



# Southern Piedmont Woodturners



October 6, 2025

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ello woodturners. The time that has elapsed since the last newsletter was issued following the July meeting and election has been a busy, busy time for SPW. We have had two regular meetings, one in August and one in September, and have also had two meetings of the Board of Directors. We have completed all the planning and preparations for the Cabarrus County Fair, and have executed those plans successfully. Shortly prior to the Fair, SPW held a power carving workshop and a Turn-athon, both held at the Clearwater studio. And, certain members of the Board Directors have been working diligently on specific activities related to various aspects of the club operations inclusive of the Website upgrades and the application for the North Carolina Grassroots Arts Program grant, as well as our participation in the North Carolina Woodturning Symposium. So, find a comfortable place to read, sit down, and enjoy the newsletter – there is a lot in it.

## ***Regular Meeting August 19, 2025***

The meeting started promptly at 6:30 and was presided over by President Larry Nottingham, with 23 in attendance and 1 attending remotely.

### **Club Business**

**Board of Director Meetings** – were discussed briefly and are covered separately later in this newsletter.

**County Fair** – Phil Goodman, who is the club coordinator for the Fair, discussed the Fair schedule, SPW participation in it, and volunteers sought to cover a wide variety of needs. By the time of this writing, the Fair has passed and any documentation of preparations are moot at this point. Details of the actual participation activities are provided later in this newsletter.

**Club Photographers** – We still need a club photographer and a backup – just need a camera to snap pics at events attended. In most cases the photos taken with a cell phone are more than adequate. And, we need to get some other people trained on the A/V and remote demonstration equipment.

**Raffles** – items are needed for the monthly raffles. If you have any turning-related tools or supplies that are no longer of any use to you, please consider donating them to the club for the raffles. Others might find them worth the price of raffle tickets, a win for the club and the lucky winner.

Website – A brief discussion was provided on the website, with details of the status provided in a separate section of this newsletter.

**Meeting day/time change** – Notice is given that **MEETING DAY/TIME WILL BE CHANGED TO THE 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9:00–12:00, BEGINNING JANUARY 24, 2026.** Please make note of this date and time, as the date and time provided in the last newsletter were both incorrect.

**Workshops** – Two workshops were announced at the August meeting. The first was a hands-on workshop on power carving, offered 10:00–12:00 on August 23 and the second a Turn-athon 12:00 – ???, and also to be held on August 23, to turn items for sale at the County Fair. More on these later.

**NC Woodturning Symposium** – Information pertaining to the NCWTS was provided by Ric Erkes, details to be provided later.

**Club T-Shirts** – An announcement was made that SPW logo T-shirts are being ordered so that they would be available to wear at the County Fair, and orders were taken. Price to be determined.

## August Demonstration

Having completed the business portion of the meeting, we moved to the introduction of the demonstrator for the evening, Darryl Jones.

Darryl is a woodworker, woodturner, content creator, instructor, and the founder of Dread Knot Woodshop. A longtime woodworker, Darryl was introduced to woodturning a few years ago and has been exploring the craft ever since. Some of his favorite turning projects include hollow forms, finials, and lidded boxes, but he is also willing to take a shot at new, challenging projects when given the opportunity. Darryl has worked with several ven-

dors in roles such as brand ambassador, instructor, demonstrator, and as a member of product development teams. He has been brand ambassador for Robert Sorby for several years, traveling throughout the country and demonstrating their line of tools.

This demo covered turning a hollow-form ornament, starting with hollowing the globe and finishing up with turning a finial, so involving two of Darryl's favorite turning forms. Darryl used a few shop made implements to make the project more "doable", and he shared tips on the tools and techniques as he worked his way through the demonstration. The holidays are just around the corner. Hopefully, we learned something new during this demo and will be inspired to try making this project ourselves.

Shown to the right is one of Darryl's ornaments, very similar to the one he turned during the demo. He says that he prefers the flattened globes, as shown, rather than a more spherical globe.

