



# CHIPS

AAW award-winning newsletter!

& Chatter

WWW.SVWOODTURNERS.ORG

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS

## COMING UP!

Annual SVW picnic,  
swap meet, and  
instant gallery  
July 17th

Meeting  
Craig Colvin will  
talk about The Saw-  
dust Shop.  
August 3rd.

Demo: Johannes  
Michaelson at Tony  
Bryhan's shop  
August 6th



Steve Dahout's tiny needle cases

*Steve shows the center drill he uses to start accurately centered holes.*

## July, 2005 INSIDE

Feature Story	1
Pres Sez	2
Turning Out	3
Profile	6
How to do it	7
Club Notes	8
Contact Us	8
Utah!	9
Staff Reports	11
Calendar	12
For Sale	12
Ironman	13

SVW's Steve Dahout took the stage at the July meeting to demonstrate how he turns needle boxes.

Steve began by talking of his frustration with working wood accurately. As a self-taught turner, he's taken an interdisciplinary approach, using metalworking tools such as collet chucks and center drills to improve the precision of his woodworking. He gets his collets from KBC for around \$15 each on the internet. He has a substantial set cov-

ering the range of sizes he needs to turn pens and needle cases. He likes collet chucks for drilling because their support all around the piece means the drill never blows out through the side.

Half the challenge in making a needle case is making the walls straight. Steve excavates by drilling to simplify the process; and to drill accurately, he uses a #5 center drill (0.438") to start the hole for his needle case cavity. Then he drills the hole itself with a spotting drill, which is shorter and more rigid

*Go to page 5*



## I like

to make round things: mostly bowls, pots, and hollow forms. Some people like to make a different kind of round thing and that was demonstrated at the last meeting. I think Steve did a very good job of showing us there really are turnings

other than bowls. He was well organized and presented very well. I understand his preciseness and that is probably part of the reason why I would rather do other round things. Steve is a new member to the club and this was his first time showing others the how to's of his type of projects. In the short time of his turning experience he has really shown talent. Great Job, Steve!

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## Next month...

Join us Wednesday, August 3rd, at 7 P.M., when Sawdust Shop owner Craig Colvin talks about his new Sunnyvale store and workshop, at 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: GLUE UP

At sawdust sessions we have watched the progress from file handles to the little boxes Steve makes. We also have other members that are growing with time and experience and I am hoping they will share their projects at this month's annual club picnic. Last year's event was great, and I am hoping this one will be even better. Gary won best of show last year with a carved goblet that was awesome! I can't wait to see what this year will bring.

Next month is the annual "turn off". This year the event is held with the BAWA in San Ramon. That event is to bring the Bay Area clubs together. This year sounds like a lot of fun. The event is scheduled for Aug 13<sup>th</sup>. We can meet at my place and car pool if you wish. There will be food and fun for all, and Merryll Saylan will be there for a demo. Mark your calendars and let's have a good SVW showing.

So what's next? ... The September Home & Garden Show at Santa Clara Convention Center. The sign-up sheet is posted. This is a great place to SELL the turnings you have made. Everything sells; maybe not every time, but we have sold everything you could think of. In our Yahoo site is the Inventory Sheet for the show. You must use that so we can keep track of what sold. We are selling our items with "TAX INCLUDED". If a customer wants a discount we tell them: "we will pay the tax!!" That has worked in the past and everyone is happy. More on this later.

*Rich*



## President's Challenge and Show & Tell



### *COLOR*ED

#### President's Challenge

Rich Johnson showed some hollow forms of ash which he torched, dyed, and finished using techniques he learned from Stuart King in Utah.

Mike Rude turned a group of small wood flowers from walnut and lemon, then colored them with stains.

Steve Rosenthal brought a small natural edged chalice of oak, with gold highlights from a metallic gold pen.

Jim Gott showed off a plate full of Bonnie Klein style tops, colored with magic markers and decorated with chatter work.

Michael Wiley presented a shallow bowl of cherry. Its rim sported a sponged blue background and painted leaves in the Liz Scobie style.

Phil Roybal brought a small ash bowl, colored with black gesso and earth pigments, then airbrushed with spirit stains. The piece is finished with spray lacquer.

Steve Dahout brought a natural edged bowl of chestnut, ebonized with steel wool and vinegar, then colored with liming wax.



*Clockwise from top left: Rich Johnson, Michael Wiley, Phil Roybal, Steve Dahout, Jim Gott, Steve Rosenthal, and Mike Rude.*

*Continued on page 4.*

*Challenge continued from page 3.*



Rick Parfitt brought a small box of African blackwood, colored with gold dust and finished with varnish.

