



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVClub president Jim Baldrige called the meeting to order and welcomed John Fisher's sister, Lynn, who was visiting from out of state. No new members attended the meeting.

Announcements

Next month's meeting will be held at the Encino Community Center, at 4935 Ventura Blvd (corner of Geneseta), not at Balboa Park.

The December holiday lunch will be held at Emily Lichtman's home on Saturday, December 14. [Ed. More details in the next newsletter.]

Board elections will be held at next month's meeting, and nominations are welcome. Greg Massini has been nominated to serve as Treasurer. Nominations for other positions are also welcome: president, vice-president, secretary, toy committee chair.

Jonathan and Jan Nail will be taking over management of the club website from Ed Sheanin (thank you, Ed, for taking care of this for many years!). Jonathan presented two options for a new logo design. Club members shared feedback on the designs, and Jonathan will bring a revised logo proposal to the next meeting.

The toy build is going to be on October

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Our President says...

By Jim Baldrige

As an organization, I cannot be any prouder than having watched our members work in unison together over our

toy build weekend. Success does not come from having good leadership but from the ability of its whole to work together for the common good. This was very evident beginning on Saturday morning and ending on Sunday afternoon. The woodshop at the El Camino Real

Venue Change for the November 21st Meeting ONLY

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the November meeting (only) will take place at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino! This location is one-mile south, just before Ventura Blvd. This is a one-time change due to a Rec & Park clerical error.

Sincerely, Jim Baldrige, President SFVW

Charter High School was akin to Santa's workshop. As members entered the shop and began jockeying for position on the shop floor, you could feel the tension in the air as the start hour approached. And then, without hesitation, that beautiful noise of tools ramped up like an orchestra approaching its crescendo! I knew at that point all was good. The tension released from my soul, and the well-oiled machine ran perfectly all weekend. Now, some may disagree with my analogy, but it is also that hectic goings-on in the background that makes it all run smoothly.

Our success is measured in two ways:

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November Presentation: US!!

Yes, this is the annual Super Show & Tell, where we members show off projects we've made, jigs, toy updates, and virtually anything we want to share with our woodworking family. So, step right up and show us something "neat!"

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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19th and 20th in the wood shop at El Camino Real High School. We will need help that day to assemble and wrap



toys, dolls, and trucks. Members' spouses and friends are welcome to attend. The quilt boutique, where we will sell things that members made to raise money for the club, will also be on Saturday, October 19th. A flyer about the quilt boutique has been made up, so please take one and spread the word. Jeff Bremer asked for two volunteers to help deliver the finished toys to our beneficiary charities. Gregg Massini and Dave McClave volunteered.

Jim Baldrige presented Eitan Ginsburg with a Certificate of appreciation and gift certificate to Lee Valley to thank him for designing and building the club's new workbench.



Committee Reports

Finance: Jeff Bremer reported that our finances are in good shape. We have enough items for the quilt show.

Programs: Emily Lichtman noted that the November

Club Officers

President:	Jim Baldrige
Vice President:	Emily Lichtman
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.
Photographer	Luke Wyatt
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Librarian:	Grant Christensen
Web Master:	Jonathan Nail
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

program is the Super Show & Tell, which we hope all members will participate in. As mentioned, we will have the club holiday lunch on December 14th at Emily's home! The club executive committee will organize the 2025 presentation schedule, so suggestions and volunteers are welcome.

Safety Presentation

Eitan showed the Peke respirator/mask he purchased earlier this year at a woodturning conference. He explained that it is light and easy to put on and remove. The respirator is powered by a small, rechargeable battery and includes a full-size face shield. These features have made it comfortable and easy to use, so he uses it more frequently than his previous protection equipment. He passed it around for members to try on. Several expressed interest, and he will contact the company to ask if they can give a presentation to the club.

Questions, Tips, Tricks

Dave Feiner showed 80- and 120-grit sanding sticks he bought on Amazon.

Luke Wyatt showed a sanding block that uses 5" Velcro

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Balboa Recreation Center Location
Map courtesy of Google Maps

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sanding disks. A pair of these blocks cost \$10 on Amazon.



Emily Lichtman asked where she could find drill bits smaller than 1/16” in diameter. Jeff said these are called wire-size bits and that he would bring some for her.

Jeff Bremer explained that he has been reorganizing his show and tool storage, reminding mem-

bers of the expression: “Put it back, don’t put it down.”

A member asked if he started his bandsaw without tensioning the blade, if it was better to turn the saw off and then apply the tension, or if he should tension the blade while the saw was running. Everyone cried out, “Turn the saw off first!” A member noted that it is good practice to align the blade so the teeth’s gullet rides on the crest of the bandsaw tire,



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the 1100 toys we produced and the 1100 children who will benefit from them. Unfortunately, due to privacy issues, we do not always get to see their smiles, but as former children, we all know the joy of receiving a gift!

A special thanks goes out to Jim Kelly and all of the members of this year’s Toy Committee, whose all-year preparations made this build possible. Through Jim’s leadership and organizational skills, he has once again navigated our ship on a successful voyage.

