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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Ralph Crowther*



As we start into the third month of the year, I want to reflect on a few things. First it is great to see the number of in person attendees at the meetings going up. We've had over 60 people at the last two turning meetings. Also the February toy workshop had a much higher attendance than in January. I hope this trend will continue. We will have our first pen turning workshop on March 18th yet another opportunity to get involved.

Next I want to thank Jeff Rogers for his help in piecing together the last few things we needed to improve the sound quality at meetings and on Zoom. The sound mixer was used at the February Turners' meeting along with a small PA system to provide better sound to those attending. I know the sound was better in the room and I just listened to the playback of the Zoom recording and the sound was the best we have had. In case anyone missed the meeting the Zoom recording is available on the member's section of the webpage.

The February woodworking meeting did not have a formal program and you all should have received a request from Lee Choquette for ideas and help with future programs. Please provide some feedback. We ended up telling some "smooth moves", taking about favorite tools and techniques and answering questions. Several members told me this was a great program and it was nice to have interactions with members. The March program will build on this

as we plan to have several members demonstrate different sharpening methods and then we will invite members to bring in a chisel or plane blade that they can try out the different sharpening methods. I've received other feedback that members would like to have more chances to ask questions of those with more experience. We still have the Facebook private group that is a great place to ask questions and we also have the Mentor program available. Make use of these resources.

Also remember that we have our box contest coming up at the April 6th meeting. As noted last month, the box has to be something built this year since I announced the contest. Judging will be on design, workmanship, use of wood and finish. Prize money for first, second, third and honorable mention will be paid out. So why don't you take the challenge and build a box.

The OC Fair has just published the woodworking contest information for this summer - check out their website for details. It remains the same as the last two years with fewer woodworking categories but all the woodturning categories. I had reached out to the OC Fair coordinator to see if we can have our booth and return to being docents. They just got back stating that they would like our involvement and I have a meeting with them just prior to our March meeting. I will update you at that meeting.

Still looking for someone to head up the Christmas party committee.

As always, stay healthy, get involved and make some sawdust (that's why you spent all that money on tools!).



## Sharpening Techniques

*Thursday, March 2*

*6:30 p.m.*



## Toy Work Party

*Saturday, March 4*

*9:00 a.m.*



## Chuck Phillips

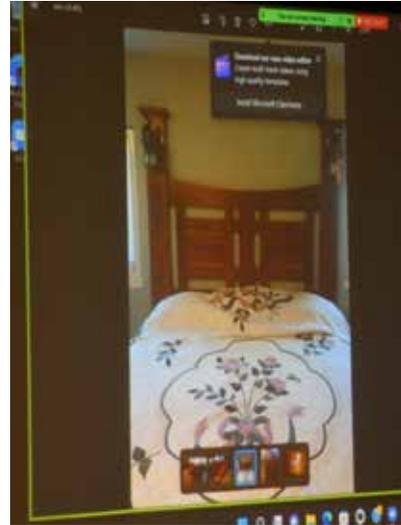
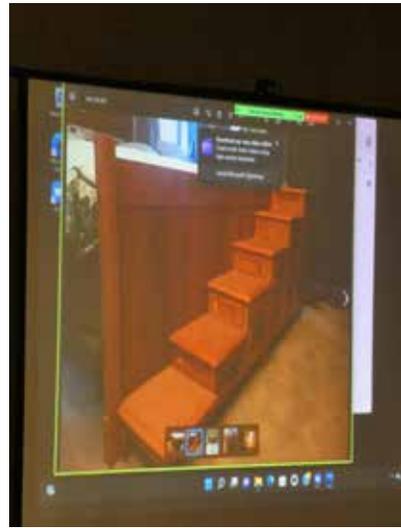
### Alternate Method for a Threaded Box

