



SUNCOAST WOODCRAFTERS GUILD

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SUNCOAST WOODCRAFTERS GUILD GENERAL MEETING MINUTES February 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM Chatelech Secondary School Library 5904 Cowrie Street, Sechelt, BC.

CALL TO ORDER: George McKee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS:

- **Bryan Cuming:** Primarily a woodturner but will do anything. Started woodworking again around 50 years of age
- **Ken Kolterman:** Owns a mobile saw mill and also does veneer projects

MEETING PROGRAM: Presentation by Dave Beauchesne titled “Axes: One of mankind’s oldest tools. Basic terminology, care, use, handle design, and replacement”

Rick Budd introduced Dave Beauchesne as a hand tool collector and someone who knows way too much about axes.

Dave started his presentation saying that his obsession with hand tools started with his grandfather who made, repaired, and maintained all his own hand tools. Dave received his first real axe from him.



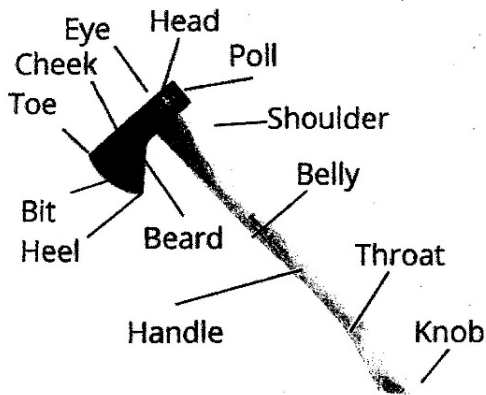
Dave stated that, outside of the wheel, humankind’s most important invention is the wedge which is the basis of many tools including the axe and that virtually every civilization has made or used axes.

Evidence of the this was the stone axe which he passed around.

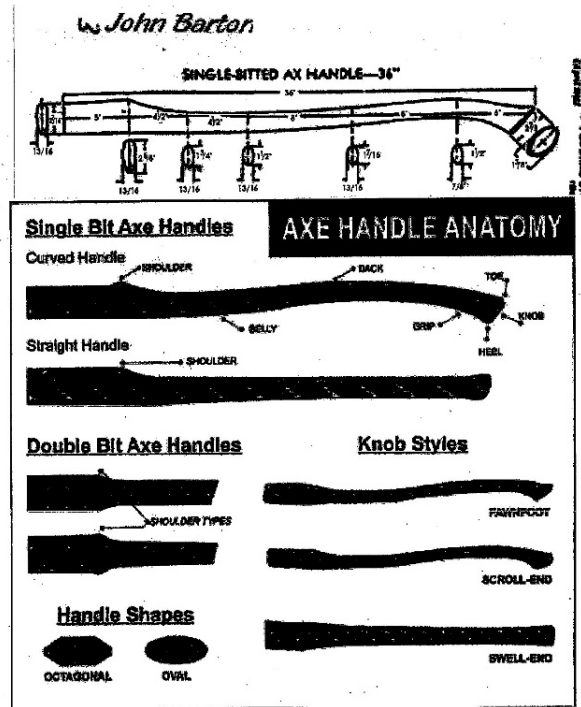
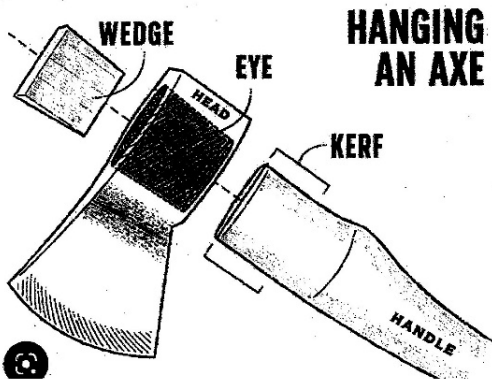
Axes are a staple of the outdoors.

Invention of the chainsaw resulted in the loss of man axe manufacturers, but there has been a resurgence of axe manufacturing in the past 10 or 15 years. Some of these axes are very expensive.

He gave everyone a handout outlining some of the terminology and parts of an axe, how to attach the handle or 'hang' an axe, and axe handle anatomy.



Parts of an Axe



Hammers, axes, and mauls all have the same handle requirements and aren't hard to make.

Handle shapes can be unique.

Quarter sawn wood with the grain running parallel to the axe head is best. You don't want the grain to run out.

The best woods for handles should have some springiness to make using the axe more forgiving on your body. Fiberglass handles usually don't have enough spring.

Axe head designs include the Puget Sound, Rhineland or Montreal, cruiser-style, or hatchets.

Axe heads should ring like a bell when struck with a mallet. If not, they are likely cracked.

Dave hates it when axes are used as a hammer because it can seriously damage the axe.

Axes can be easily maintained by keeping them dry, oiling the head and wood, and keeping them sheathed when not being used. Sheathes are both for safety and protecting the edge.

Sharper axes are not necessarily better. More obtuse angles are better for splitting wood, whereas finer angles are best for chopping down trees.

Nicks in the axe edge can be removed with draw file, then use a sharpening stone to finish the edge. 300 to 1000 grit stones are usually the finest you need to use.

Rick thanked Dave for his terrific presentation and present him with one of Patrick's handmade pens.

COFFEE BREAK

BUSINESS MEETING:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: – The Agenda was adopted as circulated.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: - There being no errors or omissions noted, it was moved and carried the minutes of the January 17, 2023 Annual General Meeting be accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES or any UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

- a. **Treasurer's Report** – Bob Marando reported the books are in good shape and the Executive need to work on a new budget
- b. **Membership Report** – Tom Hourigan reported there are currently 48 paid up members with 12 still outstanding. He expects the outstanding members to be paid up by the next meeting.
- c. **Education** – Rick Budd stated that next month will be 'March Mallet Night' with members presenting their mallet and talking about how they made them.
- d. **2x4 Challenge** – Mike Cronk stated this year's 2x4 Challenge will be held on Tuesday, June 20, from 6 pm to 9 pm at Coopers Green. Mike also mentioned that the Guild's Slack site has been upgraded to the full business version meaning that all content will now be retained permanently. We are also started to use the site to collect more information on accessed locally sourced wood.
- e. **Toys and Gifts Program** – Dan Chercover reported there is nothing new at this time

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 21, 2023

SHOW & TELL/TIPS & TRICKS:

Norm Ross – Showed the new wooden name boards for his boat which his son made for him. He is planning to mount using rare earth magnets.

Some members presented some of the axes they brought:

- Ken McAra – brought a lathing mallet
- Ron Johnson – brought a Swedish hatchet
- Ken Parker – brought a splitting hatchet on which he replaced the handle
- Mike Allegretti – brought double bit axe and a Fiskars splitting axe with a life long plastic handle
- Rick Budd – brought the hatchet he got as a young boy. It came with a belt that held the axe, canteen, compass, and Swiss Army knife
- George McKee – brought an axe that has been handed down within his family and that has gone through many handles, most recently a few years ago done by himself

ATTENDANCE PRIZE DRAW – Tom Hourigan

George McKee won a \$25 gift certificate for KMS Tools

ADJOURN BUSINESS MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

These minutes have been approved:

Chair

Date

Patrick Crawford, Past President – Suncoast Woodcrafters Guild