



CHIPS & Chatter

THE SILICON VALLEY WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER

Jim Gott prepares for Christmas.

Jim Gott shows off his finished ornament.

JIM GOTT MAKES TURNING ELEGANT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS LOOK EASY, AS HE DEMONSTRATED AT NOVEMBER'S MEETING.



He starts with a chuck-mounted blank of ornamental redwood burl for the body, cutting the profile into the end of the billet. He likes to make a small flat at each end of the sphere he will turn from the billet, so there will be no gaps where the finial and top attach. He turns with a spindle gouge that is cut way back so he can get into tight places. He tries for a slight pear shape on the ornament's



Jim hollows the body blank after rough turning the outside.

bulb, feeling that it is more interesting than a sphere, and flows better into the finial.

With the body mostly cut (but some mass left at the join to support hollowing forces), Jim sands the outside. He normally sands ornaments to #400.

Once the body is sanded, Jim drills a through hole with a bit mounted in the tailstock. This ensures that the top and finial line up through the bulb. He will hollow the body with a Rich Dege miniature 45° scraper. He sights along the piece to figure the final depth, and marks it with tape on the shaft of a scraper.

As he gets the bulb walls close to final thickness, Jim uses a small, D-shaped piece of coat hanger to gage the wall thickness. This is a technique he got from David Ellsworth. He stops the lathe after each pass, before he pulls



Jim finishes the ornament body, before to parting off.

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PRES SEZ



Merry Xmas and Ho, Ho, Ho! Can you believe it? The year is already gone. It is time for our annual Xmas Dinner. (That's scary. Didn't we just do this a few weeks ago?) I sure hope you plan on coming to the Dinner.

Our gift exchange is a lot of fun. Bring a gift and get a ticket. One gift one ticket. After dinner we pull a ticket, and the owner of that ticket comes up and selects any gift from the pile. Open the gift and show everyone what it is. Before you go back to your seat, you pull the next ticket. That person now gets to come up and get a gift or looks at any of the ones opened before. If there is something already opened that you just gotta have, steal

that gift and it is yours. The person that you took it from now has the choice; the pile or already opened gifts.

We do have a limit though. The gift stays with the third owner and can not be taken away. Sometimes real planning and cunning come into play if there is something you really want. It is great fun for all.

I am often asked: What kind of gift should I bring?? Our theme is: "Something shop related". Could be a "Turning" (signed please), a tool, wood, etc., so a gift that you would like to get would be fine. Remember that we are a "Woodturning" Club. This might be the year to start that collection (of Turnings) you've always wanted.

This past month, we have had some great opportunities to get wood. Please remember to thank the person with a turning from "their tree". That gesture will really make your day. To see a person's eyes light up when you give them a turning from their own tree makes it all worth while. They will talk about it for years and share it with their friends and family, so if another tree needs to be cut you will be at the top of their list, for who gets the wood.

Merry Xmas everyone,

Rich

Next Meeting

Join us at our next meeting, on Wednesday, Dec.3rd, at 7 P.M., when yours truly, Phil Roybal, will demonstrate router inlay and sand shading techniques.

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 *Show and Tell*. We all learn together.

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE: XMAS DECORATION.



President's Challenge

Tonight was Open Forum night, so all projects became part of the President's Challenge and there were no Show and Tell items.

Don Bonnett led off with two boxes. The first had a blackwood base and top with an Afzalia burl body. The larger box was gaboon ebony in the base and top, with a mazur birch body. Both were finished with lacquer.



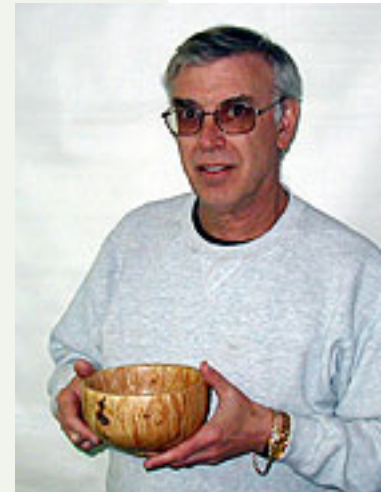
Don Bonnett displays two lidded boxes.

