

SFVW

VOLUME 30, ISSUE #2

FEBRUARY 2020



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).

Meeting Minutes

by Ginger Gibson

January meeting, San Fernando Valley Woodworkers club

The meeting was called to order at 7:07.

We started the meeting by greeting new attendees. There was David, who is just trying to get back into woodworking, Tom, who has been woodworking since he was a kid and makes furniture, cabinets, and turnings, and Brad, who came from Utah and is the son of Grant C.

The financial report found us solvent. If you plan to write a check for dues, please make payable to Jeff Bremer or Chuck Nickerson. Also, there may still be some IOUs left from the tool "auction" a couple of months ago.

Per the toy report, the club made 1470 toys last year. Gearing up for this year, Jack Robbins has already picked up a bunch of wood from Swaner hardwood. The first toy committee meeting - See "Minutes" on page 2

March Challenge

March's Challenge will be a project showing wood plus another material, or three or more woods. In either case the elements must be visible.

Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

As I sit here writing this on February 1st, I am struck by the fact we're 1/12 of the way through the year but I have accomplished less than 1/12 of the things I want to get done this year. It also has me wondering how many of you have even an internal plan for what you'll accomplish in the shop this year.

Having spent 40 years as a manager (and hopefully a few more) I can't set aside the planning part of my brain while in the shop. When plan and reality diverge, as they always do for me, I take solace in the Dwight Eisenhower quote for this topic. "Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." He was referring to long-range planning and thinking a year ahead for my shop time certainly counts as long-range. At its best it does two things for me. First it gets me to shift how I spend my time on a day-to-day basis. I can spend more time on creative projects and upgrading shop infrastructure, but it can't all happen in December. Secondly, honest long-range planning will help prevent the purchase of new tools months before they're needed. OK, there's a third thing it does: it allows me to think about my shop when I'm not there. So, this month may you have lots of time in your shop or thinking about it.



For the first time in about 25 years, no one brought a wood project that they had made to the January meeting. In absence of that I am showing a sideboard that I had made and fumed a number of years ago. So for those who were not able to attend the January meeting, this is what I do. Editor

February Meeting: Abrasives

Danny Strauss, owner of A Cut Above, will be presenting the love of his life: abrasives. It's a small firm that carries a vast inventory of tools and supplies for just about every grinding need. Though he will be concentrating on working with wood, bring any questions you have about abrasives to the meeting..

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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ing of the year with be the second Thursday of February at Jack Schelp's. If you missed this meeting, there will be more.



Regarding the dolls for the cradles: this will be the final year of Dollies Making a Difference giving us dolls. We're getting 250, but we need to be thinking about new sourcing. If anyone knows of any sewing groups that might want to make them, Carrie will be happy to consult with them.

If anyone's family members who sew have a huge pile of fabric (that describes basically every human who sews, by the way,) they might want to consider getting rid of some extra fabric by donating to whoever ends up sewing. Ed has a couple of leads on people who may want to help sew, and Grant is exploring a lead as well. Ed has also confirmed that we will still be able to use El Camino's shop classroom for our final build in November.

Upcoming Programs

Glen is working on a couple of ideas. He has been thinking of leather working for woodworkers, as well as faux finishing, if anyone has a lead on someone who could speak on either topic. Our February topic will be abrasives, the speaker for March will be a woodworker who was one of our tour guides from the tour of Sam Maloof's shop. April will be stained glass, presented by Stefan Dusedau, Chuck will be presenting in both May and August on, respectively, things you can make to help guide your hand tools, and making small boxes.

The club still needed to fill a couple positions, so Grant C volunteered to be the DVD librarian, Ginger will be the refreshments person, and Stefan will be our 3rd backup for the newsletter.

Club Officers

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Announcements

Jeff announced that this was the last night to buy the donations from Mel Cohen. Ed said a woman named Tina



Cox is looking for someone to restore a rocking horse if anyone is interested. Gary mentioned that Boris is closing down his shop and is selling a bunch of tools. Chuck had some chisels to sell, which went immediately. Finally, Jeff asked if any members would

be interested in buying a club t-shirt rather than an oxford shirt. 8 or 9 people expressed interest, so there will be further discussion at a future meeting.

The challenges for this year are as follows: for March we



Balboa Recreation Center Location
Map courtesy of Google Maps

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will be making something from wood plus another material, or 3 or more different woods. June will be to make something with prominent bevels or curves. September will be jigs and fixtures and November will be toys or child-sized furniture.

Tips and Tricks:

Ed said that a good way to make an inside measurement is to make a mark in the middle of the piece and then measure in from both sides and add. Jack added that another way was to take two sticks clamped together, adjust them so they exactly fit the inside dimension, and then measure them. And Greg said you can just use a regular clamp and turn the end piece around to make it an expansion clamp, and measure that.