Most importantly, we must pay homage to those individuals and organizations that have helped us in the background. Swaner Hardwood and Anderson Plywood, thank you for your generous material donations. Without these two organizations, we could never afford to build even half of the numbers we produced this year or any year prior.

We also need to recognize the continued efforts of the Valley Quiltmakers Guild and the San Fernando Valley Quilt Association for their generosity in providing us with quilts every year.

There were also the wrappers of Nancy, Nina, Lynn, and Beverly, who diligently married the dolls to cradle and quilt with ribbons and the block trucks that came their way!

Also, I want to acknowledge all of the family and friends who came out and assisted with the build. Everyone had a great time!

Finally, to our three doll makers, Beverly, Mary Rose, and Doreen, who provided 129 hand-made dolls that, when added to our surplus from last year, put us over the top. Every cradle made received a doll and a quilt.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and commitment to the children we help to enrich over the holidays,

Let the sawdust fly,
Jim Baldrige

with the teen projecting off the crest.

Luke asked how he could determine the finish of an old piece of furniture. John Fisher said that if it was commercially made, it would probably be a spray lacquer. He could test this by applying a few drops of lacquer thinner to an inconspicuous area.

Jim Baldrige offered the tip of using only one measuring device per project to avoid variations between them. Not every tape measure is the same.

Show & Tell:

Marc Collins showed block trucks he had been preparing for the toy build made from a mix of species.

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Chuck Nickerson showed a sample of some old veneer he found in his shop. It is probably a rotary-cut walnut burl.

Steve Veenstra showed a bowl he turned from scraps embedded in resin.

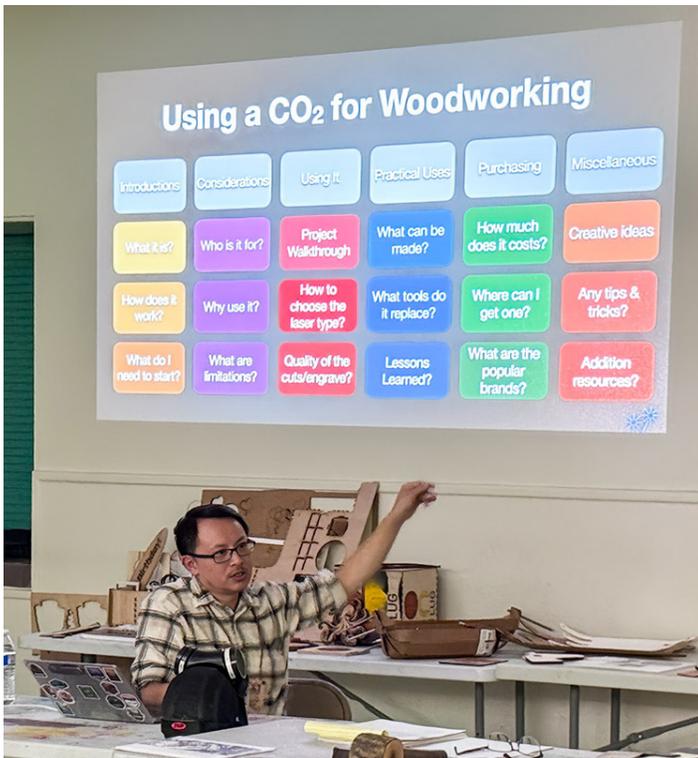
Jonathan Nail showed a chisel plane he made from an extra Hock plane blade he had. The blade is held in place in a groove and with rare-earth magnets.

Jeff Bremer demonstrated a portable shoulder vise he made from walnut, maple, and beech using an inexpensive vise screw from Lee Valley. He lined the jaws with leather.

Emily Lichtman showed a variety of earrings she made. They make great holiday gifts and are available for purchase.

October Program: CO₂ Laser

Calvin Sov offered a presentation about the CO₂ laser



he has been using for his woodworking (and more) since the beginning of this year.

The laser he bought has the capacity to work on a piece up to 48 x 32 inches (or even a full sheet of plywood using a pass-through feature), and he can lower the bed platen

down 17-18" below the laser. You can also use a rotary fixture to engrave round objects. The laser moves on a gantry and is guided by a computer CAD program called "Lightburn." The laser power can be set to do a light engraving or cut wood up to 1/4" thick. His cost for the laser, software, dust collection, and shipping was about \$7000.

Calvin noted that laser equipment comes in different sizes and powers. The diode lasers are the least expensive (\$200-\$1000) for small hobbyists. A CO₂ laser is the next step up in power, speed, and capacity. Up from that is an RF (radio frequency) laser and, finally, the most expensive, a UV laser.

Making a project starts with creating a file in Illustrator and then opening it in the Lightburn application. Calvin recommends doing a sample board first that shows the results from using the different laser power and speed settings. The cutting lines in the drawing are then defined in Lightburn. You align the piece, determine the "home" point for the CAD, and run a test board. The workpiece needs to be truly flat for the best results. He uses magnets, wedges, or a carrier jig to align and hold the workpiece. If you haven't moved the workpiece, you can define partial portions to go over and burn again to cut entirely through a portion of the workpiece.

