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- Vice-President**      **Lee Choquette**
- Secretary**      **Michael Aghajanian**
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- Woodturners Pres.**      **Jerry Knight**

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- Mentor**      **Fred Willmot**
- Pen Program**      **John Sobota**
- Toy Program**      **Ken Crandall**
- Photographers**      **Len Musgrave**  
                                  **Lee Choquette**
- Proofreader**      **Jerry Knight**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Ralph Crowther*



Welcome 2023! We wrapped up a very successful year as an organization exceeding our goals in several areas: Fundraising through our grant received,

auction results and other generous donations; making and disturbing close to 5,000 toys to over 50 organizations throughout Orange County; making and distributing Pens to active and retired service men & women; growing the number of members despite lower attendance at meetings; continuing to provide hybrid meetings so those that can't attend in person can still participate or watch the recording at a later date; and we had several fun contests throughout the year and finally a great year end holiday party.

So what should we look forward to in 2023? More of the same but better! Your newly elected board just approved the budget for next year which will continue to support the toy and pen programs, our contests for both woodworkers and woodturners and includes a healthy increase for new equipment. Of course the board is only a small part of the organization and we need to look to all members for help and support. We lost some of our most productive toy and pen makers over the last couple of years and it is great to see others stepping up but we can still use more help. Consider starting now with a goal to make 50 toys this year or 20 pens. If more did so then we will easily meet our goals. The toy work parties continue each month but the number attending is down from prior years so come join us at Ken's place as we always have a good time assembling and finishing toys. We will also be holding four pen-making work parties this year so be

looking for those dates. This will be a great opportunity to learn to turn a pen if you have never done so as we will have several lathes available.

There are a couple of other areas where we need some help. First is in our audio/visual support. We really need a team to support this activity of setting up the video and audio for meetings and running the Zoom. We have a couple of camera operators already but need backups. Also, as the board approved an increased budget for equipment, we need some expertise/help in selecting new equipment. Please reach out to me if you would like to help. Second is a committee to run the Holiday party next year. We are seriously considering catering a simple dinner for a couple of reasons (we won't have the help of a couple of our key chefs next year and the Tustin Senior Center really doesn't want us to use any of the kitchen - it was a struggle this year). This committee will work with the board to arrange the caterer, set up the and clean up the event. Please let me know if you can help on this committee.

It's been a year since we talked about the concept of COPD (Clean, Organize, Purge and Document)!. How's your progress? Now that the rush to make holiday gifts are over, I know I'll be working on improving of this concept. I've mostly done the cleaning and I am always organizing. I purged more this year than before but still have a lot of stuff that I haven't used in years but continue to keep. Documentation is the area I have done far less than I wanted and I plan to work on this in 2023. How about you?

Let's make 2023 a great year for ourselves, our family and our club!





## Check Website for Details

Thursday, January 5

**Note New Time: 6:30 p.m.**



## Toy Work Party

Saturday, January 7

*9:00 a.m.*



## Hal Metlitzky

Thursday, January 19

*6:30 p.m.*

# HOLIDAY PARTY



## WOODTURNER'S SHAVINGS

By Chuck Phillips



December 2022 Orange County Woodturners Demo  
The topic we close out the year with is Tips and Jigs. A dozen brave souls took to the demonstrators table and shared their favorite things. In order of presentation, and with apologies if I get your name

wrong, we have:

Jerry Knight led off with a brief discussion of how he finishes the bottom of bowls. At first he used a set of OneWay Mega-Jaws which, along with a Cole chuck, grip the top edge of your bowl. He has had problems with this being a bit finicky, leading to a couple of bowl flings. His preferred method now is a doughnut chuck. This consists of a faceplate that is drilled to accept long bolts from a ring that grips near the base of the bowl. It's a much more secure way to hold things. Just be sure to stay clear of the bolts on the sides & back. Jerry has a stock of varying lengths to minimize the stick-out, and recommends that you do the same.

