

San Fernando Valley Woodworkers Newsletter
Volume 27, Issue 9 – September 2017

September 21st Program:

Members' jigs and fixtures is this month's theme. What are we looking for? Anything you use to control wood being worked or to control the path of the tool being used. If you made the jig/fixture, great. If you bought and use the jig/fixture, still great. This meeting is as good as our members make it.

Our President Says...
by Albert Jimenez

Greetings Fellow Woodworkers,

We've had a pretty good year! Last month we had a good turn-out for the free-for-all challenge. It was a neat mix of entries. Maybe we can do this again in the future. Thank you Gary Coyne for your very last minute save on showing us how you made your end grain cutting boards. I've been interested in making one. Thank goodness I haven't yet. I would've probably run the board through my planer. I know not to do that now. We also had tools for the silent auction. Wow is all I can say. I forgot who got the Delta drill press, but \$45 is a great deal on a practically new one.

We're in September and it's time for the jigsters challenge! I mean the jigs and fixtures challenge! I think this an especially interesting challenge as we get to see each other's' craft and ingenuity in making these tools or "jigsters". It has always been a fun and interesting meeting. Definitely one night you won't want to miss. Let's not forget next month, October, will be the box challenge. It amazes me that we all have limitless possibilities in creating/making our own version of a box. Please feel free to bring in your version for the box challenge! I'm looking forward to this night!

I personally haven't had my fix of woodworking this summer, so I'm way overdue. I'm going through my wood piles and organizing, culling, and rearranging what I'm going to be using for these next coming challenges. If any of you haven't participated any

challenges or show and tell this year there is still time for you to make something, bring it in, and share your talents. Don't be shy. It's all good fun!

See you all on the 21st.



Future Programs

October 19th – ER nurse Jan Andelson on wood shop first aid.

November 16th – Toy contest and club elections.

December 21st – Holiday party.

Our tribe grows!

Ariel Rubin and Michael Wells and Anthony Wells welcomed Mirabelle Ceallaigh Wells on August 26th at 8:06 PM. Weighing in at 8.1 lbs and 20 3/4 inches, she is a good sleeper, and her big brother's favorite person to (gently) hug.

Ask, Show and Tell, Challenge

Gary Coyne shared his search for a table saw blade that would leave a true flat-bottomed kerf. The magic phrase is “triple chip grind”.

Greg Rogers asked for finishing suggestions for a harp table-top. Gary Coyne offered his services for fuming as a first step.

