

American Scientific Glassblowers' Society  
Director's Report-Midwest Section  
December 1st, 2006

On October, 14, 2006 the Midwest Section Fall Meeting was hosted by Joe Gregar and held at Argonne National Laboratory.

The meeting was sponsored by Chemglass, represented by Mr. Doug Lucas, and Technical Glass Products, represented by Mr. Jack Watson.

The meeting was well attended with 31 people and celebrated Joe Gregar's 40<sup>th</sup> year of working glass, 26 of which was at Argonne Laboratories.

Tracy Drier began the demonstration program showing a procedure for a seal done without blowing. Joe shared a shop hint that illustrated the use of an altered machinist's square to provide precise 90 degree positioning. The alteration was to remove the corner allowing clearance for the radius of the seal.

Dan Edwards revealed several shop hints including his method of attaching packing onto the lathe donuts with a large paper clip, a quick method to attach a handle to a beaker, a special pair of tweezers he brazed sliced metal tubing to for holding small items securely, a tapered graphite plug for stopcock work, why he uses Elmer's glue for tape on joint holders, a wood block tapper, a frit-holder with a slot, use of an adjustable protractor for equal neck angles and the height of the finished joint.

President Jim Hodgson demonstrated a recently acquired powerful Turbo-Carver tool that sent everyone's memories to past dentist appointments.....

Fulfilling a request from Norm Mueller, Joe demonstrated small quartz to tungsten seals and the preparation needed for success. Joe then shared a production fixture he designed that was used on the cut-off saw.

Lunch was catered in during after which a short business meeting was held. Dues were collected and award nominations discussed. The past and upcoming symposium were talked about.

After lunch, Joe displayed a pair of clip-on magnifiers he uses with his non-prescription didymiums, a right angle holder he uses that he demonstrated by sealing a sidearm connector to a ionization guage tube, and a handy right angle reamer tool.

Dan Edwards showed an improved method he recently developed for making colored icicles faster and using less colored material. He and Tracy Drier helped to spread good will towards a couple of female Argonne employees by encasing some color into pendants that were sealed to fitted finger rings providing entertainment and give-aways.

Joe performed a third neck seal to a 12 liter round bottom utilizing a fixture to hold and position the joint accurately.

Responding spontaneously to a request, Norm Mueller successfully fabricated two Bologna bottles that worked. Also reacting to a request, Joe executed a vertical seal on his Litton Vertical Lathe which incidentally has a serial number of 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schwandt

## MIDWEST SECTION SPECIAL TOPICS

- 1) Think of the best section meeting you have attended. What was it about that section meeting which made it beneficial to you? What is important to you in deciding whether or not to attend a section meeting?

It is very difficult for me to admit to a **best** section meeting since the Midwest section meetings are so well put together. The entire meeting revolves around the very mission of the ASGS which is sharing information related to working glass. Demonstrations are always the high point of our meetings and our guys really put out. The look and interest on the younger members' faces is testimonial to this. Tours can be interesting and an opportunity to flaunt the host location facility but often only self-centered or business related and not as useful as the education portion of each program.

The only meetings I miss are those that fall in direct conflict with previous commitments or unavoidable conflicts that cannot be rescheduled.

- 2) Name three valuable services you think a scientific glassblower provides to their employer, whether it be a university setting, research lab or production.

- a) Undoubtedly the custom-aspect of precision glassblowing tailor-made to the needs of the requestor. Being able to discuss the fabrication, alteration, improvement, enlargement, or down-sizing of the project is paramount.

- b) Because of the fragile nature of the material glass, I believe repairing capabilities are an important skill. The amorphous nature of glass tends to allow unique repairs not always an option for other materials. Cost savings or efficient funding use is a direct result here.

- c) Regardless of the institution, I believe all glassblowers are teachers. The material glass is taken for granted by the general public, but is a mystery as well. Most people working with or using glass items typically do not understand nor are they educated in it's properties, characteristics, uses, etc. To fulfill a client or co-workers request, it is unavoidable not to explain, (teach), that person about the material by sharing your knowledge. After being thanked for my presentations, I routinely tell people it is easy to be interesting when the topic is glass.

## MIDWEST SECTION SPECIAL TOPICS

3) How can we, as directors, be a resource for our local sections? What can our society, as a whole, provide which might be prohibitive for an individual section to undertake?

a) As directors we must over see the big picture in our sections. A need to coordinate the individual contributions, with a general emphasis on organization. Our mission is to share related information for each of us to succeed at our specific positions providing the service we are expected to. To be this resource, directors skills require leadership, foresight, organization and creativity. If I knew more specific hows, I would be a much better director. What ever happened to the book that outlined the different officers' responsibilities? A time-line type calendar would be very useful, and could be passed down to successors.

b) As a whole the society needs to provide unity of diversification; a vehicle for combining the wide variety of different glass working situations. Whether education in a university setting, special unique research lab applications or efficient and quality production, each group can share information the other is not subject to or experienced at. The limitations of the society as a whole are directly dependant on the approval and participation of the individuals and/or their employers. Many people share, some just absorb. With all these very well know predicaments we face, I do not see much of a difference between the society and the section level. Maybe international exposure efforts?