Calvin offered the info that there’s an app called “Proportional” that is great for changing the scale of things.

Jeff said for making smooth curves, he’s been using a piece of wood with wire strung to each end and with a turnbuckle in the middle. As you tighten the turnbuckle, it makes the arc sharper.

Someone said that if you’re plugging in a heating ele-



From The Design Group

The Design Group met at Carrie Rollings Meynet’s house where we had a chance to see “The Table.” It was beautiful.

Things discussed included a rocking chair design options for Jeff (who brought a working prototype), jewelry box design options for Gary, small shop options for Armen, Ed wanted some thoughts on his router table, and Chuck asked about some quiled maple. A very spirited discussion was had by all on all subjects.

From the Web

Great breakdown of all types of sandpaper, material; backing; grit; coating; etc.

<https://tinyurl.com/rcypv4a>

An amazing amount of engineering went into this belt sander/drum sander. Rod Reyes (of My Garage Woodshop) took the Woodsmith Plans and ran them through steroids to come up with an amazing result.

<https://tinyurl.com/wghu7zm>

For all of the folks who do not have garages full of equipment, consider how this guy solved his problem.

<https://www.wimp.com/40-years-of-matchstick-sculptures/>

Glossary of woodworking terms. This is presented by Kreg Tools so expect a number of examples showing Kreg Tools. It is a good collection

<https://tinyurl.com/v62sfyr>

A Pen Turning Conference will be at the Envizion Entertainment Warehouse in Pasadena on February 29th and March 1st with demos and classes that include segmented pens and a class on Bespoke Pen Making. There will be several vendors there doing demos and of course selling.

<https://www.socalpengathering.com>

ment in your garage, you should set a timer on your phone so you won’t forget to turn it off. Calvin added that you could attach it to your Alexa, and Jack said you could just putt all your outlets on a master switch so you can turn everything off as you leave your shop.

We only had one woodworking question this month, and it was in interesting one: Jeff wanted to know, when making a chair, how much of a butt-dent do you put in the seat. Chuck said it actually makes very little difference, though some people felt that it should depend on the size of the intended butt.

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following events and announcements were found in the January – February 2020 issue of Woodworker West and may be of interest:

Now–February 23: Museum of Ventura County presents California Cool: Mid-Century Modernism on the Central Coast. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/vkow7xs> or call: (805) 653-0323.

January 11–February 21: Escondido Municipal Gallery presents Wood: A Furniture Show XI. More information at (760) 480-4101.

January 16 & February 20: Anderson Plywood will host a Festool FAQ Workshop. More information at: www.andersoplywood.com.

January 25, March 1, March 26, & April 18: Channel Islands Woodturners will have a demo by Canadian turner Joanne Savageau January 25, Matt Monaco, March 1, and Trent Bosch, March 26, and Stuart Batty, April 18. More information at: www.channelislandswoodturners.org.

February 15: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: www.andersoplywood.com.

February 29: (and **March 1st**) A Pen Turning Conference will be at the Envizion Entertainment Warehouse in Pasadena with demos and classes that include segmented pens and a class on Bespoke Pen Making. There will be several vendors there doing demos and of course selling.

<https://www.socalpengathering.com>

March 1 & April 19: Glendale Woodturners will have a demo by Matt Monaco, March 1 and Stuart Batty, April 19. More information at: www.woodturners.org.

March 15: The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) announced the theme for its 2020 exhibition as Step Up to the Plate – Second Inning. Entry deadline is March 15. More information at: www.woodturner.org/page/CallforEntry or call (651) 484-9094.

March 19: San Fernando Valley Woodworkers will have a presentation by Dennis Hayes of the Maloof Foundation. More information at: www.sfvw.org.

Mid-March-May 29 (Deadline): Orange County Fair's Fine Arts Woodworking Show will be July 17–August 16. Entry submission opens mid-March and closes May 29. More information at: www.ocfai.com or call: (714)708-1624.

April 25–June 19 The Brea Art Gallery hosts its 35th annual Made in California show. Entry deadline is February 20 and over \$2,200 will be awarded. More information at: www.breaartgallery.com or call: (714) 990-7731.

May 1 (Deadline): The San Diego County Fair Design in Wood will be June 5 – July 5 in Del Mar. The entry deadline is May 1. More information at: www.sdfair.com/entry/designinwood or call: (858) 792-4207.

May 5-7. National Hardware Show will be in Las Vegas. Early bird registration ends March 14. More information at: www.nationalhardwareshow.com.

