



CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER

We top it all off!

A good-sized crowd gathered for Top Night. Here, members watch the new AAW video at the start of the meeting.



Our May meeting kicked off with the new American Association of Woodturners (AAW) marketing video, featuring some spectacular turnings and a pitch from AAW to support its efforts by joining up. (SVW is an AAW affiliate club, and all members should also join AAW. Get membership forms from Rich Johnson.) We had Show and Tell, showed off our tops in the President's Challenge, then cleared a space on the floor to let 'em spin!

First up was the contest for smallest top, won handily by Herb Green who was the only entrant. His fingernail-sized twirler spun in a dish (so it wouldn't get lost) and qualified for a

candy bar prize.

Next up in the high-calorie candy sweepstakes was the contest for biggest top. Jim Gott took the honors here with a large and well-balanced spinner and the larger launcher. Jim needed a special launcher since his top body was so wide and spun so close to the table. His launcher had to assure that the top would launch perpendicular to the table and without wobbles to cut short its spin. Mike Rude also competed with his unusual inverted-form top, an upside-down bowl featuring a very low center of gravity and a bright red paint job.

Tipsy tops made an appearance at this year's contest. These are tops that, a few seconds after launch, flip upside down and spin with the stem down. Rich Dege published a set of specs for tippy tops as a handout. It's also on our group site.

Tipsy tops can be contrary. Rich Dege's string-launched top took off across the floor,



From the top down, are tops from Herb Green, Jim Gott, Mike Rude, and Rich Dege.

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What a great success Top Night was! It looked like everyone had fun. In fact, we played so hard we didn't get to award the President's Challenge prizes. First place went to Robert Sakauye for his spin top made from Blackwood. It was beautiful!! It even spun perfectly! Con-grats, ROBERT!!!!

Second place went to Phil Roybal and his powered spinner, made from multiple woods. Thanks everyone for making our Annual Top Night a great time for all.

Speaking of Great Time for all, please mark your calendars for JULY 20th. We are planning a "CLUB Picnic", here at our home, from 3:00 p.m. until ?

- ▶ It is a family affair! Bring your family: Wives, Husbands, and the Kids.

Next Meeting

Join us at our next meeting, on Wednesday, June 5th, 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: A HOLLOW FORM.

- ▶ It is a Swim Party! We have a pool so let's go swimming! Bring your suit and plan on tryin' out our new diving board.
- ▶ It is a Potluck! Just like the Xmas party, bring food to share and plan on eating about 5:00 pm. Signups will be at the next meeting. If our Xmas din din was an indication of good eats, the picnic should be great!!! We will have a few Bar-B-Q's goin' also.

Turning Contest. We will have a JURIED turning contest. The Jurors will be the wives / husbands of the club's members. There will be First, Second, and Third in each category, with a Best of show award. The Categories are:

- ▶ Bowl – any kind, natural edged or not, any size, any wood
- ▶ Hollow Form – Vessel, vase, or a hollow form
- ▶ Spindle Form – Anything created between centers
- ▶ Face Plate Form – Items requiring a faceplate to be used
- ▶ BEST OF SHOW – The Jurors' choice from all that is entered.

See you all there/here!

Rich

Show & Tell, President's Challenge

Rich Johnson led with a fig bowl turned green. The fig cracked, and Rich filled the crack with Inlace. As the bowl dried and warp into an oval, it rejected its Inlace graft, leaving a chunk of Inlace and an oval bowl.



Rich Johnson shows his warped fig bowl.

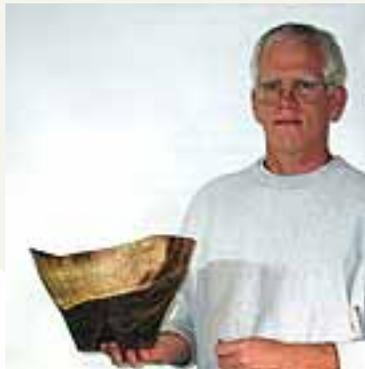
Jim Gott turned a black walnut bowl from wet wood, aligned so the pith runs through the bowl from side to side.



Jim Gott's walnut bowl.

As the bowl dried, the pith bulged in an interesting way. Jim finished the bowl with Deft sealer and Tung Oil finish.

Tony Bryhan told us about some strong screws for faceplates. They're made by Simpson and are available at Pinecone Lumber. They



Tony Bryhan's walnut bowl.

feature socket heads that don't wear out or cam out. Tony also brought three walnut bowls. He used his Arbortech grinder to texture the top rim of one bowl. He finished two with Watco oil, and the third one with Lee Valley's Polymerized Tung Oil, cut with Watco.

TOPS: PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Phil Roybal began the Challenge with a eucalyptus and Brazilian cherry top, featuring a brass point and aluminum stem. This top spun for about three minutes. It took second place in the 's Challenge.



Phil's top uses eucalyptus, cherry, brass, and aluminum.

Rich Johnson had two tops. One was modeled after a top he saw a man from new Zealand make

in 15 minutes as a demo. He brought a red Mexican top he got for \$2, finished with analine dye and shellac. He also brought a handful of



Rich Johnson shows off his brightly-painted Mexican top.

