This is a first for me, writing an article for a newsletter. You can all thank Don Burd for talking me into this. First, I would again like to thank everyone who made the trip to Albuquerque for the Labor Day meeting. I know this takes a lot of effort and sometimes convincing the better half that this is the way to spend Labor Day. I have collected tools for so long that it makes it easier for my wife to understand. I would like to again thank everyone who attended my wife’s and my open house.

We had a great time as I think everyone who attended did, based on all of the great comments we had. I would like to thank Jason Fink and his band members for a great evening of music. It was the first for me at a tool meeting and made for a great time. The open house is what brings me to my article. I was asked several times that night on why I collect certain things. Why do I?

Since that night I have pondered this very question several times. We had a pipe burst in our kitchen - in March - that did a lot of damage to the house. This, in turn, led my wife and I into completely packing up our great room for flooring, wall repairs and paint.

We spent about 150 hours in total packing and unpacking. After which we took the opportunity to rearrange the great room as we unpacked. My wife asked several times why I had so many of certain tools (I didn’t think I collected those!). Turns out maybe I do. But...why?

Things like counter sinks, marking gauges, trammel points, saws, miniature tools along with several other items..., hmmm... Hard to say I don’t collect trammel points when I have at least 19 pair, maybe more. I still haven’t looked thru every hiding place. Well at this point, I will make an attempt to answer the question as to why. Having collected for 40 years, part of the answer I believe has to do with the demographic area with which you do most of your tool hunting. New Mexico has never been anything but a state with very little major manufacturing.

The railroad had a huge repair site, here in Albuquerque, that at one time employed over 25% of the area workforce. Since WW II, Sandia Labs, as well as a GE airplane engine plant closed many years ago.
Why we collect continued from page 1...

They employed lots of machinist and tool and die makers. With that being said Albuquerque has a lot of railroad items, as well as lots of machinists and die maker tools at estate and garage sales. With this abundance it has always been easy to find these types of tools any time you go out looking. Being a sheet metal worker, I used a lot of these types of tools and, being a tool collector, it was and still is fun to find a great vintage pair of dividers, trammel points, plumb bob or layout tools. Home they would come and into a drawer to be admired at a later date. Now if I find any of the things that I don’t have and can afford, I just have to have it. I have been told one is good, two better and three a collection. That statement works for me, and maybe explains a lot to my wife. When you do find a good tool in New Mexico that has spent its life here, it is generally in great shape due to the low humidity from living in a desert. I find a lot of saws in pretty nice shape, but don’t collect saws (RIGHT...). Most planes and such have been brought here from back East by families moving here. In the 40’s and early 50’s Albuquerque still only had a population of around 40,000 people. Today the area is approaching 900,000. In my collecting of ‘inclinometers’ I have only found 4 or 5 in this area, in the wild as we say. Most have come from traveling to tool shows. For years my wife has gotten used to vacations being planned around tool shows.

My oldest son lives in Oregon, so summers, if we can, I try to make the trip up coincide with a Pacific Northwest tool collector’s event. My dad was an antique dealer for many years and one of his picking spots was the Raton, Trinidad area. It became very evident that both towns had at one time Winchester stores. Thus, I got many of my Winchester tools from those towns, as well as many Keen Kutter tools. If you have been to my house, I hope this explains why I collect certain tools and I bet you have some of the same reasons. It’s never been fun to go out tool hunting and come home empty handed!

Until next time

-Ken
**Outgoing President’s Message**

The RMTC annual meeting in Albuquerque was outstanding as always. Our hosts Vice-President Ken and Toni Burris and club Webmaster Jason and Tracy Fink, deserve our heart-felt thanks for all the hard work and hospitality that has become a lasting tradition of their club meetings. Special touches like live bluegrass music from Jason's fine band Pawn Drive, plus brisket, beer and tools at Ken and Toni's made a great start to the weekend. The attendance was lower this year, but the public interest was good, with several new members and some great tool sales. Ken Burris gave an excellent tool program and also hosted the awards dinner, after which the 2 Steve's (Scruggs and Gosselin) and their auction crew wrapped it up nicely on Saturday evening.

The business meeting on Sunday morning was quick and painless, thanks to Tom Wiersema, who volunteered to serve and was unanimously elected to the office of RMTC President for 2020.

The November meeting at The Ranch in Loveland was one of the most well-attended that we have seen in years. More new members and public guests again shows us that the mission of preserving the tools and trades of the past by the RMTC is appreciated by more people than we may have realized.

