

# SFVW

VOLUME 30, ISSUE #7

JULY 2020



*San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988*

<http://sfvw.org/>

## Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are *normally* held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, at the Balboa Park Sports Complex, Gym Building, at 17015 Burbank Blvd, Encino.

## Meeting Minutes

*by Ginger Gibson*

San Fernando Woodworkers Meeting, June 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The first minutes of the meeting were regarding our friend and club member Bill Peplow, who had passed away earlier in the week. Several people had nice tributes to say about Bill. Chuck said that Bill was always one of the first to reach out to new members, and always made a huge contribution to the toy build, and he will be missed. Jim Kelly said the Bill was always more than happy to help, as he did the time when Jim got a new table saw and needed assistance getting his old one onto a trailer.

Jeff and Jim Cabernoch both said that he was one of the nicest men they'd ever had the pleasure of knowing, and Gary added that if you ever asked Bill for a favor, it wasn't "if" it was "when." Grant, who has spent so much time with Bill building toys, said that he was a joy to be around, and he will be missed terribly. If anyone in the group wants to donate to one of Bill's charities, they can send a check to Jeff and he will make the donations in the club's name, or you can make a donation yourself in Bill's memory. Gary sent a club-wide email with names and ad-

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## Our President says...

*by Chuck Nickerson*

Woodworking in the time of COVID-19: There's a book titled "Love in the Time of Cholera". Although I'll never read it, its title gives me a way to think about my recent behavior.

Most of my social contact revolves around work and woodworking. Working from home has eliminated a significant amount of contact. Virtual SFVW meetings has severely restricted that source of contact. This has led to me really enjoying helping others with their projects.

Helping Gary Hersch sharpen curved tools for his arch-top guitar project, check. Gluing up chess board tops means I'll see Jack Robbins when I pick up the wood and Ed Sheanin when I drop off the completed tops. Milling some old thick oak for the block trucks means Marc Collins will soon be stopping by. I've even been the intermediate step in getting parts from Jeff Bremer to Greg Rogers. And let's not forget the stray toy workshop or two.

Apparently, if you've got something for me to do, now's the time to ask.

## June Meeting: Shellac

Finally we are taking advantage of what we DO have with on line meetings: we can get people to present who are not in reasonable driving distance. Our first such presenter is Vijay Velji from shellacfinishes.biz. Vijay is an expert in shellac and know not only about its use but its origin and processing. This presentation will cover:

1. Where shellac comes from.
2. Preparing shellac flakes for use.
3. Applying shellac.
4. Some of the products unique to

some of the projects unique to his company and why they are unique. Also, please check out the first entry in this editions "From the Web..." it's from Vijay on where Shellac comes from.

See what Jim Kelly has planned for this slab of wood on Page 5



## 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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dresses for donations.

We asked if we had any visitors to the meeting, and for the first time in a long time, we did not. This segued straight to the finance report, which was that we're solvent because we're not currently spending much, but we might need to do some recruiting for new members, and possibly contact old members who didn't renew. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, brochures can be printed direct from our website. Also, this is usually when we'd be doing our quilt show fundraiser, but since that isn't happening this year, we might want to come up with some other kind of fundraiser.

Jim K. gave us the toy report, and hundreds of toys are coming along great. Jim just picked up donated sheet goods worth over \$625.00 from Anderson Plywood, and is in the process of cutting them down into transportable pieces. The toy build is scheduled for October 17 and 18 at El Camino High School.

For upcoming speakers, Glen said he needs to talk to some people about Zoom meeting presentations, and Gary mentioned that the Zoom meetings might give us the opportunity to get speakers from other locations to talk to us. Meanwhile, Chuck is preparing a presentation for August.

Grant asked if anyone had anything to say about our woodworking library. He had just picked up 65 woodworking books in the past week or so, and other potential ones he might be able to get. The question was whether we want to check them out to members or sell them. It was decided we would wait until we meet in person and set them out and see what we want to do from there.

In Announcements, Stefan D said he has a Craftsman 10" bandsaw he's looking to get rid of, if anyone is interested.

