



Virtual club meetings using Zoom

Lancaster Area Woodturners' first virtual club meeting, on April 7 2020, attracted an amazing 80% of our membership roster, and kept us all entertained for a full two hours. We will continue to meet on line at 7 pm EDT on the first Tuesday of every month, for as long as we must maintain social distance.

The club also hosts weekly Woodturners' Morning Coffee Hour every Thursday at 9 am EDT, also using Zoom. This is where we introduce newbies to basic Zoom moves, so they can control their own microphone, camera, and on-screen presentation. And of course we hang there to chat about woodturning.

The on-line meeting room looks like Hollywood Squares, except the stars are our friends in our woodturning club. You can see and hear everyone, everyone also sees and hears you. Members can share photos and videos, ask questions, and chat with one another. It's more than TV, it's a new medium that heats up with participation and engagement.

A club member screen-shares her current work during Lancaster Area Woodturners' first virtual club meeting. Thumbnail screen at right shows Gallery View of the participating members.

Our meetings open with the usual officer reports, followed by show-and-tell. We invite every member to bring finished work whether new or old, photos, and shop gizmos to share. We're learning how to conduct shop tours and live demonstrations using cellphone cameras, and some of our members are skilled enough to shoot and edit their own video demos.

We're also looking into sponsoring on-line expert demonstrations with live Q/A, by nationally recognized woodturning experts and artists.

Our on-line club meetings and coffee hours help us through this difficult time. If you'd like to join us, just send an email to editorkelsey@gmail.com and we'll send you a link to our upcoming on-line events.

--John Kelsey, club treasurer and Zoom idiot