Here Darryl is shown preparing to



mount a blank after drilling a hole through it. Darryl starts with a wooden blank that has the grain oriented parallel to the lathe axis, i.e., as for spindle turning. The blank is square,

with dimensions a bit larger than the intended final diameter and with a thickness that is equal to or just a bit larger than the height of the flattened globe. He starts by drilling the hole through on the axial centerline. He uses a 20 mm drill bit (in Imperial units, a 3/4" diameter drill would be about right). Then he mounts the drilled blank using tiny jaws inside the drilled hole as an expansion chuck. Darryl explained that he brings up the tail stock with a live center to center the blank before and as he engages the expansion chuck. After the blank has been centered and clamped in the chuck, he turns attention to completing the outer shape on the near side, and then reverses the blank in the chuck. He again centers it using the live center in the tail stock, then turns the outside of the second half. Darryl stressed that he uses light expansion pressure to prevent cracking the globe.

Next is the interior hollowing using a swan-neck tool, shown here. Note that the cutting edge of the



cutter is aligned with the shank of the tool. Darryl pointed out that this design feature in the tool, if used properly, minimizes torque, i.e., the tool can be held by hand without support fixtures other than a tool rest. However, it is equally important to note that minimum torque can be achieved only if the tool is supported on the tool rest somewhere on the straight part of the shank. Otherwise the support point is offset from the shank centerline and torque

forces are produced, potentially making it difficult to hold the tool and increasing the likelihood of a catch.

Darryl hollows the outer half, then reverses and hollows the other half and then sands, again, using care to not overly tighten the chuck and crack the body of the ornament.

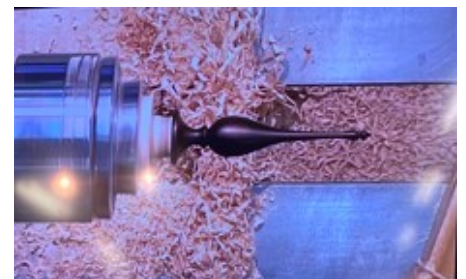
Next is the finial. Darryl was very specific in pointing out the importance of starting at the tip of the finial and finishing it through sanding as you progress toward the base to minimize the risk of breaking off the fragile tip. Here he is shown sand-



ing, with opposing support applied using a finger. In completing the finial, it is turned at the base to fit the hole in the globe and using the globe to check the fit. It is

important to recess the base where it overhangs the dovetail so that it contacts the globe around its edge rather than leaving an exposed gap. Darryl

dyes the finial and polishes it while it is still in the lathe. He uses essentially the same process to make the hanger that attaches to the top of the globe.



One tip provided for assembly is to apply glue around the rim of the hole and then push the top or finial into place. This minimizes the possibility of

having the glue squeeze out around the rim, which could happen if the glue is applied to the dovetail and too much is used.

Great demonstration, Darryl – very detailed and thoroughly explained. Thank you.

## Show and Share

Darrell Rader started off show and share with turnings on the same theme as those demonstrated by John LaChance at an earlier meeting, keepsake gift boxes (garden gnomes) plus some turned ornaments, consistent with this month's demo topic.



Here Darrell is showing and discussing one of the ornaments and below is a photo of the entire



collection of work he brought to show us. From his ability to consistently bring in something representative of the demo topic, regardless what it is, it would seem that Darrell has turned just about everything possible at one time or another.

Someone, not sure who, brought in this nice bunch of tops (top of next column). Please folks, there is a sing-up sheet on the table each meeting with the



show and share items. Please use it – add your name and what you brought along so that these can be included in the newsletter with

the maker identified accordingly. Thanks for your support on this.

Debra Joyce donated this fine array of painted toy vehicles to add to the inventory of items to sell at the Fair. The detail added to these hand-painted toys is pretty remarkable and must have taken significant of her time. Thanks so much for the effort and the donation, Debra.



“Education is important but woodturning is importanter”, and nobody is importanter in their woodturning than Ric Erkes. Here he is with a very impressive shirt and

mahogany platter with pyrography embellished rim. And on the next page is a picture of all 3 of the turnings he brought. To the left is a turned box



made from a banksia pod with epoxy fill (compared to the raw pod shown next to it). Also note the spiral finial on the lid – similar to those demonstrated by Ric a few meetings back. Top, center in the photo is a lacewood bowl with a decorated rim, and the mahogany platter is shown to the right. All were finished using Monocoat. All very nice – great work as usual, Ric.



Last up for show and share was Marty Mindlin with 2 cedar bowls, finished using Mahoney's finish, that he made and donated for sale at the Fair. Marty noted that the open areas were coated

with an epoxy. It is worth noting that these did not last long at the Fair.



## ***Regular Meeting September 16, 2025***

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 and was presided over by President Larry Nottingham, with 25 members and guests present.

