



# WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

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## A Time for Celebration

by Art Hofmann

The annual Holiday party is shaping up to be a very nice event. This year we will hold the party on Sunday, December 7th at David Marks' shop on Marsh Road in northwestern Santa Rosa. The time is 2 pm to 6 pm. All are invited, so bring wives, husbands, significant others, friends, relatives, all.

Walt Doll is something of a chef besides being a woodworker. Let's put it this way: the kitchen is his other workshop. He has promised to do a turkey this year, which is always a great beginning for a feast. The Association will also provide refreshment in liquid form, the usual wine, sodas and beer. The rest is up to you, in the form of salad, carbs, desserts, whatever; a potluck dish, something that will go with everything else.

Also on the agenda for the party is entertainment by, of and for woodworkers. Yes, friends, through great good luck and the Unknown and Vast Inner Workings of the Universe and at Great Expense, we have been able to contact the Bench Doggs, who will play for us acoustically. Seriously, the Doggs are a band made up of woodworkers Marks, Connick, Ribbecke and Robinson, the latter three on guitars of various stripe (and inlay), and the first on drums. They play oldies, mostly, and do a fine job of it. This is certain to be a special treat.

The party, as mentioned, starts at 2 pm and will go on until 6 pm. The date again is Sunday, December 7th. Remember, you are expected to bring a contribution in the form of a pot-luck dish.

Directions to David Marks shop at 2128 Marsh Rd. in Santa Rosa are as follows: Take Hwy 101 and exit on Steele Rd/ Guerneville Rd. Go west on Steele Lane for about 1.5 miles to Marlow Road. Turn right onto Marlow and proceed north about 0.2 miles to Marsh Road. Turn left onto Marsh Road. David's home and shop are about 0.3 miles from the intersection on the left. Please enter the 2nd driveway (along the redwood fence) and pull back to the studio/workshop.

Parking: There is a little room around the shop, but if this gets filled use the other driveway and the side streets off of Marsh. Parking is not allowed on the shoulder of Marsh Road; you may be ticketed.

Note: As Marlow Road continues south past Guerneville Road, it becomes Stony Point Road. So you can take Stony Point Road off of Highway 12 and continue north if you are coming from Sebastopol or thereabouts.

Bring a small flashlight, it gets dark out there.





# SCWA November Meeting

by Walter Doll

Bob Moyer opened the November 4, 2014 meeting in the woodshop of Rancho Cotati High School a little after 7pm, with the thrumming sounds of cleats outside signaling the end of football practice.

First on the agenda was the presentation of a check to Bill Hartman's woodworking program at RCHS. This donation was made possible in part by the generosity of David Welter, who wanted his \$150 judging honorarium to be spent wisely by the SCWA. This brings the year's donation to Bill's program to \$400, which was warmly received, since the school doesn't budget funds for such necessities as sandpaper and machine repairs.

A new member, Nathanael Pope introduced himself. Mr. Pope builds cabinets in Calistoga.

Show Chairman Scott Clark announced that the People's Choice Award winner at the *Artistry in Wood* Show was Jim Heimbach for his Viking Cradle. Jim received a check for \$150. This is the only award which includes a monetary dividend.

The business portion of the monthly meeting began with Bob's announcement of elections, mentioning specifically that the Chairman and Treasurer positions are open. There were 18 members in attendance, below the quorum needed by our bylaws to hold an election. There are no nominees for these two positions. Bob asked if any of the members in attendance were interested in serving on the board and no one volunteered. Bob described his position as easy, that he's the guy who opens meetings and hands out checks and handshakes. Jim Heimbach, the former treasurer, gave a brief description of that job and emphasized that many of us probably write more checks during the year than he did as treasurer for SCWA. Aside from the membership tracking needed, and putting a

budget together, it is a very mellow job. Bob Moyer and Bill Taft will continue in their present capacities until new officers are nominated and elected. Bob emphasized that members are welcome to attend Board Meetings to get a flavor of what we do.

Bob announced that the program this evening was a presentation on new materials and products of interest to woodworkers. There were samples of Kirei sheet goods made of sustainable bamboo and grasses provided by McKillican American of Hayward on display, which could be examined following the presentation by Skip Lauderbaugh of Blum Products, who was then introduced. Blum USA is headquartered in Stanley, N.C. and is part of the privately held Blum International of Austria. Skip handles the sales territory from north of the Golden Gate Bridge to Oregon. Our local supplier of Blum (rhymes with "bloom") is Mt. Storm in Windsor. Skip visits up to 2000 cabinet shops on a regular basis and has taught college woodworking programs and operated a cabinet business for about ten years, although he's been with Blum for the last twenty.



Walt Doll





Blum was started in 1952 by Julius Blum, who made studs for horseshoes so they could traverse icy streets. Now, their main niche is functional hardware mainly used in kitchen cabinetry, as opposed to decorative hardware.

Blum has always been known as a hardware innovator, starting with clip-on hinges that permit the cabinet doors to be easily removed. There are 400 employees in North Carolina, mainly making the tandem drawer slides which are 100% USA made. A \$30 million assembly line builds the slides.