Dick Pickering brought a walnut bowl, which he turned with a thick rim that he textured and dyed black.

Michael Wiley and Dick Pickering on the President's Challenge raffle.

### **Show and Tell**

Michel Wiley turned a plate from bloodwood and finished it with lacquer and wax.

Jim Gott brought a natural edged hollow form, the first turned in his new shop. It's turned from plum and finished with 50% Deft.

Tony Bryhan showed a square jacaranda bowl, turned very green, then burned with a torch and finished with tung oil. He also showed an X-Y table he's going to mount on his lathe.

Steve Dahout brought a small chestnut bowl finished with liming wax.

Mike Rude showed a vase of laminated Baltic birch plywood, finished with Minwax Wipe-on Poly.

Steve Rosenthal turned a small natural edged vase of oak from his brother's tree.

Rich Johnson turned a natural edge bowl from Paradox Walnut, and a bowl of Bradford pear, both finished with 50% Deft. He also turned a spalted willow plate.

Rick Parfitt showed a steel tool rest he made to fit his lathe.



*Clockwise from top left: Rick Parfitt, Steve Dahout, Mike Rude, Steve Rosenthal, Rich Johnson, Tony Bryhan, Jim Gott, Michael Wiley, and Dick Pickering.*



*Continued from page 1*

than the jobbers-length drill bits most of us use. These short bits can grab in deep holes because of their limited ability to clear chips from the hole.

Steve first truing a birch dowel to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " with a skew chisel. He notes that hardware store dowels tend to be oversized and not especially round. Once the dowel is round, he marks lines at 1", 3", and 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the head end. He cuts in at the last mark with a parting tool to mark the end of the case. He will later part it off here.



*Above: Steve parts off the base of the needle case. The cap remains in the collet chuck. Below: short screw machine bits drill more accurately than conventional bits.*

Next, Steve mounts the collet chuck on the lathe and secures the blank in a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " collet. He reverses the blank as he mounts it so he can begin work on the cap of the case. He completes the parting off that began a moment ago, leaving a stub that will become the cap. He then drills 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " into the cap to form a mortise that will

receive the tenon he will cut on the body of the case. He sets his speed around 500 RPM and drills full depth with the center drill, then follows it with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " spotting drill to clean up the base of the mortise, and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " screw machine drill bit drilled in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to form the mortise.

Next, Steve mounts the body in the collet, trims the end square, and drills in with a center drill, followed by a 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " spotting drill. He has to withdraw the bit frequently to clear the flutes of chips.

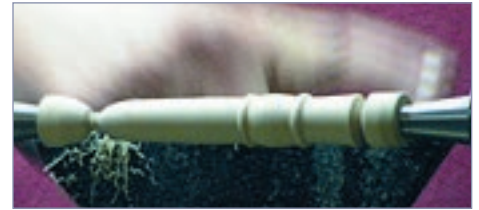


*Above: Steve finished the tenon on the base. Below, a closeup of that tenon and the cap's mortise (left) that it fits into.*



Steve now turns down the tenon walls to about  $\frac{1}{16}$ " to fit the mortise in the cap. He checks the diameter with dial calipers as he cuts, looking for  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". (Steve prefers Highland Hardware calipers, which read in both thousandths and fractions of an inch.) He wants a "press fit", where the tenon is .003-.005" bigger than the mortise. This way the case requires some effort

to open. He also wants the walls of the tenon to be a cylinder, to give a suction fit with the top. If the walls slope either way, the top is likely to rattle when it's fully seated on the tenon. When the tenon is small enough to begin fitting into the cap, he forces the cap on part way to burnish a reference mark on the tenon, then cuts the rest of the tenon down to that mark.



*Steve turns decorative beads on the case before parting off the waste from the base.*

With the tenon complete, Steve puts the cap on the base and sets the assembly between centers. He then turns decorative features along the case. He tapers the base and parts off below the bottom. He then mounts the collet chuck and inserts the stub at the top of the cap into it to part off the cap. Steve sharpens his parting tool on its side, so the hollow grind from the wheel produces a subtle flute that helps the tool cut cleanly.

Steve mounts a homemade  $\frac{3}{8}$ " mandrel in the headstock, puts the base on it, and sands it with 3M micron-graded abrasive. He likes this material, which he gets from Highland Hardware, because it has carefully graded abrasives with no large grains. He uses a second mandrel to finish the top in the same way.

Steve uses friction polish or 50% Deft to finish his delicate little cases.





## Fred Wray (Member since 2004)

Q. What lathe do you use?

A. *I use a Powermatic 3520A. It will turn 20" x 48", and has an 1-1/8"-8 spindle.*

Q. What do you like to turn?

A. *I like to turn bowls, natural edged objects, bottle stoppers, cremation urns, vases, boxes, and oil lamps.*

Q. What is your favorite wood?

A. *I like redwood burl, olive, and claro walnut.*

Q. What are your favorite tools?

A. *My favorites are my Ellsworth gouge, a P&N 3/8" spindle gouge, and a 1-1/2" Henry Taylor heavy duty scraper.*

Q. What finishes do you use?

A. *I use Zinsser's French Polish (new), Deft, and acrylic spray.*

Q. How long have you been turning?

A. *I've been turning about 5 years.*

Q. What got you started in turning?

A. *I was in the candle manufacturing business, and I started turning candle holders to help sell the candles.*

Q. Who has influenced your turning style?

A. *Soren Berger and Richard Raffan have mainly influenced me.*

Q. What would you change about the club to improve it?

A. *I'd like more big name demonstrations, more flea market opportunities, and less yelling by the President.*

Q. What would you like to learn?

A. *I'd like to work on off-center turnings, boxes, carving techniques.*

Q. What would you like to see as demo subjects?

A. *I want to see more bowl-saving techniques, carving/texturing, and discussion of selling opportunities.*

Q. What other hobbies or interests do you have?

A. *My other hobbies are salt water fishing and photography.*

### Editor's Note

If you'd like to be featured in PROFILE, fill out the questionnaire on our Yahoo site and return it to Lloyd Frisbee.



## Sharpening

Gerry Glaser, Glaser Engineering

Here's how I shape and sharpen the woodturning tools I make.

I begin by grinding a bevel on the end of a blank gouge. When I started making tools, I did this grinding on white aluminum oxide wheels. They worked OK, but I wanted something better; something that would grind fast, retain its shape, and require minimum attention. A few years ago I found the answer in Norton's Seeded Gel (SG) grinding wheels, made of aluminum oxide grit. The difference is in the way the grit is made. Each grit element in an SG wheel consists of many smaller particles, instead of the large, single particles used in standard wheels. As SG wheels cut, the very small grit particles break off, exposing fresh, sharp edges.

I use an 8-inch by 1-inch wheel, driven at 3000 RPM. The wheels are available from Craft Supplies in 46 and 80 grit. I use the 5SG46-IVS, a 46 grit wheel that's good for rapid stock removal.

Getting a good wheel is just part of successful grinding. The wheel must be kept sharp! That entails two steps. The first is truing. New wheels usually don't run true; the wheel's surface is usually eccentric. If you grind with such a wheel, your tool will vibrate or bounce off the wheel surface. You true the wheel with a diamond tool, either single stone or multiple stone. This tool need support from the grinder's tool rest to remove any eccentricity from the wheel's surface.

The next step is to dress the wheel. For this I use a "star wheel dresser" that roughens the surface of the trued wheel and makes it much more aggressive. The surface of a wheel trued

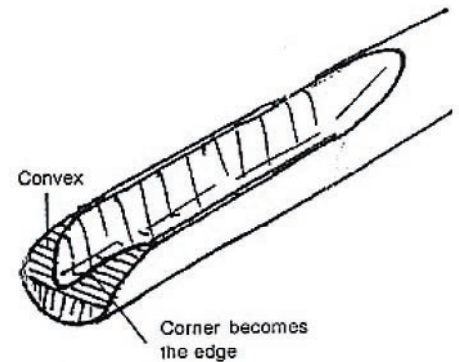
by a diamond is smooth. It will grind more slowly and hotter, but the ground surface of the tool will be smooth. For retouching edges, a wheel dressed this way is acceptable.

Grinding heats the tool, and you may be tempted to cool it in water. This is not good practice. A water quench cools the thin edges of the tool rapidly, causing them to shrink faster than the bulk of the tool, and the edges may develop small cracks as a result. See Leonard Lee's book (*The Complete Guide to Sharpening*) for a picture of why this happens.

