EST. 1988
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
WOODWORKERS
LEARN — CRAFT — SHARE

September's presentation

September's presentation is an introduction to vacuum veneering by Chuck Nickerson. Vacuum veneering has a troubling reputation because, if poorly done it can come unstuck and it requires 'gearing up.' Chuck will cover how simple it can be, some low-cost approaches, and the design doors it can open.

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Goldberg

SFVW – Minutes August 21, 2025 meeting

Club president Jim Baldridge welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the rec center moved us to a new room because our old room is now a permanent preschool classroom. Jim also passed out free glue and glue brushes, provided courtesy of tonight's speaker, Bob Behnke, and Titebond.

Program

This month's program features wood and glue science, and what it means to a woodworker, presented by Bob Behnke from Titebond. Besides a fantastic presentation, Bob also brought a container of their Drip-less glue, a glue-brush, and an apron sized Titebond III for all of us and some gallon containers of Titebond III for the toy committees work.

Bob began by describing the natural, physical properties of trees and lumber, noting that wood expands and contracts with changes in humidity. Hardwoods and softwoods are not defined by their actual hardness but by their growth properties. He noted that tension wood in hardwoods is stronger because of an increase in cellulose in the cells, while tension wood in softwoods is weaker, due to greater amounts of lignin.

He explained that glue interacts with wood by sticking to the cell walls (cellulose) of wood fibers, not the pores. Tropical woods produce oils and chemicals to repel insects in their natural habitat. These interfere with a cellulose bond, so it helps to wipe these woods before gluing with acetone until the rag wipes clean. This removes the oils and attracts a little moisture, which helps the

See "Minutes" on page 2

Our President says...

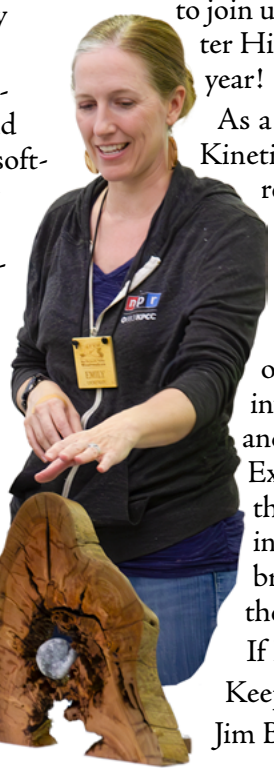
By Jim Baldridge

A few words of interest from your president.

So many things are happening in the Club that it's hard to keep track of everything. If it was not for those members in the background keeping things moving along, I would chew off my fingernails!

For those not in attendance at our August meeting, the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers got the "boot" from our regular meeting room, permanently. However, our new room seems much cozier, and I would ask that everyone bear with us while we adjust the new "digs."

Our Toy Committee members are feverishly completing preparations for the upcoming Toy Build weekend on October 18 and 19. Please mark your calendars and prepare to join us for final assembly at the El Camino Charter High School. This is truly the highlight of our year!



As a reminder, November's meeting will be our Kinetic Challenge meeting. So, if you have not already started to build something get those creative juices flowing. From simple to complex it does not matter as long as it moves!

Finally, as we approach the year's end it is time to begin thinking about election of officers. This is a great way to be directly involved in what takes place at the meetings and behind the scenes. Each position on the Executive Board will be up for election. All that is required is a commitment of one year in the position you are elected to. If you have brilliant ideas but are afraid to say it now is the time to have your voice heard.

If I can do it SO CAN YOU!!!

Keep the sawdust flying,

Jim 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	(818) 590-6054
Photographer	Luke Wyatt	
Publisher:	Gary Coyne	
Safety Coordinator:	Bob Bilyeu	
Web Master:	Jan Min	
Toy Chair:	Jonathan Nail	
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal	
Refreshments:	Greg Golden	

"Minutes" from page 1

glue bond.

Only two layers of cells within the bark are "alive." Each year, one layer is added to the bark, and one layer to the sapwood.

Bob described the milling of a log into lumber and its characteristics when drying. Radial movement is from the center of the log towards the exterior. Tangential movement is along the lines of the rings and is usually twice that of radial movement. Longitudinal movement (up and down the length of the log) is insignificant. Quartersawn and riftsawn boards are more stable.