For Tips and Tricks, Chuck mentioned that he likes BLO as a finish, but isn't always fond of its distinct yellow color, and he found that you can use oil-based dye or ground earth pigments to change the color. Jeff said that his tip was for working with dark woods where pencil marks don't show up well, he has been using "Silver Streak Welder's Pencil" ordered off of Amazon and it works well. Marc had a tip regarding tack cloths, that they work better if you first wipe with a damp paper towel, and then use the tack cloth.

In our Questions segment, Jim C has been using roundover

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## Club Officers

President:	Chuck Nickerson	(818) 635-1175	<a href="mailto:chuckn@srar.com">chuckn@srar.com</a>
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Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847	<a href="mailto:sheiladeee@yahoo.com">sheiladeee@yahoo.com</a>
Refreshments:	Open	(626) 666-6666	<a href="mailto:needone@needy.com">needone@needy.com</a>

## 10" Bandsaw for sale

I have a 10 inch Craftsman bandsaw for sale at best offer. It has a 1/3 HP motor and is 3.5 amp 120v. The saw comes with the stand shown in the photo. See attached pictures.

Interested parties can contact me at the number below.

Stefan Dusedau  
Cell: 201.310.4877



## From the Web

Where do you get Shellac? OK, the store, but where do they get Shellac? OK, the distributors, but where do they get Shellac? Here's a deep dive on where Shellac is grown, the bugs that create it, and how it's processed. This starts out weak but has a very strong finish.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9e3xrfs>

How to form the burr on a card scraper by Ron Hock

<https://tinyurl.com/ycq6onkh>

SawStop at 19,000 FPS, you can blink this time.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7q9j2yx>

What's the case for Hide Glue

<https://tinyurl.com/yaq9ax63>

Lots of free plans from Trend

<https://tinyurl.com/yb6atolr>

Woodturning a sphere: (scroll down to the last item). Explore the site, there's a lot there.

<https://tinyurl.com/ybbhxsgd>

Rob Cosman : Dovetails on a Budget (hacksaw & screw-driver-chisel)

<https://tinyurl.com/ybkvww2x>

Rob Cosman: top 6 hand plane sharpening mistakes

<https://tinyurl.com/y9nlet3t>

Rob Cosman: Hand Plane Adjustment

<https://tinyurl.com/yqs4rsn6>

This website figures out layout for cutting sheet goods. It will figure out how to get the maximum number of items from various sizes of ply that you enter. Just put in desired panel size, the dimension of your plywood sheet, blade kerf, and whether grain orientation is critical. It does a great job, and includes a downloadable pdf of the cut sheet.

## On-line Meeting Tips

*By Calvin Sou & Gary Coyne*

One of the fun things about online meetings is your woodworking friends. This is especially great for seeing the members who are not able to always come to meetings.

Here are some tips for "lookin' good" during the meeting:

1. Lighting is typically poor with webcam so it's important to have an extra light around that can light you up so it's not grainy and the webcam isn't losing focus (assumes you have an auto-focus webcam).

2. If your back is facing a light or an open window: move. If there is more light behind you than in front of you,

## Dave's Carving

My father served in the Pacific theater in WWII, and I served in the Vietnam War. I made a collage with an emblem of his division (11th) and a photo. I did the same for my division (1st Cavalry) and me. Its entitled, "Like father like son." I carved the emblem on a small piece of redwood.



The second piece is a congratulatory etching on maple (I believe) for my niece Annette and her husband Peter. Cameron joined us on Earth Day, April 22d.

It lets you calculate about 5 different sheets, after that you will be prompted to create a free account. You can still use the site for free, they ask for a voluntary donation.

<https://www.cutlistoptimizer.com/>

you will be a silhouette.

3. If you are using a computer, tablet, or phone with a camera and you want to easily be able to stop and start the camera's viewing, keep a piece of post-it note right in front of the webcam so even if the web meeting starts off with the camera defaulting to ON, no one can see you until you remove that piece of post-it note piece from the front of the web cam. Post-in notes are nice because it doesn't leave any residue.

