

May 21 event: , Biscuits, Dowels, and Pocket Hole joinery:

These joinery approaches all have benefits, challenges, and dissapointments. Come see Gary Coyne and Brittany Joyner all about these issue for each of these joinery helpers.

The meeting starts at 7 PM on May 21st.

Meeting Minutes

by Luke Wyatt

SFWW – Meeting Minutes April 2026

Eitan is back and ready for action. He welcomes Jeff's friend, Heather, as a new member and reminds the entire group to keep it quick tonight as we have a lot on tonight's agenda

Brian is a new member. He's been repairing turntable veneers and cabinets. He's done some millwork in his house and is fixing stuff that breaks all the time.

Jim Kelly's son, Tim, is here visiting. We joke about travel.

Announcements

Jeff Bremer – Gives a special update from Ginger and then mentions how amazing Jim Kelly has been for wood milling over the years. Jeff then introduces his sister's friend, Heather. She tells us she's been an art teacher with LAUSD for 23 years. She is willing to take our scrap wood and offer it to her students. I think we all said in our heads, "Be careful what you wish for!"

Tool Estate Sale – May 30th, Allan Boardman's residence. (More information to come.)

Upcoming Presentations

May – Biscuits and dowels with Gary Coyne. Pocket Holes with Britany Joyner.

June – Peek Safety with product demos.

July - Dados and Rabbits with Chuck

August – Sharpening (With Gary, Chuck, Jeff?)

September – 3D Printing with Calvin and Marc

Our President says...

By Eitan Ginsburg

This past month has been a flurry of woodworking activity for me, hopping from one project to another, and plenty of club meetings and business. It felt like a lot of small bits along the way, but looking back, they certainly added up.

Getting ready for the Quilters' Show (we were there on May 2nd) was one looming project with a hard deadline.

I had some toy lumber (1.5" wide birch) that I hadn't used for chess-board parts, so with that and some mahogany and oak I already had in the garage, I made



three sets of quilting clappers (like heavy wooden clothes irons). The milling and glue-ups took the most time, but the more I practice, the smoother all the operations roll along. A few boards of aromatic cedar I've had in my lumber pile for about 15 years got turned into template holders. On a few other days, I put in some time on the lathe to turn pens, bottle stoppers, and keychains and make a display stand for the keychains. Too bad only a couple of them sold!

Overall, the show was a big success for us. We raised almost \$1000 for our toy builds (those parts costs add up) and had a good time talking with each other and some potential club members. Thank you so much to Emily Lichtman and Luke Wyatt, who took the lead on coordinat-

See "Minutes" on page 2

See "President's Message" on page 5

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

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October – Jigs and Fixtures

November – Super Show and Tell

Announcements

David Feinner has a signed, autographed Sam Maloof book and makes it available to the group as a silent auction item. It was gifted to him years ago, and he wants to make it available to someone new. The starting bid was \$20



Toy Committee

Jeff needs some help with his racecars. He would appreciate it if some members could volunteer to shellac a set of wheels. He would like members to take a bag.

Finance

Gregg is back and confident with our numbers. We have 47 paid members. Please get your dues in!

Questions and Answers

A member brought in casters for a Craftsman tool chest. If you have Craftsman tool bases, they are free for the taking. He is also looking for someone who bends wood. Soaking and bending for train tracks.

Tips and Tricks

As an addition to the review of the JessEm Clear-Cut Stock Controller in the April issue of Plane Talk by Gary, Steve Kalb showed off his JessEm Stock guide to make it easily removable. His solution is to use the very strong Mag-Switch magnets.



See "Minutes" on page 3

Teen Toy Challenge

The mission was to create a toy that our charities could pass out to teens.

Brittany Joyner shared her toy catapult. It successfully launched a ping pong ball into the front row of the meeting (some members were assaulted, no complaints were filed). [See 1st page for the ping pong ball in flight!]

For his Teen Toy Ideas, Mark brought in a two wooden puzzle-themed toys. A bur puzzle, a packing puzzle box, and a pentomino. They are all made with excellent craftsmanship and would puzzle any teen willing to take on the challenge.



For Eitan's Teen Toy Challenge, he showed us his Jenga set. It's really nice with 54 blocks: 18 rows of 3 each. He made them from Walnut, Oak, and Maple.



After some intense deliberation by a few hand-selected members, the winner was announced. Congratulations, Brittany Joyner, and your catapult!

