



# CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS' NEWSLETTER

## Over the top... again!

*The long-spin contestants square off: Rich Dege, Phil Roybal, and Dick Pickering.*



IT WAS TOP NIGHT AGAIN. A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL, AS GROWN-UPS PLAYED ON THE FLOOR WITH TOPS RANGING FROM TINY TO INDUSTRIAL-SIZED. Prizes in each category were bags of candy, and lots of people will be hosting a few extra calories in the next couple weeks.

The first group to spin up had string-launched, long-running tops, all hoping to better Rich Dege's 2002 spin time of 4 minutes, 55 seconds. Rich Dege, Dick Pickering, and Phil Roybal squared off in the center of the room, setting out plates upon which to spin their tops. Dick had gone a step further, constructing a glass-topped table with individual feet, which he adjusted with the help of a bubble level to be a perfectly level surface. The rest of us took our chances with Rich Johnson's floor.

Dick had by far the largest and heaviest top, and he was not able to launch well with string. It fell almost immediately. He was allowed to spin it up using a drill motor as the other tops

turned, though this actually put him in a different category. Phil's top, which featured sliding internal weights, hit the plate after 8 minutes and 40 seconds. Dick's top ran for 11 minutes. Rich Dege took the title with a time of 12 minutes 25 seconds, using a finely machined and balanced traditional top of purpleheart and brass. This means we came close to tripling our best spin time in one year. What about next year?

Next up were Rich Johnson, Dick Pickering, Gary Petretti.



*Top to bottom: Dick Pickering's 10-inch top, Rich Dege holding the long-spin prize, and the second string launched group spins.*

*Go to pg. 5*

# PRES SEZ



## The next

President's Challenge is "Hollow Form". Have fun and use your imagination. I showed one of my latest turnings and a new hollowing system at the meeting, but it does not take all that equipment to make a hollow form. My new system was purchased to replace some of my existing tools. I

am always looking for an easier and a more efficient way. Some of our members work with a lot less sophisticated tools than what I have. In fact you can use things like an allen wrench or a cement nail or some drill rod, bent and ground to your needs. Put a little handle on it and dig in. At one of the Utah Demos, Stephen Hughes made a hollow form and he did the inside using a spindle gouge!!! (BTW, it was a 16mm P&N. Yeah!) Of

course, he altered the grind to suit his needs, but it worked for him. So grab a chunk and let's make a Hollow Form. If help is needed, it might even be something we could play with at a sawdust session. In fact it might be fun to see all the different systems we all have or use.

I sent out a note with all the AAW Symposium rotations attached. I hope you take a good look and sign up where you can. It is fun being a part of the symposium. If you haven't made the decision to go to Pasadena yet, please try. It takes many years to get the National event out on the West Coast. This is the closest it has been in a long time. We have no idea when it will come back or even where. This is a great event and there is a lot to see and do. It is a chance to finally put the faces to the names we have all read about.

Tops..!@#\$%^&\* What a great night on the floor with all our tops. If you missed this year's event you missed a great one. How will we ever be able to "top" those new times??? Thanks to all that participated. Those that missed it, enjoy the photos. Maybe next year you will join in.

See you ALL at the Turn Off Picnic. 6/1.

---

## Next Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, June 4th, at 7 P.M., when Merryll Saylan, who has pieces in the National Museum of American Art in Washington, DC, talks to us about design. Location: Rich Johnson's Woodturning Center in San Jose.



Rich's Center is located behind his home at 14979 Joanne Ave., San Jose. From Hwy. 680, take the McKee Road exit East about 1.5 miles to Toyon Ave. Turn left and go 0.6 mile, turn right onto Joanne Ave.

Remember: Bring your chair and items for Show and Tell. We all learn together.

*Rich*

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE: A HOLLOW FORM

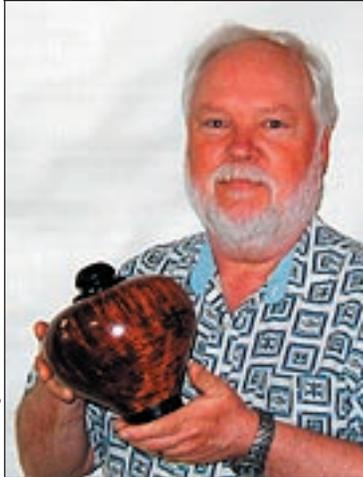
# TURNING OUT

## Show & Tell, President's Challenge

Phil Roybal led off with a set of four chatter tools, inspired by the Sorby tool some of us own. Phil won last month's raffle, so he donated one of the tools for the next raffle. The rest were sold at \$40 each. He will make more for those who are interested.

Jim Gott made a vase from spalted pepper and claro walnut. He finished it with 50% Deft.

Herb Green brought a burial urn of redwood burl with blackwood ends, finished with Varathane Clear 66. He decorated the ends with chatterwork.



Al Gore showed off a redwood bowl, egg, and egg cup that he turned around Easter. They're finished with Arboroil, an Australian hardening oil.

