

February 2024

Here is an update on happenings in your community!

BOARD AND OFFICERS UPDATES

All members were invited to the 2023 Annual Elections in October. We have a couple of changes in the Board, with Eric Bradford taking the Chairman Position, replacing Dan Bryant, who remains in the Board. A new Director was elected, Daniel Landers, and Mark Pipes chose to take a break from the Board.

On the Officers side, Daniel Landers was selected as President by the Board for the next term, with Eric Bradford taking on the Membership Officer role, Brendan Harrington the Facilities Office role, and Norma Havens taking on the Marketing Officer role.

More info at the following link - <https://bridgewire.org/the-team>

Next Officers and Members Meeting - Thursday March 21st at 5pm - Coffee, Tea and Snacks provided - Join the Officers to discuss items of interest to you and the community, bring new ideas or concerns !

FACILITIES UPDATES

Shop Maintenance Day on March 2nd at 9am !

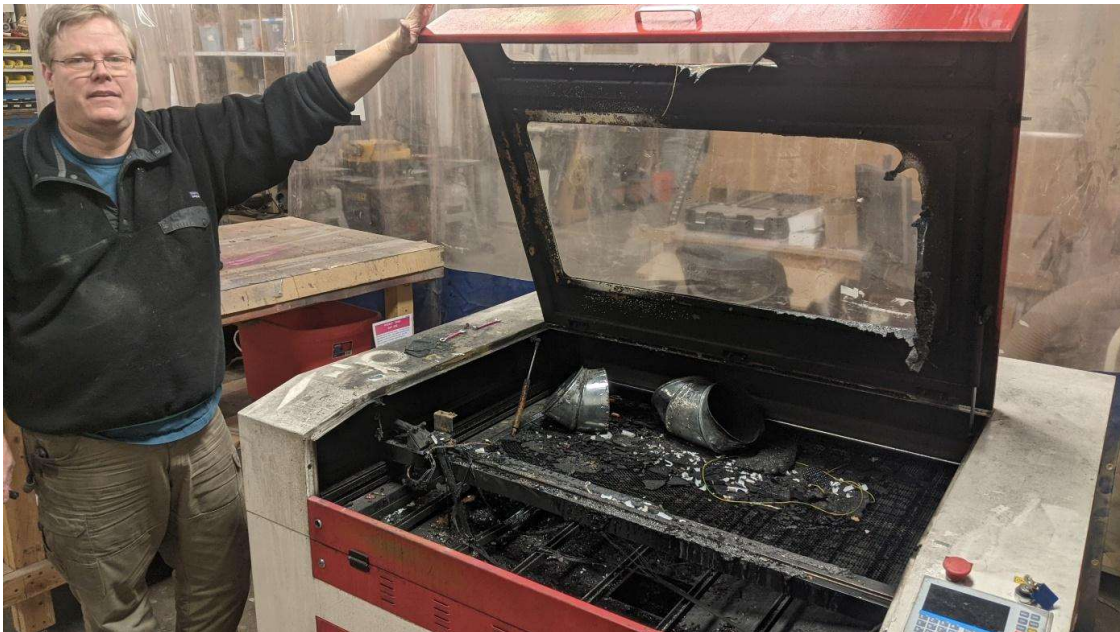
Come for a cleanup day and keep our shop looking great - we'll provide lunch and refreshments starting at noon (hamburgers, hot dogs or some other goodies)



BRIDGEWIRE LASER II

NEW LASER FOR BRIDGEWIRE

In December the Board okayed the fire sale purchase of a 4x3 ft. laser. We have wanted a larger and more powerful laser for the longest time. However, that size laser generally costs between \$10k-16k. We purchased the laser for \$1000 and put in about \$1000 in new materials along with upwards of 100 man hours of member labor. We want to thank the following people for their donation of time and materials. Eric Bradford, Roman Hruska, Daniel Landers, Olena McMurtrey, Dan Johnson, Victor Mendoza, Lee Elliott and Jeremy Miller



Day 1 – Laser delivered (proof that lasers do catch fire)



Day 56 – Laser completely scrubbed, rebuilt, and painted.