Show and Tell

Gary Hersh – Brought a Japanese hand tool box that he just finished making. It's made from 100-year-old wood. It's all glue



and dowels. It's got a chisel box that slides out, and then the rest of the tools sit in the padded bottom. The image on the left shows the "wedge" locking mechanism. Great work, Gary!

Jeff Bremer shows us a box that he made in sycamore. (Ironically, it uses the same locking mechanism as Gary's Box.) He then showed us an art piece that he collaborated on with his neighbor, Alex. He explains



that wood grain looks different to everybody, and he wanted to see what she saw in it. The result was absolutely stunning and a great piece by two people.



From the Web

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

✂ Why Don't People Know This About Miter Saws

- Basic safety precautions for Miter Saws, along with great safety tips. Watch it through the end for one last important tip. Also, read some of the responses; there's more data.

<https://tinyurl.com/44wc9zr4>

✂ Bad YouTube advice can cost you a hand - Miter saw mistake!

- Another video with advice on improving safety in the shop.

<https://tinyurl.com/mtkwupn5>

✂ My last video upset a LOT of people!

- A bit of elaboration on comments from the above video

<https://tinyurl.com/3zvm656c>

✂ 6 common things you might be doing wrong with your table saw

- Again, more safety tips and use recommendations

<https://tinyurl.com/5frcs8zv>

✂ DIY Magwitch Jigs So Clever You'll Regret Not Building Them Sooner

- A bunch of jigs utilizing the Magwitch

<https://tinyurl.com/2cz6b9d6>

✂ This is based on "Basara Tsugi"

- a mysterious Japanese joint linked to Osaka Castle gates

<https://tinyurl.com/7kuesdw2>

✂ The Bed Build

- 6,500 volunteers worked around the clock to build over 10,000 beds in just 24 hours for kids who don't have one of their own. We make toys, they make beds, it's all GOOD.

<https://tinyurl.com/yeyhj3zv>

✂ Why orbital sanders are terrible

- The title should say that if you find orbital sanders terrible, here are a bunch of ways to get better results.

<https://tinyurl.com/2s3jaamy>

✂ Woodcarving Basics

- An excellent presentation of two different types of woodcarving to get you started

<https://tinyurl.com/yvffkka3>

✂ Scandinavian Grind Skew Chisel

- This tool is a carver's dream, but it had to be saved from history first.

<https://tinyurl.com/d78z9kku>

✂ Carving a Spoon

- All the basics

<https://tinyurl.com/9v2e86vv>

✂ Domino Killer - Revealed after 6 years

- A less expensive Domino, with a fancy introduction.

<https://tinyurl.com/bde2rrsz>

✂ Woodcarving Techniques with Expert Mary May -- The Linenfold Panel

- An opportunity to see Mary May's approach to carving

<https://tinyurl.com/y23tjzav>

✂ What's the single best table saw blade?

- Besides the basics of table saw blades, lots of tidbit information.

<https://tinyurl.com/2pena2ds>

✂ Hand Carved Basswood basswood printing blocks from 20th-century traveling shows

- One way to create cheap movie posters many years ago was to carve the letters into base wood. This is from an exhibit in NY.

<https://tinyurl.com/54f2uh93>

✂ A Table Saw Trick So Crazy, It's Genius!

- Again, Inspire Woodcraft comes up with very creative ways to do things.

<https://tinyurl.com/422ky2v2>

✂ 11 Woodworking Jigs So Simple You'll Regret Not Building Them Sooner

- Some very basic, easy-to-make jigs and fixtures.

<https://tinyurl.com/yk3v9asp>

✂ Why handleless chisels are 70% better.

- They have the quality and they are cheaper.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8hzvzx>

✂ Pask Makes

- A link from the above item, there is much to see and learn from this fellow

<https://tinyurl.com/yaefzf7z>

✂ Folding and unfolding band saw blades

- No elaboration here, just the facts.

<https://tinyurl.com/yepsajhs>

✂ The Weird Physics of Sandpaper (Why You're Working Too Hard)

- A very detailed and honest review of random orbit sandpaper. Included for download is a Cheat Sheet and the full data for his tests.

<https://tinyurl.com/3trca4fb>

✂ This One Setting Makes Your Forstner Bits Last 3x Longer

- What you should look for when drilling with a Forstner Bit

<https://tinyurl.com/3hcpepe9>

✂ Forstner Bit RPM Guide

- A chart seen in the above video for Forstner bit speeds

<https://tinyurl.com/yc24amua>

✂ Ancient Boat Making Using Palm Tree

- Pretty much as you'd expect

<https://tinyurl.com/34383bew>

✂ Dovetail tip: this time cheaper is better

- When you're transferring tails to pins, use tape

<https://tinyurl.com/mwcsu3e2>

✂ Squaring Up Your Square

- If you have a square that isn't square, here's how to fix it.

<https://tinyurl.com/mrasdahr>

✂ Clever sanding tricks (that you never tried before)

- 15 reasons to have some adhesive backed sandpaper in your shop

<https://tinyurl.com/rks6rm6j>

ing the effort; to Jeff Bremer, Stefan, and Nina Dusedau; to Jim and Beverly Baldrige, who helped work the event; and to everyone who donated sale items for the boutique.

A couple of Saturdays in April were spent with Charisse, a friend of mine who is relatively new to woodworking. Back in the fall, she asked for my help in making a stand for a credenza she'd bought. With a day here or there over the past few months, we've gone from rough lumber to almost finishing the project. She started out being very nervous about the table saw, but thanks to a crosscut sled and some practice, she's making safe, clean cuts. She's also done work on the jointer, planer, and band saw, and has used the router, chisels, and hand planes. She's done joint layout and cut mortises and tenons. All we have left is the glue-up and finishing. She's already thinking about her

next project – success!

Another task felt more on the industrial level. On the day Chuck Nickerson picked up the sheet goods from Anderson plywood for our



toy builds, he and Jim Baldrige met up at my workshop. With the three of us working together, we wrangled and broke down the 4x8 sheets into more manageable sizes. (Although I think we spent more time shooting the breeze than the actual work itself.)

Finally, I finished putting up new house numbers on our mailbox. The old stick-on numbers had faded to just about nothing from the sun. Ed Sheanin cut out the numbers on his scrollsaw and decided to experiment with a plastic mirror as a backing. After applying some paint, epoxy, and screws, a project I'd promised myself to do a couple of years ago is finally and satisfyingly done!

Safety

Bob Bilyue is back with another installment of the safety talk. He talks about being a coach and battling the knowledge that he's confident, yet feeling inadequate about using the equipment. Safety is the same thing. You have to over-teach the use of the tools, because you don't know what people know. Tool introductions are good. When visiting other people's shops, make sure to speak up and talk about the areas you're comfortable with. Sometimes people don't even know how to use their own tools, so don't be afraid to ask for extra help when it's getting sketchy, or even to stop someone from doing something unsafe. Safety looks different to everyone, so make sure to communicate with your shopmate.

PRESENTATION

Custom Speakers by Marc Collins

Marc begins his talk by connecting all the correct wires to all the right terminals. Then sets the tone with mood lighting. He's been working in audio and video for decades, but has learned about building your own speakers in the last couple of years. A Spinal Tap reference rolls across the screen. This presentation will not be just a 10; it's going to 11.



The type of veneer Marc is using is paper-backed, and the technique is called "iron-on" or "heat lock". The biggest difference in this method is that you pre-glue with a specialized heat-lock glue, wait for it to dry to the touch, and then lock it in with the heat of a regular clothes iron. A major benefit of this method is that you can easily re-position your veneer pieces until they are perfect and then lock them in place with the iron.

He then shows the group how to pre-glue a sample piece with veneer. He tapes the veneer down to the table. This keeps it flat and keeps the front side from getting any glue on it. He's using Heat-Lock (<https://tinyurl.com/2s4hsc8f>). He applies glue with a foam roller to both the veneer and the substrate and lets it dry during the duration of the presentation. Then, once dried, he places the veneer on the wood to be covered and uses a clothes iron (set to the highest heat).

He chose to make these custom speakers because of the incredible value. The kits can range from anywhere from \$125 to a few thousand dollars. You can start anywhere you are comfortable.

You can start with a pre-made design or go completely custom. A lot of people are making Bluetooth speakers.

He takes us through the basics of a speaker: Cabinet, Baffle, Drivers, Woofer, Mid Woofer, Tweeter, Crossover, Binding Posts, and Ports.

A port extends the speaker's low range; many high-

Member Spotlight

This month is featuring *John Fisher*

What year did you join the SFVW? 2022

What types of woodworking projects or techniques do you particularly enjoy? I like to do woodturning, I make cabinets and other things for the shop, and I also make things for the fiber arts community (looms, lucets, shuttles, etc.).

What is a project you are especially proud of and why? The tabletop double-sided “inkle” looms I designed and manufacture.

What is one species of wood you most like to use and why? Probably European beech for flatwork.

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)? Would like to learn to make Windsor-style chairs and build a foot-powered spring pole lathe.

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)? Born and raised in the Valley (Valley Boy!)

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? Wanted to be a writer until I took my first science course in Jr. High. I went the math/science/history path since then.

Can you tell us about your family/loved ones? Parents

are gone, sister and family live in Washington, but have spent the last several winters in Tucson. I live alone, no pets at the present (had a cat that lived into her 20s back in the 1980s–90s)

What was/is your day job? Tell us a little about your professional career. I started working in the print shop, then became a service technician for Xerox for 25 years. Took an early buy-out when they wanted the older guys to go away. Fully retired now, I teach woodturning classes at the Community Woodshop LA.

Do you have a favorite quote or something you are known for saying? I make lots of puns - Paranomasiac First Class.

What is one hobby or interest you have outside of woodworking? I've been taking blacksmithing courses for several years and have made several knives and other implements.

What is a favorite place to which you have traveled? Probably the coastal redwoods in Northern California.

What is one of your favorite types of music? Classical

What kind of books do you like to read? Science Fiction, Fantasy — big Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter fan.

What's your favorite type of food? Anything tasty, like Thai. I enjoy food that “bites back,” but I have to be more careful with my digestive system these days.



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).

If anyone is interested:
There's a really funky router table available from Gregg Golden. Also Calvin Solv has a dovetail jig available for sale.



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quality speakers have ports. He's going to test a front-port system, so it's not blocked by the back of a shelf. Ports can be anywhere, but mostly on the front and back.



A crossover takes an input from the amplifier and divides it up into the frequencies appropriate for each driver in the speaker – a two-way speaker would be split into two frequency ranges, a three-way speaker into three, etc.

He then started walking us through his different builds. He prefers Baltic birch to MDF, but MDF is often less expensive and easier to find. Plywood with voids isn't ideal, so the goal is to find high-quality plywood without voids or MDF.

Most kits have all the design elements worked out ahead of time, and you can simply follow the instructions to build the cabinet. Marc, however, wanted a more unique design and modified the manufacturer's designs. He starts his redesign in SketchUp. It's great because it gives him volumetric information. This is necessary as the internal volume is critical for getting the most out of a speaker.

He made a vinyl template to print the design from SketchUp, and then a router template for the profile, so that each speaker would be exactly the same and meet the volumetric requirements precisely.

Then he used "bendy plywood" for the sides and filled the cracks. Next, he created 3D-printed router templates and discussed the differences between using those templates and using a circle jig and router. The 3D printed templates are excellent for really dialing in those tolerances. He added that self-centering bits are crucial to pre-drill holes for the drivers and screw them in.

He added magnets to the front of the speaker to hold the speaker cover. He also added some sound-deadening

material to the sides. He said it wasn't required, but he wanted to make it denser. Then some gluing and stapling.

Then it was time for veneer. He cut the veneer on the table saw using a technique where you roll the veneer up and run it through. Make sure to plan the order of your veneer seams. He placed his glue seams on the top so that he wouldn't see them when looking at the front of the speaker. He dealt with some tearout using the palm router on the end grain.

He chooses Sapele and White Oak because the patterns are more disguised by the straight grain. Other woods might not be as forgiving.

He finished off the speakers with some trim from the Boardman sale. He chamfered the woofer hole to reduce chuffing.



Then it was time for a three-step finish process: 1. Boiled linseed oil. 2. Dewaxed Shellac. 3. Rattle Can Lacquer. Everyone should have a can of lacquer in the shop.

Then he was able to complete the final assembly: installing the crossover, connecting the drivers to the crossover, adding the speaker port, and screwing the drivers into their holes.

It has all led up to the moment where we get to listen to the speakers. Marc shows off their abilities and compares the expensive set to the cheaper one. You can really tell the difference in sound quality. They sound amazing and look even better.

To close the presentation, Marc goes back to the iron-on veneer demonstration. The glue is ready to go, and Marc shows the process of ironing on the veneer. He uses a T-shirt to go between the veneer and the iron. Once it's warm and attached, it's ready to move to the next step! It's as simple as that.

Thank you, Marc, for giving us such a wonderful glimpse into your world and providing such a detailed presentation. The meeting is over, and the rec center employee stares at us, telling us to get out!