Next up was Ross Gilroy, talking about how he sands inside a tall vessel. (This is part of how he achieves his famous Flawless Finish™.) Finding using sandpaper on a stick a bit tedious, Ross grafted on a bit of Sawzall blade for a bit of mechanical BRRT action. Still on the topic of sanding, he's made his own inertia sander by drilling a hole just the right size for the shaft on a typical head into the angled end of a stick. This is an inexpensive solution that's also more compact than most commercial handles. Finally, he's been making a lot of baby rattles lately. For finishing off the nub on each end, he's made a springy finger jam chuck to hold the rattle. You can make one by either making a thin wall cylinder where the inside is just a bit smaller than the largest part of your rattle. Cut a few lengthwise slits, which gives the wall just a bit of flex. Slide the rattle in so just the end sticks out for finish sanding. He ended with a similar chuck he uses for holding mice.

Ralph Crowther showed off a homemade vacuum chuck. It's constructed with a non-porous faceplate and some closed cell foam rings. The most important part is a sealed bearing in the middle of the faceplate,

which allows the passage of a vacuum line. He offered a cautionary tale if you make one of these: Keep the line at the back of your headstock short. If it's given a chance, it will start whipping around with a good change of flinging parts off at high speed.

If you've met Len Musgrave, you'll know that he makes a lot of tops, which are a popular item for demos at the fair. In order to speed up access to both sides of the top he has made a custom tool rest that bends around the top and bottom. With that he can just position it once and not have to move things around. Something else Len has made a lot of is pendants with an offset hole. He holds these with double-sided tape on a rectangular block. The block is then held in a chuck with 2 jaws removed. Once the main shape is formed he loosens the chuck and slides the block over a small bit. This moves the center of rotation over for creating the central recess. His last tip deals with making wheels for toy cars. When facing the sides and rounding the edges over, just grabbing the wheel in a chuck can leave little to nothing protruding safely from the jaws. His solution is to put a spacer behind the wheel, which moves it out to a safer position. When making the spacer, it should be just a bit smaller diameter than your wheels.

Les Rogers makes lots of pens, and over the years has found that sitting down while turning is more comfortable. One issue this does introduce is that your leverage for operating the tailstock locking lever is reduced. His solution to this is a piece of pipe just big enough to fit over the handle. The extra length gives him the added oomph he needs. He also likes carbide insert tools for their long life and easy edge renewal. (Just rotate the insert.) Les showed us a couple of custom tools he had made from an old spindle sander shaft. His final tip was to use a crushed aluminum can, turned upside down, as a mixing cup for small quantities of epoxy.

Gary Mitchum had a quick tip for using a rubber stopper to pad a rotating center when truing spheres.

Ken Cowell started off with his ball-turning jig. It's a holder for a small router that pivots on the lathe centerline. He mentioned that getting it centered on the work is important and well worth taking your time to



get it right, as any errors are doubled. Of course, if you're making spheres you need a starting point, and Ken is no exception. He gave us a quick recap of the process for making a 60 facet ball and showed us the jigs he uses for cutting the triangles. As always, careful setup pays off in a nearly gap-free assembly.

Jim Mains has been playing with the Bowl from a Board method, and explained how he cuts the rings. Instead of cutting them on a bandsaw or scroll saw he uses a parting tool on the lathe. This gives him an unbroken ring with a smooth finish. The key to this is a guide jig he showed for maintaining a consistent angle while plunging in. It's really simple, consisting of a block of wood just a bit taller than his tool that is fastened to a tool rest. Once it is set to the desired angle, simply hold the tool against the block and feed it into the cut. As you will need to reposition the tool rest with every cut, setting a sliding bevel to the angle you want gives you a reference for each time. He then explained how he uses the ring just cut to mark the starting point for the next one by holding it against the remaining blank.

Andy Goldman began with a medium screw press that he used to use for clamping rings on his segmented vessels. As it is now too small for his current work, and has been replaced by a larger one, he offered it up to a good home. (Pretty sure he found a taker at the meeting.) He then showed us a steady rest that he made

from plywood and roller blade wheels. He was motivated to make it by the \$400 price tag on a commercial unit.

