

## June presentation

Join us for June's exciting presentation [*Note: the presentation will start at 7 PM*], with guest speaker Jason Gallagher on Windsor chairs. Jason will walk us through the process of Windsor Chair making with traditional tools and discuss the many facets of making these timeless chairs. Check out his [website](#) for a preview of his incredible work.

## Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes May 15, 2025 meeting

Club president Jim Baldrige began the meeting by inviting people who submitted “club challenges” last month to describe their pieces. Chuck Nickerson created a sculpture of swimming fish made from Allan Boardman wood and driftwood, mounted on thin wire. Dave Feiner turned a kiddish cup from a Christmas tree stump. Marc Collins built audio speakers (and played them for us) using sapele and bocote from the Allan Boardman sale. Jim Baldrige built a birdhouse using driftwood along with extra dowels and redwood strips.

Jim asked new people to introduce themselves. Elena is new to woodworking and wants to build a chest for her husband. David has been doing woodworking for just a few years.

### Announcements

The JPL tour is tomorrow. [A few photos from the tour can be seen on Page 6.]

Brittany said she is giving away a dado blade set. She is going to do volunteer work in France on a project reconstructing a medieval castle.

Steve Sampietro said the Old Tool Swapmeet will be this Saturday at Anderson Plywood in Culver City.

Marc Collins asked anyone who will be doing a presentation to check with him beforehand about AV connections and needs. He will also be putting a form together about this.

## Our VICE President says...

By Emily Lichtman

I have the pleasure of writing the Message for our newsletter this month, and I am taking the opportunity to talk about the durability of woodworking. Not just of the things we make in this hobby, of the furniture, art, toys, and cabinetry that will last decades and hopefully be passed through generations, but the durability and longevity of the hobby itself.

I got into woodworking in my mid-30s. I had the luxury of being a “DINK” (double income, no kids), so I had time and resources to spend learning and exploring this versatile hobby. I started with some wood art and got into turning, and things just evolved from there. My husband is a golfer, so I would often have chunks of time on the weekend to spend in the shop, creating and working on whatever had my current interest. I invested in equipment and supplies and joined SFVW. It was good times.

Exactly a year ago today, as it happens, my son was born. Needless to say, having a baby changed my life completely, and where I have gained a joy so immense that my heart can hardly hold it all sometimes, I have, admittedly, lost a great deal of free time. Though I wouldn't change it for the world, I do sometimes mourn the loss of a Saturday in the shop just to futz around and create.

I have gotten some time in the shop over the past year, but it is far less than I had before my son was born. But you know what, as much as I

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## 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 courtesy 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

### *"Minutes" from page 1*

Greg Golden asked if anyone owns a 14" Grizzly bandsaw.

### Reports

Finance: Treasurer Greg Massini we are doing well.

Toy Committee: Jonathan Neil said that he is working on simplifying the treasure chest design and build. We need to recruit a new coordinator to work with the receiving charities – please contact Jonathan or Jeff Bremer if interested. Most of the coordinating work takes place between August and December.

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

- **June** – Windsor chairs, with Jason Gallagher
- **July** – Card scrapers and planes, by Stefan Dusedau and Chuck Nickerson
- **August** – Science of wood, by Bob Behnke from Titebond
- **September** – Vacuum veneering, with Chuck Nickerson

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### *"Vice President" from page 1*

miss it, I know it will be there when I am ready. Woodworking is the kind of hobby that you can pick up and drop or leave for decades, and it will always take you back. My tools will still be there, the wood will still be there, and they will be ready when I am. As evidenced by the incredible work of my fellow SFVW members, I could have 40 more years of woodworking ahead of me, if I'm lucky. I am sure we have all had times in our lives when we have ebbed and flowed in our ability to woodwork, and I know I will come back to it one day. So for now, my shop time is scarce, but it just makes it all the more sweet when I can get out there. Someday, hopefully, my son will join me in the shop, and we can spend a whole Saturday just futzing around together. I can't wait.

## All of Luke's Photos

We can only put in so many photos in each Plane Talk. If you want to see more of Luke's photos, here's the link! These are not broken down by month; it's the whole caboodle but they are in chronological order.; oldest on top and the more recent on the bottom.