The laser required a new linear rail and guide blocks, cable chain, switches, belts, windows, gas springs, air tubing, power wires, lights, support rails, panel latches, exhaust ducting, lots of paint and a little metal bending to straighten heat

warped parts. But mostly a lot of scrubbing to remove the caked on soot and smoke. The scrubbing team of Eric, Olena, and Daniel deserve an extra thank you for the dirty job well done. Interestingly, all the electronics and tube did not need replacing, except for the laser power supply.

Using the New Laser

All members who have previously taken the laser class, will be emailed the new class instructions as well as a 2 page “Quick start / noted changes” document. This is probably enough to get you started using the new laser on your own. However, if you have questions or just want to get a refresher, Eric will offer some FREE “New Laser refresher” classes in the next month.

The new laser works with Lightburn software only. However, the new laser is a more powerful 80 watt laser. Therefore any files you have saved in Lightburn will need to be adjusted for their power setting and feed rates. You will be able to make faster cuts and engravings.

If you have your files saved in the RayCAM software format, you will need to copy your file into the Lightburn software and set new power and speed settings. RayCAM will remain on the computer so you can switch over to Lightburn as needed.

Woodworkers Unite ! - Special Interest Group (SIG) forming

Are you a woodworker? Do you want to see the woodshop get better and offer better tools? Do you want to help make shop changes and improvements? Then you should be interested in joining this group. The plan is for this group to meet once a month to discuss woodworking equipment, learn how to use equipment properly and how to plan and make improvements. The proposal is for active members of this SIG to be given exclusive use of high end tools and equipment which require more care to avoid abuse and excess wear. This point is to be discussed further at the first meeting.

The first meeting will be March 2nd at 1pm after the shop clean up event. Please RVSP to ericbradford.pe@gmail.com . I plan to lead the group initially but expect to hand leadership to another member after a few months.

New Shop Tables

In Early December Bridgewire received a donation of several tools and 4 rolling tables for the shop. Our member, Elliot Bateman trailered the tables from Carson City. Now all the tables in the project table area are mobile and can be moved for special events like the Big Brother and Big Sister events. It should be noted that means all project materials must be on the table or its lower shelf. Nothing is allowed to be stored on the floor. Everything must be on wheels.



EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

CO2 Laser

Eric will be offering 3 update classes through the end of March for those that are approved to use the laser but want to learn how to use the new laser. The controller is a Ruida brand versus the Trocen brand on the old laser. They are similar, but this laser has a few different features and operation processes that are a bit different. These sessions will be FREE, but future sessions beyond March will have a nominal fee.

The CO2 Laser classes in the calendar for new users will include the new machine workflow.

Would you like to teach a class?

We are always looking for members to create and teach classes of their own. Bridgewire classes will usually charge a fee of \$15 per hour of instruction per student. If a materials fee is required it can be added to the total cost. The instructor will receive 50% of the class fee from Bridgewire. The class must be listed on our calendar no less than 30 days before the class. The instructor determines class length in hour increments and the min and max number of students required. Talk to Board Members or any Officer to get started.

FEATURED PROJECTS

We'd like to feature your Projects in the newsletter. If you have a project you are working on or thinking about starting, let's feature it here (or our Boards at the Shop) so people know what you are doing or what you will be doing, maybe someone is thinking of doing a similar project!

Contact the newsletter editor: wbridgewire@gmail.com or text - 775-507-4063

BRIDGEWIRE CALENDAR

Please use the calendar to see all classes and events we have currently scheduled.

All events now have a ticketing system and integrated payments using Paypal (debit and credit cards accepted without Paypal account).

The link is: <https://bridgewire.org/event-calendar>