

GOLD COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

Newsletter December 8th, 2015

Vol 15

GCW Meeting Brief:

The December 8th meeting was a very busy and content filled one and lasted about an hour and 45 minutes. We had a great turn out with 33 members (includes 1 new member) present plus 3 guests. Our new member is Jack Carnes. Welcome to the GCW club Jack. The main event for the evening was a presentation focusing on the introduction to the art of pyrography by Ron Sexton. Jim Hunt gave a summary of the results of the GCW Executive Committee meeting that preceded the night's regular member meeting. Also at this meeting we presented toys made by our GCW members to the Marine Corp Toys for Tots of El Dorado County. We had a great turn out for the show and tell with 8 members showing their latest craftsmanship. There is 1 item listed on exchange corner.

Presidents Message:

I want to thank all of you again who participated in the Toys for Tots project. We were overwhelmed with quantity and quality of the toys and the tally is over 350. What an amazing group effort by such talented people!

Ron's presentation on Pyrography was very informative and hopefully gave you the bug to experiment with this artistic aspect of woodworking.

Here we are at the end of another great year! Looking back, we had a lot of fun, made some new friends and learned some additional woodworking skills. Looking forward to 2016 we have some exciting things in store including changes to our raffle program that you won't want to miss, changes to our Project Challenge event that promise to stimulate participation as well as a spring shop tour, possibly a Club day at Woodcrafters and much more.

Thank you all for making our club such an enjoyable and educational experience. Have a happy and safe Holiday. See you next year!

Jim Hunt



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Pyrography presentation:



Ron Sexton gave a very informative and upbeat presentation on the art of pyrography and how he got started in the craft. Ron retired from his business as a professional vintage furniture restorer and refinisher a number of years ago and enjoys experimenting in different woodworking related subjects. Over 3 years ago he gave pyrography a try and got hooked. One of the advantages is that it does not require much space and is very relaxing hobby. He explained that he studied online resources as well as a few books to get started. His favorite

books and the ones he recommends for anyone interested in venturing into pyrography are: *The Art & Craft of Pyrography* by Lora Irish, *The Pyrography Workbook* by Sue Walters, and *Pyrography Designs* by Norma Gregory. He also recommends a DVD *Study of a Hawk* by Sue Walters.

For inspiration Ron often goes for walks or hikes to study landscape and the local flora, especially trees, his favorite subject. He pays special attention to lighting and how the subject casts its shadows. Ron brought in several examples of his work showing how he progressed from his early efforts to his latest. It was obvious Ron has developed a passion for the art of pyrography and is eager to share his knowledge with fellow GCW members. More pictures of Ron's art are included in the show and tell section.

During the presentation a short video was shown describing various nibs (tips) and how they are used. Another video showed a time lapse self portrait pyrography demonstration. Examples of woodburning controllers were shown: the Colwood unit and the Razertip along with several nib holders. Ron uses the Colwood woodburning controller. For those thinking about giving pyrography a try, Ron gave a number of tips, no pun intended.

Ron's Burning Tips

- 1) Study online and printed resources before and after taking the plunge.
- 2) Start out with just a few basic nibs. He recommends the fine writing and skew nibs to start.
- 3) Almost any wood can be used. However you should select wood that is smooth and does not have a "busy grain" pattern (no oak). Some possibilities are birch, walnut, even leather.
- 4) To trace patterns use graphite paper, available at any art store. Do not use carbon paper as it will bleed into the wood when the heat is applied.
- 5) Keep scrap of the same wood nearby to test heat settings and nib usage/technique.
- 6) Colored water pencil can be used to add character to your project.
- 7) To seal the project Ron suggests you use a highly thinned tung oil or lacquer finish.

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Ron can be contacted at hcwpvl@directcon.net if you would like to talk pyrography (ask a burning question).

Announcements/news:

