

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND SCROLLERS MEETING NOTES

February 19, 2017

Seven people attended the meeting at the Woodcraft Store in Manchester, CT. Attendance was good considering the meeting had been rescheduled from last Sunday due to the snow storm, resulting in a few of our "regulars" not able to attend. The weather was great this time, reinforcing the tradition of unpredictable weather in New England.

We had a short business meeting reviewing the activities associated with the Woodworking Show in West Springfield last month. We had an excellent location for our booth near the front entrance to the building, resulting in a lot of activity throughout the weekend. We had 2 brand new Jet scroll saws for demonstration during the show, thanks to the Jet company representative that was at the show. You can see our booth and the scroll saws we were using in the pictures on our website. We had many attendees spend time speaking to us, and several that spent time using the scroll saws during the show.

Thank you to our members; Murray N., Max S., Murille M., Bill B., and Bill Arthur (from the Seacoast Scrollers) for all your help manning the booth during the show. It was greatly appreciated.

Our booth resulted in six new people visiting our website, completing the contact form, and I have added them to our email list. We currently have 26 people on the email list. I had sent out an email in January to several members that had not been to recent meetings, and most of those people replied that they wished to remain on the email list. I did remove 6 names from the list since they have not responded to my email and have not been to any meetings in quite a while, but we have gained 6 new people since then.

We talked a little about the drop in attendance at the other clubs in New England, and the drop in membership at the Scrollsaw Association of the World (SAW). We all agreed we get a lot of information, tips, etc. from the interaction with other club members and found it very worthwhile to attend the meetings. Although our attendance is not a high percentage of the names on the email list, we intend to continue with our present schedule and location.

We also talked about the new Jet scroll saw, and the status of the Excalibur saw. We found the new Jet saw to be smooth in operation, but a couple of us were not enthused about the lower blade clamp design. We have heard several rumors about the status of the Excalibur, but nothing has been confirmed at this time. We also talked about the new dust collection system (Scrollnado) that several of us purchased at the show. I have been very pleased with the results on my Excalibur and the one I designed to fit my Eclipse. The Festool dust extractor I purchased last week at Woodcraft works great with this system.

The show & tell portion of the meeting was the most interesting part (as usual). John A. brought 4 nativity scenes that he made from a design in the holiday issue of the Scrollsaw magazine that John resized and modified. Great job John! Bill B. brought a selection of valentine ornaments, including a couple of 2 piece designs, from the magazine as well. John W. brought a beautiful "A Rose for You" plaque he made from a Steve Goode design. The background of the design is printed on photo paper and the frame is one he made. Bud S. brought 2 beautiful butterflies and a gorgeous dragonfly he made from the Winfield Collection plans. He did the cutting, assembly and finishing, and his daughter did the fantastic painting that made these so attractive. Dick W. made the Unicorn puzzle from a PVC material used for exterior trim. He said it cut well, but leaves a rough finish on the cut compared to wood. He also warned anyone that is thinking of using it that you should not use any sandpaper on it that has previously been used on wood, as the wood dust transfers to the surface of the PVC and is impossible to remove. Dick also brought the "Devil Car" from Toymaking Plans made from Walnut, Bloodwood, and Ebony (beautiful job as usual) and had brass tubing and rods for the wheel axles. Dick also brought a wooden noisemaker from the SSWC "Gizmos & Gadgets 2015 edition. Harry G. brought in his first completed scroll saw project; a pair of very nice bookends. Great start Harry! I brought in a "Good Friends, Good Wine, Good Times" plaque, a "God Bless our Vets" ornament, and hummingbird napkin holder.

It all resulted in a great, informative meeting, with several short discussions (as usual) during the show & tell. Although I have been scrolling for many years now, I always learn something from every meeting we have.

Our next meeting is Sunday, April 9, 1-3PM, at the Woodcraft Store in Manchester, CT. Hope to see many of you there!