He noted that you should always wear PPE when using laser equipment and that your eye protection must match the color/type of laser you have. Lasers are also loud and create dust, so you also need effective dust collection.

He showed several projects he'd done on the laser, including rubber stamps, signs with pictures and letters, and router templates. He explained that the laser is excellent for cutting corrugated cardboard (for furniture mockups).

The benefits of adding a laser to your woodworking tools include:

- Cutting perfectly straight and precise lines and applying an elaborate picture to a workpiece.
- It can work on a variety of materials
- It has multi-tool uses
- You can use it to make multiples of one design.
- You can do an entire project quickly.
- The downsides of the laser include:
 - It takes up a lot of space, both for the laser and dust collection.
 - You must monitor the process while it is working because it can be a fire and safety hazard.
 - It requires a level of computer knowledge to calibrate and use the software.
 - It can be expensive.
 - You are limited (at this level) to working on flat or rotary pieces.
 - Because it cuts with light, the cuts have a slight angle or conical shape.
 - There is a limit to the workpiece's size and the cut's depth.

From the Web

----- Tips, Tricks, and How-Tos -----

- 📌 7 COOL Homemade Tools that WOODWORKERS really need!
 - ♦ Several easy-to-make jigs & fixtures to help you in your shop. And it's fun to watch his development process (including hits & misses).
<https://tinyurl.com/ykftf88j>
- 📌 This is why I don't build chairs
 - ♦ Lots of good advice on his process
<https://tinyurl.com/2uzf2weu>
- 📌 DIY Floating Frames that Anyone Can Make!
 - ♦ An easy-to-make frame well presented by the Wood Whisperer.
<https://tinyurl.com/2hwmcpkn>
- 📌 An Absurd Number of Table Saw Tips | Tricks for Better Table Saw Cuts
 - ♦ A good basic breakdown with many tips to solve issues.
<https://tinyurl.com/bdfne9r4>
- 📌 Learn why woodturning tools catch and how to avoid this potentially dangerous situation
 - ♦ Pretty self-explanatory
<https://tinyurl.com/2d46722k>
- 📌 The Brilliant Router Trick NO ONE Seems to Use
 - ♦ Once again, Inspire Woodcraft has a great idea that lets you sneak up on a final cut on the router table.
<https://tinyurl.com/y6hwm8cx>
- 📌 Make Exact Copies with this Must-Build Lathe Jig
 - ♦ Since I do not do lathe work, I can't speak for how good this really is, but it seems to be a viable approach to multiple objects of the same shape.
<https://tinyurl.com/yvbb4snh>
- 📌 An Absurd Number of Wood Box Making Tips & Tricks
 - ♦ There's probably at least ONE good tip in here for most people; other's lots more. YMMV
<https://tinyurl.com/3uts3wkb>
- 📌 The Clever 10-second woodworking trick I use to impress people
 - ♦ Making half-lap joints on the end, middle, and at an angle can be easy
<https://tinyurl.com/2s3vztwd>
- 📌 An AFFORDABLE power saw that won't cut fingers off!
 - ♦ Tips on using an oscillating saw cutter.
<https://tinyurl.com/ywvsvdfe>
- 📌 8 Top Tips to Master Pocket Hole Joinery
 - ♦ Basic tips for both newbies and advanced woodworkers.
<https://tinyurl.com/23xmv5sz>

- 📌 Heritage of Kumiko Crafts
 - ♦ This 25-minute video shows the entire process of making Kumiko
<https://tinyurl.com/38yeewas>
- 📌 Make a Sine Bar for perfect angles First Time Every Time!
 - ♦ Not only does the speaker show how to make a Sine Bar, he also adds a number of other tips and tricks along the way.
<https://tinyurl.com/yck98ee3>
- 📌 A Simple Hack That EVERY Woodworker Needs | Alex Snodgrass Woodworking Tips
 - ♦ How to place a magnet on every pencil — simple and neat.
<https://tinyurl.com/5bcbjuar>
- 📌 Add This to Your Crosscut Sled. Thank Me Later.
 - ♦ Adding a block behind your sled also helps catch sawdust (who knew).
<https://tinyurl.com/39ftjkk3>

Reviews From the Web

----- Comparisons and Observations -----

- 📌 Kreg MortiseMate Review - Should Festool Be Worried?
 - ♦ A good review of a potential competitor to Festool's Domino.
<https://tinyurl.com/y8txwvs2>

Dave's Work

By Dave McClave

My sister in law Dee Dee turned 70 last month in Fraser, Colorado. They have a vacation home nestled in the Rockies, and the night of her birthday, it snowed as you can see in the photo in the back mountains. She still likes to cook and entertain, so I fashioned yet another board for entertaining—an authentic “sharkuterie” board. It's Eastern Red Cedar on a plywood backing. Rocky Mountain High!

