

April 30, 2014

Kevin Gerke

My name is Kevin Gerke and I was born in Montana in the early 70's. My dad did a little woodworking when I was growing up. He had all the tools and knew how to use them. He just didn't spend much time doing it.

After graduation I joined the Army for the college fund and became a Combat Engineer. I was stationed at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts for most of the time, other than a couple months in Desert Storm.

After my four years were up, I moved back to Montana where I went to college and got a degree in Industrial and Technology Education.

I got married (briefly) and have two children. My oldest turns 21 in May. My daughter starts high school next year.

I moved to southern California in 2001 when CA was in dire need of teachers, and then moved to Visalia when my girlfriend got a teaching job up here. I teach woodshop.

I found SJFWA after doing an internet search and met some great people at my first meeting so I stuck around. I haven't had a chance yet to do many of the techniques that most of the club members do every day in their shop, but eventually I'll be able to keep up. My woodworking mostly entails making holiday projects for elementary school kids. I just finished 35 Easter baskets. I made Christmas trees and snowmen before I made shamrocks and hearts. Last fall I made pumpkin baskets.

For myself, I do mostly scrolling. I like to find scroll saw patterns and I spend a lot of time scanning them into the computer. That makes it easy to make copies, especially for students. I also scan articles out of magazines that I think may be useful teaching tools. It makes them easier to find than rifling through stacks of magazines.

I've made a lot of friends in the club and I look forward to many years of fine (and not so fine) woodworking to come.