques. Participation is limited to 6, and pre-registration is required. See email for details.

## Birthday Door Prize News

AWA gives a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting. Here are the 'rules' for this year:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting and stay for the drawing to win.
- 2) You need to make sure the Secretary and/or Newsletter Editor have your correct birth date. No fair changing your birth date in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Steve Simcik	8/2
Stan Keenum	8/7
Randy Harrison	8/11
Bob Rosser	8/17
Don Kearney	8/18
Lee Beadles	8/26
Sandy Bishop	8/28

**Dues MUST be CURRENT to be included in the birthday list.**

***MEMBERS DUES MUST BE CURRENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BIRTHDAY LIST.***

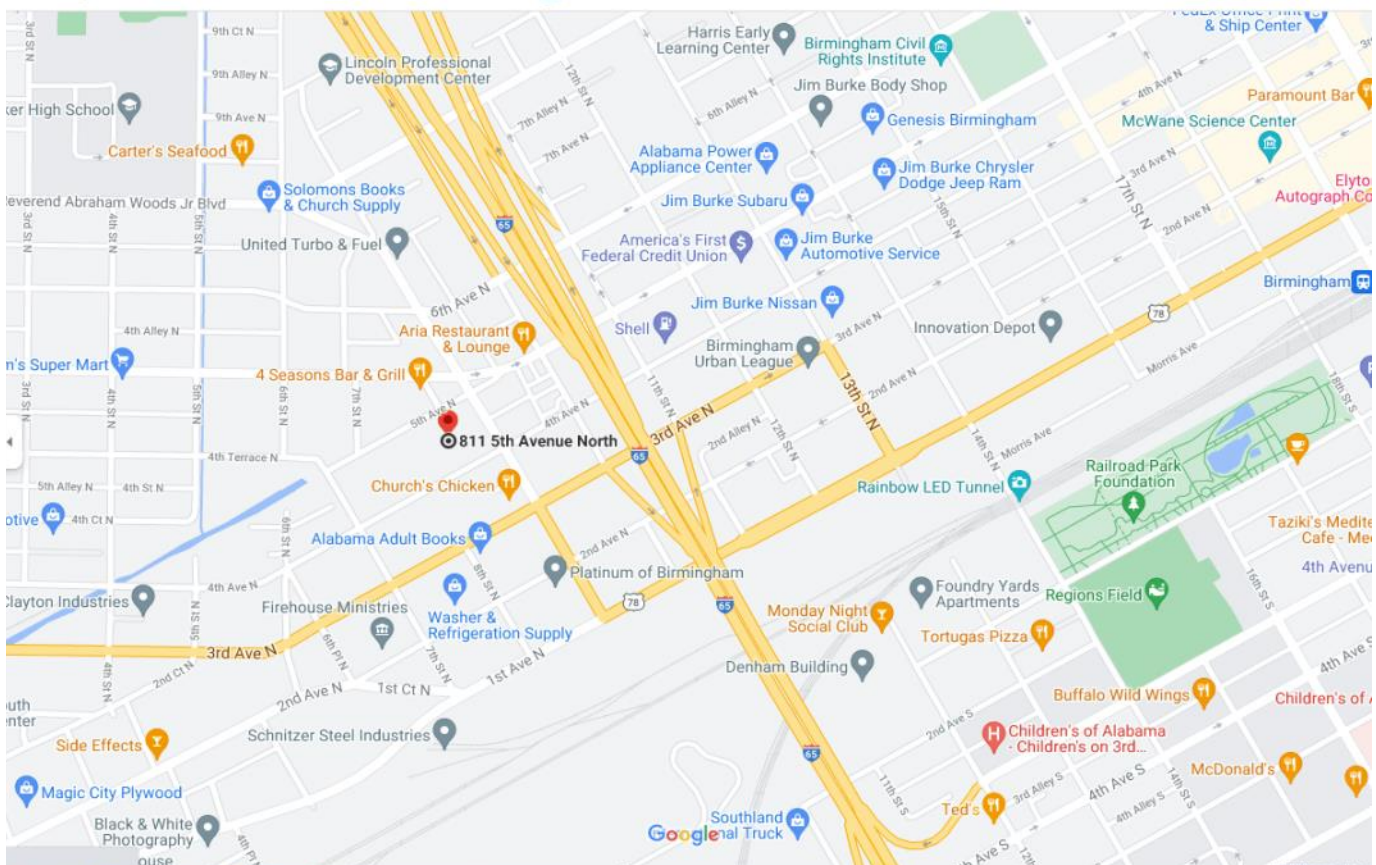


Our meeting place this month is Hardware Park (formerly Long-Lewis Hardware), downtown between 4th and 5th Ave. North. The exact address is

**811 5th Ave North  
Birmingham, AL 35203**

You'll enter through this door.

