



CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER

Can you top this?



Rich Dege watches his top spin to victory as Debbie and Gary look on.

The great SVW Annual Top Off has come and gone, leaving Rich Dege as the undisputed endurance champ. Here's how it was...

The business part of the meeting had come and gone. A tense crowd moved chairs to the side and gathered around the open space in Rich Johnson's shop. The contestants crouched on the floor, hearts hopeful, tops and launchers at the ready. At the signal, we all set our tiny creations spinning and watched as they twirled.

And we watched.
And we watched.

About four and half minutes later, Rich Dege's purple plum entry with brass ring finally hit the ground, the last top standing. You can see the top in action, and at rest, at left.

Rich attributed his top's success to careful balancing, a task upon which he lavished two days. Rich balanced the top by rolling it around, marking a light point, and taping a small nail there. Then, he'd gradually cut the nail's length down until it didn't cause the top to settle with that side down consistently. Finally, he'd drive the nail into the top at the point where it had been taped, and continue the process. Tedious, but it got results.



Clockwise from the bottom, tops by Dick Pickering, Phil Roybal, Ron Newcomb, and Mike Rude (last year's winning top).

[See Tops, pg. 5](#)

PRES SEZ



Well, Summer s here . Where did all the time go? It seems like just a few weeks ago that we were all havin a Xmas party in a cold, converted carport in my back yard. Things have sure changed. That ol carport is long gone and a wonderful shop has taken its place. The shop is complete now. Tools and equipment are in and running. We are quite proud of this Woodturning Center- it is a dream come true. On the right are a couple photos I would like to share.

Everything is ready for the Escoulen visit on Monday, June 11. If you have not signed up yet please do so soon. The cost is \$30 per session. There will be two sessions, starting at 12:00



This is September of 2000. As you can see, I m still movin in. Come on in .



May 21, 2001 Finished!

PM and 7:00 PM. You will need to bring a chair and something to drink. Join us.

There is a lot to do and see this summer with the Silicon Valley Woodturners. Mark your calendars and join us to support SVW.

Rich

Next Meeting

SVW s newest member, Richard Jessing, will demonstrate hand chased threads, as shown on the box he brought to the May meeting. Remember, we ve moved the meeting date to accomodate the 4th of July.



Wednesday, July 11th, 2001, at 7:00 PM.

Location: Rich Johnson s Shop

Rich s shop is located behind his home at 14979 Joanne Ave. in 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: A HANDLED TURNING

EDITOR'S NOTES

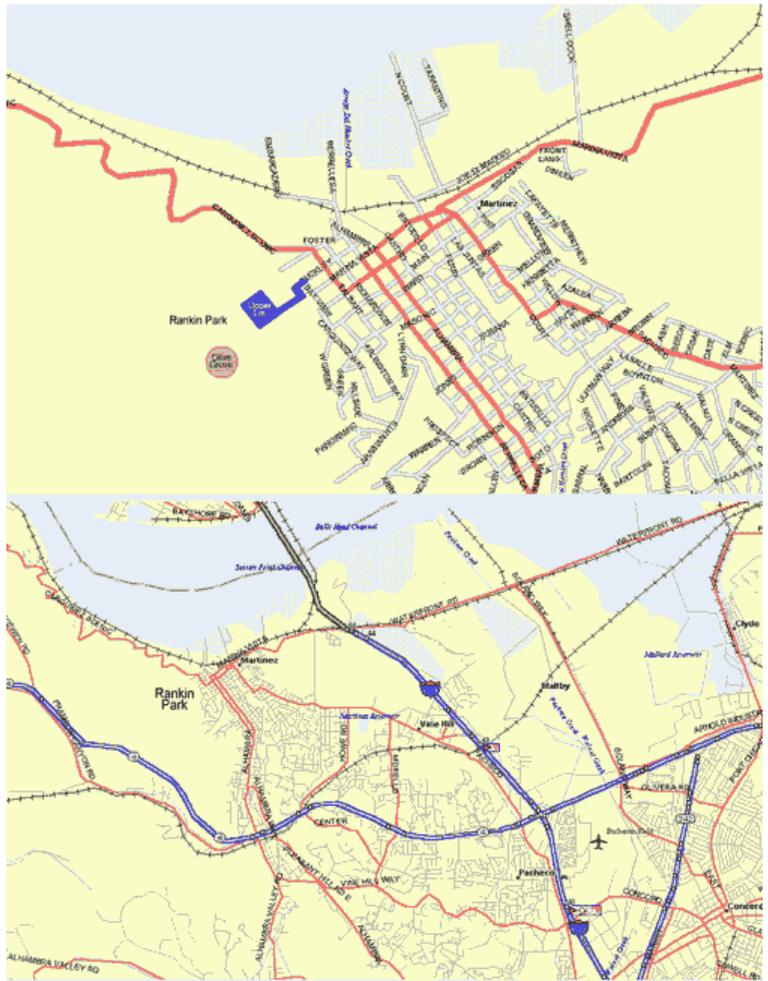
Offcuts

PICNIC AND TURN-OFF

The Bay Area Woodturners Association tells us that the July 14th picnic is shaping up to be very special indeed. Committees are working to make it a memorable occasion for members and their families. We expect a flyer describing the event soon.

