San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers Association
Founded in 1983

Newsletter

November/December 2012
Issue 179

www.SJFWA.com

October Monthly Meeting

By: Mike Weatherson

The October meeting was started by Richard Pierce asking yours truly to talk briefly about my shop, which I did. There were 31 members, including 2 new members, and one guest in attendance. Louis Volpp gave a brief report on the ongoing class. There are seven students taking the class and 5 of them were at the meeting. Pat Connolly told everyone that the date for the yearly banquet for next year will be on March 16th. Dave Summers and his wife Julia will be providing us with another great dinner. Tri-tip, potatoes and cobbler were all mentioned, so it should not be missed. We are in need of raffle prizes, items to be displayed, and birdhouses for the competition and to use as centerpieces. Anyone wishing to help out with the banquet should contact Pat.

President Pierce answered questions regarding the current stat of the insurance and liability concerns with the toy making program. Although there was a short discussion and Richard answered a few questions, he pointed out that there is a committee working on a document that will be presented to the club in the future that should address all of the issues. Basically, we need to get all of our ducks in a row pertaining to testing, insurance and liability before we continue with the program.

"Speaking to members"

"Roger explaining his woodworking background"

David Dunlap had a truckload of wood and cabinet doors that were free to the members. David said that if his truck was empty on the way home he would get much better gas mileage. The winning tickets for the raffle (buckboard, wooden toys, turned bowls, cradle, and jewelry box) were drawn and the winners not in attendance will be notified. Ben Douglas gave a report on the upcoming juried show next fall. The display of entries will most likely be at the Fresno Fair and Ben is also talking to the Fresno Art Museum about possibly displaying it there. The juried show is a board priority and Ben needs as much club participation as possible to make it a success. Ben will get more information out to the club as soon as everything is finalized.

Roger McCoy was the featured speaker for the meeting, and he did a wonderful job of giving everyone an idea of what it was like to go through the woodworking program at College of the Redwoods. Roger started by giving an account of his woodworking background leading up to his decision to attend the College of the Redwoods program. His journey started in the 7th grade when he took a

"October Meeting", *continued on page 3*

President's Message

Members of the San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers Association.....

Well friends this certainly has been an interesting, disquieting and challenging past few months for the Board of Directors, membership and community partners involved in toy manufacturing and distribution to under privileged children. Association toy production has been put on hold by the Board of Directors until Toy Committee members create and implement manufacturing protocols to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

Evaluation by the Ways and Means committee of insurance coverage for Toy manufacturing and Distribution revealed deficiencies. Additional coverage was recommended and added by the Board of Directors. Accordingly, annual insurance costs have risen from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars.

Concurrently, it was determined that Association liability insurance does not now and will not in the future cover individual members for liability arising from Association activity in members' private shops. This applies to both manufacturing and educational activities. In the event of a claim being filed against a member, the Association's insurance carrier "may" defend the member, but shall not cover any liability costs. Apparently this is standard industry practice.

Liability claims arising from legitimate association activity, such as toy manufacturing or educational classes, in leased, rented or club owned facilities is covered by our insurance carrier using standard insurance protocols. Accordingly, the Education classes currently being conducted at Ideal Saw Works provide the venue for appropriate insurance coverage. Other types of Association approved activity such as the Annual Banquet, held at venues leased or rented for that activity is covered as well. The insurance issues arising from the use of member owned shops for association activity has caused the Board of Directors to examine alternative solutions for venues of manufacturing toys, educational classes and all other Board approved Association activity to ensure adequate coverage while engaged in association activity. That effort continues.

The association is fiscally sound. Past Boards of Directors have been good stewards of association funding and spending practices. Absent the need of significant operational changes this association would be positioned well. However it is become abundantly clear significant change is upon us. Past methods of service delivery are likely to change along with the means to implement. However the General Purposes and Specific Purposes of the Association set forth in the By-Laws have not changed.

We must make those necessary changes to remain well positioned and deal effectively with the challenges posed by the General and Specific Purposes for which this association was founded. There is our challenge.

I remain optimistic by working together we can meet those challenges.

