



CHIPS & Chatter



www.svwoodturners.org

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS' NEWSLETTER

COMING UP!

Next Meeting 10/2

Mark Gardner 11/8-9

Ellsworth March 2014

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Top Night

The winners in the categories this year are:

- Largest top—Bob Gerenser
- Smallest top—Glenn Kreug
- Most colorful—Bob Gerenser
- Longest spinning Open Class—Gary Petretti, 15 minutes 7.2 seconds



- Longest spinning figure top—Jim Gott

Mike Mahoney BAWA Demo

By Mike Lanahan



Herb Green, Colin Mackenzie and I carpoled up to the Mike Mahoney demo that BAWA sponsored in Pleasant Hill Sept. 7. Mahoney only had a 2 hour commute to a demo for a change, now that he has moved from Utah to Northern California. He grew up in Elk Grove, so this is a return to California for him. Mike turned a Calabash bowl, a hollow form with hand cut treaded lid, demonstrated coring and explained hand sharpening techniques. He gives a great demonstration, sharing his knowledge, skill techniques, and of course, he was very entertaining. My typically cryptic notes from Mike's demo

follow on [page 7](#). Mike's comments are from a production turner's perspective, with a priority on efficiency and volume production. One year Mike turned 3,500 bowls! This perspective is in good alignment with general turning priorities, but your mileage may vary. **continued on [page 7](#).**

SVW Picnic CANCELED.

There were not enough people signed up to warrant the picnic, but the President's Picnic challenge will be held and judged at the November meeting. The Challenge rules are on [page 6](#).

As I See It.

By Bob Gerenser

As I See It

There has been a lot of discussion about safety lately on one of the other club's "group" mailings, mainly in response to Lynn Yamaguchi's accident. Lynn's accident happened last year and she has undergone numerous procedures, including skin grafts since then. In a blog dated last December Lynn talks about her decision to purchase a ballistic helmet, the type worn by police in riot situations, to use when turning cracked wood. (<http://www.lynn Yamaguchi.com/wordpress/page/2/>)

There is no doubt that wood turning is inherently dangerous. We harvest wood with growling chain saws, use meat saws to rough out blanks, pinch bark covered pieces of wood between centers and send it spinning, and then, promptly attack it with pointed pieces of steel. How can it not be dangerous?



All too often it takes something like Lynn's accident to remind us of the perils we face in pursuing this hobby, profession or obsession. But, as I see it, we should not be paralyzed by what could, or might possibly, happen, just because it does happen occasionally. Common sense and good, basic safety practices, including protective equipment, are paramount to enjoying wood turning.

I've heard some turners say they'd never turn an imperfect piece of wood, yet some of the most stunning pieces I have seen have come from tortured looking blanks. These pieces can be the most challenging to turn and they're also the most prone to fracture. The risk is certainly there, but so is the reward.

I guess the bottom line is; slow down and think about what you're doing.

Bob

Next Meeting...

Join us Wednesday, October 2 (the First Wednesday of the month, at **7:00 P.M.**, at **Rich Johnson's Center**, 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.**

Bring items for **President's Challenge, Show & Tell, and Eagle Aerie Donation.** We learn by sharing.

President's Challenge for October: "Inside Out". Please register your entry online ([Yahoo Groups, Database](#)) no later than 4:00 PM the day of the meeting to be eligible.

Program: The October meeting program is Jim Gott, "Taking your Turning to the Next

Level". Jim will include important tips on turning a bowl, including design tips and how to finish the bottom of the foot. He will also show his bottom-of-the-bowl grind and how it is used on the bottom of the inside. And more ...

Dinner before the Meeting: For those who would like to get together for dinner before the meeting, we meet at 5:30 PM. at **Ana's Café** (Mexican Restaurant) in the Toyon Center at McKee Rd and Toyon Ave. 428 Toyon Ave, San Jose, CA 95127, Phone: (408) 926-6514

Coming Attractions:

November - Meeting—TBD. Stay tuned.