*Skip Lauderbaugh*

Skip focused on three product lines tonight: hinges, slides, and door openers. Blum's concealed hinges come in face frame styles and panel styles, with and without soft closing features. They can be ordered with various opening operating angles from 90 degrees to 135 degrees, as the hinge and arm dimensions are available in many different sizes. The mountings are removable, permitting finishing without hardware in place and assembling the doors at the job site. The inserted hinge-mounts fit into predrilled holes and are tightened with internal clamps, eliminating screws. Depending on where you bore the mounting holes, what size hinges, and different mounting plate heights, you can design the door overlay. The hinges are supplied in negative angles and positive angles in 5 degree increments. The door opened straight out at 90 degrees is considered zero angle by Blum, and the positive and negative increments are calculated from that zero degree starting point. Almost all applications can be accommodated, and Skip's job with Blum is to show all the special applications that aren't in the catalog. Skip then proceeded to demonstrate some of these special

applications, from seamless miter joints to zero protrusion, done by reversing the hinge mount from the cabinet to the door. Selecting the number of hinges to be used on a door is calculated from the height and weight of the door. Roughly, you need a hinge for every 7.5 pounds.

Blum's latest innovation in hinges is the soft close feature, created with a viscous putty-like material in the hinge that can be deactivated with a switch. "Perfecting Motion" is the Blum mantra. Yes, you may pay more for Blum hardware, but the savings in labor time more than makes up for initial hardware cost. It pays for itself.

Skip moved on to a discussion of drawer slides. Blum entered the market in 1966 with their epoxy-coated runners with wheels. Their biggest seller these days are the Tandem under-mount slides. Under-mount slides have pretty much taken over the market. These were introduced by Blum in 1994, with the soft-close feature appearing in 2006. The full extension drawer runners have been tested for 100,000 cycles at their full weight capacity. Although Blum has lifetime guarantees on their products, Skip says he's never had to replace any defective slides. The newer models are loaded with adjustments: side to side, front to back,



and height. All Tandems are 100% USA made. Another Blum innovation is the rear stabilizer bar, which keeps wide, shallow drawers from racking. There is also a tip-on feature which, at additional cost, will open the drawer when it's pushed, but takes away the soft-close action.

Blum also has a drawer system called Legrabox, in which the sides and drawer front are supplied by Blum and the front clips on and off. This is a drawer where the cabinet maker makes the bottom and back only. This product is very European looking, not widely used in the U.S., but is gaining in popularity.

Blum makes a line of servo driven drawer operators for kitchen cabinets such as trash and recycling bins that open with a bump of the knee or hip. For about \$200 you can equip one drawer with this feature. For a larger power supply that can operate multiple drawers it's about \$350 plus \$125 each for the additional

operators. Expensive, but for the customer who wants the ultimate in technological drawers, this is it. Look at garage door openers! They are only used 2-4 times daily, but we consider them necessary. How often is the kitchen trash drawer activated? Maybe 20 times a day. Think about it.

Finally, Skip demonstrated the Aventos lift systems (shown at left). Blum has 5 different styles, designed for lifting doors rather than pushing outwards. This is Blum's fastest growing line in terms of new business. It

solves a motion problem in cabinetry. It is counterbalanced and features soft-close with all the fine adjustments of the Tandem line. Particularly useful for those

high cabinets or close quarters, or for entertainment centers down low, the hardware costs about \$30 per opening. Many cabinet shops have gone to this as their primary solution for openings above refrigerators. The servo operated models are much pricier, about \$600 for that special customer who wants a WOW comment from their guests. Rounds of applause at the end, we all do that occasional cabinet request and Blum saves us time and covers all the features we need, even the ones we haven't yet discovered.



## 2015 Membership Renewal

You will notice some differences in the SCWA membership renewal process next year. These changes come about because we are using the membership management system of our 'new website'. This system automatically sends out email Renewal Notices to each member starting 60 days before the member's Renewal Date.

The Renewal Notice is an email invoice, somewhat different from the friendly reminder that has been used previously. It will provide instructions for you to renew your membership using the website. Using the website, you may renew your membership using either an online or mail renewal application. You will still have to pay by check, which can be mailed or given to the SCWA Treasurer.

Membership has been changed from a calendar year period to a period of one year starting on a member's Renewal Date. Most members currently have a 2014 membership that ends on December 31, 2014.

These members will receive the first Renewal Notice at that time and will have 60 days to renew their membership. If your membership is not renewed by February 28, 2015, you will receive a grace period notice, letting you know that your membership will lapse in 30 days if you do not renew it.

Some members, new members and members that renewed their memberships after the new website was launched, will have a membership Renewal Date that is one year after their initial or renewal date. These members will receive an email Renewal Notice 60 days prior to their Renewal Date.

For all members, your new Renewal Date will be one year after the Treasurer receives your dues payment. This may be up to 15 days after you mail that payment.

This is the first time that we will be using this renewal process. We hope that it makes the renewal process better for our members. You will be able to contact the SCWA Treasurer using the website if you have any questions or problems.



Isis by Fabrice Landa

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A Mobile Store bringing Tools and Supplies to North Bay Woodworkers

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## Officers of the Association

<u>Chairman</u>	Bob Moyer	<u>Secretary</u>	Walt Doll
<u>Program Chair</u>	Art Hofmann	<u>Guild Chair</u>	Larry Stroud
<u>Treasurer</u>	Bill Taft	<u>Show Chair</u>	Scott Clark
<u>Editor</u>	Joe Scannell		

Wood Forum is the monthly newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association. Please feel free to submit articles and photographs for inclusion in the publication. You can send your submissions to the Wood Forum Editor at [SCWAEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SCWAEditor@gmail.com). Advertisements are also accepted with a per-entry cost of \$5 per column inch.

## Membership Application

I would like to join the SCWA to meet other people interested in the craft, the art and the business of fine woodworking. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$35 for the annual dues. I understand that this fee entitles me to attend monthly meetings and to receive the Wood Forum newsletter by email or via the SCWA's website.

I am enclosing an additional \$15 to receive the Forum by regular mail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check and completed application to:

Sonoma County Woodworkers Association, PO Box 4176, Santa Rosa, CA 95402