



The Chip Pile

The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association
Austin, Texas
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

CTWA Meetings

MAY MEETING

Tuesday, May 15, 2012
7:00 - 9:00 PM
American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas
1901 East SH 71
(about 1/4 mile east of I-35 on south side of SH 71)

FIRST SATURDAY TURNOUT

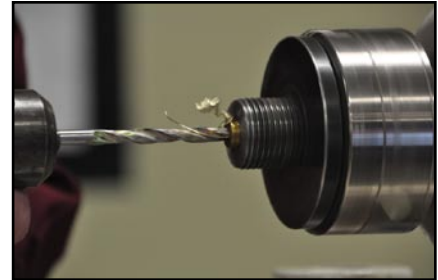
The First Saturday Turnout for June will be at 9:00 AM on June 2, at Charlie Kay's shop, 828 Middle Creek Drive, Buda

Siberian elm was planted by a garden club near a community center decades ago. We are fortunate to harvest some of the fruits of the labor of community minded individuals of many years ago. We can enjoy working with an unusual material and create a piece that may live on for many more decades.

Thanks,
Curtis



and a 15/64". Other helpful tools are a reamer, a de-burring tool and a pen barrel trimmer. Johnny also recommends the following additional supplies: Gorilla glue, sandpaper, Brasso, baking soda solution (1 part to 8 parts



water), denatured ethanol or xylene, ProtectClear finish (www.RenewMetal.com), 8mm heat shrink tubing, finish applicators and the appropriate pen mandrel for your lathe.

Johnny starts the process by drilling the expended firing cap from the shell, then de-burring both ends of the shell. The brass tube is cut to length and roughed with 80 grit paper. Two short pieces of heat shrink tubing are shrunk

Monthly Features

Business Meeting 4
Calendar, page 5
Demo Schedule, page 5
Membership Information, page 5
Shop Crawl Schedule, page 6
This Month's Program, page 5
Volunteer Instructors, page 6

From the President's Shop

Arbor Day

I spent some time reading about Arbor Day this last month. I found out several things about this annual celebration. National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. However, it is celebrated on different days in different states around the country. In Texas, Arbor Day was first celebrated in February, 1889, in Temple. Interestingly, I was born in Temple in the month of February. I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Arbor Day is about caring for the environment and planning for future generations. It is also about the stewardship of our natural resources. Somehow it seems fitting that Drew Shelton and I were harvesting wood in San Gabriel Park on Arbor Day. We collected Siberian elm and red bud, some of which will be available for you to pick up at the May meeting. It is thought that the

April Demo

Turning a Three-sided Box

Our own **Johnny Tolly** was our demonstrator at our April meeting, showing us how he makes pens using actual spent rifle shells, rather than the fake shells shown in the catalogues.



Johnny starts with a PK-PENCOP2 slim line pen kit in fancy copper finish from www.WoodTurningz.com. The kits are also available in antique finish. Extra twist mechanisms are available as PKTWISTMECH and extra brass tubes for longer shell are available as PKT7-10. The appropriate bushing set is SLIMBUSH. You will also need three twist drills, a short "I", a short 7mm

The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source of the material.

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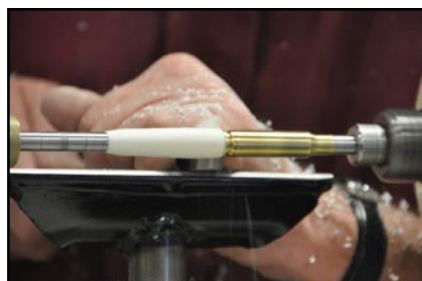
This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. **DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.636.3492, by E-mail at ckay@austin.rr.com or mail them to:

The Chip Pile

c/o Charles Kay
828 Middle Creek Drive
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Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

in place on each end of the tube to center it in the shell and it is glued in place with Gorilla glue. The shell is then polished with Brasso or other metal polish and then neutralized with the baking soda solution. The cleaned brass must not be touched with bare skin - use nitrile gloves. The piece is now rinsed with clean water and dried before the ProtectaClear finish is applied (with anything but Q-Tips!).



The rest of the pen can be made from wood or antler in conventional pen

making fashion and the pen assembled.

Thanks, Johnny, for a thorough demonstration.

