

## Vice President's Message for May 2015

Life is a journey punctuated by a series of firsts and lasts. It starts with our first breath and ends with our last words. In between is a number of firsts: first steps, first words, first kiss, first child, first home, and first mortgage. There are also a number of lasts, even if we don't always realize until well after the fact.

I recently completed what will likely be my last regular demonstration for the club. I've lost track of the number of demos I've done for the club over the years but it's probably over a dozen; including filling in on short notice a couple times. "Be prepared" is the Boy Scout motto and it's served me very well on more than a few occasions. Prepping for a demo with less than 24 hours' notice is never fun but having lots of materials on hand makes it slightly easier.

There will also be our last night in our first home, our last night in Arizona, and inevitably my last club meeting, likely all of these lasts will be in either June or July but it's entirely possible that my last club meeting will have happened even before I realize it was my last meeting.

A couple weekends ago I also experienced a combined first/last. That Sunday I disassembled my lathe and moved it to temporary storage. It's the first time in well over a decade that I don't have a lathe in my garage though if I'm being honest it hasn't gotten much use lately anyway. It happened so quickly that I'm not even sure what the last thing I turned on it was but based on the piles of shavings it was likely some variety of hard maple.

Now that I'm without a lathe I may have to beg, borrow, or steal lathe time from local club members as I have another first coming up soon. My first national level demonstration this summer in Pittsburgh. That demo will include what I believe to be another first; the world's first double walled vacuum chuck. Those who attended the April demo may have seen it sitting on the table. 9 pounds of aluminum, PVC pipe, and silicone rubber gaskets. This tool is my own design and concept and allows vacuum chucking of pieces that were impossible to vacuum chuck previously. It was purpose built for turning my Torus forms but it has applications beyond its intended purpose and I truly believe it is the only one of its type in world.

So as my time here in Arizona draws to a close and my last regular club demonstration has likely come and gone there's at least one more last. You haven't seen the last of me. I'll be back in February 2016 for the Desert Woodturning Roundup. Registration will be opening soon. If you haven't attended before it's time to make this your first, if you've attended previous DWRs don't let the previous one be your last.

Jason Clark -- Vice President, Arizona Woodturners Association