



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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Bringing it Home

by Art Hofmann

On Tuesday, August 5th at 7 pm, we will convene our monthly meeting at the shop of furniture maker Michael Cullen, a Guild Member of SCWA, and a master craftsman whose work is in many collections and museums in this country and internationally. Need visual proof? Check out his website at michaelcullendesign.com. Michael has been designing and making studio furniture for over 30 years, and is the author of many articles that have appeared in *Woodwork* and *Fine Woodworking* magazines. His signature these days is carved designs in wood colored with milk paint, though there is really nothing that he cannot do. At our meeting on August 5th, he will discuss the work that he has done over the last year, and talk about his recent teaching experience. Michael asks that you join him for an evening of sharing stories and show-and-tell that chronicle his adventures as an artist-in-residence at State University of New York (SUNY) Purchase College last fall. "This residency became an instant eye-opener as I returned to my roots where I learned



furniture-making only to discover that everything had changed. Without warning, I found myself to be a dinosaur thrown into a ring with students obsessed with YouTube videos and programming robots. In the midst of this chaos I was able to reach for simple tools to embark on a making-fest adventure which was chock-full of fun, hilarious moments and discovery. I'll talk about these experiences along with some later

surprises that include the discovery of a cache of tools belonging to both my grand- and great-grandfathers. I look forward to sharing all this with you."

Location: Michael Cullen Design, 500 Rohde Lane, Petaluma, CA 94952 (707)-486-2380

Directions: Take 101 to Petaluma and take the Washington Ave. exit. Head west on Washington for approximately 5 miles. Washington will become Bodega Avenue as you head out of town. You will pass by Thompson Lane on your right and approximately 1/2 mile past Thompson you will make a right on to Rohde Lane. There will

be an "end 45 mile/hr." sign just before you make the right hand turn. Drive down Rohde Lane to 500 (there will be a group of mail boxes at this point) and turn left into the property. If you are on gravel, you have missed the turn and have gone too far. Drive around the house and find parking. (Please be considerate of others when parking).

Remembering Carl Johnson



Carl Johnson

On Sunday, July 20th, Carl Johnson's family hosted a memorial service on the grounds of his home in Healdsburg. Carl Johnson was a former vice-president of our organization for several years awhile back, and a non-stop woodworker.

Carl was raised in the Bronx and went to Peter Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan. He was also in the Merchant Marines and sailed for some years, then went into air conditioning and followed a number of other trades; always, on the side, he was a woodworker. After a time in southern California, he moved to Foster City, where he was active in the Bay Area Woodworkers Association, many of whose members were in evidence at his memorial.

Carl founded another, smaller, more exclusive organization, Peninsula Woodworkers, according to Don Naples, a long-time close friend. He moved from Foster City up to Healdsburg to a property that had a barn for his many tools. That did not suffice either, and so, at 75, he built his final shop, in which he worked until the end of last year.

Don Naples adds that quite a few years ago, Carl took a Windsor chair-making class from Brian Boggs. He made several, which are still in his home. He enjoyed segmented bowl turning, and sold some through a gallery in Fort Bragg. He was a member of Wine Country Wood Turners as well as SCWA.

The day of his memorial service would have been his 88th birthday. About 120 people of all ages attended. They stemmed from the circle of his extended family from northern and southern California, his friends from Nevada, Colorado and many other points of the compass, Bay Area Woodworkers, and neighbors. The testimonials of his family and his many friends revealed Carl to have been a stalwart family man and a loyal friend with an incredible sense of humor, plain-spoken, true as an arrow, and an excellent craftsman to boot. Well done, Carl!

- Art Hofmann



Small Shops Event Dubbed a Success by Members in Attendance

by Art Hofmann

Despite the difficulty of organizing and coordinating it all, the Small Shops Day came off well enough. Indeed, most visitors who made it to the BBQ at the end seemed very happy with the day.

It began at the very small shop of Art Hofmann in eastern Santa Rosa, where he showed off his MiniMax combination machine to about a dozen members. This machine, which is made in Italy, features a lot of cast iron and some very good engineering. The 5.5 ft. slider lets the user slice and dice plywood with ease, especially European plywoods like Baltic Birch that comes in 5 ft. square sheets. Larger sheets require a bit more of a

boogie in terms of using the rip fence to break them down. There is a scoring blade for Melamine and delicate veneers, which is handy as well. Furthermore, Art has built a *Fritz und Franz* holder-pusher, which permits him to cut very small and odd-shaped pieces while maintaining safety. Also, there is a 'shoe' arrangement which, together with a robust clamp, facilitates ripping a straight line on rough wood, such as long slabs with a waney edge for example. In addition to the 12" saw blade, the MiniMax also features an