Bring Back

We had a lot of items available for the raffle at our April meeting as a number of folks caught up on IOUs for earlier wins.

Guest **Rick Greenfield** was the lucky winner of a square mesquite bowl turned by **Jim Spano** and finished with Mahoney Oil and wax.



Greg Stowers took home a bottle stopper of weeping willow turned by **Greg Vest** finished with wax and friction polish.



Roger Gardner picked up a pen turned by **Jim Howe**.



Greg Vest had the lucky ticket for a pecan threaded box turned by **Jim Spano** finished with Deft and buffed.



Jim Howe won bottle stopper of desert ironwood finished with wax and friction polish turned by **Greg Vest**.



Greg Vest picked up a maple bowl turned by **Greg Stowers** and finished with Danish oil.



Jim Howe was the lucky winner of a spalted maple ring holder turned by **Larry Robinson** and finished with shellac and woodturner finish (no photo).

Roger Gardner won a piece turned by **Jim Brinkman**, finished with Deft and Beall buffed (no photo or description available).

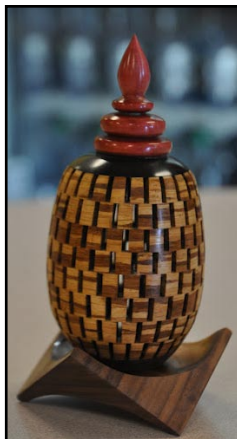
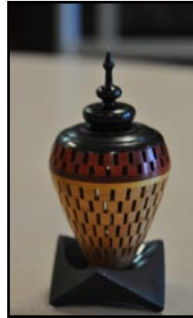
Charlie Kay had the ticket for a nice cherry lidded box finished with sanding sealer and wax turned by **Larry Robinson** (no photo).

Orlando Banos took home a bullet pen donated by **Johnny Tolly** (no photo).

As is the custom, each of the winners will bring back a turned item to the next meeting. The Bring Back items should be representative of each person's best work. It should be noted that the Bring Back Raffle is meant to be a fun event. No one is grading you on the quality of your work. Just bring a piece that represents the best that YOU can do. If you don't yet have a lathe or don't feel that you have enough experience, contact one of our Volunteer Instructors to help you prepare a Bring Back piece. So buy a ticket, get involved and have fun.

Our prolific segmented turner, **Mack Peterson**, brought along three pieces to the instant gallery. There are no details on woods or finishes.

Show and Tell



Greg Vest showed off a vase of maple and purple heart, finished with polyurethane and oil.

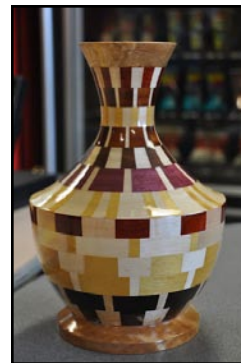


Curtis Turner brought a patinated piece.

Chris Van Peski has been busy with his device for cutting very thin strips and showed off a bouquet of purple heart and padauk flowers in a mesquite vase, finished with wax.



H. O. Evans brought along a nice segmented piece of "left over wood."



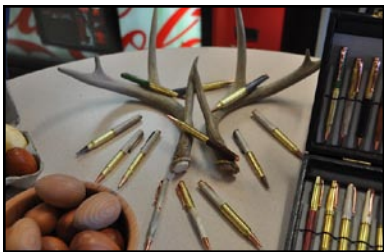
Arnie Waden showed a croquet ball turned from glued up plywood.



Johnny Tolly brought a passel of turnings, including rifle shell pens of all descriptions, cedar eggs in a cedar bowl and a dozen eggs of assorted woods.



Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988



Greg Stowers outdid himself with five entries:

a winged bowl turned from mahogany and finished with Wipe-On Poly



a "holey" mesquite box finished with lacquer



a "wormy" mahogany bowl finished with Danish oil



a segmented lidded vessel of maple and purpleheart, finished with Wipe-On Poly



a small walnut bowl turned from walnut and finished with Wipe-On Poly



Curtis called on the officers to do the judging, thus removing Greg Vest from the competition.

Greg Stowers took First Place and the \$50 gift certificate from Craft Supplies. Second place, and the \$20 gift certificate, went to Brandon Berdoll for his big bowl and Greg Stowers took third place with his mesquite box.