*Thursday, March 16*

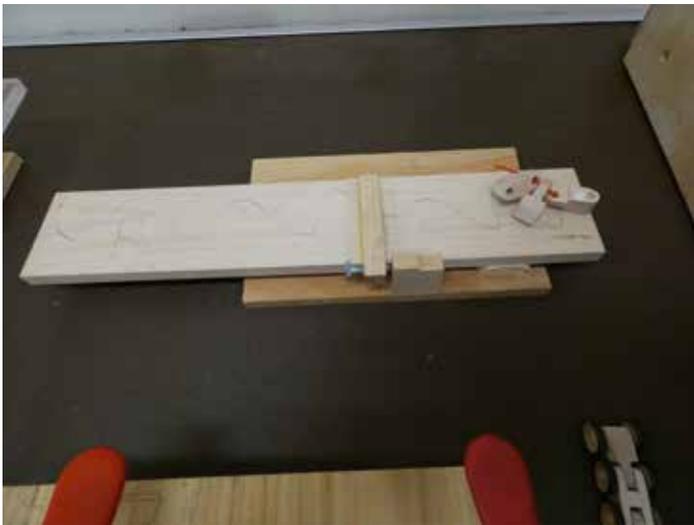
*6:30 p.m.*

# WOODWORKERS SHOW AND TELL





# WOODWORKERS DEMO



## WOODTURNER'S SHAVINGS

By Chuck Phillips



This month's presentation of "And now for something completely different" was brought to us by Ross Gilroy. If you've been around for any time you have seen his work, and there are 2 things that stand out.

First is the meticulous attention to detail in his finishes. He summed this up by observing that if you can see scratches you're not finished. Visible scratches can be the difference between a blue ribbon and a "Thanks for playing"

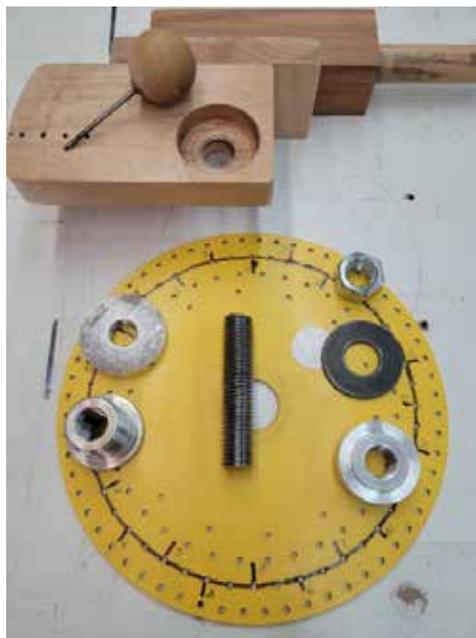
The other thing about Ross is the tremendous variety of his work. As he said, "The only limit is your imagination." A large part of his presentation was a tour of some of his favorite pieces from over the years. This included both solid wood and epoxy composites, simple turnings, and heavily embellished objects.

Ross finished the evening with a practical demonstration of faceting. The process is quite similar to the one for gemstones. The key to this is an indexing jig, which is pictured (disassembled) below.

The main body (at the top) fits into the toolpost hole of the banjo, and is free to pivot. The remaining parts,

from left to right, are: 1x8 to 3/4x10 adapter, lockring (Threaded 3/4x10), 3/4x10 threaded rod, index wheel carrier (also threaded 3/4x10), washer, and final lock nut. Below everything is the index wheel. There are many sources for these, and if you're feeling ambitious you can even make one yourself.

