

January 19 event: Clock Rebuilding Demonstration with Tom Ferkel

Tom Ferkel is presenting a program that he presented to his clock group last November. It involves giving new life to a wooden clock case from the 1870s that was rescued from the trash. Tom will discuss his decisions, steps and considerations, along with some tricks and tips, while focusing on restoration verses conservation. See you at 7 PM.

Meeting Minutes

by Luke Wyatt

SFVW – Meeting Minutes January 2026

Eitan's first meeting starts with new name tags for new members to use until Calvin can make official ones. Then lots of new faces headed over and started using the temporary name tags. We had a couple of new members introduce themselves.

New Members

George Zaleksi – He likes to build Furniture and do projects. He will also do custom work for friends when requested.

Jason & his son were both new to woodworking and excited to learn more.

Announcements

Eitan reminds the club that we need to tell people about the club and that we have materials to pass out at the front desk. Then he very graciously asked the club if all were in favor of Luke (me) being secretary, and everyone, maybe, said "Aye." I was honored and look forward to serving the club. Thank you!

Eitan is looking and putting feelers out for toy leads for a few toys during this year's toy build. [See **Toy Ideas** on page 7.] Talk to Jonathan if you are interested [See page 2 for contact information]. Volunteers welcome.

Announcements

See "Minutes" on page 2

Our President says...

By Eitan Ginsburg

President's Letter – February 2026

So, my wife, Wendy, asked me to make a stool. We're getting a little older, so there are bad knees, an achy back – you get the idea. This is so she won't have to bend down to move laundry from the washer to the dryer. (And yes, I do laundry, too.)

A simple project, right? I'm a woodworker – I can

Dues are now Due!

If you haven't paid yet, it's time. Our dues are \$35 per year (\$15 for students), and our esteemed Treasurer, Gregg Masini, can take your dues via check, cash or Venmo. [Now: @san_fernando1]

If you need to contact Gregg for any questions, his email and phone number are on the next page in the Club Officers.

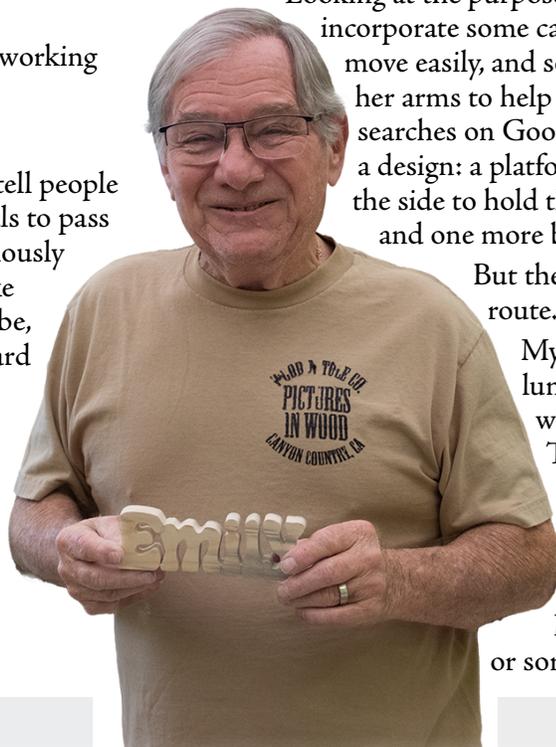
make this.

Looking at the purpose of the stool, I decided to incorporate some casters on the bottom so it can move easily, and some handles so Wendy can use her arms to help get up off it. A couple of image searches on Google yielded a pretty easy idea for a design: a platform for the casters, two boards on the side to hold the seat and serve as the handles, and one more board for the seat. Easy-peasy.

But there's a problem. I like the scenic route.

My journey begins by seeing what lumber I have to work with. That's when the real trouble started.