President's Challenge

New Turner Challenge

We had three new turners enter **Curtis Turner's** President's Challenge.

Greg Vest entered an ambrosia maple bowl.



Brando Berdoll entered a spalted pecan bowl that was the largest bowl any of us had seen turned from a single piece of wood. It was finished with Waterlox. He had been coached by **Chris Van Peski**.



Business Meeting

There were 57 persons in attendance at our April 17, 2012, meeting, including visitor **Rick Greenfield**. The meeting was presided over by **President Curtis Turner**.

Curtis began by reminding us of the upcoming Alan Lacer demonstrations and Hands-On sessions.

Membership Chair **Pat Little** made that while, as a club, we do not make donations for flowers or other memorials for funerals, she would be willing to group together individual offerings in the future if people wish.

Johnny Tolly brought us up to date on SWAT Symposium planning, based on the latest meeting of principals.

We were reminded of a Mini-Maker's Fair scheduled in Austin for May 12. Several members plan to participate in a demonstration booth.

CTWA Supporters

We need to recognize those whose support help to make for a better Central Texas Woodturners Association.

Thanks to:

Craft Supplies USA

for providing gift certificates to the club, and to:

American Youth Works

for providing us with a meeting facility.

May Program

Wood Stabilization

Our demonstrator for May is **Curtis Seebeck**, known as MesquiteMan on various internet forums, and proprietor of TurnTex Woodworks. TurnTex sells pen and knife scale blanks as well as Cactus Juice wood stabilizer.



Curtis will discuss what it means to stabilize a piece of wood or other porous materials, the benefits of stabilization, the different resins used for stabilization, as well as the physics behind the stabilization process. He will also discuss the different types of equipment needed to do in-house stabilization in a small shop, as well as stabilizing with color. A complete demonstration of vacuum stabilization will be conducted for pen blanks, box blanks, and small bowl blanks.



Calendar

The calendar listings are an attempt to keep you up to date on upcoming CTWA events, as well as other events of particular interest to woodturners.

May 15 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

June 2 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Charlie Kay's shop

June 19 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

July 7 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Chris Van Peski's shop

July 17 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

August 4 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - Orlando Banos's shop

Aug 21 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Sept 1 - 9:00 AM to Noon
First Saturday - location to be announced

Sept 18 - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CTWA Meeting - American YouthWorks

Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton**. If you have digital photos that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter. Send them to the Editor at ckayda@gmail.com.

Web Site

Check out the CTWA Web Site at www.CTWA.org. If you have comments, suggestions or something for the Gallery, get in touch with **Webmaster Aleta Wallace** at aleta.wallace@gmail.com.

Show Time

Steve Green has lined up a busy year of Art Shows for 2012. You can catch him at the following:

As the "**Featured Artist**" at the **Buda Fine Arts Festival** to be held this October 27 - 28, 10 - 6 on Saturday and 10 - 4 on Sunday. www.budafineartsfestival.com

Membership Information

New members are welcome to join CTWA at any time. All you need is an interest in woodturning. Dues are \$35.00 per year, (\$40 per family) or \$3.00 per month, prorated for new members joining during the year. AAW dues are \$45.00 per year for individuals and \$50.00 for families. CTWA also strongly encourages all of our members to join the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). For that, you get a first class quarterly magazine, **American Woodturner**, with excellent articles on woodturning and woodturners, amply illustrated with color photographs. For more information, go to www.woodturner.org.

To learn more about membership or if you want to join CTWA, contact our Membership Chair:

Pat Little
14307 Geronimo
Volente, TX 78641
patlittle46@yahoo.com
512.423.0508

2012 Demonstration Schedule

May 15	Curtis Seebeck	Wood Stabilization
June 19	to be announced	
July 17	Ken Mayes	Basic Bowl Turning
August 21	Keeley Guntrie	Basics of Pyrography
September 18	to be announced	

If you are interested in being a Demonstrator at one of our meetings, or want to suggest a Demonstrator, get in touch with **Program Chairman Tim White**.