BAWA will have pre-printed name badges for all participants and their families. That means they need to know who's coming. Their web site will be able to handle on-line registration, and I will email everyone a link to their registration instructions as soon as Jon Donohue tells me that it's up and running.

The picnic will be at Rankin Park in Martinez. A map (right) and on the BAWA web site provides directions. Any questions, please call or email Joe Donohue, 925-820-8315, woodturner@pacbell.net.



Directions: From Rt 4, North on Alhambra 2.1 miles. Left on Marina Vista 3 blocks, Right on Talbart 1 block, Left on Buckley
From Rt. 680, West on Marina Vista 1.9 miles. Right on Talbart 1 block, Left on Buckley.

YAHOO GROUPS

We now have all 35 members signed up on our SVWoodturner site at Yahoo Groups. Messages are flowing and things seem to be going well after a rocky start. I'd like to start distributing the newsletter through

SVWoodturners as soon as I'm confident that everyone can access it. Please try to download a file from the site and let me know if you have trouble.

Phil

Show & Tell

President's Challenge

Ron Newcomb brought in a bud vase of dry pear wood. He turned the base using three offset centers to make a rounded triangle composed of three chords of circles. Then Ron and Ace gave us a brief chalk talk about how to divide a circle into thirds. Ron also brought a toy duck puppet.

Dick Jessing, a new club member, brought in a lovely little cocobolo box with an inlay of ebony and a button from a needlework store. The top attaches to the box with 20 tpi, hand-chased threads, and Dick will demonstrate how he makes them at our July meeting. For a close up of the box, see Next Meeting on p 2.

Mike Rude brought in a large Olson cherry bowl which he finished with mineral oil and beeswax. la Richard Raffan.



Phil Roybal brought in a top he d made from a neighbor s eucalyptus and some Brazilian cherry offcuts from his new staircase. He recycled the brass rod from an old sink fixture to be the top s point. He gave it a silky finish with Tung oil and Waterlox, followed by a Beale System buffing.

Rich Dege brought in multiple entries. First was a pair of tiny tops from a birch dowel. They were so small they had to be spun with the fingernails in a bowl. he also brought in a purple plum top with a brass ring and balancing nail weights, crafted to his usual high standards. This top, described on page 1, was our endurance champ for the evening.

Ron Newcomb showed us a conical top with a ring launcher, made of pear and padauk, with painted gold ring and an upholstery tack for a tip.

Dick Pickering made a flat top out of bloodwood. He used the super-slick UHMW (Ultra-High Molecular Weight) plastic to make both the tip and the launcher. Such a tip has to be press-fit to the top, since glue doesn t stick to UHMW.



Continued on page 7

*Tops, from
pg. 1*

Mike Rude brought his Corian top, last year's winner, to run against the field; and it came in second. Dick Pickering's top with a UHMW (slippery plastic) tip took third place. Phil Roybal took fourth, and Ron Newcomb placed fifth in the endurance contest.

We recognized other top attributes as well as spinning time. Gary Petretti's walnut top was the wildest, darting around all over the floor as it spun.



*Petretti's wild top, above,
and Bonnet's tops, below..*

An endurance contest for hand-spun tops again saw Dege's top again outlast the rest, with one of Don Bonnet's exquisite chatterwork tops (below) second and Rude's 2000 winner third.

Rich Johnson and Lou Gonzalez both showed tipsy tops that flip upside down as they

spin. Rich's top stubbornly refused to flip, but Lou's did.



tops ready for judging

Both Mike Rude and Rich Dege entered tops in the tiniest top contest, and both spun their microscopic entries in a bowl to prove they would turn (if only briefly). Mike took the honors for longest spin.

Our judging team considered looks, performance, and technical excellence. They gave the President's Challenge first overall prize to Rich Dege, with second place to Gary Petretti. And a good time was had by all.



STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

PRESIDENT: (RICH JOHNSON)

The shop is done! (And it looks great, Rich). Rich passed out 20% discount coupons on Sorby tools (ends July 15th). See Rich for one.

Craft Supplies is offering a Vic Wood advanced turning class, June 18—22, for \$560 (AAW member price), a 10% discount. Contact Rachel McKinney at 1-800-551-8876 if you are interested.