President's Challenge "Whistle, flute ... noise maker"

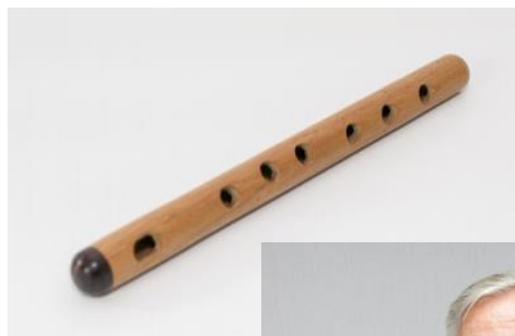
TURNING OUT



Dick Westfall - Whistle, Madrone, Friction polish



Johnny Alias - Train Whistle, walnut, maple, pine, sanding sealer and 50/50



Jim Gott - Piccolo flute, teak and cocobolo, lacquer, sanding sealer



Mike Lanahan - Whistle, tiger stripe Spanish cedar & maple, Waterlox original finish.



Milton West - noise maker, olive, antique oil finish



Bob Gerenser - Ocarina, walnut, rattle-can Deft finish



Turning Out continued



SCOTT LANDON - Horn & Phone blaster



Tom Schmida - train whistle, oak? and walnut, EEE finish



Herb Green - wood whistle Hi "C" shellac, Old Blackwood recorder



Gary Keogh - Indian flute

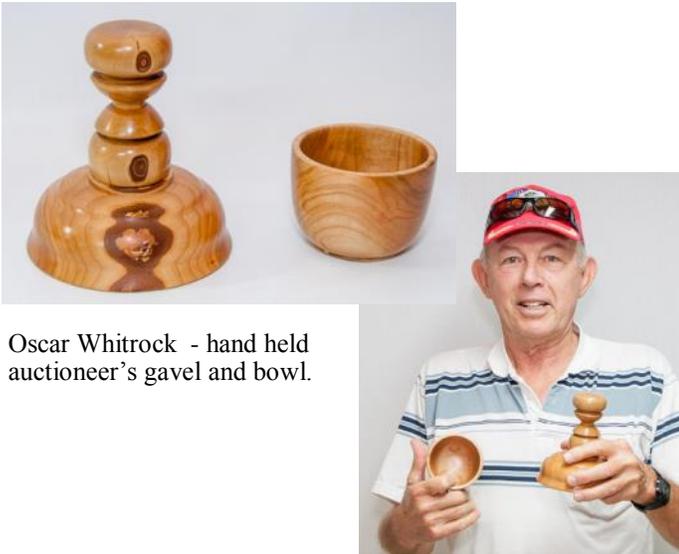


Jim Benson—2 whistles.

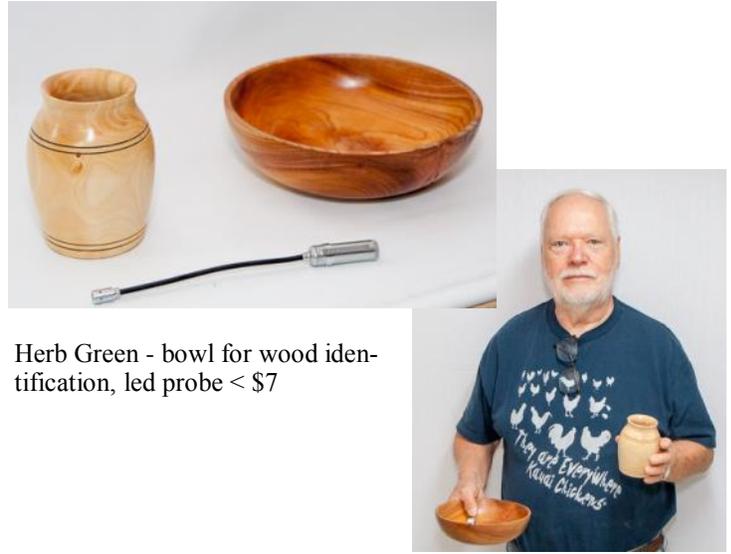


Rich Johnson - Cedar love flute (American Indian) Deft

Show & Tell



Oscar Whitrock - hand held auctioneer's gavel and bowl.



Herb Green - bowl for wood identification, led probe < \$7



Tom Schmida - Fruit Bowl: Monterey Cyprus, walnut oil finish



SCOTT LANDON - Almost a bowl. "Jurassic Bowl"?



Mike Lanahan - Corian Turnings - Shaving mug and dishwasher air gap cover. No finish necessary!



Gary Keogh - bowl

Show & Tell continued



Bob Gerenser - Lidded Sugar Bowl, segmented bowl Paduke, segmented lid is African Blackwood, Top Knob Padauk, foot is "smoke" acrylic



Bob Gerenser - tres amigos, 3 hollow-forms, 1 from solid Alder (?), 1 segmented Maple, 1 segmented Corian.



