



WOOD FORUM

Newsletter of the Sonoma County Woodworkers Association

Volume 37, Issue 3

March 2017

Mid-Century Modern Furniture

by Lars Andersen

At our meeting this month member Michael Wallace will offer a presentation on Mid-Century Modern Furniture. Michael has been an off and on member of the SCWA Board for the last eight years. Most recently, he was the webmaster who led the team to develop our new website, but he's been Chairman and Show Director as well. While he claims he is the "slowest woodworker in the West," he has great enthusiasm for the SCWA activities and is hopeful for our future.

Michael has been researching this unique period of furniture over the past year, being a Baby Boomer who remembers most of those years and the furniture that went with them. He will discuss the architects, designers and woodworkers who were major contributors to the style during the period of 1948-1971 (or thereabouts) that constitute Mid-Century Modern. He'll highlight some significant pieces that are considered iconic of the period, discuss the building methods, and will provide additional resources for anyone who wants to explore this style in their work. It should be a fun and enlightening presentation, and, oh yes, Michael has promised to tell us how the name - Mid-Century Modern - came to be! Hope to see you there!



What: Mid-Century Modern Furniture

Where: Cotati Cottages

When: Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Cotati Cottages is a townhouse development located west of the H'wy 101 and H'wy 116 interchange. Take Highway 101 to Gravenstein Highway (116 West) exit. Head west in the direction of Sebastopol about ¼ mile to Alder Avenue. Turn right on Alder and then turn right on the first street, which is Ford Lane (Cotati Cottages sign). Proceed to the end of Ford Lane and park in the gravel parking spaces. The Clubhouse is the small building on the northeast corner of Ford Lane and Starr Court. There is limited parking near the clubhouse. If the gravel parking area is full, please park on the east side of Alder Avenue. The address is 8050 Starr Court, should you need it for a GPS.



SCWA Monthly Meeting

February 15, 2017

by Joe Scannell

The monthly meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Vogel promptly at 7pm, and he began by asking for any visitors or new members to identify themselves. There were two first-time members, and they were welcomed by the more than thirty members present.

Tom then notified the members that the Program Chair position has been vacated, and we once again need someone to step up and fill it. He emphasized the dire necessity of filling the position: our organization has two primary functions, to produce an *Artistry in Wood* show annually for our members to display their work, and the monthly meetings where we typically have a guest speaker make a presentation. Without a Program Chair, we will have lost half of our *raison d'être*, and perhaps the major portion of the social atmosphere as well. The program calendar for 2017 has been filled thanks to the strong efforts of Art Hofmann, who held the position for many years, so there really isn't any "heavy lifting" to be done this year. But next year's calendar needs to be developed now, so that we have speakers lined up when we get there.

