



# CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER

## We do it with jigs and fixtures

DECEMBER'S MEETING GAVE MEMBERS A CHANCE TO SHOW HOW THEY'VE SOLVED SHOP PROBLEMS WITH INNOVATIVE JIGS AND FIXTURES. IDEAS BOTH SIMPLE AND COMPLEX WERE THE MAIN COURSE, AND NOT ALL WERE RELATED TO TURNING. HERE'S WHAT WE SAW.

Rich Johnson led off with a Soren Berger trick for setting up Wolverine and VariGrind jigs to give repeatable results when sharpening gouges. The Wolverine is an arm that projects a variable distance in front of and below a grinding wheel. The VariGrind is an adjustable gouge holder that sits in the Wolverine and simplifies creating the fingernail grinds most of us use on bowl gouges. Soren's trick is to cut a small stick, pointed on one end, to the length

between the Wolverine cup and the grinding wheel for a particular gouge. Gaged from the wheel surface, this automatically sets the Wolverine projection while it compensates for wheel wear. He cuts a notch in the stick so it just fits between the VariGrind leg and tool holder when the VariGrind is set to the correct angle for the gouge. That's it! Simple, free, and it gives the same grind every time!

Next, Rich showed how a dowel in a live center in his tailstock holds a finished bowl to the wooden disk on a faceplate so he can finish the foot without marring the bottom. He uses a wooden cone if he wants to apply pressure to the inside bottom of a bowl.

Another Rich trick was to put crutch tips on the end of dowels cut to #2 Morse tapers. One fits the headstock. The other, housing a bearing inside the crutch tip, fits in the tail stock to become a live, non-marring center. These crutch tips are a good way to turn spheres, whose axes must be rotated 90... during turning without marring a finished surface. Along the same line, he also showed a cup which Soren Berger uses as a chuck to drive spheres when he turns them.

Finally, Rich showed us the laser pointer he's set up on a framework attached to his hollowing system to show where the cutting edge is when it's hidden inside a hollow form. The lasers are available from Radio Shack.

Rich Johnson holds a VariGrind jig with the setting stick.





This year's SVW Xmas party was a big success. From what we could see, everyone had a wonderful time. We had some great surprises as the gift exchange yielded some real treasures. I hope next year's party is as good as this one was.

I would like to welcome Deborah Bress to our staff as VP and Program Chairperson. She will provide programs for our meetings for this next year. If you have any Ideas for a program please let her know. We need your input.

Each month there is a President's Challenge. That challenge is a turning related project that is brought to the meeting and presented to our peers. Three people that have not brought a piece for the meeting will be picked to judge the entries.

## Next Meeting

Join us at our next meeting, on Wednesday, January 2nd, at 7 P.M.

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 the *Show and Tell* portion of the meeting. We all learn together.

### PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE: NATURAL EDGE TURNING

We really have no rules for these projects other than they are supposed to be recent projects, not last year's leftovers. The choices this time are a little open so you can have some fun. Let your imagination go wild and have a ball! Just include the month's theme in your project. For example: January's Natural Edged Turning could be any type of turning with **some** part, or piece, of a Natural Edge, maybe not even the bark. So have some fun with this and enjoy this year's Presidents Challenges. Maybe you can win some \$\$\$ or a gift certificate from Craft Supplies (and not have to be a judge).

### Challenges for 2002

January	Natural edged turning
February	Craft item
March	Turning with a handle)
April	Turning between centers
May	Any kind of spinning top
June	Hollow form
July	Natural edged bowl
August	Stemmed turning
September	Glue up (multi-pieces)
October	Seasonal turning
November	Open forum
December	Xmas decoration

*Rich*

# EDITOR'S NOTES

## SVW's Annual Party

Our annual club Christmas party was a great success.

Those who attended last year may remember stud walls draped with plastic sheets to keep the cold out. This year, heat was no problem in Rich's beautifully finished Woodturning Center.

The party launched at 6 p.m., and by 7 was in full swing. We had about 40 members and

significant others, bringing wonderful potluck dishes to share and presents for the pirate gift exchange. Rich and Michelle had done a fine job of deco-

rating the walls and lathes, and even supplied a Christmas tree!



*Host Rich Johnson welcomes new arrivals..*



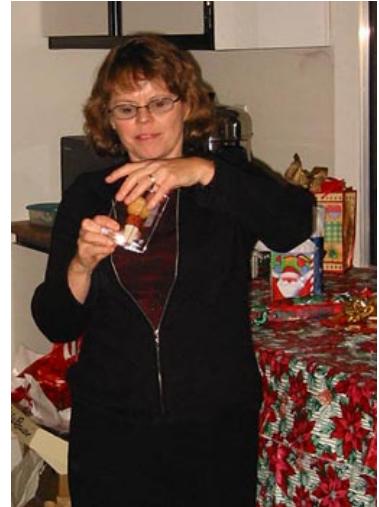
*Even the lathes were decorated. Mike and Sandra Rude look on.*

We chatted and drank, then made a pass at the buffet line before settling down to dinner. Afterward came the gift exchange.

