

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

We had a few new visitors at the meeting, Charles Corbett of Northridge, Justin Comins of Encino, and Roy, a friend of Gary's. Charles has been doing woodworking for about 2 years, and mostly works with hand tools. His favorite thing to make right now is brushes, and he frequently embellishes them with wire inlay. He contacted the group through Ed. Justin has always enjoyed working with his hands, having rebuilt a vintage motorcycle, and he's just learning about woodworking as he goes along.

Finances

Our Finance Chair (Jeff) reported that we're in pretty fair shape. We have enough funds to get us through the next year. Some folks still need to pay their dues. We can still raise some funds by buying SFVW shirts, or by driving sales to the Etsy store. We are starting to buy supplies for this year's toys.

Toy Committee Report

For the Toy Committee, Jim Kelly reported that we're in pretty good shape. We're making about the same number of toys as last year. Our order for sheet goods has been placed with Anderson plywood, and will be picked up shortly. Jeff and Chuck both expect to be having workdays as we get closer to summer. Grant showed the toy Ford trucks that he and Dale are making (to everyone's admiration). If anyone needs poplar and alder for their builds, there's a lot available. We currently have 60 dolls for 200 See "Minutes" on page 2 cradles. We're

Our President says...

by Chuck Nickerson

First to the club business: Our membership renewal rate has been very high this year. I want to thank all of you for that, especially given the conditions of the last 13 months. Our speaker coordinator Glen Dresser has needed to step aside for a few months. Will someone step up and coordinate getting speakers while he is away? We have ideas but phone calls will need to be made.

As our glorious spring weather arrives some people lose shop time due to competing interests while others gain shop time due to an improved mood. Working in a garage with the big door open, I fall into the second camp. In a burst of enthusiasm, I decided to tackle three projects stalled by creative and (not or) technical challenges. As progress continues to present new challenges my shop motto comes from a Monty Python movie: "Not dead yet!"

If someone were to nail the door shut (OK, me accidentally), I'll going to pry open the window. Maybe not immediately but the next day. So far, the gentle brute force method is working. Ideas are humming, progress is happening, and I am hoping this approach lasts long enough to complete some interesting work.



April Presentation: Stefan Dusedau

An overview of the construction of the piano. Showing building the case, soundboard and laminated pin block. We will also have a view into how they are repaired and the tools required.

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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still exploring options for folks to sew more dolls, but in the meantime, Jim B should have a doll pattern available for distribution for anyone who wants to sew some. The pattern is very simple. The fabric is linen. If someone can sew a reasonably straight line, they can probably sew a doll. Ed will check if the sewing class at El Camino High will help, Eitan will ask someone he knows at Girl Scouts, and Grant will price out commercial dolls as a fallback.

Speakers: We are having a difficult time lining up speakers. If anyone knows anyone who might be a good guest speaker, please let us know (Please see the President's message).

In Announcements, Eitan announced that the Peterson Automotive Museum was reopening at 25% capacity on 3/25, and they were having a friends and family preview day on the 23rd, to which Eitan had 6 available tickets.

In Tips and Tricks, Gary Coyne found a good way to get rid of snipe from the planer. He mentioned that there are a number of things you can do to limit this but invariably, there's always that one piece that gets the snipes. First joint the piece, then plane it, then (if needed) joint it again. Gary did comment that most jointers can be adjusted to remove as little as 0.001-2" but either way to make sure you leave enough so that with the subsequent jointing, you'll still end up where you want. Tom N. has also wondered about how best to combat snipe. Jeff suggested that a good way to prevent it is to have your infeed and outfeed tables about 1/32 above the bed of the jointer. Or apply slight upward pressure on the infeed end when starting to feed, and on the outfeed end as the piece comes out. In further discussion on planing, someone mentioned that when feeding into a planer, you want the grain to be coming UP toward the back of the planer, when viewed from the side.

Jeff also commented that Fine Woodworking online is \$35.00 a year, which is a pretty good deal.

Sam Shanman announced that his shop is always available if anyone needs it.

Jeff announced that he had found a good source regarding planes and sharpening. He found a book/video by David Finck called Making and Mastering Wood Planes which has all sorts of good info. You can stream video from him for a year for \$9.95 [Ed. See the web links for the link to this].

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

For Show and Tell, Cliff talked about how he was watching an auction in Kentucky for a cabinet show that was going out of business, and he was astonished by how many of the items, which were used, ended up going for close to what it would sell for new. The moral of the story is people can get carried away at auctions. If you're unused to auctions, a good strategy is to set your max price from the beginning and never go above it. Another deal will be along later. Eitan mentioned to check Craigslist for local cabinet shops going out of business.