Tony Bryhan brought the large maple bowl he had shown the previous week as a work in progress, now finished. Sanded to #2000 and finished with Tung oil, it displays nice quilting. He also brought a large, cherry piece, still on the faceplate. The blank started out at 230 pounds.



Tony Bryhan lofts his massive maple bowl.

Dave Lemery showed a pale, spalted bowl, finished with tung oil and wax.



Dave Lemery shows off his bowl.

Rich Johnson brought a salad bowl of alder, finished with sanding sealer and lacquer.



Rich Johnson shows an alder bowl he's turned.

Mike Rude brought a selection of 11 bottle stoppers, of rosewood, cherry, kawary, cherry, almond, and other species, finished with shellac and Hut wax.

Jim Gott brought two pieces. The first was a bowl of avocado, pierced around the rim with his new Powercrafter high speed rotary tool. He also turned a tiny goblet that fit inside a pill capsule.

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Bob Tang brought a trio of ornaments on a stand, made from maple, walnut, acacia, and myoporum.

Phil Roybal brought a mahogany platter, decorated with sand shaded inlays in the technique he will demonstrate in December. He finished the platter with Minwax



Mike Rude has enough bottle stoppers for a party.



Jim Gott's pierced and pill-sized bowls.



Bob Tang shows his trio of ornaments.

Antique Oil and wax.

Jim Hamilton, a new face at the meeting, presented a cocobolo and eucalyptus pomander box, finished with poly.

Winners for the evening were Bob Tang and Mike Rude.



Phil Roybal presents his inlaid mahogany platter.



Jim Hamilton shows his beautifully detailed pomander.

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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the tool out, to avoid damaging the rim of the hole.

Once the hollowing is complete, he finishes the profile, cutting in with a gouge until the piece is nearly separated from the blank. He sands the newly cut area and puts 50/50 Deft/lacquer thinner on with a rag. (Jim prefers lacquer over shellac because it's harder and more resistant to water. It dries as fast as shellac, so he can normally buff the piece within an hour of finishing.) Then he parts off the body of the ornament and cleans up the bottom with a chisel. This area will be underneath the finial when the ornament is complete.

The finial can be any dense hardwood that holds detail well. Tonight he'll use maple.

Jim uses a Vicmark chuck with the small jaws to hold the finial blank, supporting the other end with the tailstock during the roughing process. He turns the tail



Jim tapers his maple finial.

end of the square blank round and reverses it in the chuck to round off the other end. He likes to make finials about five fingers width long.

Jim starts reducing the tailstock end of the blank, which will be the bottom of the finial, tapering the blank along the five fingers width. As the end gets smaller, he switches to a smaller gouge to finish the point, leaving the smallest amount of tailstock support while he cuts the rest of the finial. He proceeds up the finial in a series of swooping tapers.

Jim puts a lot of downward pressure on the tool rest, and holds the tool handle close to his body, to get maximum tool control and minimize chatter. He emphasizes that it's

important to always introduce the tool with its heel rubbing, then lift the handle until it begins to cut. This way he avoids a catch.

With the finial shaped, Jim uses a parting tool to reduce the spigot diameter, getting a bit of chatter as he does. Then he goes back to separate the tail end from the tailstock, very carefully. Finally, he sands the finial, supporting the slender piece with his fingers against the pressure of the sandpaper.

As he prepares to separate the finial from the block, Jim uses a Stott parting tool to cut a narrow band above the final tenon down to the size of his drilled hole, measuring with a machinist's dial caliper. Once he gets the right size (about .005" smaller than the drilled hole, to allow for glue), he cuts the finial's tenon down to that size. He cuts the tenon long, so he has room to put a skew into the slot on an angle to undercut the base of the finial where it will join the globe. This insures a tight-looking joint on the outside.

Jim applies the same lacquer finish to the finial.

He likes to do this with paper towels instead of cloth

because paper will tear away if it catches on the spinning piece, while cloth can draw fingers in. Finally, he parts the finial and goes on to turn the top from the same blank, already chucked up.

