

'Promoting Excellence in the Handcrafted Tradition'

www.gllca.org

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Fall 2015 Newsletter

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EYEBROWS KEEPING THINGS OUT By Dan Wait

A few years ago, I recall at an ILBA conference and a builder was building a cabin on the northwest coast, Washington state, I believe, and there were no trees around this site and he was very concerned about wind driven rain making contact with the cabin. Naturally, a gable end facing west was the building's orientation. The building had 3 to 4 foot overhangs but the builder felt that more protection was needed on those big exposed gable ends. He added what I call Eybrows, I don't recall what he called them but I always thought number one that they looked good and offered a great deal of protection in areas of a building where winds could get to.

A couple years ago, a partner and I bought a place on a lake on the Cisco Chain near Land O Lakes, Wisconsin. The building had a little prow on the south side with 10 to11 foot sidewalls and a 12 pitch roof. There was exposure to the sun as well as wind driven rain. The lady we built the place for had a small walkway on the east side of the cabin, due to some health issues she only lived there for four years. The couple she sold the place too decided to put a deck in on the lake side.

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ICC-400

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They were only there 4 years but since they added a deck, splash up from this deck became a issue. This place was built in 1995. Around 2008 or so, I get a call from the owner at that date asking about checking on this cabin. I go out, see splash up from the deck and exposure to the elements and some lower log deterioration. The stain had been well maintained, but when the deck was added 10 to 12 years earlier, years of splash up had started the decay on these lower logs. We did not end up doing anything for the third owner although someone did because in 2013 my partner and I bought the place at a real estate auction. We have decided to add the eyebrows to this cabin after refaceing the lakeside lower 2 logs. My goal is to have minimum 3' of protection all the way across the deck area at a height of about 8' off the deck.

Coincidently, about January of this year, I received a call from a engineering firm from southern Wisconsin and they want me to come and see a full log place down by Portage. They had been hired by the owner to evaluate this structure and give their recommendations.

After receiving the photos and speaking to the engineer, it sounded like something I was interested in looking at. It's a big place, very impressive views, lots of open space's, but also logs exposed to the elements due mainly to the design. Needless to say, there was some serious log deterioration going on. The main issue was exposure of log corners, as well as a log deck system, that was not done in treated wood or cedar. I went to look at the place and after reviewing my recommendations, they started looking for someone to do the work. He called me back late spring to see if we would be interested in doing the things I suggested. We agreed to terms and are currently doing some restore work. This building has some 20' walls, I suggested the eyebrows in a few areas and the engineer, after doing his own research, has decided to put even more of these on. I haven't done a lot of study or research into these mini roofs but I'm thinking about doing this on my place just because I like the way they look. We have done a few of these tall log wall buildings through the years and I believe this is something to consider at the design stage when it's easiest to do. I will update this story as it's ongoing!

Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

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The GLLCA is an organization of professional log builders and others interested in the art of handcrafting log structures. GLLCA exists for "PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN THE HANDCRAFTED TRADITION."

ONE MAN CRANE OPERATION By Duane Sellman

Many of us tend to work by ourselves at times. It can be done with cranes, but it involves a lot of crawling in and out of the crane. After 30 years in this business and becoming certified in operating three (3) types of cranes, last week I realized how I can reduce the number of times I'm climbing in and out of my crane when lifting logs onto my sawmill bed. So I decided an article might give a little new info to some of you.

First of all, climbing in and out of the crane isn't so bad with a truck mount crane where you stand on a platform or the back bumper 2 steps above the ground. My Pettibone rough terrain crane is at the opposite end of easy. It is more like climbing up the outside of the crane and then climbing down inside the crane avoiding bumping control levers or hitting my head. This is the crane I most appreciate having a helper or "rigger" to hook up the load.

Back to my sawmill. After many trips in to lower the sky hook, then back out to hook onto the strap, then back in to lift and move the log off the mill, I realized with the 6' cable hanging below the skyhook and a 6' strap on the log once I have the log on the mill, if I boom down the strap goes slack and the skyhook moves beyond the mill at the same time and hangs just beyond where I walk along side of the Woodmiser sawmill. This saves me going back to the crane to move the skyhook out of the way after I unhook the log. When done taking the slab off the ridgepole, joist or whatever the skyhook is within reach of the strap to be re-hooked on the log

Another method I have used for years is to hook a log off balance. With one end lower to make contact with the wall before the other end, gravity will help hold the lower end in place while I control the skyhook to maneuver the higher end into its position. This takes a little finesse. Sometimes it works great and sometimes it would be quicker to climb out and go sift the log manually it the crane is supporting all but 20 or 40 pounds.

