

SFVW

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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

At 7:07 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

We had two new visitors to the meeting, David DeCastro, and Tom Naylor Sr. David is new to woodworking, and has just been building stuff he needs. Tom Naylor Sr is the father of member Tom Naylor II.

New visitor David had a question on how to prevent snipe. Jeff suggested a video on planer setup, Chuck offered to demonstrate how to eliminate planer snipe, and general consensus was to take smaller passes, like 1/32" at a time.

In the finance report, our checking balance is about \$1600, and in discussing fund-raisers, we heard that there probably won't be a quilting show next year, or if there is one, it would be late in the year.

For the toy report, Jim Kelly noted that all the toys are in the storage unit ready to go. Our final tally included over 1600 toys, with the following breakdown:

- 200 cradles with a handmade quilt or blanket and doll
- 165 white boards with markers and erasers
- 162 hand mirrors
- 116 treasure chests with lock and key
- 105 block trucks
- 100 sets of five cars and trucks in a hand sewn bag
- 100 yo-yos with hand painted decorations
- 85 animal push toys, each

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Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

Being a woodworker involves a variety of skillsets. Recognizing proper design, safe tool usage, assembly, finishing techniques and driving to completion are the usual high-level examples. Being deficient in any of these can decrease your useful output and diminish your enjoyment of the hobby. As a result, I find it useful do some thinking about my skill deficits each month. No one will ever see my notes but they're important enough for me to save.

Being in an excellent woodworking club adds an addi-

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December Presentation:

Colin Knecht – Tools That Make you Better.

Gary Hersch and some of the guitars he's made



Colin has been woodworking as far back as his pre-school days which was probably influenced by his father and grandfather. Colin's woodworkweb.com channel contains most of his 450 YouTube videos, as well as over 5,000 woodworking articles and topics can be quickly found by using the search box on the website.

One of the fascinations of woodworking is "the tools," and Colin in no exception. He has had a life-long love of tools and how to get the best results from them. Over the years he discovered he that certain tools lend themselves to being more accurate, often easier to use and therefore give better results. When combined with shop safety, and instruction many of these tools have become his favored work items.

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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hand decorated

- * 52 small trucks
- * 51 teen boxes with lock and key
- * 48 chess/checker boards with chess pieces and checkers
- * 25 hand turned rolling pins for the aspiring cook
- * 23 hand decorated hot rods
- * 15 hand decorated buses with passengers
- * 11 hand decorated sets of stacking blocks
- * 53 race cars that were turned into truck
- * 5 tram sets

In Addition, a charity also got in touch with us asking if we could provide 250 more white boards for kids who are home schooling. Jim will contact Anderson plywood for sheet goods, and several people said they would contact Jim regarding donating money for markers and erasers. Jack will need volunteers to help build them, and Jim will cut parts once he has a cut list.

For upcoming speakers, December will be Colin Knecht, a woodworker from YouTube, on his favorite tools that last longer, are more accurate, easier to use, safer, and therefore give better results.

We had our election of officers, and it was decided that the current slate of officers will continue for the next 12 months.

Announcements and Questions

Gary Coyne announced that material for the newsletter has been dwindling, so please send something in if you have it.

Chuck has been sharpening hundreds of old-style bits, and to do so, he has to spin cylindrical sharpening stones at slow speeds. He can't fit the larger ones in the chuck of his drill bit, so he wanted to know if there is a lathe chuck that tightens down to 5/8". Eitan said you can get different sized jaws. Someone else specifically said Vicmarc chucks have different jaws, and that CraftsSupplies USA has a website just for turning stuff. The address is <https://tinyurl.com/y3fml52k>. Jack mentioned that on 4-jaw chucks you can turn the individual legs around in the other direction.

