

Hand Tools Class

Saturday, March 7th the educational classes continued with the third installment "Hand Tools". Members in attendance were Dick Powell, John Wetzel, Bill Bridger, Jim Gulley, Bill Lynam, Craig S. Miller, Dan Pettit and yours truly Richard Pierce. The instructor was long time club member Chuck Smith.



Chuck started working with his parents picking cotton when he was about six years old and not long after began a career in the woodworking field which has lasted a lifetime. He graduated from Washington Union High School in 1946. One of the most influential people in his life was his High School Woodshop teacher who became a lifelong friend, fellow back packer and fisherman. Chuck joined the Navy (Seabees) & continued woodworking for his Country while stationed in Port Hueneme, California. While in the service Chuck also played the trumpet in a dance band. Tough duty but someone had to do it! After the service Chuck worked for many employers including Belmont boats before it was Belmont boats.

Of the innumerable hand tools in his tool boxes many were described as tools provided by "Uncle Sam". And a significant number have been in his possession for over 50 years. As he told us, "Remember I am a child of the depression and nothing gets thrown away". On occasion during the discussion Chuck would hold up a tool and ask, "What's this"? Once or twice a member knew the name of the tool, but most of the time he stumped us. We heard and were informed about "hillbilly carpentry", "I work to a sharp pencil", 4 fold-3 foot, screw drivers, awls, burnisher, brad pushers, spoke shave, hand scraper, Stanley school boy planer, dead blow extra thump, a scribe used to hang cabinets, nail sets, trammel points, Spud, nippers, nail pullers, nail saw, short ferring saw, long ferring saw, kerfing saw, dado plane, shingle working tool, hand drills, key hole saws, compass saws, plumbers saws, a crow bar bent so as to be used to straighten twisted studs when framing, a saw held up with the explanation for us to remember the number on the edge of a saw blade represents the number of saw teeth per inch, " and my favorite, a wrench held up and described as one that can be used on both Metric and Standard size nuts and bolts and it can.(think about it!). Chuck held up an auger bit and stated the bit had #16 stamped into it and asked if we knew what that meant. No one answered. He shared with us the number on an auger bit represents the number of 1/16 measures across the diameter of the bit. Therefore the #16 bit is a one inch in diameter auger as it contains sixteen 1/16th of an inch measures across the bit. Neat huh! Maybe you knew that, but yours truly was among those stumped when Chuck posed the question.

The class was most enjoyable and informative. Not only did I learn much about hand tools but I also got to know a little better a true gentleman and expert woodworker, Chuck Smith. You are encouraged to sign up for these educational classes which are free to members. Details of future classes can be found on the club website at www.SJFWA.com.