



WWW.SVWOODTURNERS.ORG

2010

# CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS

## COMING UP!

May 5th  
Monthly Meeting  
Top Night



## Tips and Tricks for Top Making

By our Resident Experts  
Dick Pickering, Phil Roybal and Gary Petretti

Dick

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1. Tops are like wheels and gyroscopes, faster means more stability. Launching with speed is a challenge. Made a larger top. Most disappointing. But went 18 minutes.
2. Balancing (Gary is very good – shoots nails for balance). But you cannot remove nails.
3. Consistency in producing running times. Need a level surface for the top to spin. Showed a small table with adjustable legs.
4. Dick showed how to find heavy spots by placing the top on a level table.
5. It is important to polish points, as you need to eliminate friction. Magic lubricant is soap and water.
6. Dick showed several different launchers. Showed a drill; could be dangerous. Had tried a router but that was not a good idea.
7. He tries for a low friction holder, e.g. ultra high molecular weight plastic.

*Continued on page 3*

# PRES SEZ



It was fun to see the Challenges at the last meeting. It looks like we are all trying to understand our turning challenges. No Chucks did take its toll. A toy should not be too tough, just remember,

“Tops are not Accepted” ! So what are you going to do? I am struggling a little; I want to do something that I have not done before.

Not only do we need a piece for the challenge but we also need a “Top” so we can participate in our annual “Top Night”. The last meeting hopefully got you thinking on how to create a long running top. That is going to take some real work and engineering as we saw in the demos. Can anyone beat these guys?? If you can’t come up with the longest running top how about the largest or smallest spinning top? You will be surprised once you start working on this project how much fun it can be.

Herb sent out a note a few weeks ago to

remind us that;

Not everyone will want to compete for the longest spinning so listed below is the various categories available to enter. Only One entry per category please, and they are:

The Smallest, The Largest, The Most “innovative”, and Best overall.

Prizes will be given in each category. For the spin off there are three sub-categories

1. Finger launch
2. String launch
3. Powered launch

The final spin off is; the OPEN CLASS where any method of launch is acceptable. HAVE FUN! Remember to wear your “Levi’s” because spinning is done on the Floor.

Keep it Round

Dad ....

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## Next Month...

**Join us Wednesday, May.5th,** at 7 P.M., 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: “Toy, not a top”

*Join us for Top Night! For at any age.*

Phil

A handout of things to consider in top design is posted in the Files section of our Yahoo group site.

1. There are three things to take into consideration: design tradeoffs. How much energy to put into the spin; how fast energy "bleeds" off because of friction. Need weight for storing energy. But you can have too much weight. Most effective weight is not uniformly distributed but placing weight at the perimeter is more effective.
2. Over the last few years, Phil's tops are 6 –12 oz. The 3rd part of the design is speed. If it weighs too much, you cannot get it up to speed. I.e. how much acceleration can you achieve in a 1 second or so manual launch. Phil showed how dick put in a bigger (larger diameter) pulley or gear than that of the stem in order to get more acceleration. Or the bigger the pulley the less rotation you can get with a pull.
3. Phil's spindles are 1/4 to 5/16 inches. If smaller, you cannot go the top to spin fast enough.
4. Energy bleeds off due to friction and weight can cause friction; hence putting weight on perimeter. 2nd thing is drag. He uses a ball bearing tip made of hardened steel. The more surface touching the more friction. A sharp tip will just drill into the spinning surface. Must use steel, not copper or brass, e.g.
5. In construction there must be just one axis. Try to do it in one mounting on the lathe so that you have a single center. Polish surfaces.
6. Balance – here is where you spend the most time. For last year's winner, he drilled holes to affect balance. If you don't take the time in this step, nothing else matters.

Gary

1. First thing is lathe mounting. He always uses a faceplate.
  2. He uses a special tool for marking.
  3. Gary uses a piece of stone from a secret graveyard and places top on it and taps. To find the high and low balance points. Marks the heavy spot with a tool that makes a small hole - a lancer?
  4. In the beginning, Gary used brads. But these protrude and can hurt if they catch your hand. He always adds weight rather than removing weight. Note that Phil removes weight by drilling holes. So Gary switched to rivets. He showed one where he added Allen screws underneath to affect balance.
  5. Gary showed a brass brad point in one example (remember that Phil recommended hardened steel). All tips are brads, one piece.
  6. Balancing can take about an hour.
- .