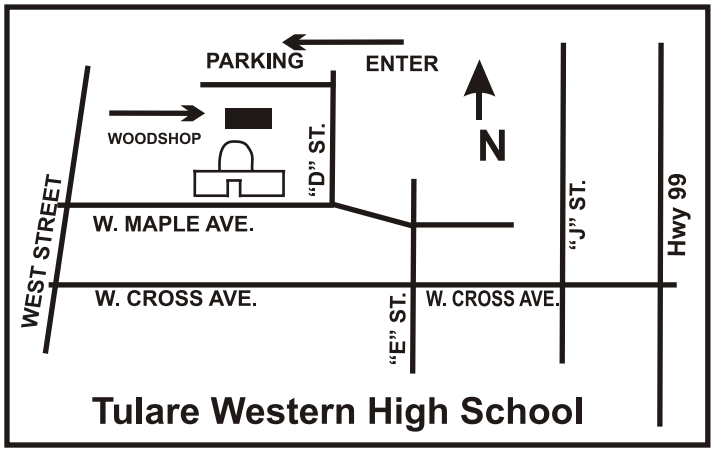
Richard Pierce

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: November 17, 2012
Time: 9:00 AM to Noon
Place: Tulare Western High School
Tulare, CA

PROGRAM: The presentation will cover the care and use of hand planes. If you have a plane lying around your shop that you have questions on, bring it to the meeting and someone in the club will be able to help you.

Remember to bring a chair.



"October Meeting", *continued from page 1*

woodshop class and really didn't like it. He took another shop class in 8th grade and built a gun rack. Although much of the class time was spent in the classroom, the gun rack project was enough to discover his passion for woodworking. He thought that he might choose engineering as a career, so his high school classes consisted of a lot of science and math, not leaving any room for a woodshop class. Without learning the basics in techniques and safety, he said that it is a miracle that he has all of his fingers. After meeting Ben Douglas, who invited him to one of our club meetings, he attended a meeting and began to get more serious about woodworking. He mentioned that Ben, and later Howard Atamian, were his first mentors in his process to acquire knowledge. From 2004 to 2008, Roger took a total of 15 classes at the Woodworker Academy in Alameda. These classes provided the missing safety and techniques that he needed to progress. One of the teachers at Woodworker Academy, who also became a friend, later wrote a Letter of Recommendation for his application to College of the Redwoods.

Attentive members

After taking an early retirement at the age of 55, Roger had more time to devote to his woodworking education. A week after retiring, Roger and his wife visited the Fort Brag area to check out the school. While there, he and his wife visited the Highlight Gallery in Mendocino. The gallery sells a lot of work by teachers and former students from College of the Redwoods. After seeing the quality of work in the gallery, he said his wife "got it" with respect to his passion for woodworking.

During the summer of 2010, Roger took 3 summer classes at College of the Redwoods, which included Creating a Wall Cabinet, Tool Making and Joinery, and Tools and Techniques. After being denied admission when he first applied for the 9 month in 2010, he took 2 more summer courses in 2011 and started the 9 month program in the fall. The school has 23 traditional European cabinetmakers benches, each with its own tool cabinet and sharpening stations. The school currently accepts 24 students per class. The school has a complete machine room, but places an emphasis on hand tool work. Roger's class included students from 3 other countries, as well as 10 other states, the youngest being 20 and the oldest being 70 years old. The students worked 10+ hours a day, 6 days a week, for the length of the class. Most mornings would include a 1 to 2 hour lecture on topics including veneer work, hinge making, mock ups, finishing, and sketching.

Most first semester projects are small, such as cabinets and boxes. There is a Mid-Winter Show and most students put in extra time, beyond their 60+ hour weeks, to get their projects done for the show. Roger worked long hours and most of his Christmas vacation, but finished his project 2 days before the show. The second semester projects are usually larger and more complex. Roger decided to make one of James Krenov's cabinets. He said that it turned out to be much harder than he expected, but it really improved his hand planning skills. He said having his cabinet on display at the Mid-Winter Show at the Highlight Gallery in Mendocino, the gallery that he and his wife first visited over a year earlier was a great feeling. After finishing the program, he returned 6 weeks later for a 4 week Projects Class in the summer.

Roger finished by saying the experience was very fulfilling. He said that the question that he gets asked most is "Now what?" He said that he would like to teach some day, but the knowledge and skills that he gained were invaluable in feeding his passion for woodworking.

All of us joined our club because of our love of woodworking. Regardless of your ability level, we should all be working to improve our skills. Whether or not you go as far as Roger did in working to get better at your craft is up to you. There are plenty of woodworking classes out there including ones taught within our own club that we should all be taking advantage of. If you are just showing up to our monthly meetings, you are missing opportunities to learn from the many experienced woodworkers in our club.

