



UKULELE GUILD OF HAWAII

Newsletter

January 2005



NEW MEMBERS

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UGH Officers

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Hinano Kaumeheiwa

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Exec. Dir.: Michael Chock

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ALOHA ALL AND WELCOME TO 2005, THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER!

NEW MEMBERS: UGH welcomes the following new members to join us in the up-coming 2005 New Year: Hailing from San Francisco a warm aloha to Michele Shields, from our Big Island neighbors, aloha to Lucille Lamkin via Kualapuu, and Calvin Okahara out Kallua Kona way who once again rejoins the fold! Locally on Oahu we welcome Andrew Vegas from Pearl City, Hi'ilei Aiu via Honolulu, and at long last Karen Hong joins our ranks heralding from Aina Haina, aloha Karen.

Renewing for 2005 and beating the membership increase for a whopping \$5.00 savings we welcome thrift meisters Brian Rabago, ever supportive Vince Yagi, Jason Young, the hardworking Takeya's Norman and Denise, Melvin Miyashiro, slack key adherent Vince Soeda, my man and all time good guy Cliff Miller, da sensei Glenn Sugioka, our new Vice President Herman Aizawa, our Oahu Liaison Mieko Browne, New Board

member Keith Luke, Mike Allerding's who is smitten with the uke jones, Bill Sturgeon still my all time favorite surname, Richard Machado always working on a new variation, Big Islander, Dennis Michalske and from Port Townsend Richard Hinshaw, and always the Chinaman myself Mike Chock and son Asa Chock, the ever efficient Dudley Makahanaloa, Kamehameha's Larry Hagmann, brudda bu Wayne Nakashima, William Ka'al, and finally the Three Amigos, King Kamakawiwaole, brudda Olsen Kamakawiwole and da judge Stan Ishikawa. UGH also would like to send a mahalo to Steve Jones, newly elected Oahu Liaison who made use of our 501 C Non Profit Status and donated a \$100.00 to UGH and it's Ukes for Keiki Program.

Welcome and Aloha to all of our current 2005 members and lets make this New Year a real fun one! The 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii always seeks new members and with your help let's further increase our membership in this the Year of the Rooster.

The actual buffing process is fast and easy. You must however be alert and maintain a good grasp on the instrument. Anyone who has buffed can tell you how easy it is to catch an edge and have the piece ripped from your hands. The learning curve is fast. A little practice and you'll be an expert. Some care needs to be taken, especially at any sharp edges, to not buff so hard that you go through the finish. Obviously, you proceed from rough compound grits to finer ones. I buff in all directions. Buffing across the various sanding scratches is necessary to remove them. I turn the instrument so that I can buff in as many directions as possible. When you have finished the first grit, take a good look at the surface, then go on to the next grit. You must remove all of the scratches left by each grit with the successive one. Finer grits will not remove deep scratches left by the coarser ones. Sometimes you will find an especially deep scratch and then you have to go back to the micro-mesh to get it out. With lacquer that is not a problem. All the coats are blended together, so you can sand as deep as needed. Use a block to keep the surface level.

When you think you are done, take a look at the finish in reflected light. Looking across the surface at a low angle shows up the scratches better than looking straight on. Using magnification helps too. Isolated scratches can be buffed out by hand using the Meguiar's # 2 compound. Another product that I also use for the hand polishing is Novus #2, which is available at plastics suppliers. Sometimes one works better than the other.

Buffing is a fast way to create a finish with a lot of depth. It is a technique worth learning.

MIKE'S CORNER



Gosh, 2004 surely and slyly snuck on by me. I truly cannot believe that a fowl year is now upon us and last year's monkey business is but a memory. Nevertheless I know the New Year is upon me as my internal gene makeup is firing subconscious electrical messages to my gray matter and I find myself in a Spring cleaning mode, truly a testament to my upbringing. The stubborn and constant rains of last month have plagued me with minor turned major leaks and swarms of mosquitoes have now had time to spawn, multiply, and irritate me with their infernal presence. My shop is as dusty as it can possibly be and a thorough cleaning is now due. So as the sun comes up on the tomorrows of 2005, these requisite repairs, cleanings, and organizing will be completed, and my shop, home and life in general will be tip top and ready for the cock's crow.