Marc showed 2 nifty new tools he picked up: one was a right-angle adaptor for your drill that allows you to drive screws at right angles to the way that the drill is facing and that lets you get into tight spaces. The other was a contour gauge which has wider-than-normal pins so they don't tend to slip around, and a locking mechanism. The brand was Dadowin, available at Rockler and on Amazon.

Chuck showed a Viking boat clamp that he built, which was inspired by one he saw online that was found where they've been excavating the site of a battle between Vikings and the British. Having used it, Chuck decided that while it was probably great in a Viking boatyard, it is not a 1-person tool. He has ideas to improve it and hopes to have a

Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following events and announcements were found in the March – April 2021 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 focusing on places in the Western US. For more information go to <http://www.woodwest.com>.

Various dates: San Diego Woodturners will have virtual demonstrations by French turner Roman Scheidal on March 20, Cindy Drozda on April 17, Irish turner Pat Carroll on May 15, and Michael Dresdner on June 19. More information at: www.sdwt.org/.

Various dates: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, will host several juried exhibitions, including June 1-30 Inside the Box, September 1-30 Small Treasures and Decem-

ber 1-31 The Art of Giving. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com

April 24 – June 18: The Brea Art Gallery will present Made in California, a juried show in various media with cash prizes. More information at: www.breaartgallery.com

July 15 – 18: The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) 2021 exhibition in Omaha will have the theme Finding the Center. This can be taken literally, figuratively, or emotionally. Entry deadline is March 15. More information at: www.woodturner.org

July 20-23: The biennial Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers (AWFS) Fair will be at the Las Vegas Convention Center. More information at: www.awfsfair.org/.

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sample soon.

Steve Veenstra has been working on his segmenting skills on bowls, and showed a beautiful segmented turned vase he made.

Calvin showed a solid cherry bookcase he’s been building. It is 57” wide, 70” high, and 6.5” deep, and put together with Festool dominos, except for some screws that hold on the Baltic birch plywood backing.

Charles Corbett showed a boar hair brush he made for his brother of Russian olivewood, two silver wire inlaid olivewood brushes, an acacia brush, a beard brush made with a mix of goat hair and boar hair, a shop brush, and a brush made of weeping cherry.

The presentation for the night was Gary Coyne, on how and why he made his Tool Tote.

He made his tool tote to fit into a 3-tiered Ikea cart because he had a lot of tools jumbled up in the top tier and digging through everything wasn’t particularly safe. So, he built the tote to fit exactly into the top tier of the cart.

To keep things organized and also to reduce cutting the bottom’s groove on the side pieces, he placed some blue tape on the bottom part of the outside. This let him know which face and which way to place the board on the router table.

On the side pieces this went all the way across the board but on the end pieces he stopped the groove right before the end so you wouldn’t see the square hole.

To make the dado in the middle of the end pieces and across the middle that was both the perfect size of the handle AND perfectly in the middle, he cut a dado “about” in the middle with a ¼” dado blade. This was measured with a caliper and this measurement was subtracted from the thickness of the handle. This measurement was subtracted

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More Carvings

by Dave McClave

A friend had her birthday in March. Her name is Valerie, and she needed an iPod stand, so I carved this one of redwood and cedar (the rail). It’s nice and light, because the wood is so dry.



The bear is my fourth design for a charcuterie board. Again, the backing is ¾” oak, and the surface is Aromatic Eastern Red Cedar, ¼” thick. She’s having a nice stroll in my redwood grove. Tools—primarily handsaw and Dremel.



The Project That Took Decades to Conceive.

By Greg Golden

This project took decades to conceive (really) and about three months to assemble. Here's the story.

Paula was given these five wooden room divider panels

with Japanese-style latticework and sturdy frames, back in 1987. Each panel was 24" x 90" including the legs at top and bottom. She stood them against the wall, in front of the living room window. And there they stood. I thought they would be more attractive if mounted, but I figured it was not worth the huge effort. So, there they stood for 33 years.

When I retired from my job in 2018, I found myself putting more hours into my woodworking hobby-- no surprise! And in mid-2020, I started doing sketches of how to properly dress up that window while making use of the five original panels. This shows the window with all the clutter removed, ready to measure.



Living Room South Window "BEFORE," Nov.2020



These are a closer look at the detail of the latticework. All the sticks are made of 1/2" x 3/16" Douglas Fir. I believe the outer frames are also DF, measuring 1.2" x 2".

