

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN WOODTURNERS

newsletter

Volume 7, Number 3, March, 2023

Approximately 30 members and guests in person, plus 6 attending by Zoom; Norm Dill, Marv Slee, Chuck Vernon, Jason Olszewski, Abigail Olszewski, and Rich Avram.

Guests:

Janet (Jane) Sawin, spouse of Paul Sawin, Miah Swenson, Oscar Serrano, and Paul Mimnaugh – Construction Trades Students

Next Meeting: April 8th, 8:30 for coffee and donuts. Career Tech Center Shop or Online.

Our April demonstrator will be Jim Scarsella, turning a small box. Jim is one of our new members, but brings a massive amount of turning and carving techniques and experience to our club.

In May we will be hosting an IRD by Dr. Seri Robinson from Oregon State University, an expert on spalting in wood, and an accomplished turner.

June through December are all open at this point, so please step up and demonstrate to the club something that you like to do. Contact Gary and find a month that will work for you.

Upcoming events: From the AAW Events Page –

Please go to <https://woodturner.org> for more information and to register for these events. You will need to be an AAW member, or new affiliate member to access the information.

Free 3 month AAW Affiliate Membership for first time non-members. It will give you a chance to see all the things that full membership can give you.

April 1 and 2 – 4-6:30PM EDT – Spring Vendor Showcase – Cindy Drozda, Tod Raines, Joe Fleming, Lyle Jamieson, and Steve Worcester. Mini-demos, new tools, charity auction, and Q&A.

Turn a hollow vessel to honor the late John Jordan, and send in a photo and maybe win a prize. **Free.**

Open Zoom meeting. Register through the AAW Events Page/ Remote Demonstration Event Calendar.

April 15 – 3PM EDT – Derek Weidman, Sculpting Wildlife with a Wood Lathe
During this demonstration, Derek will create one or two animals (suggested by attendees!) on a wood lathe using primarily multi axis turning. Time will be dedicated to thorough coverage of safe practices and techniques for multi axis work, before moving into a more fluid design session, learning how to carve with the lathe. Finally the demo will

incorporate some contemporary carving tools, as well as some other tips and tricks. [multi-axis techniques and safety, use of contemporary carving tools, and texturing with chainsaws]

Cost: \$10 for AAW members, \$15 for non-members. Register on the AAW (woodturner.org) Events page.

WIT (Women in Turning) Presents on 2 dates on April 29 and May 6. Watch the AAW Events Page for details and registration.

2023 AAW International Woodturning Symposium, June 1-4, Louisville, Kentucky.

Kentucky Exposition Center

Registration is open and hotel blocks are going fast on the AAW Events page.

If you are an AAW member of affiliate member, watch your email for the weekly "Toolbox E-Newsletter: and the bimonthly "Keep Turning E-Newsletter. Or go to the AAW website, Resources Page www.woodturner.org

And don't miss the AAW Member-Moderated Forum on the same page. This page also guides you to the other resources, including all issues of American Woodturner magazine, Woodturning Fundamentals and others.

The February issue of Woodturning Fundamentals is out. Find it at www.woodturner.org Member or affiliate.

Business Meeting:

Welcome new student club members Peter Mimnaugh and Oscar Serrano, both from Suttons Bay. You will see later how much Peter has learned and progressed since being introduced to turning in our



student mentoring program. We look forward to seeing works from Oscar as well.

We also welcomed Jane Sawin, who decided to accompany her husband Paul to see what Paul has become so enthused about.

Gary asked Kieran Goodman, our new training coordinator to give an update. Four turners have requested some assistance, and have been paired with a mentor in their area. A dozen or more turners have volunteered to mentor as needed, and Kieran again sent around a sheet looking for more mentors, and folks who would like some help. Give him a call, (812)298-5747 or drop him a line, musicfalls@yahoo.com

Rich Foa, our public demonstration coordinator and WIT liaison, reported that, in addition to the July demonstration at the Crooked Tree Craft Sale, we have been asked to do a demonstration at the Empty Bowls Event, on April 30th. Also, we have been invited to do a gallery exhibit at the Oliver Center for the Arts, in Frankfort. The date has not been set yet, but we are asked to consider **LOANING** examples of great turnings from our collections (of our own turnings). We have also been invited to do a demonstration at the Traverse City Commons in October. And lastly, we have been invited to another gallery exhibition in Charlevoix in February or March, 2024.