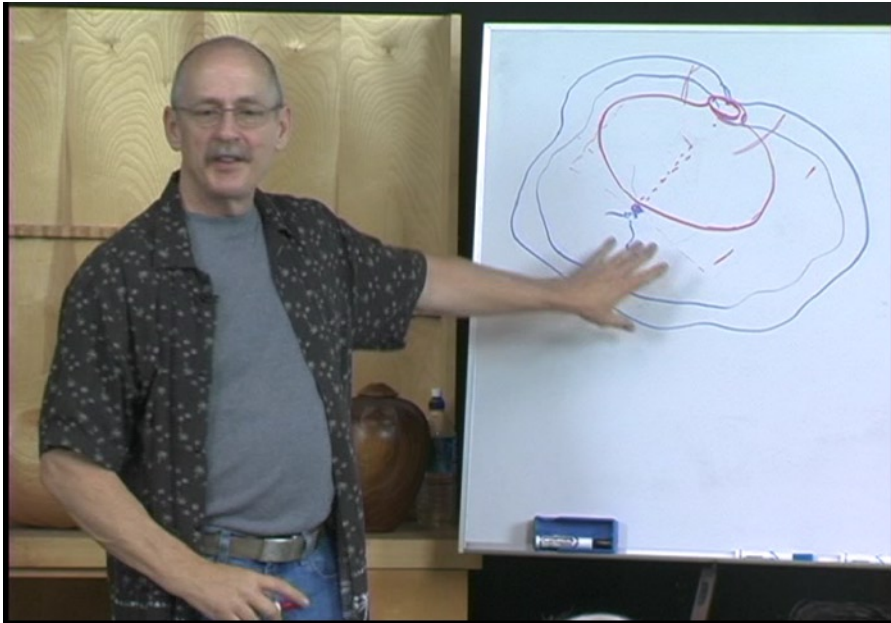


# CHECK IT OUT

*from the SVW Library*

## John Jordan talks about wood

Phil Roybal



### The Aesthetics and Properties of Wood

John Jordan devotes this two-DVD set to helping viewers get the most from green wood.

Disc 1 is a reprise of the demo he did for us during his recent visit. It's shot as a live presentation to a woodturning club. He takes us through analysis of the grain and sapwood orientation in a log, and how they translate into patterns in turned pieces cut from different parts of the log. He goes into detail on this, with numerous illustrations of bowl orientation in logs, followed by actual turned examples of bowls whose blanks were in those orientations. It may be too slow-moving for some, but it provides good insight into how a piece will

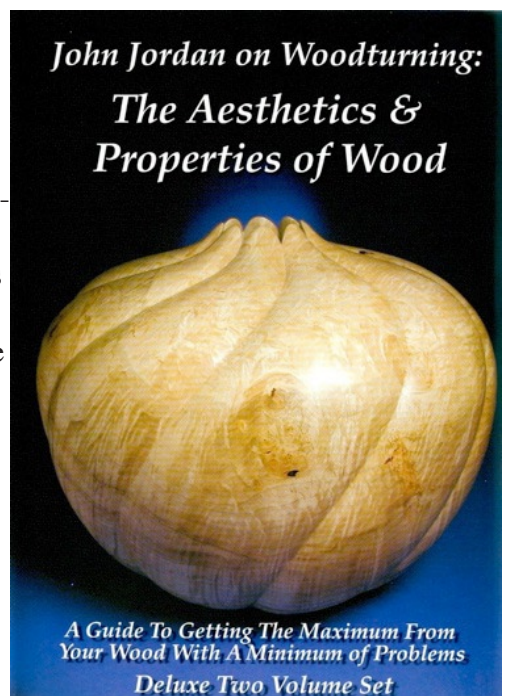
look as a function of where it's cut from. As John points out, the more we know about the effects of our decisions, the more likely we can get the effects we want in our turnings.

John next talks about wood movement, the inevitable companion of green wood turning. He takes us through differential shrinkage and how it affects bowls from different parts of the log, then talks about ways to compensate for the movement if that's important to the turner. It isn't always.

John begins Disc 2 with a discussion of how to minimize cracking during the drying phase. He explains that it's uneven drying that causes cracking, and takes us through approaches to evening out the drying rate to minimize the problem.

John turns green wood directly—no waxing of endgrain or other protective measures. He cuts off checked ends before turning, but that's it. He says that with wall thicknesses of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or so, cracking usually isn't a problem. He moderates air flow around green pieces by putting them in cabinets or boxes so air can slowly circulate. This eliminates surface moisture that promotes fungal growth, while allowing moisture to move evenly out of the wood.

The DVD set is a good presentation on wood as a material, and how it influences our final product. What you won't find is turning tips and flying chips. Check it out in the SVW Library.



## President's Challenge

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### *Between Centers, no chucks*



1. Rich Johnson – Started with a tool handle project but when he went to drill the hole for the tool realized that this involved using a chuck. So instead, for the challenge, he turned some spheres from ebony and pepper tree



2. Ardeth Sealy – Also turned a tool handle, but in this case Ardeth made a hole but did not use a drill or chuck, just an auger through his tail stock



3. Grant Beech – Made two things. First a Latin musical instrument, called "Claves" which is comprised of two cylinders you can bang together. Wood used is a Lemon tree and Scott (who else) asked if this results in "sour notes". In fact, Grant made two sets. But (probably to be safe and avoid the dreaded buzzer), he also made a crab whacker.



4. Phil Roybal – Turned a tool handle as well. Phil presented his case (soon we will need a mock courtroom) on how to drill a hole without a chuck. Phil did not use an auger through the tailstock. He used a spur center in the headstock and then rested a handled drill bit on the tool rest to make the hole. There seemed to be some question as to whether or not the "handled" drill tool constituted a violation since it had a drilled hole. But Phil successfully defended the fact that the tool was not the project any more than our lathes or our turning tools. The project handle is Padauk with African Blackwood and brass inlay dots. For the inlay, Phil uses a trenching tool, which acts much like a parting tool, but cuts 40 thousandths of an inch for the brass inlay.



5. Michael Wiley – Turned some light pulls. He didn't think that a drill chuck is a chuck. So his project submissions got buzzed.



6. Oscar Wittrock – He made a dumbbell (i.e. weights) using Cherry and sanding sealer.



7. Herb Green – Turned a set of black oak eggs with no finish. But, to be safe, Herb also did a simple rolling pin, which has not seen sandpaper.



8. Dick Pickering – turned a honey dipper, then turned a smaller one; both maple and finished with mineral oil. Dick turned the small one totally with a skew except for using a parting tool. On the large one Dick also used a texturing tool.



9. Dean Adkins – Turned a maple tool handle. Dean showed us how he used a piece of flip-flop to protect the sharpened tool edge. Dean qualified his project by "drilling" the tool hole using an auger through the tailstock. But, to be on the safe side, he, as a backup, turned a toothpick. And he turned a second toothpick that shows he did it between centers. Toothpicks are made from stair wood.



10. Allan Gore – Created a thing he called a paper creaser; a simple stick of wood with a 60 degree cut to make a crease without using fingers on paper because, e.g., fingers have oils. He did not saw the angle with a chuck. For next month (he won't be here), Allan turned a yo-yo from one piece and demonstrated (but not walk the dog).





11. Bob Gerenser – turned a “Muddler”, e.g. for Mojitas. Or it could substitute as a garlic smasher or mini rolling pin to boot. Or you can buy one for \$6.95 from Lee valley. No finish.



12. Jim Benson – Turned a tool handle for a P & N 20 mm bowl gouge. To make the tool hole, he used a morse taper 1/2 drill that he ordered.



13. Johnny Alias – Turned a rolling pin from apple and English walnut finished with 50 50. It was sanded by hand. The ends were glued on then the piece was turned.



14. Harry Levin – He started off by saying that normally for challenge, he thinks of a project. But in this case it is a challenge within a project. That is, he never finished the 4 stands or posts for his wife's mirror. So for tonight he made the final 2 posts. But he also made toothpick (aha, our members are collaborating) and they were what qualified for tonight's challenge because the posts got beeped for having holes drilled in them.



15. Gary Keogh – His wife wanted size 15 knitting needles, which he turned from wood from John Whittier. Gary turned these needles on a new 755 Delta.



16. Howard Cohen – For the “Inclusion” Challenge makeup, Howard turned a small olive hollow form finished with sanding sealer, 50 50, and buffed. For tonight, he turned a multi-axis turning from Cherry.



17. Jim Gott – Turned a French rolling pin out of cherry which he parted off and sanded ends. He wet and then sanded again - several times. There is no finish. Also Jim's makeup for last month ("Screw Center") is an Ambrosia Maple square bowl finished with 50 50.



18. Kent Mosley – Turned a sphere out of cashew tree from somewhere in Central America. This was turned first between regular centers and then cup centers. It has a wax finish. The earlier weed pot looking thing (from show and tell) is the stand.



19. Colin Mackenzie – Showed us 2 items. The first is a Seam press. The second item is a Swedish embroidery tool called Hedebo Pinne. Each ring is 1/8 bigger than the next (so members' thought it was a Ring sizer). Wood is Sycamore and Black Acacia. Thelma explained that during a class in North Carolina a bowl flew apart during finishing and cut Colin's forehead and broke a bone in his wrist.



20. Tom Schmida – A fisherman neighbor asked and so Tom made some gaffs. One is oak. But the gaffs had holes drilled for attaching the gaff hook itself and so he got buzzed.



21. Brian Lobue - Turned a rasp handle with "character." Brian explained that he gets scrap cuts from a lumber yard. The handle is Hickory on the outside with a copper bushing from Home Depot. Alas, Brian drilled the tool hole with a chuck so he got buzzed. It is finished with Tung oil and paint thinner.





22. Allan Thomas – This was the first time he turned anything bigger than a pen. These were two walking sticks or canes. They were made in two pieces that required a hole for joinery; hence beeped and disqualified. For one cane, Allan used a Poplar dowel rod, stained with burnt amber and an oil-based poly wipe on. The other was Birch.



23. Richard Scott – Turned a “thing” aka finial that rests on top of a fence post. He used 50-year-old 1st growth redwood. There is no finish because he did not have redwood stain.



24. Marcus Moody – Turned a baby rattle.



25. Scott Landon – He showed his project to a friend who asked what it’s for and he said SVW. Or in Scott’s exact words,

The MC of the MM of the SVW is BC, NC. So I did a SW – BC NC OC and OC with some SRW with a 50-50 F. Or, translated, The Monthly Challenge of the Monthly Meeting of the Silicon Valley Woodturners is Between Centers, No Chucks. So I did a Small Wand Between Centers, No Chucks, On Center and off Center with some Scrap Redwood with a 50-50 finish.

In other words, many of our projects are not exactly useful. This is a small wand from scrap redwood, turned on center. Then Scott moved off centers and cut grooves, first on one side and then on the other side.



26. Beck Frisbee – Presented a jewelry bar that she turned with (surprise) a parting tool. Wood is Canary with a crystal coat finish.



27. Doug Ryan - turned a Dogwood hammer handle between 3 centers to get the oval sort of shape and finished with linseed oil. The wedges are from a Beech kit. Doug also showed a second one he is currently making, but the problem he has is that after turning the cylindrical shape and then turning on offset centers to make oval, he had trouble getting them (the two oval profiles) to match. So he drew a line on the high side so he could see where to remove wood.



28. Mike Lanahan - Showed a screw turning of a makeup brush for makeup from last month. Wood is Purple Heart. This month, Mike turned a tool handle, which was disallowed for drilling the hole. But he also made an oak mallet.

