

# SOUTH BAY WOODWORKERS' NEWS

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## President's Column

By Jay Perrine



How quickly an innovation is adopted in woodworking!

I remember watching New Yankee Workshop and surprised that Norm seemed to have switched from using an electric drill with a screwdriver bit in a cordless driver to drive in screws while assembling projects. The advent of the cordless tools drove the industry to almost all phillips head screws. I remember thinking first, well, he didn't have to buy those cordless tools. They were provided by the manufacturer to get him to showcase the tools. Also I rationalized, that while filming Norm working in a closed space shop, it is good to eliminate electric cords that could trip the cameramen let alone Norm. Safety comes first.

Then I started noticing everyone I knew regularly used cordless drills and drivers. The stores were loaded with every brand having the full assortment. - Then a mini setback occurred as the cordless tools morphed from 9 volts to 12 and then 16 and then 18 and then what is it? 22 volts. Now the 16 or 18 volts seems to be closer to a standard. Then NiCad

replaced the older batteries. Showing the widespread acceptance of cordless tools, woodworking magazines came out with plans for charging stations, charging wall setups and tool bags for all the batteries. Mostly, I have focused on shop use or a mini project within the house where it's nice not to have to find an outlet to screw in something.

Then I went to Alaska in September to visit my brother where he is building a house of his own design, 11 miles from his "tract home". He hopes to sell the "tract home" and move to his off the grid house with its 5 energy sources. For him, the cordless tools are nearly essential, as he has no electricity on site. He even has a cordless chain saw. Fast forward, to this week-end and my daughter ventured off to her new boyfriend's newly acquired parcel in Murphys where he has no electricity. She said he was going to borrow my compressor, which he would power by generator. But, instead purchased a battery powered nail gun. He assembled on-site a small solar panel power station to recharge his various batteries! Battery powered tools are nearly a requirement in his new venture.

So, cordless power tools now head my Santa suggestion list this year. They are so useful not only to woodworkers confined to their shop but also to their friends and relatives operating off the grid, even if they eventually will be on the grid. Battery power is the new essential power source.

See You at School - Jay

## Meeting Location

Near term meetings will continue to be held at Cupertino High School's wood shop, hosted by Tracie.

Address is:

Cupertino High School  
10100 Finch Ave.  
Cupertino

Map and directions were provided in the September's newsletter and associated emails.

Everyone should be vaccinated. Masks are required on school grounds, unless eating or drinking.

## Show & Tell Note:

Normal Show & Tell at the November's meeting, Ron will take pictures. If you have photos beforehand, please send them to me, [takenyon1@gmail.com](mailto:takenyon1@gmail.com) to save Ron or me from taking pictures. Thank You – Tom Kenyon

## Editor's Note:

At October's meeting, it was decided to eliminate the previous month's program description from the minutes and newsletter. Preparation of these descriptions and associated inclusion in the newsletter required significant time. The general feeling was that the member's should attend the meetings and experience the programs in person. When available, I will include a few photos from the program to remind the members of the programs – but no description.

## New Treasurer

Steve Kelem has volunteered to assume the treasurer's position. Thanks to Syd Dunton for many years of treasury service. In appreciation for these years of service, the normal six-person audit of the books will be waived.

Thanks Syd for a job well done.

## November's Program



November's program will be presented Dennis Yamamoto on the construction of his stunning cherry chest of drawers.

## Note;

**Meeting will be held at Cupertino High School on November 30 to avoid conflict with Thanksgiving's activities.**

## October's Program Photos



**Bob Konigsberg** gave the club an update on the house he is constructing in Morgan Hill. His plan was to use as little wood as possible because of fire danger. The house sits on about one acre of mostly adobe clay which requires special foundation work. Once the concrete work was completed, Steel components were put into place. That included structural steel for the longer spans, sheetmetal plates and studs, and sheet metal roof trusses. Solid styrofoam in addition to expanding foam insulation was extensively used throughout.

Plywood was installed across the floor joists and formed the base for the steel roof sheathing. Plywood was also used to sheath the outside walls which was then covered with fire proof hardy board.

## Show and Tell



**Syd Dunton** provided the show and tell item in the form of a small table. The table has a natural edged black acacia top with diagonally inserted pieces of contrasting wood. The diagonally placed cherry strips theme is also carried out between the white oak legs. He used three coats of Osmo finish for the top and wipe-on polyurethane for the rest of the table.

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## **2021 Program Responsibilities**

Program responsibilities are being resolved.

