



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfww.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

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 .

The meeting started with announcements. Gary's hernia surgery went well. We got a request on the website for someone to make boxes, if anyone's interested. Gary H. saw an ad in NextDoor [Ed., Local version of a "Facebook" like website] where a woman in Thousand Oaks was selling a bunch of tools. And a woman contacted us because her father passed away while he was building her a quilt rack and she wondered if someone could finish it. Gary C said he'd try. [Ed., Turns out the man who had done some excellent work in the past had done too much to these pieces where there were mortises that were larger than the tenons, was gluing two different species to get pieces to the proper dimensions, and many other issues. Sadly, I had to tell the woman that I'd have to rebuild this from scratch. She realized that that was too much to ask for free work, so she took the pieces and went home.]

We had several technical questions. Jeff has a small air compressor with a knob with a + and -, and he wanted to know what the + and - signify. The

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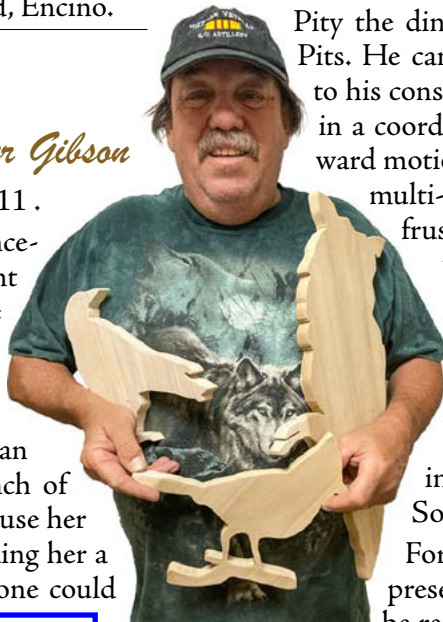
Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

Pity the dinosaur who stumbled into the La Brea Tar Pits. He can move one foot without a problem. Much to his consternation when he tries to move all four feet in a coordinated way to get out of the tar pit, no forward motion happens. As the sole occupant of a messy, multi-project shop I understand the dinosaur's frustration.

The dinosaur could get out IF he could get a foot or two on solid ground. In my mind, that means getting portions clean and getting the projects finished one at a time. In a once a week lunch with a friend (45+ years) I've started telling him the one woodworking project I will get done in the coming week. So far I've completed three with several to go.

For now I'm focused on preparing for August's presentation (see below). Once that's complete, be ready for the avalanche of Show-and-Tell material. Most of them you've heard about since talking about projects has been easier for me than finishing them. Which ones will they be? My lips are sealed.



**About these birds
on page 3**



August Meeting: Chuck Nickerson : Making Boxes

There are many ways to make a box, some of which include an integrated lid. Chuck will look at the steps for one of these methods. By focusing on this method, Chuck will present a variety of unique ways to attach/join the lid to the box. In addition, with Chuck's approach and his techniques, he will offer some excellent and interesting design options.

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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answer is that it adjusts the pressure on the pressure regulator ("+" increases outgoing pressure, "-" decreases outgoing pressure). In a follow-up question, he said that after fixing a leak in the compressor it was recharging (constantly restarting the motor) more often than it did before and does anyone have suggestions. The consensus was "just get in there and tinker with it." Gregg wants to put an inline switch on a palm sander with a broken switch, and wanted to know if it matters which wire he cuts for the switch. It does, He needs to cut the black wire. Dave F wanted to know how to buy something from Rockler online and still get the (in-store) club discount. Gregg said if you put in the comments section of your order that you want the discount if possible, they MIGHT do it.

Treasury report was uneventful. There hasn't been much change since last meeting, and we're solvent.

In Toy Committee news, all is going smoothly. We currently have enough lumber and sheet goods. For the toy build itself, there is a possibility we might not be able to get into El Camino High School due to Covid. If so, we may do a combination of hosted builds at people's workshops and sending kits out for people to assemble at home.

Upcoming meeting presentations will be Chuck, then jigs and fixtures, then the November toy contest. December will be our holiday party. (Or virtual party, depending on COVID developments.)

Jeff reminded folks to think about downloading Sketch-Up 2017, as they're soon going to an all subscription model.