I cut off the legs from the top and bottom of the Panels, bringing the size of each panel to 24 x 80" which would better suit the window. (The window, overall, is 80 x 144".) I sanded the frames to prep for painting. A few of the inner lattice pieces were long gone (broken), but I chose to ignore that detail. I did repair a

few loose tenons at the corners. Then I sanded the frames and cleaned the latticework. Paula took over, painting all the original panels white again — after all those years.

The five Original Panels, placed side by side, were only 10' wide. To cover that 12' wide window, and allow some extra width at each end, I decided I needed 14' of coverage, which would require two additional panels of 24" each. I did not attempt to copy and reconstruct the Japanese-style latticework, but rather just made bold rectangular pieces of 1.2" x 2" solid Poplar wood. All joinery is 3/8" dowel pins and lots of Titebond-2. Paint is white semi-gloss.



Living Room Window Project, new panel, W.I.P., 2020



Here you see the installed header board and the braces. These are screwed into wall studs for structural support.

The Header is 3/4" Vertical Grain Douglas Fir, just wide enough to make the Panels clear the window trim, while allowing space for the LED lighting tracks toward the front.



I had to check the level as I went and shim-out a few of the triangular braces up above to maintain the proper angle all the way along.

I purchased the aluminum track and roller parts from L.E. Johnson Hardware in Indiana. By having three tracks, the Panels can be fairly well grouped to the ends when we want to open them for maximum outdoor light.

Next I purchased aluminum channels for mounting LED lights: One aluminum channel on top and one down below. The LEDs come in rolls 5m long, so I used just less than one roll on top and one roll on the bottom. The channels also include plastic diffuser covers which are installed after the LED strips are glued in place. For this job, my LEDs are 3000K



See "Project" on page 6

From the web

✿ OK, I have to admit that this first submission has nothing to do with woodworking BUT it has a lot to do with engineering, craftsmanship, ingenuity, and mathematics to create a cosmic calculator based on an understanding of how the solar system worked which was fundamentally wrong: The Antikythera Cosmos
<https://vimeo.com/518734183>

✿ 42 Things Every Woodworker Should Know (pdf)
<https://tinyurl.com/2pm22mhj>

✿ A Tool Tote (an alternate construction approach from what Gary Coyne showed at the March meeting)
<https://tinyurl.com/3fccv8v7>

✿ The Book & Video — David Finck Woodworker
<https://tinyurl.com/bb3r85x9>

✿ This site is a discussion on the Stanley planes with some very interesting history as well as a description of all the different types of planes.
<https://tinyurl.com/w6skn43e>

✿ Steam Bending: How to Make a Traditional-style toboggan
<https://tinyurl.com/ft5frx8s>

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by 2 and then moved his fence exactly that amount. Then by cutting the piece, rotating 180° and cutting again, he was able to get the exact sized dado and exactly in the middle.

To accurately measure fence movement, he borrowed an approach from Darrel Pert to use a dial indicator that is fixed to the table saw’s miter groove and then moved the fence just the right amount by following that measurement.

To make the handle, after cutting the wood to the needed width and height, and after marking where the handle was going to be, he cut two holes with a Forstner bit then joined the holes by using his router table with a small bit using stops so that he couldn’t go too far. He’d do one side then the other until he cut through the wood. This was repeated on the opposite side of the Forstner drill holes until the middle piece was loose.

Gary then cut the desired profile of the handle on his band saw and sanded it smooth with an oscillating spindle sander and a disk sander.

Finally, after hand sanding things smooth, he then rounded over the edges on the router table followed by a bit more sanding.

After gluing up, he cut off the ends of the box joints, which he had made slightly long, with a Lee Valley no-kerf saw.

On the side of the tote, he glued on some little side strips that let the tote “ride” on the edge of the cart. (Gary called

✿ Using melted sulfur for “Seriously Simple Sulfur Inlay”
<https://tinyurl.com/r8hkh4ju>

✿ 17 Router Tips
<https://tinyurl.com/3rfr3w7w>

✿ Making your own sawhorses
<https://tinyurl.com/jdtasf2n>

✿ Shop Notes was a great magazine for wood workers in general, but really valuable for beginners. It was discontinued however, here’s a link to get all the issues on a thumb drive.
<https://tinyurl.com/br4edwz7>

✿ Wood Joints: Which Ones Should You Use? (Free download by WWGOA. You do need to provide your email and later, if you do not like receiving their tips, can cancel.)
<https://go.wwgoa.com/A27432/>

✿ Now Available (for Free): “The Anarchist’s Workbench” [Ed: note the link “via this link” underneath the books’ cover photo.]
<https://tinyurl.com/j5hjpewe>

them “pontoons.”) There was no need for complicated joinery, as the glue joint was long grain-to-long grain and was more than strong enough.

