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

August 20th event: 3D Printing

For September's meeting, Calvin and Marc will present an introduction on 3D printing technology and how it can be applied to the craft of woodworking. Calvin will review the technology available on the market and some of the best hardware options and Marc will review applications of the technology, demonstrating how to design and print files that are useful to our craft.

Meeting Minutes

by Luke Wyatt

SFVW Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 20th, 2026

Eitan started the meeting with a quick greeting and asked the group if we have any new members. Michelle Liu stood up and introduced herself. Michelle is LA born and Valley raised. She's a former teacher at community woodshop and has a custom furniture studio. She hasn't been as active the last few years, but she is back in the shop now and excited to get dirty. Welcome to the group, Michelle!

Here's a look at the up coming presentations for the rest of the year.

- **October** – Jigs & Fixtures – bring yours in!
- **November** – the annual Super Show & Tell
- **December** – our annual holiday lunch, date and location not yet set.

Shop Tours

Our next shop tour will be in Burbank on September 19th at 10:30am, hosted by new member Gordon Smoire. Gordon has been woodworking since he was a kid and is inspired by Sam Maloof. He's even taken some classes with Sam at his home in Alta Loma. Lunch will be at Poquito Mas following the tour. Check your emails for the subject line "Shop Tour Announcement" with exact details on the tour.

Finance

Gregg Massini reported we are currently flush with cash and that, "The Coffers are Full"! We have 62 paid members this year. That's a high and we are proud. Crushing it!

If you are unsure if you have paid your dues already, talk to Gregg. Dues are $35 yearly. If you are not currently a dues-paying member, if you sign up now, dues are currently $20 as we are midway through the year.

See "Minutes" on page 2

Our President says...

By Eitan Ginsburg

As we head out of a sweltering summer and anticipate tearing off the last few calendar pages of the year, I wanted to highlight our toy-building activities. For many of our members, in addition to being a wonderful opportunity to socialize, these builds offer multiple levels of learning opportunities.

Someone just starting out in woodworking will get to see a relatively simple project, how it was designed and finally assembled. They will gain hands-on experience cutting pieces on a saw or shaping an edge on a router table. Frankly, there is real value in learning how to do such basic tasks and repeating them a hundred times. You learn a few things about safety, what is a comfortable body position, and how the wood responds to the tool.

As you work on a project, the more experienced craftspeople share small things they have picked up themselves over the years, the little nuance things you don't even think to think about. Why grain direction matters. How a few strokes with a sanding block can transform a dangerous, sharp edge into a piece that feels good to the touch. Why wood plus glue doesn't automatically equal a solid joint. Transforming a horrible mistake into an artistic design element.

Even the most adept woodworkers learn from these endeavors. You gain insights on how the toy has been designed and redesigned, the balance of dimensions, and the choices of joinery and hardware. The jigs used to build and assemble the toys give you ideas on how to address challenges in your own projects.

We're just a month away from the Big Build weekend (October 17 & 18), when we come together – members, as well as many of our spouses, friends and other volunteers – at

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 curtesy 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
	Jonathan Nail
Toy Chair:	
Toy Distribution:	Tara Wyatt
Refreshments:	Greg Golden

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Announcements

Toys Toys Toys

Please mark your calendars for Oct 17th and 18th for the Big Toy Build at El Camino Real Charter High School. It's simple. We build lots of toys. We make thousands of them for more than 14 charities. We'll bring the parts and you can bring lunch, bring tools, bring hands, and bring your willing ness to bring happiness to the children of the world. There are all sorts of toys that need their final assembly at the big build. It's an outstanding opportunity to get lots of hands-on experience. The last few years we have done so well on the first day that Sunday was relatively short. So if you are planning on coming on Sunday make sure it's early.

Facebook: We have one. And we want to get more people posting their projects onto the Facebook group so we can build our community. So please join the group and post frequently. Here's a link to our group! SFVWoodworkers

We have been contacted by Tallahassee Tung Oil – They are offering a 10% discount code. Not only do you get a discount, but they will donate 10% back to the club.