### **Club Business**

**Ill and Injured Members and Friends** – The meeting started off with a report on members suffering various health issues:

**John LaChance** – John is doing better. He still has a lot of pain from the ribs that were broken during CPR and needs a lot of rest. But he is now able to take phone calls and enjoys talking to folks if you care to give him a shout.

**Judy DeLisa** – Judy is well but for the fact that she has permanently lost total sight in one eye. Regardless, Judy was still able to support the sales efforts at the County Fair – a real trooper.

**Claude Shealy** – Claude reports that he is doing better. His knee is still giving him a hard time, but he is at least able to get back into his shop and is working on Christmas ornaments—and he plans to make it to the next meeting. The next follow up with the heart doctor is in January.

**Eileen Keipper** – Vince provided an update. For those who don't know, Eileen fell from her horse and broke 7 ribs in 16 places and had to have surgery to facilitate repairs. She is now at home but still in a lot of pain, improving slowly. She can walk, but that is about all.

Please keep these members and friends of SPW in your thoughts and prayers.

**County Fair** – Phil Goodman provided an update on the County Fair, which concluded just 3 days earlier

than our regular September meeting. More on this in a separate section later in the newsletter.

**North Carolina Woodturning Symposium** – Ric Erkes provided an update—more later.

## September Demonstration

The demonstration for this month's meeting was provided by our own expert turner, Bob Moffett.

Bob is a long-time member of and contributor to Southern Piedmont Woodturners. But Bob's contributions to woodturning extend far beyond our club. He has supported and helped multiple woodturning clubs throughout North Carolina and has taught woodturning at an arts school near his High Point home. And for many years, Bob has been a woodturning instructor at the prestigious John C. Campbell School in Brasstown, NC. The topic for this demonstration was – turning a platter.

Bob starts with a blank that was about 12" diameter x about 2" thick, in this case a nice piece of Ambrosia maple. The blank had been cut approximately round using a band saw. Bob does not turn the OD round first but leaves that for much later when he has reduced the rim to near its final thickness. This saves time when compared to truing the entire 2" thickness. He starts by cutting a tenon on each face, the top side first and then the bottom so that



he ends up with the chuck mounted to the top so that he turns the bottom of the bowl first. He completes the bottom, progressing from pull

cuts to remove material quickly, to push cuts, center out as shown, then a scraper, and finally a negative rake scraper, and creating the shape with a base that is about 1/2 the rim diameter. At the very rim, he uses push cuts only, top



and bottom, pushing from the rim toward the center to prevent chip-out. The bottom of the base is recessed slightly so that the bowl will rest on a flat surface without rocking, and he prefers to leave and decorate a recessed button in the center. After sanding and applying finish to the bottom, it is time to turn it around to work on the top.

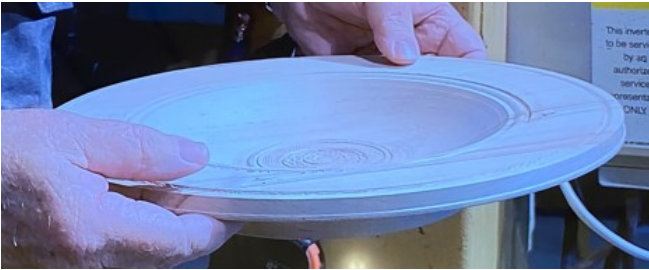
Bob prefers a relatively flat rim running from about 2/3 radius to the OD. For example, on a 12" diam-



eter piece, the bowl section will be about 4" radius and the rim will be 2", running from 4" radius to the outer periphery. Bob beads his platters on either side of the rim section, as shown in this photo, particularly on the screen above Bob where you can see

the flat, 2" wide rim with the beads on either side. At this point, the remaining work is to turn the "bowl" part, which is just like turning a bowl, typi-

cally using a bowl gouge followed by scraping, negative rake scraping, sanding, and finishing. And here is the final product. Bob used a textur-



ing tool to embellish his platters, in this case the center of the bowl section. He also said that he sometimes embellishes the flat rim section and he typically leaves a button in the recess on the bottom and may embellish that as well.

It is easy to see that Bob is very comfortable at the lathe, and it is no surprise that he is in pretty high demand for teaching appearances. And, he is fast, having completed this entire project in something on the order of 1-1/2 hours, start to finish, while explaining everything along the way. Thanks for a great demo, Bob.