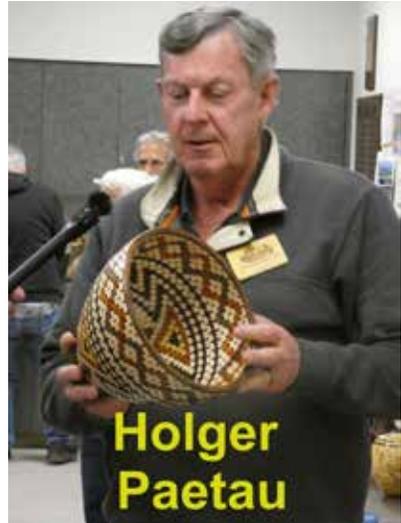
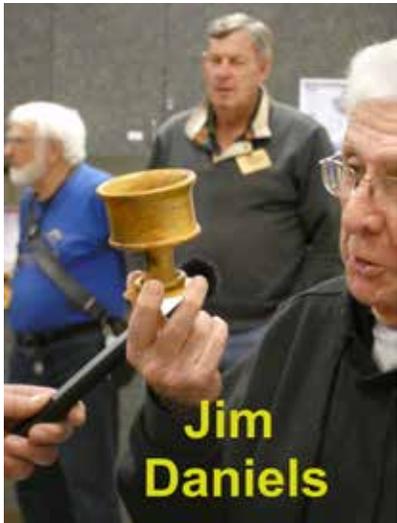
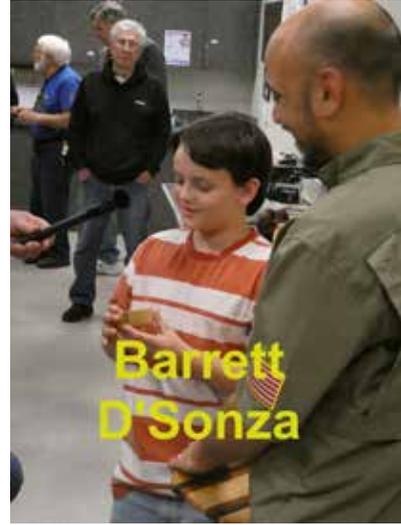
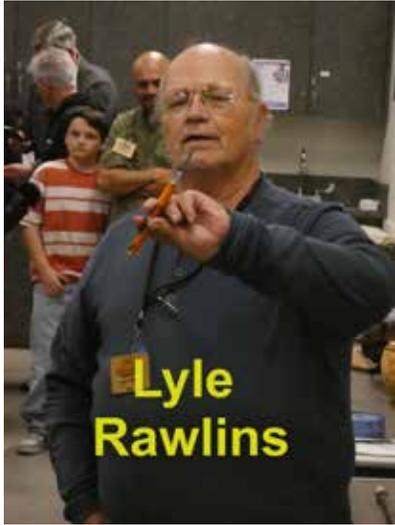
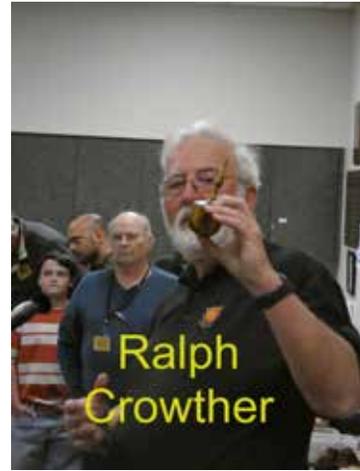
You might think that there's a lot of math and precise layout involved in creating the facets, and that might well be the case for a gemstone. Ross just uses a calibrated eyeball and his well-developed sense of what looks right. Each facet is created by pivoting the work (held on a faceplate in the jig) into a sanding disk on the lathe. The amount of material removed for one is quite small, so it's best to use a fine grit and slow speed. You can always go back and take off a little bit more. To this end, Ross uses a 240 grit disk that runs as slow as the lathe will go. The last thing to remember is that each ring of facets should be completely cut before moving on to the next one. Once you move the banjo it's very difficult to put it back in the same spot. Your challenge for next month is to try something new. If you've never tried an epoxy composite, get a small kit and go for it. Do something segmented, or multi-axis. Break out some carving tools and recontour a turning. Put some color on it. Go have fun, and stretch the ends of your imagination!



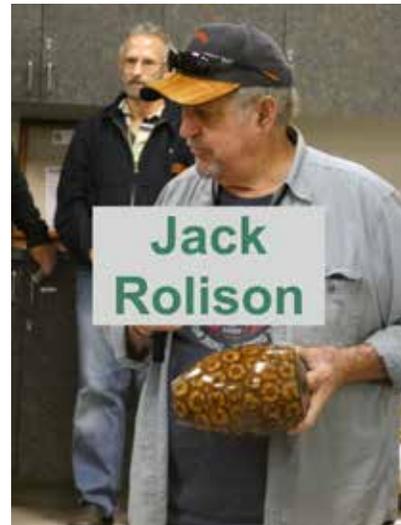
# WOODTURNERS' SHOW AND TELL



**WOODTURNERS' SHOW AND TELL**



## WOODTURNERS' SHOW AND TELL



## IRONMEN OF 2022



Ralph Crowther and Len Musgrave are the 2022 Ironmen of the Year. Each of them utilized the idea, concept and the techniques of each monthly demo to create an item that represented the demo.

# TOY STORY

*By Ken Crandall, Chair, Toy Program*



COVID-19 took a heavy toll on our Toy Program. We were unable to meet at all for several months and attendance has never returned to pre-COVID levels. Our February workshop was the largest in recent times. Five new members joined our midst and it was a lively affair. I hope that they enjoyed themselves and will return.

I am often asked by prospective members, "Do we bring our own tools or are tools provided?" Truth be told, we don't use many tools at our workshops.