Symposia

There are three major woodturning symposia coming up in the next five months. If you have been to one or more of these events in the past, you already know how inspiring and educational they are. There is also the opportunity to buy more toys -- sorry, tools. Here is the list:

**Utah Woodturning Symposium
May 16 through May 19
Provo, Utah**

This annual event is sponsored by Craft Supplies and the cost is \$275. You can get more details at www.utahwoodturning.com.

**American Association of Woodturners Symposium
June 8 through 10
San Jose, California**

This annual event moves around the country every year. It is the largest gathering of woodturners in the world and has a huge and amazing Instant Gallery. The trade show is also amazing. If it has to do with woodturning, you can find it here. The Registration cost is \$250 for members before May 15, \$300 before May 28 and \$350 at the door. You can get more details at www.woodturner.org.

**SouthWest Association of Turners Symposium
August 24 through 26
Waco, Texas**

Affectionately know as SWAT, this annual symposium is second in size only to the AAW Symposium. There were 821 woodturners at last year's Symposium. It also has a great Instant Gallery and trade show. Best of all, it is by far the least expensive. Advance registration is \$130 and registration at the door is \$160. Plus, it is only 100 miles up the road. If you are a new turner and are looking for inspiration and three days of great demonstrations, you really should plan to attend this. You can get more details at www.swaturners.org.

June First Saturday

The June First Saturday will be on June 2, at **Charlie Kay's** shop, 828 Middle Creek Drive in Buda.

From I-35, take the Buda Main Street exit and follow Main Street to the stop light in downtown Buda. Turn west onto RR 967 and go about a half mile. You will turn left on Cole Springs Road, **immediately** after you cross the Onion Creek bridge. Go 100 yards or so and turn right on Old Black Colony Road. Follow its bends and twists until you come to the first street where you can turn right again onto Middle Creek. It will be the fourth house on the left.

From FM 1626, go through the stop light where it crosses RR 967. You will pass a subdivision on your left called Elm Grove and an elementary school. Turn left at the entry into the Whispering Hollow subdivision on Coldwater Hollow. Go to the second street where you can turn left. That is Middle Creek. Follow it through the subdivision until you near its end. 828 will be the fourth house from the end on the right.

If you get lost, the phone number is 512.636.3492.

If it is hot, the garage door will be down and the air conditioner will be on, so come in the front door and follow the signs through the house to the garage.

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

- Bill Hammack** 512.282.0832
(tops, tiny turnings)
- Stacey Hager** 512.282.1036
(basics, spindles, sharpening, hollow vessels)
- Johnny Tolly** 512.858.4471
(basics, open segmented)
- Jimmy Tolly** 512.894.0686
(basics, platters)
- Craig Timmerman** 512.288.3598
(basics, square turnings, hollow vessels)
- Charlie Kay** 512.636.3492
(boxes, lidded bowls, bottle stoppers)
- H. O. Evans** 512.282.2830
(segmented turnings)
- Hilda Carpenter** 512.395.7782
(air brushing, tool handles)
- Jack Besperka** 512.261.4682
(finishing, decorating)

NORTH

- Judy Williams** 512.293.7479
(spindles)
- Jim Spano** 512.835.5023
(novelty items, tops, shop gadgets)
- Len Brissette** 512.258.4004
(bowls, platters, sharpening)

ROUND ROCK

- Larry Walrath** 512.255.5379
(big vessels, bowls, platters)
- Ed Roberts** 512.255.3294
(basics)

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

- David Dick** 512.357.6517
(basics, spindles, architectural)

2012 First Saturday Shop Crawl Schedule

- June 2**
- July 7**
- August 4**
- September 1**
- October 6**
- November 3**

- Charlie Kay**
- Chris Van Peski**
- Orlando Banos**
- to be announced**
- to be announced**
- to be announced**

We can always use volunteer hosts. You don't have to have a fancy shop to host it, just a place for folks to congregate and drink coffee, eat donuts, and maybe for one or two to turn. To volunteer to host a First Saturday Shop Crawl, get in touch with **Len Brissette**.

Random Ruminations

Of Turnings and Friends

I missed the Alan Lacer events because of a prior commitment to a craft show in Dripping Springs. Although I have now done a lot of shows, each time I start setting up for a new one it is a bit like getting up to give a speech or a stage performance. It really isn't stage fright, but it is a tingly mix of excitement and trepidation. Have I done things people will like? Will I make my booth rent? Is this the right venue for me? In this case things worked out pretty well, as they most always do. I had a lot of interested people, sold enough stuff to consider the event a success and met some interesting people.