Review of Chicago (Harbor Freight) Electric Plane 7.5 Amp, 3-1/4 in. Planer with Dust Bag

By Gary Coyne

Let me start by saying I have over a dozen woodworking planes, ranging in size from small block planes, regular sized block planes, all the way to a #5-1/2 plane, plus

shoulder planes, and router planes. I do a lot of wood-working and have never thought I needed or wanted an elec-

tric planer. However, I have a gate that, due to moisture expansion and a tipping of the post that holds it up, has pitched over by a few degrees, causing the top edge to bump into the wood it closes against. In the past, I have used my hand planes and shimmed the gate down, but this is doing the work on the gate in place — it's hard work and very awkward. I had seen electric plans, and the good ones cost around \$200, so I couldn't justify that for this one task. When I've done this task by hand in the past, I remove just enough to let the gate swing close and stop the planing. I've mentioned that this was hard work to do vertically by hand, correct?

But at this point, I really needed to remove at least a quarter of an inch at the top, all the way down to the bottom. I didn't want to do this again for a very long time. Because of this, I decided to reconsider the electric plane; I only needed it for this one job.

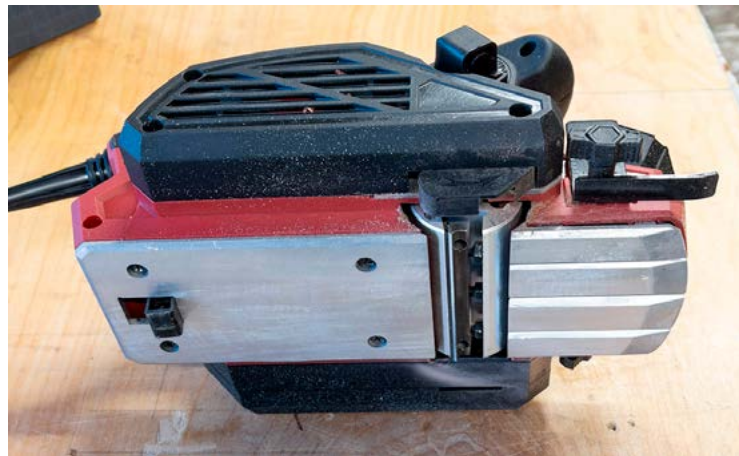
This need for a one-job tool is not new to me. About 25 years ago, the bottoms of several trash cans had scraped away and were falling off. I left them out for trash pickup, but when the trash crew left, the bad trash cans were untouched. I called the local trash company and asked how I could dispose of trash cans. They told me to cut them into pieces and place them in a good trash can. So, I went to Harbor Freight and bought their Sawzall. I seem to recall it was just over \$20. I still have it, and it still works fine, but then again, I use it only about once every other year.



So, I started looking at less expensive electric planes, and besides Amazon, I also checked Harbor Freight. One thing I found on too many of these: the front handle also controls the depth of cut. That didn't seem like a very good idea, as it is too easy to accidentally change the depth while using it. However, while the HF's front knob controls depth, it also has a separate front handle for two-handed operation. That's a big asset.

The original \$50 price was good, but while I was still trying to make a solid decision, Harbor Freight must have noticed I had looked at this product several times but not bought anything. So, they sent me a 25% discount on ANY product. Thus, for \$37.50, I now own an electric plane.

For this task, I was cutting (soft) red-wood. The cut ended up much smoother than I expected, and the noise level was lower. I will add that the dust bag is pathetic and that the whole unit is very heavy and poorly balanced. When using it, I found it to be weight-forward, so the blade would cut out a bit at the end. Fortunately, that was on a test piece, and after practice, I was able to prevent/limit this issue in use. They need to shift more weight to the back. Ironically, the blade is further forward than other electric planes, so I suspect this issue is worse with them.



And one last (minor) complaint in the rear is a little plastic "foot." This is there so you do not put this

down while the blade is still rotating. Thus, not only is this a great necessity, it is also a PIA. The way it works is that it sticks out, and as you push the plane forward, the foot rotates/folds into the sole of the plane, which prevents you from starting a cut mid-board. It would be great if there were a button or something to manually retract that foot when you really do not want that issue. Outside of removing the foot, you can only work around this issue.

Overall, I am pleased with this plane. If I had work that required constant use of such a tool, paying more would not bother me. But, for how often I expect to use this, the price point was just perfect.