EST. 1988
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
WOODWORKERS
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## March presentation:

The May 15th 7 PM Presentation will feature Steve Sampietro discussing how to provide a 2nd (or 3rd) life to tools you might get at a swap meet.

## Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes April 17, 2025 meeting

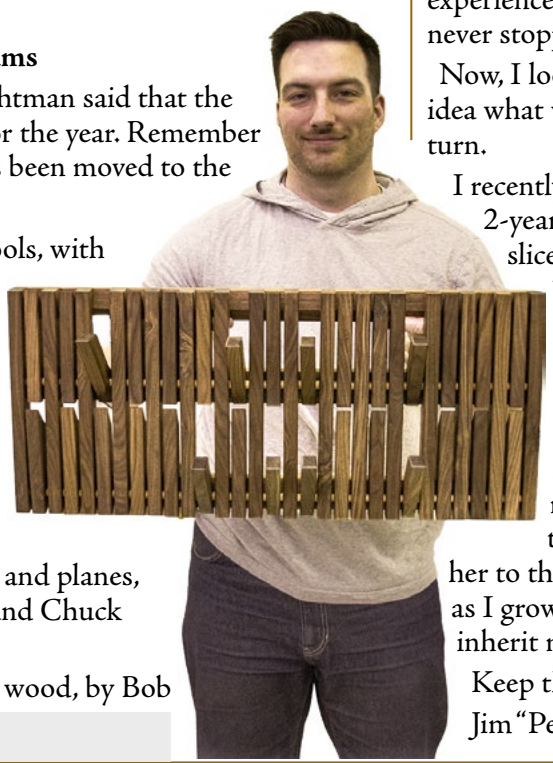
Club president Jim Baldridge began the meeting by asking new people to introduce themselves. Brittany has been doing woodwork for 15 years, mostly furniture and construction. Greg has recently retired and has been doing woodworking occasionally over the years. Tom has recently relocated to Los Angeles and has done all kinds of woodworking. Zach is new to the craft. Nicole is also new and has been doing garden projects, such as planters.

Jim announced that Patrick will be hosting tours of JPL in Pasadena for club members. The tour will be on May 16th and is full, with nine people. There already is a waiting list, but you are free to add to it. He will try to organize another one in the future.

**Programs**

Vice-President Emily Lichtman said that the program calendar is set for the year. Remember that our June meeting has been moved to the 4th Thursday, June 26th.

- **May** – Buying old tools, with Steve Sampietro
- **June** – Windsor chairs, with Jason Gallagher. [***Note: this ONE meeting will be one week later than normal on June 26th.***]
- **July** – Card scrapers and planes, by Stefan Dusedau and Chuck Nickerson
- **August** – Science of wood, by Bob



*See "Minutes" on page 2*

## Our President says...

By Jim Baldridge

**Teaching the Next Generation**

Recently, I attended my first official class to learn how to turn. A process that seemed so intimidating that I was initially hesitant to purchase a lathe. But I am now a lathe owner and a novice turner.

This whole process got me thinking about why I was so hesitant. The answer was as plain as the nose on my face; I had never learned how to turn before. It's that feeling we all had as children when we first learned to ride a bike. We wanted to, but we were afraid to do it. Then one day, someone bigger and smarter than us convinced us to give it a try. For me, it was my dad who had a really "polite" way of telling me to pedal faster! Wow, what a frightening experience. Then, that one day, when it all came together, I never stopped pedaling.

Now, I look back and realize it was just because I had no idea what was required of me, similarly, learning how to turn.

I recently watched my daughter attempting to teach her 2-year-old how to butter a piece of bread. That poor slice lost the battle, but we had some great laughs. Then it dawned on me how my granddaughter must have felt to learn such a simple task.

I took this as a learning moment. I have decided that every chance I get, I will take her to my shop and introduce her to woodworking. Making sawdust is a fun and adventurous event; no mystery is involved. I look forward (and long) to the point that she wants her "Peeta" to take her to the shop when she visits! This will be my legacy as I grow old. Maybe, just maybe, she will be the one to inherit my tools.

Keep the sawdust flying,

Jim "Peeta" Baldridge

## 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.


**Balboa Recreation Center Location**
**Map curtesy of Google Maps**

## Club Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| President: | Jim Baldridge |
| Vice President: | Emily Lichtman |
| Secretary: | Eitan Ginsburg |
| Treasurer: | Gregg Massini |
| Photographer | Luke Wyatt |
| Publisher: | Gary Coyne |
| Librarian: | Grant Christensen |
| Web Master: | Jan Min |
| Toy Chair: | Jonathan Nail |
| Toy Distribution: | Sheila Rosenthal |
| Refreshments: | Greg Golden |

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Behnke from Titebond

- **September** – Vacuum veneering, with Chuck Nickerson
- **October** – Annual Jigs & Fixtures meeting
- **November** – Super Show & Tell
- **December** – Holiday party, date TBD.