Another idea is to have a weight on one end of the log dragging as an anchor to prevent the log from spinning as you fly it into place. There have been a few times I had a rope on both ends of the log running into the crane so I could pull on both ropes to control the spin and positioning of

That reminds me of a time I used a come-along to pull the skyhook closer to the crane then it hangs by itself. On my Bantam conventional lattice work boom, the skyhook hangs 23' from the center of the pivot point with 80' of boom on. 30' with the job on for 100' of reach. When my crane was too close to where I wanted the log, a come-a-long pulling the skyhook toward the crane boom base did the trick quicker than moving the crane. I'm sure this would not be OSHA

Recently, when working alone again, I discovered the safety latch on the skyhook was not closing completely. As I set the log and skyhook continued going down, the strap popped out of the hook. Then I could swing over to the next log to be picked before I climbed out of the crane

In conclusion, one man operation of a crane is not the most efficient but it can be done. With a little forethought and experience, you can utilize a few tricks to make it easier on yourself. As with all log building, we must be alert and thinking all the time. Remember, safety is paramount! We all want to return home at the end of the day.

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As a result of an article in the Spring, 2015 GLLCA Newsletter regarding SIP panel installation, Jeff Krentz has written the following response. I wanted to mention that as a building official licensed in two states including Minnesota, the article about SIP Panels is in accurate. In 1999 as the article describes, most if not all SIP panels were made from OPEN CELL foam, the white Styrofoam like a Styrofoam cup. Open Cell Foam IS NOT A VAPOR BARRIER! The SIP panel was improperly installed without a vapor barrier which is REQUIRED by building code hence the problems. I imagine this log home like many others was built in an area without inspections or a vapor barrier would have been made mandatory. The only SIP panel that would be allowed as a combined insulating panel AND vapor barrier is CLOSED CELL foam. Closed cell foam is the rigid pink or blue foam that can be walked on. This has of course come in sheets for many years and within the last 5 years is becoming the standard in SIP panels. I thought the other members would want to know about how to properly install a SIP in the Midwest so I provided this information. When in doubt ask a code official, I am happy to answer these questions for members before they become problems for clients.

Building Official #2870

MAKE A CUSTOM CHAINSAW BAR SCABBARD

By Duane Sellman

Trecently got tired of only half the teeth being protected by the plastic scabbard so I made my own out of a piece of 2x6. I clamped the 2x6 in my jawhorse vice and using my chainsaw with the 36 inch bar I wanted to protect, I cut a groove in the 2x6 being sure to stop as soon as the bar was buried below the surface of the wood. The bar was also full depth or length into the 2x6. This gives the groove the exact length needed to protect the bar full length. Next I cut the 2x6 off 2or 3 inches longer than the groove. Now the open side needs to be closed up. I used a piece of wood about the size of a lath (3/8 x 1 inch). Construction adhesive and #4 sinkers will hold in securely for years. Drive the nails carefully so they don't come out inside the groove where they could dull the teeth as the bar is slide into the scabbard.I used a small cord (shoelace or parachute cord) to staple onto the top of the 2x6 to make a loop to slip over the brake lever to keep the scabbard from sliding off when I pick the saw up by the top handle. With the 36" bar, it is very tip heavy and the scabbard slides right off. Good cutting!!!



We recently had an issue with the local building inspector about fastening our logs so the house does not blow away. I usually pre-drill at disassembly for 1" dowels all the the way up. We screw the sill log to the floor system and screw the Cap log to the Header log at the top. The top has 1" dowels 4' o/c and log screws 4' o/c so it is fastened every 2' with a dowel or a screw. The inspector did not think this was enough since the dowels do not have uplift resistance so we had to screw the logs all the way up, a little over kill in my mind since I wasted the time drilling all those dowels (close to 300). I just do not like steel in the wood for several reasons the main one is the chainsaw does not like those misplaced screws, of which I have found many over the years. Ironically the neighboring lot had a portable bunkhouse delivered while we were there. You know they are going to be sleeping in that which makes it a dwelling according to the code, so I asked the building inspector if he was going to require them to screw that down so it doesn't blow (rhetorical question).