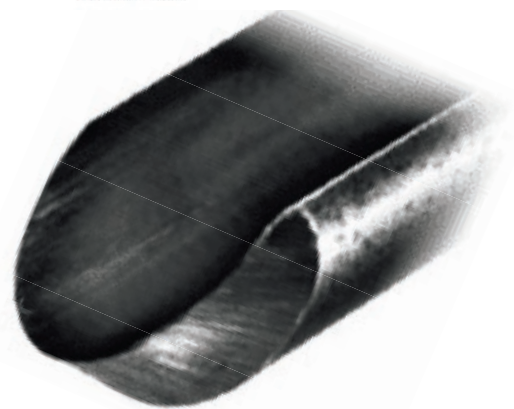
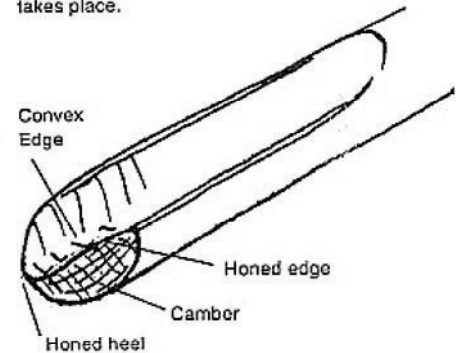
Even with considerable care, tools sometimes get hot enough during grinding to turn brown or blue. If the tool is made of high speed steel or one of the CPM steels, this heating will not affect the hardness of the steel. Such steels are tempered at 1000 °F or higher, and the grinding color you see occurs at a much lower temperature. However, if your tool is made of carbon steel (as are most old tools, and any tools made from files), the change in color while grinding means the tool has lost some hardness and will wear more quickly. Grinding away the affected area, or heat treating the tool again, are the only remedies.

The tools I make are sharp when I ship them. This means I grind an appropriate bevel and hone it to a sharp edge. For grinding the bevel on gouges I use a jig I designed about ten years ago to help me grind all gouges to the shame shape. I start by grinding a convex profile, freehand, as shown in the figure. This gives me a target for shaping the nose and sides of the bevel. The inside corners become the edge of the bevel when the grinding is

completed. After creating the profile, I mount the blade in a grinding jig to complete the process.



The convex profile is important at the tip, where much of the cutting action takes place.



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## SVW needs YOU

It takes more than the officers and program chairs to make our club function at its best. If your name's not in the column at right, we still need your help in smaller ways to manage some of the club's activities.

This is a HELP WANTED ad, and we need you to respond. Specifically, right now we need people to manage and staff the following activities (and probably others I don't know about):

Inter-Club Picnic (see below)

- Turn-off team

Please volunteer to Rich Johnson and help make these activities happen.

## Sharing Knowledge

**MEMBERS:** Please contribute your expertise to our newsletter. The editor will help you get your article ready if need be. Deadline is the 12th of the month.

### OTHER WOODTURNING

**CLUBS:** you may use materials in this newsletter for the benefit of other turners. Please credit Silicon Valley Woodturners and the newsletter month and year for any material you use. Note that if we've flagged an article as having been reprinted from another source with permission, you must secure that same permission in order to use that material.

## VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS

The turners below have graciously offered to open their shops to help members who want to learn to sharpen, try something new, or master a technique that just doesn't seem to be working. We all love to share. You just have to ask.

Willing to help? Contact Phil Roybal to join this list.

Rich Dege	(408) 272-8122
Jim Gott	(408) 265-9501
Rich Johnson	(408) 254-8485
Phil Roybal	(408) 255-4789

## Join Silicon Valley Woodturners

Want to join a great group of turning enthusiasts in an atmosphere of sharing and comraderie? Become a member of Silicon Valley Woodturners.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. See page 2 for details. You're welcome to drop in at any meeting and check things out. To join, contact Rich Johnson (see listing at the right).

Learn more about our club on the web at [www.svwoodturners.org](http://www.svwoodturners.org).

## SVW Contacts

### President

Rich Johnson (408) 254-8485  
[latheart@pacbell.net](mailto:latheart@pacbell.net)

### V.P./Program Chair

Ayman Sayed ((408) 623-6961  
[asayed@cisco.com](mailto:asayed@cisco.com)

### Treasurer

Craig Thorson (650) 341-7550  
[RPS@wwdb.org](mailto:RPS@wwdb.org)

### Secretary/Editor

Phil Roybal (408) 255-4789  
[prmguard-svweditor@yahoo.com](mailto:prmguard-svweditor@yahoo.com)

### Sunshine Chairs

Lloyd & Becky Frisbee  
408 978-6219  
[bigguy95124@yahoo.com](mailto:bigguy95124@yahoo.com) (Lloyd)  
[lfrisbee@pacbell.net](mailto:lfrisbee@pacbell.net) (Becky)