<https://adobe.ly/4eBtuQQ>

## From the Web

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

#### What wood and finish work best outdoors?

- A good breakdown of woods, finishes, and compromises for outdoor furniture.

<https://tinyurl.com/2yrtbmhn8>

#### Meet the Robots Revolutionizing the Wood Products Industry | 7robotics Shop & Story

- This is “wood-adjacent.” This tour of a robotics company shows how machines can do what humans do not want to do, and do repetitive work continuously and safely.

<https://tinyurl.com/msxaeB48>

#### Rob Cosman LIVE! - Saw Sharpening (26 APR 2025)

- Discussion of theory and practice of why and how to sharpen a saw, along with a variety of other tips and tricks.

<https://tinyurl.com/3yrmn34s>

#### 10X your tool storage with this one simple build

- If you have a machine-tool cabinet in your shop whose drawers are too shallow, you may want to check out this woodworker's solution to the problem.

<https://tinyurl.com/3hbwa34s>

#### The Easy Way to Plane Hardwoods by Hand | Planing Hardwood

- Tips on setting your plane for both soft and hard wood. Also discussed is setting the frog for bedrock planes.

<https://tinyurl.com/3nc2dbf3>

#### My jig saw is SO MUCH BETTER since I learned this!

- A good comparison of Jigsaw features and tips on use functions.

<https://tinyurl.com/munwa5dz>

#### Did I Pass the Woodworker test?! Making Drawers & Door | Workbench Build Part 8

- If you want to see a very good craftsman that is out of his wheelhouse. How does he deal with his mistakes?

<https://tinyurl.com/5xswdryb>

#### 7 DEADLY Circular Saw Mistakes Most DIYers Don't Know They're Making | + 2 Most Overlooked

- Pretty self-explanatory

<https://tinyurl.com/5n72458p>

#### You're Probably Wrong About These Harbor Freight Tools

- A review of some Harbor Freight tools, comparing them to other tools. Reasonably fair and appropriately deep.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5w6ymtw>

#### 10 tips to improve your shop dust collection

- Not rated by importance or ease to do, a collection of 10 tips

<https://tinyurl.com/5npvkxe7>

#### Are cheap track saws a scam?

- A round-up of tools that James Hamilton recommends

<https://tinyurl.com/4dtpdnpi>

#### Cutting many thin strips

- This is a very interesting fixture to make a whole bunch of thin strips the same thickness.

<https://tinyurl.com/narfe2kc>

#### Moving Super Heavy Stuff (By Yourself)

- Lots and lots and lots of tips on lifting heavy things

<https://tinyurl.com/ufpyw6w>

#### Bandsaw Pattern Cutting

- A simple fixture to do bandsaw cutting, so you do not cross the line for subsequent flush trimming.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycys4u6k>

#### Hole Saw Pro Tips (+The “Plug” Trick)

- A bunch of tips on using a hole saw, including suggestions on what to look for when purchasing a hole saw.

<https://tinyurl.com/4vda3eez>

#### Hisao Zen - DIY Japanese Joinery

- If you're interested Japanese joiner, check this out. Unfortunately, the videos are chopped to numbered pieces. Since YouTube does not display numbered videos in the sequential order, it's not easy to see the entire process. Even in pieces, there's a lot to learn.

<https://tinyurl.com/bd4v5rn3>

#### My \$32 Fix for Woodworking's Biggest Hurdle

- The issue is very long boards that need to be ripped but do not have a straight edge on either side.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dkxkuwm>

#### The Ultimate Guide to Woodworking Clamps

- More about clamps than you ever thought to ask

<https://tinyurl.com/y3kfx5wt>

#### Dovetail jig for bandsaws.

- What it says. For pins, you're still on your own.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycujck97>

#### Bandsaw Magic - Making a little known trick a little more known

- A neat trick is broken down and how it can be used.