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struggling against gravity, then finally turned upside down. He won a candy bar for the longest upside down spin with a string launcher.

Herb Green got his hand-launched top to flip upside down briefly. He won for longest manual spin. No other members attempted this tricky top design.

Several members brought small, hand-spun tops, and they had a face off next. Herb Green, Rich Johnson, and Bob Sakauye spun their tops on the table at the same time. Bob's elegant blackwood top won for longest spin. Rich got his to spin upside down as well as right side up.

Several members competed in the longest-spinning top contest. Mike Rude, Phil Roybal, Rich Dege, Rich Johnson, Jim Gott, Gary



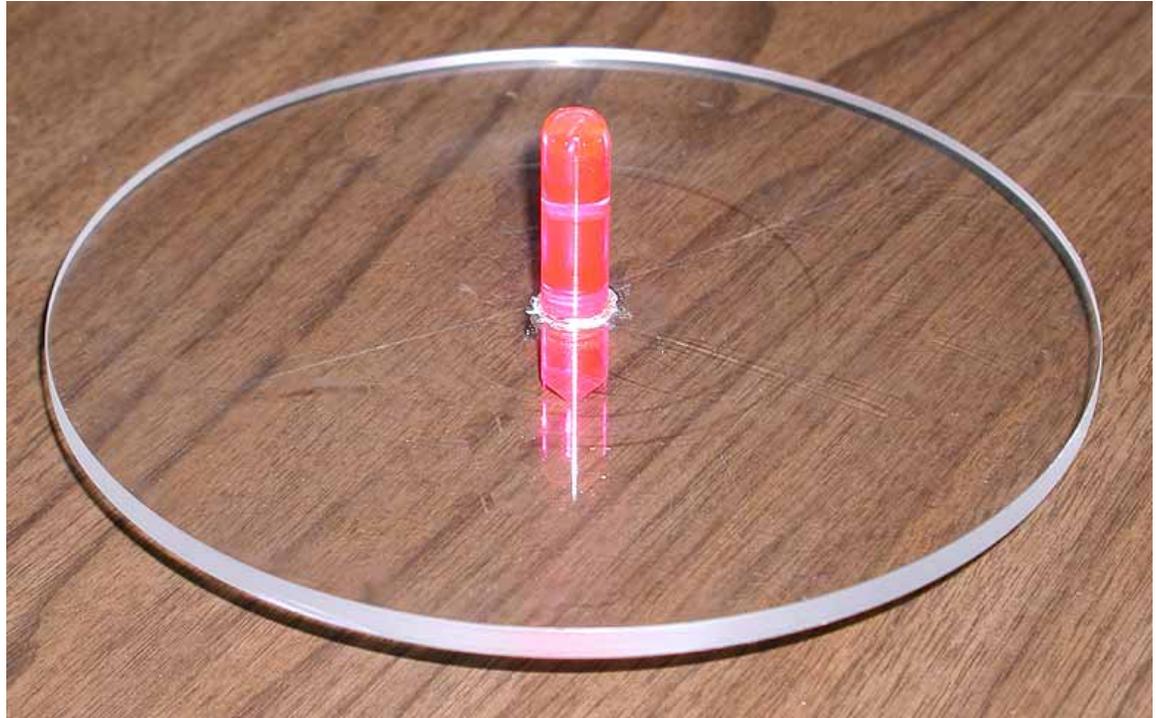
Clockwise from the top left, here are tops from Herb Green,, Phil Roybal, Rich Dege, and Bob Sakauye.

Petretti, and Dick Pickering all launched tops on the floor, as the whole crowd gathered round to see which would be the last top standing. Rich Dege won when his carefully balanced top spun for 4minutes 55 seconds. Rich Johnson showed off a \$2 top he'd bought in Mexico. It was a simple, hand-spun design, but beautifully balanced. It spun for quite a while.

Finally, visitor John Wells, who has a turning business in Ben Lomand, spun a hollow

ebony top with tagua point that sang. It has a hole in the side and is made like a lidded box. Air flowing over the hole sets up a resonance, just like blowing over the top of a bottle.

It was a great evening: a lot of candy, a lot of laughs, and a good time had by all.



Jim Gott's acrylic top.

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

small spin tops. Finally, he showed the "top" of a chiminea he'd made, turned with a Viking tool.

Rich Dege made two tops. One is a flip top, string launched, with a walnut body. Rich also brought a longest-time contender, a machined and balanced aluminum disk with brass stem and cocobolo bottom, very impressive.

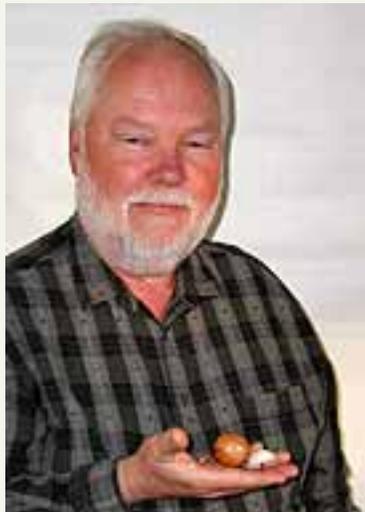
Herb Green took Rich's memo and made a tipsy top of cherry. He also turned a tiny cherry top, and a tagua nut top with purpleheart stem.