Among other things, I took a number of the "mystery" salt shakers that I have made off and on for a number of years. I had some for sale alone and others in sets with matching pepper mills. As always, they generated a lot of interest. At least a couple of folks were very interested in how to make them. They were woodturners, but were unaware of our club. I expect they both may soon join us.

The following weekend, I joined a group of loosely organized high school friends in our more-or-less, almost annual, get together. It was a very small high school a couple of hundred miles from here, but a bunch of us have wound up scattered around the Hill Country. The attendees vary, and we frequently have folks from the two classes behind us attend as well. There are seldom more than eight or ten of us. I usually grab a box full of turnings of some sort and take them along and share them. This year, I took some mystery salt shakers.

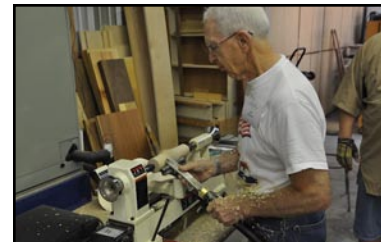
These ongoing reunions have been very interesting to me. We were friends once, more than fifty years ago, but we were kids. In the mean time, we have gone our separate ways and have had very different life experiences. We are much more complex people now, and much more interesting. Still it has surprised me how much our shared lives of long ago have allowed us to reconnect after so many years apart and how close we feel to each other when we get together. That shared background seems to allow us to trust one another and reach out to each other in ways that I wouldn't have expected. Some

of the folks have kept in pretty close touch with one another over the years, while others, like me, left home and never looked back. I am so happy that one of my classmates chased me down and drug me back into this circle of old friends. I will be forever grateful to him.

This issue is late, but I have been called away by two of those friends this week, and how could I refuse them? Now I have to call this issue done, even though I know that I have left out I couple of things that I should have included. Then, I need to get write-ups for the salt shaker off to a couple of people who have requested them. I also need to get a turning done for Bring Back next week. I think I will bring a mystery salt shaker. Those have contributed to some really good times in my life these last several weeks.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay



No one sent me any notes on the Alan Lacer events, so there is no write-up, but here are a few photos to share with those of you who participated.

Alan Lacer Events



April First Saturday

On April 14, thirty or so folks turned up at **Drew Shelton's** shop in Georgetown for First Saturday. Yes, we know it was the second Saturday. Theoretically, we had three lathes running. **Craig Timmerman** was on Drew's big lathe. **Charlie Kay** started a box on his mini-lathe, but got called away by **Jim Spano**, who was working on Part II of his threading lessons, this time on the female threads and insisted Charlie had to take the second lesson. Several people tried their hand at doing the threads, including **Kimberly Shelton**. There were many kibbitzers giving advice, some of it even helpful. **Spano** was the envy of the gathering with his newly custom painted and highly modified Jet mini. Now, if he would just take care of his bench in similar fashion! We soon learned that Drew had an ulterior motive in scheduling this event; he wanted to GET RID OF SOME WOOD. You weren't permitted to leave until you took at least a few pieces. Then it was down to a big box fo assorted pieces of wood of all shapes and sizes. Who would be the sucker who would take that home? You guessed it, **Len Brissette**, and we all know that he is short on wood to turn. It was good to have **Gary Roberts** join us for the event.

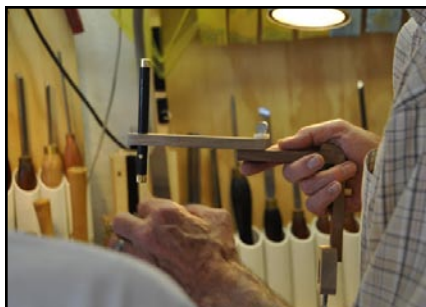
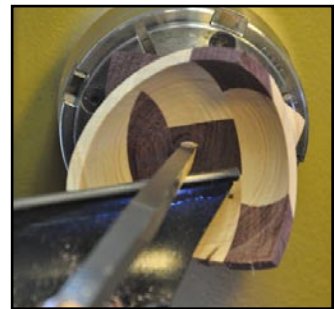
When the turning and talking were done, a dozen or so of us heade to Monument Cafe for lunch, joined by Drew's dad. It was Market Day in Georgetown and there was a big crowd, so we had a good wait for a table on the patio. All in all, another good day of turning and fellowship. Thanks to Drew for hosting us.