See "Minutes" on page 3

Not sure how long we'll have access to this flip board pointing out where the meetings now are at the Balboa Sports Center. If you did not attend the August meeting, we will no longer have access to the larger room that we've used for many, many years. At least not for the foreseeable future.

So, if you see the flip board, follow it. If you do not see the flip board, go into the smaller room anyway.

"Minutes" from page2

In green wood, free water is found within the fibers and will drain out. Bound water is within the cell walls, and drying this water is what causes wood movement. Moisture equilibrium in the Los Angeles area is about 4-8% in the dryer regions, and 8–12% near the coast.

Glue lines can become noticeable as a project dries or picks up moisture. If the wood is sanded too soon after gluing, the glue line will be proud of the wood because the wood shrank after the sanding. The glue itself can introduce moisture and temporary swelling.

Titebond Quick & Thick glue is flexible after drying. It's a good product to use for trim and moldings because it doesn't drip. It reaches the putty point after about 15 to 30 seconds and dries a translucent white. (In response to a question, Bob said that Titebond II bonds well to many metals, such as steel, iron, and copper, as well as stone.)

Bob explained the code stamp on the tight bond glue bottles. For example, in the stamp A250408102, the A stands for glue produced in America. The next 6 digits represent the year, month, and day the glue was produced. The last three digits are the batch number.

Most glues have a shelf life of about two years in a hot environment, but can last up to 10 years in a climate-controlled environment. If a water-based glue gets thick,

you can add up to 5% of the volume in water. You can also add dye to the glue to color it.

Clamping is to hold pieces in place until the glue dries. It's not needed beyond that.

Business meeting

There was one new attendee. John Kong said he is a friend of Greg Rogers, who turns on a handmade lathe. He is now a member of the SFVW.

Jim said that Mark Collins needs help with the block trucks and invited people to sign up for either September 6th /or September 20th.

Jim reminded members that the build challenge for November is to make something kinetic. He said to read the president's message in the August Plane Talk for examples. The projects will be judged at the November meeting.

Reports

Finance: Treasurer Greg Massini said we in good shape in our account with most bills paid. We currently have 59 paid members [Editor: now 60]. Dues for the remaining half of the year are $20.00 for new members.

Programs

Vice-President Emily Lichtman said the remaining programs for the year are:

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

Toy Committee

Jonathan Nail said our toy build weekend will be October 18-19 at the El Camino High School wood shop.

Safety: Jim said everyone should have a first aid kit in the wood shop and to be sure to keep it up to date.

Tips and tricks

Eitan Ginsburg passed along two things he heard from Vic Teslin on the Fine Woodworking podcast (https://tinyurl.com/c4ehdk6w)[Note; there may be a pay wall in front of that link.] . First was the expression that there is nothing sure in life but death, taxes, and wood movement. Vic also had the expression "don't moose it." By this, he means don't try to get too much done at once, or force something too hard. It's better to do things in small increments when working on your projects, which helps avoid mistakes, breaks, and unsafe practices.

Jim Baldridge said he got LED task lights at Harbor Freight (https://tinyurl.com/5ev99k89) that have made a huge difference for his work at the drill press and router

See "Minutes" on page 5

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 from our meetings, here's the link! These are in chronological order.; oldest on top and the more recent on the bottom.

https://adobe.ly/4eBtuOQ

From the Web

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

✎ **A REALLY clever way to use your router bits!**
- *A bunch of examples on how to expand your router bit capability without buying new bits.*

https://tinyurl.com/24es6xj6

✎ **99% of DIYers Don't Know These Tape Measuring Tricks**
- *I wish he had said "all" of these tape-measuring tricks," but there are some of these I did not know*

https://tinyurl.com/ycrhpwzz

✎ **Spray finishing in a small shop? You bet!**
- *They whys and benefits of spraying, even how to do it inside*

https://tinyurl.com/y5yhznc6

✎ **1844 Desk at Buckingham Palace**
- *Should this be a challenge for next year?*

https://tinyurl.com/ywx8mpbs

✎ **The 10-Second sharpening trick REALLY WORKS!**
- *A preview of sharpening approaches and a simple system to make sharpening fast.*

https://tinyurl.com/2a28zxb6

✎ **How to Check a Tape Measure for Precision AND Accuracy**
- *Less than a minute to learn how to check your tape measure.*