### Photographer

Jim Gott (408) 265-9501  
[jgtimp@aol.com](mailto:jgtimp@aol.com)

### Apparel

Bob Bowers 408 972-1684  
[rbbwrs1@cs.com](mailto:rbbwrs1@cs.com)

### Ways & Means

Ace Foster (831) 336-4260  
[AceFoster@aol.com](mailto:AceFoster@aol.com)

### Wood

Steve Dahout 408 981-6183  
[sdahout@yahoo.com](mailto:sdahout@yahoo.com)

### Webmaster

Steve Rosenthal 408-923-6562  
[sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net)

### Librarian

Al Gore (650) 254-1173  
[allan\\_gore@peoplesoft.com](mailto:allan_gore@peoplesoft.com)



# UTAH SYMPOSIUM!

Even before all the planes had landed, Craft Supplies kicked off the Utah Symposium season with their Super Tuesday scratch 'n dent clearance sale at their store in Provo, UT. Hundreds of turners lined up in the cool morning air, waiting for the 8 AM opening. It was the usual feeding frenzy for an hour or so, then we drifted off to various workshop sites for a day-long series of demo sessions by many of the same turners who would be featured later in the week at the official Symposium. In essence, it was an extra day of the show.

Wednesday morning, Kip Christianson kicked off the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Utah Woodturning Symposium by welcoming 28 presenters from 7 countries to Brigham Young University. He noted that this year's event, which includes 115 rotations

over three days, was sold out by the end of April.

Demonstrations were spread out through 10 daytime sessions. There were evening sessions as well, including the increasingly popular Mike Mahoney/Stuart Batty Dueling Bowl Gouges show. Perhaps even better, for the first time this year we saw Batty vs. Batty: Dueling Spindles: as Alan and Stuart Batty, father and son, needled and challenged each other on adjacent lathes before a standing-room-only audience of turners.

By Saturday afternoon when the chips had settled, 450 attendees had watched and chatted with some of the best turners in the world, bought tools and books, and had a great time.

Registration for next year's Symposium will begin January, 2006, at [www.utahwoodturning.com](http://www.utahwoodturning.com).



*Above: three shots show just a tiny section of the Instant Gallery's impressive collection of turnings.*



*Clockwise from top left: Crowd outside Craft Supplies waits for Darryl Nish to announce raffle winners, Tom Donnally, Mike Rude, and Jim Gott; George Hall and Rich Johnson; Ayman Sayed and Phil Roybal, all wait in the shade for raffle results.*

*Continued on page 10.*

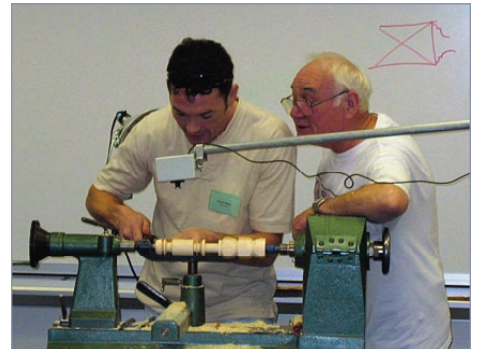




*Mark Baker prepares to carve a platter.*



*The Mahoney vs. Batty Show: Mike Mahoney hoists the resulting bowls and Stuart Batty looks on.*



*The Batty vs. Batty Show, Stuart Batty works on a spindle while father Alan Batty harrasses him.*



*Cindy Drozda explains a Banksia mushroom box she's turning.*



*Kip Christianson illustrates design principles by turning them.*



*The crowd gathers for an outdoor BBQ in a park above Provo on Friday night.*



*Don Derry talks about how to make things fast as a production turner.*



*Ray Key shows one of 21 ways to decorate the rim of a platter. It was much thinner by the time he finished.*



*Josh and Claire Salesin set up for the Friday evening swap meet. Looks like Josh just realized he forgot something!*



# STAFF REPORTS

## RICH JOHNSON (PRESIDENT)

We're invited to the Rocky Mountain Turning Symposium in September.

AAW sent a flyer advertising a woodturner's insurance policy, but it turns out not to be available in California.

Woodcraft will be hosting finishing seminars at the Foster City Recreation Dept., on Friday, July 22nd. There will be a session from 9–12:30, and another from 2–5:30. Contact the Woodcraft store in San Carlos (650 631-9663) or Dublin (925 875-9988) to sign up.