Dick Pickering presented an open segmented bowl, based on the book *Segmented Wood Turning*. He made it from maple and walnut, and finished with Spray-on Deft.

Rich Johnson showed a rotary brush from Martin Pigeon for burnishing sanding sealer. He then showed a David Reeks hollowing system which he feels is much better than the Jamison system for turning deep hollow forms.. He also



*Clockwise from top right: Allan Gore, Dick Pickering, Rich Johnson, the Reeks hollowing tool, Herb Green, Jim Gott, and Phil Roybal.*

*Challenge, con't. from pg. 3.*

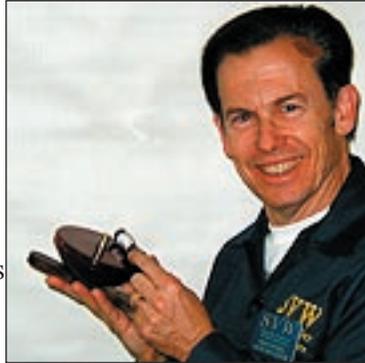
presented a hollow turning of Norfolk Island Pine, a wood that proved so absorbent it was difficult to finish.

Mike Rude brought a tool he got after taking a week long class with Stuart Mortimer. It's a half skew, made from a flat scraper, with a bevel ground on only one side.



### PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Phil Roybal presented a top of brass, purpleheart, and MDF, which featured sliding internal weights to prolong the top's spin. The idea proved better in theory than practice, however, as Phil's top dropped first in the long-spin contest.



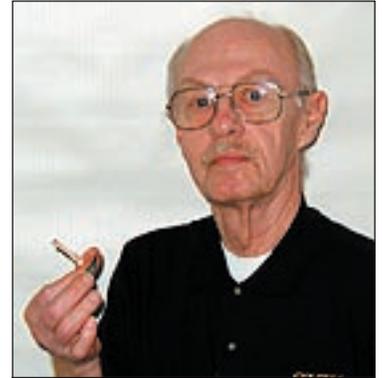
Dick Pickering brought a bag of tops. A couple featured brass plates sandwiched between sections of turned wood. His largest was a dramatic, segmented top of brass, padauk, and maple, about ten inches in diameter. He says he's spun this top for as long as 16 minutes with a string launch.



Al Gore brought in a group of finger tops made of Douglas fir and ash.

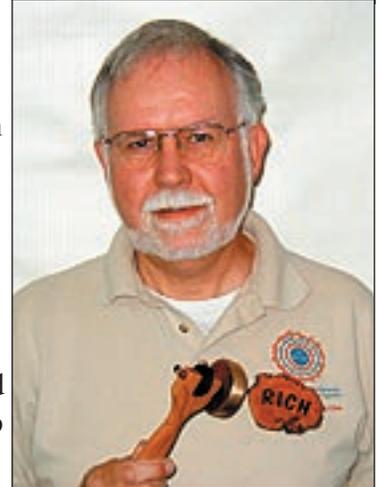


Dick Jessing brought a finger top of maple.



Rich Johnson brought a small maple top with chatter work. He also showed an acrylic top with LEDs that lit up in patterns as it spins.

Herb Green showed a finger top of blackwood with chatter work. He also brought a string powered blackwood top.



Rich Dege brought in two tops. One was built last year and dances around. He also brought in three tiny tops. Also, he brought in a brass and purpleheart top, string powered.

*Clockwise from the top left of the page: Mike Rude, Allan Gore, Dick Jessing, Rich Dege, Dick Pickering, and Phil Roybal.*

Continued on pg. 5.

*Top Night,  
Con't . from  
pg. 1*

And Herb Green with simple, string launched tops. Some used plates and some didn't. Again we had a poor launch with one top, and Herb Green's entry dropped quickly. The rest spun on, with Rich Johnson's dropping first at 2 minutes, 29 seconds. Gary's lasted 2 minutes, 55 seconds, and Dick's spun on far past last year's best



time, to drop at 6 minutes, 40 seconds. Competition is getting tough!

Rich Dege and Rick Parfitt each brought tippy tops: tops that are intended to flip over and spin on their stems after launch. Rich Dege spun his across the floor and it inverted after about 24 seconds, spinning a total of 55 seconds. Rick was not able to get his to invert.

Rich Dege brought a trio of tiny tops which he spun with his fingernails.

The last category was Finger-launched Tops, and this was the largest group. Dick Pickering, Herb Green, Allan Gore, Gary Petretti, and Dick Reiser all squared off on the floor for this duel of cool heads and strong fingers. Allan's top dropped first after 46 seconds, then Herb (45 seconds), Dick Reiser (56 seconds) and Gary (1 minutes, 24 seconds) bit the dust. The last top standing was Dick Pickering's, hitting the plate at 2 minutes and 6 seconds.