On May 5, twenty-five or thirty folks made their way to **Jim Brinkman's** shop in northwest Austin for the monthly Shop Crawl. **Craig Timmerman** was on Jim's Powermatic, turning another three-sided footed bowl from glued-up maple and purple heart. Yes, he took some of Drew's wood home last month too. **Stacey Hager** was on **Jim Spano's** colorful mini, reinforcing the skew lessons that folks had learned from **Alan Lacer**. **Charlie Kay** had a nice pear box well underway, with the lid finished and the outside formed. However, when he started to hollow it with his Best Wood tools, others wanted to try and it ended up being more than a mite thin at the top. We'll see if he salvages it. **Bob Duncan** brought along his new belt sander hollowing rig that he had customized and demonstrated it for folks. It was a warm and humid day, but that didn't stop the lies and the turning.

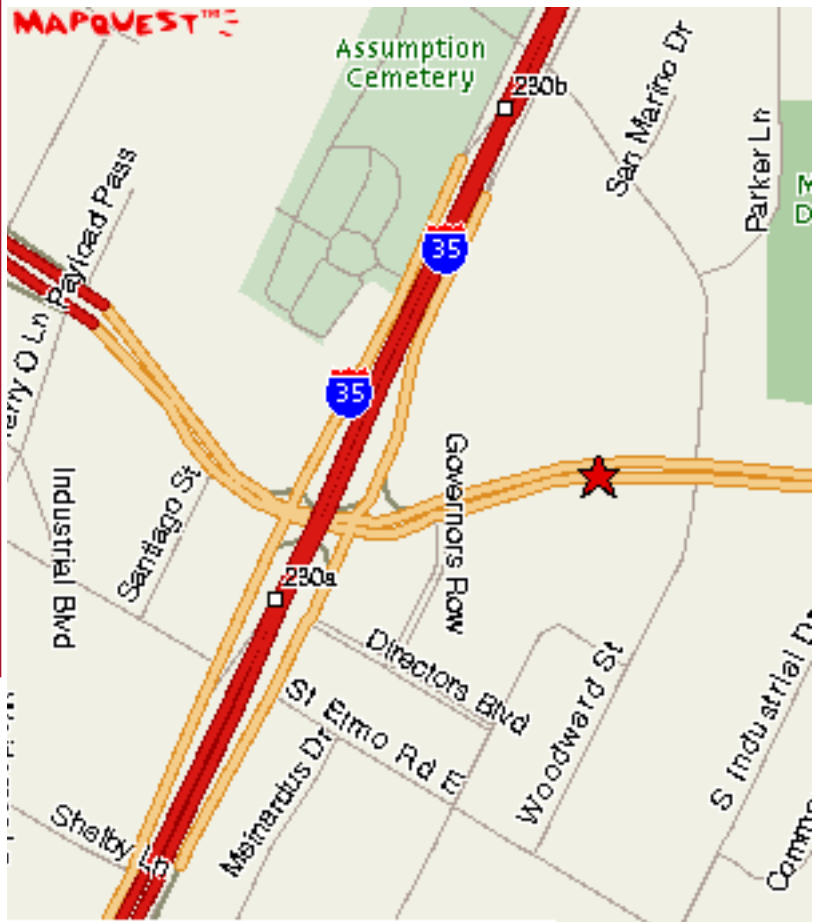
When the session was over, a large group headed over to Moonie's Burger House for outstanding hamburgers and more fellowship.

Thanks to Jim for hosting us this month.



Meeting Location

The CTWA meets at American Youth-Works, 1901 East Ben White Boulevard (Texas 71) in south Austin. The building is on the south side of Ben White, just east of Interstate 35. The best entry is off Woodward Street, just south of a little strip center. You enter an alleyway into a lighted parking lot. We will enter through the back door. As you drive in, you will see a truck dock in the back of the building with a big roll-up white door. The entryway is just to the right of the truck dock. Folks coming from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White.



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To: