



Redwood Intermediate School 233 W. Gainesboro Rd. Thousand Oaks, CA
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THE BLADERUNNER

WWW.CVWA.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2001

Number 65

AUGUST MEETING Mike DeCaprio started the meeting with his usual safety talk.

This month it concerned radial arm saw safety. He provided us with 2 pages of safety hints that have been posted on the web site.

Howard Ford gave us a detailed tour of the web site. If you still haven't explored it, you are in for a treat. Those of us who have surfed the web looking at other clubs' sites can guarantee that you won't find another that is as well designed and maintained. This site has to be a labor of love for Howard and the CVWA is very fortunate to have him as Webmaster.

Greg Charles brought in some Starrett catalogues for the members. He reiterated the need to get the monthly projects in on time and to start thinking about the Christmas project. If you can spare some time for the Habitat for Humanity project, please give Greg a call.

AUGUST SHOW AND TELL Bill Aurand's mahogany folding stool was unusual in

that the top split and folded over the sides. It appeared to be more stable than the ones we normally see. He has promised to bring us the plans.

Larry Thrasher brought in some pictures of the bathroom cabinets and mirrors he made for a family member. In addition, he shared with us a satinwood and walnut desk set that he made for his daughter-in-law. The hexagonal pencil holder obviously took a great deal of work, as did the inlaid nameplate. Keep up the fine work, Larry.





AUGUST PROGRAM **Dave Blackburn** is a

construction superintendent currently working in San Pedro, and we were fortunate that he could take the time to talk with us about his consuming interest in boxes. He started making humidors at the height of the cigar craze and slowly drifted to other projects as he discovered the breadth of possibilities that were opening to him. He quickly discovered

that he had a passion for burl, any and all burl. Finding ways to incorporate the material led to some exciting projects that he shared with us. His humidor is an 18" by 24" x 8" carcass with walnut panels edged with maple. The top is one piece of polished burl inlaid into a maple frame. Small pieces of burl are used to decorate the lid miters. Walnut plugs on the edges serve to add stability to the piece as well as making a fine decorative effect. The humidor took about 60 hours to build.

A miniature chest of drawers in the Chinese style sported drawer fronts cut from a single plank of inlaid burl. The carcass of light and dark woods elegantly framed the drawers.

Burl, polished and finished to a high sheen, was the only material in some of the smaller boxes. In the 45 minutes allotted to him, Dave had only begun to cover his thought process in designing a project. He did give us an insight into working with burl as a structural material and gave us some suggestions to source the material.

Six club members were lucky enough to visit with Dave in his workshop of the 4th. He shared with us some techniques for sawing and finishing the material. His shop is a shining example that you don't need thousands of dollars of equipment to produce fine work.



AUGUST VISITORS **Brad Eden** introduced our guests for the evening: **Elisa Miller, Tracy Miller, Maria Harris and Rob Lerner.**

AUGUST **NEW MEMBERS** We welcome **Bob Lattanzi** as a new member this month.

We are happy to have you with us.

AUGUST **RAFFLE WINNERS**

And the winners are:

Makita Jig Saw
Kreg Pocket Hole Set
7" Skil Saw

Chuck Diedrich
Arlen Handberg
Walt Johnson

We thank **Dick Harmon**, who substituted for vacationing **Gene West**. You did a great job, Dick.

SEPTEMBER **MEETING** The meeting will be held at the Redwood School

Cafetorium at 7:00 pm, Thursday, September 6, 2001. We ask the members to come at 6:30 to help set up the auditorium.

It's hard to believe that 8 months of this year have disappeared, but **Greg Charles** reminds us that it is time to get the holiday toy project going and will ask for volunteers to help cut out, sand, finish and assemble the toys. The completed projects are sent to Interface for distribution. Interface is a multi-agency umbrella organization that provides a wide variety of services ranging from youth crisis intervention, child abuse and domestic violence prevention to teaching independent living skills to children 16 to 21 who must leave the foster care program. The counselors for the various programs know the needs of their clients and they are the ones who pick from the collection of toys that we donate to the organization and subsequently distribute them to the appropriate children. So these toys end up being 2 gifts; first to Interface who doesn't have to spend their funds for toys and secondly, and most importantly, to the children.

The toys are made at Saturday morning workshops throughout October and November. If you can spare a Saturday morning, the club and the children will appreciate it.