Jim Benson - Bottle stopper.

President's Picnic Challenge

The Challenge: Turn a Wood Hollow Form.

The Rules: Contestants will be given a 6" X 6" X 6" cardboard box. The hollow form must fit in the closed box without bulging the sides. The hollow form opening cannot be larger than 1 1/2" diameter. The hollow form must be turned from one piece of wood - No Segmented or otherwise built up entries will be judged.

The Catch: A maximum of seventy five points will be awarded for appearance, style, form, surface, finish and the finger test. The other twenty five points will be awarded to the entry that HOLDS THE MOST DRY RICE. I will set each entry on a table and pour in dry rice until the rice spills over the top. I will then pour the rice out and weigh it. The entry that holds the most rice will get the points for that part of the judging.

As I see it, if you're going after a Benjamin, you're going to have to earn it! See me for a box, if you want to play.

Bob

Mike Mahoney

Mike Mahoney demo, continued from page 1.

Finishes

Films	Penetrating	Factors
Wax	Nut	Market
Shellac	Danish Oil	Toxicity
Poly	Mineral Oil	Durability
Varnish	Vegetable Oil	Repair
Lacquer		Skill
Tung		Time
Acrylic		Longevity of the turning

Lacquer is easier to repair than poly.

Mike's "Danish Oil" finish

- 1/3 Boiled Linseed Oil (BLO)
- 1/3 Poly, gloss
- 1/3 odorless mineral spirits

Options:

- Add a little Tung Oil to make a better barrier. Replace some of BLO.

- Add Japan Drier, according to instructions.

Mike has the finish in a big drum, dips the bowl, lets it drain over another drum, and wipes any excess before drying.



Valley Oak Calabash Bowl –

Coring needs 40-50% tenon size. Don't need long tenons; the strength is in the flat surface mating to the front end of the chuck jaws.

Doesn't own a curved tool rest. Uses a skew as a box cutter (cardboard boxes,

not wooden turned boxes).

Sandpaper is the most expensive tool in his shop. (Vicmark gave him his lathe.) The lavender 3M ceramic sandpaper he finds to last 10X longer than anything else. One bowl for normal sandpaper, 10 bowls for the 3M. Throws it away when he feels guilty using it so long. Can get it from Craft Supply or Sanding Glove. Adhesive backed only, though.

He never sands at more than 400 grit. Sees no benefit.

Velcro on lathe bed to hold sanding disks.

He sizes his salad bowl bases to 1/3 diameter. His 12" salad bowl is by far the most popular size.

Hollow Form with threaded lid

When forming the outside shape, he cuts a "V" notch near the scroll chuck jaws so he can cut the final base shape to that point and visualize the curve extending into the tenon. Otherwise the tendency is to end up with a bigger foot, and unappealing shape. Don't sand the outside of the hollow form before hollowing. The heat can't dissipate as well, and it is more likely to heat check. Wait till after it is hollow.

Hand Thread Chasing. The cheapest thread chaser is the best. They are all made in the same factory.

Just get a thread chaser, and some simple instruction and start trying it. Reading too much about it is confusing. 16-18 tpi is

good.

Carbide & woodturning don't mix. It tells Mike that you don't want to learn to sharpen tools. He prefers softer tools. Cut threads in vessel opening before it gets too thin, for stability, then finish hollowing.

An urn for human remains should be 180 cu inches in volume.

New turners should make cat urns. They sell really well.

Bottle Stoppers: Why would anyone need one?

Mike uses a 3M Airstream helmet he got for \$600, and prefers it with the motor in the helmet.

Sand – forward, reverse, forward, reverse, ...

Soften the rim edges of rough turned bowl to the radius of a nickel or a quarter. It reduced his drying loss from 3% to 1%.

To size the African blackwood threaded top to the opening, he measured the opening and added 1/4 turn, and cut the tenon to this size. Test fit. Keep cutting threads until the fit is good.

Coring

When coring bowls, mark coring locations on face, and cut inner opening of small bowl, removing screw chuck hole.

Start coring cut part way then stop and sight the coring groove and compare it to the arch of the inside of the blank and if not parallel readjust the coring angle to correct.

Open a slight arch at the outer edge of the coring groove to help shavings exit the groove. Centrifugal force will help throw the shavings to this outer shoot. Don't make any pocket in the groove to trap shavings.

How long does it take rough bowl blanks to dry?

- 1" blank – 1 year to dry
- 2" blank – 2 years to dry
- 3" blank – never dries.