There is a Florida Woodturning Symposium scheduled for 11/30—12/2 (a great time to be in Florida) at Lake Yale. John Jordan, Pat Matranga, and Willard Baxter will be demonstrating there. The fee is only \$80, and there are very reasonable room and board packages available. Call Judy or Ken Jackman at 352 465-4702 if you want to go.

The San Jose Home and Garden Show was a bad venue for us, and few people made money. Still, we have to support the show if we want to have the opportunity to sell at it. Next one is in August.

Mets talked the State Fair people into providing him an 8000 SF building for the Sacramento State Fair in late August. He wants help with demos and displays. The commitment is for 11 days. Contact Mets if you want to be part of it.

Bob Wheeler, former club member, died of cancer. His memorial was Saturday, May 5th.

VICE PRESIDENT: (LOU GONZALEZ)

Dick Jessing will be our July demonstrator, showing how to chase threads on boxes.

APPAREL (DICK PICKERING)

I have SVW hats at \$10 each.

SECRETARY (PHIL ROYBAL)

We have 35 members registered on SVWoodturners. Deborah is working with members having access troubles.

TREASURER: (JIM GOTT)

Income:

¥ Memberships	\$20
¥ Apparel	\$10
¥ Video rentals	\$2

RON NEWCOMB

WOOD Magazine's current issue features an article on Warren Atkins and segmented turning. You'll also find an article about how to turn an oval picture frame.

WAYS AND MEANS

Ace and Rich Dege went to Montebello Rd. to cut down an almond tree, which he brought. There is also a bay tree available if we're interested. He brought various woods to the meeting including olive, toyon, walnut, liquidamber, and Olsen cherry.

NEW FACES

Richard Jessing of Pleasanton joined in May. He turns on Nova 3000 and Mercury lathes, and will show how to hand-chase threads at our July meeting.



*Continued
from page 4*

Ace brought in a redwood top into which he d cut a circular trough for a poured metal weight ring. He filled the ring with wood metal which melts at about 180 F, so it doesn't char the wood.



Mike Rude brought in last year's winning top, turned of Corian and shown on the front page. He also brought two tiny tops, one painted like a strawberry to make it easier to see amongst the shavings. Both were made from dowel.

Lou Gonzalez experimented with a top like a lidded box, with another top nested inside. He also brought a tippy top, which is designed to flip upside down after you set it spinning. Both tops were of maple.



Don Bonnet took the quantity prize with a whole bowl of mini tops, cut from such exotic hardwoods as snakewood and blackwood. Some tops featured tips of tagua nut, and many were decorated with chatter work on the upper surfaces.



Gary Petretti showed a walnut top with launcher that we dubbed the Killer Top because it moved around so wildly when spinning that no other tops could be spinning in the vicinity.



Deborah Bress brought in an Olsen cherry top in an unusual, inverted cone shape. Her top was designed to be hand spun.



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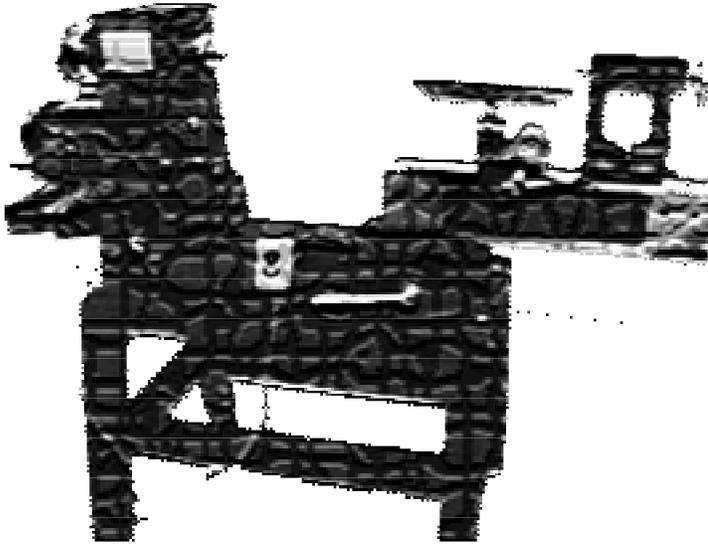
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FOR SALE

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.



For Sale:

- ¥ Special Key Ring Kits \$1.25 ea
 - ¥ Vicmarc VL300 series short bed bowl
lathe, 24" x 21" capacity. \$2500 obo
 - ¥ Hollowing tool set with handle, three tools
and handle guide \$100.
 - ¥ Pen & Pencil kits now available.
 - ¥ Diamondwood pen blanks pre-cut \$1.50
each
 - ¥ Diamondwood & Colorwood blocks \$12
bf
 - ¥ Tagua nuts Vegetable Ivory \$1 ea
- Contact: Rich Johnson 408 254-8485

RON NEWCOMB

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

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Ron at club meetings.