

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

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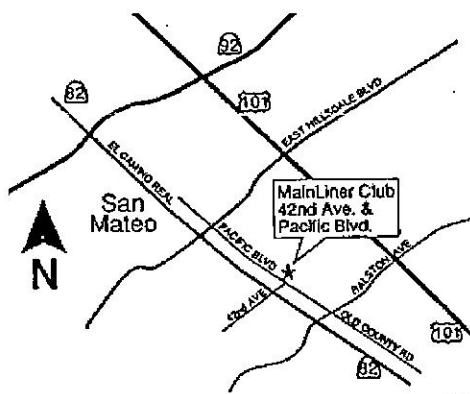
PO Box 5481
San Mateo, CA
94402-5481
415-967-6149

SERVING BAY AREA WOODWORKERS SINCE 1982

Schedule

December 15, 1994

Meeting will be at
The Mainliner Club,
San Mateo
42nd Ave. and Pacific Blvd.
The Best of BAWA
Christmas Potluck
Toys For Tots
New Officers are Installed



January 19, 1994

Off-Site

San Jose
3408 Hillcap Ave
Cabinet shop

Visitors To the Woodworking Show

We want to take this opportunity to invite you to come to our December meeting and see what a meeting is about. What better way than the December meeting where the Best of BAWA will be there showing what some of the items they have done in the past and meet some of the Toys for Tots makers and have a really great time. Read on.

December 15th Meeting

The main focus of the meeting will be the Best of BAWA: Bob Berryman will bring one of the chairs that he has built under Sam Maloof's direction; Carl Johnson will have a table he built while attending a summer course at the College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA; Michael will bring a mystery item and Yeung Chan will bring his music stand which will be featured shortly in American Woodworker. Two years ago Yeung won 1st place in our 2x4 contest with this entry.

We will have a Christmas Pot Luck, a collection of toys and Election of Officers. Yes, it is finally time to vote in new officers. We really should have a majority of the members voting in the new officers.

This is your club so bring yourselves and your significant other or a friend, a toy, your camera, and a food dish to the meeting. It will be a great meeting.

The first letter of your last name determines what you should bring and enough for 6 people to the potluck:

A-F Main Dish, L-SC Salad
G-K Appetizer Se-Z Dessert

The club will supply the plates, cups, napkins, silverware, coffee and soft drinks. Please do not bring any alcoholic drinks.

Nominees for Officers

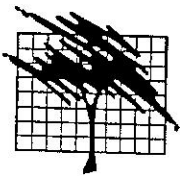
Stan Booker -	President
Don Naples -	Vice-President
Bill Henzel -	Treasurer
? -	Secretary
Thaine Anderson-	Newsletter Editor

These persons have volunteered to do the following positions, but you can always help in the process.

Programs - Michael Bray
Librarian - Al Semenero
Toys For Tots Program -
Anne Fuller, &
Anne Glynn

Last Month's meeting

We met at Bob Greenburg's Shop where we had a delightful time. Bob talked about the different methods that he uses to fix the parts



of a harpiscord. He has two shelves with calibrated braces for putting the repaired fret boards back into place. When I first walked in I couldn't imagine why those shelves were that way, but during the meeting all was explained to us.

He talked about various books that he uses in his work: *Anatomy of European Woods* by Fritz Hans Schweingruber, Verlag Paul Harspt Bern and Shullgat/Paul Harpt Berne & Stullgart publisher, *Three Centuries of Harpsichord Making* by Frank Hubbard, Harvard University Press, *Keyboard Musical Instruments in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts* by John Koster, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and *Identifying Wood* by Hoadley R. Bruce. (Readers will be able to identify over 100 species of hardwoods, softwoods and tropical woods most commonly encountered in North America.) Also in his talk he told us that a restorer can fix any problem that someone else has repaired previously.

He uses Hide Glue because that is the glue used when the harpiscords were made. Bob stress the point in using materials that were made when the harpiscords were made and not use epoxies that are stronger now. You do not want to devalue the piece.

It was a great evening. The room was filled with woodworkers.

We also had a talk by Don Naples on Marking Gauges.