SEPTEMBER **PROGRAM** Dan Gallo assures us that he is fully recovered

from his surgery and will be able to give us a scroll saw demonstration at the meeting. Like many of us, his daytime gig with American Leak Detection has nothing to do with woodworking. About 6 years ago he told his wife that he needed a hobby. Being the kind of wife that she is (and we all crave for), she bought him a scroll saw for his birthday. In the following 6 years, Dan has become a proficient woodworker and his willingness to share his experiences with us is a real treat. When he's not playing in the shop, Dan likes to spend his time with his wife Barbara and 7-year-old son Cody. We know that he not only collects wood planes, but also makes them. This should be a great evening.

SEPTEMBER **RAFFLE** In September we will be raffling off a Skil 3/8" drill, a

Ryobi 6" grinder (with a light) and a Jorgensen miter saw.

SEPTEMBER

TRIP Dan has agreed to have a group over to his shop

where he can demonstrate some of the techniques he uses in his projects. We will provide his address and directions at the meeting.

OCTOBER

MEETING The auction, how it works!

The items that are auctioned off come from two sources; 1) club members solicit local businesses for tools and 2) donations from the members. All of us have tools, material white elephants and old projects sitting around that we don't use or need. Bringing these items to the auction allows you to participate in operation of the club and helps clean out the garage. You also have the opportunity to bid on and take home new stuff that you just can't live without. The money raised at the auction is put into the general fund and used primarily to pay for the Club's regular expenses, supplementing the income that is received from club dues.

OCTOBER

RAFFLE

There will be no raffle in October because of the auction.

OCTOBER

TRIP

Look for the Santa's workshop schedule.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THANKS AND OTHER STUFF

Don Green asked the editor to remind the members that the Greater Thousand Oaks TeleCommunity (GTOC) center has a wide variety of beginning courses for new computer users. These are available either through the Goebel Senior Center or directly through the GTOT in the Civic Arts Plaza, Suite B. The GTOC offers a wide variety of computer education to students in music and the arts, to the business community and to the citizens of the community who may be impacted by new development in their areas. In addition, there are experts available on Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings for 1 on 1 help with your computer problems. Call 805-499-2354 for further information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The program has been confirmed for the rest of the year. We have already discussed September and October programs. The November topic is dust collection systems. Besides keeping the workshop clean, wood dust can be a health hazard. Guy Buchwitz and Bob Coyle will discuss dust collection systems in general and then describe their personal solutions to the problems. The December meeting is collection day for the toy project. This meeting is largely a social event where recognizing the people who have worked on the charity projects. This year we will offer the opportunity to the members to bring in the toys they have crafted for themselves or their families and exhibit them at the show and tell. If you still need to make that toy for the grandkid, do it early and share it with us.

Also, in December, there occurs the great holiday potluck dinner at Stephen Case-Pall's house on December 1. Stephen will provide the non-alcoholic beverages and the attendees will provide the food. There is no food signup sheet and we trust that the members will be slaving in the kitchen all day making goodies for the party. Brad – don't forget the cookies with copies of the recipe.

THE SERIOUS ACCIDENT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

A few weeks ago an employee noticed a very dull red glow from a facilities work area while he was making his rounds. When he got to the site he saw a small fire developing. He couldn't find the fire extinguisher (it was obscured by smoke) so he ran to get another. Fortunately he reacted quickly and no serious damage ensued. The area has a lot of solvents and wood, so if the fire spread a serious fire would have occurred.

The source of the fire turned out to be household-type synthetic scouring pads. The pads were used to apply linseed oil to seal wood that would later be fabricated into shelves and desks. They were left in the open air and ignited by spontaneous combustion.

There are two messages here. First, be sure to properly discard oil and solvent soaked rags. We all know this, but very few of us have experienced spontaneous combustion so we tend to treat it as an academic issue. However, this incident shows that it is a real problem that needs to be considered in our work.

Second, it is worthwhile having at least two fire extinguishers in a work area where solvents are used or stored. One should be near a main entry or exit in the event that the centrally located unit is obscured by smoke or otherwise inaccessible because of the fire.

Ira Goldberg

[Many thanks, Ira, for sharing this incident with us. Solvents and oils are truly hazardous materials and, if not properly managed, can literally burn you out of house and home. When working in the shop we need to remain focused on what we are doing and how we do it. Complacency is a 4-letter word. Editor]

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