https://tinyurl.com/38n9ccdr

✎ **10 Woodworking Workshop Upgrades | Enhance Your Shop's Organization and Functionality**
- *It's more than just organizing the shop, it's having the right location to put your stuff.*

https://tinyurl.com/9vnhpj3k

✎ **NEVER SEEN ON VIDEO: This may have saved my fingers!**
- *I've never used an angle grinder, nor do I have any need for one. But this is something you may want to check this out if you do use them.*

https://tinyurl.com/dt6wxt6d

✎ **Goodbye, Extension Cord Woes [Here's How to Wrap 'Em]**
- *A fantastic breakdown of how to wrap/coil/chain extension cords*

https://tinyurl.com/39zm85ew

✎ **Winding Sticks.**
- *What they are and how to use them*

https://tinyurl.com/4z5watn3

✎ **4 Simple, Shop-Made Router Jigs**
- *As stated*

https://tinyurl.com/yc73vnh8

✎ **Woodworking Guide to Safety and First Aid**
- *A good rundown on what's needed and what to do on a large range of potential issues, both small and not so small.*

https://tinyurl.com/3v2n925v

✎ **This Tiny Upgrade FIXES a HUGE Woodworking Problem!**
- *Demonstrations and links to small companies (plus one big one) solution to woodworker's problems.*

https://tinyurl.com/ykmsrk9u

✎ **Arts & Crafts Inlay**
- *One approach on how to inlay both silver and ebony to create a classic pattern.*

https://tinyurl.com/24nrnp7m

✎ **5S Your Workshop for Efficiency, Comfort, Safety, and Fun**
- *I think with unlimited space we all could do this, but even in a limited manner, this has good advice*

https://tinyurl.com/5ek77f4d

✎ **Build Stronger, Sag-Proof Shelves**
- *Suggested dimensions and recommended species. Lots of information.*

https://tinyurl.com/yc6cahjd

✎ **4 Tips for Dovetailing by Hand**
- *This is more of finetuning what you may already know to get better results.*

https://tinyurl.com/3tm6444a

✎ **Mortising on the Drill Press**
- *This might be the hidden secrets to getting good results.*

https://tinyurl.com/4zeuwcan

✎ **Seamless Curved Panel Glue-ups**
- *Normally, our glue-ups are cut on the table saw and fine-tuned on the jointer. However, to preserve the flow of the grain, we may want to cut our boards on the bandsaw. So, how to we match one curve to the next board? Here's an answer.*

https://tinyurl.com/3ms4ec6r

✎ **Three Ways to Make Edge Joints**
- *There's always different ways to do the same thing. Some may work for one job and not the other.*

https://tinyurl.com/yemef5bj

✎ **How to Install Butt Hinges**
- *They look like they should be simple. If so, your problem starts there.*

https://tinyurl.com/2wym5n6e

✎ **Glue FAQ - WOOD magazine**
- *A good explanation of the differences between Tightbond's glues, as well as examples of where to use each one. If you missed the talk by Bob Benke, this covers a lot of the same material. Also, there is a game changer at 25'18".*

https://tinyurl.com/ye23ebh7

"Minutes" from page 3

table. They also help reveal defects in the finish by shining a raking light on the surface. Gary Coyne mentioned that he has small LED lights (called Sewing Machine Lights) from Amazon that he uses his drill press, mortiser, and other desktop tools. (Amazon: https://tinyurl.com/3akvxwwa).

Don Emerson said he has a foot switch that controls a task light, a dust collector, and a machine, all of which are wired together to a single foot switch. The switch is commonly called a "Dead-man switch" because as you take your foot off, power is cut. You can get this one at Amazon (https://tinyurl.com/muxzuy8h).

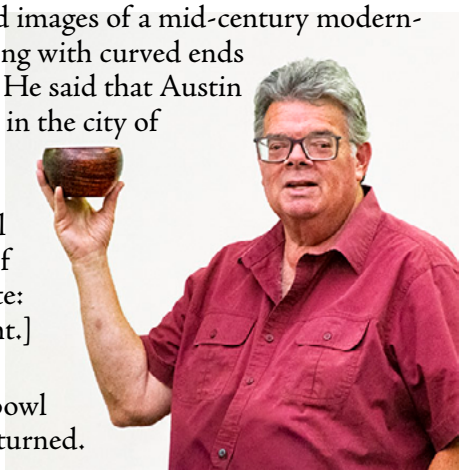
Show and Tell

Mark Ashley showed pictures of kitchen cabinet doors that he made from rough wood.