### Finance

Treasurer Greg Massini said the Alan Boardman wood and tool sale was great, and our bank balance is now very good. Jeff Bremer said we will still try to sell some Japanese tools, and he would like some help understanding the Japanese blacksmith marks.

### Toy Committee

Jonathan Neil reported that we've received about two tons of lumber donated by Swaner Lumber. Also, Jeff needs help putting shellac on toy wheels.

*See "Minutes" on page 4*

## Drum Sander for Sale

**by George Gawlik**

A long-time retired member, George Gawlik, has a Performax/Jet 22-44 Plus Drum Sander he wants to sell.

Jet Tools bought the Performax company and now sells the 22–44 Plus Drum Sander. New, this drum sander sells for about $2000. George is selling this for $800 including sanding belts. He thinks he's used it about <100 hours. You can find a review of this tool here (https://tinyurl.com/mr2dp5at). You can reach George at 818 455-1125 or gawlikgeorge@gmail.com

## From the Web

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

✎ **Kickback videos**
- *Need I say more?*

https://tinyurl.com/yzkpsbyc

✎ **Standing behind a table saw blade**
- *Yet another demonstration about kickback*

https://tinyurl.com/59h7sx2j

✎ **Clever measuring trick made me feel DUMB!**
- *Some good, some bad, some you know, and some you don't*

https://tinyurl.com/mr2huhre

✎ **Building a Door with 5,000-Year-Old Techniques**
- *A young woman, a bowsaw, a plane, and pinch dogs.*

https://tinyurl.com/4bbxnaya

✎ **I Don't Get Why People Use These Hacks**
- *Going through a bunch of web tips and tricks and which one is good and/or bad.*

https://tinyurl.com/3fx6ufec

✎ **This Toy Carved The Nicest Table I've Ever Made**
- *This Spirograph table is about as good an example of how to tackle a job that keeps on throwing you curve balls as I can think of. Great problem solving and fantastic results.*

https://tinyurl.com/5adkrx4a

✎ **Table Saw Locking Miter Joint**
- *If you've made Drawer-lock Joints and want to take it a step up, here's your chance.*

https://tinyurl.com/6w49k7dz

✎ **Get the most out of Veritas power tenon cutters**
- *Instructions on how to use this tool*

https://tinyurl.com/35szh65

✎ **Make sharpening easier with diamond stones**
- *Among the many approaches to sharpening your tools, diamonds are one of them*

https://tinyurl.com/mwjrh32r

✎ **Hardwax Finishes Overexplained**
- *A great review of the available options with tremendous depth of information.*

https://tinyurl.com/yyndas5f

✎ **Make your own bow saw**
- *For those who like making their tools…*

https://tinyurl.com/4n59td4n

✎ **32-Year Leather Maker Shares His Best Tips**
- *While it may seem odd to focus on a leatherworker, what stood out to me is that everything he emphasizes applies to woodworking, metalworking, and even computer activities. This master uses leather to illustrate what it takes to improve at what you do.*

https://tinyurl.com/bdew5ap4

✎ **Why your Shooting Board won't work, and how to fix it!**
- *If you use a shooting board, you probably should see this*

https://tinyurl.com/mpk8ru73

✎ **The Case for Bevel-up Planes**
- *The author makes a good argument for Bevel-up plans and also provides recommendations for a spectrum of capability.*

https://tinyurl.com/2eun2aru

## More on Mortises and Tenon

Below are various ways of making mortises and tenons. None of them is the best way. We hope this variety shows you some ways to do it and helps you decide which is best for you. Each method uses a different choice of tools and approach, and hopefully you'll be making beautiful joinery very soon. Just keep in mind, practice, practice, practice.

✎ **Super Tenon Jig**
- *More complex than really necessary but this will do it all.*

https://tinyurl.com/4d8wpus6

✎ **Make a Tenon Jig for the Table Saw (Mortise and Tenon Jointery) | Woodworking Jig**
- *A more basic (not ultimate) but very good jig*

https://tinyurl.com/dxtxs5ym

✎ **Table Saw Tenoning Jig - DIY Table Saw Jig**
- *And one more basic tenon jig design*

https://tinyurl.com/3b545h2j

✎ **How To: Make a Mortise and Tenon using only the Router Table/Woodworking How To**
- *Good explanation with extra tips for this process*

https://tinyurl.com/muhtsp5e

✎ **Fifteen videos for Mortice & Tenon by Rob Cosman**
- *The master hand-crafter shows how he does it.*

https://tinyurl.com/jsuhdmuy

✎ **10 - Tenons Anyone? - Review of Mortise & Tenon Options**
- *The practical hand-crafter, The Wood Whisperer, shows how he does them.*