Fine cut the inside of the bowl blank to remove grooves from coring to make drying more uniform and reduce stress while drying.

Sharpening

All Mike's tools have a 40 degree bevel angle. See detailed description on YouTube: "Tool Design and Grinding with Mike Mahoney".

Smaller angle is sharper (goes into the wood easier) but the trade-off is that it doesn't hold the edge as long.



The cutting edge of the fingernail grind should be flat to slightly convex, never concave. The sharper angle of the flute, the more versatile the tool. (For example, the blunt flute angle of the bottom cutting gouge is great for the bottom of a bowl, but not very versatile.) Mike likes his flute at a 40 degree angle, the same as the bevel angle, but 45 degrees for both is a good place to start.

Meeting Minutes

SVW Minutes 9-4-13 by Dick Westfall

President Bob called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00. There were two guests introduced, Bob and Greg. President Bob announced that there would be a woodtuning demonstration by Mark Gardner and presented by BAWA and West Bay Woodturners on November 8th and 9th and another by David Ellsworth also presented by BAWA and West Bay likely on March 8th and 9th.

Bob also said that there will be no picnic this year due to a lack of interest. However, the President's challenge scheduled for the picnic will be part of the November 6th regular meeting. Further the challenge for tonight is something to make noise with and next month an inside-out turning.

The President's challenge portion of the program was introduced.

After the President's challenge, show and tell was started.



Guests/New Members at meeting

A break was taken at approximately 7:47

At approximately 8:00 the meeting was turned over to Ard, to run the Top Night activities.

FOR SALE

Lathe—Jet 16-42 for sale. Contact Jim Benson (831) 475-5615, jimlbenson@yahoo.com

Jet Mini Lathe (1014) for sale. I'd take \$100 for lathe and the basic set of 6 starter tools and some pen making kits. I live near Piedmont High School. Sharod Broadhead (sgib@comcast.net)

Homelite Chainsaw with a 24" bar and plastic case. It was serviced and tuned up in August and has been run through less than a tank of gas since. \$50.00 and it is yours. Ard Sealy, asealy@pacbell.net, Cell: 916-871-4626

Bandsaw Cutting Round Disk Sets, numbered, with center holes— Select a disk size appropri-

ate to the size blank you want to bandsaw from a log, and secure it to the log through the center hole to the log with a wood screw, and cut



outside the disk with the saw for an optimally sized and shaped turning blank. These sets of 1/4" thick MDF disks increment by 1 inch from 4" to either 12" or 20", depending on the set. 4"-12" set (shown), \$14, or the 4"-20" set, \$20. Contact John Whittier for details. (408) 379-3722 turninghands@yahoo.com

Turning Smocks, SVW colors. \$30 (SVW patch not included). Contact John Whittier for details. (408) 379-3722, turninghands@yahoo.com



Place an add for those pesky tools you don't use anymore, just laying around the shop taking up space. E-mail MikeLan@aol.com

Carbide Cutter Screw Care

For all those folks out there using turning tools, especially the carbide cutters with the tiny torx screws holding them in place.



Get some camellia oil and spray or dip the tips with a couple drops and the resins will soften and the screw holes and threads will remain free. Camellia oil is non staining, but reasonable care is prudent.

Dennis Lillis

CA Repair

Herb reminded me of a couple CA repair tips: One from a visit to Dennis Lillis' shop, where Dennis discussed what to do if you have a small crack or hole to fill: first hit it with a spot of CA, sand the area while still wet, and the dust fills the crack.

Mike Mahoney gave another one at his BAWA demo to a guy that had numerous small tear out holes in the bottom of an otherwise lovely bowl. Mike would hit the bottom of the bowl with CA accelerator, then use a fine applicator tip to place small drops of CA in the holes to be filled. My take on the advantage to the accelerator first is that the CA won't spread beyond the repair area as much, nor soak into the surrounding wood, discoloring it. This may help avoid the common practice of using a surface finish barrier, like sanding sealer, to mask the CA from discoloring the wood adjacent to the repair, and allow the CA to be sanded off.

Care of Herb Green, Dennis Lillis, Mike Mahoney

Got a slick Tip or Trick you'd like to share? Have a problem for which you need advice?

Submit or request a Tip or Trick to this section to MikeLan@aol.com

Safety

Since Bob had to go all "Safety" on us, a couple practices I use come to mind:

Surprises at the Lathe are Generally not Good - It's real easy to startle me while I'm engaged in a turning at the lathe. To get my attention in a safer manner, my family turns off and on the shop light switch at the shop door. This is enough to get my attention in a controlled way. I suppose facing the door would be good too, but not an option at the moment.