In one of my office reorganization and cleaning modes I came across a notebook that held the names of the interested attendees of our first ever meeting three years ago. At this meeting the 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii was created, officers elected and a aspiring membership begun. On this list were myself, David Chock, Wayne Nakashima, Clarence Uesato, Keith Luke, R.T. Uyehara, Layton Chew, Aaron Chock, Dick Machado, Vince Yagi, Richard Lessa, Miki Browne, Norman Takeya, Wendell Kaleimamahu, Mark Velarde, Kalani Pizzaro, Kyle Igarashi, Gabriel Ashford Sandy, Troy Ozama, Nate Ching and Kalani Wilson. Imagine from this core group of twenty-one people the 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii was formed. Now three years later and with three successful Exhibitions under our belts, a core membership of 300 plus members worldwide, elected officers and directors we have come a long way baby!

Interesting enough the wheel has started rolling and with all circular creations it's the contents within that

LACQUER FINISHING PART 5 – BUFFING THE FINISH

By Bob Gleason

By the end of Part 4 in this series we had completed the last coats of finish. Now it's time to buff.

There are numerous approaches to doing the final polish on the finish. Many of you are probably using Micro-Mesh for this process. I use a combination of Micro-Mesh and buffing.

Assuming the final coats went on smooth and the finish has been drying for a week or longer, I begin by wet sanding the finish with 1200 Micro-Mesh. For any rough spots that I find I will use 600 wet-or-dry paper and then go on with the 1200 Micro-Mesh. During the sanding process I use sanding blocks as much as possible. I use sponge blocks or cork backed wood blocks. I proceed through 1200, 1500, 1800, and 2400, though at a much faster pace than if I was trying to smooth the finish by sanding alone. Before Micro-Mesh I sanded only until 600 grit, but a lot of extra buffing time was required.

Had I written this 2 months earlier, the next part would be a completely different process. For several years I have been buffing with the Menzerna dry buffing compounds. I have just recently switched back to Meguiar's Auto Polishes. I really like the ease and cleanliness of the dry compounds, but I often can't get the quality of finish that I can with Meguiar's. The finish really needs to be really hard for the dry compounds to work well, and most of us don't seem to find the time to cure the finish that long. I use the Meguiar's # 4 heavy cut, # 1 medium cut, # 2 fine cut, and #9 swirl remover. For some confusing reason, the Meguiar's numbering system is not orderly.

Buffing wheels and supplies are available from companies like Grizzly Industrial and Parma Diversified Technologies. My buffing set-up has two 16" cotton buffing wheels each about 4" wide. Since I make guitars as well as ukes, I like the larger wheels. 12" wheels would work fine for ukes. Ideally it would be best to have a separate wheel for each grit of polish. I have always managed with just 2 wheels. I use the 2 heaviest grits on one wheel and the finer ones on the other. You do need to rake the wheels occasionally to remove any caked on polish residue. Wheel rakes can be found in the buffing supplies catalogs.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

F01MU171 Make Your Own 'Ukulele starts 1/24/05 and end 3/14/05 every Wednesday evening from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Cost \$275.00 meet at the Iolani Building. Instructor Cente Arkangel

F02MU156 Intermediate 'Ukulele starts 2/5/05 and ends 3/5/05 every Saturday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the Pala Building. Cost \$140.00 Instructor Dr. Byron Yasui.

Call Windward Community College Music Department for more information. You need to register soon or these courses will close out quickly!

Mahalo to all who attended Les Rietfor's amazing 'ukulele seminar last month. Les gladly demonstrated his unique and ingenious building techniques for the production oriented in his garage workshop. Les is in a serious bout with rampant cancerous formations and your prayers and support will be appreciated. His present condition did not hinder him from giving all who attended a unique perspective in production building using a limited amount of special tools and an amazing amount of ingenuity. I declare Les as the superglue King of the Islands and his binding and purflin work in a matter of minutes is something to behold!

Shoppers Guide: Hey builders, check out Blue Sky Tents on Dillingham Boulevard between Kalihi Street and Mokauea and adjacent to Island Recycling. This is the place for inexpensive tools. You'll find hand tools from China, Korea, India and wherever but at great prices. Here are some items I bought. Kerf liner clamps at 25 cents apiece. Hammers at \$1.50 each, gee it will work on fret wire without a problem. Wrench sets, Allen, open ended and ratchet sets real cheap and lots of clamps. Check it out!