Jan Bachman reported on our Treasury. As of February 17, with all bills paid, our balance stood at \$6,530.16.

The Board has discussed the idea of getting club apparel, and the members present were asked if they were interested. About 1/3 of the members present indicated interest, about half and half between hats and T-shirts. Stand by for more information and opportunity to order to your size.

The President's Easter Challenge, and Empty Bowls collection for delivery will be making a change in our April meeting agenda. **We will NOT have a separate Show and Share of pieces other than the Easter Challenge.** We will instead run the showing and judging of the Easter Challenge, and loading and group photo for the Empty Bowls. I think Gary plans to wrap those two things in as the business meeting.

Speaking of Empty Bowls. President Gary's challenge has been met! At least if all of you who pledged a specific number of bowls deliver them, or more. As of the meeting, we had committed or delivered 399, and somebody piped up and said they would cover that last one. And in addition, **the Bayou Woodturning Club, from Louisiana, heard about our Empty Bowls challenge and sent us ~20 beautiful segmented and turned bowls and vessels to add to our donation, most by turner John Guess.**



One last thing about the Empty Bowls. As you are aware, some of the items donated to the event are placed in a silent auction on the night of the event. As club members, we want to make sure that any of our items on the "over the top" side get included in that silent auction. So, of the bowls and other items you are donating, please mark any that you feel qualify for the "over the top" rank and mark the as such. As a club, we will also be choosing some from what has already been brought to meetings for the same category. It's nice to donate, but it is even

nicer to see some of our pieces bring in maximum funds to the Food Rescue Program.

Upcoming Outside Demonstrations: As said earlier, Dr. Seri Robinson of Oregon State University, will be presenting an Interactive Remote Demonstration for our club, during our club meeting on May 13. Dr. Robinson is an Associate Professor of Wood Anatomy, and specializes in spalting in wood.

Joe Breech, before he left his Arrowmont class last fall, asked his instructor, Matt Monaco, if he might be interested in coming to our club to put on a demonstration. Mr. Monaco was quite interested after learning a little more about us, and is interested. He will be in the Grand Rapids area in September, and is willing to come up and put on one of our old outside club demonstration packages. President Gary asked the club if they had interest in an all day interactive demonstration, and a fair number of hands came up. He then asked if we would be interested in participating in follow-up hands-on interaction with Matt on Sunday and Monday. About 10 hands went up that time. If we go forward with Matt coming here in September, that will be our only other outside demonstration for the year, instead of 3 Interactive Remote Demonstrations. Many of us remember our past onsite demonstrations by folks like Trent Bosch, Mark Gardner, and Keith Gotschall. They have added wonderfully to our skills in the club. Don't let this opportunity pass you by if it works out.

Club historian Pete Meyer is looking for our history. If you have old club photos, documents, anecdotes, memories of members or projects past, please get in touch with Pete. (231)499-7935, or hammergrips@gmail.com

Student Mentoring – Ken Hunter, our student mentoring coordinator, needs a few more turners to rotate in the Thursday mentoring sessions at the school. Remember, no matter how little you think you know about turning, it is massively more than what the student who has never turned knows. Introducing a student to the lathe, lathe safety, and very basic turning skill is very rewarding. There are 2 sessions each Thursday; morning, afternoon. You can do one or both. Give Ken a call (**231-499-9474**) and get in the rotation. The school now has 2 really nice lathes for students to use, and Instructor Tom has asked if we could step up and handle 2 students in each morning and afternoon session, so we really need turners who can volunteer a little time guiding students into the craft/art we like so much.

Wig Stands – Our project coordinator, Dennis Ferguson, says that we are in need of more wig stands for the cancer centers in TC and Kalkaska. If you don't have the plans for them, reach out to Dennis Ferguson, dennis45th@gmail.com. This is our continuing community action project, and we need to keep it going. Contact Dennis with your completed wig stands. (231)492-6475 or dennis45th@gmail.com. Dennis even brought in wig stand kits, ready to turn. They were rapidly claimed.

Club Demonstrators – Please step up and do a demonstration for the club. We need demonstrators for 2023, starting in June. Club demonstrations are always about projects that the demonstrator chooses. We never ask you to demonstrate something that you don't know how to do. You know that you have some turning project you enjoy doing, so please step up and volunteer to show how to do that project at a club meeting. Talk to Gary, Pete, Kris, or Jan, and choose a month to show us what you enjoy doing.

