



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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

We had one new attendee, Joan from Encino who needs to refinish some Mid century Modern furniture.

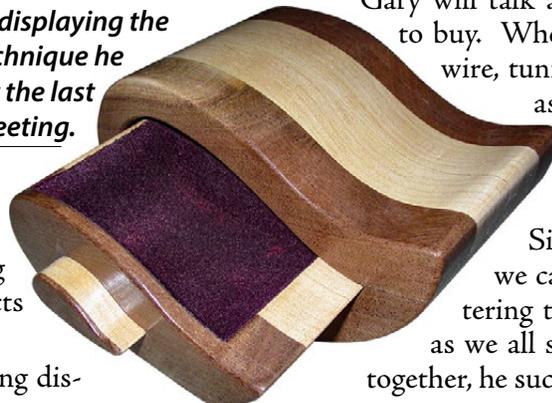
Finance committee reports our finances are fine. While we have a good amount in the bank and a few more bills coming in, but basically there's not much change since last month.

The toy committee reports that we're on track to provide 1200 toys for the holidays. (It's actually 1600 toys because Grant and Dale made 100 sets containing 5 cars each.

For upcoming presentations, we don't have a presenter for November. The man from Microfence is busy, but Check will check back with him in December to see if he can maybe do January or February. Other presentation possibilities mentioned were William Ng woodworking school, Darrel Pert, Brian Miller, and Gary Rigowski, all who charges a speaking fee. We also discussed having club members do presentations on projects they're working on.

See "Minutes" on page 2

You may recognize these bandsaw boxes that Ed Sheanin has made, here they are displaying the "flocking" technique he presented at the last meeting.



In ongoing dis-

Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

By the time I wrote the President's Message, I can testify about woodworking in the California cold. I am no longer wiping drips of sweat from my machines, but I am occasionally reminding my brain to keep track of my fingertips. Gluing up projects is no longer a casual decision either. I used to glue things up in the evening and know it was ready to work on the next morning. Now to be safe, after clamping up I drag the parts into my brother's dining room. Good thing I'm not trying this at home.

This year's toy building success is a testament to our members' commitment and the guiding hand of Jim Kelly. A deeply felt thanks to those who were willing to work around the Covid restrictions and the loss of the high school weekend to get the job done. I certainly hope we can return to normal next year but if not it's nice to know we will get the job done anyway

November: Gary Hersch — A Non-Luther's View of Making a Guitar.

Gary will talk about special tools that he had to buy. Where he bought his supplies (fret wire, tuning machines, wood etc.) And, as one who's never made a guitar before, the skills that he had to develop as well as unexpected problems that he encountered. Simply, here is a meeting where we can learn from someone encountering the need for a new skill set and as we all saw while we were still meeting together, he succeeded extremely well.

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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cussion about fundraising possibilities, we decided to research typical prices of long-grain cutting boards on Etsy. We also talked about reaching out to the quilters to see if they're having a show next year.

Announcements/tips/questions.

Grant still has 95 woodworking books, but we'll likely deal with them when we return to in-person meetings.

Calvin wanted to know if anyone has ever made a horse-hair paintbrush, and if it's worthwhile to do so. Chuck had taken a 2-hour class in it some time ago, and his feeling is the only reason to make your own paintbrushes is if you have access to a supply of sable. Otherwise craft store/art store brushes are just fine. Grant said a place called Tokyo Central in Gardena imports nice calligraphy brushes.

Greg R has an old dirty skeleton clock and asked Tom if he could clean it by spraying brake cleaner on it. He was advised it would be better to get some good clock oil and oil it. Then, use a needle and put a drip of oil on every pivot. Chuck wanted to know if it only keeps time, or does it strike the hour and/or chime. Greg said it keeps the time and strikes the hour, but after it goes for a while it dies. Ed mentioned a website called Klockit that sells oils and clock-works, but Tom said they don't sell skeleton clocks.

Eitan had a tip for band sawing: He was using a MDF template and tracing out his pattern, but when cutting on the bandsaw, he cut wasn't entirely accurate to the line. So what he did was put a tiny washer on a pencil tip and ran it around the template, and when cutting, he cut between the template line and the outer line for the rough cut, and then just trimmed to the intended line with his router.

Tom found a scalpel that's crazy sharp and better than an Exacto. It's from the Micro Mark catalog. [Look for the shopping tips and suggestions on Page 4.]