Have I a special deal for you. Looking for a wanna be builder in Central Honolulu who has shop or garage space but no tools! I have a special friend who has moved from the mainland to a Condominium here on Oahu. This means his full boat shop from his garage workshop on the mainland is now boxed up in some storage facility gathering dust here on Oahu! In trade for limited access to your shop space you if selected can expect some serious equipment to grace your workspace along with a really nice human being and fellow 'ukulele enthusiast to work with you or along side of you on selected weekends. Interested, give me a call at 847-1541 and we can talk story. Equipment you can expect: 10" delta Uni saw (table saw), 16" Delta Band saw, 16/32 Performax Sander.... need I say more?

Hana Lima "Ia's "ukulele workshops for spring 2005 are filled. The next Course will begin March 19th 2005, Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon and end on May 21st 2005. That's 10 consecutive Saturdays. Course cost \$450.00. A fifty-dollar non-refundable deposit is required to confirm and reserve your space. Limited to 6 students. All materials are included. Call 847-1541 or register on-line at hanalima.com.

Notice: UGH Membership Fee, starting January 1, 2005, will be increasing by \$5.00. Yearly membership is now \$40.00. Please take note of the increase when sending in your renewals.



UGH BUSINESS CONT.

Overall

1. UGH is a Host of this event. WE should remember this!
2. A special shirt or identifying cap for all volunteers and UGH Officers and Directors to identify them as Hosts and Staff.
3. Membership and guests from the mainland and outside of Oahu lauded the Waikiki Venue.
4. The issue of having the 'Ukulele Exhibition and Conference on the Big Island every other year on a rotating status. Concerns regarding logistical manpower availability, travel, transportation and lodging costs were discussed and the consensus vote was to modify this suggestion. An alternative would be a secondary 'Ukulele Convention and Exhibitions backed by UGH on the Big Island that would be similar to the last Sound Forum held by Big Island West under the guidance of Big Island Liaisons and Andy Berard and Robert Pozansky. Further discussion of this suggestion will be carried out in the weeks to follow via e-mail.
5. The month of January will be used by the current administration to seek another venue or confirm a new date and status at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel for the 4th Annual 'ukulele Exhibition and Conference.

The 2005 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii Agenda

1. Our primary goal in 2005 is to both increase membership and attendance to our quarterly General Membership Meetings.
2. All meetings will be open to all members, friends and family and bringing along 'ukuleles to each meeting a must!
3. Each General Meeting will have a Seminar or Building Technique Demonstration as well a Playing Lesson on the 'ukuleles as well as the requisite pupu donations.
4. The playing lessons will feature the songs provided in our monthly newsletter, meaning we should be armed with three songs for each quarterly meeting. An Example: March Quarterly meeting we will go over newsletter songs provided in the January, February and March newsletters. We now can play these songs together, learn different positions or learn improvisation in between by our esteemed 'ukulele professionals.
5. The newsletter will keep you posted to our new 2005 schedule.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kanile'a 'Ukulele has positions open for both full time and part time 'ukulele builders who seek a great place to work and continue 'ukulele building. If you are interested and qualified call Joseph or Kirsten Souza at 234-2868 or check their website at: www.kanileaukulele.com.

Windward Community College Music Department is offering 'Ukulele classes for spring of 2005. The following classes as being offered:

UGH BUSINESS

Ugh's year end meeting was held on December 14, 2004 at the now closed Wisteria Restaurant and present were: Mike Chock, Clarence Uesato, Sam Au, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Aizawa, Norman and Denise Takeya, Mieko Browne, Vince Soeda, Hinano Kaumeheiwa, Richard Kimura, Keith Luke, Howard Tanaka, Byron Yasui, Jason Okamura, Curtis Takano, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Oshiro, and Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Chun.