1. **Executive Committee Report:** The quarterly GCW Executive Committee meeting was held just prior to the regular member meeting. This was a very content filled meeting as there were many subjects to discuss. The following are the results of that meeting.
 - a) New committee members: 3 new members have been elected to the committee. Steve Cabrol is the new GCW treasure taking over for Burt Stride. Dale Gamble will fill the MAL1 seat previously held by Roy Carter, Harvey Myers will fill the MAL2 seat previously held by Warren Wyllie. Dale has volunteered to chair the GCW 2106 Toys for Tots program and Harvey will take over as GCW Project Challenge Chairman.
 - b) Vice President: There was a committee structure change as the committee voted to create a vice president position. Ron Sexton was nominated to fill that position. Ron agreed to take on the job and the committee voted unanimously to seat Ron as the new GCW Vice president. The MAL4 seat has been eliminated.
 - c) The Committee: The GCW Executive Committee remains at 7 members and meets quarterly. The sitting committee members are now Jim Hunt (Pres), Ron Sexton (V. Pres.), Steve Cabrol (treasure), Bill Hatwig (Secretary), Dale Gamble (MAL1), Harvey Myers (MAL2), and Homer Rail (MAL3). MAL = Member at large.
 - d) Committee position opening: Ron Sexton's and Homer Rail's committee terms are to expire soon. Ron agreed to stay on for an additional term now as V. Pres. Homer wanted to make his committee seat available should a GCW member like to volunteer for the position. If no candidate comes forward Homer is willing to stay on for an additional term. Terms are 2 years and can be renewed. Anyone interested in being on the Executive Committee please contact Jim Hunt. jhunt@goldcountrywoodcrafters.com
 - e) Meeting Topics: There was a discussion on how best to promote monthly meeting topics. It was determined that a chairman for this task was needed. Ron Sexton agreed to lead the effort to identify topics for club meetings. Members should be prepared to hear from Ron as he looks for experts on various topics to give GCW meeting presentations.
 - f) GCW Bylaws: A preliminary GCW Bylaws document written by Gail Cone and submitted to the committee was discussed. The new committee structure changes along with minor corrections were suggested and will be incorporated by Gail Cone and resubmitted to the committee. Any GCW member wishing to review the document can contact any committee member to request a copy.

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- g) Project Challenge: Harvey Myers, our new Project Challenge chairman, suggested several themes for the April GCW Project Challenge. After some discussion it was determined that the challenge would include 3 project options. The options are 1) birdhouse, 2) cutting board, 3) trivet (An item to be placed under a hot dish to protect the counter surface). Rules: must be made of wood and must be made within 6 months of the challenge.
- h) Project Challenge prize structure: To promote participation Jim Hunt proposed a change to the contest prize structure. Members submitting a project would receive a special raffle ticket. At the end of the project presentations a raffle will be held and a single winner will receive a \$50 prize. After some discussion the committee voted to apply the new contest rules to the April event. Each member can submit any number of projects but will receive only 1 special raffle ticket.
- i) Budget: Steve Cabrol, our new treasure, submitted a preliminary budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. After a brief discussion the preliminary budget was accepted by the committee.
- j) Raffles: There was a discussion about what changes could be made to improve the raffles. It was decided that for some future raffles bowls would be placed at each raffle item and the members will place their raffle ticket in the bowl for the item they are interested in winning. Then the tickets would be drawn from the bowl for each item.
- k) Toys for Tots Budget: the budget for the Toys for Tots program was \$250 to cover wheels, etc. Well the actual was a little over \$350. Much of the material will be carried over to next year's effort. It was decided to that to pass the hat, so to speak, at the night's meeting to help offset the overage. It was noted during the discussion that participants in the toy making effort contributed more than just their time but also material and \$ resources to make this year's toy drive a success.

2. GCW Toys for Tots budget: The budget for the toys for tots program was set at \$250 some months ago. It turns out that the expenses for the effort were around \$350. Like last year, members were asked to donate to help make up the difference. Our members responded by donating \$105. A big thank you goes out to all out members who donated time and money to this very worthwhile program. This was the best year yet for the GCW Toys for Tots program. See report below. It should be noted that the remaining, significant, inventory of toy parts will be carried over to next year's GCW program.

3. GCW Supporter Project: One our business supporters, Churchill Hardware would like a display case to display GCW members craftsmanship. The general size is 20"x20"x72". If interested in helping out with this project please contact Jim Hunt. jhunt@goldcountrywoodcrafters.com.

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GCW supporters: The Paint Spot, Churchill Hardware, Woodcraft Supply, Pro Builders, and Aura Hardwoods (they offer GCW discounts). Be sure to visit these establishments for your supplies and services and be sure to thank them for supporting the Gold Country Woodworkers club.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

January 12th 2016 It will be jig night. If you have a new, favorite or inventive jig, be sure to bring it to the meeting to show fellow members. This is always a fun and informative subject. Our GCW members can be very inventive and we learn a lot.

Toys for Tots:

We had a banner year for GCW member volunteers to be Santa's helpers. 17 of our members came through and donated their time and in many cases their own resources to make this year a record year for our toy making effort. Due to circumstances beyond our control the club got off to a late start this year. Dave Boutcher stepped in and volunteered to take on the task of leading the effort. He was able to gather the resources plus bring volunteers onboard to make the Toys for Tots program a resounding success. Our Santa's helpers brought their finished toys to the December meeting. Toys filled up the whole northeast corner of the church meeting room. There were cribs w/dolls and blankets, trucks, taxies, cars, airplanes, games and the list goes on.