Manny is replacing windows and wanted tips on what he should and shouldn't do. The tips were: use a good exterior caulking, and put spray foam in the gap between the window and the frame. Several people mentioned that he should make sure it's low expansion foam, because high expansion will move the window out of square. And he shouldn't spray it all the way to the edge.

Marc wanted to know if there's pressure treated lumber that doesn't have the little injection points all over, and what is it called. The answer was that such a product does exist,

Club Officers

President:	Chuck Nickerson	(818) 635-1175 chuckn@srar.com
Program Chair:	Glen Dresser	(818) 980-34932 gombd@aol.com
Secretary:	Ginger Gibson	(818) 506-7261 geegeeburr@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.	(310) 740-6892 jabremer@msn.com
Photographer	Calvin Sov	(714) 457-8910 calvin_sov@yahoo.com
Publisher:	Gary Coyne	(626) 799-4196 gary@thecoynes.com
Librarian:	Grant Christensen	(818) 240-6767 gwc7@att.net
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin	(818) 346-6732 ed@sheanin.com
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly	(323) 254-0837 jimkelly@earthlink.net
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	818-653-4847 sheiladeee@yahoo.com
Refreshments:	Open	(626) 666-6666 needone@needy.com

but no one could come up with a name or other info, and probably someplace like Northridge Lumber could provide more info. It was also mentioned that injection points let the user know that this wood should ONLY be used for its intended purpose, not furniture or for burning.

Jeff announced that elections for club officers are in November. Glen suggested keeping the current officers in place until we go back to meeting in person.

Show and Tell

Tom showed an antique Chinese musical instrument he picked up called paibans, which are somewhat like castanets. He said that he didn't know what kind of wood it was, but they were 500-750 years old. Ed showed a cell-phone amplifier that he made for his grandkids. He made them from Woodsmith plans. Originally he got the plans for free, but currently they must be purchased and are not free. The plans are called "smartphone amplifier" and can be downloaded from Woodsmith.

Jeff showed an end-grain cutting board and mentioned that Ed has pasted the plans on our site.

Calvin showed several items: He made a tambourine-like instrument from flattened beer caps, Then he showed a wooden spatula made of cherry, a different big flat wooden

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:

Ongoing: Beware of counterfeit #M 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-lichtenburng-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.

November 9 – 15: Pasadena Heritage has rebranded its annual Craftsman Weekend to Preservation Pasadena: Craftsman to Modern. The event will be virtual this year. Among the offerings, a 90-minute video A Woodworker's Journey: Discovering Sam Maloof. More information at: <https://pasadenaheritage.org/preservationpasadena/>.

November 20: The Urban Wood Network hosts its first national event virtually. Sawyers and woodworkers are invited to join in and learn about the advancing urban wood movement. More information: www.urbansalvagedwoods.com/.

November 21. Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. Information at: www.andersonplywood.com.

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

In late October I visited one of my favorite places on earth—Yosemite National Park. I got to see once again Half Dome from Glacier Point. When I got home, I gathered up the scraps of my Eastern Aromatic Red Cedar left over from the California piece and decided to carve that majestic part of Yosemite.

Here is an "in progress" image and on the far right you see the completed image.



SHARP blades from MicroMat From the web

by Tom Ferkel

Here is a link for MicroMat. Note: they offer free shipping for orders over \$100: <https://tinyurl.com/y269ukun>

You're looking for item # 50281. They also have other scalpels. #83229 has a large handle that if you need something larger to grip on. For extra blades, do a search for #14573. Then, click on the box with the number (10, 11, 12 or 15) to see the blade design and ordering options.

If you ever have a need to create an accurate right angle on thin stock, # 83261 is a tool I go to. It works especially well on squaring up instrument sides and such. Also 82285 (for finding the center of round items) is one of those things that saves a lot of time when you need to do what it does-it works well.

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spatula, and a carved spoon finished with butcher block oil.

Presentations

We had three presentations for October: Ed Sheanin on flocking, Gary Coyne on buying a bench vise, and Marc Collins on first tools for woodworkers.

