

SFVW

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JANUARY 2018



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, at the Balboa Park Sports Complex, Gym Building, at 17015 Burbank Blvd, Encino (see page 3 for map).

No meeting, no minutes

December was our banquet meeting and as such there are no minutes. A well-sized crowd of folks went to the Mexican Restaurant, El Queso Grande, for some fine food and great conversation.

Our President says...

by Marc Collins

Well, I'm back! In a thrilling election contest between myself and pretty much no one, I narrowly came away with the title of El Presidente once again.

2018 will be a fantastic year! We'll line up some great speakers and challenges and I know we'll have a ton of fun. I think it would be a super idea to arrange a few field trips and perhaps bring back the vaunted shop tour.

As always, this club shines with more input and participation. Please consider leading one of our seminars or participating in or coming up with a challenge. There is always help needed in the toy build and plenty of opportunity to show off in our show and tell. Also, Jeff Bremer needs someone to laugh at his jokes so please consider volunteering.

Brian Miller is back in January to sign copies of his book while imparting valuable finishing wisdom. You'll also want to be there to witness the largest inaugural crowd in the history of our great country for my upcoming presidential term. Tremendously exciting!

Happy 2018, everyone!

El Presidente

January's Meeting

This month's speaker is professional finisher Brian Miller. He will cover old-time finishing formulas from his new book. He will also be selling and signing copies of his new book. If time permits he will also demonstrate color-matching on a Biedermeier chest.

January Challenge

There is no challenge this month

hauler trucks, block trucks, white erase boards, flat-top locking boxes, treasure chests, and yoyos. We also received cars and trains made by Gary Willoughby and Cliff Lobell, and many "especially

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Holiday 2017 Toy Distribution

By Sheila Rosenthal

This year's toy distribution was a huge success. Thanks to the efforts of so many of our woodworkers, almost 1,000 toys were distributed this year to underprivileged children in the San Fernando Valley and beyond! The handmade toys were donated to 17 charitable organizations this year. Our members made 945 mirrors, large and small cradles,

Who We Are

The club was formed in 1988 for the purpose of enhancing skills, providing information and sharing the joys of working with wood. The membership reflects a cross section of woodworking interests and skill levels - both hobbyist and professionals. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.

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fine" hand finished zebrawood and maple treasure chests made especially by Jeff Bremer for children as toy contest entries. Jeff Rank completed 20 picture frames to deliver as a special request for one of our charities, and they and we appreciate his support of this 'above and beyond' request, and wish him well as he takes a break from us, and heads back to work this year. We have already received many



thank you letters from these organizations, and some photos from their holiday events. Almost every organization received at least 50 toys!

The following charitable organizations, serving children in the San Fernando Valley, who received our "toys" include: Assistance League of Southern California/Foster Children's Resource Center; LA Dept. of Children and Family Services; Penny Lane Shelter; Los Angeles County Toy Loan program by Department of Public Social Services; Haven Hills Battered Women's Shelter; Family Rescue Center; Cloud and Fire Ministries; Safe Passage Battered Women's Shelter; Lutheran Social Services; Our Saviour Center; The Church of Latter Day Saints; Jewish Family Services Violence Project; Catholic Charities; Alexandria House; San Fernando Valley Veteran's Employment Agency; and Swaner Lumber.

Club Officers

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Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847 sheiladeee@yahoo.com
Refreshments:	Nina Dusedau	(201) 913-6151 wood@bark.com

We appreciate the donations of wood from Swaner Lumber, which continues to donate a majority of the wood we use to make our toys. Thus, when you need wood for your next project, remember to visit Swaner Lumber at 5 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502 (swanerhardwood.com/). We give Mr. Swaner numerous toys for him to donate to his favorite charity. Many thanks to Ed Sheanin and Jack Robbins for delivering our toys to Swaner this year, and for helping to ensure our relationship with Swaner proceeds as in past years.

So many people make the Toy Distribution possible each year. My biggest thanks of course, are to Jan Somers, without whom I would have been lost at this effort. Jan left me with a system, templates and guidelines. She put in place a system that makes it as easy as possible to donate 1,000 toys to 17 charities. Every charity spoke with warmth about Jan's dedication, organization, and warmth, and so there was particular concern to 'get it right.' I also greatly appreciate Jan's availability for a smooth transition, both in person and online, and her many invaluable tips for organization



Balboa Recreation Center Location
Map courtesy of Google Maps

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and distribution. Frankly, there were so many elements to this job to come together, so I am quite sure it would have been a hot mess without Jan’s incredible binder and verbal guidance.

