

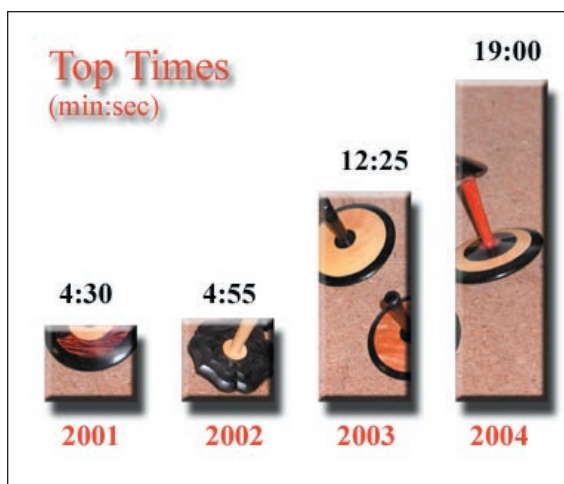


CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS' NEWSLETTER

Top This!

The longest-spinning tops have spun dramatically longer these last two years.



Each May brings Top Night to SVW, with members strutting their tops, large and small, in an attempt to win candy and bragging rights.

Last year's top topper, like the year before and the year before that, was Rich Dege. His purpleheart and brass top spun for 12 minutes and 25 seconds before hitting the floor last year. Some members worked for weeks in advance of this year's meeting, hoping to dethrone Rich after his 3-year reign. And spin time is just part of the story. With lots of entrants in eight different categories, anticipation ran high as members finished the business part of the meeting and cleared the floor for the annual competition.

First came the Smallest Tops competition.

Mike Rude and Rich Dege both entered tiny tops, and Rich won as he out-spun Mike.

The Largest Top was no contest, as recent member Mike Magrill won effortlessly with a huge top made from a 16-pound bowling ball. It didn't spin long, because its enormous weight flattened its brass tip quickly, building up friction. Still, no one contested this sumo wrestler of a top.

Rick Parfitt and Mike Rude both entered glued up tops, and Mike Rude won that contest.

Next up was the String Launched Top spin off, with Phil Roybal, Dick Pickering, Herb



Top to bottom: Tinyist tops, largest top, and glue-up tops.

PRES SEZ



We will not be participating in the San Jose Home & Garden Show again this year. They have sold out the show and have no space available for us. San Jose is a smaller venue than the other places we go for the Home & Garden Shows. The next show is scheduled for Sept. 10 – 12, 2004, at Santa Clara Con-

vention Center. That is usually a good show for us and it draws a lot of people.

We have our (SVW) summer picnic only a short way off now. We are scheduled for July 17th. It is a “Potluck” Bar – B – Q with swimming available for those wishing to get wet. Also it is our Annual Turning Event. This is a contest, with ribbons for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places in each category and a Best of Show award. This is a great place to bring your work to share

with our club, and families. The judging will be as before. We have numbers assigned to the pieces, then the audience can view and vote for their favorite turnings. Once everyone has had a look see and the voting is complete, we will tally the votes. Awards will then be presented. So get to work! Sharpen that gouge and strut your stuff. Remember, the piece has to be dated after July, 2003 to qualify for this event.

The annual “Turn Off”, scheduled for Sept 18, is gaining momentum. Both of the other clubs have our template and rules for the Croquet sets and match. Our Club is hosting the event this year and we need to get our committees working and reporting progress at the **Next Meeting**. Also, Do we have a team??? Who is going to represent SVW in the match?? How do we decide? Who is making the Croquet set and when? This needs to be brought together and finalized at our next meeting.

This months Challenge = Something added... Use your imagination and have fun.

Next Meeting

Join us on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 7 P.M., when BAWA's Bill Small shows us how to turn a bowl with legs. 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.

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

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE: SOMETHING ADDED, NOT GLUE.

Rich

TURNING OUT

President's Challenge & Show and Tell

Phil Roybal led off the President's Challenge with an MDF and aluminum top, painted with acrylics. He painted a Benham Wheel on the upper surface. This black and white pattern produces the illusion of color as it spins.

Rich Johnson showed two Bonnie Klein style, tiny tops, on a plate that keeps them contained.

Jim Gott presented two small tops in absentia.

Ace brought a make up platter of walnut, stained with ferrous sulfate, and a make up segmented bowl. He also brought a top of oak with a ball bearing tip.

Clockwise from top left: Phil Roybal, Mike Magrill, Tony Bryhan, Herb Green, Dick Pickering, Ace Foster, and Rich Johnson.



Mike Magrill turned a top from a bowling ball. It had a brass point and was launched with an electric drill. It's finished with wax. He said it smelled like burning tires as he turned it.

Tony Bryhan brought a bocote top designed for machine launch.

Herb Green showed a small "whistling" top from David Springett's book. It's made of walnut with a Corian point. Unfortunately, it doesn't whistle.

Dick Pickering made a top of brass and maple, dyed with cordovan shoe dye. It's designed for machine launch.



Continued on page 4.

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

Rich Dege made a series of tops. First was a large tipsy top that is too stable to tip. Next he showed a top of locust and mystery wood, balanced with lead shot. He also brought a two inch top and a tiny top.

Robert Sakaue showed a variety of blackwood tops with inserts, some machined on his rose engine.

Jeff Thorson brought a lighted top, activated by centrifugal force. It's built on a yo-yo base. He also showed a small conventional top.

Lloyd Frisbee showed a small top of mahogany with a Corian tip.



Mike Rude presented several tops. One was of cocobolo and Corian. He also brought a couple tiny tops and a long running top of Corian and color wood.

Gary Petretti brought a top of butter-nut and brass, balanced with nails.