Flocking:

Ed recently flocked some boxes that he made for relatives [Ed. see images on first page] and found it very easy to do. To do flocking you need:

- + Flocking fibers (They are reusable, available in many colors from Woodcraft for \$15.49 a bag.)
- + Undercoat adhesive in the same color as the fibers (Woodcraft)
- + A mini-flocker (\$8.99)
- + A natural fiber brush
- + A low-cut cardboard box
- + Wax paper/plastic bag
- + Gloves
- + Mask
- + Mineral Spirits

When sanding, don't make the part to be flocked overly smooth.

Procedure for flocking:

1. Line the sections that will not be flocked with wax paper
2. Fill the mini-flocker HALF full with fiber and SLOWLY put on the top.
3. Stir flocking adhesive
4. Mask off where you don't want flocking to end up. (Unless you can be super careful with your adhesive application.)
5. Apply adhesive generously, but not to the point of

✿ What's the best wood glue (from Project Farm)
<https://tinyurl.com/y6jucmey>

✿ A less expensive paint scraper and how to sharpen it
<https://tinyurl.com/y4cvogwh>

✿ How to build a dovetail box by hand
<https://tinyurl.com/y4vnm7po>

✿ Japanese (no nails) carpentry joinery updated to work on CNC machines for anyone to use and create.
<https://tinyurl.com/yxuhfrp6>

✿ How to build a beer caddy:
<https://tinyurl.com/y47skm43>

✿ A collection of top shop tips
<https://tinyurl.com/y5yz94a9>

✿ A host of sharpening techniques from Lee Valley
<https://tinyurl.com/y3ggxhjh>

✿ Bandsaw pattern jig
<https://tinyurl.com/y6j3z7pq>

✿ Every Stanley Bench Plane Explained
<https://tinyurl.com/y587egbr>

✿ Suggestions and recommendations on cutting plywood for maximizing your plywood.
<https://tinyurl.com/y3azk55r>

✿ Website that optimizes your plywood cutting plans
<https://cutlistoptimizer.com>

✿ Video on using the CutList Optimizer (link above) by "The Newbie Woodworker"
<https://tinyurl.com/yyv28kec>

✿ Online article for the YouTube video seen above.
<https://tinyurl.com/y3hyj925>

✿ The Friend Who Revolutionized My Thinking
<https://tinyurl.com/y5wfpqj>

being runny.

6. Put you item inside the lined box and apply the flocking liberally. Don't worry about using too much because anything that doesn't adhere can be reused. You have about 10 to 15 minutes of working time.

7. Let dry for 10 to 15 hours.

8. After it's dry, use a stiff brush to knock off the fiber that didn't stick.

9. Wait 3-7 days to cure, depending on temperature and other factors.

Bench Vise

Gary recently bought a bench vise and shared some of his research with us.

There are several different kinds of vises: A front vise, also known as an end vise, a tail vise, a shoulder vise, a moxon vise, and a woodworker's bench vise. A front vice closes flush to the edge of the bench top. A shoulder vice has the screw behind the face, so when placing a long board vertically, you do not have any vice parts in the way.

Most vises have bench dogs built in. You should check whether the bench dogs retract all the way. If not, you don't want that vise.

Most vises have some kind of quick release, either you rotate the handle CCW for half a turn or press the Rapid Action lever. But some vises with the half back turn can get gummed up with dust and oil. You might have to take the vise apart to clean it. Other vises have some shielding around the thread to limit/prevent that from happening. [Ed mentioned that if you use a non-oil lubricant (e.g., Teflon based), the thread will not get gummed up.]

Vises have an alignment strip in the back that holds the thread and the two alignment bars. If the strip is thin metal, it will bend, which is often the case with newer, made-in-China vises. Look for vises with a very thick alignment strip on the far rear side of the vise.

Lee Valley vises, made in Europe, have nice thick alignment strips that won't bend. They also have a cover plate, limiting the amount of dust getting on the threads.

Another factor to consider in buying a vise is "toe-in." This is when the moving face is tipped slightly toward the stationary face. This causes the top of the vise's face to make contact before the bottom. When you clamp tight, the bottom of the face also makes contact. This helps hold the wood very firmly. Some vises have no toe-in, such as those from Rocker, while Jorgensen planes were found to have a badly designed toe-in where the stationary face is tipped out. This meant that wood held in this vice was going to be tipped out and in alignment with the stationary face and tipped away from the bench at an angle.

In the end, Gary decided on a Lee Valley 9" bench vise. They also have a smaller and a larger vice, each would be a good choice.