11-3/4" jointer/planer powered by a separate motor. Art demonstrated this with a wide piece of soft maple (Big Leaf Maple), and then lifted the wings of the jointer out of the way to expose the planer, where he fed through a 12" redwood board. As a finale, he mounted the mortising unit

onto the machine, which has a chuck on the end of the jointer/planer arbor. This unit features an XYZ axis arrangement, permitting adjustments of the location of the bit, plus the depth and width of the desired slot. It works well, but is not as quick as a Festool Domino. He has not used this feature of the MiniMax since purchasing the Domino, but after reassessing the unit in the run-up to this demo, has decided to buy a few

larger birds-mouth bits, ones that cut with both RH and LH to use where a wide, deep mortise is needed. The cutting depth of these bits is about 2". There is one feature that he did not demo, and that was the shaper, since he uses his router table for profiles, having little use for big profiles. "Perhaps in the future, someone will show me what to do with a shaper," Art commented. If you are going to search out wide boards for nice figure and looks, then having a machine like this one is a good

investment. It combines very important features in a unit that is about the size of a small dining table. This demo went into overtime, a point that will be corrected if we decide to do such an event again in the future.



Steve Thomas, Bob Moyer, Rick White



Shoshana Fein & Art Hofmann



Fritz und Franz

The second stop on the tour was a visit to a country workshop in Sebastopol, at Michael Wallace's place, located well west of, but still technically in, Sebastopol. Michael uses one bay of a three-bay garage for his work space, where he has a contractor type table saw, a jointer, a planer, an oscillating sander, a miter saw and a drill press. The band saw is relegated to another bay, which his wife finds annoying. Though the



Clyde Handford & Michael Wallace

space is generous enough at 12' x 20', it is filled with racks for wood, and other storage elements, including two tool chests and a large shelving rack. Because his wood collection was growing faster than the rate at which he uses it, he built a separate (10'x 12') wood storage shed. Or had it built, to be more accurate, helping the carpenter but assigning himself the doors and decorative trim pieces. In order to facilitate working, he has put all of his tools on wheels, and works in the driveway.

During the tour, Michael explained all of this to the visitors and gave a brief overview of his recent attempts to corral all the various loose pieces that one

collects (screws, bolts, router bits, et cetera). He has found commercially available storage boxes, favoring two in particular. The first is a flat box that he found at Harbor Freight, which holds removable bins that are good for all sorts of things. A pack of assorted screws from McFeely's found a home in one of these boxes. These boxes typically are on sale, and can be had for as low as \$5 apiece. They are sturdy, stackable, and lock tightly. He demonstrated by shaking it upside down without losing a screw. The other boxes he likes are the "Really Useful Boxes" from a company of the same name in



the UK. The boxes come in various sizes and colors, and are clear, sturdy and nearly indestructible. These are available at Office Depot, where at times they go on sale, sometimes at 3 for 2 pricing. Michael also showed the "Maloof style" rocker he is finishing, which he built in a class that he is taking from a fellow SCWA member, John Moldovan. The primary wood is walnut, and the slats are maple. "It's the first and last one I'll ever build. The hard part was sculpting the lines of the rocker, knowing when things are 'right.' There seemed to be no end to the sanding required."

Since Michael's slot in the tour occupied the noon hour, he accommodated his visitors with a batch of triple chocolate brownies of the standard (not the West County) persuasion. These, he assures us, were much enjoyed by the visitors.



Photo by MJ Wallace



Alan Brickman & Brownie

The next shop on the tour was David Hirsch's place, which is in a standalone building in his backyard in Petaluma. David's shop is very clean and very well organized. It features two large rooms, one for the machines, including a band saw, a huge old heavy Wadkin Bursgreen that looks like it means business, a full size table saw with a handsome crosscut sled, a jointer, planer, and a multi-router. In this section there is a separate room for an air compressor the size of a bulky man, and a top notch Oneida dust collector system. Then there is the bench room, which is where the quiet work is done. This room features the magnificent bench that he completed as his final project during his apprenticeship with Michael Cullen some time ago, and a large work table that has a surface of a light amber colored composite from which glue can be easily removed. In this room, he has his array of finely tuned hand tools.

The whole place has plenty of windows, and thus much natural light and many views into the surrounding garden, and is a joy to walk into. He can look forward to going to work. David writes, "prior to building my shop, I greatly benefited from visiting and working in the shops of others. So I was pleased to be able to open my doors for the Association yesterday and share what I have learned. I was left with the sense that people enjoyed the tours." David's shop features a very thorough sawdust collection system, with all machines coupled to it through blast gates, and copper tubing carrying air supply to every conceivable corner. Lots to learn here, just by walking through and looking.