In 1999 we built a home in Siren, Wi. on a lake lot. We used the Owner's logs which him and his son cut and peeled off his property. Aesthetic value priceless! He and his friend were doing the finish work. In 2001 an F-5 tornado went through this area where this house was at ground zero. The home had considerable damage to say the least, but did NOT blow away (the neighbor's house was gone). The house was hit by 3 trees on one side and 2 trees on another. All the windows and skylights were broken but nothing penetrated the ceiling inside. Luckily they were not totally finished inside. But they did have the loft flooring in. What the big problem was is the building had rotated or racked at the window and door openings, each log was stair stepped about a 1/4" off the lower one all the way from the sill log to the header and at each cut opening. Surprisingly the gable walls were plumb and the top was still square as were the sill logs. This house was built before we started under scribing our notches so there were some shrinkage cracks on the notches and it appeared that all the weight of the house was riding on the laterals. The logs were not dried very well so I believe that is why we had looser notches than I was used to seeing; we had been using a shrink-fit saddle notch for about 5 years at this time.

I had to go and meet with the Owner and the insurance adjuster. Since the owner had replacement cost insurance the adjuster decided to total the home and not deal with repair. This was good for the Owner since he wanted to repair not matter what the cost. In the repair we removed the windows, doors, and framing. We hired a tow truck with a winch to pull through the windows and hooked to the tie logs to against the rack. We used a large excavator to bump the corners on an 8X8 timber (luckily the corners were trimmed plumb and square which helped). It took about a day and a half and 4 times around and all the logs moved right back in place. I believe it was because the dowels were bent inside the laterals and under tension so with a little persuasion they moved back in place surprisingly easy. We did have to bump some of the logs between the windows and doors with the BFH, but very few, most of them moved with the corners. All in all there was a small bathroom window that had to be recut. One corner on the gable overhang peeled off to the wall (4' overhang) it broke the subfascia and peeled the carsiding which was nailed to the purlins and wall. None the less the roof never leaked. There were 4 skylights of which 2 were broke but the laminated glass did not fall out. We had to patch some holes in the sheeting where the limbs broke through but the vapor barrier on the ceiling did not let it leak inside. We changed the shingle roof to the metal roof the owner had not wanted to pay extra for.

There was a shed roofed porch on both sides neither of which blew away but had to be removed to work on the walls. We just set the log work back up and built on new roofs. We installed new windows and doors and walla good as new! The neighbor whose home was blown away was really impressed by all of this so we built him a new log home the next year. I am wondering if anyone of you who read through all my rambling believes those logs really need to be screwed? I am sure you know what I think.



I realized something this summer. I realized that I needed to grind log and timber ends differently.

In the past I cut the logs/timbers to their final length with either a chainsaw, or circle saw. These cuts would sometimes be perfectly accurate and smooth enough, but most times I would need to touch up the end with my grinder. When I did this, I didn't think about the grain of the wood; I would simply place one edge of the grinder on the end-grain and start grinding until I was satisfied.

In order to maximize pad-life, I use 24-grit sanding pads. This aggressive grit takes off a lot of wood efficiently, but it also leaves a series of circular marks on the end of the log. These circular marks are completely cosmetic but when they do not match up with the grain of the wood the marks are very visible and I feel like the end result is less than beautiful.

It is common knowledge that log growth rings propagate out in roughly circular rings from the center of the log. In addition, most all grinders spin in a circular rotation. Because of these two circular components, (1. Log growth rings, 2. Circular cut marks from grinder) it can be assumed that if you align the curvature of the log growth ring with the curvature of the grinder rotation cut marks, all manmade marks virtually disappear and the end product looks completely natural.

The first image, "Before", shows a 7"x9" timber floor joist cut on two sides with a circle saw. In the center of the timber a grinder mark is highly visible because there was no attention paid to the direction of grind in relation to the growth rings.

The second image, "After", was taken of the same floor joist after I ground the end while focusing on the orientation of growth rings in respect to how my grinder was spinning on the log. My Hilti grinder with the green 24-Grit pad sits atop the finished product.

It's a great way to grind the exposed ends of logs and timbers; it is easy to understand, it is easy to do, and it creates an awesome end product. If you have never tried grinding an end this way, try it the next time and you might be impressed.



Before



After

president's corner



President's Corner

Fall 2015 - Presidents Report By Donovan Dums

Since the last publication of this newsletter, we have held our annual conference, discussed different options as to what we will do for next years conference, and been approached by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture in regards to our industrie's perspective of the importation of western bug-killed trees.

Our website continues to be a great reference for inquisitive people; we are keeping the site (www.gllca.org) as up to date as possible. Kay Selman suggested

creating a Featured Member section on the web and we have had great response from this. Members are getting great exposure and if you haven't yet sent in any information about what you do, now is a great time. In addition, our Facebook page is a great way for members to get more visibility. Send me, or Kay, images of what you are doing, or what you have done, and we will put them on the website and/or Facebook.