**Make sure to look for our new  
flag on the corner!**



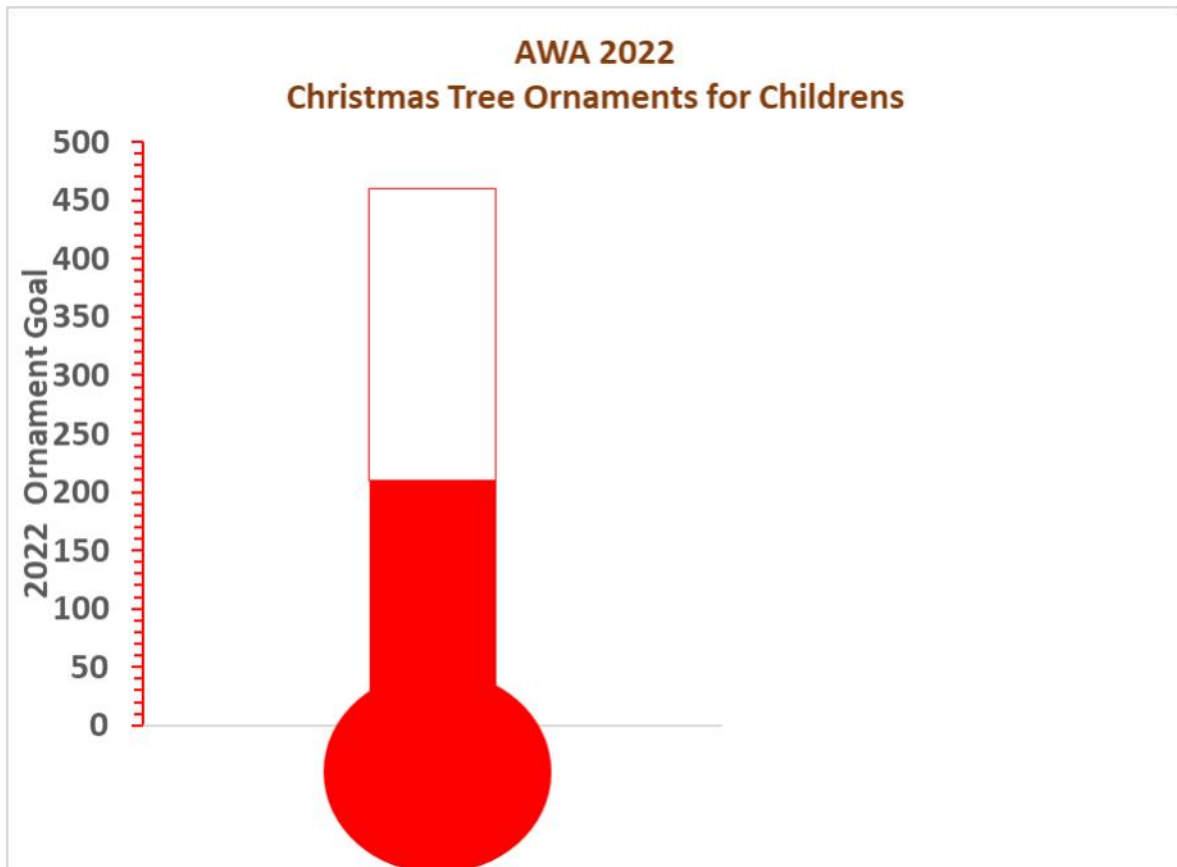
# Alabama Woodturners Association (AWA) Supporting Children's Hospital of Alabama



Children's  
of Alabama®



Many thanks to **Brent Clayton** and **Susan McCalla** for their contributions of Christmas Ornaments in July. We are ready to accept your ornaments at our meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> and at every meeting through October 2022.



## Deadline Approaching!!!

October is the last month to collect Christmas Ornaments for our Children's Hospital Tree. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to date. If you have not given yet, get busy. As of July, only seven different members have made and contributed ornaments. Let's get that participation rate up. Only with your help will we make that happen.



### Why join the AAW?

Plain and simple, you are enthusiastic about woodturning.

An AAW membership offers you access to the single largest portfolio of high-quality educational woodturning resources available in the world. Membership is the fastest way to learn and enhance your woodturning expertise.

### An AAW membership can help you:

- Experience the remarkable world of woodturning.
- Connect with others who share your passion.
- Be an active and knowledgeable member of the woodturning community.
- Make a commitment to your own personal and creative development.
- Express your dedication to preserving woodturning for future generations.