To make the previously mentioned box joints, Gary used a Leigh box joint jig. This is the same as their dovetail jig system but with guides needed for box jigs. The jig is ingenious in that rather than moving the wood to a different position the jig’s combs slide back and forth so that movement of the wood is unnecessary. In addition, from the same set of comb teeth, one can cut ½”, ¼”, and 1/8” box joint fingers (plus other sizes as well).

To help support the handheld router, you can also add a dust collector that besides collecting router dust, also supports the router and prevents it from falling off. Unfortunately, its slightly lower than the comb-teeth so you do have to consciously tip the router to a forward position. (Someone suggested that Gary could get some of that very slick tape used on drawers to build up the height of the dust collector. Gary liked that idea.)

Overall, Gary finds that the jig works very well and makes very nice joints. He appreciates the speed it takes to make joints as well as how it can make joints of a variety of sizes. He does recommend getting

Leigh’s spiral router bits as he finds them the sharpest router bits he’s ever seen and great for making these box joints.



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in color and high-intensity (3 bulbs per inch).

Placing an AC outlet up above the window took some finesse: Cut a large hole down below for a wall switch; a hole up top for the receptacle, and dodged the insulation inbetween to pull the Romex cable through the wall.



The LED strips each require 12 volts DC at 2.5 amps. I had bad luck with a 6-amp power supply so I ended up just using two 3-amp supplies. (In hindsight, I wish I had run low-voltage wiring all the way down to the switchbox, which would have enabled me to set up dimmer controls for both LED strips. But with the 120V line feeding the power supplies up top, I cannot put dimmers ahead of those power supplies.)

Another electric item: I used a TP-LINK HS200 wall switch, which can store time schedules and can accept remote commands through a mobile app. We already use these in many rooms,



so it's a nice touch.

This shows the Header structure completed and lit up. Next: Time to build covers over everything.



I made Fascias to cover the headers, lights, rollers, and tracks. We decided they needed to extend about 10" above the Header, and about 3" below. The wood is 3/4" solid poplar. Each piece is rabbeted on the back to allow space for the plastic. The middle area joints are just glued and the vertical end pieces are joined to the horizontal pieces with wood screws and



glue.

For plastic, I used "Acrycast 2447" which is 1/8" translucent white acrylic. It's very durable and easy to work, without shattering. The acrylic pieces are attached to the wood with window "push points."

There are four sections of Fascias. We started mounting them before the plastic was installed, just to judge position and overall fit. So far, so good.

The "top" is done. Almost there.



Panels have been attached to the tracks and rolled into position!



Your article/
add/joke/review
of tool/photo of
what you're do-
ing/photo of
what you did/etc.
could have gone
right here.

Maybe next
month?

Adventures in Lumbering

By Rich Benson

I made a dining tabletop of Carob a few years ago as a retirement gift for one of my JPL colleagues. Carob is a vivid wood, bright red/pink heart and pale sapwood, both showing swirly grain. It's sort of garish when first sawn, reminds me of slicing into a ham with the red/white contrast. With



time & oxidation it evens out somewhat. The idea was that Bob would add steel legs and use it in his retirement home in Fallbrook as a patio table. Imagine my surprise when it came back to me! It turns out Bob's daughter now will use it as her dining room table and likes the idea of wooden legs, curved legs at that. Some of you know that my joinery skills are minimal — so big trouble!

First issue is getting some carob; I found a slab off-cut about 4' x 6'. (\$100 - why is wood so cheap when you sell and expensive when you buy?) Next getting it flattened to 12/4 on my leveling jig. Then drawing curved lines - luckily I have a template for a 20' diameter segment in my shop from a circular bar job a few years ago. Then cutting legs on bandsaw, then matching curved

legs to curved base, then attaching things together. I was determined to leave screw heads showing because this was not a paying job, but of course was dissatisfied with the look so re-did with recessed screws



and plugs. The last picture shows it ready to go. Because I don't want Bob to feel left out, it's only sanded to 100. Final sanding and finish will proceed in Fallbrook. Another urban tree gets a second life!

Another lumber adventure is active in the Big Bear area: a fellow sawyer, Alex Richie (Oak Grove Tree Service, 626 315-0678), is there salvaging ponderosa pine. Alex is sawing 16' logs to 8/4 x 30" x 16' natural edge boards (or



whatever dimension one wants) on a Timber king 1600 bandsaw mill. Alex is asking \$2.50/bf.

Mystery Photos

by Chuck Nickerson

Here is a little mystery: what's to come? See if you can figure it out by May's Show and Tell.