Four members followed Rich's exhortation to donate a turning (or two), while the rest brought a wide variety of items, from tools to scarves. Lots of items went to their two-theft limit quickly, and by the time the last people drew their presents,

most items had found their final owner.

Thanks to Rich and Michelle for hosting a great party!



*Julie Roybal picked one of Lou's tagua nut bottle stoppers.*



*Lou Gonzalez chose a pair of turnings from Ace, packaged in the evening's most unusual box.*

# TURNING OUT

## Show & Tell

Rich Johnson led off with a bloodwood bowl. He did it with one tool, finishing with 50-50 Deft over sanding sealer.

Ron Newcomb brought a mushroom from manza-



called Wheel Tree who's object is to move all wheels to an outside peg without putting a larger wheel on a smaller one.

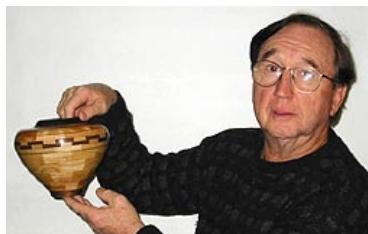
Jim Keller showed his first segmented bowl, of walnut and ash, finished with Waterlox and tung oil.



*Rich's bloodwood bowl.*



Ron shows off a Wheel Tree game and a mushroom. nita and redwood burl. He painted the cap with interference paint from Daniel Smith Art Supply in Seattle. He also brought a game



*Jim's first segmented bowl.*

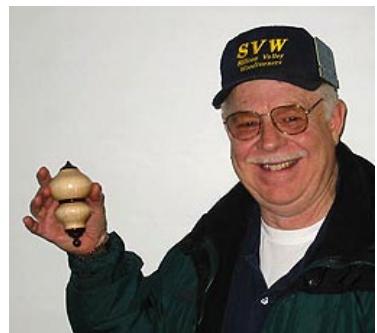
## President's Challenge

Phil Roybal led the Challenge parade with an elf hat made as a two axis faceplate turning, folded in half and glued. The finish was gesso, acrylic paint, and shellac.



*Phil Roybal's elf hat.*

Dick Pickering showed an ornament made of maple and cocobolo. It consisted of three pieces with a ring in the middle. he finished it with 50-50 Deft, then buffed it.



*Dick Pickering's three-part ornament*

Dick Jessing showed a trio of ornaments on a custom made stand. His



ornaments were made of maple and either mahogany or walnut. He finished the trio with Minwax tung oil and the Beale buffering system.

Ron Newcomb showed a hollowed maple snowman, with a hat turned separately and

*Continued  
from pg. 1*

Dick Jessing came next with a tablesaw jig. He uses it to cut slots across the mitred corners of thin-walled boxes, so he can reinforce those delicate glue joints with external splines or slip feathers. His neatly constructed jig slides in a mitre gage track or alongside a tablesaw table edge. It features stop blocks with a scale to produce repeatable results.



*Dick Jessing shows his slipfeather jig for tablesaws.*



*Terry Feinburg uses this jig to give access to the foot of a bowl.*

Terry Feinburg presented a faceplate jig he uses for holding bowls so he can complete the feet. It consists of a felt-covered plate and cone over which a bowl is fitted. Then, a plywood ring with a hole in

the center, smaller than the bowl, is secured over the bowl bottom with long bolts, giving easy access to the bottom.

Phil Roybal showed how he stripped the base and worktable off a cheap portable drill press designed for power drills, and mounted the central rod in his lathe banjo. He modified the drill holder to grip the handpiece from a Foredom rotary tool. He uses this setup two



*Phil Roybal mounts this drill press in a lathe banjo for special effects*

ways. With the head mounted to move vertically, he can plunge the tool straight down onto the side of a bowl, to produce regularly spaced holes for inlays (using the lathe's indexing head). With the head mounted to move horizontally and a router bit in the Foredom handpiece, he can put any router bit profile on the front or side of the bowl, or drill radially into the bowl surface.

Phil also showed how he uses powerful flat magnets (from Triangle Supply in San Jose) for a variety of jobs. Stuck to the side of the lathe, they hold knockout bars, chuck keys, and pin chuck pins. Placed on the back end of the banjo, one holds a 4" dust collection tube in just the right spot to collect sanding dust. And one on the front of the lathe holds an air gun for blowing off sanding dust.



*Jim Gott shows his T-square circular saw guide.*

Jim Gott made a 90° T-square jig for his circular saw. He built the square from a length of 2x6 (for the bar that slides along the stock) and a masonite blade to guide the saw base. After constructing the jig, he guided the saw along the masonite to cut off the 2x6 so its edge would precisely indicate the cutting line for the saw.