4. If you're holding your phone, watch out that you're not partially covering the camera with your hand.

5. Please hold your device in landscape mode (side-ways), NOT portrait mode It really looks weird.

bits to round the edges of the toys he's building, and he had noticed that the wood grain raises differently on rounded parts. He wanted to know if that's an indication that the cutters are dull. Chuck said it's just because it's hard to get a clean routed edge on poplar.

Then Gary asked, since we can't legally buy denatured alcohol in LA, is the product sold as Clean Strip Denatured

## *How to see our on-line meetings*

*by Marc Collins*

In our ongoing effort to ward off bad viruses and be a part of the 21st century, we are going to move forward with the May SFVW meeting via virtual online meeting. This will be intended to be as full featured of a meeting as we usually do in person and we will follow roughly the same agenda as a typical meeting. A lot of us in the group did a test run of this last week and it worked well.

We will send you an invitation via the e-mail that we have on file for you. If you wish for the invitation to go somewhere else, please let Gary know and he can update the list.

You will have the option of joining the meeting on either Android or Apple smartphones and tablets as well as on PC and Mac. When we send the invitation to you, you will receive a weblink at the top of the body of the e-mail. You will simply click that link on either your phone or computer and it will prompt you for an application to download and install the software that you must perform. (Follow the prompts for installation and you should be fine.) Once the software is installed, you do not need to do that again. Then, when you click on the meeting's link you will enter the meeting. (If you have issues, you can always click the link again.) You can listen to the meeting either through your computer or you can also join via phone for the audio and computer for the video.

The operation of this application is very similar to Zoom, but for a very nice quick start guide (PDF), please visit this site:

[https://netstorage.ringcentral.com/guides/meetings\\_quickstart\\_guide.pdf](https://netstorage.ringcentral.com/guides/meetings_quickstart_guide.pdf)

You can also install via the instructions in the quickstart guide above. We will have the ability to share screens, but for our first meeting, things like show and tell or anything else you would like to share would probably be better served by looping in myself or one of the officers ahead of time and you can send us the pictures you'd like to share.

This will likely be a little bumpy for our inaugural web conference, so please be patient with us, but we wanted to find a way to continue to be a value to each other, even if we have to do it remotely. You are welcome to ask questions, of course. If we get a lot of the same questions, we may send out follow up e-mails with answers.

Alcohol" any good? Consensus was "probably not." Gregg said Rockler sells something called "Shellac Reducer" that might be worth trying. Ginger asked about Everclear, which was mentioned by Brian Miller once, and consensus was that it does work, but is too expensive. Manny said that if anyone has a contact on a military base, they might be able to get you real denatured alcohol because they use it for maintenance, and Levon said the same for airports.

Ed had a question for Jim about the routing he's doing on his toys, which was how do you rout the small pieces without worrying about getting your fingers? Jim said he made a carrier block for small pieces.

And Eitan wanted to know if anyone has Dust Rite fittings from Rockler, do they like them, as he's thinking of getting some. Chuck and Stefan both said they really like them. Gary said one drawback is that the hose is quite heavy. Jim K said he also has them, and something called a Drillnado on his drill press, and he gets good dust collection. Along similar lines, Glen said he's been watching a bunch of videos about using your own connections made from PVC and a heat gun, and has anyone tried that and how did it work? Ed said he's used PVC with those rubber plumber's connectors with clamps, which works well. And Greg has used PVC to make bows for his grandkids, so the thinks it would work fine.

Manny has just learned about raising the grain on the wood when you're finishing and wanted to know if teak oil will raise the grain. Jim C said it will not, and Eitan explained how you can tell by feeling it with your hands. A secondary question was what grit paper to use to take down raised grain, and folks answered 600-grit for new sandpaper or 400-grit for used paper. Alternately you could use 0000 steel wool, a brown paper bag, or synthetic steel wool.

George Irwin wanted to know if there's a good thing that will turn your drill into a portable drill press. Chuck said that General makes one, or there's a "Portable Drill Guide" at Rockler. Gary added that there's a block of metal with holes in it at Rockler which will guide your drill straight.