Dick Pickering's top used a Ultra-High Molecular Weight plastic (UHMW) launcher and a maple body. It had a CA finish.

Gary Petretti brought an acorn shaped top of cocobolo and walnut, and a top turned from



Rich Dege shows off his long-spin contender and a tipsy top.



Herb Green palms his tipsy top.



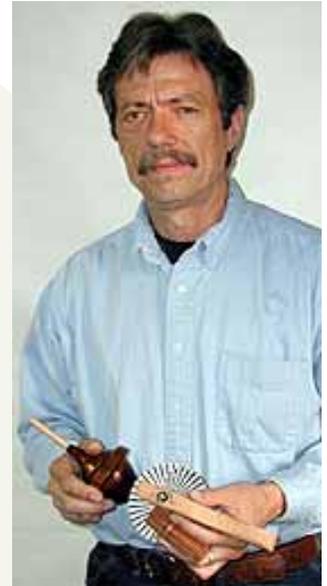
Dick Pickering holds his UHMW launched top.

plastic.

Jim Gott brought an acrylic disk top, made from Tap Plastics stock. We don't have a picture of him with it, but it's on page 4.

Mike Rude showed a thick cherry bowl blank, inverted over a wine bottle stem, and string launched. This unusual design featured a very low center of gravity to improve it's spin time. It also featured a bright red paint job.

Bob Sakuye took top honors in the challenge with a set of delicate, hand-spun tops of blackwood. He had decorated the disks of the tops with guilloche work using an ornamental lathe. "Guilloche" is a French word meaning to decorate with lines. You may have seen such tracery as surface decoration on Fabregé eggs.



Gary Petretti's handful of tops.



Mike Rude's inverted top.



Bob Sakuye's winning tops.

STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

PRESIDENT (RICH JOHNSON)

The Utah Symposium is coming up in mid-June, and the Home and Garden show will be in San Jose on 6/7-6/9. Sign up now to participate.

Rich plans to buy a 55-gal. drum of Anchorseal, a wax-based end-grain sealer that keeps green wood from checking on the ends. He will sell single gallons for \$10 each.

The annual SVW Picnic will be at Rich's, with swimming and a pot luck, on July 20th.

Aug 10th is the big, multi-club picnic at Rusch Park in Roseville, a 2 1/2-to-3 hour drive away. There will be a "Turn-Off" contest with a plaque for the winning club. We won't know what will be turned until 30 days ahead. Our job is to provide wood. The host club, Nor-Cal, provides food.

We need a 6-person team to compete in the Turn Off. Members who attend should wear their SVW hats, shirts, etc. The picnic is a family event. There will be an instant gallery, swap meet, raffle, and vendors will be there to sell products. There will also be an egg cup race, starting with 2 x 2 x 3 maple blocks. You make an egg cup as fast as you can. Richard Raffan holds the record at 17 seconds. Dick Pickering did it in about 27 seconds.

SECRETARY/EDITOR (PHIL ROYBAL)

We have 37 members as of last meeting. A new roster will be available on our SVWoodturners site later this month.

TREASURER (JIM GOTT)

Income:

Hats	\$10.00
Videos	\$4.00
Raffle	\$10.00
Membership	\$74.00
Checking interest	\$.12

Expenses:

April demo (Jon Sauer)	\$50.00
Challenge prizes	\$20.00
New Balance	\$1803.22

COMMITTEE REPORTS

APPAREL (DICK PICKERING)

Dick Pickering has SVW hats at \$10 ea. Debbie Bress can do elegant embroidering of SVW logos (and other things) onto any garments. Contact her if you're interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Carlton is coordinating the Bay Area Flag Box project. They sent 50 cases to New York at the beginning of the month. He has requests for three cases for San Jose and Chico families, needed by May 30th. Contact Jim Gott if you want to make one.

NEW FACES

Bill and Liz Utter joined SVW at the last meeting. They are beginners, and have a Jet 1236 lathe.



Bill and Liz Utter (above) and Phil Kerlee (below) are new members.

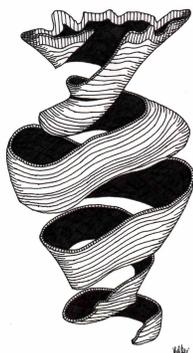
Also new to the club is Phil Kerlee, a Shopsmith turner who's been making pens, bowls, and hollow forms for about two years. Please make our new members welcome.



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.



Rich Johnson's Woodturning Center

(408) 254-8485

Tee-shirts	\$12
Hats	\$11
Cups	\$ 6
Hollowing tool set with handle, three tools and handle guide	\$100.
	(Mini set also avail for the small lathes.)
Pin Chucks	\$50
1" saw tooth drill bit	\$5
Sale on all Pen Boxes	\$2 each
Sale on all Pen blanks	\$1 each
Viking Tool & sharpening jig	\$50

NEW Turning squares from OR & WA at great prices!!

Contact Rich Johnson (408) 254-8485

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

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