There was maple, poplar, mahogany, and walnut. Oh, that walnut was calling to me. And if I'm going to make this out of walnut, I don't want it to look like an overturned orange crate or something I built hanging around



See "President's Message" on page 3

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:	Eitan Ginsburg
Vice President:	Emily Lichtman
Secretary:	Luke Wyatt
Treasurer:	Gregg Massini
Photographer:	Gary Coyne
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Safety Coordinator:	Bob Bilyeu
Web Master:	Jan Min
Toy Chair:	Jonathan Nail
Toy Distribution:	Tara Wyatt
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

"Minutes" from page 1

Emily is starting a featurette called Member Spotlight. [See this month's Member Spotlight on Page 6!] This will be a way for members to get to know each other and learn about the different skills that we all have. We have some folks on deck and a nice balance of new and old members to get us started. This will start in the newsletter in February. If you would like to be put under the spotlight, please contact Emily.

Glendale Woodturners Guild is sponsoring a woodturning open house on Sunday, January 25th, at the Community Center of La Canada Flintridge from 9 AM to 4 PM. There, you will see Kirk DeHeer demonstrate woodturning and talk about wood tools.

Jeff Bremer is having another class on wooden plane building. It's a two-day class. The class is free, but you need to purchase and watch a \$10 video before the class, and buy a blade for your hand plane to be built. 18 people have taken the class, and all have loved it. As soon as 4 people agree to take the class, it will get started.

Gregg – Finances are good

It's time to pay dues! Dues are \$35 dollars for the year. Please send Venmo here: @San_Fernando1. The last four

digits for confirmation are 6054.

Upcoming Programs

Emily gave us a rundown of the upcoming presentations for the group.

Feb – Tom Ferkle: Clock Restoration

March – Brittany Joiner: is doing the Guédelon French Castle presentation.

For the rest of the year, Emily shared some info about some upcoming presentation ideas. The Sharpening, Joinery, and Dovetail presentations are still being put together. If any of you are masters of the mentioned topics, please let Emily know so she can work you into the presentations. Jeff Bremer also has a 20-minute presentation and would love to team up with another team member.

Eitan then informed the club of a new challenge with prizes for the winners. Jonathan Nail, our Toy Committee Chair, has received feedback from charities indicating they are looking for more teenage-appropriate toys. Therefore, the challenge is to create a new item appropriate for the teenager. Eitan provided a couple of examples: A passive speaker for the cell phone. Wood puzzles or Games. (See some ideas on page 7.)

See "Minutes" on page 3

Speaking of Toy Building! Jeff is making a lot of cars this year – he wants to have a build day at his garage. The first day he is planning to build is Jan 31st. If you are interesting reach out to Jeff directly. All tools will be used during the build. Looking for 4 people.

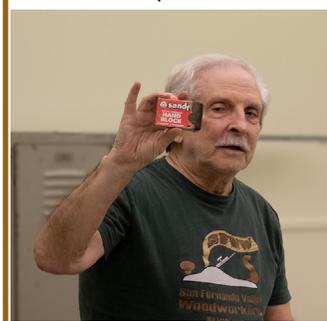
Q & A

David Feinner asked a question about riving knives vs splitters. He’s looking for help with installing one on his Delta table saw. Specify that he wants one with a mounted dust-collection system.

Brittany Joiner wants to have a neighborhood shop experience where she gets everyone together to do a simple woodworking project, like a flower bed. She’s wondering how worried she should be about liability and looking for advice. Bob Bilyeu did something similar with 5-year-olds, pre-cutting and drilling everything so that major tools were not needed. After some discussions with the club, it was determined that while a liability waiver isn’t litigation proof, it’s probably the best way to move forward. Jim Kelly suggested starting with the waiver we all sign at the high school’s big toy build.

Tips & Tricks

Jeff Bremer shared a few tips and tricks for Rust and other products to help keep boards running smoothly on top of machines. To get rid of rust, he recommends SandFlex Handblock (Fine, Medium, and Coarse) –



For rust prevention, he suggests using T-9. Micro Fence sells a product called DynaGlide that helps slide workpieces through saws.



Mark added that while these are awesome, but they are very toxic and should be used with great ventilation.