https://tinyurl.com/mb8bt6xa

✎ **Cut Tenons on the Bandsaw**
- *What I like about this video is the emphasis on accurate bandsaw setup.*

https://tinyurl.com/3syry8wu

✎ **How to make a Mortise and Tenon Joint - The Three Joints**
- *From the other master hand-crafter, Paul Sellers*

https://tinyurl.com/4rwz6utj

✎ **The Paul Sellers' Mortise & Tenon Method**
- *This is quite different from the other ways to make the mortise and tenon. This may give you other approaches you hadn't considered.*

https://tinyurl.com/bub8hs48

✎ **Uses of the Shoulder Plane**
- *Designed to clean up tenon shoulders, they can do a lot more.*

https://tinyurl.com/yxkwkeur

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### Safety

Bob Bilyeu talked about safety on the compound miter saw.

- Push cuts help because the blade comes down and moves towards the wood.
- One hand operates the tool, so you won't have two hands on the wood – be careful.
- Get the blade to speed before you put it in contact with the wood.
- Go slow when you're making through cuts.
- Let the blade come to a full stop before pulling it out. This is even more important when working with small pieces, as they will not fly around
- Fully support the wood on both sides, don't do small off-cuts. Depending on the size of your saw, a "pint" tin can might be just the right height to support long stock.

- The dust collection on these saws suck so wear a mask and use a dust hood as much as possible. [Editor's note: There are a number of 3rd party adaptors that can help dust collection. I've used Shop Nation (https://tinyurl.com/mtnv625v) with considerable improvement.]

### Q&A

Bob Bilyeu is looking for a source for replacement planer blades. PowerTec was suggested.

Christian said that he built a crosscut sled, but it is slightly off 90°. Greg Rogers suggested looking at the Tom McLaughlin video on how to adjust the fence as long *as it has not been glued down* [https://tinyurl.com/p4877rv2]. Chuck Nickerson suggested using automotive feeler gauges to measure the gap.

### Tips and Tricks

Dave Feiner demonstrated how to fix an induction motor. He brought a motor that was not working, disassembled it, and explained how to test the capacitor and the starter switch. When he finished, he turned it on, and it worked perfectly.

### Show and Tell

We apologize, but we did not get the name of the gentlemen who showed his "flip-down" coat hanger. Nonetheless, we placed it on the front page. We can give you your deserved credit in next month's newsletter.

Jeff Bremer showed several different honing guides. Jeff likes the Lie-Nielsen side-clamping guide the best ($150). They also sell extra jaws to hold small chisels and skew blades. The Bridge City guide is expensive and finicky, so he doesn't recommend it. The Veritas system costs $90.00 for the two basic parts, or you can get a five-part set for $170. The Veritas is good, but he was concerned that the 2nd bevel wasn't parallel to the basic bevel. After the meeting, he contacted Lee Valley, and they assured him that this is more of a visual issue, and the actual difference between them was inconsequential.

We finally had the award for the driftwood challenge after several months of delays. The first place was won by Jim Baldridge and for his work, Dave McClave won the "The Art of Coloring Wood" by George Miller.

### Program

The March program was about different ways to do mortise and tenon joints, by Gary Coyne and Eitan Ginsburg. They divided their presentation into several sections and used a computer slide to guide viewers through their talk including videos. First, they discussed what a mortise and tenon is, and recommendations on achieving the strongest joint. They also showed the mechanics of the chisel.

First, Gary showed how he hand-cuts a mortise using a mortise chisel. Then, in a video, Eitan showed how he cuts a mortise by drilling out the primary section of the mortise and then uses bench chisels to clean it up. Eitan also showed how he cuts a mortise using a router and a jig

*See "Minutes" on page 5*

# I made a new BBQ cart

## by Gary Coyne

Before we moved to South Pasadena, our house in Van Nuys had a porch, and I put our Weber on the ground, to the side of the porch. That made it easy to put down any tools or plates as I cooked away.

Soon after we moved to South Pasadena in 1996, I started BBQ one night's dinner, and when I went to put some tongs down, there was no porch to place them — nothing! I needed a cart pronto.


The next day I went to Home Depot, bought a bunch of dog-eared redwood, and put together the cart seen above (using some training wheels from my kid's bike). That lasted almost 30 years. Finally, after doors started falling off and the wood was obviously past its prime, I realized I needed to make a new cart (again), pronto.


This time, I wanted better quality wood than the dog-eared redwood. I called Bohnhoff, but they did not have any redwood in stock. They suggested cedar, which seemed fine, so I told them I'd be there the next day. (It's fun to go to Bohnhoff because you can go through and select the wood you want.)