Gary Coyne wanted to know if there's anyplace to get Baltic birch in 4 X 8 sheets where they'll cut it for you (to fit in your car). Suggestions were Anderson Plywood, Far West Lumber (who got bought out and may now be called Topanga Lumber), or possibly Hardwood Specialty Products in Chatsworth, which is owned by the old owners of Far

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tional needed skill-set which this past month drove home for me: listening. As I worked to sharpen old bit forms (shell, spoon, gimlet) in last month's meeting I asked about holding cylindrical sharpening stones in a lathe chuck. The turners recommended pen blank jaws, which have solved that problem. Thanks very much.

Then when dropping off toy parts at Jack Robbins' shop he took it to a whole different level. After broaching the topic, Jack pulled a cylindrical stone burr from his cabinet to show me. Now four days later I can tell you five ways these are better than what I've been doing. I've figured out those five ways for myself, but he opened the door for me.

Whether Jack's mind and shop are Felix the Cat's bag of tricks or he's Felix opening my bag of tricks is up for debate, but listen, listen, listen!

West Lumber.

Jim Baldrige has been having an issue with his 12.5" Delta thickness planer while resawing knotty pine. One of the knives had cracked and bent the knife keeper. He ordered a new knife and knife keeper but was still having the same problem with the new parts. Several suggestions were: That model simply isn't made for running 2000 board feet in an

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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

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

Woodworker West is a great source of events, sources, and items of interest for woodworkers of all types and abilities. For more information go to <http://www.woodwest.com>.

Ongoing: Beware of counterfeit 3M N95 masks. The phonies bear the 3M logo, but be suspicious of masks having missing or detached straps, blocked valves, faded or grainy packaging, misspelled words, or sub-standard packaging. Also, 3M masks are not sold loose, nor without packaging and instructions. A fraud website is at www.3m.com/3M/en_US/worker-health-safety-us/covid19/covid-fraud/.

Ongoing: Over the past four years, there have been at least 24 fatalities in accidents while attempting fractal burning. Fractal burning is a wood burning technique wherein high voltage electricity is applied to the surface of a wooden vessel soaked in salt water, resulting in a burnt branching design. The American Association of Woodturners has established a policy against the use of fractal burning by membership, prohibiting its application in any AAW activity. More information at: www.woodturner.org/woodturner/resources/safety-materials/safety-fractal-burning-lichtenburg-burning.aspx/.

Ongoing: Hongkong Sun Rise Trading has recalled its 40-volt Lithium Ion Cordless Chainsaw sold exclusively at Lowe's. The power switch can remain in the "on" position creating a potentially hazardous situation. Owners should

stop using the saws and contact Hongkong Sun Rise Trading for free repair at: www.greenworkstools.com or (855) 378-8826.

Ongoing: San Diego Woodturners have gone to virtual meetings. Their upcoming virtual demos: Mark Dryer on November 21, Joe Fleming on December 12, and Eric Lofstrom on January 16. More information at: <https://sdwt.org/wood/>.

Ongoing: The Bay Woodturners will have virtual demos Cheryl Lewis on November 14, Jim Rodgers on December 12, and Seri Robinson on January 9. More information, including multiple how-to videos on various aspects of turning, at: www.bayareawoodturners.org.

January 8 – February 26: The Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery will host its annual Wood: A Furniture Show XII. Entry deadline is December 19. Awards will be presented, and sales are encouraged. More information at: www.escondidoarts.org.

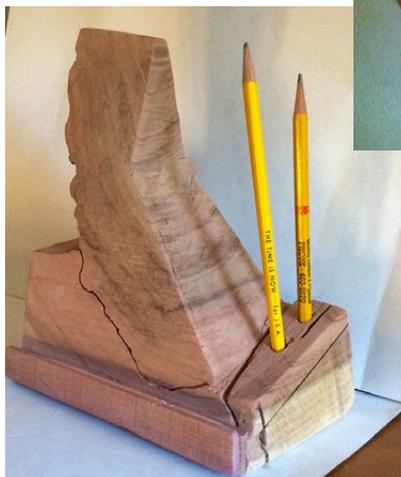
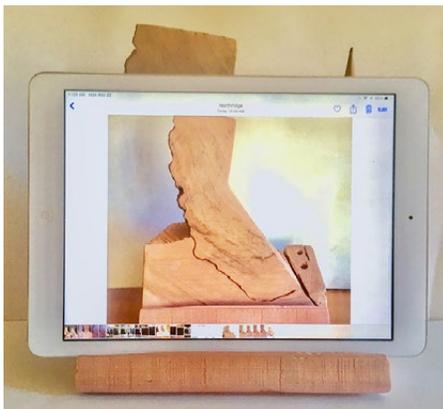
January 18 – 24: The National Association of Music Merchants holds its 2021 NAMM Show as a virtual event. More information: www.namm.org.