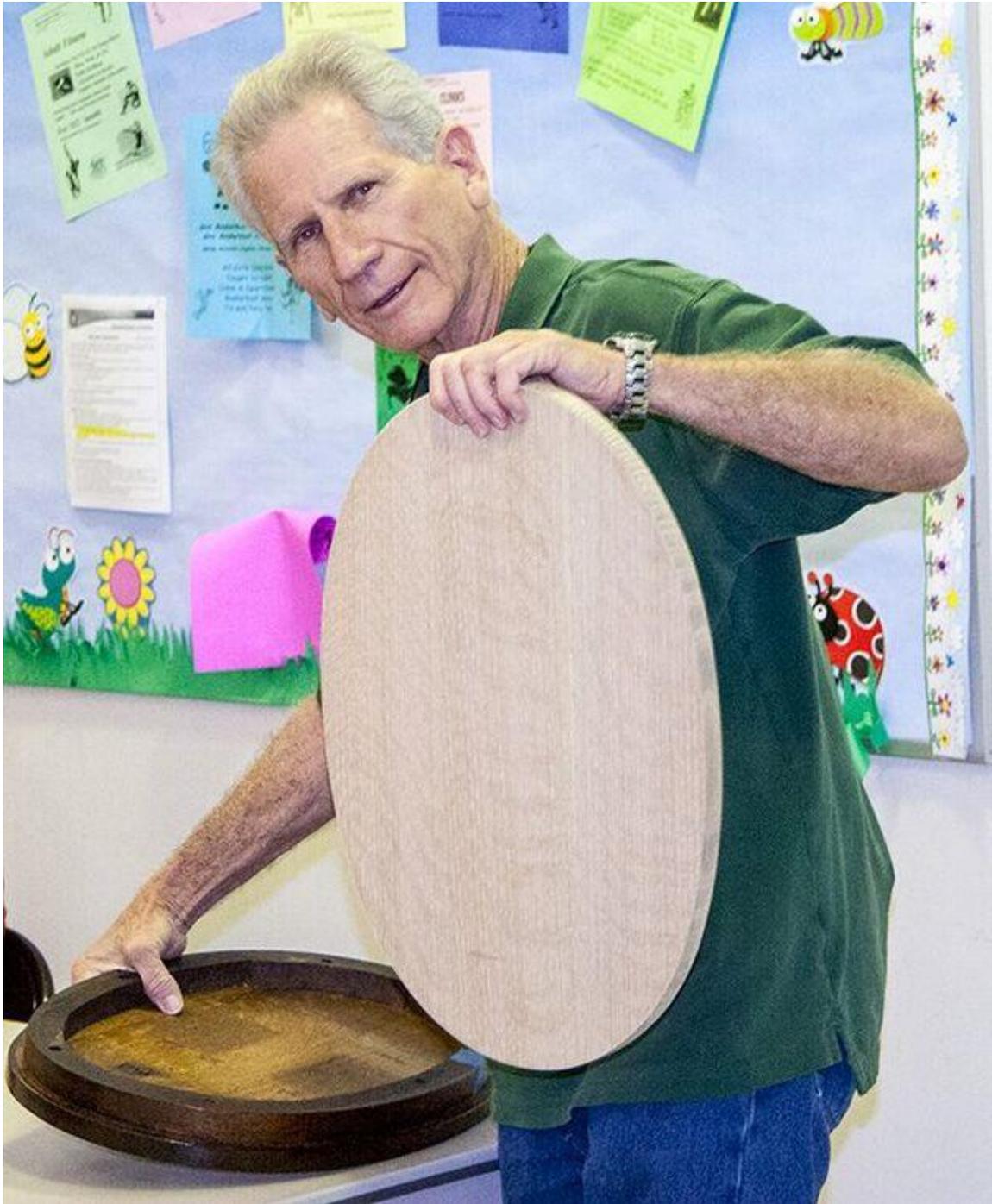
Steve Veenstra brought two large walnut bowls he recently turned.

Gene Wahl show a wonderful “Read-a-saurus” that libraries can use to collect coins for purchasing books. Gene will share the plans and router but with anyone who will make some.

Gary Coyne displayed some end-grain cutting boards he made as gifts. What he learned while making them is this month’s presentation.

Sam Shanman shared one on the magnificent flag display cases he makes for veterans’ funerary flags.





Mike Wells puzzled us with a whatsit made by his grandfather. Some suggestions for its use were colorful but none registered a clear “That’s it!”

The Challenge: There were two top-flight entries. The judges facing the situation squarely, flipped a coin and Sam Shanman's flag case carried the day.

Coming Events By Jim Kelly

I garnered the following from the September-October issue of *Woodworker West*:

Cerritos College Student Association of Woodworkers is hosting their 2nd Annual Hardwood Derby on October 28. The competition is for approximately foot long gravity race cars traveling down a 40 ft. ramp. Details at: <http://cms.cerritos.edu/woodworking/events.htm>. The site shows the rules for last year, presumably they haven't changed for this year.

There will be a Lie-Nielsen Hand Tool Event at Cerritos College on October 6 and 7. Details at: <http://cms.cerritos.edu/woodworking/events.htm>.