Shop Tours – President Gary is setting up tours to member shops, after a meeting. **A tour of Gary Newman's shop has been set up to follow the June meeting.** Would you be willing to have club members come to your shop after a meeting? Get with Gary and set up a date.

Board of Directors – Your Board of Directors for 2023 are:

President – Gary Perkins - 231-640-0377
Vice-President – Pete Meyer - 231-499-7935
Treasurer – Jan Bachman - 734-730-7038
Secretary – Kris Roberts - 701-400-9160

Other Board members:

Past President Jim McKimmy - 231-631-0425
Dennis Ferguson - 231-492-6475
Kieran Goodman - 812-298-5747
Mike Lynskey - 313-220-5077
Marv Slee - 231-499-1719
Weldon Rutledge - 517-775-8973

Our Board members are here to serve the club. If you have a need, concern, or suggestion, please get in touch with one of us. The Board meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm virtually by Zoom. All members are welcome to attend by contacting me, your secretary, before a meeting so I can send you the Zoom invitation.

Bring Back Raffle:

\$1 per ticket. If you win, you "bring back" a turned prize for the next month.

Last month, **Amedee DeCruydt** won the raffle, and this month brought back a very nice spalted maple bowl. The tickets went out, the \$ came back, and **Chuck**

McLaughlin won it again. Congratulations Chuck. We look forward to what your Bring Back will be this time. Sorry, no photos of the grinning winner this time.

For Sale:

Supplies: CA Glue and Anchor Seal Wood Sealer.

Joe Breech is the keeper of the 55 gallon drum of Anchor Seal. If you need some, please call him at 231-218-1021. Either make arrangements to pick it up from him, or have him bring what you need to the next meeting. Cost is \$10.00/gallon.

CA Glue – Glue will now be stored at the Career Tech Center, Club storage box. If you need glue between meetings, please call President Gary 231-640-0377 or Treasurer Jan 734-730-7038. They might have a bottle or two at home.

Wanted:

If there is something you are looking for send an email or text to me and it will be posted here.

Here's a few examples of what's on our Facebook Group Page. If you haven't looked lately, or joined it, you're missing a lot.



Show and Share:

Thanks to Pete Meyer and Jo Jaczkowski for many of the photos this month. My camera batteries died a final death from old age.

Gary Newman –

Showed 3 pieces, a segmented bowl of black walnut and various woods; a small segmented, lidded box with bloodwood as the base; and a cherry and walnut lidded bowl with embellishment on the lid knob. All were finished with walnut oil.



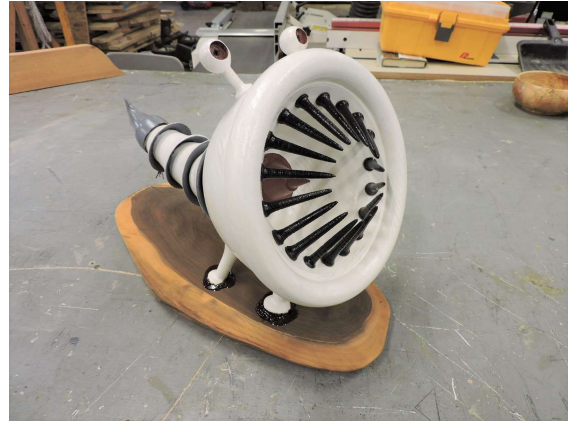
Dennis Ferguson – brought in 3 items. The first is the mullberry bowl he is holding, which has the charastic yellow hue before it fades.



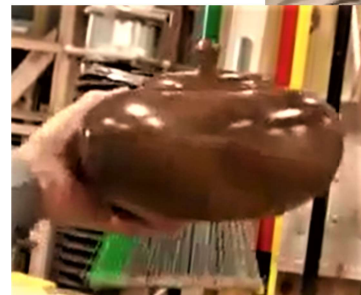
The second and third are a spalted birch bowl, and a lidded vessel of basswood and maple, with a 2nd attempt lid of spalted birch.

Rich Foa – and his pet, “Out of the Pond”.