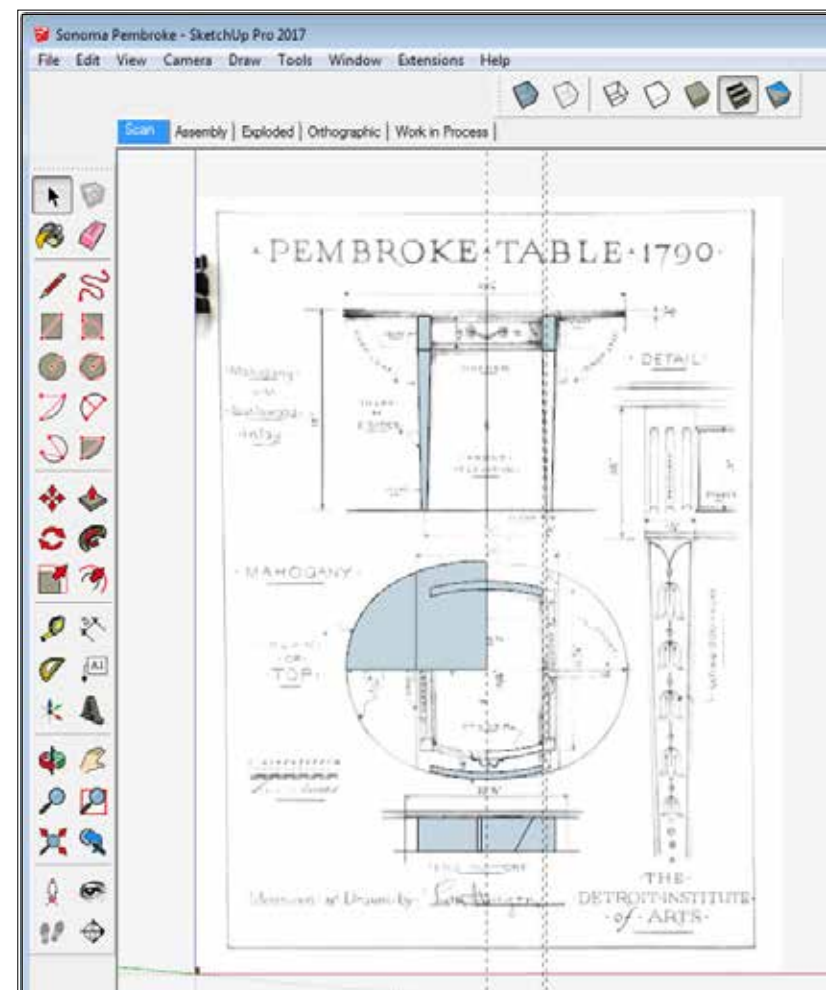
Following this, Tom asked for a volunteer to host the December holiday potluck party. This opportunity remains open. Don Jereb announced that he would be hosting the August meeting with a barbecue at his home. Don is the Show Chair, and he told us that he has two possible dates for the show, one in September and one in December. He is pushing for the September time frame.

Tom then introduced our Treasurer, Judi Garland, who presented a report on the current budget, concluding by saying our current bank balance is over \$10,000.

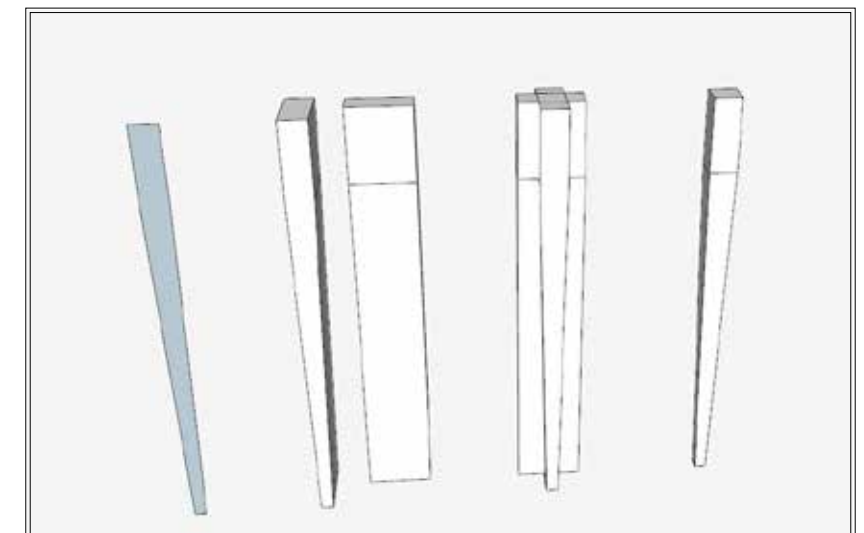
The evening's guest speaker was introduced. Tim Killen is a third generation woodworker, inspired to

the bench by his grandfather, then his father. Tim's day job was as an electrical engineer for Bechtel, but after retirement he became a full time woodworker. As an engineer, he was fluent in 2D CAD, but when a 3D drawing program for architects, designers, and filmmakers called @last Software came on the market, he saw the advantages in woodworking and made the move. This program was eventually acquired by Google and became Google SketchUp.

