

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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Presidents Column

By Jay Perinne

Want to describe a serendipitous event involving woodworking. Went with Jennifer to Hermosa Beach to visit her son and family. Checked Woodworker West for events in Southern California that week-end and Ron had featured WORLD WOOD DAY (but nearly a week long, not one day) at Long Beach Convention Center (not far from Hermosa Beach!). And Jennifer agreed to go with me (rare). Website for this event was 'flaky' at best with only a general outline of activities each day but clearly something going on the Friday we were there (drove down to HB on Thursday).



So we get to Long Beach and the ample parking lot shown on Google Maps is blocked off as well as parts of some streets near the Long Beach Convention Center for the upcoming Long Beach Grand Prix which takes place each year on the streets there. Ok, that seemed fine as that way the wood event could pay reduced rent for the use of part of the Convention Center. We go to each door of the convention center and they are chained and locked on the inside...but surely ONE of the doors will be open, and interesting there is not even a small sign directing woodworkers to the correct entrance. Jennifer suggests we ask the parking lot personnel at the adjacent hotel what they know. We see another person clearly looking for the venue and she thinks it in the direction where we found locked doors. The parking lot attendant says try going through the fence (for the car race) on the OTHER side of the Convention Center and there we gained entrance.

We walk in to a huge room with the sound of many mallets and carving chisels at work with the hum of a few electric sanders and grinders. Essentially about 5 visitors and close to a hundred woodworkers busy. Mostly teams of 2 to 4 people working on large slabs carving intensely and quickly to the eye appear to be folks from literally around the world. We find the

entrance and pay for our ticket (amazingly low fee of \$5 each!!) and start making our way around. The visitor count probably never exceeded 50. So teams were sure enough from Africa, South America, Island Nations, and Europe. There were woodworking and cabinetry section with more European and American participants. The carving section was immense with some teams unable to communicate with us and working away at carving animal figures on the large slabs (like 10-12 feet by 2 1/2 feet about 3 inches thick - and a pile of spare slabs for the taking if

This Meeting

Tuesday

April 25

By

Tom Gaston,
Ed Vincent &
Tracie Johnson

At

The Saratoga
Federated Church
at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting

Tuesday

May 23

By

Ron Gerard,
Lou Thorpe &
Allen Glesser

Think about your shop
experience of the last month
and give us a 10 second
explanation of something
important you learned.

teams needed them). Last year's event was in Nepal and this one was supposed to be in Cuba but things didn't work out. Over 20 participants were unable to get visas from Middle East countries!

We asked one of the teams (now this was Friday and they had been at this since early in the week and the 'event' was concluding on Sunday) what do you do with this piece of woodworking at the conclusion - is there a contest or an award time? They did NOT know! They then returned to carving intensely. I spotted Ron Goldman of Woodworking West (having run into him at various woodworking shows and always saying hello he somewhat knew me) and asked "why is this not better advertised - this is fabulous and almost no one here appreciating it?" He responded "I just showed around some reporters from the local paper and they will run a feature article Tomorrow" We agreed that was a week too late as last day would be Sunday.

I got fascinated with some carved and painted African Masks and an Anglo guy was there serving as translator (carvers were from Burkina Faso in West Africa and spoke French) and he was Professor Emeritus from Humboldt State (where my daughter got her degree). I asked him if I could purchase one of the masks as they had been carved here on site and I figured they didn't want to take them home. The Professor, who has collected so many masks from this tribe that he wrote a short book on the subject, said NOTHING is supposed to be sold during this show as enjoyment of woodworking is the theme. I persisted and said surely they could use some cash and wouldn't be taking these back to Africa - he said well sure but only once the show is over if you want to return Sunday you could probably work something out. Never being one to hear No for an answer I persisted and he said well, perhaps you could make an 'arrangement' now with the carver and get it mailed to you at the end of the show. Let me ask him (which he did in French) and was told - he will contemplate how much he would like and the probably shipping cost and give you a number in an hour. I returned in an hour and was told \$300 including shipping (this mask is an alligator face and nearly 2 feet long - no idea what species, probably something made available at the show) and I agreed. He said get the cash and give to me and I will pass on to him when no one is watching. (When I got the cash from the ATM using two accounts as machine would only allow \$200 - we had to leave the place and go outside to make the exchange - felt like I was buying drugs. He said this could be a slippery slope for me as this is how he got started now he owns a room full of their carvings!)..I asked what is going on at this place with all these participants from around

the world - the entrance fees SURELY are not even beginning to cover the costs of airfare let alone the abundant supplies of wood that are here? He said there is some mysterious benefactor in Asia that is covering the costs of airfare and putting them all in hotels. I was dumbfounded. A few folks wandered through the place heading to the stage and they were dressed like Laplanders with leather and reindeer fur and hoods carrying musical instrument. Soon the Loudspeaker said the music is about to start. Sure enough some very interesting music started and we went to the stage - there were seats for hundreds but only about two dozen of us sat to listen which included throat singing - they were from Kazakhstan. Jennifer astutely noted most of the instruments used, except a mouth harp, were at least partially made of wood.