<https://tinyurl.com/3tkr2fhm>

#### Reticulated wood storage compartment door

- Something for those free moments you may have

<https://tinyurl.com/3rpvr3p>

#### I Don't Get Why Stain Companies Do This. It Ruins Projects

- A good comparison of dyes, stains, and gel stains

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxy8yat>

### -----Reviews-----

#### What's The Best 12v Drill?

- If you're shopping or wanting to upgrade, some thoughts

<https://tinyurl.com/4y482vu3>

#### Bosch 18V brushless planer

- If you've ever considered getting a hand planer, here's a good review

<https://tinyurl.com/576yuu6k>

- **October** – Annual Jigs & Fixtures meeting
- **November** – Super Show & Tell
- **December** – Holiday party, date TBD.

**Snacks:** Greg Golden said we are set for next month.

**Website:** Jonathan

Nail announced that our new website has been launched



McGuire suggested the club have a presence at next year's LA County Fair.

### Tips & Tricks

Gary Coyne said he reworks the inexpensive furniture dollies from Harbor Freight. He makes a new frame of 2 x 4s, 1 x 4s, whatever, where each of the four corners will be underneath the legs of the new furniture piece. Then he removes the wheels from the dollies and places them at the corner of the newly made frame. This will now support large pieces that he can easily move around his shop during construction, finishing, and other tasks.

Dave Feiner said that he added a radiator in front of his air compressor intake to cool the air down and keep it from overheating.

### Safety



Stefan Dusedau addressed safety issues related to drill presses. He said that drill presses cause the largest number of injuries, although

## Headlamp

by Steve Sampietro

I use a flashlight multiple times each day. I started using Acebeam's H16 headlamp for hands-free illumination, and found it to be vital in the shop when I'm trying to see the cut line. It renders color accurately, is easy to switch on, holds the lighting angle, and can be detached from its headband for clip-on use. The photo shows headlamp's illumination with a band saw.

It comes with a USB-C-rechargeable battery and a cable. Amazon, \$49.



not necessarily the most severe ones.

- Clamp pieces to the fence or table, and support round pieces with a V-block

- Use safety gear and make sure the electrical connection is grounded

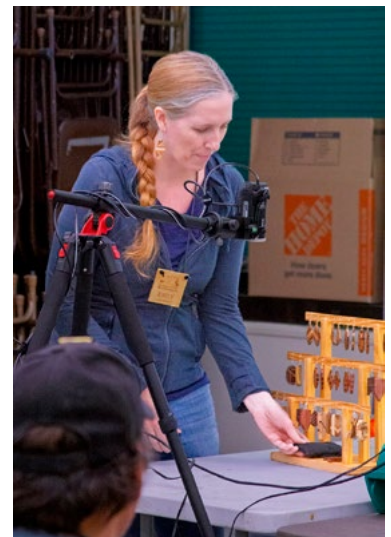
- Make sure the table is locked in place and is clean and clear.

- Make sure the drill bit is securely tightened using all three holes on the chuck.

- Adjust the speed for the size of the drill bit and the material you are using.

- Periodically reseal the chuck in the quill by pressing it firmly down on a piece of 2 x 4.

- Keep safe by focusing on the tool and where your hands are.



### Show and Tell

Jonathan Neil made a two-sided marble game from mahogany and maple. One side is a solitaire game, and the other is a 4x4 Tic-Tac-Toe game. He dovetailed the lid and used a router bit to make the depressions for the marbles.

James McGuire used edge-glued 1/8" bloodwood mounted on pine to make three framed pictures using a scrollsaw. One for his motorcycle club, one featured Dodgers player Shohei Ohtani, and one with a Toyota 4Runner.



Emily Lichtman showed a new batch of wooden earrings she made using wood from the Allen Boardman sale. These featured new patterns and were finished on her Bealle buffing system. A suggestion was made to try vacuum clamping to make the sanding and finishing process easier and safer.

Mark Ashley made a doll bed for his granddaughter out of walnut and redwood.



Tom Heavey made a CNC carving of a topographic map of the San Fernando Valley.

Rich Benson brought in red gum and per-

simmon blanks he cut to give away that could be used for wood body planes or turning. Each is approximately 3 by 3 by 18 inches. He is also giving away some Jorgensen hand screws.

