

Randy Cox

I was born in Berkeley, CA (if you tell anybody that, I'll deny it!), and grew up in Sacto, graduating from Sac State in Feb 1969. I married my wife, Mary Kay, in 1971 (and she hasn't left me yet!). As the draft was after me, I joined the USAF two weeks after graduating and made it a 21 year career in the transportation field, ending with three years at the Pentagon. We've lived in VA, TX, MO, AZ, Germany, Italy and I in CA & Korea. Along the way, I picked up an MBA. Then I took a job working for the Royal Saudi Air Force at their Hq in downtown Riyadh for two and half years – my wife really liked it over there – NOT. After that “fun” job I was an insurance office manager for NSE Ins Agencies, Inc. in Exeter for the past 16 years. I'm now fully retired. We have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

I have always been interested in building and doing things, especially with cars. My dad could do anything construction-wise and did although he was an electrician by trade in his younger days. I grew up hot rodding, however now I just buy them and don't build/mod (much) them anymore.

I got interested in woodworking about 30 years ago and bought a Shopsmith. However, I only seriously got involved after moving to Exeter in 1990 and meeting Seldon Kempton and Ed Root. As I was always borrowing Seldon's woodworking magazines to read, he eventually gave me his whole collection. Somewhere along the way I also bought Seldon's 6"x48" belt/12" disc sander after he was only doing turnings. I have an old Delta 890 14" band saw that I have totally rebuilt, an old Delta DP220 14" drill press (both bought from Bob Sansom), a Powermatic 60 8" jointer, a 220v Delta Unisaw, an older Delta 12"x36" lathe, Delta 12.5" planer, 12" DeWalt chopsaw, etc. I like tools, fixing them, rehabbing them, and using them. No hanger queens in my little 14'x18' shop.



I have known vaguely about SJWA for years. Now that I have fully retired, I'm in! I build lots of “low level” stuff out of 2x4s - ha. I need to take my game to the next level (or get it off the bottom level) and what better place than to learn hands-on from real woodworkers. In my travels around the world I have seen artisans in 3rd world countries make absolutely beautiful stuff with hardly any tools, and certainly no power tools. I have lots of tools but am short on talent. I recently turned a 30" ash bat for my grandson and built a bunkbed complete with slide for one of my grandsons in Atascadero (my son is fireman for the city of Paso Robles). Both are a first for me. I want to become a better woodworker, and what better way than to join with other like-minded talented woodworkers...

