



October 2026 CCW
Meeting- Tuesday,
October 27th 2026

At Wethersfield
William J Pitkin
Community Center: 30
Greenfield St,
Wethersfield CT, at
6:30pm.

President's Note

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October 2026

Presidents note:

Hi fellow turners, Holidays will be here before you know it so time to start turning some gift items. Turning and item for a gift is a Bingo Square. The bingo challenge goes through till the October meeting. Get as many lines completed as you can. Every line completed gets you an entry for the drawing. 1 st picked is \$75.00, 2nd is \$50 and 3rd is \$35 in woodcraft gift cards.

We have three pen events approaching. November 7th Turning for the troops at Woodcraft, November 14th Berlin Peck Library, December 12th East Windsor Library.

Here is the link to last month's demo of turning a puzzle ball.

[Puzzle Ball](#)

Our next meeting is October 27th at Wethersfield Community Center 30 Greenfield St. Wethersfield. We are going to have a discussion on respirators, talk about lathe upgrades, differences in coring systems and throw in a quick demo.

There will also be a wood swap for some dried and squared blanks that I have. I picked these up for the club for a deal and I am thinking of offering them to members for \$3 to \$5. I have turned a couple of these and they are pretty good. The proceeds will go to the club.

Safe turning, Dan

CCW Sept 22nd 2026 meeting minutes.

William J Pitkin Community Center

6:43pm meeting started

17 members were present.

Officers introduced—Kip Lockhart absent. Pres, Dan Merlo, Treas, Lynda Zibbideo, Secretary Joanne Mann.

No new members. No guests.

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes Dave Messina made a motion to accept; Emery Fellingner 2nd ;

Unanimous approval.

August 2026 treasurer's report - income from the last pen turning event...\$135 plus Venmo donation of

\$20= Total income \$155. Expenses \$105.00 for Sep-Nov 2026 Wethersfield meeting room. Thanks went out to Todd Richardello for paying for the Wethersfield room as well. CCW picnic expenses were \$80.20; August

Total expenses \$185.20; Balance at end of August 2026 = \$4,498.43. Tim Connolly made a motion to

accept and Todd Richardello 2nd. All approved.

Upcoming pen turnings: Nov 14th, 2026, Berlin Peck and Nov 7th 2026 at Woodcraft. CCW may be able to

do another pen turning event. John Webber is going to try to sneak it in there.

CCW demo for the Oct meeting is still open. Note: Doing a demo at a meeting is not on bingo card,

because Dan Merlo wants to give everyone opportunity to mark off every square.

Hopefully, everyone is still working on Bingo cards. Dan included it in the last email he sent. Dan says it is always fun to try new things...challenges and demos allowed him to turn new things, which he wouldn't have wanted to turn before. Article in this past month's AAW magazine says to learn spindle turning before you go into bowls. #1 tool to learn to use first is the skew chisel.

CCW had a collaborative picnic with the wood carving club. Thank you to Lynda Zibbideo for hosting. She thanked Dan Merlo for cooking at the picnic.

Then Show-n-Yell was held. Charlotte won the Wood Craft gift card.

Demo began at 7:05pm. Dan Merlo turned a puzzle ball.

September 22nd 2026 Show & Yell



Lathe Safety Tips

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Eye and Face Protection: Always wear ANSI-rated safety glasses (Z87.1+) and a full-face shield whenever the lathe is running to protect against flying chips and debris.
- Respiratory Protection: Wear a dust mask or respirator (such as an N95 or half-mask) to protect your lungs from fine wood dust and toxic particles.
- Hearing Protection: Use earplugs or ear defenders during extended turning sessions.

- **Appropriate Clothing:** Wear short-sleeved shirts or roll up long sleeves, tie back long hair, and remove all watches, rings, necklaces, and loose jewelry.
- **Footwear:** Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes or steel-toed boots (never sandals or flip-flops).
- **No Gloves:** Avoid wearing full-fingered or loose gloves, which can catch on the spinning lathe and pull your hand into the machinery.

Lathe & Workpiece Preparation

- **Inspect the Wood:** Check the wood blank thoroughly for cracks, loose knots, bark pockets, or structural defects before mounting it.
- **Secure the Workpiece:** Make sure faceplates, screws, or center-spurs are tightly locked and the piece rotates freely by hand before powering on.
- **Remove Chuck Keys:** Always take the chuck key or tightening wrench out of the chuck immediately after use—never leave it in the machine.
- **Set Safe Speeds:** Start with a low RPM and reference a speed chart based on the size and balance of your blank, increasing the speed only after the piece is trued and balanced.