## AYMAN SAYED (VP/PROGRAMS)

August 6<sup>th</sup>, Johannes Michaelson will be demonstrating his trademark hat turning techniques at Tony Bryhan's shop..

## CRAIG THORSON (TREASURER)

### INCOME

Raffle	\$22
Library	\$8
Scobie workshop	\$600

### EXPENSES

Scobie demo fee	\$550
Scobie demo food	\$110

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SPENDABLE BAL.	\$1256
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Save your Woodcraft receipts for Craig, who can use them to earn discounts for the club.

## DICK PICKERING (APPAREL)

We have hats and patches, as well as iron on transfers. See Dick.

## ACE FOSTER, STEVE DAHOUT (WAYS AND MEANS)

Ace is moving to Washington, and we need someone to take over the Ways and Means job, which is principally providing wood for raffles and demos. Meanwhile, if you know of wood becoming available, tell Steve Dahout.

## Other Business

Sign up now for the September Home and Garden Show.

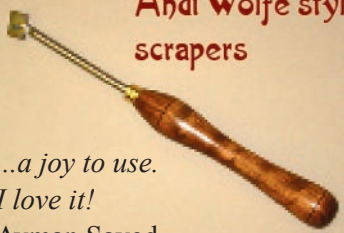
We're looking for ways to earn money for the club. Rich proposed and it was agreed that we will fine anyone who sets a drink down without a coaster \$1, the money to go to the club treasury.



*Turned, dyed flowers, by Mike Rude*

# FOR SALE


**Andi Wolfe style  
scrapers**



*...a joy to use.  
I love it!*  
Ayman Sayed

1" A2 blades, steel shafts, walnut handles, immaculate finish, honed and ready to use. \$45  
Round A2 blades \$15

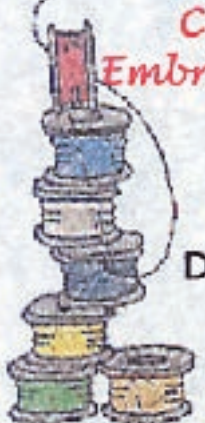
Phil Roybal  
408 255-4789  
proybal@pacbell.net



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.

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## FOR SALE

Sand Blast Cabinet complete with sand and gun	\$125
Jet AFS 1500 DUST Collector (Room Air Filter)	\$300
Tool Rest set 1" posts	\$100
Tool Rest set 5/8" posts	\$80
Contact Rich Johnson, 408 254-8485, or email to latheart@pacbell.net	

# CALENDAR

## JULY

22ND

Woodcraft finishing seminars at Foster City Recreation Dept., 650 Shell Blvd., Foster City. See pg. 11 for times and reservation info.

## AUGUST

3RD

Regular club meeting. Craig Colvin talks about The Sawdust Shop.

6TH

Johannes Michaelson will demonstrate hat turning at Tony Bryhan's shop.

13TH

Multi-club Picnic and Turn Off at San Ramon Senior Center.

## SEPTEMBER

7TH

Regular club meeting. Round robin presentation on finishing techniques by various SVW members.

9TH-11TH

Home & Garden Show at Santa Clara Convention Center.

17TH-18TH

Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium, Lowland, CO. [www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com](http://www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com).



# IRONMAN

Ironmen are those who complete all 12 President's Challenge projects for 2005. Those who meet the challenge are recognized for their efforts with distinctive IRONMAN name badges.

A green bar in the chart below means that a person has completed the President's Challenge project for the month indicated.

If you've missed a challenge this year, it's not too late to get in the game. Bring your make up piece to

the May meeting and get credit for participating.

## Editor's Note

If I've overlooked your President's Challenge entry somehow, email Phil at [prmguard-svweditor@yahoo.com](mailto:prmguard-svweditor@yahoo.com).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bob Bowers												
Steven Dahout												
Tom Donnelly												
Ace Foster												
Lloyd Frisbee												
Rebecca Frisbee												
Jim Gott												
Herb Green												
Rich Johnson												
Harry Levin												
Rick Parfitt												
Gary Petretti												
Dick Pickering												
Steve Rosenthal												
Phil Roybal												
Mike Rude												
Robert Sakauye												
Ayman Sayed												
Michael Wiley												

**You don't have to be a great turner to join the fun.  
Make something in our Challenge theme and bring  
it to the next meeting.**

Upcoming President's Challenges include:

August	Glue Up
Sept.	With Handle
October	Deliberately Altered
November	Serving (hint...utilitarian)
December	Gift