The Knotty Lumber Co from Canada has reached out and wants to offer a discount of 15% to our members - Head on over to their website to shop around. Use code SFVW15

Craft Shows

In December we have the Highland Hall Winter Sale, which has a nice collection of people wanting all sorts of wooden items. Kitchen utensils, cutting boards, pens and toys are just a few of the things that can be made to sell. All the sales go directly back to the club. If you are looking for wood to use for these items there is some in the closet at Balboa Rec Center where we have our monthly meeting and you can also contact Chuck Knickerson for an abundance of poplar offerings.

Show and Tell

Luke Wyatt showed us his Indiana University sound board. The red oak faceplate was cut by CNC and then dyed Hoosier red and grain filled with white. The frame is also red oak. The electronics are all housed behind and the entire poster mounts to the wall with a French cleat. He estimated that he put about 60 hours of work into the piece and hopes to secretly sell them.

See "Minutes" on page 3

"Minutes" from page2



Jim McGuire showed a scroll saw piece that he received a ribbon for 2nd place at the Orange County Fair.



Congratulations, Jim!

Nicole Yalung & Chris Leavens recently took Jeff Bremer's hand plane class. Chris really loved the final shaping part of the process.







Jeff showed us his salt and pepper shakers made from avocado wood with ebony and holly tops.



Safety

Bob Bilyeu shares the most important part of sharp blades; they can cut you! So be careful when handling any handheld tool with a sharp blade.

Personal safety is important. Ask yourself, "What are my personal weaknesses?" What do you need help with based upon your own limitations? Safety looks different for everyone, but the importance is the same.

See "Minutes" on page 5

From the Web

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

✎ **Miter saw safety jig**
- *For holding safely on a Miter Saw*

https://tinyurl.com/5dbfcv6v

✎ **6 WOODWORKING Tools I Wish I Had NEVER Bought.**
- *Every one of these is absolutely accurate.*

https://tinyurl.com/2kruaxy7

✎ **The Stanley 52 Chute Plane and Board**
- *If you have one of these, then you're serious about planes*

https://tinyurl.com/22jcx3xu

✎ **The Varieties of Japanese Chisels Part 1: The Main Categories**
- *If you like this article, there are many links to all sorts of Japanese tools*

https://tinyurl.com/yh3sab47

✎ **Glue FAQ - WOOD magazine**
- *A collection of great suggestions about glue, how to use it, and choices*

https://tinyurl.com/3avtmunt

✎ **13 Tools UNDER $20 I Regret Not Buying Sooner**
- *I have to admit, every one of these seemed reasonable*

https://tinyurl.com/3698rh8h

✎ **Modern Plywood Workbench**
- *Yeah, a plywood workbench, but this does look like it has benefits. And you can build it.*

https://tinyurl.com/5627uh33

✎ **Marco Terenzi's Incredible, Small World**
- *Warning: this is a rabbit hole. Do not see this if you have to leave for any reason; wait until you have lots of time. And, importantly, do click on all the links.*

https://tinyurl.com/25jhamar

✎ **Marco Terenzi's tools**
- *Here's an Instagram video of him testing his hand plane. I would like to see him sharpening the blade.*

https://tinyurl.com/3w5ct8v4

✎ **Dowel Joinery**
- *If you want more insight on using dowels, this is a good breakdown. In addition, from this page, you can access an extensive amount of information on other subjects.*

https://tinyurl.com/2jdyfj2v

✎ **They Say Not to Do This… But It Works. (Finishing technique.)**
- *A bit limiting in potential uses, but if you can use this, GREAT*

https://tinyurl.com/2j2ejt4h

Member Spotlight

This month is featuring *Jim Kelly*

What year did you join the SFVW? 2012

Woodworking

What types of woodworking projects or techniques do you particularly enjoy? Chair making, mortise/tenon joinery, our annual toy making

What is a project you are especially proud of and why? A highchair I designed and built for my mother so she could more easily host her granddaughter. When my daughters-in-law became pregnant, I received additional orders for highchairs.



What is one species of wood you most like to use and why? Quartersawn oak for the exquisite grain patterns

What is your favorite tool (at the moment)? Whichever one I am currently using.

Tell us about a "tool bomb" you regret (a tool you got that wound up being a waste, useless or not nearly as helpful as you anticipated). I was going to build a bed for our bedroom, and the plans called for using biscuits. I purchased a biscuit jointer, and then my wife found a store-bought bed she liked, and the project was shelved. I still haven't used the biscuit jointer.