*Top to bottom: Dick Pickering's smaller top, Rich Dege's tipsy top, and Dege's tiny toplets.*

*President's  
Challenge,  
Con't. from  
pg. 4*

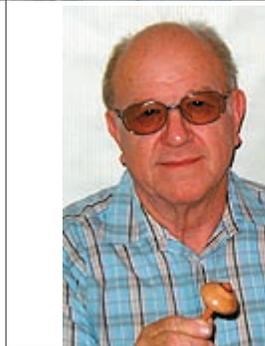
Gary Petretti brought in a top of brass and butternut, string powered.

Dick Reiser brought in a finger top



**June's Challenge: A Hollow Form**

*Gary Petretti (top) and Dick Reiser (bottom) show their tops.*



**SVW OFFICERS**

President

Rich Johnson (408) 254-8485  
latheart@pacbell.net

Vice-President

Herb Green (408) 268-5241  
herbertjgreen@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Photographer

Jim Gott (408) 265-9501  
jgtimp@aol.com

Secretary /Editor

Phil Roybal (408) 255-4789  
proybal@pacbell.net

# STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

## PRESIDENT (RICH JOHNSON)

The Home and Garden Show is sold out, so we won't be exhibiting there this time.

I found a bargain tool store called Tools in General on Old Bayshore Highway.

The Turn-Off and Picnic will be on 6/1. This year, just SVW and West Bay will be there. We need a team for the turn-off, so contact Ace, our team leader, to sign up. Since the Turn Off seems to be scaring people off, we may be in charge of rules next year and suggest a Croquet match, with six months to build a set.

The annual club picnic will be at the Johnsons' house on 7/19. There'll be a turning contest, so plan to bring your best work. Categories will include: Bowl, natural edge bowl, hollow form, craft item, segmented turning, spindle turning, lidded turning, goblets., plates/platters. Bring your family.

## SECRETARY/EDITOR (PHIL ROYBAL)

We have 43 members in the club.

## VP/PROGRAM CHAIR (HERB GREEN)

Graeme Priddle did some fantastic demos at the Utah Symposium, and several members are looking forward to his June 21<sup>st</sup> appearance at SVW with great anticipation.

Merryl Saylen is coming next month to talk about design at our June meeting.

Upcoming demonstrators include:

July	Marya Cobb	Tax implications
Aug.	Dick Jessing	Hand threading
Sept.	Rich Dege	Ball turning

## APPAREL (DICK PICKERING)

Dick has hats. If you staff a show, you must wear an SVW hat or shirt, both to meet our contractual obligations and to attract new members. He also has iron-on transfers at \$1 each, which are ideal to apply to a white shirt for summertime activities where our blue shirts are too hot.

## TREASURER (JIM GOTT)

### Income:

Videos	\$0
Membership	\$0
Hats	\$10
Raffle	\$55
Priddle advance tickets	\$420

### Expenses:

H&G table skirt dye	\$17
April Pres. Challenge	\$20
Don Bonnett dinner (demo)	\$10
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$2641.44</b>

## LIBRARY (CRAIG THORSON)

We acquired several new videos at the Symposium. We'll post a list once they're processed into the library.

## MENTOR PROGRAM

Our Mentor program now includes five volunteer mentors. Contact Phil Roybal to join the list. Members who need some help (but not formal lessons) can contact:

Rich Dege	(408) 272-8122
Jim Gott	(408) 265-9501
Rich Johnson	(408) 254-8485
Ron Newcomb	(510) 797-6665
Phil Roybal	(408) 255-4789

# FOR SALE

Even Roy wants to know...  
**How did you do that?**

Rich Johnson's Woodturners' Boot camp.  
Learn the basics, from chainsaw to polish.  
An all day class. Book available. Sign up  
now. (408) 254-8485.



## Rich Johnson's Woodturning Center

Delta 14" drill press

\$100

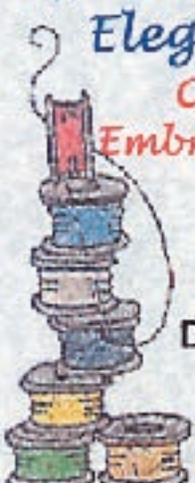
[www.latheart.com](http://www.latheart.com) 408 - 254-8485

## Woodfast lathe for sale

16" capacity, variable speed, good condition.

Credit card OK. E-mail Josh Salesin at [jls-epi@pacbell.net](mailto:jls-epi@pacbell.net) for more

*Affordable  
Elegance  
Custom  
Embroidery*



**Deborah  
Bress**

TEL: 408/243-6363  
FAX: 408/244-0307  
[affordableelegance@netzero.net](mailto:affordableelegance@netzero.net)

*Shipping the Highest Quality Goods  
Products From Across The World*

## Global Wood Source

Michael Berg

1375 Terminal Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95112  
Email: [mike@globalwoodsource.com](mailto:mike@globalwoodsource.com)  
[www.globalwoodsource.com](http://www.globalwoodsource.com)

408-392-0573  
Fax: 392-0574  
Cell: 408-205-1653