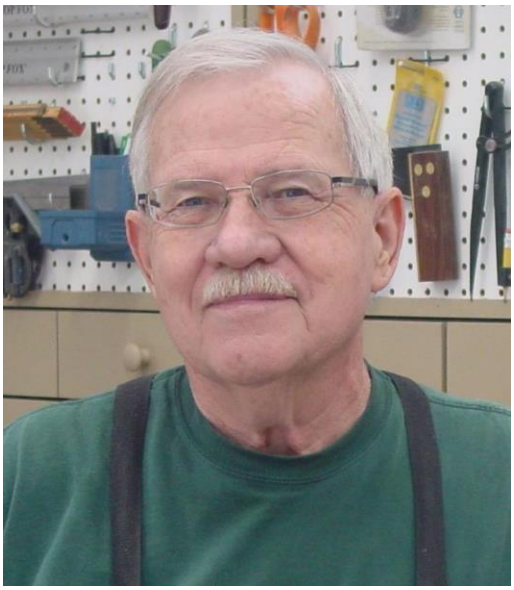
STAN STEPHENS



I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. I graduated from Pleasant Hill High School on 1964 where I ran track and cross country. I graduated from Chico State College in 1968 with a degree in biology. I met my future bride while attending college and we were married in 1968. We recently celebrated our 56th wedding anniversary.

After graduation from college, and losing my college deferment, it was pretty apparent I was about to be drafted (this was pre-lottery) so I enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. I graduated as an Ensign in 1969 and was assigned to the USS Midway, an aircraft carrier, that my Uncle Sam let me drive.

I made two deployments to Vietnam between 1970 and 1972. The USS Midway was home ported in Alameda. I made my first serious wood working project, a pecan coffee table, at the NAS Alameda wood shop. I still have and use the table.

USS Midway headed out to sea

I was separated from active duty in 1972, but spent another seven years in the inactive reserves. I received an honorable discharge (in case you were wondering) in 1980.

Following my separation from active duty in 1972, I used the GI Bill to attend graduate school at Cal-State Hayward. I graduated in 1975 with a Master's Degree in Environmental Biology. I landed a job with the California Department of Fish and Game where I worked for 32-years as a Fishery Biologist. Most of my summers were spend in the Sierra Nevada Mountain working with various trout populations and their habitats. For several years

I was assigned to the state-wide wild trout management project, which I thoroughly enjoyed. The last two years of my career was spent as the Operations Chief (titles don't mean much) at the Lake Davis Northen Pike Eradication Project. I retired from the CDFG in 2007.

I have been a member of the Kaweah Flyfishers since 1978 and love to fish. I haven't done any flyfishing lately, but hope to resume the sport that I truly love.

I have three married daughters and six grandchildren. They all live in California so I get to spoil the grandkids on a regular basis. All my daughters have all been very successful in life and careers mostly thanks to their mother's role model and ignoring their dad's bad habits.

So much for zero population growth

1930 Model A Ford Four-Door Town Sedan

My grandfather was a finish carpenter and the two of us (I watched) duplicated all the wood support structure for a 1930 Model A Ford, which my family restored. I recently gave the car to my brother to make room in my shop for more wood working equipment. I have always had a love for woodworking and started off with a Craftsman table saw. I have advanced to better (and more) woodworking equipment. I continue to try and improve my woodworking skills.

I am in the process of redesigning my wood shop (again) and hooking up my two-stage cyclone dust collection system. All my power tools are on wheels, so this makes it relatively easy to change my mind. I have three wood lathes and I'm probably a better wood turner than woodworking, but I hope to change that.

European beech cabinets

For the last couple of years my efforts have been devoted to remodeling my entire house. This includes moving walls, doors, windows, etc. The only fun part of this remodel has been building cabinets for the pantry, kitchen, and bathrooms. I used European beech, which is a great wood to work with. It has become difficult to find lately, but I bought lots initially. This project is nearing completion, so I hope to get back out in the shop making fun things.

I joined the San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers Association in 2006. I very much appreciate the talents of the late Ben Douglas, Roger McCoy, and many others for their willingness to share their knowledge and resources. I have served as treasurer and president. I have learned that any organization is only successful if members are willing to step-up and help-out.