Also, special thanks to Toy Committee chair Jeff Bremer for making sure that every step along the way was covered, and reassuring me that there was always someone to help out.

Thank you to everyone, including our own members and their families and friends, who donated to the GoFundMe project this year, to help offset costs for materials and to help pay for the dolls we put in the cradles. An extra thanks to members Chuck Nickerson and Marc Collins who spread the word about the GoFundMe project so far and wide. We were very fortunate this year to receive so many donations so that, rather than worrying about how to pay to build our projects, we can focus on making them the best ones possible.

We are grateful to Ed Sheanin for securing the El Camino Real High School shop once again for our Toy Build this year, and to shop teacher Mark Pomerantz for making it

possible to have so many current and former high school students to support us in the build, and also to Ed and Jeff for ensuring the high school students are offered the opportunity to join our organization. And we are especially grateful to Ed for working closely with the administration at the high school this year to ensure that once again we were able to use the shop.

A special thank you to Nina Duesdau, Yolanda Shelp, and Lorene Robbins and the wonderful SFV Quilters Guild, whose lovely quilts and blankets will keep the dollies warm in their cradles; many of our member’s spouses meticulously created beautiful ribbon bows at the toy build weekend to keep the dolls and the block trucks secure during packing and transporting.

Thanks to Cliff Lobell for providing extra boxes again this year. Tremendous thanks to the members who graciously volunteered to deliver toys to organizations, including: Jack Robbins, Bill Peplow, Grant Christensen, Jack and Yolanda Shelp, Jeff Bremer, Cliff Lobell, Tom Ferkel and Gary Wiloughby. Thank you all, so very much.

To Sam Shanman, Jeff Bremer and others who hosted and attended build days this past year, thank you! These days make it possible to finish the toys at the Toy Build. Please consider hosting one this year if you can. Also, if you



were unable to participate this year, we hope you will join us in 2018! The Toy Build weekend is great fun, productive and you’ll have a chance to get to know your fellow club members. Please join us next October.

A final thank you to Jeff Bremer for their leadership of the Toy committee; Chuck Nickerson for his fiduciary contributions, and Albert Jimenez for his “presidential” support, all the toy committee members and the generous hospitality of Jack and Yolanda Shelp where we hold our monthly meetings. All members are welcome to join the Toy Committee any time!

All the organizations and children are grateful to you for all your consideration and time, and for the toys that are placed in their hands each holiday season. Each year, we are lucky to be able to offer these gifts to children. Thank you all for caring so much to bring smiles to children.

Upcoming Wood-related Events

Jim Kelly

1. San Diego County Fair is coming up June 1 – July 4, 2018. The entry deadline for the Design in Wood exhibit is April 27. Submissions are online at www.sdfair.com.
2. Metabo is recalling 5, 6, and 7-inch Rat Tail Angle grinders with brake (Models WEPBA 17-125 Quick RT DS, WEPBA 17-150 Quick RT DS, and WEPB 19-180 RT DS) The “On” switch can lock on, presenting a personnel hazard. Contact Metabo online at www.metabo.com or at (844) 470-5540.
3. Orange County Fair is also coming up July 13 – August 12, 2018. Entry deadline is June 1. For more info see www.ocfair.com.
4. Anderson Ranch is accepting applications for residencies until February 15, 2018 for the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 sessions. More information at www.andersonranch.org.
5. The California State Fair Best in Wood Show will be July 13 – 29, 2018 and is open to all California residents. Entry forms will be available in February at www.castatefair.org.
6. Anderson Plywood will sponsor a Tool Swap Meet on Saturday, February 17, 2018. For info contact John Arenson at (310) 397-8229.

Review: ISOtunes Pro

By Gary Coyne

ISO tunes Pro has recently become the “darling” of hearing protection and is being touted by many woodworking demonstrators including George Vondrisk from “The Woodworking Guild of America.”

The ISOtunes Pro (<https://isotunesaudio.com/products/isotunes-pro>) claim is that they are Noise-Isolating Earbuds that connect via Bluetooth to your smart phone.



Comfortable, Portable, Affordable

by Steve Sampietro

My shop sits on the west end of the house and stays pretty cold. My wife got me a Lasco ceramic heater (Amazon, about \$35) which has significantly extended the length of my shop sessions.