The California State Fair, July 17 – August 2, competition handbooks will be available in February at: www.castatefair.org or call: (916) 263-FAIR.

News-1: Safety Recall. Stanley is recalling their 16 oz. Wooden Handle Nailing Hammer (STHT51454) as the molded grip can come loose. For instructions on receiving a full refund call (866) 215-1132 or email: recall@sbdinc.com.

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For Show and Tell, Ed showed us pictures sent by Wayne. (For newcomers, Wayne was a former member who moved to Montana a couple of years ago.) Wayne has started up a woodworking club in Montana, and they made 51 toys this year. Then Mark Ashley showed us an 18” geodesic dome that he made some time ago, which can support his weight when he stands on it.

The Presentation

Our presentation for the month was on fuming, with Gary Coyne.

Fuming is a process of soaking wood in ammonia fumes (ergo: fuming), which chemically darkens wood with tannins, such as white oak. These tannins react with the ammonia, which causes the darkening.

Why fume? When one stains, the pigment of the stain will fill any open pore woods, such as oak. This will give you tiny dark specks in your finish. You don't get that with fuming, as the reaction is chemical and there's no excess pigment for the pores to pick up. Another benefit is that when you fume, the color goes deep into the wood, rather than simply sitting on the surface.

Because the darkened color goes deep into the wood, not on the surface, it's easily repairable. Thus, if you get a scratch, go ahead and sand it smooth and re-finish. In addition, if your item has a lot of nooks and crannies (like many Arts & Crafts furniture), everything gets colored evenly, including end grain or side grain.

Some cons: You MUST have a safe space to work, such as an open garage. You need good ventilation. While the

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fuming is underway, you should not smell any ammonia but after opening the tent up to air (after the fuming is



complete, you do not want people to casually walk by until the fumes have dissipated.

You might not be able to get the color as dark as you want it, but if you make it too dark, there's no way to reverse it. Not all oak darkens to the same color intensity, and sap-

wood may not darken at all. Remember, this is a chemical process and if your wood has limited amount of tannins or your ammonia is used up, the process stops.

There are safety issues: You cannot store your ammonia near chlorine, if they combine the vapors can be deadly.

For safety gear you need: A standard 3M vapor mask respirator with ammonia filters, (cartridge number 6004), swimming goggles that can stick to your face just by the vacuum of pressing them to your face (when in use, you will use the goggles strap, the pressing is just to make sure they make a good seal. Do not wear contacts when doing the fuming, if anything happens, you do not want ammonia fumes to get between your contacts and your eyes! Any nitrile gloves if you want, and a 7" glass pie plate, which you fill with 1/2 to 2/3 cups of ammonia.

Also, as a general rule of safety, you should stay around the house while you're fuming. This is just in case you forget things and let the fuming process go on longer than intended. However, during the fuming process, you can watch sports on TV, catch up with a good book, any number of things that you would otherwise not be able to do if you were staining.

For the tent to cover everything during the fuming process, Gary builds a frame which consists of some 1" x 2" (3/4" x 1-1/2") wood in a rectangle (and attached with pocket screws), with 6 mil plastic stapled to the frame. He makes the fuming box out of 5 separate frames, which he then clamps together tightly to make the fuming box. The

whole thing sits on one other sheet of the 6 mil plastic either on the floor or his workbench (depending on the size of his tent). Gary has three tents, one is small enough for his workbench and is used for frames, small boxes, etc. Then there is a 4' x 4' x 4' one for small tables or chairs. Finally, by switching out the front, top, and back, his largest tent is 4' x 4' x 8'.

A few miscellaneous notes:

To make his furniture easy to move around, Gary goes to Harbor Freight and buys those 10-dollar furniture skids, takes off the wheels, and make a cart that fits the furniture he's making. Then it's easy for him to move the furniture around for construction, fuming, finishing and finally moving it around to bring into the house.

He fumes the items he's made fully assembled and glued, but without the hardware. Fuming, like any finish cannot have any glue drips as those areas will not darken.

You need to buy 26% - 30% ammonia (this can be bought from chemical supply houses.; you can't use grocery store ammonia as it's not strong enough to do the chemical process. There may be issues with blueprint ammonia as strange colors can show up. Gary hasn't tried this source of ammonia, so he's not experienced it himself.



To see the final result of the fuming you're going to end up with you should do a test run with scraps of wood that were cut off of the pieces you are working with. Take them out after 2 hours, then 4, then 6 and so on. You will need to either spray on some lacquer or varnish finish or wipe on some paint thinner to get an idea of the finished color because the raw wood looks very different than the wood with a finish.

Once your fuming is done, let it air out 24 hours and then you can put ANY finish you want on the item.