



May 2024

Here is an update on happenings in your community!

BOARD AND OFFICERS UPDATES

Dan Bryant has taken the Facilities Officer role starting in April.

See the following link anytime for updated info - <https://bridgewire.org/the-team>

Next Officers and Members Meeting - Thursday May 9th at 5pm...Join the Officers to discuss items of interest to you and the community, bring new ideas or concerns ! Snacks provided

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Woodworkers Special Interest Group meetings in March and April

The first, second, and third meetings were held with just over a dozen attendees. Knowing that several others wanted to attend but couldn't means this group has a good interest base and is expected to have an influence on making the woodshop much better and resolve some problem aspects of the shop. The first meeting generated a list of ideas to improve the shop. The second and third meeting expanded on that list and prioritized the top five items that need to be addressed. The Board approved the budget for these items and group participants have volunteered to work on and implement these improvements. These top 5 priorities deal with managing dust collection and equipment improvements. The minutes from the meetings are posted on the Special Interest Groups bulletin board in the main room. The group decided to have meetings occur every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30pm. The next meeting is Tuesday May 14th 6-7:30pm. All woodworkers are invited to become part of the Woodworkers SIG.

FACILITIES UPDATES

Shop Maintenance Day on June 1st 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)

Drum Sander

The Delta Drum sander has gone through a significant rework. Thank you, Robbie Aryes for the machining fixes. Although still not perfect, the belt is tracking much better now. It can be tweaked to drift right or left. Also the bearings have been replaced on the feed side and one of the bearing brackets was remade. Hopefully, this time users will use reasonable tightening forces and pay full attention to the adjustments they are making. Then no further repairs will be required. Remember, this is a finishing tool, not a stock removal tool.



CNC Wood Router

Fixed.....At Last!!! The X-axis alignment issue has been fixed. After exhaustive investigation it turns out that the drive gear on the stepper motor was loose. Now we are getting reliable cuts. In addition the Controller mounting has been shifted to allow for freer cable chain movement and less chance for binding. As a last note: **Lesson Learned** - through several tests (cutting MDF) it appears that if you brush away chips with a bristle brush it creates an electrostatic buildup that eventually discharges through the spindle cutter and causes the system to treat it like an emergency stop.



The machine is now available to use. In the near future the computer will be replaced. The newer computer will have new versions of software. Members who have taken the CNC Router class will be contacted when the software is updated. Also at that time we will be migrating the VCarvePro to version 11.55. This new version will require you to have an account at the software manufacturer. Again you will receive an email to guide you through the process.

Shop Clean up day

A thorough cleaning and a lot of things moved or disposed of. There was a great deal of cleaning and maintenance done. John B. and his brother-in-law replaced 30 shop bulbs. Brad and Eduardo gave the woodshop the most thorough cleaning it may have ever seen. Jeremy and Pete swapped the paint booth and 9 cabinets so we can vent the paint fumes.



Dan J. sorted through and scrapped out most of the hack shelves. Norma did a deep clean on the metal lathe. Eric took and recycled the paints, fluorescent tubes, electronic scrap, and metals. These were just some of the things accomplished in the March cleaning. We are planning to have another cleaning day in the month of June.

Paint Booth Vented

The paint booth was moved so that we could utilize the unused vent stack near the laser cutter. New ducting was pieced together and fabricated. The first stage was fabricated at Bridgewire. Eric designed the sheet metal parts in Fusion 360, Daniel Landers CNC plasma cut the parts, Eric used the box brake to bend the pieces, and Lee welded them together. Now the exhaust fumes which go through a four stage filter continue on their way out of the building.

VCarvePro Version 11.55 Update

Vectric has released their newest version of Vcarve Pro and you will need to make changes in how you use the program. Their previous version will be discontinued soon and we will remove it from all computers in the coming months. You can download the latest Makerspace Edition version 11.55. However, you will need an invitation from our Vectric administrative account to create your own account at Vectric which links your account to ours. This invitation will be sent to members that have taken the CNC Router class, when we update the CNC router computer. When using the version 11.55 you must log into your Vectric account to save your file. Otherwise you will not be able to use the file on the Bridgewire software to create your Gcode.



We can do better

I have noticed that every time I use the clamps, I can't freely move the sliding jaw along the whole length of the pipe because of dried on glue. I need to spend 10-15 minutes cleaning off the glue that someone else left on the pipes/bars. This is not the kind of behavior we want in our shop. You are expected to clean, wipe, chip off your dried on glue before you put the clamps away. No member should have to clean up another's mess.



Refrigerator/Freezer Clean out change

We are changing the date. We have had trouble doing this on the first of each month. So, the new cleanout date will be the 1st Thursday of each month. Probably between about 5 and 8pm. We will check for dates. If it is any older than 1 week or has no date, it is getting tossed.

TRUCKEE ROUNDHOUSE MAKER SHOW 2024 - JUNE 9TH

We will have a table at the Truckee Roundhouse Maker Show, taking place on June 9th from 11am to 5pm.

Let us know if you'd like to help on the booth or host a demo.

[HTTPS://WWW.TRUCKEEROUNDHOUSE.ORG/MAKERSHOW2024](https://www.truckeeroundhouse.org/makershow2024)

EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

CO2 Laser, Fusion 360 and CNC Wood Router Classes now open to Non-Members

We are now offering the above mentioned classes to everyone in the community. If you know someone interested in those subjects please send them to our website or to an Open House.

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. 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.

FOR SALE

For Sale – CO2 Laser

Now that we have the new 4x3ft laser working well, we will be selling off the old Bridgewire Laser. We will be listing it for \$2500 on Craigslist and marketplace. Members get a 20% discount off the listing price.

Its specs are 35 Watt, 22" x 16.5" laser area, and the engrave speed is as high as 500 mm/s. It has everything you need to start lasering except for an exhaust fan and an air compressor pump for the air assist. Please contact Eric Bradford ericbradford.pe@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing the laser. It comes with a spare CO2 tube and laser power supply. The water chiller is only 2 years old and works great.



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>