I have enjoyed this year as president even more than my first term over 30 years ago. It is due to the dedication and friendship of all our members, officers, and directors, past and present, and I am privileged to be a part of the RMTC.

- Leo Stambaugh

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**Incoming President’s Message**

I would like to open my first president’s report by saying thank you for all the support and encouragement I have received from so many members! Thank you especially to Leo who stepped up in a time of need for the club and did a great job!! Thanks also to Dave Miller who saw me looking at tools at an auction in Denver many years ago and suggested I may be interested in RMTC. Although it is tools that bring us together on a regular basis it is the comradery and friendships, I treasure the most.

My main goal for 2020 is to increase our membership. In this Shavings, Sawdust and Splinters you will see a flyer put together by Fred Mares, thanks Fred! Print one and take it to your local lumber yard, tool store or any other gathering of like-minded hoarders. We are also trying to expand our presence on social media.

I will try to be available any time for any thoughts, concerns, complaints, or ideas!

- Tom
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**Editor’s Column**

Hi everyone - I hope each of you had a great year filled with lots of good times, family get-togethers, trips and, of course, those searches for tools. I know I did! After several cross-country trips to the east coast and New England, Arizona and finally the road trip down to our annual meeting in Albuquerque I stopped at more flea markets, antique stores, yard sales and found enough tools to last me a life time (or, at least, till I go to the next auction, flea market or the next club meeting).

I’d like to welcome our new President, Tom Wiersema. As many of you know, Tom, has been in the business of collecting and selling tools for some time. I've always found him to be a man of good humor, fair/knowledgeable in the world of our 'interest/affliction' of tools collecting and always willing to lend a helping hand (like filling the role of president for the remaining year of this term) - we can expect great things from Tom.

Likewise, I'd like to thank Leo Stambaugh for stepping up and taking on the duties of President this last year. I consider Leo a good friend and certainly the most knowledgeable person I know when it comes to mining and the tools associated with mining. Thanks for your leadership this past year.

A quick couple of personal observations and thoughts from this last year regarding membership and meetings. Now, this is just my 'unofficial' count but, boy, does it seem to anyone else that we are seeing more new faces at our monthly meetings (speaking only about the Colorado meetings - how about NM meetings?) I was quite struck by the size of the crowd at 'The Ranch', earlier this month - several members also noticed/commented to me about this. Many of us brought friends but also, during the business meeting, several folks stood up, introduced themselves (younger faces!) and mentioned they had heard about us and came to see what we were about. This sparked a conversation about advertising on various social media sites - more to follow on this.

Our Annual meeting was one of the best in recent years. The New Mexico folks really outdid themselves (read the write up elsewhere in this issue) starting with a barbecue at Ken Burris' home Friday night (with live music by our own Jason Fink and 'Pawn Drive'). Everything was great with the exception of attendance - it seemed to be down. How can this be? I thoroughly enjoyed myself - great location, good food, tons of tools, fantastic folks. Low attendance brought about discussions and many thoughts: a meeting on Labor Day weekend conflicts with family trips and desires to do other things and/or the distance to Albuquerque/Denver seem to big the biggest reasons for not attending. What are your thoughts on increasing attendance? It's easy for me to attend, being single, but that aside I make the trip to NM more of a vacation with stops in Santa Fe and Taos or any number of the fabulous places that are on the way (Albuquerque and the surrounding country is pretty spectacular!) - the Annual meeting is just one part. That's what I do and I'm certainly not getting down on anyone for not being there but just looking for your thoughts on how to increase attendance at our annual meetings.

And, lastly - A BIG thanks to Steve Gosselin for taking over/helping out with putting together items for our auctions. Along with that another HUGE thanks goes to Steve Scruggs for all the years he put together our auctions AND did a very entertaining job as the auctioneer. This is a giant task (more than we know!) and together, Steve and Steve will only make it better.

- Don

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**Officers**

**RMTC Officers**

President (2019) - Leo Stambaugh  
(303) 519-0716

President (2020) - Tom Wiersema  
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Vice President - Ken Burris  
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Secretary - Dennis Scheel  
(303) 690-7447

Treasurer - Chris Gomez  
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Immediate Past President - Steve Gosselin  
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**Board of Directors**

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Brian Kent - (770) 226-2738

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Web Master - Jason Fink  
(505) 266-1908

Email Master - Fred Mares  
(970) 586-4668

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**2020 Denver Area Meetings**

January 5th - Red Rocks Community College
March 8th - Grace Community Church in Loveland  
May 3rd - TBD
July 12 - Rock Creek Farm in Broomfield  
September 4th & 5th - Annual Meeting. Location TBD  
November 8th - The Ranch in Loveland
2019 Annual Meeting Albuquerque
By Jason Fink

This year’s Labor Day meet returned to the same facility as we have had for many events, but it had a new owner and name. Now a Ramada Inn, there were no big surprises in the planning of the Meet and things went mostly without a hitch (always an administrative bungle or 2).