Buying your first set of woodworking tools

Marc's presentation was on selecting good 1st tools for woodworkers. He suggested that new woodworkers can make some decisions about what tools they need by first asking themselves a few questions:

What kind of work do you want to create? Bandsaw boxes will require a different tool than turned pens, for example.

- Do you prefer power tools or hand tools?

See "minutes" on page 6

Erasing the Rust

by Gary Coyne

Every once in a while you learn of a product that may have been around for a while but you just learn about it. But since it's new to me, I thought I'd pass this along to you folks.

Here's the issue: during hot hot days, it's possible you're sweating in your shop and if one of those salty sweat drops onto a cast iron surface, like your table saw, jointer, etc., when you later look at that surface a rust spot is awaiting you.

Fear not, a solution is at hand: Sandflex



These are some kind of abrasive in a silicon block that is used just like an eraser. They come in three grades: course, medium, & fine, pictured above are the Medium and Fine.

I first went after a rust spot on my jointer: this is the original rust spot.



Then this shows the result of first using the Medium



Finally I finish with the Fine Sandflex



The slight discoloration you may see in the last picture is a both a bit of film left on the sanded area as well as the surface is a bit more polished than the surrounding areas. But any texture or change caused by the rust is gone.

Overall I'd give these a strong recommendation. However, From my experience so far, I think for rust spots, all you need is the fine. That notwithstanding, I'm not all that sure how some of you other folks sweat so you may in fact may need the medium as well. They list at \$8.99 at Rockler.

- What kind of lumber will you be using? If you're buying surfaced lumber at Home Depot, you won't need the same tools as if you're buying 8/4" rough cut walnut from a mill.

- What kind of workspace do you have, and what kind of storage do you have?

Regardless, there are a few tools that might be considered must-haves for beginners.

In the hand tool category, these would be a combination square, a hand saw, a chisel set, and maybe some hand planes, such as a #4 smoothing plane or a low angle block plane. An important additional item for this would be a reliable edge sharpening system: dull tools are dangerous and very frustrating.

In the portable power tool arena, these would be a power drill, a circular saw, a sander, and maybe a jig saw.

Moving on to stationary power tools, a good basic collection would be a table saw, a band saw, a thickness planer, a router and router table, and a drill press.

And finally, there are some workshop helpers "jigs" that will come in handy, such as a circular saw guide, a table saw sled, and a miter saw gauge and sacrificial fence.

Overall, the question for any woodworker is what do you want to do? One can always buy less expensive tools but at some point you are faced with the fact that if you buy it cheap you buy it twice.

Shout out to a good company

by Gary Coyne

Many years ago I bought two FastCap rulers (<https://www.fastcap.com>) at a woodworking show. One was the "Lefty-Righty" and one was the flat one (it lays flat on the object being measured but it cannot support itself).

Something I did not expect to even look at was that the measurements on the Lefty-Righty did not go to the edge.

This meant that you had to guess-
timate where the measurement was to mark the wood. This was not good. Then after several years, the flat one had some greasy kind of stuff coming out of it. I thought something had leaked into the ruler so I threw it out.

My current (non FastCap) ruler is showing signs of wearing out so I've been looking to replace it. I went over to FastCaps website and noticed that the ruler's marks did go to the edge. Also, looking over at the FAQ page, I saw someone complaining that their ruler was leaking an oily substance. I called and asked about this and they guy said that they'd replace that ruler, they support their rulers 100%. I asked about the lines on the other ruler, he said

he'd never heard of that before so I send him a photo and called him back. He said that that ruler is ridiculous and replaced them both. But then he said, 'no wait, we're out of the 16', how about if we send you a 25' now and send you the 16' when we get that in'? Below is a photo of the 16' flat and 25' Lefty-Righty (still waiting for the 16').

Picnic Table & a Question

by Greg Golden

This is a rather old hand plane; might be a "router plane" or some such thing. It is not symmetrical. Paula found it at a yard sale some years ago and now it just decorates our living room. Sadly, the blade and whatever apparatus held the blade are long gone. Any ideas from the crew, what this was for?



The second item is my latest picnic table, all from 2X4 redwood. During its construction a couple months ago, I had posted a few questions and photos on the FB group. Finally finished it in the first week of October, just in time to cover it up for winter.



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