Toys For Tots Program

Are you planning to take advan-

tage of Wood Magazine's (Better Homes and Garden) Toy contest?

The Wood Magazine is a great magazine and this contest they have each year is where you can enter your best original design and receive recognition for your work.

You give your best original toy to the magazine. You may win one of their prizes and after the judging is done they will auction it off and give the money to the Toys For Tots program.

As President, I would like to take the best toy voted by the members that is brought to the meeting and send it to the Wood Magazine Contest. Come to the meeting and voice your thoughts about this idea. It can be original design or best use of materials, or best stain etc. See the october issue of the Wood Magazine (Better Homes and Gardens).

What's New

Robert Steussey is looking for a few volunteers to try out his drill guide. Last month Dave Sowa borrowed it to try it out. When it is returned you can see Anne Glynn if you wish to take this for a month and see how you enjoy having one in your shop. He is selling them for \$49.95.

Free Birch Plywood

Do you have a need for birch scraps of plywood? If you do then the person to call is Frank Hungler at 415-692-6546.

November San Mateo Woodworking Show

We had woodworkers who signed in our guest registry come from different parts of the state: South - El Cajon, North - Yuba City, East - Roseville and West Half Moon Bay. I have heard that the next woodworking show will be in Pleasanton instead of San Jose.

There were 159 woodworkers who signed our registry.

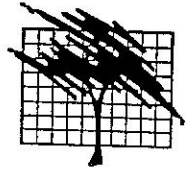
A Special Thank You

I heard recently a club is only as good as its members. Yes, that is true. If we didn't have the following members in the last two years I wouldn't have this chance to say thank you. These are the woodworkers who dedicated their time to make sure you had a club to come to each month.

We had two Newsletter Editors who made sure our newsletter came out ahead of each meeting and sometimes it was hard in getting the material for the newsletter (*Thaine Anderson*, Burlingame and *Ron Kowalka*, Sam Mateo).

The Treasurer who always made sure the Mainliner Club was paid for a month in advanced and paid the other bills and kept tight purse strings on the club finances so we would have a nice cushion to give to the next year officer's (*Anne Fuller*, Belmont).

Program Chairperson who always had great meetings to enhance our knowledge of woodworking and challenge our minds to want to



learn more about woodworking (Bill Henzel, San Mateo).

Back To Basics Coordinator who brought greater understanding about the different aspects of woodworking has been (Don Naples, Healdsburg).

The Hospitality Chairman who has held this position for more years than I can remember. Yes he is the one that you meet first as you come in the door and he is a high school workshop teacher (Stan Booker, Oakland).

Our Vice-President (Bill Hartigan, Fremont) made sure we obtained Non-Profit Status with the State and presided over meetings when the President was elsewhere.

Our Video Librarians (Neil Tsubota, Foster City and Mike Bray, Oakland) who took care of the Video Library and made sure it came to meetings or had someone else bring it to meetings.

Last Year our When Last We Met Editor was (Ron Gammon, Lafayette). He probably would have done it this year but he has been ill for most of the year. If you still have your membership roster and would give him a call, I bet he would enjoy hearing from you.

Our Secretary for the past two years has been (Don Jordan, Walnut Creek) who has kept the reports of the board meetings if the state ever wants to see them.

Our Trade Show Coordinator (Frank Hungler, Burlingame) who has talked our fellow woodworkers into scheduling them to talk to

woodworkers about our club and a club near them. Tell them what type of programs that we have, and what we have learned from others. He has gathered the finished products for the booth display and has made sure the booth was never unattended at the beginning and end of the shift.

Our 2x4x96 Contest chairperson (Bob Neisbet, Piedmont) with the help of the members Yeung Chan won 1st place each year. No it wasn't rigged.

Our Toys For Tots Coordinators have been (Arnold Champagne, Fort Bragg) who is currently attending the College of the Redwoods nine month program and (Pete Meininger, Woodside).

Our President (Anne Glynn, Mountain View) who took this job looking for someone else to take it over for the future. She has gained experience and self confidence in doing the job. Before she took office she wouldn't talk to more than two woodworkers at a single time.

But in all honestly the people she has mentioned are the true heroes of the club.