The NM folks were really happy to see everyone from Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas show-up this year! Revisiting with old friends, and meeting new ones is always a highlight of our annual meeting. Also welcome to the new members joined up!

To kick-off the event, Ken and Toni Burris hosted a Friday evening open-house with his tool collection on display, great food & beer and hospitality abound. Ken and Toni also asked local band, Pawn Drive, to be musical guests – full disclosure, I play with ‘em. We had a blast playing acoustic tunes and hanging out in a beautiful Albuquerque backyard.

Again, this year, the venue met our needs. We haven’t outgrown the tool room, although we have seemed to be keeping it close to capacity every time. Setup went well for the displays and sales tables, so things looked pretty good by the time we opened the tool room for sales.
We had plenty of tables, plenty of tools, and folks engaged in the hunt for several hours, exchanging banter, information and sometimes cash money between them.

Once again we had the tool room open in the afternoon for public to attend and see what goes on at a RMTC meeting. We had many new faces, and it is nice to have folks picking up user tools from our member tables. We also managed to get a couple of new members sign up and look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

In the afternoon, Ken Burris gave us a thorough presentation on Winchester tools, discussing things like the ‘Bedrock’ frog design, and other Winchester ephemera.

For the Displays we had a few awards:

Don Burd won second place 'Mortise Butt Planes & Gauges'.

Steve Gosselin won first for 'Specialized Measuring Tools'

Cliff Fales had a display of a 'Spiral- Screwdriver' by the 'Universal Tool CO'

Tony Moon had a display of miners fuse tools including the famed “Powdermans Pal”

Ken Burris won 'Best Single Tool' for 'Wood Beam Draining Level' by George Cox.

After the Banquet, we held the auction. While not as large as auctions in the past that kept us up well into the night, it was still enough to keep us bidding for a couple hours and some real deals were had.
Extra kudos to our auctioneer - Steve Scruggs - who spends so much time organizing lots, hauling boxes, and making auction lists long before we ever get to see them at the preview. The seemingly tireless Scruggs makes these happen, start to finish so a huge thanks to him! Also a huge thanks to Carol Gosselin who uses her acute financial skills to keep bidder numbers and dollar totals all in line, making checkout as easy as possible.

Although our Annual Meeting has seen declining attendance as years have gone by, I am very pleased that our members value the friendships and comradery enough to continue making the drive to here and keeping this event going. I look forward to the Denver meeting in 2020 and will begin securing the venue for Albuquerque in 2021!
Colorado Area Meeting - November 3rd - 'The Ranch'
By 'Sam' Dusky

'WOWZA'! What a meeting! Folks came "out of the woodwork" to be here. Generally, 'The Ranch', is one of our more popular, best attended venues and it certainly lived up to its reputation. Special thanks go out to all our hosts - Jack Boyers, Buz Engleman, Fred Freimuth, Chris Gomez, Brian Kent, Gail Parks, Bill Romme and last (but not least) Tom Wiersema. Quite a 'crew' but all hands were needed. Thanks again.

The meeting started off with the general hustle and bustle of setting up and trying to be the first to see (and buy!) what was on the sales tables. By the look of all the smiling faces, and hands full of tools, I would say we got off on a 'good foot'. Speaking of all "the smiling faces" I was struck by the number of members that showed up along with many new faces (and young ones to boot!) - several long time members commented on this. Fantastic!

Topics at the business meeting included: increasing the amount of money for food/drinks for the hosts to spend; the Annual meeting and what a great time it was (and thoughts on how to increase the attendance); probably most important - new ways to advertise RMTC on all the social media sites. If you have any thoughts/ideas please pass them on to a Board member.

The program was 'Favorite Tool' where members could show/discuss their favorite tool, new find(s) or show a 'whatsit'. Several members, including Buz Engleman, Tom Wiersema and Don Burd, brought some interesting items which the crowd gazed at in amazement... After that we had our auction which is always the highlight of every meeting. Thanks go to Steve Gosselin for helping to arrange it and to our 'auctioneer supreme', Steve Scruggs, for making it such a good time and getting every last penny out of us.

![Nice display of knives, used to cut leather, from the Jim Wear collection](image-url)
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