### Program

Steve Sampietro gave a talk about buying and restoring old tools.

He gave a brief history of Stanley maker marks from different eras. He said that their Bedrock plans have inspired Lie-Nielsen planes. They feature squared off-sides and the frog can be moved to close or open the mouth without removing the blade. Lie-

Nielsen tools are characteristically "overbuilt." Lee Nielsen also promoted the "ruler technique" that creates a back bevel on plane blades. This enables faster sharpening. It should not be used on chisels.

Lee Valley has made its reputation by innovating new designs for tools, such as set screws on the sides of plane blades and powdered metal blades.



Steve addressed some advantages and disadvantages of buying new versus vintage tools.

For hand saws, many new saws have impact-hardened blades that cannot be sharpened. On the other hand, new boutique makers can provide custom tooth profiles. Vintage saws (which do not have "hand holes"), can be sharpened; however, many you find are likely to have rust, kinks, or worn handles.

Used bench planes can be found at less expensive price points and be refurbished to be useful for years in your shop. You can buy upgraded aftermarket blades, such as Hock or Lee Valley PMV 11, which are thicker and have matching cap irons. When looking for old hand planes, watch out for cracks, rust, and soles that are out of flat. It can also be hard to find some parts. Be aware that some Stanley screw threads are non-standard. New hand planes are often more expensive and come from limited product runs; however, they often feature beefier builds, premium metals and blades, are machined more precisely, and may have adjustable toes.

A good source on eBay is Pete Niederberger's Tools.

Which old tools are useful? Steve prefers a #3 bench plane, which is slightly smaller than standard smoothing planes (a #4 or #5). Be sure to check that the tool is complete, with no cracks, brazing, or welding. Also, verify that the leading edge of the mouth is not chipped and that the screws are not stripped.



For block planes, you can get both standard and low-angle planes. If you get a rabbeting block plane, get one that still has the nickers. When looking for a drawknife or spokeshave, be sure the handles are securely attached and that the soles are not ground down – it should have a flat, black back.

Don't buy ship auger bits if there is any damage to the tip region. That is, be sure that the screw tip is not missing or damaged, or the scoring wings of the bit are damaged.

For braces or crank drills, check the chuck to make sure the parts are tight.

For saws, the teeth and handle should be complete, and there should be no kinks in the blade.

For chisels, only get them if the backs are undamaged from grinding. He prefers socket chisels to tang chisels.

One of his favorite old tool finds is the Stanley #48 tongue-and-groove plane, although it is hard to find spare parts.

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Just about any old plane can be used as a scrub plane for fast stock removal.

On a router plane, check for damage or missing parts. Steve feels the new router planes are generally better.

When it comes to wooden molding planes, he suggested leaving them to the experts. However, they do look great on the wall.

He offered some tips for restoring old tools.

He said that saw sharpening is a complex skill but is learnable. Start with a coarse, rip-toothed saw.

Bench planes can be tuned and fettled using fine files and homemade emery boards. Flatten the front edge of the cap iron so it sits clean on the blade. The sole of a plane can be lapped flat, and the most important areas are the toe, front of the mouth, and heel of the plane. You can use wet-dry sandpaper on 3/8" float glass to lap the plane. Rotate the plane orientation after a set number of passes each time to prevent bias when doing this step. It's not important to lap the sides of a plane unless you plan to use it for shooting.

Soak brass parts in Coca-Cola or ketchup to restore their



luster.

Steve makes custom plane screwdrivers from fender washers by grinding the profile and thickness.

If a tote is loose, even though the screw is all the way in, you can remove the screw and trim one or two threads from the end.

If you were going to shop for old tools, a good inspection kit would include a headlamp to keep your hands free, a toothbrush to remove grime, a paint stick to check for flat and sharp edges, and a flashlight with a 4000 to

5000 Kelvin bulb.

*(Something special)*

*Early Views of the San Fernando Valley*

(and I mean early)

<https://tinyurl.com/5n6dfpy9>

## *Photos from the JPL Tour by Patrick Phelps*

*Photos by Stefan Dusedau*



The Assembly Room



The Group



One of the machines in Patrick's shop