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, equipment)? Highchairs for each of my grandchildren.

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 in Norfolk, VA, and grew up on the Jersey Shore after my father's discharge from the Navy. I moved to Pasadena after my discharge from the Navy in Long Beach. I met Beverlee in Pasadena, and we now live in Highland Park.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? A Navy fighter pilot

Tell us about your family/loved ones. I have two sons from a former marriage, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, with a sixth on the way. Beverlee and I are about to celebrate our 36th wedding anniversary.

What was/is your day job? Tell us a little about your professional career. I served 20 years as a surface warfare officer in the Navy, then as an engineer in industry, an operations manager in a water utility, and finally as a high school math teacher.

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. Since retirement, Beverlee and I have visited all seven continents. We particularly enjoyed walking with the penguins in Antarctica.

Other Interests

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

Where is a favorite place to which you have traveled? Antarctica

What is one of your favorite types of music? Jazz

What kind of books do you like to read? Biography, history, thrillers

What's your favorite type of food? Italian, Mexican

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).

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Presentation

Jeff Bremer and Gary Coyne teamed up last month for the ***Super Sharpening Show***, demonstrating several approaches to sharpening chisels and plane blades. Jeff kicked things off with an important reminder: there's no single "right" way to sharpen—try different techniques, practice, and find the system that works best for you!



Gary and Jeff walked us through primary, secondary, and tertiary bevels, along with the importance of flattening the backs of chisels and plane irons. They demonstrated diamond stones, honing guides, custom sharpening jigs, the ruler trick, buffing wheels, and leather strops. We also learned techniques for creating a slight camber on plane blades and maintaining an already-sharp edge without repeating the entire sharpening process.





The presentation wrapped up with a leather strop and the ultimate sharpness test: Jeff shaving the hair off his arm!

One the next page you'll find suggestions from both Jeff and Gary. Good luck and stay sharp!

"President's Message" from page1

El Camino High School to finish putting together the toys, wrap them and pack them. Beyond practical experience, these days offer us a couple of valuable reminders: that all the types of work involved are important, necessary and valued, and how working together towards a common goal feels fulfilling and uplifting.

The best lesson we gain from this yearlong endeavor is how worthwhile it is to give our time, energy, sweat, and creativity to spark some smiles on a thousand young faces.

The Pig Farm

By Gary Hersch

There I was, wandering around my shop pretending to organize things, when the phone rang. It was Eitan, calling in his official capacity as President of the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers. After the usual small talk, he got to the point.

A couple of the Toy Build leads were hanging up their tool belts, and he was looking for volunteers to take over one of the projects. There were two toys available, and he walked me through both.

As Eitan talked, my internal dialogue was in full swing:

"I'm way too busy."

"I work too much already."

"I've got projects around the house."

"I have an entire list of Honey-Do's that's starting to look like a government infrastructure plan."

And to top it off, I was in the final stages of a desk build that was supposed to take a month but was now entering its sixth month of construction. Apparently, I build in dog years.

So naturally, what came out of my mouth was not "No."

Instead, I heard myself say, "Let me think about it and get back to you."

After hanging up, I did what I probably should have done before answering the phone: I thought about it.

I've been a member of SFVWW for about eight years. When I joined, my woodworking experience could generously be described as "limited." At one of my first meetings, I met Tom Ferkel, who taught me how to build a ukulele. That little project launched my fascination with building guitars. Not playing them, mind you. Building them. My ability to create instruments is far more impressive than my ability to make music with them.

Over the years, whenever I've run into a problem, someone in the club has had an answer. When I've needed advice, I've gotten it. When I've needed a tool I didn't own, it was usually just a phone call away.

See "The Pig Farm" on page 7

Sharpening Tool Suggestions

By Gary Coyne

There were a variety of things I would have liked to have gone into more, but there wasn't time during the presentation. For one thing Veritas/Lee Valley does have a wide variety of other sharpening tools available.