Unfortunately, Out of the Pond may have to seek his natural environment, as Rich’s wife says that he will **not** become a house pet. Out of the Pond is painted ash and maple on a walnut base.



Dale Kukla – first showed us a large cherry bowl, and then a walnut lidded vessel. Both of which have really nice finish.



Chuck McLaughlin – brought in 2 items.



The first is a small, lidded walnut box, the inside of which he gilded. The other piece is a cherry

bowl which he embellished on the outside with carved vertical grooves, which he then painted with 2-tone metal paint. Each groove was alternately painted a different color.



Chuck was also honored recently as artist of the month by the at the Long Lake Artisan's Gallery. I tried to get a copy of the montage from the Facebook site, but only captured the cat. I think this one qualifies as a house pet.



Jim McKimmy – Jim got a little bushwhacked by your secretary. He brought in his offering for Empty Bowls, and one of them



was a walnut hollow form he did as the



first of a series. As several others have attributed to Lyle's guidance, Jim is doing a series of this piece, and it was just too nice to let him slide from sharing it with us.

Lyle Jamieson – has accepted a commission for some urns (burial?) He brought in a prototype which he is developing



by hollowing from the bottom.

He also showed a lidded box he made in 1995 and embellished. The unidentified wood

body was embellished by painting on a small, green, leaf pattern climbing up from the base. He also in-layed pierced maple in the form of a queen ann's lace blossom which he filled with epoxy and sanded flush.



Lyle then paid tribute to his recently passed friend and mentor, the late John Jordan, and showed one



of John's textured hollow forms from his collection. Lyle described the shape as approaching a sphere, but not becoming one, in a purposeful way.

And lastly, Lyle gave us an update on Fitch Hasbrouk, one of our long time members that

we haven't seen recently. Fitch, as many of you know, is a registered nurse. He has been at Munson Hospital for years, on the night shift, which is why we saw him seldom. Fitch has now moved to North Carolina, and is battling leukemia. Please keep him in all our prayers.

Piereson Humphrey – Piereson is the son of Corey Humphrey, and is obviously learning fast from his father. Piereson showed us 4 pens he has completed. They are purple heart, zebra wood, and 2 of cherry. They are finished with CA glue. Wonderful, Piereson.



Steve Bujalski – talked about the natural edged maple bowl he turned from a 100 year old tree on his family



farm. He also brought in his Empty Bowls contribution, which

number, if I can count straight, 20 turned bowls.



Peter Mimnaugh – a Construction Trades student, and new student member of the club, really astounded us all with the turned and carved chess set he made from garden post woods. And by the way, all those chessmen are in that quart



plastic bag at the bottom right of Peter's photo. After seeing this, does anyone have remaining reservations about the efficacy of our student mentoring program? Help out our mentors, and volunteer some time with these young folks.

Sheree Jamrog – a brand new, first time woodturner brought in 2 learning pieces.

One, a square that she turned into a smooth cylinder under the mentoring of Joe Breech, and the other, a series of beads and coves she turned after working with her other mentor, Kris Roberts. Right now she is hampered by an unheated garage, but the weather is turning. A wonderful start, Sheree.



Ty Gilliland – has been inspired to try his hand at combining resin casting to fill voids. A lesson learned, he says, is that resin goes where it wants, not necessarily stopping where you want it to. In the cherry bowl he infused with resin, he



found that the resin filled in every little crack

and groove, including his small feature in the bottom recess of the bowl.

Gary Perkins – has been doing some traveling with Jean in the last month, so hasn't been in the shop as much. He did though, bring in a very nice, shallow, very thin, maple bowl. (this is the only shot I got of the bowl, sorry) That's not to say he has been slacking. He has been very busy trying to keep up with the needs of the club too.



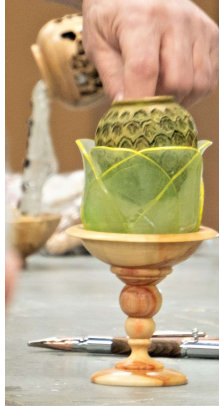
Joe Breech – Now, I'm not sure I heard right, but I think Joe said he found this piece discarded at



the Tennessee Symposium in January, and decided it was a little too nice to leave. So he picked it up and hollowed it out using Lyle's system, including mirroring the outside ridges on the inside. It will be finished off and gifted to his doctor's office as a pencil holder. Joe also brought in a small natural edged bowls of walnut (sap wood and heart wood).