So on December 15th come to the meeting and say good-bye to the old crew and vote in the new. Plus be on hand to greet our visitors who came to the woodworking show and let them see what a great club we have.

If you wish to run for an office, I will read up on Roberts Rules of Order and you can join in helping

the club become a better organization.

The club needs a secretary, someone to get liability insurance so the club can have workshops of various types, and ask Stan how you can help the club grow.

Name Tags

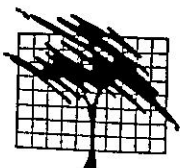
All current members will have a name tag on the table for her or him to wear at the meeting. At the end of the meeting drop the tag into the box that states "I attended the meeting".

We have tried in the past to have people sign in, but it has never worked successfully. Part of our requirement for Non-Profit Status is we need to know how many members come to the meeting.

Several of the other clubs in the state have gone this route and I think it is a great idea.

Members Who Have BAWA Property

If you don't want to hold onto the BAWA equipment, such as AV equipment, scree, etc or hold it foreve. Please give it to the new board at the December meeting.



Bay Area Woodworkers Association - PO Box 5481 - San Mateo, CA 94402-5481 415.692.0824

Bay Area Woodworkers Association
Membership Application, Renewal and Commitment as a member

The Bay Area Woodworkers Association was originally formed early in 1982 by a small group of dedicated people who felt the need to strengthen the woodworking community by holding regular meetings, establishing an informal forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, sponsoring shows and meeting others in woodworking and related fields. BAWA meets on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 10 PM. Meetings usually have a specific topic such as tool techniques, finishing, turning or business aspects of woodworking. Often the meeting features a guest speaker with a specific area of expertise.

Dues are currently \$25.00 per year, payable by December for the following year. Membership can begin during any month of the year. Make your check payable to BAWA and bring it to the monthly meeting, or mail to:

BAWA
PO Box 5481
San Mateo, CA 94402-5481

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip +4 _____

Work Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____

Day time Profession: _____

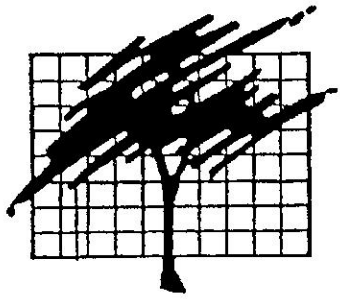
Speciality/Interests (List): _____

(Check) Professional _____ Amateur _____ Beginner _____

Circle One: I (do) (do not) want my name and address circulated to other organizations.

I would be willing to volunteer in the following areas (check as many as you want, but check at least one):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and Community Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Organize Tours of Woodworkers' Shops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality of Guest Speakers | <input type="checkbox"/> Show and Exhibit Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating and Election Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian for Video Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity for BAWA in Local Press | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Set-Up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Clean-Up | <input type="checkbox"/> AV Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist or making Toys for projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Show Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter for Guests and New Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter articles or Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee or Chairman |



BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING BAY AREA WOODWORKERS SINCE 1982

GOES WITH APRIL '95
NEWSLETTER

WHEN LAST WE MET - by George Comstock

Steve White, Door-maker, operating as Heartwood Cabinets, 2547 8th Street, Suite #27, Berkeley hosted our **March 16 meeting**. Steve's woodshop was a very interesting situation - it's a co-op shop with, at present, five independent, professional craftsmen sharing the facilities (they have room for a sixth and would welcome inquiries).

Shop facilities include a "Gobar Deck" - a clamping scheme for irregular objects that uses 3' vertical sticks bent into place to hold pieces on the table, with conventional adjustable clamps holding things together laterally. The sticks are of ash, white oak, lemon - not Douglas fir! The setup is great for doing doors, etc. The counterweighted top raises and lowers to adjust to the thickness of the workpieces. An elderly 30" Oliver #17 bandsaw made big cuts easy. A solid tool that "purrs like kitten."

The operation was started in the early '70s, and is still going strong. Steve commented that "This is a tough time for cabinet makers, who feel the pressure of automation, and plenty of competition." The co-op shop provides a real assist, with space, power equipment, dust collectors, an inventory of hundreds of clamps, etc. for an up-front membership fee of \$500 and a monthly charge of about \$485 that covers building rent, insurance, miscellaneous supplies, etc.