# Show and Tell



1. Rich (and Ard) showed a "contraption" (aka jig): Because he could not tell where the bottom is, they made a jig with a laser. Just used copper pipe (tried pvc but was not stable enough). This is Ard's show and tell.

2. Rich Johnson – Had a big block of Manzanita from Watsonville and found a "sunken" treasure. Used the new hollowing system from Rolly Monroe and finished with 50 50 and sanding sealer. Needs a sign.



3. Tom Schmida – Made a Salt Pig, which sits by a stove. This was his 2nd one. For the first one he tried cutting the hole or opening with a band saw. This time Tom drilled the holes before he hollowed. Wood is Spalted maple and Walnut.



4. Colin Mackenzie – A piece of maple burl finished with 50 50.



5. Kent Mosley – He only has 2 pieces tonight: A Black Acacia natural edge bowl finished with 50 50. And, an African Blackwood piece looks like weed pot, but will explain what it is for later.



6. Ron Geren – Showed a Tool handle for a new tool for the President's challenge but when Ron saw the Newsletter, which said no Jacob's chuck, and then this project became a show and tell. Made from stair wood. He uses a brass insert with set screws. He used a Hosaluk insert for the tool handle.





7. Dean Adkins – Showed a couple different vacuum chuck setups. One was built with 4" ABS sewer pipe and an 'O' ring super glued in the end of the pipe. The 'O' ring material is 1/4" Buna-N which you can get from any industrial supply place - cut it to length and glue together and in-place with CA glue. Also (he has a stubby) Dean took the hand wheel and cap screw off and cast a matching insert to plug the hand wheel hole during vacuum chucking. The casting compound is a 2-part "Urethane RTV Mould System" from Tap Plastics. Then he showed another flat vacuum plate chuck with RTV on the face and an 'O' ring on the circumference. Bowls often stick to the RTV face when the vacuum is shutdown and you have to pry the bowl off.

8. Oscar Wittrock – Showed a jig for burning a line in a piece. He also showed a piece of Japanese plum. Then Oscar showed his first translucent box – If you hold it up to the sunlight you would see different animals? Rabbit, clown, ... He also put a small button where he drilled out the pith. Next, a walnut bowl.

9. Scott Landon – Showed a Black Walnut square bowl with bleached inside and black legs. Then a bowl with paper legs. And another bowl with different style legs from Jacaranda, poster board, paper. Legs look like dragons.

10. Becky Frisbee – Showed a Cocobolo goblet that she turned with a parting tool to prove what she claimed at last month's demo; namely that you can turn a goblet with just a parting tool.

11. Grant Beech – Turned a hair band caddy based on a request from his daughter for something to hold ponytail bands. Nobody knows the wood but we do know that the tree is from a golf course.

## 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. There are always things that need doing here. In particular, we need:

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

Please volunteer to Rich Johnson and help make our 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, and mention our web site: [www.svwoodturners.org](http://www.svwoodturners.org). Note that if we've flagged an article as having been reprinted from another source with permission,



Scott Landon's laser sharp work

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 Lloyd Frisbee to join this list.

Jim Gott	(408) 265-9501
Rich Johnson	(408) 254-8485
Phil Roybal	(408) 255-4789
Kent Mosley	(510) 745-7648
Jim Benson	(831) 475-5615

## 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 Rich Johnson (see listing at the right).

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

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[proybal@pacbell.net](mailto:proybal@pacbell.net)

# STAFF REPORTS

## **RICH JOHNSON (PRESIDENT)**

AAW symposium will be in the Bay area in 2012. Dale Larson asked if we would like to help. They hire vendors but use club people as gophers. We may be used as a source for wood, etc. More news to follow. The Symposium has never been in bay area before. 7 clubs in area. Undecided where they might hold this in the bay area.