Cardboard mockups in his jewelry box project design

Tulare County Fair 2012

By: Al Sindlinger

By the time you read this the Tulare Fair will be just a memory - and a very pleasant one. We set up our booth on Sept. 10. The Fair ran from September 12th through the 16th, and then we took it all down on September 17th. As usual, 10% of the club members did 100% of the work at the Tulare Fair, including setting-up everything, working the booth for 5 days, and then taking it all down. I would like to mention those that gave of their time and talent: J.C. Charles, Pat Connolly, Mike Cunningham, Bob Cravy, Wes & Martha Hofer, Jerry Ellis, Kevin Gerke, John Harkless, Ken Kenoyer, Craig Miller, Tony Wortner, and Dodd Yahnian. We also had great support from the people than run the Home Arts Building. Sally Anderson and Barbara Sories are always there to help if we need any supplies and also have some of the Home Arts food to give us to sample. In all, we had a very good time, and all of you that did not work at the Fair missed a chance to get to see some of our great youngsters and their families.

"Kids learning puzzles from Ken"

"Al interacting with kids"

"A great looking club fair booth"

TULARE COUNTY FAIR

"Kids having fun with Wes"

December Meeting

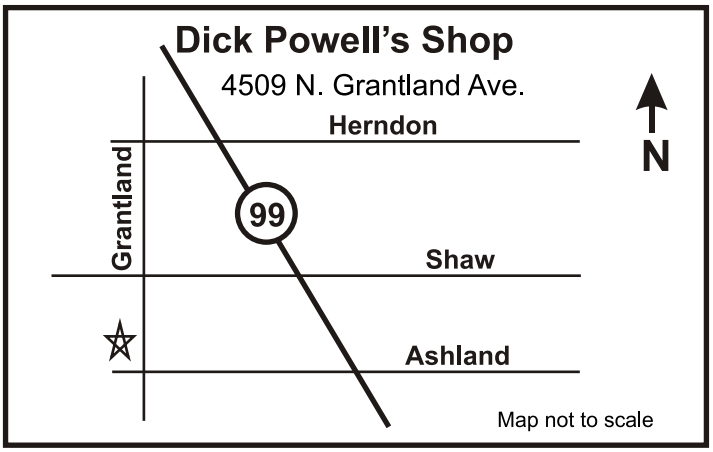
Date: December 15, 2012
Time: 9:00 AM to Noon
Place: Dick Powell's Shop
4509 N. Grantland Ave.
Fresno, CA
559-276-5544

NOTE: Park outside fence, perpendicular to fence and off of road.

There will be a voluntary gift exchange (maximum $15 value) for those who wish to participate. Bring a wrapped, unmarked gift. Be sure to put a star beside your name on the sign-in sheet so we know who qualifies to receive a gift.

Be sure to bring a chair.

PROGRAM: We will be reviewing past Association education classes by taking a "peek into" some of those classes. Several "students" will present their views of these classes including likes and perhaps dislikes. In addition, there will be a "tease" of upcoming classes. While many members avail themselves of these opportunities, perhaps this will excite more participation. Louis Volpp and his Education Committee have put a lot of effort into our educational program and believe more members can benefit from this program.



Go west on Shaw from Freeway 99; then south on Grantland to 4509 (on right)

"Collection of hand planes Roger has made."

"October Meeting pictures", *continued from page 3*

"Apple wood jewelry cabinet exterior"

"Apple wood jewelry cabinet interior"

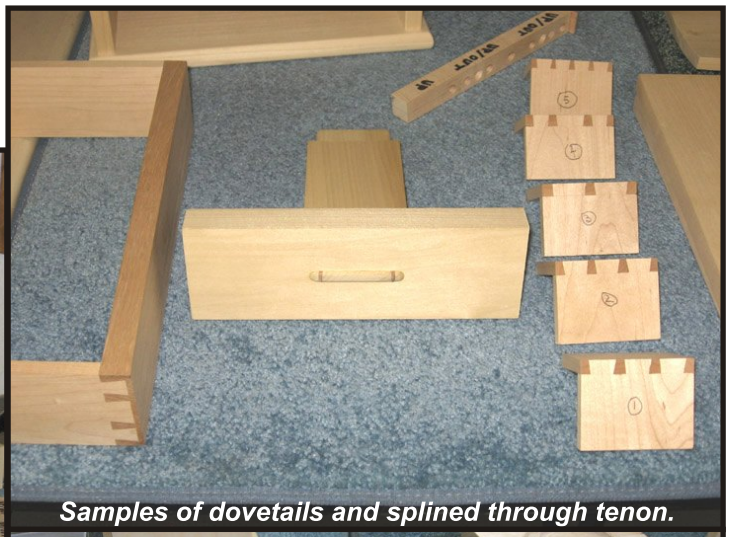
2013 Annual Banquet

By: Mike Weatherson

The 2013 Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 16 at the Masonic Lodge in Tulare. This is the same venue as last year. Dave and Julia Summers will be the cooks again this year and they promise dinner will be as good, or better than last year. Just as last year, donations are needed for the raffle, as well as projects for display. Items donated for the raffle will be raffled off at the banquet to raise funds for the club. Items brought for display will be shown that night in the club's display and returned to the lending member at the end of the night. We also need birdhouses and birdfeeders for the Birdhouse Contest and to use as center pieces for the event. The success of the banquet depends on the participation of the SJFWA members. Look for further information in the next newsletter.

