

Maine Woodworkers Association  
P.O. Box 425  
Cumberland, Maine 04021



[www.mainewoodworkers.org](http://www.mainewoodworkers.org)

**April, 2010**

Membership form for Maine Woodworkers Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-

Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Member information (woodworking specialty, interests, web site, etc. Up to 125 characters, for inclusion in member roster:

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There are 8 – 9 meetings per year in a wide variety of woodworking shops. Annual dues are \$20.00. Please send payment to Maine Woodworkers Association, P.O. Box 425, Cumberland, Maine 04021.

## **MAINE WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION**

### **April 2010**

# **NEWSLETTER**



M.R. Brewer Fine Woodworking

### **Programs:**

**April 14**      **M R Brewer, Portland**

**May 12**        **TBA**

**June 9**        **Woodworking Vendor Fair & Barbecue @ Fat Andy's**

*(Almost) all programs begin at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month*

The goal of the Maine Woodworkers Association is to bring all aspects of woodworking closer to its members and to educate everyone seeking knowledge from woodworkers in Maine. Meetings are times of friendship and learning, where everyone is welcome to share ideas, camaraderie, and of course, coffee.

**MWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President Randy Blake 799-1473  
Vice president Bill Diffenderfer 655-8546  
Treasurer Andy Walsh 829-3386  
Editor Rod Howell 846-4044

**Members at Large**

Chris Becksvoort 926-4608, Alan  
Bradstreet 688-4728, Bruce Brennan  
837-1926, Richard Schilling 772-9908,  
Rod Regier 865-6687

**March Meeting**

Chris Evans, President of Sabre Yachts, guided about fifteen MWA members through his plant in Raymond last month. The scale of Sabre Yachts is staggering: there are about two acres of shop space in Raymond, where currently 130 people make boats from 34 to 52 feet long, costing \$600,000 - \$1,500,000. Sabre also has a six acre facility in Rockland, where another 100 employees work. There have been about 3000 Sabre boats launched during the forty year history of the company.

Chris described the manufacturing process, showing us how wood and wood/glass composite interior components were made, fit to fiber and resin hulls, and married to electrical and mechanical components. Hull molds are expensive, so Sabre offers only a small number of boat sizes. However, customizing is unlimited, which necessitates agility on the assembly line. CNC shapers and electric hand drills are both used freely. Wood parts are finished to a high gloss with Epifanes (3 coats: sealer thinned 50/50, next thinned 30/70, final unthinned, all applied with foam brushes). Time costs are monitored closely, and as construction of a particular design becomes more efficient, profits are routinely shared with employees.

Numerous questions were asked about how the company has evolved from the medium-sized sailboats it made originally to the larger power boats that are more than half its production today. The move upscale was conscious, offering quality, technology, and customization

reflected that his customers are boaters and lawyers, but owners of legal practices. He described how to incorporate technological

developments in boat design (non-boaters should look up the term "azipod", a propulsion system that permits operation and maneuvering with just a joystick) and in boat construction (such as how to suck barrels of epoxy resin into a 50-foot long mold while maintaining a precise hull thickness throughout). He also commented on the effect of the current recession. Employment levels are about two-thirds their peak, but interestingly demand in 2010 has increased to the degree that rehiring has begun. If Sabre Yachts is a leading economic indicator, then auguries are good for others as well.

For further information, check out [www.sabreyachts.com](http://www.sabreyachts.com). Our thanks to Chris Evans and Sabre Yachts for an informative and often mesmerizing evening. *Rod Regier*

**April Meeting**

The April 14 meeting will be held at **M.R. Brewer Fine Woodworking**, 91 Bell St., Portland. [www.mrbrewer.com](http://www.mrbrewer.com) 797-7534  
From their website :

"M.R. Brewer was started in the spring of 1987 by Malcolm (Rusty) Brewer and Richard (Dick) Beaudoin. Rusty and Dick had the same work ethics and love of woodworking and construction. By the end of 1987, they had moved from Rusty's barn into rented space and employed 12 people. Dick retired 10 years later and Rusty continued to grow the business with both the cabinet shop and the construction business. M.R. Brewer does both commercial

and residential work. It currently operates from a 12,000 sq ft space on 91 Bell Street in Portland, Maine, and employs 25 people. M.R. Brewer has invested in the best equipment, technology and people to produce a product that we can all be proud of whether it is building a new home, renovating or making custom cabinetry and millwork.

M.R. Brewer is truly a family business with Rustys' wife (Pat) and two sons (Jeffrey and Matthew) also work in the business. Both sons have the education and work ethics needed to help keep the business growing in the future. We look forward to many years of continued service in the community. “

**Directions:** Brewer is near Morrills Corner in Portland. Heading north on Forest Ave, go approximately one mile north of Ocean Ave and turn right on Morrill. After approximately 250 feet turn right on Bell. Brewer is about 250 feet on left. . 797-7534.

(Note: If you are heading north on Forest and see a sign for Bell St, **do not turn**. You will end up dazed and confused, unless you have a good map and a magnifying glass.)

### **Herbie NewsUpdate:**

The next Herbie wood distribution date will be Saturday May 8, 10 AM until 2:30 PM, at Sullivan's Lumber, route 231 in New Gloucester. For those wishing to participate in the Herbie Project (create something from Herbie wood, be part of the exhibit, set the price: you get 60%, Yarmouth Tree Trust gets 40%, be part of the on-line sale) the wood is free. Wood for your own use is \$3. cubic foot, green, \$15. to \$20. for sawn, kiln dried wood, 5/4 thickness. We still have a fair amount of green branches, mostly 8-12" diameter, and 5/4 kiln dried stock available. The next kiln load is scheduled for mid June, when we will have more 5/4 and some 8/4 wood from the main trunk. Stay tuned.

*Chris Becksvoort*  
207-926-4608 chbecks@maine.rr.com

### **Safety note**

During the conversation at Sabre Yachts, Chris Evans spoke about precautions necessary to handle epoxy safely. The need for respirators around toxic fumes is clear. What is less obvious, however, is the continued toxicity of epoxy for several days until it has fully cured. Hardened but uncured dust remains reactive and is hazardous. Appropriate safety measures are necessary during, for instance, the next day sanding and clean-up. *Rod Regier*

### **Newsletter in Transition**

At the March meeting it was agreed that one more mailing of the newsletter would take place before we move to the new system, by which members who would like to continue to receive the hard copy by mail would need to specifically request this. For those who may not have seen the announcement in the March newsletter, the idea is that it will be posted at our website, with an email sent to each member with the link, as a reminder. Printing and postage costs consume nearly 2/3 of the annual MWA budget, and a black-and-white copier does not reproduce the color photos that are usually included in the original newsletter. With the savings, we can hopefully better serve our members in other ways. This will also help get people to the website on a regular basis.

**To continue to receive the newsletter by mail, please call me at 846-4044, or send an email to**

**[bluenote@mindspring.com](mailto:bluenote@mindspring.com), with “MWA NEWSLETTER” on subject line.**

*Rod Howell, Editor*

**Free to a good home: large pine log.** I got an interesting call recently, followed by a letter, from Bob Wagg of Lisbon, who has a large pine tree on his property, recently felled by Central Maine Power. It is approximately 40 inches in diameter at the base, bifurcating at about 15 feet up. He just doesn't want it to go

to waste. If anyone has the means to move it, it is available. Call me if interested, for more details. 846-4044.

*Rod Howell*

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