Steve said they have very little conflict, although it is a bit chaotic when there are six people working at the same time. But usually some of the members are at a job site, or off marketing so that only two or three are in the shop concurrently. Anyway, "You can't get angry at them - we're all trying to earn a living."

Before the meeting officially started, several of us, wandering around the rather extensive premises, found an unusual three drawer dresser which our Program Chairman recognized at a glance as having been modelled after the furnishings found in the Calvin & Hobbes cartoons! Steve explained he had used three 3/8" laminations for the curving sides.

Without a form, he first screwed two of the laminations to the horizontal dividers to create the curve, then "Yellow-glued" the third layer in place, concealing the screw heads. Steve used six 3" wood screws plus biscuits for each joint ("non-conventional joinery," he called it!). Birdseye maple drawer fronts, cedar drawer bottoms, and hand-cut drawer dovetails (two hrs total per drawer) completed the construction, which was very attractive to one's nose as well as the eye. The dresser was finished with "Profin" from Truitt & White - a quickset oil finish which permits applying several coats/day. If you want to see it, it will be in residence at the Limn Gallery in SFO sometime soon.

You may have noticed your scribe clicking the keys on his hand-held computer during our meetings, taking notes for these reports. Imagine his delight at this get-together when

fellow member, David Sowa, approached him and revealed his own identical HP palmtop computer! There's comradery in computers as well as in table saws, routers, etc...

Well, the official meeting did get underway right on time with about 35 members present. President Stan Booker opened by introducing visitors, who included Les Whitaker, Oakland, a hobbyist woodworker; D E Mayron, Berkeley, woodturner; Phil Kowski, house remodeler.

Show & Tell: Rodney Finlay told us of a recycling place at 310 Pine St, Redwood City - off Middlefield Rd, 2 blocks from Route #84. You recognize it by its chain link fence. They offer various toxic items for sale at very low prices on a first come/first serve basis, including stains, Danish oils, etc - open every Thursday, 3-4pm. It wasn't clear to me, but perhaps this is a good place to dispose of ecologically destructive stuff as well as picking up bargains.

Don McGrew mentioned that the Alameda NAS, as part of its mothballing, is selling off all kinds of stuff for next to nothing - they have an 800 number; call Don if you want it, or directions.

Stair-Building 101: Stan met Steve at Stan's wife's faculty Xmas party, and has found him to be a great source of scrap for Stan's school shop, not to mention his being a delightful host for our meeting. Steve is a Stair & Furniture Builder, a trade that involves both Art and Science. He describes himself as a life-long woodworker, with a concentration on stairs for the last ten yrs. He was very good about sharing his trade secrets with us, the first and most important of which he learned the hard way on one of his first jobs, namely: Be sure there's at least 80" minimum headroom descending - a very, very important rule. Especially in today's superheated product-liability climate! However, if it ever should happen to you that you end up with less than the 80", be sure to blame the architect - after all, they have to serve some useful purpose!

A stairway consists of several parts - the treads, risers, stringers, balusters, newel post, and rail.

The stringers (the side frames) provide the foundation for the whole thing. The simplest is the Open (notched) type, and these can be laid out either with a carpenter's square or by the "Nerd's method", which uses that oft-feared beast, trigonometry, but has the major advantage of no cumulative error. Steve is an expert on the Tangent function! In fact, he says, "Stairs are great if you like math."

Steve demonstrated how he builds a "simple," straight stair - the stringers are routed to accept the ends of the treads & risers using a 1/4" plywood router guide cutting wedge-shaped slots. Treads are 5/4 stock, half-round on front, with a rabbet at the back to join the riser above, and a dado at the front to accept the top of the riser below. That riser has a dado near its lower edge to accept the lip from the tread below. He glues the riser to the tread. The dimensions are important - the surfaces must be parallel and at exact distances - and they must match the routed dados in the stringers.

When assembling the tread return for an open-ended tread, Steve glues the first few inches and drives one finishing at the other end to accommodate differential cross-grain dimensional changes.

