

SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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March 2018

Presidents Column

By Jay Perrine

Two of our newest members are using CNC (computer numerically controlled) machines so I thought I would discuss this topic this month. A good foundation of CNC in woodworking was accomplished by Bill Henzel when he gave our club a very good overview presentation a year and a half ago. He reviewed how hobbist sized machines are emerging from many vendors, some familiar to us and available at Woodcraft or Rockler. He reviewed how the CNC machines are becoming more user friendly (bundled with software that converts CAD drawings into machine instructions specific to the machines) and also coming down in price. There are many CNC machines on the market at or below the \$5K price point. Bill's timely presentation set the stage for our understanding of these machines. A woodworking CNC machine drives or controls a router and different router bits are used to create a different cut on the cutting path.

Tom Kenyon has made multiple presentations at our club meetings that reveal the results of his efforts using a CNC machine which he has been fortunate enough to 'rent' by the hour the Tech Shop (previously rented at the Sawdust Shop). Tom has obtained a fair



amount of success using CNC machines for wood sculpting. However, he has revealed his success was not without getting over some bumps involving software - one specifically was converting his then-favorite CAD software Wiremold

This Meeting

Tuesday
February 27
By
Tom Gaston

Next Meeting

Tuesday
March 27
By
Tracie Johnston &
Ed Vincent
At
The Saratoga
Federated Church
at 7:00 pm

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

drawings to CAM were not totally successful and he switched to another CAD product which translated

better. Software issues are a major holdback in acquiring or even utilizing CNC machines.

I had some experience on two woodworking projects using CNC machines, however I relied on others to

perform the CAD design element. I made a large (12' long redwood sign now installed in front of the Agricultural Sciences Building at Westmont High School) where all lettering was cut with a router using templates. To make the custom templates utilizing the font specified by the school's architect, I relied on a friend who owned an Epilog Laser cutter. He meticulously made me plexiglass templates (some letters required two templates) on 1/4" thick scraps roughly 10" square I picked up at TAP Plastics. On another project, I had occasion to have a cabinet door in my kitchen cut at Sawdust Shop. Craig at Sawdust Shop helped me cut some apple-shaped cutouts from one 1/4" maple plywood cabinet door panel to provide ventilation for vegetable drawers inside. We burned a few test pieces before working out the proper laser cutting speed for 1/4" maple plywood.

In conclusion CNC has been indispensable tool in production shops and it is now becoming a tool used by some of our club members. Although CNC machines can be expensive, used CNC machines can be purchased for considerable savings. Almost everything we've seen cut on a CNC still has to be adjusted or further shaping by powered hand tools and often hand tools themselves. For those who consider themselves as old tool purists, CNC is not

replacing our tools, just enhancing our capabilities. Looking forward to upcoming meetings with CNC topics!

Jay

February Program:

Tom Gaston continues the remodeling of his house in Santa Cruz by making and installing four bookcases. The first two straddle a flagstone fireplace. The frames are made of redwood while the shelves are made of five quarter old growth quarter sawn Douglas fir. He also replaced the "cheesy" mantel with a piece of walnut. He also created two other bookcases in the bedrooms.

Tom then introduced Erik Roise who is a student at Stanford University majoring in engineering with a minor in music. Erik first described an hourglass shaped table with slats that he made where the top is made of cherry and the base is made of black walnut. He then talked about a second table of his own design that is made of bubinga and Gabon ebony. It has a drawer under the floating top and an ebony shelf close to the bottom of the table. The bubinga is finished with shellac and tung oil.

Erik not only plays the cello, but also makes and repairs cello bows. The bows are typically made from pernambuco because of the particular resonance it gives to the instrument. He explained that the bow curves toward the horse hair which causes the horse hair to tighten when pressure is applied. The curve in the bow is created by passing the pernambuco carefully over an alcohol lamp. It's interesting to note that the horse hair comes from Mongolia. In addition to the pernambuco, Erik's bow also contains ebony, sterling silver,

mother of pearl, lizard skin, and bone. It's finished with French polished shellac. Erik also made the carrying case that houses his bows. It's made of mahogany and lined with felt.

SHOW AND TELL

Ross Oliver created several Christmas tree ornaments while working at the Saw Dust Shop. He described how he made a reindeer on the bandsaw from redwood that has a tung oil finish. There was a turned Christmas tree of poplar and two attempts at inside out turning, one of oak and the other of poplar.

Bob Konigsberg made a sample basket weave screen of 0.4mm three ply plywood. It's 14" by 15" and made up of one inch wide strips woven together. The edges of each strip are sanded with 220 grit and then glued to make a tight fit.

Syd Dunton showed a picture of a pedestal side table he made. The base is avocado and colored with purple aniline dye while the top is made from nymallee burl that comes from Australia. He covered it with four coats of polyurethane and it measures 23" high by 15" X 13".

Syd also brought in a sculpture called "jacks". It's made up of 13 truncated pyramid shaped pieces cut from a two inch thick slab of redwood burl. The pieces are epoxied together using two dowels and are arranged in a "planned chaotic order". Syd used a two part bleach process as suggested in an article in the September/October issue of Fine Woodworking magazine after the pieces were sanded down to 220 grit. The sculpture is coated with polyurethane.

2018 Officers	
President	Jay Perinne
Vice-President	Richard Winslow
Secretary	Ron Gerard
Treasurer	Syd Dunton
Newsletter editor	Bill Henzel
Photographer	Richard Winslow
Librarian	Dennis Yamamoto
Web Master	Tom Kenyon

Program Committees	
Date	Members
January 23	Tom Kenyon LeRoy Nelson
February 27	Tom Gaston
March 27	Tracie Johnston Ed Vincent
April 24	Jeff Lucanc Dennis Yamamoto
May 22	Don McKell Leroy Nelson
June 26	Bob Koningsberg Richard Winslow
July 24	Allen Glesser Ron Gerard
August 28	Bill Henzel Larry Schwarcz
September 25	Mike Papa Richard Sprague
October 23	Todd Johnson Tom Kenyon
November 27	Bill Sprague Larry Patulia
December	Officers
Contact Richard Winslow for any changes to the committee schedule	

Next Program Committee

Please take the ice chest home after the meeting

Refreshment Suggestions

Variety of Soft Drinks
Water, Regular, Diet, Caffeine-Free,
Juices

Varied Snacks: Donuts, Cookies, Chips,
Nuts