I set it on a small utility bucket and run it at about 80% of its capacity. It has an adjustable thermostat and two or three fan settings. It gets plenty hot but draws significant current. At 1,500 watts, it eats almost 13 amps, which is why I cannot run this heater while also running a little 4-amp vacuum. Together they trip the breaker on the power strip. I always turn it off when I leave the shop, even if I’m just retracing my steps through the house to remember why I wanted to go into the shop. It does have an over-heat protection feature, but the online documentation is not clear about whether or not it has a tip-over shut-off mechanism. It works very well for my situation.



This lets you listen to music or podcasts while working and have hearing protection. They also have a “noise-canceling” microphone and claim you can work with equipment while you are on the phone.

As some of you folks may know, I’m a stickler on terminology and these are technically not “earbuds,” rather they are earphones. The distinction is important because earbuds are the things that comes (for example) with Apple devices and is simply a speaker that sits in the outer part of the ear. An earphone is something that inserts into the

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ear canal. What the ISOtunes Pro does have are relatively thick foam padding that is compressed by your fingers and inserted into your ear to expand and block external noises from getting past the padding. In practice, these are no different from those small padded wedges that you stick into your ear with the exception that these have sound going into your ear from the middle of the plug.

One other term thing to point out: These are noise-suppressing earphones, not noise-cancelling. They claim to have noise-suppressing mike for the phone use but that’s not going to help your ears. Noise cancelling earphone or headphones can isolate constant noises and provide an equal noise but ½ wave off so the sound cancels out to the user. (Bose headphones are well known for this capability.) Constant noises of the same pitch such as an airplane or table saw are significantly canceled out. Inconsistent sounds such as talking are not canceled out because they are not a continuous pitch.

I typically listen to podcasts or music when working in my shop so this “hearing-protection” device beckoned. When I looked at reviews on Amazon, they were also mostly positive but some complained of poor Bluetooth reception, or, more often, didn’t do all that much sound suppression (more on that in a moment).

The other day I was at Rockler, saw the ISOtunes Pro (with a \$10 sale) and figured I’d try them.

Pairing them with my phone was fairly easy but getting them into my ear wasn’t. There are two competing actions you are trying to deal with here: one is to compress the ear plug and get it into your ear before it expands AND get the wire that goes around your ear in a good position. The wire is malleable and can be set for the shape/size of your head and ear position but even when that is worked out. I found it very difficult to get the earphone and wire into my ear and the wire in position over my ear.



But even when I did that I found the amount of noise blockage not that great. I have a set of “cans” (over ear cups that block noise to the ear) and they have a rating of 30 db, pretty much an industry high-end standard. I have no way to accurately measure the amount of noise suppression I was obtaining from the ISOtunes Pro but I experienced nothing anywhere near the claimed 27 db protection.

Following the suggestion that the manufacturer provides to the Amazon users who complained of the same issue, I tried the large size plugs that are provided with the unit. (ISOtunes Pro comes with a small, medium, and large size plugs). All this did was to make them more uncomfortable.

The last “nail in the coffin” for the ISOtunes was that I felt the sound quality was rather poor, I found my music coming out rather flat. The one thing that surprised me was that on my phone there is an equalizer to customise the quality of the sound for the listener. As I adjusted the settings, I didn’t hear anything different.

Admittedly I never did test the phone feature with these because even if the noise-cancelling feature worked for the person I was speaking to, I would not have been able to hear them because of the failure of the noise suppression for me.

The one thing I should emphasize here is that even though I found these to not work, ears, or more specifically ear shapes can vary all over the place. While these did not work for me, they may work for you. Fortunately the company that makes them (Haven Technologies) provides a 30-day money back guarantee.

So, I will be going back to what I’ve been doing: I have a set of earphones that plug into my phone and do block some of the outside noise but then I wear a set of “cans” over the earphones. The combination of the two makes it very easy to hear what I want to hear even when I’m working on my planer, the loudest machine I own.

Stickering wood

by Gary Coyne

Today I had an epiphany. One wall in my shop that I store wood. I am very careful to keep “stickers” (thin pieces of wood) in-between each piece so that air can circulate so that I do not get any warpage. For years and years I’ve always taken the thin strips of cut-off and cut them into short pieces (4-6”) and use them as the stickers. The problem is not all cut-off pieces are the same thickness and if I need more than 2 pieces, I have to make sure that the stickers are reasonably the same thickness!

That can be a problem (or a pain in the neck, your call).

I just realized that it would save me a lot of time to just get some masonite and cut that into strips. That way every sticker will be the same thickness. If I need some more I can just take my piece of masonite and cut more and they will all be the same thickness.