Whenever I lock the spindle (to tighten or remove a chuck, while drilling, or whatever) I turn the speed dial to zero. In the unlikely event that I forget to unlock the spindle, or leave a locking bar or jaw adjustment wrench in the chuck, I won't accidentally turn the lathe on like this. When I do turn it on, and the speed is set at zero, I double check everything before turning the speed dial up.

Mike Lanahan

Rock Forecast

This is not related to woodturning but might be useful if turning outdoors. The following is a scientifically proven method of determining the current weather condition in any area of the world. Tie a stone to a tree limb then observe the following conditions of the stone:

CONDITION	FORECAST
stone is wet	Rain.
stone is dry	Not Raining
shadow on ground	Sunny
white on top	Snowing
can't see stone	Foggy
swinging stone	Windy
stone jumping up & down	Earthquake
stone gone	Tornado

Hope this provides a couple of laughs.

Jim Donovan

Mark Gardner's Demo Topics November 8 & 9 (WBW & BAWA)

1. Turn hollow forms without the hollowing. Cut it in half.

Hollow forms turned through a small opening were always a challenge for me to turn. In this demo I'll show how I make hollow forms, using green wood, much like you make lidded boxes only I'll glue the lid back on. Not only is there less risk of turning through the side of your vessel but it is also easier to gauge the wall thickness as well as remove the shavings from the inside. I'll focus on techniques for making a precise joint to help insure that the piece stays together as it dries. Time will be spent demonstrating various ways to then hide the seam in your vessel. This vessel will also have handles.



2. Surface embellishment for your turnings.

I will demonstrate all the various techniques and methods I use for embellishing my work. I'll start by showing how I layout geometric patterns on my turned vessels. Some of the techniques I'll cover include, carving with hand and power tools, engraving, and even some textures done on the lathe. I'll show how I use milk paints and dyes to enhance the carved patterns and lastly how I sharpen my carving tools using a simple homemade MDF strop.

3. Turn a square bowl using three different axis.

In this demo I will illustrate my own take on the idea of a square bowl. Not only will I use three different axis to turn this bowl but I will also hold the bowl on the lathe using 2x4's, masking tape, hot glue and drywall screws. This demo will help to illustrate my approach to turning and the use of the lathe as a tool for shaping wood, not just for making it round.

Mark Gardner's Bio:

As long as I can remember I've enjoyed working with my hands. As a teenager I worked in clay and mixed media. Woodworking was my father's hobby and when I was sixteen I was enrolled in a Saturday woodworking class with him at the Ohio College of Applied Science. The class focused on the use of hand tools rather than machines in the building process. I found the use of chisels and planes (when they were sharp) calm and enjoyable. I remained in the class; slowly building Shaker inspired furniture until I graduated from college. I started turning on my father's lathe one day when I wanted a short 3-legged stool for my room. I was hooked.

In 1996 I received a scholarship to attend a class at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts with John Jordan. By this time I had been turning with modest success throughout my years in college. The class changed my life. I hadn't had that much concentrated time at the lathe and in a couple of weeks I felt my abilities had greatly improved. Ever since this class turning is what I've wanted to do. I've been back to Arrowmont many times to assist John's classes as well as teach my own.

I turn primarily green wood due to its availability as well as its ease of use compared to dry wood. Lately my work only begins on the lathe. Now much of the time that goes into a piece is spent carving intricate surface patterns. Many things, besides the material, influence my work, including the simple lines of Shaker furniture as well as the carved and painted surfaces of African shields and the beautifully detailed ceremonial war clubs of the Oceanic cultures.

Over the last few years I've been teaching more and more. I've been an instructor at Arrowmont, JC Campbell Folk School, Penland School of Crafts, Anderson Ranch and The Center for Furniture Craftmanship. I was a demonstrator at the AAW's Richmond symposium in 2008 and have lead workshops and given demonstrations for woodturning clubs around the USA and in Canada.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE ACROSS THE USA

Date	Symposium	Contact Info
October 11-13	Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild, West Harrison, IN	www.OVWG.org
October 26-27	Wisconsin Woodturners Expo, Eau Claire, WI	www.cvwg.org
May 15-17, 2014	Utah Woodturning Symposium, Utah Valley University campus in the UCCU Events Center	www.utahwoodturning.com
June 13-15	AAW Symposium, Phoenix AZ	



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Join Silicon Valley Woodturners

Want to join a great group of turning enthusiasts in an atmosphere of sharing and camaraderie? Become a member of Silicon Valley Woodturners. We meet on the **First** Wednesday of each month. See page 2 for details. Drop in at any meeting and check things out. To join, contact John Whittier (see contact list), or just complete the application form below and mail with check to Grant. Learn more about our club on the web at www.svwoodturners.org.