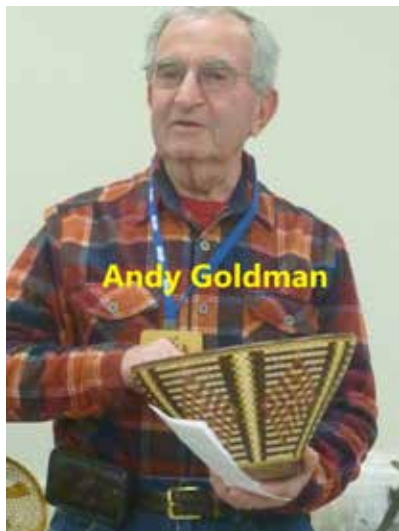
Steve Hansen had a great tip for people who buy unhandled tools. He has found that ER16 or ER20 collet tool holders make great handles for them. As he does mostly spindle work, simply padding the shaft of the holder with some tubing works well. If you need more leverage for bowl work, just turn a longer handle and fit the holder shaft into it.

Jose Ulloa showed another steady rest, this time using t-track for the sliding arms.

Finally, Fred Wilmont showed us his fancy tool handles made from random scraps of wood glued together. (For those of you married to a quilter, think of a crazy quilt.) He ended with a tip for drilling a hole through the diameter of a round piece. Make a vee block and use the point of the drill to center it on your drill press. Clamp the block in place and drill away. If you have problems with the drill bit wandering at the start, file a small flat spot where you want the hole to be.

With that, we wrap up the year. Jerry has provided us with your first challenge for the new year: Make something. It'll be a neat trick to tear yourself away from friends and family for this, so maybe turn it into a shop session with a child/grandchild/great-grandchild. However you manage it, I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and we'll see you next year.







# WOODTURNERS' CHALLENGE

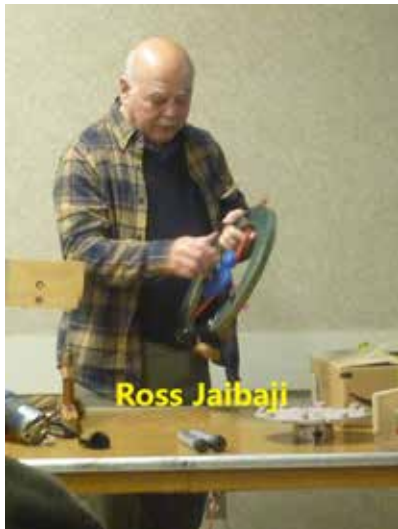
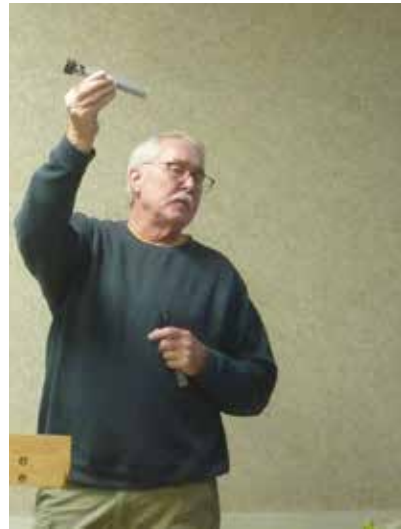




# WOODTURNER'S DEMO



Jerry Knight



Ross Jaibaji



## TOY STORY

*By Ken Crandall, Chair, Toy Program*



One of the non-profits on our donation list is Team Dark Horse from the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. I was fortunate enough, along with John Sobota, to attend their Christmas party at the Mariner's Church in Irvine. Hundreds of marines and their families attended in the large community center there. It was

quite an affair. All of our toys were displayed on open tables and the children were allowed to select a toy. The responses from the adults about the quality of our

craftsmanship were very gratifying. Wooden toy-making is becoming a lost art and the people were cognizant of that and appreciative of our efforts. I was able to watch the selection process, see the joy on the children's faces and garner some helpful information for us going forward.

2022 was a successful year for our program. Requests were high, and fulfilling them drained our complete stock. I anticipate a continuing increase in the years ahead. This means that we will have to redouble our efforts to keep up. So it's time to get crackin' and get the sawdust flying. I'll see you at our January work party, January 7th at 9:00. Let's hit the ground running.



## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS PEN PROGRAM

*By John Sobota, Chair, Support Our Troops Pen Program*



Greetings and Happy Holidays to the woodworkers and pen makers.

As we wrap up another year, I'd like to again thank all the members that contributed to our pen program this year. We had another very good year, distributing just over two thousand

pens! We did this while losing two of our top pen producers. I am more pleased with the quality of the pens we distributed this year than the volume of pens.

On Saturday, December 17th, Ken Crandall and I had the privilege of attending a Christmas party for one of the organizations we support, the Darkhorse Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. It was very rewarding to see the expressions of young children as they picked a wooden toy from a display table and were told they could take it home. It was also rewarding seeing expressions and hearing comments made by the young Marines when they would

receive one of the wood pens we distributed at the Party. I distributed approximately four hundred pens at the event. There were also about the same amount of wooden toys distributed to younger children of the Marines families. I truly feel we have made the Christmas season more enjoyable for those Marine families.

As this year comes to an end, I'd like to thank those who contributed to our pen program as well as those who contributed to the toy program. Both programs had very good years once again. I would also like to give a big thanks to our president, Ralph Crowther, who has done so much for our club throughout the year, including our toy and pen programs as well as our holiday party to finish the year.

In 2023, look for announcements regarding upcoming pen turning events that we're planning during the year, as we look forward to another productive year.





# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS PEN PROGRAM

*By John Sobota, Chair, Support Our Troops Pen Program*





## "CLUB ROOTS" (25 YEARS)

Bruins, William  
Couch, Sam  
Crowther, Ralph  
Daniels, James  
Davis, Carson  
Gamo, Gilbert  
Goldman, Andy  
Kaufholtz, Lee  
Neesley, Michael  
Plummer, George  
Rogers, Les  
Smet, Edward  
Wade, David

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

James Santhon  
Jeff Bennett  
Craig Chambers  
Carson Davis  
Andy Goldman  
Len Musgrave  
Michael Neesley  
Ingko Oetomo  
George Plummer  
Al Whitcomb  
Larry Marley  
Ralph Crowther

## WOODWORKER OF THE YEAR

2022	John Sobota
2021	Richard Kalman
2020	Ken Crandall
2019	Ken Cowell
2018	Bill Rogers
2017	John Marshall
2016	Len Musgrave
2015	Ken Cowell
2014	Larry Marley
2013	Ralph Crowther
2012	Ed Smet
2011	Len Musgrave

### Person of the Year

2010	Al Whitcomb
2009	Ed Straub

## PAST PRESIDENTS

2013 - 2020	James Santhon
2012	Vic Cohn
2010 - 2011	Craig Chambers
2006 - 2009	James Santhon
2005	Doug Nowlin
2001 - 2004	James Santhon
1999 - 2000	Carson Davis
1997 - 1998	Sam Migliazzo
1995 - 1996	Mike Neesly
1993 - 1994	Larry Baum
1991 - 1992	Len Musgrave
1988 - 1990	Al Griffin
1987	Andy Goldman
1986	Greg Martin
1985	Dough Christie
1984	Bob Pederson



OCWA is now registered with AmazonSmile, which makes OCWA members eligible to receive a .5% donation from all eligible purchases through the AmazonSmiles.com program. If

you'd like to participate, simply go onto Amazon.com, search and click on AmazonSmile, and once on the AmazonSmile's site select Orange County Woodworkers from the list of charities. There is no need to change settings – all your account info/settings remain the same. You'll have access to the same products as found on Amazon.com. Thank you for participating.

For more information please contact Ralph Crowther.

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### *Sawdust & Shavings*

is the newsletter of The Orange County Woodworkers Association.

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### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1038

Fullerton CA 92836-8038

Do you have an idea for an article, shop tip, or tool review? Please send articles

to: [ssmolinsky@comline.com](mailto:ssmolinsky@comline.com)

Deadline for submissions is the Monday after the Woodturners meeting.