February: The National Arts & Crafts Conference, normally held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC is going virtual this year because of COVID-19 concerns. The specifics about event schedule and individual seminars, discussion groups, etc. are at: www.arts-craftsconference.com.

July 20 – 23: The AWFS Fair returns to Las Vegas and will be the largest woodworking show of the year. More information: www.awfsfair.org.

From Dave McClave

Here's my iPad stand of redwood and cedar, and California cutouts for trivets, or whatever for the Etsy site and the newsletter.



afternoon. Possibly get a helical head, Holbren is a good supplier as is Grizzly. Maybe soften the knots by soaking in mineral spirits before running through. Take your cuts down to 1/32". Use tungsten carbide instead of high-speed steel and replace BOTH heads. Once place that carries both kinds of replacement helix heads is <https://mywoodcutters.com>, very knowledgeable and good service.

Levon announced it was his last meeting, as he will be moving to the East Coast. We wish him the best!

Stefan asked if we should consider getting new members from other regions, since we're currently doing all meetings via internet. Under the topic of internet meetings, we also discussed recording our presentations to make them available online or having east coast woodworkers do presentations on weekends.

Jeff did a short presentation on Etsy, since we were looking at using it for fund raising. (Secretary's note, our Etsy Store is now up and running, and had made 4 sales within days of going live. Our address is <https://tinyurl.com/y5vevl7b>)

Show and Tell

Jeff showed his cabinet made of Black Limba. He had seen a video on the internet of some cabinet doors with a super-fancy opening mechanism and decided to reverse-engineer the doors. Jeff also showed an end grain cutting board.

Dave McClave wrote a poem which he etched onto one of his carvings, a bird of paradise bud in maple.

Eitan showed an S-shaped maple step stool he made for his son's girlfriend.

The Presentation

Our presentation for the night was by Gary Hersch on Beginner Guitar Making — building a classical guitar.

To learn guitar making, Gary started by taking an online course with Robbie O'Brien, on O'Brien Guitars website (www.obrienguitars.com). Then he ordered a kit from Luthiers Mercantile (www.lmii.com).

Part one of making the guitar was the neck. It was made of 4/4 Spanish cedar, the peg head was scarf jointed with slotted sandwiched veneers, and it had a stacked Spanish style heel. He cut the board at a 14-degree angle and the glued together the neck and made a jig for the part of the neck where the tuners fit into.

To cut the peghead, it was too detailed for a router, so he used a "drill press router." To do this, you cut a 45-degree angle on the end of a metal bar, and you chuck it into the

From the web

- ✿ Butcher block finishes and food grade finishes <https://tinyurl.com/y54g5llg>
- ✿ The difference between red and white oak (at the cellular level) <https://tinyurl.com/y3hjp3m>
- ✿ How to make a curved leg from a straight one with minimal waste. This one HAS to be watched. <https://tinyurl.com/yykc3fx5>
- ✿ Correct setup of a benchtop planer, includes suggestions on how to avoid and/or limit snipe <https://tinyurl.com/y487qzz7>
- ✿ Yes, there are people who make gondolas <https://tinyurl.com/y4taeg5a>
- ✿ And if you missed it on the first page, do check out our speaker's website: woodworkweb.com

Letter from Jim Kelly

Hi Everyone,

Through everyone's efforts and Swaner and Anderson's generous donations of wood, not to mention the swan song of Dollies Making a Difference and our quilter and blanket maker friends, we have made over 1,600 toys, which will make this holiday season a little brighter for over 1,200 children. For those who are interested, you can see the breakdown of these toys in the meeting minutes.