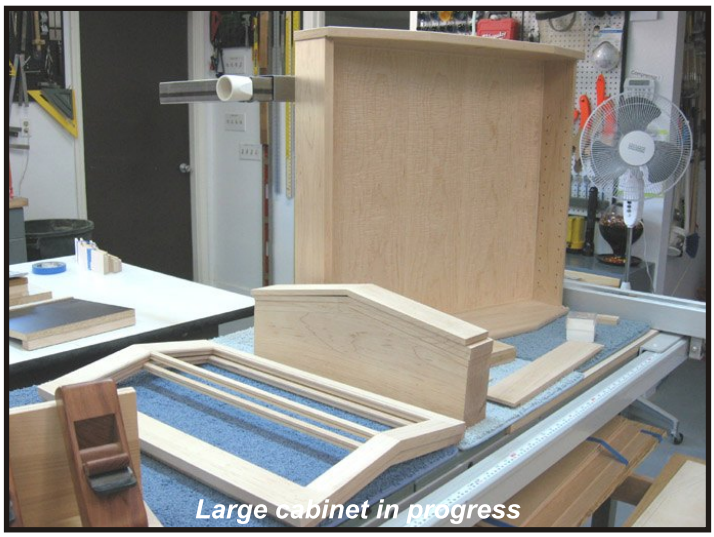
"October Meeting pictures", *continued from page 5*

Poplar jewelry cabinets



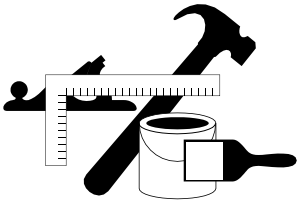
Samples of dovetails and splined through tenon.

Marquetry inlay from one of Roger's previous classes



Large cabinet in progress

Roger sharing more info after the meeting



San Joaquin
Fine
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Association
Founded in 1983

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dues $30 per year, but send only$15 if joining after June regular meeting through December.

Make check payable to SJFWA and mail to:

SJFWA, PO Box 3132 Visalia, CA, 93278-3132

WWW.SJFWA.COM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP:_____

HOME PHONE:_____ WORK PHONE:_____

(Home phone will be listed in our Directory unless stated otherwise)

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: (Past)_____ RETIRED: Yes___ No___

For further in formation Contact Stan Stephens at Mossback2@Sbcglobal.net

RELEASE OF POTENTIAL LIABILITY
AND VOLUNTARY ASSUMPTION OF RISK OF HARM

It is my wish to participate in and/or be present at activities provided by the San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers Association, (hereinafter referred to as "SJFWA") which will sometimes include my using and/or being present when others use potentially dangerous power tools, sharp tools, chemical products and other items which can and sometimes do cause damage to property, serious personal injury or even death when used. I do voluntarily and for my own purposes accept and assume all risks of any and all injuries or harm to me while participating in such activities and/or while being present when other people do so regardless of whether the injury is the result of negligence, gross negligence or other fault of myself, the SJFWA, SJFWA's members and officers or any other person with the exception of acts done to intentionally cause me harm, or fraudulently done or done in violation of law. I hereby do (WRITE THE WORD **"RELEASE"** IN THE FOLLOWING BLANK SPACE) _____ SJFWA, SJFWA's officers, directors and members from any and all liability on account of any injuries or damages arising from my participation in and/or presence at any and all such activities. I further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to use safe and good woodworking practices when involved in SJFWA's activities and to seek help if I am not familiar with the safe operation of any tool.

_____
(Signature)

_____
(Print Name)

THIS FORM AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. READ IT CAREFULLY.

For Your CALENDAR

San Joaquin Fine
Woodworkers Association
P.O. Box 3132
Visalia, CA 93278-3132
Founded in 1983

Sequoia Woodturners Meetings
Call Chuck Smith at 226-3433

November 14, 2012

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
SJFWA Board Meeting
Sun Hong Kong
1425 Draper Street
Kingsburg, CA
All Members Welcome!

November 17, 2012

South Meeting
Tulare Western High School
Tulare, CA
See Map

December 15, 2012

North Meeting
9 A.M. to Noon
Dick Powell's Shop
4509 N. Grantland Ave.
Fresno, CA
559-276-5544
See Map

December 15, 2012
All articles for the January / February Newsletter #180 are due to the Newsletter Editor,
Mike Weatherson, Weatherson@sbcglobal.net

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