When it was time to pay, the salesmen told me how lucky I was to get the wood before the tariffs hit. The bill, as it was, was just under $1200! The thing I obviously failed to do over the phone was to ask how much a board foot cost. I told him that my wife would kill me if I spent that much on a BBQ cart! (When I told my wife this story, she agreed.) I asked if they had anything good for outdoor furniture that was not as pricy. He suggested I get No. 2 Common Sugar Pine, which is fine for outdoor furniture. Plus, it was only $2.91 per board foot. I also bought a quart of Anchor Seal to seal the ends against splitting.

After cutting all of the pieces, I coated all of the ends of the wood and the knots.

Let me add that the rep I dealt with at Bohnhoff was fantastic. He didn't flinch when I balked at paying for the cedar and was very happy to show me the sugar pine. If you're unfamiliar with Bohnhoff and can work with raw wood, it's a great place to buy wood.

Later, I bought some regular wheels and did not re-use my kid's trainers.

And if you're curious about the numbered plate on the back of the cart; when I was in Europe in 1977-78, I bought a used car to get me around. This was the plate for that car.

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he made that straddles the wood.

Next, Gary showed a video on how he cuts the mortise on a mortiser. This was followed by a demonstration of his Stop System for his mortiser. This lets the user set the location of the mortice (in relation to an edge of the wood) and one end. Then, using stops, he cuts everything else out. Assuming you've equally cut all the pieces, cutting mortises is extremely fast and consistent.

They showed a video of Eitan making a tenon on a band saw, followed by how he cleans up and fits the tenon with a shoulder plane.

The next video showed how Gary cuts the shoulder of a tenon, following on from how he uses a tenoning jig to cut a tenon.

The last video was about how to glue a tenon into a mortise to limit (and even prevent) errant glue from spreading everywhere.

Finally, Eitan showed how to cut a tenon by hand and then clean it up to fit the mortise.

# A Medicine Cabinet

## by Gary Coyne

Every once in a while, you embark on a project that should be straightforward, but ends up being a very long trail.

It all started when I was cleaning up and found some small pieces of quarter-sawn white oak that I got somewhere, somehow, and I have no memory of where they came from — but they were beautiful. My wife and I had been talking about me making a medicine cabinet for the downstairs bathroom, maybe these would suffice. After drawing up some plans, it quickly dawned on me that these boards were not going to be large enough to use. So, a trip to Bohnhoff was made.

I had planned to have a glass window in each door. That went by the wayside when I saw the gorgeous rays in the wood. So, one of the simple changes was to "not" do something. Fortunately, I was able to get some boards that were wide enough so that the ray patterns crossed over the entire front.

I wanted a door would open from the top and end up as a small shelf when opened. Unfortunately, I had not fully mulled over how the door would be attached, and what I made was not a viable door. So, that whole plan was also dropped. Yet, I still have an opening on the bottom. I considered having just an open area, but finally felt that a shallow drawer would be best.

I wanted the rays (mentioned previously) to transcend both doors and the drawer front. This meant the grain would go up and down, but the dovetails must be made into the grain, not against it. So, I made a veneer of this wood for the front and glued it onto the wood used for the front of the drawer.

Because the drawer was so shallow, I didn't want people to accidentally pull it out, so I made a stop that's a short piece of wood that rotates. If it's facing out the drawer can go in or out. Rotate it 90°, the drawer cannot be pulled out. Unfortunately, the shallowness of this drawer limited how far it could be pulled out — a reasonable compromise in this case.

In the image, you can see the square hole to let the stop pass through. You'll also see two holes in the back for the screwdriver to access the screws holding the knob on.

To keep the doors closed, I used magnets. I used 6 mm rare earth magnets (8 mm would have been better). To increase the strength of what I had, each set was paired up, back to back. I made a block for the doors to stop at the inside at the top. This block can slide back and forth to set the closing of the doors.

I chose to make my knobs with a scrap of ¾″ wood and cutting a region off the top on both ends. Then, cut the piece into one-inch strips. This was then held in a secure jig to run across a bullnose router bit to carve the inset. Unfortunately, there was some burning of the wood. Fortunately, I had a burr I purchased from the family of a member that had passed away along with a Fordom tool (think if this as a Dremel on steroids) that made removing the burn regions a snap. I prepared some square holes to receive some ebony buttons I had made. After (a lot of) sanding, they were ready.

The two shelves were made from the original pieces of white oak I had found in my shop.

The completed cabinet was fumed in ammonia for about 5 hours until it was sufficiently dark, then coated with the Maloof finish.

The back is inset 5/8″ to hide a French Cleat. The other half of the French Cleat is screwed into a 2x4 in the wall and is completely hidden by the cabinet.

And, as with any project, it had its share of "oopses" and "whaaa???," but I managed to overcome these issues and make a project that was pretty much what I had hoped for.