Silicon Valley Woodturners Membership Application

Please print and mail with a check payable to SVW for \$35* individual (\$45* family) to:
John Whittier, 961 W. Latimer Ave, Campbell CA 95008

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s): home: _____ mobile: _____

Email _____ Website _____

Lathe(s): _____

Current Member of AAW? Yes ___ No ___

Membership*	Renewal	2 nd Quarter April - June	3 rd Quarter July - Sept.	4 th Quarter Oct. - Dec.
Individual	\$35	\$25	\$20	\$10
Family	\$45	\$35	\$30	\$15



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CLUB NOTES

SVW Needs YOU

2013 Silicon Valley Woodturners Officers, Staff, Volunteers, and Contacts

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 other ways to manage some of the club's activities.

This is a HELP WANTED ad, and we need you to respond. There are always things that need doing. In particular, we need:

- Volunteers for shop tours
- Volunteers to present/demonstrate at meetings
- Members to write up their profiles for the newsletter
- Short articles or Tips & Tricks for the *Chips & Chatter* newsletter

Please contact Bob Gerenser to volunteer and help make our activities happen.

President	Bob Gerenser	(408) 262-5411	bob.gerenser@sbcglobal.net
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Site Prep	Johnny Alias Milton West	(408) 227-2423 (408) 729-6334	vets9@ix.netcom.com miltwest@sbcglobal.net
Membership	John Whittier	(408) 379-3722	turninghands@yahoo.com

Sharing Knowledge

MEMBERS: Please contribute your expertise to our newsletter. The editor will help you get your article ready if need be. Deadline is one week after our club meeting.

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, and mention our web site: www.svwoodturners.org. 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 / Mentors

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 Mike Lanahan to join this list.

- Jim Benson (831) 475-5615
- Jim Gott (408) 265-9501 sharpening, design, natural edge bowls, boxes, goblets, tool control, you name it. Anything but segmenting.
- Rich Johnson (408) 254-8485 all type to turning support available from beginner to Professional.
- Mike Lanahan (408) 926-9330 Pepper Mills, Segmented, and Shaving or Makeup Brushes.

IRONMAN

Ironmen are those who successfully complete all 12 President's Challenge projects for the year. Those who meet the challenge are awarded coveted and distinctive IRONMAN name badges. A blue bar in the accompanying chart means that person has completed the project for the month indicated. You needn't be a great turner, you just need to participate. Make something in our Challenge theme and bring it to the next meeting.

President's Challenge 2013	January Thirteen	February Off-Axis	March Two of a Kind	April Raindrop (s)	May Wearable	June - 2 joined and different Woods	July Off-Center	August Pen. not from a kit	September - Whistle, Flute, Pan Pipes, Kazoo	October Inside-out	November Nut, Pod or Seed	December - Miniature, to fit in ping-pong ball	Picnic Hollow Form fits in a 6" x 6" x 6 1/2" box
Alias, Johnny	█												
Baker, Jim				█									
Beech, Grant	█												
Benson, Jim	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Gerenser, Bob	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Gott, Jim	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Green, Herb	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Havens, Brian	█	█	█	█	█	█							
Johnson, Rich	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Keogh, Gary	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Kreug, Glenn								█					
Lanahan, Mike	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Landon, Scott	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Lillis, Dennis	█	█	█										
Mackenzie, Colin	█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Schmida, Tom	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Smith, Joel	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
West, Milton	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Westfall, Dick	█	█	█		█	█		█					

Editor's Note

If I've somehow overlooked your President's Challenge entry, send me an e-mail at MikeLan@aol.com

For a more detailed description of the 2013 President's Challenges, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVWoodturners/files/Forms/>

IRONMAN Rules

- There are twelve challenges listed for the year and in order to qualify for Ironman you must show, by the November meeting, that you have completed all twelve challenges.
- Challenge entries should be shown at the meeting corresponding to the challenge schedule.
- Entries may only be shown for one challenge.