Ron Newcomb showed us some clear plastic Go to Jigs, page 6.

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

glued on an idea he got from a magazine years ago. he also brought a tiny Christmas tree.

Jim Gott showed a pierced bell made of local privet. This was his second pierced piece. He turned the inside first, then the outside. He finished with Deft.

*Jigs, con't.  
from pg. 5*

containers (available from Home Depot in various sizes) that he uses for drill bits. He also showed stackable, tip-out drawers (from Ace Hardware) that he uses for storing small tools.

John Brugo showed how he wraps sandpaper around tubular foam pipe insulation to sand inside natural edge bowls while keeping fingers away. He handed out samples to those who wanted to try it.

Finally, VP-Elect Debbie Bress told us how she uses pegboard as a jig for drilling regularly spaced adjustable shelf pin holes along the sides of book shelves.

Everyone took home an idea to try. As Rich Johnson says, We all learn together.



*Ron Newcomb's mini-snowman and tiny tree.*



*Jim Gott's prize winning pierced bell.*

Harry Keller brought a box of six bass ornaments. all were left without finish.

Judges Rich Johnson, Lou Gonzalez, and Terry Feinburg awarded first place to Jim Gott for his bell. Dick Jessing and Phil Roybal tied for second place.



*Harry Keller's box of six ornaments.*

## MENTOR PROGRAM

Our Mentor program (see discussion on page 7) kicks off with three volunteer mentors. Contact Phil Roybal to join the list. Members who need some help (but not formal lessons) can contact:

Jim Gott	(408) 265-9501
Ron Newcomb	(510) 797-6665
Phil Roybal	(408) 255-4789



*John Brugo's sandpaper covered pipe insulation.*

## OFFICERS

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# STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

## PRESIDENT (RICH JOHNSON)

AAW will provide 3rd party insurance for club demonstrations (such as at Home & Garden Shows). They cover us at SVW activites as long as demonstrators are members of both AAW and SVW. We may need an honorary membership system for people who come to demonstrate at our monthly meetings.

SVW dues (\$25/year) are due for 2002. You can pay by cash or check (made out to Jim Gott). Give dues to Phil Roybal to log in.

Don Bonnet will be going to Rhode Island for the AAW Symposium and could submit a collaborative turning for us if at least six members are interested in competing. There are four categories this year. Entries must be shippable via UPS.

## TREASURER (JIM GOTTF)

### Income:

Hats	\$10.00
Videos	\$10.00
Raffle	\$2.00
Membership	\$5
Checking interest	\$.67

### Expenses:

Craft Supplies (Batty video)	\$46.94
Home Depot (carpet, duct tape)	132.54
New Balance	\$1143.13

## SECRETARY/EDITOR (PHIL ROYBAL)

An updated video listing is now on SVWoodturners group at Yahoo Groups.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### APPAREL

Dick Pickering has SVW hats at \$10 ea.

## NEW BUSINESS

### ELECTIONS

All officers except Lou Gonzalez were willing to serve again in 2002. Lou nominated Debbie Bress for his slot. No position had more than one candidate. The slate, consisting of Rich Johnson (President), Debbie Bress (VP/Program Chair), Jim Gott (Treasurer), and Phil Roybal (Secretary/Editor) was approved by unanimous acclamation.

### MENTOR PROGRAM

Phil Roybal mentioned that NorCal has a Mentors program where experienced members help newer members with specific issues. These are not lessons, but more like an afternoon shop visit and discussion of techniques. In some ways it duplicates what we do at Sawdust Sessions, but may be better for people who need more time on a technique, or have questions that won't interest most members.

Several members were interested. Ron Newcomb, Jim Gott, and Phil Roybal volunteered as mentors. We will begin publishing a list of mentors in this issue.

### NEW FACES

Tony Brian, new to turning, found us on the internet. He joined the club. Also joining at the meeting were John Brugo and Michael Walsh. Welcome!

### MISCELLANEOUS

The Utah Symposium in Provo is scheduled for June 13—15, 2002.

Home & Garden shows are coming up in January and February. We need people to demo and sell at those shows. See Rich Johnson.

# FOR SALE

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

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



## RON NEWCOMB

- \* Kiwi Tools Guaranteed woodturning tools
- \* Sandpaper Eagle brand wet or dry
- \* 3M Sanding Sponges 120 to 1500 grit

1.510.797.6665 ronwoodart@aol.com, or see  
Ron at club meetings.



## Rich Johnson's Woodturning Center

(408) 254-8485

Tee-shirts	\$12
Hats	\$11
Cups	\$ 6

Turning Tools: P & N Woodturning Tools from Australia

Better prices than in any catalog

Hollowing tool set made locally

With handle, three tools and handle guide \$100

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New distributor for Starbond CA glue,  
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