The pieces are brought to this stage in the shop, then trucked to the job site, where final assembly takes place. Wedges of soft scrap wood are used to lock the treads and risers into the routed dados in the stringers - hence the tapered dados. Apply yellow glue and drive the wedges in hard. This closes the gap perfectly, and if you've made an error, the only way out is chiseling! Finally, glue inside corner blocks wherever you can get them in. The

final, assembled, staircase is then lifted into place in the structure. Most recent stairs have stringers on both sides, often between two walls. They have to go in before the sheetrock. By using 1 1/4" stringers in this case, combined with 1/2" sheetrock, you get a nice match with the thickness of the baseboard below. Traditionally one uses a dovetail notch for the baluster spindles on the open side of the stairway, covered by the tread returns.

Steve has developed a very fast method for cutting tenons on his spindles to avoid the dovetailing. With a strait cutter in the shaper, the spindle is held vertically in a jig which allows the spindle to turn around its axis. Rotating it by hand as the jig moves the spindle into the cutter produces a perfect cylinder in seconds.

The wedges which figure so prominently in Steve's design, eliminate the squeaky stairs problem. It's wood moving up or down on a nail or screw that does the squeaking - no metal, no noise.

Steve said he rarely needs a center stringer - if one were needed, he would simply use glue blocks on both sides. People in construction, he said, are often surprised that "it's only glue" holding a staircase together - but then, I suppose that would be the mind-set of a nail basher. Typically Steve needs five days to make parts, just a couple more days to install. Some general comments: Cheap builders just scribe the tread to the stringers on the job - guaranteed to open up over time. You can't exceed an 8" rise and must have at least a 9" run (nose to nose). Ideal dimensions are a 7 1/2" rise and 10" run - but run is increasing, 11" not being uncommon today. The trickiest thing is the newel post, which is typically cut in, then screwed from behind. Often, in a remodel situation, refitting an old stair, the newel post has to be let thru the floor and attached to a joist. But it's best when attached to a stringer. Steve makes his own rail using a \$400 shaper cutter having his own profile design. Building codes have had an impact here, requiring a 2" maximum width of railing for "gripability," but this is too "spindly" for a large staircase. So Steve puts a thin one down one side, and an attractive one down the other. Another solution is a built-up rail with a large base section surmounted by a 2" wide upper section.

Steve finds purchased railing parts are very inf't be bought at all as in the case of a spiralling snail return, which may require a week to make one set of pieces.

Curved staircases use the same type of construction, but with more math. He showed us drawings of a recent case which involved a hexagonal wall for the outer side of the stairway, while the inside consisted of a straight run fairing into a circular arc with an involute at the end. One question here is, "Where does one put the 10" run?" Steve's answer is, "Along the middle of the stairs, or at a fixed distance from the outside handrail." One complicating factor in this staircase was the stringer changing slope going from the circular arc to the straight line.

Bending the outboard stringer for a circular stairway is an interesting challenge which Steve meets by cutting kerfs on a vertical line on the side of the stringer opposite the dadoes, then bending it around a full size form made of plywood bulkheads with 2x4 notched stringers every 8". It's OK that the kerfs run into the dado cuts! A solid thin lamination glued on the inside masks the kerfs, as does a twisted cap to cover the kerf ends. "Towels & hot water ease the bend," Steve said. He has a 100 yr old book on stairs that looks down on this method, recommending instead solid wood laminations - 1/4" or so.

Curved railings are easier, using laminated solid the height of the rail. Steve said he uses wide stock, rips it maintaining a "flitch" relationship as in a veneer mill. Sometimes the glue setup time becomes a problem, though, and he switches to "Brown" glue, although that may require days to cure, and is very hard on cutters afterward. In this work, Steve does all the laminations at once. Work fast, with plenty of clamps.

100 yrs ago the craftsmen hewed everything out of big blocks - such as 8x8 "reeved" railing. Convex and concave planes did the final shaping. Mahogany was a preferred medium, being reasonably soft and straight grained.

In an early experience with circular staircases, Steve had completed all his shop work on a job when he realized, to his horror, that he had made a left hand spiral when the plans called for it to be right-handed. Agony, followed by relief on finding that the architect had also erred!

Summing up, Steve said "The end of a job is incredible - very rewarding! But half way thru, it's hell."