

## Vice President's Message for March 2015

My wife and I have been looking online at homes in the Chicago suburbs for about 6 months now. Earlier this year while I was in Chicago she sent me a list of 6 homes she wanted me to drive past to check out the neighborhoods and see what they looked like in person. This past week my wife and kids finally made a trip to Chicago with me and we spent the better part of 2 days touring just over a dozen homes. Following this exercise I can now both confirm and deny some of my preconceived notions.

- 1) It will be harder than I thought to find a home that will meet all of our ideal criteria (the one). We want a larger home than we have now, in an area with good schools, on a good sized lot, 2 car garage or larger, not too far from work, without crazy high property taxes, with some sort of workshop for me, and with some sort of quilting area for my wife that's at least 15 feet wide. A guest room and/or office would also be nice to have but not completely necessary.
- 2) I don't feel so bad about our current home. Yes it's small and we outgrew it quite a while ago but several of the homes we looked at this weekend were in very poor condition and made us wonder how anybody lived there. With enough time, effort, and money anything can be made livable but no matter how much "Property Brothers" or "Fixer Upper" my wife watches I'm not interested in a complete renovation.
- 3) We may have to spend more money than I originally hoped and I may have to commute farther than I originally wanted.
- 4) Real estate agents seem to be specially trained in taking photos to make the smallest rooms look huge and in choosing the perfect angle for each photo to highlight the best feature and crop out the worst. They also tend to upload the photos completely out of order so it's difficult to get a sense of how the various rooms are connected and how the house flows.
- 5) Having found a home that meets more than enough of our ideal criteria to be rounded up to "the one" we need to get our butts in gear to get our current house on the market and sold. The house we found is lacking a dedicated shop but it does have a small shed. This may mean I will be taking less wood/equipment to Chicago than I originally planned.
- 6) I got very lucky that my wife and kid's first trip to Chicago had very nice weather. Daytime temperatures were in the high 40's to mid 60's. Had the weather been in the teens or below this may have been "we're not moving!" message. They'll be eased into Chicago weather slowly and that's a good thing.
- 7) My wife wanted to find a quilt shop and when we pulled into the strip mall where the quilt shop was located there was a Woodcraft 2 doors away. The only Woodcraft in all of Chicago and I somehow managed to find it completely by accident.

In conclusion. House hunting is hard. We may have found "the one" and now we hope that it remains on the market long enough for us to get our house listed for sale. Somehow I'm inexplicably drawn to Woodcraft no matter where I go. I need to clean out my shop sooner than I had planned. I will have excess wood and equipment that I can't/won't move and I will be counting on club members to lighten my load.

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Jason -- [jclark58@gmail.com](mailto:jclark58@gmail.com)

<http://www.fourcornerswoodturning.com>

<http://www.azwoodturners.org>

<http://agoodturndaily.blogspot.com>