Pasadena Heritage is hosting their Craftsman Weekend October 27 – 29 at the Pasadena Convention Center and various Pasadena locations. There will also be a Contemporary Craft Market at the convention center that same weekend. More information at: <https://pasadenaheritage.org/events-calendar/?yr=2017&month=10&dy&cid=widget-1-0-0>.

There will be a Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood in Culver City on November 18. For more information call: (310) 397-8229.

The 5th Annual West Edge Design Fair will be held October 19 – 22 at Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica. It features 150 manufacturers and studio makers of decorative furnishings as well as an educational program.

Program Review

Our fellow member, Gary Coyne, gave a presentation on how to make end-grain cutting boards. Gary mentioned that he's been using both Maple and Cherry and asked what other woods people have used. What's important is that the wood be a closed cell hardwood. Someone mentioned that most fruitwoods should be good. Any oak would be bad.

Gary cuts the wood into about 20" pieces of varying thickness. The primary important thing is to not cut the thinner pieces half of the thicker pieces. You want random to avoid a checkerboard pattern as they are difficult to keep aligned during glue up. Then take these pieces and glue up enough of them to make a board as wide as you want. This is the only constant in this process, if you layout the boards to be 10 inches wide, that's how

wide the cutting board will be. Gary places some wax paper on his K-clamps (Bessie), lays the boards on for gluing, clamps them up and waits for glue to dry. You should use Titebond III for the glue as the cutting board will get wet.



After the glue has dried, Gary scraps off any tall glue beads and runs this through his planer. There is no set depth he's going for here, just to clean and level the boards.

Now Gary cuts off the end of the boards to square them up then cuts off even sections until the entire board is cut. Gary mentioned that he generally cuts them off at 1" thick pieces for a cutting board that will be between $\frac{3}{4}$ – $\frac{7}{8}$ " end thickness. Be careful though, end-grain cutting boards are not strong and the thinner you make them the more likely they can break if dropped. As such $\frac{3}{4}$ " is probably the minimum thickness recommended.

Assuming that you laid out the pieces in a random fashion, now you can lay your newly cut sections alternating their layout so that the end-grain view is a repeated random layout. These are glued together, again with Titebond III in the K-clamps. Again, lay wax paper on the clamps beforehand to keep glue off of the clamp rails.



To flatten the board at this time can be done several ways but **DO NOT USE YOUR PLANNER. IT CAN BE DANGEROUS TO PLAN END-GRAIN WOOD IN A PLANNER.** You can sand it flat if you have a wide belt sander. If you use a hand belt sander, do not ride over and over and over the board as the wood will get hot and curl due to wood movement. Fortunately you can stop for a moment, flip the board over and sand on the other side.

The fastest way to flatten the board is to use a “planning bit” in your router. (Also called a flattener bit). Rockler doesn’t carry these, Gary ordered his from Woodhaven (#13600, 1-1/2” diameter planning bit). If you use a standard straight bit, the wood will be chewed up like non-supported end-grain (which is exactly what it is) and will take a lot of sanding to clean up.

Gary made a fixture to hold his boards for both router planning and sanding that holds his boards in place with a piston clamp. To do the router planning, Gary made a router sled of a box with sides and a top piece that you place the router on to keep the cutting flat.

Assuming the board is good and flat from the router planning, do some random-orbital sanding from 80-120-240 grit. If not, you can use a belt sander with a low speed. Be careful that you do not dwell on one side too long as that will heat up the wood and the whole board will warp toward the sanded region. The good news is that putting the board aside will let the board cool and return to flat. After belt sanding, then use your random

orbital sander as mentioned before. Once flat, round over the corners with a ¼” roundover bit, then sand to match the same surface smoothness as the flat surfaces of the board.

Gary puts a mineral oil finish on. Then the next day he puts on one more. This may tend to raise the glue just a very very minor tad (you can feel this with your fingers) so he does one last random-orbital sanding with 350-400 grit sandpaper (whatever you’ve got) for a very smooth surface.

When we meet and where:

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, (just west of Balboa Blvd).