Jim McGuire brought several he made by scroll sawing of automobiles, and one of a Star Wars club logo.

Emily Lichtman showed 2 sculpted walnut cookies with crystals mounted in them. She said she was experimenting with different finishes, such as lacquer and shellac.

Luke Wyatt showed images of a mid-century modern-style desk he is making with curved ends and credenza doors. He said that Austin Hardwoods, located in the city of Orange, offers great prices and a wide range of tools as well as a great selection of hardwoods. [Ed. note: see article to the right.]

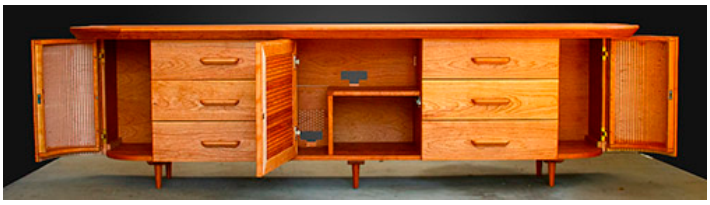


Chuck Nickerson showed a cocobolo bowl that Steve Veenstra turned.

Luke's New Desk (in Progress)

by Luke Wyatt

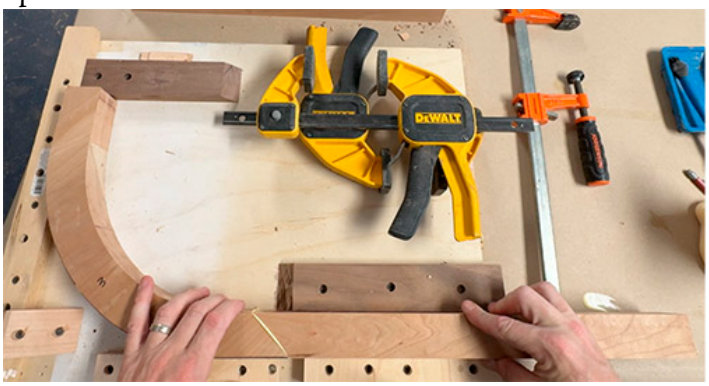
I recently started building a desk in the same style as a project I completed a few years ago for a friend. I really love



the curved pieces from the sides of the credenza and wanted to implement those features into a desk. Using the same 90

degree curve pattern from the first build I traced the outline onto 8/4 cherry stock. I then used a bandsaw to get as close to that sharpie line as possible and then finished up the curve with 2" flush trim compression router bit. I made 13 pieces and then added straight

pieces to them to complete the leg. I made a glue up fixture to properly brace the curved piece for the leg addition. Thumbs up for making work easier! Stay tuned for more updates as I continue.



From Power Tool Enthusiast to Medieval Hand Tool Apprentice. Part II

by Brittany Joiner

Since I last left you, I have finished up the lid of the chest, complete with handmade dowels, box joints, planed logs, and very tired hands.

The panels that went into the lid, and consequently, will go around all the sides, are made thusly:

We bring a large log of French Oak from the woodsmen's shop to the menuisier shop. Before they are cut it in half to a more manageable ~18" long, the wood is held down with log dogs, and this is the squaring process, before I've cut them down. The second log photo is the same log that goes under those log dogs to be squared. It's just been dragged into the courtyard for squaring, the step before the log dogs.

Wood that is getting squared

Then the log goes to a stump with a wedge cut into it for stability, and I use a froe and a cudgel to split the log in half from the top.

You read the lines on the wood to try and follow the grain, so it'll want to split as evenly as possible. Now, the log is halved lengthwise, and you want to remove the outer bark layer and the layer beneath it.

Further along in the squaring process

I used a froe placed just past the bark and outer ring and split those layers off. I could then take an axe and get a bit more off where the split went wonky.

Now, it's onto the shave bench and the drawknife to refine the planks, removing a lot of the roughness and excess material so that they'll fit into the grooves I made on the perimeter of the lid.

Froe

Cudgel

I liked this activity because 1) I finally get to sit and work- we never sit at the shop 2) It's a bit meditative. I spent quite a few hours working on this, getting manageable planks for the lid. Then, I took those planks and squared the edges with a small plane.