I then found Ron Goldman of Woodworker West and posed the same question: who paid for all this? He said a very wealthy Taiwanese gentleman has paid for travel (no one got paid per se for their time he said) and they are all housed on the Queen Mary at his expense. He (whoever HE is) is passionate about maintaining our forests and appreciating the worldwide woodworking and pays for this. Ron mentioned there was some carver here from like South America that had never even gone much beyond his village that was flown here to carve.

I felt like I had DISCOVERED something. It was a great experience. I mean like our club should have sent a van full of members as well as every other woodworking club in California. And I could have easily spent more than the 3 hours we spent there (we were told by her son that if we left there after 3pm we would be in traffic for over two hours on the LA Freeway system). There were lectures (no idea the quality - didn't have time) and more music and more to learn (talked with First Nation carver from Canada who began discussing the spiritual nature of the carving) and it was so different than where there are vendors trying to sell their products - this was pure demonstrations of woodworking for the joy of it. This was NOT A DREAM, but almost a dream come true. Happy to share and somehow I did not take but two or three photos (the band and my carver and the mask I bought). My mask is still on its way - it did get taken back to Africa and was mailed from there - hopefully to arrive in another week or two - I got an email of the customs form filled out accompanying my mask.

This Month's Program:

Minutes March 28, 2016

Guests:

The four guests were Finn and Alex Doyle, Todd Hansen, and Steve Kelem. Finn Doyle is taking the woodworking class taught by Tracie Johnson and will be making a bookcase.

Announcements:

Don McKell received a call from a woman in Los Gatos who has a collection of VHS woodworking tapes she is trying to get rid of. Contact Don if you are interested.

Richard Winslow is working on the latest order for Craft Supplies USA. It now stands at about \$400. There is no tax or shipping charge and you get a 10% discount.

Program:

Syd Dunton created a bookcase eight to ten years ago where the sides and shelves were made from Spanish cedar and the back splats were made of Siberian elm. He moved it to the "Made in Pescadero" gallery where it sold after having sat at Gallery M for many years. The original bookcase was seen by a customer who liked the style, but wanted one made from sustainable wood and wanted a wider version thus creating a new commission.

The new bookcase has sides and shelves made of cherry while the back splats are made from claro walnut with natural edges. The sides are slanted 6% in both front and side planes. The bottom shelf is 13 1/2" wide to accommodate coffee table sized books then tapers upward where the top shelf is the right size for paperback books. The bottom shelf, because of its width, has a support for strength that is not visible.

Syd starts with a full scale drawing that he calls a cartoon. The joints are mortised with floating tenons and glued together with West Marine epoxy. Joints on one side are glued up one set at a time, that is, one shelf and one back splat while on the second side, all joints were glued up at the same time.

He prefers to apply finish to projects before assembly. He starts the sanding with 80 grit and works his way down to 320. The dust is blown off then a tack rag is used to pick up any remaining particles. Blue painters tape is used to protect the mortises before several coats of stain are applied. Syd then applied wipe-on-polyurethane on the project.

Show and Tell:

Don McKell displayed what he calls his "ugly band saw box" made from pallet wood. Some of the features are not what he intended because of the thickness of the feature and the small width of the blade. The appearance of glue blotches in various locations under the stain adds to its charm.



Mike Papa has created a box made up of a multitude of wood species. He got the rectangles at the San Mateo Wood Show decades ago and were part of a set of wood samples intended to show what each type looks like. The individual pieces are 1/4"



thick and are glued together with Tite Bond on a backing of 1/16" veneer. There are two trays inside the box. The box is finished with General Finish's Arm-r-Seal.

Chuck Aring continues his work with another Maloof style high-backed walnut chair. He is using the second book about Maloof's work as his guide, but is puzzled about the stated height of 47 1/2". In his opinion the height seems more like 46". He is his own harsh critic when he points out various flaws in an otherwise beautiful chair.



Syd Dunton found a nicely figured piece of claro walnut hidden away in his garage. He cut the slab into various sized squares and rectangles then sanded, doveled, and composed the pieces to make a sculptured form. The base is made from African mahogany and the sculpture is finished with wipe-on-polyurethane.



Next Program Committee

Please take the ice chest home after the meeting

Refreshment Suggestions

Variety of Soft Drinks (48)

Water, Regular, Diet, Caffeine-Free, Juices

Varied Snacks: Donuts, Cookies, Chips, Nuts

2017 Officers

President	Jay Perinne
Vice-President	Dennis Yamamoto
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Program Committees

Date	Members
January 24	Tom Kenyon LeRoy Nelson
February 28	Fred Sotcher Rich Winslow
March 28	Sid Dunton Mike Wirth Bill Whittemore
April 25	Tom Gaston Ed Vincent Tracie Johnson
May 23	Ron Gerard Lou Thorpe Allen Glesser
June 27	Bill Henzel Larry Schwarcz
July 25	Dennis Yamamoto Ross Oliver
August 22	Terry O'Donnell Rex Osborne
September 26	Mike Papa Don McKell
October 24	Jay Perinne Jeff Lukanc
November 28	Chuck Aring Larry Petulla
December	Officers
Contact Dennis Yamamoto for any changes to the committee schedule.	