Dave Rife – has been pushing the envelope again. He is working with resin pours to create a marriage



of wood with resin in different ways. This first photo shows Dave with one of his fairy jars pouring water and bits into a bowl. Not quite

finished with this idea, Dave turned a pedestal for his fairy jars, and then cast and molded flower petals to hold the jar.

Inspirations from the Tennessee Symposium in January has Dave pushing the envelope in other directions as well. A talk with Stuart Batty led him to try his hand at a square, thin, winged vessel of walnut seen here and in the



background. Others led to a lidded hollow form of unidentified wood on the far left, a lidded box, also of unidentified wood on the far right, and a sculpture of walnut with plywood discs. (*the pens beside the pouring water are by Pierson Humphrey*)

Club Demonstration – Rich Foa, Square Bowls.



Turning a square bowl seems like a really simple project. Cut a square (really square) blank on the table saw, center it on the lathe, and hollow out the bowl in the middle. And it's been done that way if you troll the internet and have seen some like that as "art pieces". That is definitely NOT the way Rich wants to see his square bowls at the end of the process.

Rich's square bowls have lift and elegance.



There are a plethora of forms you can make, from thick with deep hollows, to thin and gently shaped, as the cherry piece Rich is



holding. Tools used? Bowl gouge, spindle gouge, parting tool, calipers, and a ruler.

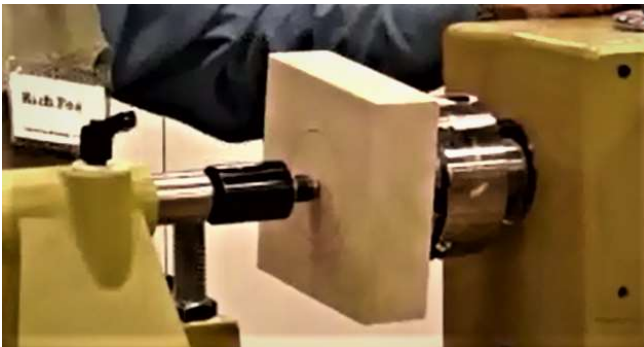
Rich's first demo piece is similar to the one above, but with a bowl shape projecting from below, through the wings, with the rim proud of



the wings. It is a form that takes thought and careful measurement to give the perspective of the wall of the bowl below and above forming one smooth curve.

For this demo, Rich chose a maple blank, carefully squared up, with the sides sanded, and with the center carefully determined and marked. He also scribed two circles, the diameter of inner one which will fit the 4 jaw chuck in expansion mode. The diameter of the outer circle is to guide you on the thickness of the foot.

He then mounts what will be the upper face of the bowl against the open jaws of the chuck, and brings the tailstock up and centers the point and cup of the live center on the center point. The tailstock is then



tightened against the piece, forming a friction hold against the chuck jaws. Rich only lightly tightens the quill lock, as he will be tightening with the hand wheel frequently to maintain the mounting.

If you have a variable speed lathe, start at slow speed and turn it up until you have a comfortable speed for you. One of the problems with this shape is that while you are turning face grain, the corners are coming past as both face grain and end grain in interrupted cuts, sometimes called cutting air wood.

For you newer turners, this means you have 4 corners passing your tool, with only air in between. This can get a little dicey until you have done it a few times and get comfortable finding those corners lightly, and with the tool properly oriented. The best method, suggested by Rich and others is to touch only the tool bevel to the wood near the center, and slowly and lightly draw the bevel out to the points until you can't hear or feel the wood through your tool. Then, change the angle of the tool's cutting edge and very



lightly advance the tool into the wood. The distance over the tool rest **does not change**. If it does, you will most assuredly get a catch. You just change the angle of the tool enough to start to cut, with the flute at approximately 45 degrees. Although this change in angle is done with the back hand (locked against your hip, of course), it is very like beginning a cut on a spindle, where you bring the bevel gently against the wood, and then raise the handle until the tool starts to cut.

With the wood presenting both the face grain and end grain 2 times each with each rotation, a very light cut is important. Even with a very light cut, you may still, on some woods chip out one or both end grain corners. Go back to find the points and start again, even more lightly until you can remove the 'chip out'. If you haven't figured this out yet, these cuts will only work properly with a very sharp tool. Start sharp, and sharpen often. Want to ask me how I know? Don't!