Tim uses SketchUp for all his woodworking projects, building it first on the computer, in all its essential details, including joinery. Only after working out the design bugs and ensuring that all the parts fit together, and producing a set of dimensioned drawings, does he go to the shop and start cutting wood. When there are curved pieces or unusual shapes involved, he also makes full sized 1:1 prints that he attaches to the wood with a glue stick. Then he goes right to the bandsaw and begins cutting.



Tim brought several pieces of furniture with him for demonstration purposes. One was a Pembroke table, which started out as an illustration in a book of period furniture. He photographed the page with his iPhone, exported it as a .JPG file, and imported it into SketchUp as an image, and pasted to a 2D plane. Then, using a guide (the dashed line in the picture below left) aligned with a vertical edge of one leg and another guide aligned with the top of the apron, he began accurately tracing the original drawing, offsetting the various edges according to the dimensions in the original drawing. In no time at all he had an accurately drawn 2D leg (at left in picture below), which he made 3D with the push-pull tool, and saved it as a group. He then copied this 3D version and rotated it 90° through its vertical axis, mingling it with its parent. Finally, he intersected (a SketchUp function) the two groups and saved the remainder as a leg component (right in picture below).



From there it was essentially drawing rectangles based upon dimensions in the book, giving them the specified thickness, and saving them as components. It is only necessary to draw any given component one time. After that, you just copy the component as many times as needed, rotate and/or flip them, and position them to the correct spacing.