Our 2015 conference was held at Dan Wait's building yard in Land-O-Lakes, Wisconsin. Presentations by Jack Palmer are always interesting; he has great insight and is highly traveled. After returning from a visual tour of China with Jack, we physically traveled to Dan's yard to tour his operation. The yard was bustling of activity; his hand-made kiln dryer was sucking humidity from logs, boards, and tables while his crew was cleaning, cutting, sawing, peeling; everyone and everything working in cooperative unision.

In addition, Robert Chambers discussed and demonstrated his new method for building trusses. The idea is different and allows the building of trusses much in the same way as a timber-frame: each piece is prepped individually and then all pieces are put together simultaneously in the end.

The wine and cheese social was enjoyable as old friends reunited and new friends were made. I enjoyed the event and am anxiously awaiting next year's conference during the first week of June 2016. We tentatively plan on traveling to Minnesota where Nate Heim of Heim Log Homes will be hosting the conference.

And the only other possibly big news is that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture is creating a group to discuss the possibility of imposing a quarantine on the importation of western beetle-killed logs. Our association has been approached to give an industry perspective on the matter. The quarantine would hope to limit the possibility of introducing any invasive species that could adversely affect our pine forests here in the Midwest. I know not all of us live/work in Wisconsin, but I am hoping to send out a questioner to all members pertaining to this issue. The final decision by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture could have an effect on our current and future members. I will keep the membership as informed on this issue as I can, and if you have any desire to voice your opinion on this matter, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at: d.d.dums@gmail.com.

Thanks and have a great fall/winter.

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In Memorium



This August the Association and the industry lost a great man. Since he has been a long time member, supporter, and asset to the Great Lakes Log Crafters Association, the board asked me to write a piece in tribute to him.

Gary had been a member of GLLCA pretty much since the beginning, and has served as a director, sponsor, and most recently as a trustee. I always knew he was a well respected name in the log home industry, but at his passing it has been touching to see the support flowing from all angles of the industry. Log home builders and GLLCA members were well represented in attendance to the funeral, and even better represented through cards, flowers, and condolences. Thank you to all for

your tremendous support to me, my mom, and our family company. It has been touching. Thank you.

Gary grew up in farm country by the small town of Meriden between Waseca and Owatonna, Minnesota. The woods called his name at an early age, however, and whenver he could he would camp among the trees of the wooded windbreak islands between the seas of corn and beans fields. His grandpa had a cabin on Pokegama Lake up in Grand Rapids, MN, and so any chance he could get to the woods was taken. He studied forestry at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, and later at the University of Minnesota.

Having graduated with his B.S. in Forestry, he soon found himself learning the craft of log construction with an old Finnish master, Ernie Wiita. With 12 years of log contruction under his belt, he gradually did more restoration work, but was finding it difficult to find needed materials. This need drove him to start our current company, which began in 1986 in a small trailer parked in our driveway. During its early stage, Gary was still in the field doing restoration work while his wife, Kathleen, answered the phones. Over the years the company grew and expanded to several other states for quicker shipping service to other regions.

Gary authored The Log Home Maintenance Guide, which recently printed a second edition. It serves as a general 'user guide' for log home owners to aid in caring for their investment.

The support for the industry the Association provides was always important to him. It was wonderful to see so many log builders attending his wake and funeral, and tremendous support from the members of GLLCA and ILBA.

For those who don't know, Gary fought various heart issues for the last 15 years, but always pulled through. After triple bipass, stints, and valve replacement, he was on heart medication for thinning blood. Ultimately what called him home, however, was Babesia, which was complicated by the heart issues. Babesia is a tick-born disease, which has similarities to malaria. He was sedated at St. Mary's in Duluth for a week before he passed. It wasn't easy to watch him go, but we were blessed to be with around him singing hymns, saying prayer, and reading Psalms as he passed.

His obituary is printed on the following page:

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memorium



Obituary for Gary J Schroeder:

On August 15th, 2015, Gary John "Rip" Schroeder passed into the loving arms of his Savior Jesus Christ. He was surrounded by his immediate family offering prayer, reading psalms, and singing hymns of comfort and praise.

Gary was born in Waseca, Minnesota, January 14, 1950. It was the night of a memorable, record blizzard and the nurses were amazed that his parents made the trek driving through endless snowdrifts. Raised on farm in southern Minnesota and spending time at the family feed store, he was called to the woods of northern Minnesota where his grandpa had a cabin on Pokegama. After studying forestry and Itasca Community College where he earned the moniker 'Rip' and later at the University of Minnesota, he began building log homes and married his wife of 35 years, Kathleen. They started in a two-room log cabin, and later built their permanent log home on the same property in the woods and raised their children, Betsy and John. In 1986 he and Kathleen started their business Schroeder Log Home Supply. His patience, generosity, service, and kindness, will always be respected, remembered and missed.