Thank you for all of your hard work and persistence in the face of the COVID 19 pandemic. We'll be in it for the beginning of the next cycle, but hopefully it will be behind us when it comes time for shop days and the toy build itself. This year has felt somewhat empty without that annual gathering.

See you all, at least virtually, Thursday evening.

Stay Safe.

Regards,

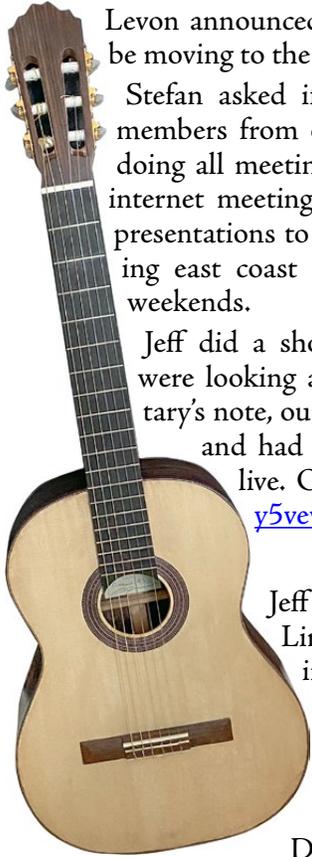
Jim Kelly

drill press.

Part 2 was the sides. The wood for the sides came at about 30" long, 5" wide, and 4mm thick. He needed to take the thickness down to about 2mm, using a Safe-T-Planer chucked into the drill press. [Editor's note: I had not heard nor seen of this gadget. This website has a great video on the Safe-T-Planer.] To shape the sides, he made a template from the guitar shape, and used it to build a bending form, side mold, and for brace placement.

For making the top, which is referred to as the soundboard, usually spruce or cedar is used. He "tap tuned" the wood to

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see how it sounds, cut it to rough shape, and then inlaid the rosette & cut out the sound hole. Both the rosette channel and sound hole were cut with a Dremel and a circle jig. Next, he thinned the wood down until it was floppy, then put in the bracing, which brought back the “musicality” of the top. The braces were installed using a Go-Bar Desk for clamping. The back of the guitar was constructed using a similar process, (without the rosette or sound hole).

The next step was closing the box. “Kerfing” was installed on the sides (to provide more surface area for glue up). He radius sanded the kerf on the back and flat sanded the kerf on top, then cut slots for back braces in the kerf. He did a dry fit and then glued up the back, and then a dry fit and glue up for the top. Next step was to remove the side mold, then trimming the top and back with a trim router.

Next were bindings, which are thin strips of wood on the

edges of the guitar which cover the end grains. He used a “gramil tool” to run around the guitar and score a line. [Editor’s note: to see this being done, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6c739a9>.] Then he cut to the line with a router bit with a bearing. He had to make a special jig to hold the router level/plumb and ran the guitar around it. Then the binding was installed. Binding must be installed TIGHT, using yellow glue and extra tacky tape.

Next was the fret board. Fret spacing is permanent and determined by scale length. There is a fancy Pythagorean way to determine fret spacing, or you can buy a template, which is easier. The template works with a fret saw and a jig.

For the neck carving, since it’s already attached to the guitar body, you start with the heel, and then shape from there. The neck material, cedar, is fairly easy to carve.

Finally, he installed the bridge of the guitar and applied the finish.

Cutting any corners lately?

The club was recently asked for 250 white boards to support a group of foster children who are doing remote schooling. We agreed to help and set about doing so. A call to Anderson Plywood got us 12 sheets of marker board and one sheet of MDF. Each sheet of marker board will yield 21 white boards, so we will be able to provide two more than we were asked to provide. If you haven’t seen one of the finished products at a prior toy build, they have a ledge with a groove to hold markers and two folding legs



in the back to provide an easel like support. Anderson ran out of 1/4” marker board, so we made up the short fall with 1/8” board. I undertook the task to make the ledges of the 1/8” white boards and Chuck Nickerson is doing the ledges for the 1/4” boards.