The representatives from the Marine Corps Toys for Tots of El Dorado came by to accept the donation from the Gold Country Woodcrafters members. We were told that our donation will be distributed solely in El Dorado County. Later after the toys were unloaded at their facility the toys were counted. There were 350 items. Wow! In addition there were a number of toys given to the Park Community Church for distribution which makes the count over 375.

Last year our members made and donated over 200 toys so I would say we have outdone ourselves yet again. We have the best members and this shows how our club gives back to the community.

We need to thank all the GCW volunteers for their efforts in making this GCW WOODEN Toys for Tots program effort a resounding success. Those that gave their time, resources and support to this very special effort are: Dave Boutcher (program chairman), Warren Wyllie, Bruce Hall, Paul Velk, Bill Meronek, Harvey Myers, Bill, Johnson, John Brideson, Jim Hunt, Rob Larson, Ron Sexton, Roy Carter, Homer Rail, Dale Gamble, Mick Dupper, Steve Cabrol and Gail Cone. A special recognition goes to Bruce Hill as it has been reported that he made and donated toys to the Roseville Toys for Tots program as well as the GCW program.

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The Pictures!



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Tic Tac Toe Games



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So many toys.....!.....!



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Show and tell

Ron Sexton Pyrography



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Jim Higbee



Jim Shows off this fine stool. The seat is carved from a single piece of Sycamore. The legs he shaped using a spoke shave. The holes for the legs he drilled using a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Hollow Auger.

Basil Borkert



Basil made this cradle for his daughter. He used cherry and sealed it with shellac and used polyurethane for the finish.

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Bill Meronek



On the left Bill shows off his oak clock. It features walnut inlay and has a polyurethane finish.

Paul Velk

On the right Paul Velk demonstrates the features of an easel he made using walnut and maple. It can be adjusted to accommodate a wide variety of canvases.



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Gail Cone



Gail shows off his latest turnings. From left to right: A natural edge almond wood bowl, green turned, termites and all. Next is an ash wood vase featuring 4 vignettes, each pattern has 5 contrasting woods. 3rd from the left is a potpourri vase featuring a dragonfly stone inlay. On the right is a potpourri vase turned from a downed oak tree. The figure is due to this section being infected by mistletoe.

Roy Carter



Here Roy shows his latest carving, a zebra. He actually made a set as you can see in the upper right inset. He carved them from basswood. He also has been making bracelets by laminating contrasting woods and cutting out the rings using different sized hole-saws.

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John Roberts



John loves to make toys and it shows. You name it: cement trucks, graders, steam-shovels, fire trucks, hollers.... That's one way to get the grandkids to come visit. Right John? If you want any pointers on making toy vehicles be sure to talk to John. He'll have the answer.

Homer Rail

Homer likes bugs it appears. Here he demonstrates the movements of a toy grasshopper. Maybe he'll make a bunch for next year's Toy for Tots effort.



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Raffle Results:

-- Woodcraft \$25 Gift Cert.	Mick Dupper	
-- Churchill Hardware Grab Box	unknown	
-- Walnut lumber stack	Jim Higbee	
-- Walnut lumber stack	Dave Ulm	
-- 10" Saw Blades (pair)	John Roberts	Donated by Ken Welsh
-- Chain Saw (actual chain w/hacksaw)	Michael Jay (of Woodcraft)	Saw donated by Ken Welsh
-- Digital Dial Caliper	Gail Cone	
-- Glue Gun	Steve Cabrol	
-- 10" Saw Blades (pair)	John Cassidy	Donated by Ken Welsh
-- 10" Saw Blades (pair)	Max Lee	Donated by Ken Welsh
-- 10" Saw Blades (pair)	John Brideson	Donated by Ken Welsh
-- 10" Saw Blades (pair)	Roy Carter	Donated by Ken Welsh
-- 10" Saw Blades (pair)	Richard Grant	Donated by Ken Welsh

Businesses that support GCW: *Be sure to stop by Pro Builders, The Paint Spot, Churchill Hardware or Woodcraft Supply, Tortilla Flats Restaurant and please let them know how much Gold Country Woodcrafters appreciate their support.*

Membership Dues: For those members wishing to renew their membership for the 2015-2016 year by mail here is the information you need. Make out a \$20 check payable to Gold Country Woodcrafters. Send to: Steve Cabrol 3000 Builders Place, Rescue, CA, 95672. **Please note on the envelope ATT: Gold Country Woodcrafters.**

The GCW Exchange Corner:

- 1) **Walnut Gun stalks available.** These pieces are very solid and heavy and are well aged. If interested in obtaining one or more contact James Terrill. Email jetterrill@att.net

Have a happy and joyous Christmas and New Year
Regards and happy woodcrafting.

Gail Cone

GCW Newsletter editor

GCW Web site: goldcountrywoodcrafters.com

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