### With an AAW membership you have access to:

- 3,000+ online projects, articles, videos, and tips are in AAW's Explore! search tool. Get the best project instructions, technique guidelines, and information in just a few simple clicks. Easily searchable by topic and includes all interest areas.
- 12,000+ images of member work are in AAW's Forum gallery online. Get inspiration, ideas, and feedback simply. Connect with woodturning enthusiasts using this member-moderated virtual community.
- 475+ online videos are quickly searchable by topic in AAW's Video Source. Avoid the frustration of searching YouTube. Get relevant woodturning videos in just a few clicks. All videos are prescreened by the AAW for quality content and safety.
- 150+ issues of American Woodturner are online with a searchable index.
- 38+ issues of Woodturning FUNDamentals publication and the Woodturning FUNDamentals online learning portal offer one-stop basics. Helps newer turners build and expand their woodturning knowledge and skills safely with a curated selection of information, projects, tips, and videos.
- 365 affiliated chapters are all easily searchable in our directories. Find a chapter near you fast. Also, search for symposia, demonstrations, exhibitions, events, organizations, and schools, and more, quickly and easily.

JOHN JORDAN STUBBY 750 FOR SALE  
\$2500 Contact Pete Marken at p\_marken@bellsouth.net



BRENT CLAYTON



If you want to watch the video of Karl Harper turning here is the link!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_XGRjlvMDk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_XGRjlvMDk)

COPY & PASTE  
Also on the AWA website.

Challenge listed on the last page.

WHAT PEOPLE  
ARE DOING



JOHN RHYMES

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



RON HERBSTER



RON HERBSTER



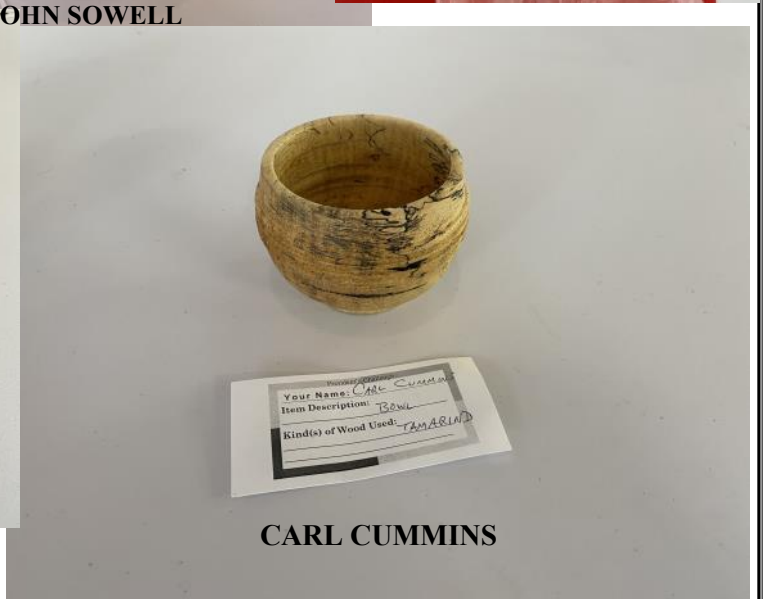
RON HERBSTER



JOHN SOWELL



JOHN SOWELL



CARL CUMMINS

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**BRENT CLAYTON**

Here are some shots of a vessel (vase for dried flowers maybe) turned from a Manzanita burl.



**CHRIS HENLEY**



**CHRIS HENLEY**



**HOWARD KING**



**CARL CUMMINS**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**MAURICE CLABAUGH**  
Gateway; "Bird Shot "  
Pecan Fork 16"W X 4"H



**MAURICE CLABAUGH**  
Streak;  
Pecan 12" W X 3.5" H



**MAURICE CLABAUGH**  
Spalted Drops:  
16" W X 3.25" H



**DWIGHT HOSTETTER**  
6 3/8" Segmented Honduran Rosewood urn  
stand with 4 legs.



# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**RANDY TYNER  
HOLLOW SPHERE**