Liability issues force me to make my power tools off-limits. Most of the tool work has already been done by our members at their own garages and workshops and they bring the unfinished projects to us. We only do finish work, sanding, assembly and lacquer application. Few tools or expertise are needed. Our members exhibit skill-sets ranging from novice to expert with the only prerequisite being the desire to do something nice for a deserving child. If you have that desire, "Have I got a deal for you?" Come give us a look-see. You might find a home in toy-making.

Our next work party is Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 A.M. at my home, 7321 E. Stone Creek Lane, Anaheim.



## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS PEN PROGRAM

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



Hello woodworkers and woodturners, Instead of the usual pen program update, this month I decided to look into the history of the OCWA “Support our Troops Pen Program”. As it turns out, 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the inception of our

pen program.

The idea of making turned-wood pens for our U. S. troops overseas came from Keith Outten, the founder of an internet woodworkers forum, SawMill Creek. He posted an invitation to wood turners inviting them to assist him in reaching a goal to provide a turned-wood pen to every U.S. soldier serving overseas. The reaction was overwhelming, and the ball got rolling. In early 2023, Rockler organized a nationwide “Freedom Pen Turnathon” and the Rockler store in Orange reached out to OCWA member Ruthe Ingram, asking if she would be interested in helping with the turnathon. Ruthe accepted and shortly thereafter, asked the OCWA if they would like to participate in the program. Several members of the OCWA agreed and began contributing pens to the program. As the story goes, our club members participated in several turnathons as well as the Orange County Fair, making pens that were delivered to our troops overseas. The OCWA turners were competing with other woodworking clubs across the country. In the spring of 2005, Ruthe and the Orange County Woodworkers and Woodturners took it upon themselves to make and ship over a thousand pens directly to members of our U.S. armed forces stationed overseas. Ruthe Ingram continued to oversee the OCWA “Support Our Troops” pen program until 2012, when she relocated to Arizona. At that time, John Marshall assumed Ruthe’s position in the OCWA as chairman of the pen program. John oversaw the program through 2017 when he turned the reigns over to another member Gary Phipps. Gary ran the program until December of 2019 when he relocated to the Colorado Springs area. I have been trying to keep things going since then.

It has been an awesome experience collecting & inspecting the pens the OCWA members have turned in for distribution, as well as distributing the pens to various organizations that support our military, both active duty and veterans. I have also attended

several events in our local communities sponsored by the various organizations honoring our military. I especially enjoy reading the many emails and letters we receive from the pen recipients expressing how much they appreciate the time and effort our club members put into the pens for the servicemembers.

During the last few years our club has lost several of our penmakers due to them relocating out of the area or unable to contribute due to health issues or the deaths of some of our older members.

While there are so many OCWA members that do so much for our programs, we all owe Ruth Ingram a big THANK YOU. I would also like to acknowledge John Marshall and Bill Haskell. While gathering information for this article, I came across articles written by John & Bill that were very helpful in documenting the evolution of our pen program. Another one of our longtime members, Les Rogers, was also kind enough to spend a couple of hours last weekend discussing the beginning of our program. Les was among the first members making pens to contribute to our program and has continued to contribute for more than twenty years. Over the last 20+ years, dozens of other OCWA members have contributed to our pen program. I would like to thank all of those members that contributed to our servicemen and women receiving one-of-a-kind turned wood pens as a small token of our appreciation for their service to our country. As of December, 2022, the OCWA has distributed over fifty thousand pens to our servicemen and women around the world.

On Saturday, March 18th, the OCWA will be sponsoring a pen turning event designed to assist new turners to begin making pens for our program as well as having the existing members/penmakers come and turn a few pens to get our year off to a good start while visiting with other turners. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter or at our meetings prior to the pen turning event.

Always feel free to contact me via cell phone (949-413-8168) or email at [jasobota@cox.net](mailto:jasobota@cox.net) if you have any questions regarding our “Support Our Troops Pen Program”.

Stay safe & healthy and keep turning.

# **OCWA Pen-Turning Event**

**When: March 18, 2023**

**Where: John Sobota Residence**

**28 Hillside Drive**

**Rancho Margarita, CA 92688**

The Orange County Woodworkers will provide all tools and materials required to make pens for our "Support Our Troops" pen program.

Sign-up at OCWA meetings

or

Call John Sobota @ (949) 413-8168



## "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

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

## FRIENDS OF OCWA

### A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Matt Frederick, Yorba Linda

Thomas Nowak, Long Beach

Alan Weinberg, Orange

Jennifer Fleming, Gardena

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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.