Rich also suggests, for woods more apt to splinter at the corners, to apply a hardener.

This is the stage at which you are establishing the bottom curve and/or thickness of the wings. Mostly you would want to have a slight up-curve to the wings to give it lift. Although in some designs, such as a “waterfall” design, you would want a downward curve to the wings.



You can see now that the upward curve has been defined. As stated earlier, as you start the cut and proceed, the flute should be approximately 45 degrees to the wood surface. As you approach the end of the cut, you want to close the flute. This both gives a sharp angle between what you are removing

and what remains, and it also greatly reduces the potential of a catch.

Now that the bottom of the wing is generally shaped, Rich cuts the expansion mortise for the chuck. He does this with a ¼” parting tool, pressing straight in, and opening enough area so the chuck jaws will fit in



easily. As Rich said, the opening for the chuck jaws doesn't have to be very deep, Depending on the wood, and how aggressive you turn, ⅛ to ¼” depth is sufficient.

Rich then shaped the outside of the bowl below the wing, keeping sufficient mass to prevent the expansion of the chuck jaws from breaking it out.



Again, as you approach the underside of the wing, close the

flute to prevent a catch. Rich then began using a shear scrape to refine the wing shape and remove tool marks, using very light pressure as he approached the wing tips.

When you have the bottom shapes the way you want, now use the calipers to measure the diameter of the bowl where it would go through the wing. You want that same diameter, or very similar where the bowl comes out of the wings on the sop face.

At this point, you can sand before reversing the work. Some power sanding is possible

with the lathe turning slowly, but the wing points should be sanded with the lathe off, and best done by hand.



Now it's time to reverse the piece, onto the chuck jaws in expanding mode. Expand the jaws securely into the recess/mortise, being careful not to tighten so much that you break the foot. Oh yes, it really is possible to do that.

With a pencil, and the lathe running at slow speed, mark the center point carefully. Then, using $\frac{1}{2}$ the spread of the calipers you set, as in the photo above, scribe a circle.



This will be your outside wall of the bowl, giving the illusion of the bowl emerging from the wing. Don't cut beyond that line as you shape the upper side of the wing.

Shaping the top of the wing, is again the process of drawing the tool, with only the bevel contacting, out from center until the tool clears the wood, so you know exactly where the points of the wings are. Then begin you shaping cuts.

Here it is design choices. You can make the top of the wings flat, make them concave to continue the visual lift of the bottom, or even slightly convex, producing a thin wing tip. The design is totally up to you.

For this demonstration, Rich chose a concave shape to continue the visual lift of the wing. He was careful to maintain the line he scribed. When he achieved the curve he wanted, which was slightly less than the underside of the wing, he switched to a spindle gouge to sharply define the point where the bowl wall emerges from the wing. The spindle gouge typically has a shallower bevel angle (generally 30-35 degrees) which allows for a crisper cut/line when approaching the wall of the bowl on this concave surface. And again, Rich used a careful shear scrape to remove tool marks on the wing.

Now it's time to shape the wall of the bowl above the wing. Again, profile design is up to you. For this demo, Rich chose a slightly in-swept form, curving the rim in slightly as it rose above the wing.

The final step is hollowing out the bowl, which is a very straight forward process that we each have our own method. Then sanding. Again, due to the wings, hand sanding with the lathe stopped is recommended. We all know about sanding the inside of the bowl. However, just a reminder. Those wing tips are sharp, AND invisible when the wood is spinning. Be careful, or you may find need of those bandaids you keep handy in the shop.



Rich stopped here with this one, in order to show us some other forms which require advanced techniques and multi-axis turning.

We plan to have the recording on the members only page of the club website soon. Pete and I are working to quickly update our member directory and get all you new members in and registered for that page so you can watch what follows for yourself.

This newsletter is now 14 pages long, which is way too long according to my major proof reader 😊, and most of you as well.

Rich went on to describe how to turn these other square and faceted bowls in detail, but his explanation and diagrams are too involved to try and describe here. So, I will refer you to the recording of his demo, which should be up on the website in the next week or so.

In the mean time, work on you Easter Challenge if you haven't finished it yet, and as my old mentor advised, "keep the chips flying"

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Roberts, secretary