For Show and Tell, Manny showed the table he's been working on. Jim C said someone he knew had a teak table and they saved a lot of sanding time by pressure-washing it before sanding. Gary C. showed a right-angle fitting off of his planer for dust collection.

We finished the meeting with a Zoom walk-through of Marc's shop, where we saw all the components of his cool new dust-collection system. In the past, Marc has shown us the results of all of his research. Here we get to SEE the results of his study. Simply, the man knows his dust collection.



Jeff Bremer has been hard at work!  
 "Small cutting boards for the 2021 Quilting show and parts for another 20 treasure chests."

## Jim Kelly's Big Slab

[See the image on the 1st page]

The image on page 1 shows a 30" X 60" slab that will become our coffee table. Behind, the two slabs on top of the bench will be the legs and the 4 X 6 will become two stretchers, one top and one bottom connecting the legs, in the style of George Nakashima. We found the top slab in a wood place in southern Oregon sometime in the 1990s. We also found and purchased a second one on a subsequent trip. It did not have a natural edge as the top piece does, so it was milled to provide the two legs. The 4" X 6" comes from a local lumber yard.

Both the top slab and the legs are a nominal two inches thick. I plan to stabilize the split at the bottom in the photos with some bowties. Since the slab has been in our garage for over 20 years, it probably doesn't really need stabilizing, but it should provide an interesting feature. They should also be of use when it eventually gets moved to Washington State. I plan to fill the two voids with epoxy. The next challenge is getting a router bit long enough to cut out the bowties and their socket in the top. With a little persistence on my part, I should have it in the house by year's end, but I have said that before.

## Two free items from

*Jim Cabernoch*

Another item for my shop-cleaning give-away: Dust-Rite DC kit — just add a drum or trash can. Free downloadable plans from Rockler. First one to show up at my door takes it away. New in Box



Due to a reconfiguration of my DC system, I've got a like-new Wynn filter canister to offer to club members, free. Just come and take it away.

Specs: Wynn #35A274NA-NO pleated canister filter. It's sized to fit a HF DC unit, and many others. Current price \$225.

It's been cleaned at least once using soft vacuum brush and compressed air, and is in great shape.

I NEED THE FLOOR SPACE!!!

For more information, contact: Jim Cabernoch, Altadena, CA, 626-296-1763

## Upcoming Wood-related Events

### & Important News

*from Jim Kelly*

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

SketchUp is changing its business model to a yearly subscription. As of November 4, The Classical Perpetual License plans will not longer be offered though current users will be grand-fathered. From that date forward, new users or those wishing to upgrade will need to purchase a yearly subscription. More information at: <https://help.sketchup.com/en/end-of-the-classic-license-faq/>.

Orange County Fair's Fine Arts Woodworking Show is going virtual in July. More information at: [www.ocfair.com/oc-fair/](http://www.ocfair.com/oc-fair/).

August 15. Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: [www.andersonplywood.com](http://www.andersonplywood.com).

Maybe the September – October issue will have some more opportunities in it as we gain more experience with re-opening the economy.

## *Santa Maria Style BBQ*

*By Gary Hersch*

Back in the days BC (Before Covid) I would travel several times a year up and down the Central Coast of California for work. One of the perks of these trips was finding great little spots to eat, and some of my favorites were those specializing in Santa Maria Style BBQ. Places like the Firestone Grill in San Luis Obispo, Jocko's in Nipomo and Pappy's in Santa Maria.

The US has many styles of BBQ. Ask someone in Texas and they will talk brisket. In Nashville, it's pulled pork and ribs. North Carolina's bbq sauce is mustard-based.

Likewise, Santa Maria BBQ has several distinguishing attributes. First is the grill, consisting of a firebox to hold the live coals, and a grate that is suspended over the firebox. Heat is controlled by moving the grate up and down via a pulley system usually controlled by a large wheel on the side of the grill.

Next is the fuel. To be true SMBBQ, the wood must be red oak. It imparts a distinct flavor, one much different than hickory or mesquite.