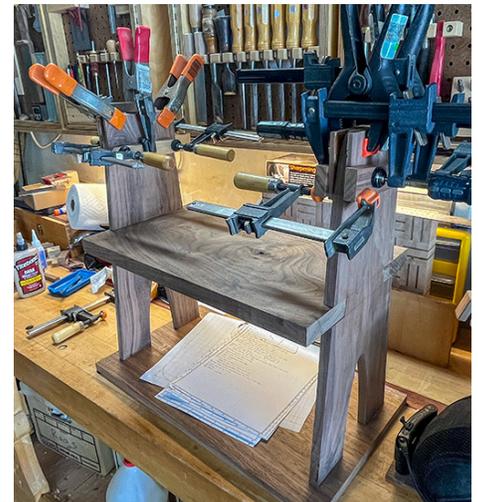
Show and Tell

John Kong showed us his Hoptimist Bobble-headed family of three. The eyes are inlaid with ABS plastic, and all hop in a different rhythm. He made his own springs, turning them on the lathe. The heads



in a Home Depot aisle. It’s walnut! I have to do right by the wood.

After assessing the available lumber, I pulled out the sketch pad and played with some ideas. A few days later, the design included tapers and curves, a big through-dovetail thingy, built-up and shaped handles, a carved-out seat, and an apron around the base to mostly hide the functional but unsightly casters. I picked out my lumber, paid attention to the grain, paused to appreciate the grain, sharpened some tools, and got started.



Now, after a couple of weeks, I’m halfway there. The parts have done the grand tour of the workshop, through a variety of machines and hand tools. Some of the steps will be new to me, and there is both excitement and fear about learning and screwing up. I’m taking my time, being careful about the order of operations, and creeping up on cuts to keep parts fitting snugly together.

That boxy design, which could have been completed and in use after a few days, is far off in the rear-view mirror. Sorry. Just couldn’t do it. The scenic route is a lot more fun.

bobbed throughout his explanation. John also shared a cane he made in three pieces that screwed together. John shared a touching story about our lives and existence in relation to smoke. The handle is a cloud of smoke made from olive wood and has



excellent detail.

Jeff showed us a bowl he made and jig that Mark helped him with. He made 5 bowls and gave them to all his friends who wanted one. He only has one now. He finished with 320. and one coat of BLO. Then sanded to 1600.



From the Web

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

 I almost gave up on the jigsaw... until I learned THIS

- ♦ A good range of jigsaw tips
<https://tinyurl.com/3vnfes4v>

 Can “BAD” Wood Sound Good? I Built 2 Guitars to Find Out.

- ♦ This is such a good video on so many levels. Even if you're not a luthier, you'll appreciate the work that was done.
<https://tinyurl.com/2yd56txc>

 Sharpening Hand Tools - Freehand vs Jig Methods

- ♦ Excellent tips and comments about sharpening
<https://tinyurl.com/muvubpn7>

 Repair Water-Damaged Wood

- ♦ Potted plants, coffee/tea cups: how to fix with chemistry, not brute force.
<https://tinyurl.com/259vjusm>

 This traditional finish can be tricky to apply.

- ♦ The “tricks” of working with shellac
<https://tinyurl.com/3srxn7jy>

 Use Light To Spot Finish Imperfections

- ♦ Ceiling light provides great hiding for finish issues
<https://tinyurl.com/3pj5bc79>

 Five Common Finishing Problems

- ♦ Bleeding, blushing, blotching, orange peel, and fish eye
<https://tinyurl.com/3t3zk7r4>

 Problems in Wood Finishing

- ♦ Several wood finishes are discussed, and several finishing myths are busted
<https://tinyurl.com/muc4ce6v>

 Understanding Wood Finishing

- ♦ A basic breakdown of several finishes, solvents, and stains
<https://tinyurl.com/47nha9k3>

 Stickley's #210 settee embodies Arts & Crafts simplicity, honesty, and craft in one iconic design

- ♦ The background of this settee and of the Stickley company
<https://tinyurl.com/2zzt8ssv>

 Rout Arches of Any Size

- ♦ This millwork technique can be used to make curved parts with accuracy and ease
<https://tinyurl.com/mretnbn9>