Presentation and Installation of New Board of Directors

OFFICERS FOR 2005

President: Richard Kimura
 Vice President: Herman Aizawa
 Secretary: Darrell Chun
 Treasurer: Denise Takeya

DIRECTORS

Hinano Kaumeheiwa
 Kimo Hussey
 Bryan Tolentino
 Charles Martin
 Larry Hagmann
 Lynne Matusow
 Keith Luke
 Dennis Lake



SPECIAL APPOINTEES

Maui Liaison: Hinano Kaumeheiwa
 Big Island Liaison: Andy Berard
 Big Island Liaison: Robert Pozansky
 Oahu Liaison: Miki Browne
 Oahu Liaison: Steve Jones
 Molokai Liaison: Dan Ryerson

Chair Person Ukes For Keiki Program: Norman Takeya
 Song Meister: Sam Au
 Executive Director: Mike Chock

Congratulations to the above and welcome. Our monthly meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and the first meeting for January 2005 will be at Hana Lima 'la shop at 718 Puuhale Road beginning at 5pm.... Of course bring your pupus.

The 3rd Annual 'Ukulele Convention and Exhibition was a resounding success. The biggest and best yet! Of course we can always do better, after all that is the uke builder mentality so what can we learn from our last event? The following observations were made:

Event Settings:

1. Seminar rooms to close to outside entertainment. (Noise Factor)
2. Each seminar will need a monitor at the entrance for information, handouts, survey sheet collections and observance and collection of seminar fees.
3. Extend seminar slots and times to Sunday as well as Saturday.
4. No seminars from 12 noon to 1pm or 1:30 pm.

Exhibition and Display Area

1. Provide more security and monitoring of 'ukuleles on display. No hands on Policy!
2. Provide a jam session area in the Exhibition space.
3. More volunteers for UGH registration tables, T-shirt and Polo shirt sales, and Silent Auction labeling and ticket sales.
4. Provide box lunches for Vendors.

Entertainment

1. Limit entertainment to main show and guest jamming or impromptu lessons.
2. Eliminate public entertainment venue.
3. Entertainers to play member builder's ukuleles when ever possible.

keep the circles rotating. So what's in store for the 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii come 2005? I believe we should simply reflect, and continue facilitating our mission statement:

" The 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii is dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of the 'ukulele as a significant cultural icon here in the island of it's birth. The Guild will accomplish this by serving as a clearinghouse of knowledge for the purpose of continually preserving and improving the craft of 'ukulele making and cultivating the historical background of the 'ukulele, and its musical importance."

For me the most special privilege in being a Guild member is the fact that I can talk, meet and mingle with most of our members. I can call Bob Gleason on the Big Island, or Bruce Creps from Oregon, or have lunch with Byron Yasui, Benny Chong and Sam Au. I get to learn 'ukulele styling with visits from Franklin Chang and Bryan Tolentino. I get to hash out right-brained uke projects from Kimo Hussey, Mike Da Silva, and cool designs with Owen Holt and Chad Lindsey. I get jig inspiration from Nate Ching, Richard Machado, Wendell Kaleimamahu and Howard Tanaka. I get uke building information and ammo from Cente Arkangel, Glenn Sugioka and Eric Devine. In other words as a builder with a severe "Jones" for anything 'ukulele, I am in the mother lode and it keeps getting both bigger and better! Now that's what I call being in the right place at exactly the right time.

So UGH keeps expanding and I get to meet Ohta San, James Hill, The Walshes, Nuni and Tom, John King, and each and everyday the list gets a bit longer. I get to keep in touch with new 'ukulele builders like Toni Maloon, Tom and Bonnie Be craft, current builders like the Three Amigos; King, Olsen and Stan.

So UGH members, you too have the same access to your fellow members. The key to come out and play. We need you at the General Membership meetings. We need you to help at our events and we need you to participate and play that 'ukulele that has so enamored you in the first place. So the year 2005 will be geared to our members. Our meetings will have seminars, demonstration and playing lessons for both building and playing techniques. Our pupus are historically simply amazing so the main priority is already covered. Bring your family and friends to our meetings and always bring along a 'ukulele. THE MEMBERSHIP THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

We will institute a player project wish list. Kimo Hussey starts this off wanting to see a fretless tenor 'ukulele made. Doc Yasui wants to see more bass ukes with them silicon udon thick strings. Interested? Give UGH a call and lets put some of us builders together on one or more of these projects. In a nutshell the operative word for 2005 is participate, come on out and play.

Membership Application

 New Member

 Renewal

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Occupation: _____

Include check for \$40.00 and mail to: UGH, P.O, Box 894426, Mililani, HI 96789