He is preceded in death by his mother OrVetta (Standke) Schroeder. He is survived by his wife Kathleen (Hall), his children Betsy Schroeder and John (Stephanie) Schroeder, his sisters Cheryl (Samuel) Macalus, Kathy (Daniel) Wett, and Cindy (Rock) Flury, and many nieces and nephews.

saws

VERSITILY OF THE MULTI-SAW SOON TO BE KNOW AS "BUZZSAW"

By Duane Sellman

At the ILBA conference, I learned a few builders are using a multi-saw, sometimes called an oscillating saw, to score notches instead of a razor knife

or chisel. This saw can score 1/2" deep making it easier to cut the notch with the chainsaw. The best blade is probably the straight blade with a small notch on each side. The notch allows the blade to follow a curved line.

Recently, while working on a restoration of a log house, I have been assisting a cabinet installer. I saw him using his multi-saw for a variety of cuts. I have used it to

have better control on the ends of my slot cuts, notches for electric boxes a n d now while cutting window openings. I have also used the multi-saw to clean up the cuts at the corners. I have a tendency to overcut theses corners with the chainsaw.

Thakita

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You may also know that you can touch the saw blade with your finger and not get cut. I guess it's stoke is so short the skin goes back and forth with the blade.

Jim Grieb wants to call this saw a "buzz saw" because it makes a buzzing sound when operating.

I now have a Makita battery powered multi-saw - oops - "buzz saw" and I love it!

Good buzzing to you!

ICC-400 Standards Update

To the GLLCA Members:

Just a reminder on sending in your comments on the ICC -400 Standards update. Just download the public comment form at http://www.iccsafe.org/codes-tech-support/standards/standardspublic-forms and send it in.

If you have any questions, you can contact Bob Kenel at grizzly1bob@gmail.com.

Again, we have until approximately November 16th, 2015 to get your comments into the committee for them to be considered. This is your chance to have some input into the ICC log building standards.

ICC Public Comment form on page 11.



3)

4)

Date

Rec'd.:

ICC STANDARDS - PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Comment

No.:

PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS (SUBMITTAL RULES OF PROCEDURES). ALL SUBMITTALS MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE PROCEDURES.

CLOSING DATE: All Comments Must Be Received by the Announced Closing Date

1) Indicate the format in which you would like to receive your Public Comments Report (PCR):

CD

Download

Log

No.:

2) PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY: FORMS WILL BE RETURNED if they contain unreadable information.

Name:				Date:	
Jurisdictio	n/Company:				
Submitted	on Behalf of:				
Address:					
City:		State:	Zip +4:		
Phone:		Ext:	Fax:		
e-mail:					
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	•	associated with this Publ ructions for list of Names			s)

5) Indicate the Standard Proposal Number that is being addressed by this Public Comment (if applicable): _____

6) Revision to: Section Table Figure					
7	<u>COMMENT</u> Revise as follows (check BOX and state proposed change):					
	Revise as follows: Add new text as follows Delete and substitute as follows: Delete without Substitution:					
	Show the proposed NEW or REVISED or DELETED TEXT in legislative format: Line through text to be deleted. Underline text to be added.					

COMMENT Continued (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

8) <u>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</u> (State purpose and reason, and provide substantiation to support proposed change):

SUPPORTING INFORMATION Continued (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH COMMENT

SUBMITTAL AS A DOCUMENT ATTACHMENT TO AN E-MAIL IS PREFERRED

<u>e-mail</u>: <u>ewirtschoreck@iccsafe.org</u> <u>Phone</u>: (708) 799-2300 x4317 <u>Fax</u>: (708) 799-0320

If E-MAIL is not available, mail form and disk to: International Code Council, 4051 W. Flossmoor Rd. Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Name of ICC Standard: The following acronyms should be used when designating the name of a Standard.

Acronym ICC Standard Name

- **IS-BLE** Standard on Bleachers, Folding and Telescopic Seating, and Grandstands
- **IS-RHW** Standard for Residential Construction in High Wind Regions
- **IS-IEDC** Landscape Irrigation Sprinkler and Emitter Standard
- **IS-LOG** Standard on Design, Construction and Performance of Log Structures
- **IS-STM** Standard on Design, Construction and Performance of Storm Shelters
- A117.1 Standard on Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities

Photos from 2015 Annual Conference

courtesy of Bob Kenel











2015 Conference Attendees Land O' Lakes, WI