 The Unicorn Sharpening Method

- ♦ Unicorns are rare, so is a properly sharpened blade: here's how to do it.
<https://tinyurl.com/3naxk9jw>

 Chisel tests

- ♦ This is the actual testing for the above article
<https://tinyurl.com/4pm2ajss>

 Sharpening Chisels With a Buffing Wheel

- ♦ This is a video from the above article
<https://tinyurl.com/4pm2ajss>

“Minutes” from page 3

Eitan brought in a couple of travel mugs that he turned with a kit. One in laminated cherry. Finished with Shellac. For the second mug, he used staves made of Walnut and Maple. It fits his hand a lot better than



the first one. He also showed off his dreidel-making skills, and they both worked magically. Both are undisclosed types of dark and light wood. The most important part



was making sure the blank was really square. He also discovered differences between heartwood and sapwood in terms of the piece's weight and balance.

See “Minutes” on page 5

 Are dollar store tools any good? Saving money in financially strapped times

- ♦ Most of us would probably not consider getting tools there, but some are worth considering. Very amusing as he tests these out.
<https://tinyurl.com/y5bvscee>

 Build a Dovetail Square - Easy Project

- ♦ Buy it or build it. A great jig for making dovetails. A bunch of nifty tips along the way.
<https://tinyurl.com/yc7rjxyx>

 Warped wood ruins projects- How to STOP it!

- ♦ An excellent presentation on why wood warps and why to avoid the tree pith.
<https://tinyurl.com/ycxuyh7m>

 This Simple Upgrade Makes Parallel Clamps Way Better

- ♦ This demonstrates how a cork-rubber liner can protect wood and improve grip.
<https://tinyurl.com/4brbfycm>

 The Surprising Flaws in 18650 Lithium-Ion Batteries

- ♦ Not woodworking, but we all have rechargeable batteries. This conversation with the writers of the Battery Quality Report, which you can download from the “More” section, is very interesting. But, I will sum it up here: The less you pay, the more you risk a fire. Note: I put “retired” for both my company and my job with no issue when I signed up to get the downloaded report.
<https://tinyurl.com/yc528tt8>

 Wood Movement Calculator

- ♦ Wood expands and contracts due to seasonal change. Here's a simple calculator to determine how to deal with it.
<https://tinyurl.com/2swnvdt8>

 10 Tips for a Drama-Free Glue-Up

- ♦ Besides a quick ad, these are essential pre-glue-up rules
<https://tinyurl.com/4s8z62jb>

“Minutes” from page 4

Then Luke updated the group on the status of his cherry desk. Most recently, he’s glued all the curved pieces together to make the desk base. He’s finished the lower cabinet

build with swing-out doors and glued up the laminated top. Then he has added a curved profile to the top and glued the curved profile pieces



to the corners, which will be connected by straight pieces. He hopes to share finished photos and videos at the next meeting. He also

asked whether anyone had good resources for selling furniture independently. Contact him directly if you have an idea!

50/50 – New member George drew. The lucky winner was Cliff!



Bob gave a safety talk about general safety. Safety is situational. Read the user manuals of tools. Adequate lighting is a must. Good Ventilation. Keep extension cords out of walk areas. Clothing should be tight and short. Keep hair up and away. Beware of children. Watch out for friends in the workshop and be aware of their presence in the shop. Tools: keep them sharp, inspect them periodically. Learn about your tools. Workflow and planning, be prepared and think about the steps. Walk through the cut to build confidence before doing the real thing. Never allow someone working with you to make you feel uncomfortable with doing something you don’t want to do.

First Aid: There is no single kit that does everything. Small kits are fine. Keep your cell phone out and accessible for emergency use. Don’t shy away from using 911. They will not charge you if they don’t take you somewhere. Clean wounds immediately. An eye-washing station is great to have and hopefully never need to use. If you get a one-time use item, make sure you double-check the expiration date. Splinters: tweezers and a magnifying glass. Various sizes of Band-Aids, gauze, antibiotic ointment, and burn ointment. Check expiration dates.