In show and tell, Jeff showed off his nifty new clamp rack.

Presentation

Our presentation for the evening was on shellac by Vijay Velji of shellacfinishes.com on shellac.

Vijay seriously took up furniture making about 30 years ago and has been using shellac for much longer. He started looking into French polishing, and there wasn't much good info on it, so he eventually came out with his own video on it: "French polish like a pro." Now he sells different types of shellac finishes, from flakes to premixed finishes. His company is the only one that sells shellac with a date on it.

Shellac comes from the cocoon of the lac beetle. Shellac in Sanskrit means 100,000, because it takes about 100,000

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10" Bandsaw still 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. **Perfect working order with new bearings and comes with stand**

Interested parties can contact me at the number below.

Stefan Dusedau
Cell: 201.310.4877



From the Web

Building Without Nails: The Genius of Japanese Carpentry (note: the woodworking doesn't really start until 11:30)
<https://tinyurl.com/nck9r2p>

Jim Kelly listened to this podcast on a drive. Gary Rogowski was great – a lot of fun and some good woodworking insights. You can find more podcasts than this to listen to at this site.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3a4jkxo>

A YouTube channel of woodworking video Zoom meetings from the UK. A very sociable group, very pleasant watch.

<https://tinyurl.com/yy2xyjst>

There are no subtitles but what a rich vein of material.

<https://tinyurl.com/y36h7z8l>

Since we're always sharpening our tools, how well do our woodworking sharpening tools work on kitchen knives? This video doesn't go anywhere near that, but he does use an amazing array of actual kitchen knife sharpening tools and does a great variety of tests on them. Sorry, but this will be interrupted by ads periodically during the video.

<https://tinyurl.com/y2jmun97>

Making Live Edge Slabs (but fake using plywood)

<https://tinyurl.com/yy29kpb4>

Whole lot of information on Drawer Slides

<https://tinyurl.com/y3gkjcjoz>

On-line Meeting Tips

By Calvin Sou & Gary Coyne

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, 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-it 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 (sideways), NOT portrait mode. It really looks weird.

Website of UK Luthier who also has information on stringed instruments and also plans for some instruments including an Aeolian Harp.

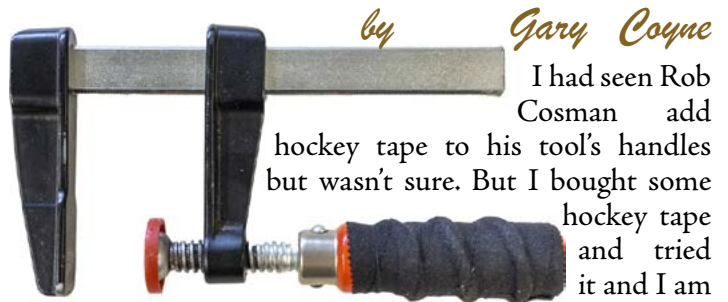
<https://tinyurl.com/yxbkx8ub>

<https://tinyurl.com/3hhxcff>

Sharpening hand planes on a budget

<https://tinyurl.com/y36hgxlh>

Getting a (better) grip



I had seen Rob Cosman add hockey tape to his tool's handles but wasn't sure. But I bought some hockey tape and tried it and I am sold. I was

concerned about how the tape would hold up in our So-Cal hot weather but it hasn't been a problem. You can see how he does this here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3uwhcwz>

And here's a suggested hockey tape. (Note: this appears to be one of the better hockey tapes so it's worth the extra \$\$ (and it's not that expensive anyway):

<https://tinyurl.com/y2xfzhl7>

Gone to the Birds.

By Cliff & Karen Lobell

Cliff has been cutting out birds and a squirrel and Karen's friend Marianne, is painting them so they can both use them as yard art.

This is what we've finished on the birds so far. Cliff has cut 3 crows, 3 cardinals, 2 blue jays, 2 great horned owls, 2 mockingbirds, 2 hummingbirds and also two squirrels.

Karen's longtime friend (since she was 2 and she was 4 so considered sister) Marianne, is doing the painting. She's a very good artist! Below are some of the finished birds.



cocoons to make a 1 pound cut of shellac. Shellac has been used for millennia, dating back at least to 5500 BC. It has many uses, including medical as it has anti-bacterial properties, and it is used as a finish on foods such as chocolate and medical items such as capsules, because a shellac “skin” acts as a time-release mechanism.