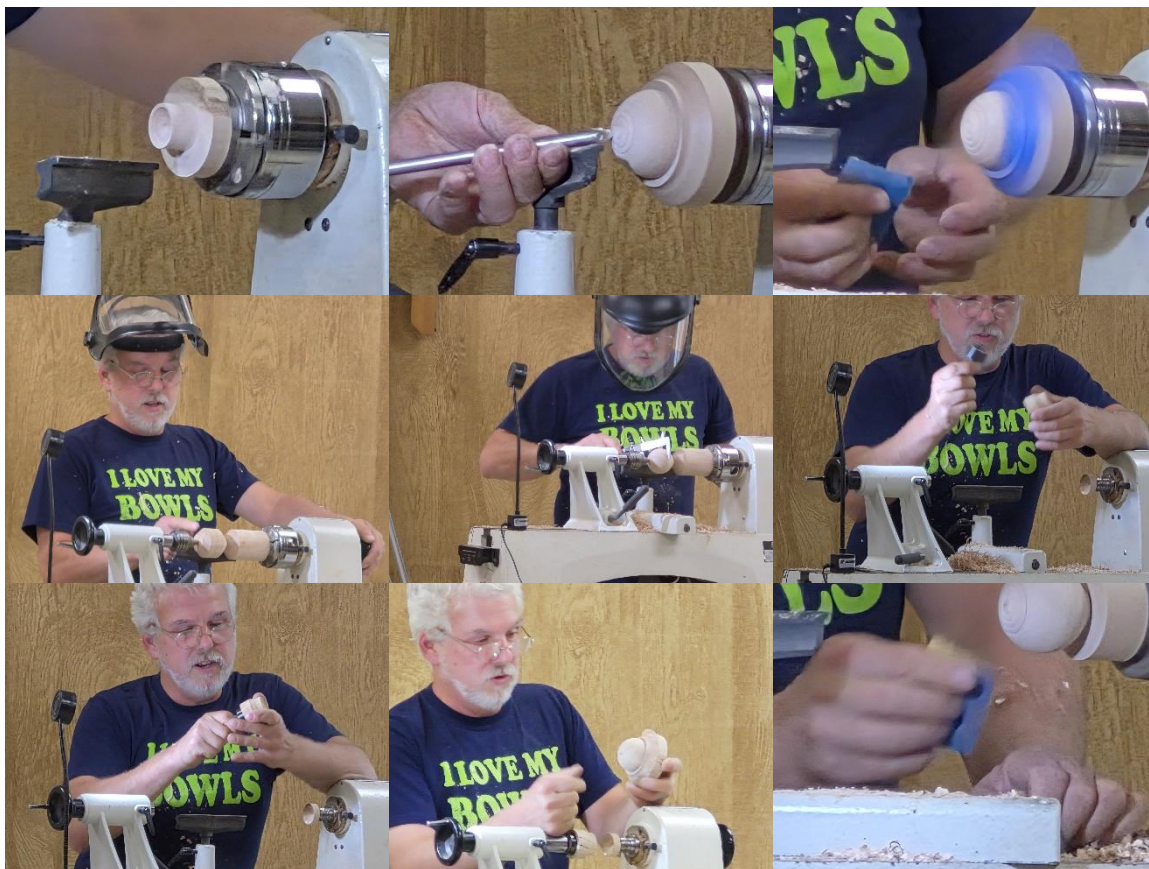
Operating and Cutting Safety

- **The "Line of Fire":** Stand to the side (out of the plane of rotation) when first turning on the lathe, as a flying workpiece typically ejects straight out from the front.
- **Tool Rest Clearance:** Position the tool rest close to the wood (about 1/8 to 1/4 inch away) and rotate the piece by hand to verify it won't strike the rest.
- **Stop to Adjust:** Always turn off the lathe completely and wait for it to come to a full stop before adjusting the tool rest, moving the banjo, or walking away.

- Hand Placement: Hold turning tools firmly with both hands, keeping the tool resting on the tool rest before it makes contact with the wood.

September Demo

Sphere puzzle ball by Dan Merlo



The word is... “Shavings”



Thinking outside the box, or in this case, outside the atmosphere.

Woodturning has deep roots in tradition: bowls, pens, rolling pins, elegant hollow forms and finely finished furniture parts. Many of us started there, learning the grain, the tools, and the “right” way to shape a curve. But once the fundamentals are in your hands, the lathe can become something much more than a machine for making round objects - it can become a launchpad.

Last year, I started following a turner who builds Star Wars–inspired pieces and whimsical UFOs. The core of each project is familiar: a thoughtfully turned base, clean lines, good tool control. But from there, things delightfully fly off the lathe and out of this world. He adds hand carved details, glues on common nails as “landing gear,” and uses resin to create tractor beams. The result is part sculpture, part pop-culture tribute, and completely unique.

This kind of work is a powerful reminder that not every turning has to be traditional, and not every project has to be just wood. The lathe is only one stage in the process. Once the blank comes off the machine, you can add mixed materials, incorporate other techniques, and pull from pop culture and daily life for inspiration. If you’re feeling stuck in a “bowl and pen” rut, try something outside of the box. Every experiment stretches your skills and your eye. When we think beyond the usual shapes and beyond wood alone, we invite curiosity back into the shop. The

lathe becomes more than a tool for reproduction; it becomes a way to tell stories, celebrate the things we love, and maybe even build a tiny fleet of wooden UFOs along the way.

Keep turning and make it weird! Credit goes to <https://averagedesignedwood.com/> for inspiration!



And please don't forget to send a picture of what you make from Kevin's roughed in bowls!!