Presentation

Jim McGuire has been scroll sawing for 50 years. He’s

been hooked and obsessed since then. He works on his saw every day. Even if it’s only 15 or so cuts a day.

In 1829, the first scroll saw patent was filed. He showed us a few different hand saws. The saws were very popular from 1850 to the 1920s. Then again, in the 1930s to the 1950s. In the 1970s, it regained popularity. The identifying measure in inches refers to the blade and the distance to the back of the saw. They don’t have a lot of moving parts. Just the blade and the arm. He showed us how he inserts a blade and how to use the different controls to set the blade tension. He likes to use a magnifying glass to cut. It helps tremendously with very detailed work.

Jim Baldrige asked if he cuts the black or the white on the design. Most of the time, Jim cuts the black, but he can use a basic image application to invert the image if necessary.

He explained that there are about 4 or 5 different things you can do with a scroll saw.

Fret: Which is what Jim does the most. He can do a project in about a couple of hours or less to cut the pattern. Then there’s work doing the backing and setting up the design.

Segmentation: Cutting out pieces and then gluing them together in a design.

Intarsia: Patterns and different woods for different types of pieces to give a painting-like feel. These artists use a lightbox to ensure all gaps are accounted for.

3D Cuttings: Taking a pattern, cutting fronts and sides so that it becomes a 3D object.

Puzzle Making: You can use a scroll saw to make a puzzle.

The thinnest kerf blade is a 3/0 flat blade. Jim likes to use a 2/0 flat blade and passed around a display board that had examples of different types of blades. He explained cuts and how he counts them. Each drilled hole and then the cuts required to remove the piece count as “1 Cut” – Blades can last between 8 and 50 cuts depending on how thin the blade is, how tough the wood is, and how aggressively you are cutting the pattern. There are a couple of different styles of cutting blades. Some cut down, and some are indicated by an “R” in their name (e.g., 3/R), which have 3 teeth going down and 1 going up. That creates a really smooth surface. Blades come in dozens, and the best price comes at ordering 144 total for about \$35. Most of the time, he cuts in ¼” A4 red oak plywood. He prefers solid wood but cannot stack the blanks.

Flat blades and spiral blades. Jim learned with flat blades



See “Minutes” on page 7

Our First Member Spotlight

This month is featuring Brittany Joyner

Name: **Brittany Joyner**

What year did you join the SFVW? 2025

Woodworking

What is a project you are especially proud of and why?

I built our kitchen over the span of a few years, and it is not only beautiful but incredibly functional. I was even featured in Family Handyman!

What is a favorite woodworking podcast or content creator?

Ana White- she's who inspired me to really give woodworking a fair shake, and I've never looked back! [<https://www.ana-white.com>]

What is a dream project (something you would someday love to build but may be out of reach for now due to time, skill, money, or equipment)?

I am obsessed with Art Nouveau and am dying to learn how to make some furniture in that style. Unfortunately, the resources I've found have been scant, so I think I'll have to trial and error it, but I'm not giving up yet!

Personal Life

Where were you born? Where did you grow up? When did you come to the San Fernando Valley (or other place where you live now)?

I was born and raised in the Dallas area in Texas. I went to college in Lubbock, then spent 5 years in Oklahoma. I've lived in L.A. since 2010, but I'll always be a Texan at heart. It's very, very different here from my upbringing, but it still feels like home to me, and I love it here!

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An orthodontist. Or a professional speller.

What was/is your day job?

Tell us a little about your professional career. I am an actor in film, TV, commercials, stage, and voice-over. Most recently, I was a series regular on the Western TV show Elkhorn. Really hoping for a 3rd season as I'd love to go back to work with these fine folks! It was an incredible experience. I also built a recording studio in my backyard so I could start a voice-over side hustle during the pandemic (when on-camera work was forbidden) and have booked a lot of really cool work from there. Recently, I've been the voice of Captain Marvel for their animated series.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself. For example, something you've done, an interest you have, something you've learned – that is special or unusual.