Moving a freshly "cleaned up" log.

Next, I attempted to fit them all into the groove I chiseled out in the lid, but as it is wood, and quite imperfect, there is warping and waviness in the wood, which makes it hard to lay flat or fit right. A bit of Tetris (and more planing) is involved to make it all fit together. This took a few days.

[*The small box you see to the right on this photo is a bee keeper's box for repair — this is, after all, a community.*]

Planing is the final step for squaring the board

The final planks

Once all was nicely tucked into the groove, I drilled 2 holes in every corner of the lid, through all six layers of hard French oak. Then I made dowels from wood castaways, chisel-shaving each one down to size, and then hammering them in, cutting, and chiseling them flush with the top and bottom.

This was temporarily interrupted when I had a much-needed break with a lovely 10-day visit from my husband, and we traveled all over France.

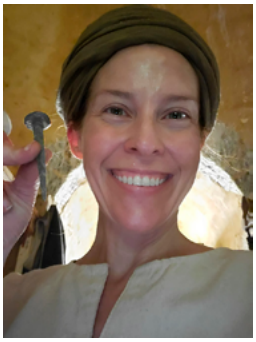
Up next were the legs of the chest. We carried massive

See "Castle" on page 7

"Castle" from page 6

logs from the woods to the shop, then hammered log dogs into them to steady them for the cut. I used a plumb bob to create my straight reference lines at the ends, allowing me to square the log. A "chalk" line is snapped on either side.

Next was the hardest (physical) job I've done so far. Using an axe to make this rough log into a squarish plank. You gouge the sides every 12" in V's so the material is removed somewhat easier. Then you use the side axe to hack away until you are as close to your reference lines as possible.



My nail and I

I don't have pictures of me doing this, as this is where the visitors (we get 2–4 k per day) flock to you and watch your every move, asking questions and judging you on your very first time doing this extremely hard job. (My least favorite part of being here. Along with older French men telling my coworkers that they're shocked a woman is in the shop, and to get the English out of France.)

Squirrel cages provide the power

Then I cut the rough plank to the lengths needed and plane it until they are nice and square. Legs are done!

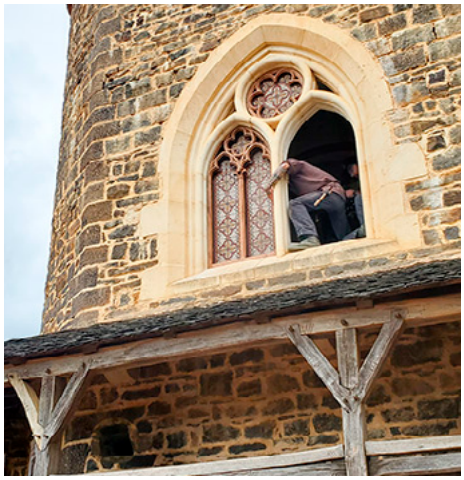
My planing has improved immensely, and I now know how to sharpen and adjust the plane. I also ripped a long, planed plank in two with the frame saw, and it was the most accurate cut by hand I've ever done! I am undeniably getting more skills (and muscle!)

In between tasks, I've gotten to make a nail at the blacksmith forge. I've also helped power the squirrel crane that lifts stones to the masons on the outer wall. That's always fun!

My coworker, Simon, got to install the windows he carved by hand for the chapel: a 4 year project for him. My other coworker, Nicholas, has made a new lid for the well and a stool for the leather shop.

We have probably 4 or 5 squirrel cages on site. The one that is mostly used is located on the walls of the castle; it's a bit hard to see in the photo. That's the one that I've gotten to power a few times. In the picture, it's located near the corner of the castle closest to the forest in the background. Up high.

Until next (medieval) time!
À bientôt!



At first glance it appears that Simon is installing the window by himself high above the ground. If you closely look behind him, you can almost see someone holding onto his belt.

You can see one squirrel cage in the lower right-hand corner. That's not the one that Brittany is powering in the photo on the left.

An article from the Guardian magazine:

'It's back to the future': the 13th-century castle built by hand in France

- *A quarter of a century after our first visit, the Guardian returns to Guédelon to find old-fashioned toil has built "thoroughly modern" architectural laboratory*
- *https://tinyurl.com/4nea46h5*