## **Herb Green(VP/Programs)**

**Dale Larson** will be doing an all day demo at SVW on May 16,2010.

Dale is currently an AAW Board Member and specializes in processing and turning madrone burl, which is a very difficult wood to turn due

to extreme shrinkage. I think that his boiling process could be used on other troublesome woods. He also does a sphere demonstration. If you are not familiar with Dale's work you will need to Google him - he doesn't have his own website. An article on how he does madrone is at: [www.serioustoolworks.com/wood-turning-a-madrone-bowl-01.php](http://www.serioustoolworks.com/wood-turning-a-madrone-bowl-01.php)

Another website with some of his work: [www.finewoodartists.com/gallery/larson/dale\\_larson.htm](http://www.finewoodartists.com/gallery/larson/dale_larson.htm)

## **CRAIG THORSON (TREASURER)**

Treasury reports are available to members. See Craig.

## **Phil Roybal (LIBRARIAN)**

Everything available in the library is listed on the yahoo group site.

## **DICK PICKERING (APPAREL)**

Hats are now available at \$10 each. Sew-on patches are \$5. Be sure to wear your SVW insignia when you work shows such as the Woodworking show as an SVW staffer.

## **BECKY FRISBEE (SUNSHINE)**

Let Becky or Lloyd know if a club member needs a get-well card, a new-member info packet, or some other contact from the club.

## **Other Business**

## **Have you changed?**

Have you changed email addresses? Have you moved? Have you changed phone numbers? We are trying to update our roster and found many things have changed over the year. If you have changed, let Howard know so that he can update the roster. It is also time to renew your membership to SVW and AAW. It is really important to be an AAW member.

Next month is **top night**. This past month we were shared tips by three of our top top members, there is a new posting by Phil in the files section about long spinning tops. Not everyone will want to compete for the longest spinning so listed below are the various categories available to enter. One entry per category please.

smallest  
largest  
most innovative  
best overall  
Tippy Tops

Prizes will be given in each category. For the spin off there are three subcategories

1. finger launch
2. string launch
3. powered launch

The final spin off is the OPEN CLASS where any method of launch is acceptable.



# FOR SALE

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Hollowing systems for sale:

Jameson D Handle - \$200

Small D handle w/tool rest \$100

Dennis Stewart system \$200

Add on laser system \$100

Mighty "O" system w/ laser \$500

Mini "O" system w/laser \$400

Woodcut lg 3pcs 75

Woodcut sml 2 pcs \$50

\* Woodcut Bowl Saver ... \$150

\* Shop hanging Paper towel holders - \$5

\* Mirca sand paper \$16 per box

\* Sanding disk punching \$5 per box.

\* Anchor Seal \$5 quart cans.

408 254-8485

Rich @latheart.com

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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.

## 2010 President's Challenges

May: Toy A "Top" is Not Acceptable!

June: Multi Axis

July: Textured

Aug: Sculptured

Sept: Faceplate (only)

Oct: Treen

Nov: Collaborated

Dec: Seasonal "Ornament" or "Gift" is NOT Acceptable!

# IRONMAN

**Ironmen** are those who complete all 12 President's Challenge projects for 2009. Those who meet the challenge are awarded distinctive IRONMAN name badges. A blue bar in the chart below 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.

## Editor's Note

If I've overlooked your President's Challenge entry somehow, e-mail Lloyd at [bigguy95124@yahoo.com](mailto:bigguy95124@yahoo.com).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adkins, Dean												
Alias, Johnny												
Beech, Grant												
Benson, Jim												
Cohen, Howard												
Frisbee, Becky												
Geren, Ron												
Gerenser, Bob												
Gore, Allan												
Gott, Jim												
Green, Herb												
Horton, Rich												
Johnson, Rich												
Keogh, Gary												
Lanahan, Mike												
Landon, Scott												
Levin, Harry												
Mackenzie, Colin												
Moody, Marcus												
Mosley, Kent												
Pickering, Dick												
Roybal, Phil												
Ryan, Doug												
Schmida, Tom												
Scott, Richard												
Sealy, Ard												
Thorson, Craig												
Whittier, John												
Wiley, Michael												
Wittrock, Oscar												

## IRONMAN RULES

- Entries must not have been shown before.
- If you miss a month's Challenge, you may bring it to a Sawdust Session, or to the following meeting.
- If you bring a make-up Challenge to a meeting, you must also show the current month's Challenge piece.

## 2010 CHALLENGES

May: Toy A "Top" is Not Acceptable!