Jim makes a slight flat on top of the top where the hook will go. He then drills it out with a tiny bit, and inserts the smallest eye hook OSH sells. He gets the top and bottom grains lined up and glues them with CA glue.

Nothing to it! Thanks for a great demo, Jim.



Here's the ornament, displayed in a presentation rack.

STAFF REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

PRESIDENT (RICH JOHNSON)

Rich, Craig Thorson, and Lou Gonzalez went to Pasadena for the AAW coordinating meeting, but it wasn't necessary for us to go as a club. The Southern California chapters will do 90% of the work, but Craig will help with the collaborative turnings. No word on who the demonstrators will be until the end of the year. No hotel rooms are available before March, but they'll be around \$106 a day at the Sheraton Pasadena, walking distance from the Convention Center, with \$10/day for parking.

SECRETARY (PHIL ROYBAL)

We currently have 44 members. A new list of club videos is up on our Yahoo group site.

TREASURER (JIM GOTT)

Income:	
Videos	\$6.00
Membership	\$28.00
Checking acct. interest	\$0.13

Expenses:	0.00
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New Balance	\$1379.21
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LIBRARY (JEFF THORSON)

The club got the following new videos: Utah Woodturning Symposium, From the Tree to the Table (Mike Mahoney), Skill Building (Mark St. Leger), Turned Boxes (Ray Key), Tips for Turners #1, 2, & 3 (David Ellsworth), Intro to Bowl Turning (Rus Hurt), Focus Decorative Techniques (Robert Sorby), AAW 1994 Symposium Scenes, Techniques from the 1995 and 2002 AAW Symposiums.

COMMITTEES

The Home & Garden Show is coming to the Santa Clara Convention Center, January 10-12.

Sign up for Xmas party food. Craig will cook steak. Everybody else bring a dish for 10-12 people. The party begins at 6. There will be dinner and a stealing gift exchange. Bring a \$20-\$25 gift or turning. The gift may be stolen twice, and the third owner keeps it. Bring wine if you want it. Beer will be provided.

APPAREL (DICK PICKERING)

Having problems sending Blair a logo image for the shirts, but think it's resolved. Hats are available now for \$10.

WAYS AND MEANS

Some wood available for raffle.

ELECTIONS

Nominations were made for staff for 2003. Phil and Jim will retain their jobs. Craig will help when Jim can't make it. VP/Program Chair Herb Green was nominated as VP/Program Chair. Rich accepted nomination as President for 2003. Jeff and Dick Pickering will keep their library jobs. Ace will stay as Ways and Means czar.

NEW FACES

Jim Hamilton, met Rich at the Woodworking Show. He has a Record lathe and just got started.

Gary Whittaker came as a friend of Stan's.

Rose and Tom Martin attended. She's a starting turner with a Jet lathe.

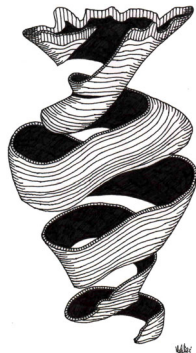
Tom Donnally joined the club.

Lou Williams, who uses a Record lathe, attended the meeting.

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 Presents P & N Woodturning Tools & Uni Jig -5 Sharpening System

Uni-Jig 5 Sharpening System	\$100
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Also available:

1" & 3/8" Pin Chucks	\$50
Pen & Pencil kits available very low prices.	
Diamond wood & Color wood Blocks	\$12 bf
Diamond wood pen blanks pre-cut	\$1
Cocobolo sticks for pens	\$1
Lamp & Pepper Mill kits	
P & N Turning Tools	
Starbond Glue	\$5
Hollowing tool set Mfg locally	
With handle, three tools and handle guide	\$100.
Viking hollowing Tool from New Zealand	
With sharpening jig	\$50

www.latheart.com 408 - 254-8485

For Sale

Vacuum pump for use with vacuum chucking equipment
on a lathe. \$50. Contact Rich Dege, (408) 272-8122.