David Hirsch & Art Hofmann



Liam Chambers

As a first timer to one of the Sonoma Woodworkers Association meetings, I was pleasantly surprised by seeing some of the tools, projects, and workspaces owned by members. I witnessed the importance of extreme patience and persistence from a violin maker. I learned the importance of maintaining a workshop not just for you own safety but also efficiency. I encountered many great pieces and met many experienced and interesting characters. A lot of knowledge and inspiration was gained from the experience.

- Liam Chambers, Ramona CA

(Liam is Jose Cuervo's 15 year old nephew. His interests include woodworking and dentistry, among a great many other things. To arrange extractions, please contact the editor).



The final stop on the First Annual Small Shops tour was Mark Tindley's place in Penngrove, where he lives with his wife Julie on a few acres. His shop is in a barn that he rehabilitated. Apparently, it was in bad shape when he arrived, and he made an arrangement with the landlord to fix it up for a reduction in rent. That was about five years back, so now it is in very good shape. He has painted it a spiffy barn red, and the place is a pleasure to inhabit.

mortiser, etc. There is another room, too, the inner sanctum, where he has a small bench, and a large work table. An amazing array of tools take up all the room on the walls. It is very inviting and it is obvious that he enjoys spending time there. Mark writes, "I hope those who visited my shop had as much fun as I did. I was asked lots of interesting questions, showed off some of my super-useful but less well known hand planes (the side-rebate/rabbit plane for widening grooves seemed particularly popular), offered a small

demonstration on my scraper sharpening techniques and a mini-talk on my violin project. I also couldn't resist the opportunity to fire up the Northfield planer and show how easily it can take off 1/4" in a single pass. But the dry-rub recipe for my barbecued ribs goes with me to my grave (hint: there's a lot of pepper in it)."



Following in Stradivarius' footsteps...



Mark Tindley

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Mark also has two main spaces, a larger one for his machines: a Hammer saw with a sliding table, and a huge planer, as well as a bandsaw, a hollow-chisel



Greg Zall & Gordon Mandeno



The Grill Master

2014 *Artistry in Wood* Schedule



Children's Stools by Joe Scannell



Jake's Bench by Les Cizek



Bar Table by Michael Murphy

Wednesday, September 3rd, 9 am to 4 pm. - Entry Day.
 Wednesday, September 10th, 7 pm - Judging and Annual Show Awards Meeting.
 Friday, September 12th, Opening Reception.
 Saturday, September 13th, - Show Opens.
 Tuesday, October 7th, 7 pm - SCWA Members meeting at the Museum.
 Sunday, October 19th, - Show Closing.
 Monday, October 20th, 9 am to 4 pm, - Pick-up day for all entries.

Everyone is encouraged to enter something in the show. Yes, the pieces are juried, but I know all of you are capable of achieving the standards that will pass review. Too, I encourage you to download an entry form now and take a little time to review it. All the information you need is in the prospectus. There have been some changes from last year, and it'll be easier for you to read and understand your choices and how to fill out the form while in the peace and quite of your home, instead of at the museum on entry day.



Straw Gossip Chair by Joe Amaral

Olive Hollow Form
by John Cobb



When we get a bit closer to September, we'll be sending out an email to the membership asking for volunteers to assist with the gallery preparation, setup, and receiving of pieces on entry day. There is plenty of opportunity to help, so don't be shy. Those who assist always have lots of fun.

- Scott Clark, Show Chair



Desert Urn
by David J. Marks

*All photos this page by
Tyler Chartier*

Officers of the Association

<u>Chairman</u>	Bob Moyer	762-3713	<u>Secretary</u>	Walt Doll	206-2664
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<u>Editor</u>	Joe Scannell	(415) 892-9104			

Wood Forum is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles and photographs for inclusion in the publication. You can send your submissions to the Wood Forum Editor at joejakey@comcast.net or at SCWAMESSAGES@gmail.com. Advertisements are also accepted with a per-entry cost of \$5 per column inch.

Membership Application

I would like to join the SCWA to meet other people interested in the craft, the art and the business of fine wood-working. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$35 for the annual dues. I understand that this fee entitles me to attend monthly meetings and to receive the Wood Forum newsletter by email or via the SCWA's website.

I am enclosing an additional \$15 to receive the Forum by regular mail.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Please send check and completed application to:

Sonoma County Woodworkers Association, PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402