## Show and Share

We did not have many participate in show and share this month, which is not surprising given the support provided by our members leading up to and during the County Fair – not much time left for turning otherwise. But, that said, we did have a couple of participants.

Nancy Fox made some nice Christmas themed bottle stoppers and a



couple critter bottle stoppers. She told me what the critters are, but I didn't write it down and do not remember. Regardless, very nice work, Nancy. Bill Truitt brought in a very unique and interesting turning made



from a hollow log. He left the inside hollow as-found other than cleaning it up, painting it, and adding a light inside. In the picture, you can see the glow from the light. Very ingenious to think of making a natural interior hollow form from a hollow log – very cool, Bill.

Great idea.

## Completed Events

### Power Carving Workshop

The workshop was held at our studio in the Clearwater Arts Center on Saturday, August 23, 10:00 – 12:00. One of our members, Leigh Northrup, who is the Dean of Technology and instructs carving, among other things, at the Cannon School provided the instruction and all of the materials. The class was limited to 12 participants due to equipment limitations,



and was full. For anyone considering adding carving to their work, this was a great opportunity to check out some equipment and learn from an expert. If there is

sufficient interest, we could ask Leigh if he would like to do another workshop sometime. If you would be interested, just drop a note to Larry Nottingham and if we get enough folks, we can ask Leigh.

## Turn-athon

Also on August 23, a Turn-athon was held in the afternoon at the studio. Six members attended with the purpose of turning items that would be offered for sale at the Fair.

## County Fair

As of this newsletter, the Cabarrus County Fair is behind us. The Fair for 2025 ran from Friday, September 5 through and including Saturday, September 13, with our direct preparations starting on the prior Wednesday, September 3. On that Wednesday, a number of members met at the studio and staged all of the equipment to be taken to the fair, and on Thursday a group met, loaded the equipment, carried it to the fairgrounds, unloaded, and set it all up.

Once they reached the fairgrounds, they were met with quite a surprise when told that they did not have a space setup for us and that they didn't even have us listed as a participant. This was all handled ahead of time and we had even been told where we would be located and the size of the space we would have. Long story short, there was a lot of scrambling to tear down booths to make room, get power installed, set up our booth, etc. In the meantime, SPW folks unloaded and staged the equipment and support materials, etc., only to be told that it would have to be moved to another staging location to make room for another participant. What started out to be a morning activity turned into an all-day

event, but everyone persevered and made it happen. Much thanks to the members that stuck with it and got it done.

For those who don't know, all of the county fair staff who had handled the fair previously resigned at some point following the 2024 fair, so the staff this year was all new. All in all, and other than the booth space glitch, they did a great job and everything ran relatively smoothly once we got set up and running.

As usual, we had a large, indoor booth with 5 lathes set up for turning during all, or nearly all,



hours that the Fair was open.

If you kept up with the daily reports that Phil sent out, you know that we sold your turned products at a rapid pace and quickly became limited in inventory. But everyone rose to the occasion and provided sufficient products to see us through to the end of



the fair. A special shout out goes to those of you who dug deep into your closets and came up with some really nice things to sell. And a shout out to Darryl Jones, who provided the demo for our August meeting and offered up some turned items to assist with our sales. When we got short of products, Phil made a trip to South Carolina and picked up a whole box full of items to sell, and it is not even Darryl's club. Thanks a bunch, Darryl.

We are still working on the final report since we had to wait for the bank statement at the end of September to balance the books, but at this time can report that we were very close to \$6000 in revenue, inclusive of the raffles, sales, and tips. That set a record by a large margin. Thanks to everyone who participate in any and all capacities. A short pdf file containing a number of photos from the fair is provided in a separate file along with this newsletter.

While this event required a lot of planning and a lot of work, and produced some frustration and even some lack of sleep, it truly was a great experience for those who participated directly – at least for those who have expressed an opinion. It provided a time to work together toward a common goal, a chance to really interact with other members and get to know them a bit, an opportunity to meet some new folks, a chance to really see how excited kids, and even their parents, became when offered something as simple as a turned top, a chance for those of us with lesser skills to pick up some pointers from the better turners, a chance to enjoy the fine and affordable cuisine offered at the Fair (!!!?), and a chance to really help the club out. It appears that a good time was had by all who attended.

## ***Coming Events***

### **North Carolina Woodturning Symposium**

The North Carolina Woodturning Symposium 2025 (NCWTS) will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum from November 7–9, 2025. It will feature 48 demonstrations by nationally recognized woodturners, presented in 6 demo rooms across 8 rotations (2 Friday, 4 Saturday, 2 Sunday). Attendees choose one demo per rotation.