I spent last summer in the middle of France as a woodworker on a medieval castle, Guedelon!

Other Interests

What is one hobby or interest you have outside of woodworking?

I do historical costuming, and that takes up an inordinate amount of my free time. I particularly love the Edwardian era, and you can find me every month or so at some historical event in a full ensemble I've made myself. I go to Costume College every year in L.A., a 3-day event with non-stop workshops and lectures, and balls and teas all centered around

historical costuming. It's delightfully nerdy and fabulous. I love it!

Where is a favorite place to which you have traveled?

I feel incredibly blessed to have traveled a lot and even lived for a few months in several places. France for sure tops the lists, but my husband and my trip to Iceland was magical as well.



If you wish to be featured in future months of a Member Spotlight, please contact our Vice President, Emily Lichtman (see page 2 for contact information).

“Minutes” from page 5

and hasn't been able to switch to spiral blades because they require a complete change in working technique, so he sticks with the flat blades.

There was an organization called the Scrollsaw Association of the World (SAW). He was a founding member and attended meetings across the country. Unfortunately, the organization no longer exists.

Jim then set up his scroll saw. Plugged everything in and turned on his magnifying glass's light.

After cutting, he recommends sanding your workpiece to 120 grit, then wiping off the dust. There are a couple of ways to adhere the pattern to the workpiece. One way is to apply Blue tape on the wood and spray adhesive on the plan. Then apply the plan to the tape. When done, one can just peel the tape off. However, he finds that the tape can be stronger than some of his detail work, so he does not do that. Jim likes to use 3M 77 spray and place the pattern directly on the wood. When he's ready to remove the pattern, he applies mineral spirits to it, gives it a few minutes, and then it comes right off.

Jim showed us his foot pedal, which makes turning the saw on and off much easier and sometimes safer than reaching for a switch on top of the saw. He then started cutting out a nameplate for member Emily. The saw was quiet, and he moved smoothly. He joked that it's idiot proof and perfect for what he likes as a hobby. He does names just like this at craft fairs and other events. He's made lots of gifts for his grandchildren. Emily was thrilled with her new nameplate!

He loves to enter the Orange County fair – The cost is low, and it's a great way to get eyes on his work and build a customer base.

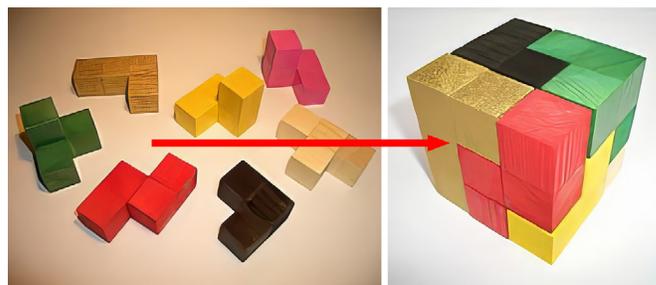
Moving on, he showed us again how to do a “cut,” changing the position and remounting the blade. He uses a drill press to make the holes. He then talked about the positions of the holes and the strategy for making cuts. He's also upgraded his blade holder to the Pegas brand. When cutting a pattern, he prefers to cut from the inside to the outside because the outside supports the inside during cutting; if you cut the outside first, the inside cannot support the outside regions.



Eitan asked about buying a scroll saw and what to look out for. Jim thinks a 16” or 18” scroll saw is a great place to start. He suggested sticking with a name brand and getting a foot pedal. He said \$200 was about what you could expect to spend for a good, minimum quality scroll saw.

The group was very thankful for Jim's presentation, and the meeting concluded.

Some **Teenage Toy** ideas. If you have others, please contact Jonathan Nail.



Past Members Tools for Sale

Three club members recently got to retrieve many items from a past (and passed) member's shop. They will be available at the next club meeting for very reasonable prices.

Below are some photos from the boxes of tools to be sold. Sorry, you must be there to select the tools, Nothing will be done over the phone.

Pricing/distribution is being discussed. **HOWEVER**, please bring \$1s, \$5s, \$10, Venmo, and/or a checkbook.

