

Echos From the "BAT" Cave

MAN OF **STIHL**®

Baltimore Area Turners

BALTIMORE AREA

TURNERS

July, 2014

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Inside this issue:

Stihl Demo	2
Farewell, Chris	5
Other Stuff	6

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Kenneth Glass discussed chain saw safety and demonstrated Stihl wares at the July BAT meeting. (Above - suiting up as BAT members watch).

The square bowl and hollow form turned by Jamie Donaldson at his demo in July, 2012 was raffled in a special raffle. (Right - held aloft by BAT President Yaakov Bar Am)



MORE INSIDE





STIHL SAW DEMO

Demonstrator Ken (*left*) with his array of goodies (*above*).



The fibers in the chaps stop the saw blade when cut.

[Stihl](#) Technical Sales Support Rep Kenneth Glass came to BAT to give an excellent presentation on chain saws. He started with a discussion of safety, demonstrating chaps, boots, helmet, hearing protection, safety glasses and gloves. [Stihl chaps](#) are washable and breathable. Boots should be steel toed to avoid crush injuries. [Helmets](#) are OSHA approved for 5 years and should not be worn over hats. Safety glasses should be impact and shatter resistant.

This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation on safety features built into modern saws - EZ start, Chain brake (set off by hand pressure or inertia from kick-back), Throttle safety (requires grip on handle to pull throttle), and Chain catcher (keeps loose chain from flying around). He discussed fuel - hand-mixed is good for 2 months (though he

(Continued on Page 3)

Like lambs to the slaughter, a pile of logs (*below*) awaits a pack of chain saws (*below left*).



Photo by Clark Bixler



Photo by Clark Bixler



Standard pull start (*left*) vs EZ Start (*right*)

MORE STIHL

(Continued from Page 2)

recommended mixing only as much as you're going to use). Stihl premix is good for 2 years. He recommended using 92+ octane with 10% or less ethanol. He does not recommend stabilizer - it can gum up the carburetor. The fuel cools the engine. The mix should be 50:1.

He gave a brief history of Stihl, originally a German company but now based in Virginia. Despite mostly robotic construction, he said the 2.2M sq ft factory employs as many people as the US Navy in Virginia Beach. He discussed innovations such as the M-Tronic controller which adjusts carburetion and timing 30 times a second and then briefly went over the Stihl product line.

(Continued on Page 4)



Photo by Clark Bixler



Aggressive red chain (*left*) has wicked kick-back (*right*)



Photo by Clark Bixler



Photo by Clark Bixler

The green chain (left) makes plunge cuts look easy (center) BAT members transfixed by sharpening.

STILL MORE STIHL

(Continued from Page 3)



Sharpening both sides of tooth at once.

The demo adjourned to the yard outside Boumi where he had many different saws to show cutting several logs provided for the purpose. He demonstrated the EZ start, which helps prevent shoulder injury. He explained the difference between Stihl's green, yellow and red [chains](#), showing the extreme kick back of the aggressive red chain and the green which easily allowed plunge cuts without kickback. He said the chain tightness should allow the chain to move easily but have no sag. Too tight can ruin the clutch sprocket; too loose and the chain won't oil properly.

At the end he discussed using [wedges](#) - recommended plastic ones, demonstrated the [Stihl filing guide](#), and showed a concrete saw which has a very loose chain lubricated by water.



Photo by Clark Bixler

¿Quién es mas macho?

The concrete cutting chain saw, the Rock Boss!

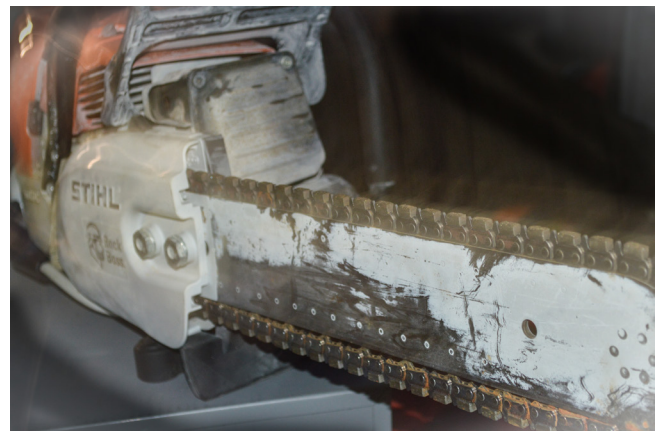


Photo by Clark Bixler

FAREWELL, CHRIS KUNZLE



Clockwise from left:

*Fabulous Finial;
Discussing bowl
technique with
Bob Pegram;
Photographing
Cindy Drozda;
Robertson's tiny
turning.*



(Image below is of one of William Robertson's photos. Used by permission.)



Chris Kunzle has left the building.

Chris has been a BAT member for years. His attendance has been sparse due to business interests in Switzerland but he made the most of the meetings by actively participating in the Hands-On sessions and helping with photography for the Newsletter. The pictured finial is only a small example of his turning mastery. He also brought his friend William Robertson to demonstrate his amazing miniature turnings in January, 2011 ([V6N1](#)).

We wish him the best at his new digs in California.



RAFFLE NEWS

Model airplane parts, Silver Maple, Mimosa, and Holly logs, Walnut splits, Maple bat blank, Ellsworth style sharpening jig, Maple and conifer chunks, Hand saw sharpening clamp, a dovetail scraper and more were donated by BAT members to the July raffle. Thanks to all!

BALTIMORE AREA TURNERS

Baltimore Area Turners meets every month on the second Wednesday of the month. (Except for the August picnic which is on a Sunday.) The next meeting will be held at the Boumi Temple at

5050 King Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21237-3325

Next meeting:
August 17, 2014 at 12:00 Noon

Agenda: Picnic / President's Challenge / Bocce /
Bucket Raffle / Top Spin-off



ELECTIONS COMING

Board elections will be in November.

What does the Board do?

BAT is run by the Board. We meet once a month and plan the future, usually over dinner (we pay our own way). All decisions are made collectively at the meeting or by email. It doesn't take a lot of time and it's engaging and satisfying.

Consider running for office.

Current Officers will be announcing whether they'll be running in the near future. There will be some open offices.

Think hard about serving.

SPECIAL RAFFLE



There was a special raffle of the square platter and hollow form turned by Jamie Donaldson for his demo in July, 2012 ([V7N7](#)). The lucky winner was Richard Dietrich.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

BAT President Yaakov Bar Am has announced the fourth President's Challenge for 2014:

August – Turn a scale model Baseball Bat. As large as can fit on your lathe between 12"-36" of Hickory, Ash or Maple. (MLB Standard: <=42" long, <=2.75" max diameter, of one piece of solid wood.)