Additional features include a Saturday evening banquet for paid attendees, a Vendors' Exhibit Hall, and an Instant Gallery. The Instant Gallery is open to all turners (not just registrants) and allows up to 3 items per person, for display or sale. Both the Exhibit Hall and Instant Gallery are free and open to the public.

Full 3-day participation costs \$195 (includes banquet), with early bird discounts. Day rates are TBD. Those not registering can still attend as Instant Gallery exhibitors or browse the Exhibit Hall.

Our club is responsible for managing one demo room, providing equipment, a representative for the organizing committee, demo support, and room maintenance. We currently have 4 volunteers—each handling two demo rotations. With 8 volunteers, each would cover just one, allowing more time to attend other demos. We're seeking more volunteers. The club gets one free full-program ticket (for the committee rep), and our rep has offered to split its value among all volunteers as a benefit.

### ***2 More Workshops This Year***

The Board of Directors has made a commitment to

stress training and skill building next year, and we are getting an early start by providing two more workshops yet this year, one on turning ornaments and the second on making turned wooden pens. Details are still being finalized, but here is what we have at this time:

### Workshop on Turning Ornaments

This workshop will be held at the studio from 9:00 until 12:00 on Saturday, November 1. The objective is to enable each participant to learn to make and go home with two ornaments of which



one will be a finial ornament with sea urchin mid-section and the second as yet to be defined. For beginner turners, we will be prepared to offer a simpler ornament using a spindle gouge, with instruction on its use. Everything will be provided including the sea urchin skeletons, wood, finish, glue, etc. Each of our turning stations has the tools needed to complete the projects, so all you need do is show up. And, if any participants need extra time we can extend a bit after lunch and make sure everyone gets their ornaments completed. The cost for this workshop will be

\$25 to cover the cost of the materials. Lunch will be available at extra cost for those interested.

### Workshop on Making Turned Pens

We have not locked in on a date for this workshop yet, but it will be held sometime late November or



early December, definitely after the November meeting on November 18, for which the demo is on the same topic.

For this workshop, the objective is to have each turner leave with 2 completed pens that he/she turned during the workshop. The workshop will include a preliminary presentation/discussion on pen design, preliminary actions, turning, finishing, and assembly. All materials will be provided, and the lunch will be available.

### *Future Demonstrations*

As Vice President of SPW, Steve Lusk has primary responsibility for arranging demonstrations for our meetings and has been working diligently on filling in the calendar for the remainder of this year and has started on next year. At this point we have the

following:

- November 18 – Walt Hazelrigg – on pen turning tricks. The pen-turning workshop will be scheduled for a date following Walt's demo.
- December – Holiday gathering – no meeting/demonstration.
- January – This will be our first meeting held on the new Saturday morning schedule, in this case January 24, 9:00. The demonstration will be provided by Jim Duxbury and is on The Duxbury Ikebana Spikey Flower Bowl. In the afternoon, we will follow with a turning session during which members will have the opportunity to turn the same, with support from expert members – just in time to make a nice Valentines gift for someone special.



## ***Board of Directors Meetings***

SPW's Board of Directors has been busy over the past couple of months, having had two meetings since the election in July. At a meeting in late July, the group discussed operational matters including Zoom meeting setup and preparations for the county fair. The Board reviewed website management, Board restructuring and organizational responsibilities, and Bylaws revisions. The BoD also explored fundraising initiatives, membership engagement,

and future demonstration plans, along with a major discussion on training and teaching.

At a meeting in late September, the main topics of discussion included meeting day/time and program updates, BoD committee structure, website integration, budget review and revenue strategies, county fair recap, and training programs. The BoD voted to approve the new meeting day/time as provided earlier and to move forward with the workshops on ornaments and pens, as addressed immediately above. The BoD agree to pursue an aggressive training program in the coming year as a means of attracting new members.