✎ **Veritas Mk.II Deluxe (5-piece) Honing Guide Set ($169)**

- *This complete set has more than you need for both wide or narrow blades, and the angle registration jig. It also has the slightly rounded roller (for cambering blades). (I got this set and agree with Jeff that the camber roller is not necessary)*

https://tinyurl.com/yc8hetpc



✎ **Veritas Mk.II Narrow-Blade (just the support part, can be combined with the standard 3-piece for both chisels and plane blades) Honing Guide ($61.50)**

- *I prefer using this for narrow chisels (⅛″–1+″. For one thing, I always hold the blade to a true 90°. I found that even if you use the angle guide to get it square to begin with on the MK II Standard, a chisel (especially narrow ones) tends to wander off 90°. If you get the Mk.II set, this fits right in and you save a few $$.*

https://tinyurl.com/2wj94sx7

Japanese Water Stones

While limiting yourself to diamond sharpening tools has advantages, Japanese Water Stones (JWS) offer specific benefits you shouldn't ignore. The main one is speed. While it doesn't make that much difference if you're just resetting your primary bevel, when it comes to flattening the back of a chisel blade or setting a new bevel angle, you are, at that point, removing more metal, and that takes more time. At one point, I was trying to flatten the back of a ½″ chisel and spent over an hour on my 300 grit Trend diamond stone to get the job done. I then switched to an 800-grit JWS, worked on a ⅝″ chisel, and finished in 20 minutes.

Admittedly, JWSs are messier, and you must flatten them often. However, I only use them when I need to flatten the back of a chisel or change the angle of the primary bevel. The first action is once per tool; the 2nd action is very seldom. As far as flattening, that's what the 300-grit diamond plate takes quick work on.

Sharpening Tool Suggestions

By Jeff Bremer

After the sharpening demonstration, I did some research on the Veritas honing guides. The two I like and recommend are:



- The Veritas Sharpening System. Currently $69.50 on the Lee Valley site, and
- The Mk. II Standard honing guide. Currently $89.00.

I also looked into the Skew Registration Jig for the Mk. II Honing Guide System that Jim Kelly mentioned. Currently $42.50.



The Sharpening System is limited to 5 angles: 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35, and has two micro-adjustments. It works well, but is not as easy to set-up as the MK.II. Centering the blade in the guide is done by eye with lines etched into the guide. Skewed angles can be done, again aligned by hand/eye.



The Mk. II is easier to use and more flexible and has, basically, unlimited angles (though most of us will never use them). The angle guide also centers the blade in the honing guide. The Skew Registration Jig, once you get past how complicated it looks, is easy to use.

These also are available from Lee Valley:

✎ **King 800 & 1200 Sharpening stones ($31.50 & $32.50)**



- *I've found these to be excellent in their speed and consistency in grit (links to both).*

https://tinyurl.com/mznfa33n
https://tinyurl.com/2js4kr6b

✎ **Bevel Angle Gauge ($12.99)**

- *To verify the blade bevel you're holding, these are indispensable. From Woodcraft.*

https://tinyurl.com/4v83y5dm



If anyone wishes more information on these tools and how to use them, please feel free to contact me.

There are many sources for Shapton Stones; just do a Google search.

"The Pig Farm" from page5

"Can I come by and use your _____?"

The answer has almost always been yes, and those visits inevitably turn into great conversations, valuable lessons, and usually a few tips on how I was making something harder than it needed to be.

I've also helped with the Toy Build over the years, whether cutting parts in someone's shop or assembling toys at El Camino High School in October. Every time I've participated, I've learned something new.

So the more I thought about it, the more obvious the answer became.

This club has given me a lot over the years. Maybe it was time to give a little back.

I called Eitan and told him I'd take over the Piggy Banks.

Since then, it's been another great learning experience. Some lessons have been positive, like getting much better at cutting curves on the bandsaw. Other lessons have been more educational in the "well, I won't do that again" category, such as discovering that running a stack of pine boards through a planer can produce results ranging from disappointing to entertaining.

I've also learned that making one piggy bank is a project. Making a hundred piggy banks is a manufacturing operation.

For next year, I'd like to figure out how to batch the process well enough to host a build day in my own shop. But for now, I'm enjoying the simple satisfaction of contributing for the sake of contributing. No agenda, no expectation of getting anything back.

Of course, if history is any guide, I'll get plenty back anyway: new skills, a few good stories, and the satisfaction of seeing a pile of lumber turn into something that will make a kid smile.

Not bad for a phone call I really wanted to say "no" to.