**RANDY TYNER  
SPHERES**



**RON HERBSTER**



**KENN WARR**

# WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING



**JEFF WYATT**



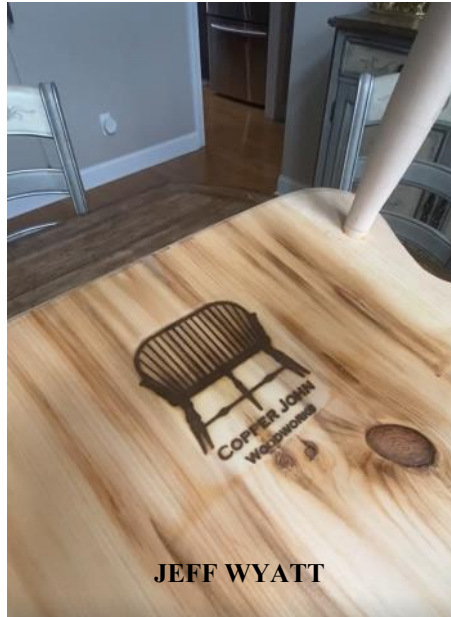
**JEFF WYATT**



**JEFF WYATT**



**JEFF WYATT**  
2 Windsor chairs I recently completed, one arm chair & one rocker



**JEFF WYATT**



**JEFF WYATT**



**KENN WARR**



**TOMMY HARTLINE**  
JULY DEMO

## PASS IT ON by Maurice Clabaugh

Rylan, my grandson, and his family generally attended Kentuck Festival in Northport when I was demonstrating. When he was four years-old he asked to turn with Grampy, during the demonstration. He would hop up on my lap and I would proceed to help him turn. That year it was just a bead on a spindle but each year he was there I tried to give him lessons to do more difficult turnings. The next visit when he asked to turn during Kentuck, he turned a spindle called "Spurtle". The 7-year-old hid the finished "spurtle" behind his back and ran looking for his mother to present it to her. The enthusiastic look on his face is etched in my mind even today, and Rylan is 11 years old. After he left, I returned to the demo lathe, only to find 13 kids in line proclaiming "me next". Of course, I could not comply because of insurance reasons but they found it hard to understand.



Covid took its toll on our annual visit in the summer to have him spend a week with us. The visits were postponed for 2 years. After the pause, Rylan was anxious to return to turning for this year's project was special to him. During last year's Art class Rylan was given the assignment of making a fish out of a slab of clay 7" wide X 10" long X .5". Students were to design, construct, paint, and have it fired in a kiln. He was so proud of it, he enthusiastically unwrapped it to show his grandparents. After all the praise and affirmation for the "Blue Fish" subsided. I took Rylan aside and explained that "Blue Fish" was made of clay, and we (he and I) could make a fish out of wood on the lathe. He could not wait to proceed. So, we arranged a date for him to spend a week with us in

July 2022 under stipulations. He was finally able to get all his shots and voluntarily isolated himself for two weeks before his visit and be tested for Covid two days before he came.

I had decided to make the experience a learning lesson for both of us. The goal was to make a fish from wood that could be compared with his clay Blue Fish, using and/or watching the use of different woodworking machines, and completing the project safely. Rylan has no experience with woodworking skills other than a hammer and nails. I have minimal skills in that area myself. My woodworking skills have, since 1991 concentrated on lathe turnings.

Rylan made a basic pattern by copying Blue Fish on a copy machine, pasting it on a 7" w X 10" long" X 1" thick piece of Mahogany. He and I cut the patterned outline of the Blue Fish wood blank, and cut it with my assistance, on a bandsaw. He proceeded to power sand the edges, mount the blank on the lathe, and turn a tenon on the back, so we could hold it in a carving vise. While it was on the lathe, he reversed the blank so that he could turn the indentation in the stomach area (to hold coins). He traced the pattern's features onto the "Red Fish" wooden form to allow for detailing of the form. Rylan was given detailing options for each of the features, so "Red Fish" in wood and Blue Fish in clay could be compared.



He chose to carve the top and bottom fins and to have a wavy pattern on the tail portion of "Red Fish" (one portion of the tail fin turns down and the other turns up). The carved tail fin has hand carved, and pyrographic accents. After Rylan finished the power and hand carving of the fins, he sanded "Red Fish" to 600 grit sandpaper. The eye socket was drilled to 16 mm to support the red glass eye. The tenon remaining on the back was sanded and circles were inscribed on the back for signing, dating and wood identification. After two coats of sanding sealer, two coats of gloss lacquer and "Red Fish" was buffed using the Beall system (Jeweler's wheels). Finally, silicone was used to attach the red glass eye into its socket and the "Red Fish" was signed by both collaborators.

Rylan listed 35 things he learned in doing this project. We spent 13 hours on the "Red Fish" project over three days. I, personally, learned more, even though I had used some of the machinery before this project. But time, effort, and endless "good questions" aside, I believe anyone could look at this picture of him and his project and feel it was priceless!