The tree on which the cocoon hangs affects the quality of the shellac. The kusum tree produces the lightest, most superior shellac. Orange and garnet shellacs come from cocoons from the palash tree, and shellacs from plum trees are higher in color and wax content. The production of shellac does not harm the trees on which it is produced. Each tree can sustain about 3 harvests per year.

After a brief overview, Vijay addressed shellac’s durability. Although it is viewed as not a very durable finish, it is in fact quite durable. Once cured, shellac can withstand water for 4 to 5 hours, and can even withstand contact with drinking alcohol for up to half an hour. But Vijay has come out with other formulations of shellac to address the misperception of shellac’s durability as opposed to other

How to see our on-line meetings

by Marc Collins

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

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.

synthetic finishes, such as Seal Lac and Royal Lac.

Seal Lac is mostly shellac but with some natural resins in it. He came up with it because he wanted a sealer with greater solids by volume. It’s about 20% solids, which is comparable to a 2-pound cut. It feels, looks, and behaves just like shellac, and can also be used with nitrocellulose or polys.

Royal Lac is mostly shellac by with some synthetic resin. The resins cross-link to form a film. It is post-catalyzed, which means you add the catalyst to it and it cures in 7-10 days. After mixing it, you only have about 8-10 hours to use it. It produces a high shine or gloss. The solvent for Royal Lac is acetone, 99% or 100% isopropyl alcohol, or a mixture of the two. By increasing the proportion of isopropyl, you can extend the evaporation time. It’s best applied with a soft natural bristle or synthetic bristle brush. The best brush Vijay has found is at Michael’s (Art Supplies) and is called “Golden Takon” which comes in a set of 3.

With Royal Lac, you may or may not use a pore-filler first, depending on the porosity of the wood. Shellac can be used as a pore filler by mixing 320 grit wood dust with a little bit of 4F pumice powder and shellac and then sanding with 400 grit. (Equal quantities of sawdust and pumice, or more sawdust if color-matching is an issue.)

Royal Lac is so stable that, once cured, you could spill scotch on it and let it sit overnight, and the finish would be okay.

A question was raised regarding the 30-day cure time, as far as how many coats you can lay on at a time. Do you have to wait 30 days between coats? Vijay explained that there is a difference between dry time and cure time, and that you can apply a coat, wait for it to dry to the touch, and then apply another coat. However, even though the finish is dry to the touch, there is still solvent underneath the top film. The cure time is the time it takes for that solvent to evaporate out. But he cautions you should not apply too many coats one after another.

Basically, all pre-catalyzed finishes cure in about 30 days, regardless of what the manufacturer says.

A question was raised regarding application of shellac with a cloth, and Vijay’s preferred method is by padding cheesecloth inside and 100% linen outside. Do not use t-shirts.

Regarding shellac flakes, it takes about 8-9 hours of agitating for shellac flakes to dissolve in solvent, and the shellac will then have a 6–9-month shelf life. Undissolved flakes have a longer shelf life. The rule of thumb is it’s about 2 years, but realistically it can be anywhere from 2 to 7 years. With darker shellac he has even seen it last up to 9 years. The way to test whether it’s good is to dissolve it in alcohol. If, after adequate agitation and time, it contains gelatinous masses, the shellac is no longer good.

There is much to learn at his [website](#), do take a look!

For sale at Quilt Show

By Jeff Bremer

Every other year the Valley Quilters Guild has a trade show and sale. Our club has participated for several years and it is a good source of funds for us. The next show will be in 2021 and this is a good time to start making items we can sell at the show.

I've been making small cutting boards.

If you need wood, both Jack Robbins and Jim Kelly have club wood available. Contact them if you're interested.

Jack Robbins - 818-700-8106

Jim Kelly - 323-445-9200



What I'm working on

By Gary Coyne

At the last meeting I mentioned that I had my hernia surgery. The hernia started JUST after the quarantine started. But before that I had already cut out most of the parts of a cabinet to go into one of our upstairs bathrooms. So it sat while I waited for the surgery. Now that I'm all better now I'm back to working on the cabinet.