## ***Club T-Shirts***

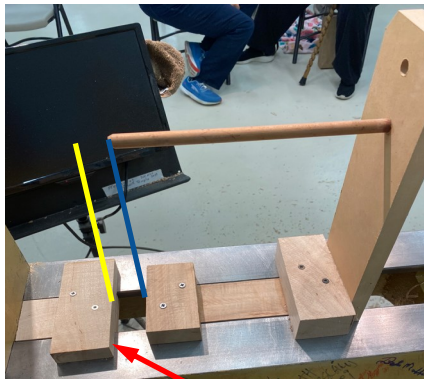
If you take a look through the pictures from the County Fair in the attached file, you will see many of those supporting our booth were wearing light blue club T-shirts. We have a few of these remaining for anyone interested, and they can be purchased from Gina for \$20 each on a first come, first served basis.

## ***Website***

We have now identified all of the data entry points on the upgraded website and who from the BoD will receive each of these and have primary or backup responsibility for reviewing and taking the appropriate action. If you haven't visited the website recently, we encourage you to do so. It has not yet been populated heavily, but a quick trip to and through the website will familiarize you with its features. As we now concentrate on populating it by adding information, as appropriate, we intend to utilize it more fully for organizational and operational matters and will encourage members to do the same.

## *Ric's Tips, Tricks, Techniques, and Jigs*

This one came up during the demonstration provided at the September meeting. The tool shown here must be custom-built for the specific lathe on which it is to be used, in this case, the club Powermatic. It is used to accurately determine the amount of material remaining at the bottom of a bowl, platter, or other turning being held in a chuck. It has 2 components: the wooden block to the left and the tall measuring part to the right. The



block is made up of two pieces of wood attached so that the one fits between the lathe ways and engages against the head stock to put it in a fixed position.

The second wooden piece is attached to the first so that the right face (red arrow) exactly aligns vertically with the outer edges of the chuck jaws (yellow line). The assembly to the right similarly has a part that fits between the lathe ways. The dowel is positioned in the assembly so that it is on the lathe's turning center and in vertical alignment with the front of the bottom assembly (blue line). By putting the left member against the head stock and the sliding assembly so that the dowel is against the bottom of the bowl, the material remaining between there and the chuck jaws is measured as the gap between the two components (between yellow and blue lines).

### *Challenge*

It has been recommended, by more than one person, that we make an attempt to get away from the frantic pace of obtaining sufficient inventory of donated turnings to sell at the County Fair by working on it throughout the year. We already have the ongoing Challenge for each member to make 3 tops per month to build an inventory slowly. We estimated that we gave away over

700 tops this year, with maybe 150 of these actually made at the fair and the remainder coming from inventory. As a result, we have only a couple dozen tops remaining, so will need to keep the pressure on for building back our supply.

As for items to sell at the fair, this year we kept track not only of the financial details of our sales, but also of the items that sold, and we will shortly have a report on that. So, we will know what the popular items were and what prices they sold for. Even without that report, though, we know that small items that are at a price point of \$5-\$20 or so sell well, while the more intricate or elaborate turnings that command a higher price point generally move much more slowly. Once the report is complete, we will use it as a guide for the type of sales items that we should provide.

In the mean time and getting back to the challenge at hand, please consider making one small item per month in support of the sales efforts. Small bowls and platters, bud vases, Christmas ornaments, bottle stoppers, pens, etc. can be made relatively quickly. Consider starting each turning session with a warm up, which is a good idea in any case, by turning a small item for the benefit of the club.

### *News Flash*

This just in – Lan Brady, long-time member of SPW, has been chosen to be one of only three demonstrators at the North Carolina Woodturners Symposium from in-state. He will join other demonstrators from around the country and the world. Lan will provide 2 demonstrations, both having some element of multi-axis turning, with one on Saturday morning and the second on Sunday morning. Note that our January meeting demonstration, by Jim Duxbury as described earlier, also uses multi-axis turning, so Lan's demonstrations are definitely timely for our club. We encourage everyone to attend the symposium and to support Lan's demonstrations.

***General club info just so you have it:***

SPW Board of Directors:

President – Larry Nottingham

Vice President – Steve Lusk

Secretary – Beth Bjerregaard

Treasurer – Gina Brown

Board Member – Vince Keipper

Board Member – Michael Martens

Board Member – Bill Joyce

Board Member – Ric Erkes

Board Advisor – Cindy Boehrns (nonelected, nonvoting)

Board Advisor – Phil Goodman (nonelected, nonvoting)

In case anyone wants/needs to contact the President about anything club-related, here is his contact information:

Larry Nottingham – [Lnottingham@structint.com](mailto:Lnottingham@structint.com)

Cell phone – (704) 236-1412

That's it, folks. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Best and keep 'em turning,

Larry Nottingham