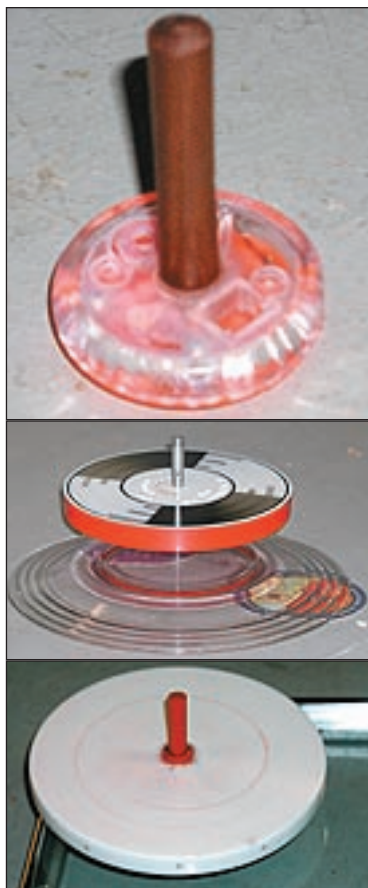
Rick Parfit brought a top of brass and ironwood. He also brought several make up Challenges: a blackwood lidded box, a walnut plate, and a segmented top as a glue-up.



Clockwise from top left: Rich Dege, Mike Rude, Gary Petretti, Rick Parfit, Lloyd Frisbee, Jeff Thorson, Robert Sakaue's tops.

Show and Tell continues on pg. 7.

*Tops, con't.
from pg. 1*



*Top to bottom: Light-up top,
Benham Wheel top, and
Corian top.*

offered special features. Phil Roybal's top featured a Benham Wheel optical illusion: black and white patterns that gave the illusion of colors as the top spun. Jeff Thorson's top was built from a yo-yo half, and it lit up as it spun. And Mike Magrill had his bowling ball top. The room voted Mike the winner with the Most

Green, and Rich Dege entering tops. Rich Dege won the spin off, though most of us were saving our spinning muscles for the main event.

Rick Parfitt, Mike Rude, Mike Magrill, and Tony Bryan next fired up power drills to see who had the longest spinning power launched top. Mike Magrill's bowling ball top took the honors with a spin of 8 minutes, 30 seconds.

Some tops

Unique Top.

Rich Johnson, Mike Rude, Rich Dege, and Jeff Thorson hit the floor to see who had the longest spinning finger launched top, and Rich Dege took those honors.

Tipsy tops can be quite contrary, and Rich Dege proved it this year with a large top that just wouldn't invert.

Finally came the main event, the Longest Spinning Top contest. A hush fell upon the crowd as Phil Roybal, Rich Dege, Gary Petretti, and Mike Rude each squatted in a corner of the clearing and wound up their tops. Contestants had brought glass sheets, oiled plates, and other surfaces for the tops to spin on, in hopes of minimizing the friction that drops tops early.

At the signal, all four members heaved mightily on their top launchers, and the their creations spun. And spun. And spun.

This year, for the first time since 2001, a new king was crowned. Gary Petretti's top of butternut and brass, balanced with nails, spun for an astonishing 19 minutes before wearily hitting the ground as the last top standing. Congratulations, Gary! 19 minutes! What's going to happen next year?



Gary Petretti's mighty 19-minute top.

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

STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

RICH JOHNSON (PRESIDENT)

We've lost track of the special raffle prize that used to be part of every meeting. Our records are not clear on who won the last one, back around December. If you are that person, you need to bring a special raffle prize to restart the process.

HERB GREEN (VP/PROGRAMS)

Demo day tickets will now cost \$25, plus \$5 for lunch, to cover our expenses. The net cost to SVW was \$251 for John Jordan.

Bill Small of BAWA will come in June to show us how to turn a bowl with legs. The next demo event is Soren Berger on June 19th. Neil Scobie is coming in August, and Andi Wolfe in October.

PHIL ROYBAL (SEC'Y./EDITOR)

A new roster is posted on our Yahoo site, and the latest Ironman chart is there as well. Members who are striving for the Ironman badge should now be current with their President's Challenge projects.

DICK PICKERING (APPAREL)

We have SVW hats and patches available to help you identify yourself as an SVW member.

AL GORE (WEBMASTER)

Al needs help to keep our web site going. Rick Parfit has volunteered to work with Al on the project.

JIM GOTT (TREASURER)

INCOME

Apparel	\$40
Dues	\$60
Library	\$46
Jordan demo tickets	\$650

EXPENSES

Rockhill demo fee	\$50
Challenge prizes	\$20
R. Johnson (Jet mini lathe, stand, chuck, dolly)	\$650
Jordan demo & travel	\$750
Magrill (Jordan demo ice)	\$19.42
Green (Prize ribbons)	\$60.43
Johnson (Jordan food)	\$132.15

NEW BALANCE (spendable) \$589.39

OTHER BUSINESS

Dick Pickering proposed that we contact AAW members who are not club members, and invite them to the club and the demos. Phil Roybal has given Dick a prototype letter which could be emailed to prospective members.

SVW OFFICERS

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Secretary /Editor
Phil Roybal (408) 255-4789
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Con't. from **SHOW AND TELL**
pg. 4

Tony Bryhan took a carved box from India, cut off the carvings, and made it into a simple lidded box.

Ace brought an open segmented bowl with all segments cut square. He made it from Quila, ash, cratewood, and birch.



Mike Magrill turned a natural edged bowl of pepper tree, using his vacuum chuck. He finished it with Deft.



Left, Tony Bryhan. Right, Mike Magrill

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.



Woodfast lathe for sale

16" capacity, variable speed, good condition.

Credit card OK. E-mail Josh Salesin at jls-epi@pacbell.net for more info.

*Affordable
Elegance
Custom
Embroidery*



**Deborah
Bress**

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