

Fixers on the prowl in Tampa

By John Koning

One of the priorities of the Fixers, Fiddlers and Fumblers Club is to provide a clean, safe and enjoyable place to be creative with wood.

Another is to provide its members with the tools, information and opportunities to expand their wood-working creativity.

With that in mind, a tiny, but motivated contingent set out recently for the annual woodworking show at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa. Their goal: To discover what's new and exciting in the woodworking world and to bring back products and ideas that will enhance the Fixers' Club. All of this, of course, with a diligent eye on the club's tiny budget.

Club President Steve Sutton, supervisor Jean-Guy Pelchat and this reporter set off for the fairgrounds in earnest and arrived at the crack of noon. We stood, shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of other wood nuts ready to look at, listen to, and touch a wide array of products.

Inside the show we found hundreds of machines that promised to make any project quick and easy.

We browsed through reams of books filled with gorgeous photos and instructions on every conceivable woodworking activity.

We watched workshops on making this and doing that, and we dodged



Fixers Club

the informative and eager sales people waiting to swipe our credit cards.

The most humbling aspect of the show was the apparent talent of the woodworking groups represented. In a brief moment of talent overload, Jean-Guy muttered, "I think I should just forget about being a wood worker!"

Don't worry, Jean-Guy. None of these guys have ever piloted the Queen Mary II 121 nautical miles up the St. Lawrence River into the port of Quebec ... and they never will.

Three short hours later the Three Woodketeers stumbled out of the show, pockets and brains stuffed with information. After an appropriate period of assimilation, our membership will have the opportunity to benefit from our day on the prowl.

Visit www.fixersfiddlersandfumblers.com to learn more about us.



Jean-Guy Pelchat browses the exotic woods rack. The piece in the foreground is priced at a show special of \$400.

(OTOW News photo by John Koning)

Special meeting May 13 will include signing up for a train ride to D.C.

By Pat Zorland

April first may have been April Fool's Day, but it was also a day for a very informative meeting for all who attended.

There were no jokes or pranks just information.

A whole new set of trips (days, overnights, cruises and tours) was presented. Many questions were asked about fuel charges by airline, cruise ship and tour companies.

Nancy, from Advantage Cruises, answered all of these questions.

Next we examined all of the interesting trips that are on the drawing board from now until the end of the year. Some even into next year.

One, which caught my eye, was



Singles Travel

a cruise over Halloween. I believe this one will be a costume affair. Last time I did one of those it was a lot of fun and some of the costumes were very creative.

On May 13 one of our members Audrey Jones will be hosting a special meeting in the Sunrise Room at 2 p.m. in which she will cover some of the

trips she has put together for the club. One she has been working on is to Washington D.C. by train from Sept. 12 through Sept. 18. If you are interested in any of her trips please bring a check and place a deposit at the special meeting.

Audrey will no longer be available at the East Activity Center. If you need to get in touch with her, call 726-5856.

If you are in need of information on our club, you can call Shirley at 726-4619.

If any member has a trip in mind, please bring all of your information to the next meeting, which will be held on May 6, 2 p.m. in the West Activity Center Sunrise Room.



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