There are typical sides of a Santa Maria feast as well: Piquito beans, Pico di Gallo salsa, tossed green salad and of course garlic bread.

But the star of the show is the meat. For many people that means tri tip. Indeed, one could argue that the original rancheros who developed this style of cookery in the mid-1800's and continued the tradition thru the beginning part of the 20th century put tri-tip on the map. Before the popularity of the grill, tri tip was considered an inferior cut of meat.

But tri-tip was not always king. Going thru books on the topic, one will find that the grill masters called for "large chunks of beef" for their fires. While this could mean anything, in the beginning it was usually part of the loin, cut into 3-5 pound chunks that could be easily grilled over the hot coals with a simple seasoning of salt, garlic salt and black pepper, to a medium rare and then sliced to feed large crowds.

During my culinary career, I had two ways of going with Santa Maria BBQ that became popular with my clients. One was prime rib, the other (believe it or not) was leg of lamb. I will share these preparations below. I call them preparations as they are more recipes in the "Escoffier" sense of the word, than in the typical cookbook style.

A word about the grill: As I said above, the grill for SM BBQ is a specific style of grill. This is easy enough to replicate on your home Weber (or other coal-fired grill) with a little work. The key is to control the heat. If using this style, start your meat directly over the heat for a few minutes, and then once seared, move off to the side for indirect heat, partially covering the grill with about a 2-3" opening for the remainder of the cooking time.

For both items, you will need to prepare a seasoning salt consisting of 2 parts kosher salt, 1 part garlic salt and one part freshly ground pepper, ground coarse.

### **Prime Rib:**

Get a roast that has 2-4 ribs. If possible, ask the butcher to cut the ribs off and then leave with you. If the butcher won't do this (or there is no butcher), it's easy enough to do yourself. At home, season the roast all over, and then using some twine, tie the ribs back onto the roast.

Fire some Red Oak in your grill. When it's burned down to coals and glowing red, the fire is ready. Place the roast over the fire, and allow to sear (but not char), about 5-10 min, depending on the heat. Move the roast off the heat (raise the grill or just move to the side and cover) and cook for approx. 15 min per pound for medium rare. Be sure to turn the roast every 10-15 min so that the roast cooks evenly. If using a thermometer, the roast is ready at about 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Remove from heat to a platter and cover lightly with foil. Allow the roast to rest for an amount of time approximately equal to cooking time (this allows the juices to soak back into the roast).

I like to serve this with a horseradish cream sauce: Mix equal parts freshly whipped cream and sour cream. Add in prepared white horseradish to taste, along with some Lea & Perrins and a little salt and pepper. Serve on the side.

When ready to serve, cut the twine and remove the ribs. These make a great meal in and of themselves. Slice the meat on the thinnish side. Serve with all the fixins.

### **Leg of Lamb:**

Going again to the butcher, ask him or her to remove the bone and butterfly the leg for you. Basically, this means cutting the leg in such a way as to wind up with a relatively flat piece of meat.

You will also need about 2-3 bunches of fresh spearmint, a bulb or two of garlic, balsamic vinegar, fresh ground black pepper and a little olive oil.

Divide the garlic into cloves, peel them and then slice the cloves on the thin side. Roughly chop the mint and place in a bowl with the garlic, some ground pepper, a tablespoon or two of oil and about a cup +/- of balsamic vinegar. Lightly whisk everything together and then add in your butterflied lamb leg.

Spread a couple sheets of plastic wrap out on a large cutting board. Place the lamb with all (or most) of the marinade onto the plastic and then do your best to wrap the whole thing up. There should be marinade on the top and bottom of the meat. Place this in your fridge for at least 3 days and up to 2 weeks (ideally at least one week), turning every day.

On the day to grill, pull the meat out of the fridge about an hour or two before the grill is ready, allowing it to come down in temperature a bit. Unwrap, wipe away much (but not all) of the mint and garlic and season with the same seasoning salt as above.

Grill over live red oak as above, about 15 min per pound. Again, once cooked, allow to rest before carving. This meat needs no sauce.