In addition to the groove to hold the markers, the ledges have a dado in which the lower edge of the marker board sets and round outer corners. The corners have a 1” radius.

By Jim Kelly

Not trusting my freehand band sawing skills, I decided to make a jig (fixture) to ensure uniformity. I used a piece of 1/2” OSB for a base and secured a 3/8” by 3/4” strip of quartersawn oak to the bottom so that the edge of the base was next to the blade of the band saw when the strip was



in the miter gauge slot. I then inset a 5/16” Tee-nut in the bottom of the base, 1” from the edge. My first hole was off a little, so we did a second go round. I next took a piece of 3/4” plywood and drilled a 5/16” hole 1” from each side of one corner and added a countersink so the head of the bolt would be below the surface. Lastly, I mounted two stops on the piece of 3/4” ply to hold the ledge securely in place while cutting the radius. I secured the base to the table of the band saw with a clamp so that the center of the bolt head was in line with the teeth of the 1/4” by 6TPI blade I used for the cutting. It took a while to make this jig/fixture, but the results were well worth the effort.

Some light where you need it...

by Gary Coyne

Mara, my wife, was looking to see what was available to provide more light at her sewing machine. What she found brought her over to show me: the Harmiey Sewing Machine Light (<https://tinyurl.com/y4vj94e7>).

The thing that peaked here interest was that besides showing them attached to a sewing machine was that they were also shown attached to woodworking tools.

These come in double pack (\$14.99), a triple packs (\$19.99), or a single with an extended long neck (\$12.99).



The base has a fairly strong magnet but if you want to attach it to a plastic item, no problem: it also comes with a collection of metal disks with self-adhesive patches to stick on non-magnetic objects. If you look at my drill press above, you can see a “bluish” circle stuck on the black plastic.

With 33 LEDs, these provide a good amount of light and because they are LEDs it does not emit much heat. If you need (or need to suggest) a fast stocking stuffer, this is an easy one



An Extension Stop for my Table Saw Sled

by Gary Coyne

My table saw sled is not very fancy but it's very accurate. Because of this I tend to do most of my cut-offs on this sled. But there are times when I need to set the T-Track stop further from the blade.

I recently had a project that I needed some extra length.



The thing I was concerned about was if I had the stop attached to a single piece of wood, there might be flexing or twisting not providing the consistency I wanted. Then, I realized, that I needed to make it a T-bar-ish.

In these photos you can see the side view of the main body of this extension that it rides along the side of, and top of the T-track already on my sled. I

Yes, we do make a difference...

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire staff at JFS Hope along with the clients we serve, I wish to thank you all for the incredible wooden toys you donated to our program. I was completely overwhelmed this morning when I opened the boxes that Jeff delivered and marveled at your ability to create such masterpieces—all in the middle of a global pandemic!! These have been such challenging, isolating and difficult months, and yet, you managed to create your “magic” so that none of our shelter and counseling center children should feel alone at this time.

Each year we marvel at the creativity and precision that goes into making each toy, knowing that they're all made with love and devotion to your craft. Many of our children have a difficult time during the holidays on a normal basis, but compound that with the social isolation, possible parent job loss and all the rest make it even harder. Thanks to all of you, the kids will have a true celebration this year—even during a pandemic.

There are not enough words of gratitude to express our deepest appreciation to you all for these toys. Know that our families are always overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers and wish they could offer their thanks in person.

The staff join me in wishing you and yours a safe and healthy holiday season. May 2021 bring us all a new beginning with renewed strength and joy!! Please stay safe.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kitty

have several hold along the length to place the T-bolts so that there are always two engaged so as to keep alignment aligned.

The photo of the stop itself shows the screw I always pace at the end when you need that “skotch” of a little bit more or less that is always so challenging by trying to move the T-bolt itself. The last photo shows the whole thing in use.

[By the way, the reason for two “cuts” on the bottom of the sled is that my old saw was one cut, my new saw is the other cut.]