The one problem I had was that there were some design changes from the time I started to the time I began the actual assembly.

One big difference was that the drawer fronts which were originally supposed to be in front of the face frame were now going to align with the face frame. Unfortunately that also meant that the drawers and drawer slides were now going to extend past the back of the cabinet. (Whoops!)

The good news is that this cabinet is going to be painted. That meant I could make an extension as seen on the right.

It was 1" wide and planed down to match the 12mm of 1/2" baltic birch. I routed a 1/4" rabbet on opposite sides so that it would fit into the back recess on the back of the cabinet and had the new rab-



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/.

August 15. Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: 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.

bet of the back to receive the back of the unit.

The drawers went together just fine and the top is also assembled, just not cut to final size.

Here's the cabinet with the drawers piled on top. (Drawer fronts are not yet attached.) I still need to make the two doors for the top section. I also need to purchase all of the hardware except the drawer slides.



Remodel update:

Better wine glass support

by Jim Kelly

Beverlee and I had our house remodeled 26 years ago. One of the things that always bugged me was the wine glass storage. We had one cabinet that was hinged on the top, while the rest are

hinged on the side. We selected the oddball in which to store our wine glasses. It was okay, but I did not

like sliding them in and out on the shelf surface and wanted to do something like one sees in bars, where the glasses are suspended from their bottoms on a rack. I purchased such a device several years ago, only to find that the opening for the bottoms was narrower than the base of our glasses. Not much help. In



from Lee Valley, I saw what looked to be the ideal solution. The specs gave the distance across the opening and I found it comfortably exceeded the width of the bottom of our widest glass. They came in two sizes, one 10.5 inches

long and the other 16.625 inches long. Our cabinets are 15 inches deep, so I selected the latter.

The top of the cabinet is about 4.5 inches above the opening, so a secondary top was going to be needed. Also, the holders were longer than the cupboard was deep, so I needed a lip on the top into which I could insert the holder rods, after cutting them to length. I flattened three two-foot boards, each about 6 inches in width, jointed them and glued them together. I then added a 2.5-inch piece to act as the lip. Before adding the lip, I pre-drilled the holes into which the holder rods would be inserted. To mount the secondary top, I added a cleat above



the opening and used two extra length screws to fasten the holder to the top and then to the cleat. The lip is secured to the back of the cupboard by two screws. After giving the cupboard a thorough cleaning, I restocked it with glasses. The only victim of the new storage system was the two beer glasses that had shared room with the wine glasses. Due to the extra spacing the glass racks provide between rows of glasses, there just was not enough room. But we do have other cupboards!

It was not a particularly difficult task, although how to mount it front and back was not immediately clear. I ended up raiding our library for a couple of books to hold the back in place while I fastened the front to the cleat and then, after ensuring the top was level, fastening the lip to the back was no problem.

Steep Discounts on Bridge City and Harvey Tools Products

Jeff Bremer

Harvey Tools, which now owns Bridge City Tools, is offering significant discounts on both hand and power tools. Each day, around 3:00 am, they send a couple emails with the discounted prices but offer limited quantities. If you're interested, sign-up for their email at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxdz9cp3>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email. The special daily pricing is much lower than what is shown on the linked page. For example, the dust processor was offered for an additional \$700 off.

[Editor's comment. In addition to power tools, they also have discounts on their hand tools. For example, their

HP-8 Mini block Plane which normally sells at \$165, is averagely on sale for \$99 but some of these blast sales have it at \$89.

These sales are good for only 24 hours and they have a limited number of items for each sale. Thus, when that allotment is sold out, that sale is over. It may be repeated at a future date but there's never a mention of when. So, do you feel lucky?

As far as Bridge Tool quality and their support of their tools: When the Club went to the Maloof residence and then to Bridge/Harvey Tools last September, I bought an MT-2 Marking Tool. Several months ago I discovered a design flaw in the tool, I contacted Bridge/Harvey Tools about the issue. They said, no problem, they'll gladly replace it for free. They e-mailed me a UPS shipping label and about a week later the new one came back to me (without the flaw). In other words, they stand by their products.]