### *Turn for Troops: Frequently Asked Questions*

***Can ONLY slimline pens be turned in?***

***Any style pen may be turned in, however the only kit Woodcraft will replace it with is the slimline kit.***

***IE: turn in a cigar pen and receive a slimline kit.***

#### **What is Turn for Troops?**

Turn for Troops is a national initiative started by Woodcraft in 2004 in an effort to bolster the spirits of active duty and rehabilitating military service members. Woodcraft stores across the country host turning events (typically over Veterans Day weekend) to assist volunteers in handcrafting wooden writing pens, which are then sent to the troops with personal notes from the turners.

#### **How many years has Woodcraft sponsored Turn for Troops National Turn-a-Thons?**

2021 was Woodcraft's 18th year for Turn for Troops national events.

#### **How many pens are turned a year?**

In 2021, volunteers and employees at Woodcraft turned 14,703 pens. Our largest total was in 2009 with 17,228.

#### **How many pens have been made overall?**

Since 2004, the total number of pens submitted has been 219,970.

#### **Who can turn a pen?**

Anyone! No experience is required, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome.

#### **Does my local Woodcraft store have a turning event?**

Store events may vary. At this time the Pelham Woodcraft store does not have turning events. This may change early next year (2023).

#### **Is there a cost to participate?**

No, just your time.

#### **Do I have to bring anything with me?**

Nope. Just a desire to say "thank you" to the troops. Tools, supplies, equipment and safety gear will be provided.

#### **What if I'm not near a store or don't feel comfortable attending an in-person event?**

While the program is designed to take place on a store level, we realize that may not always be possible. COVID-19 concerns are still very real as well. See contact info below to ask how you can still participate remotely.

#### **Where do the finished pens go?**

All completed pens collected during store events are shipped to the Woodcraft corporate office, where they are held pending shipment to military connections.

#### **How does Woodcraft decide where to send pens?**

The Woodcraft corporate office has several contacts across the globe to assist in distribution efforts to active-duty military and those recovering in rehabilitation centers. If those contacts are unable to accept any, they often refer us to other units. Stores receive requests, and sometimes a service member or their family will send us a request.

#### **How can my soldier's unit get pens?**

Provide a contact name, shipping address and number of pens the group can accommodate to your local store; that information will be forwarded to the corporate office. If you are not near a store, please refer to the contact information below.

#### **Is there a minimum or maximum request amount?**

No. We have sent as few as 10 and as many as 6,000 to one location. As long as we are reaching out to our brothers and sisters in arms, we will send however many pens they can use.

#### **Do the troops know where the pens come from?**

Yes. Each pen is individually packed with branded materials from Woodcraft. Turners are encouraged to write a personal note of support on the provided card, which accompanies that pen to its final destination. Cards may include a simple thank you message, the type of wood used, the turner's contact information or prior military service if they are a veteran themselves, or whatever they would like to include.

#### **Why does Woodcraft support this program?**

Our military personnel sacrifice a great deal of time away from their families—often in dangerous locations in harm's way—to protect our country, so we feel it is important to remind them that folks appreciate them and that they are not forgotten. Based on the feedback we receive from those who have received TFT pens in the past, those efforts mean a lot.

## The Karl Harper Perpetual Challenge



AWA has established a perpetual turning challenge in memory of Karl Harper. This challenge is an excellent remembrance of Karl as he continuously expressed a 'try anything' spirit and was an inspiration to us all.

This is how it works: A piece will be turned by a member to be presented at the next meeting. A name will be drawn from the sign-in sheet at that meeting. If the person whose name is drawn accepts, they will take that piece to keep and will bring a piece the following month. If they decline, then another name will be drawn until someone accepts the challenge.

If you question your skill level, don't! Karl never did! You are good enough at whatever level you are! Karl would want us to put a bag over our heads before we turned because he thought 'Lights are for people with disabilities!'

Pete Marken turned a goblet for the July challenge, won by Sandra McMillan.

## Turn for the Troops

Special thanks to David Fancher for volunteering to head the Turn For Troops project in conjunction with Woodcraft. If you have pens you need to turn in, or if you'd like to participate, please contact David at [dfancher631@gmail.com](mailto:dfancher631@gmail.com), or email any of the club officers.

**UPDATE:** Sent 227 pens to Woodcraft, we are getting close to 300 pens. I will have pen kits and blanks.

See page 10 for information about Turning for the Troops.

### *Leadership*

President: Terry Tingle  
Vice President: Harold Deason  
Secretary: John Rhymes  
Treasurer: Carl Cummins  
Board: Scott Arnold  
Board: Tom Corbett  
Board: John Sowell  
Board: Richard Serviss  
Librarian: Jane Rabey  
Training: Under Development  
Newsletter: Michelle Marken  
Webmaster: Carl Cummins

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