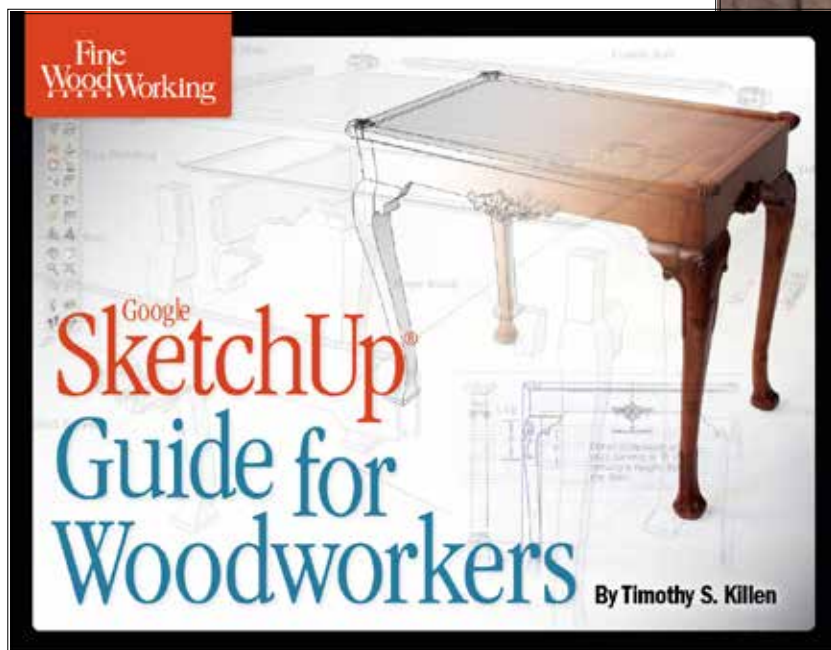
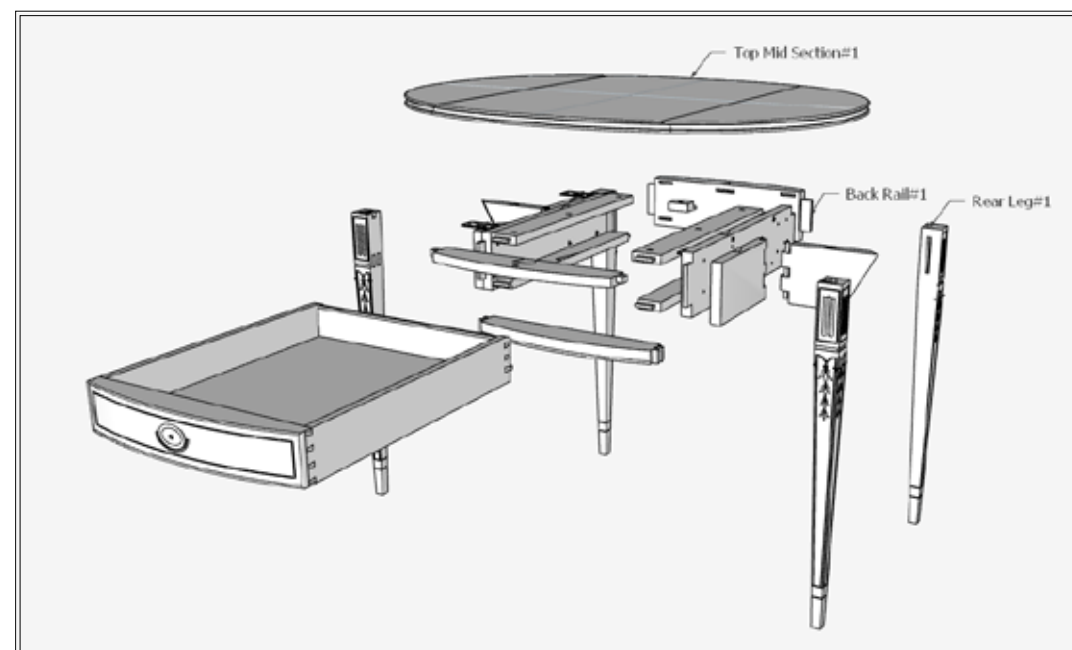
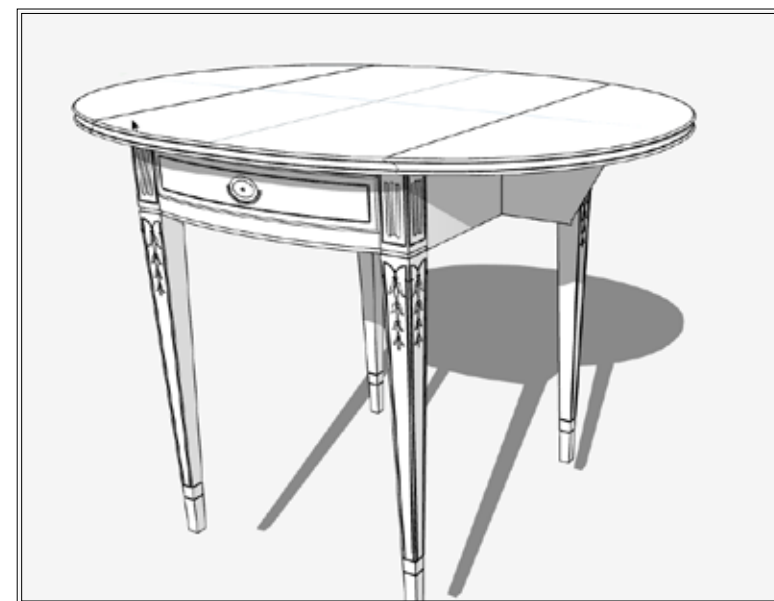
Once all the legs and aprons were in position, Tim began drawing the joinery. Starting with the apron,

he drew a tenon on one end and copied it to the other end. Then, turning on X-ray mode, which allows you to see inside solid objects, he edited the leg component and traced the tenon shape into the leg, producing a matching mortise. And since all the legs are just copies of one another, the mortise magically appears in all the legs. It took him far longer to describe the process than it actually took to do it.

Understandably, a novice will be a bit slower. Tim estimated that he spent 30 ten-hour days learning the program to a reasonable proficiency. But the dividends are huge. Since you've already built the piece once, you can approach the second build with much more confidence, and without a lot of trial and error and wasted wood. Drawing it out this way allows you to test drive many different design variations and joinery options. And the free version, SketchUp Make, will do everything Tim teaches in his book. Speaking of which, back in 2010 Tim

Tim retired from Bechtel ten years ago, and moved into woodworking full time. He now writes a blog for Fine Woodworking, and he teaches woodworking in Pleasant Hill. In his class he exposes his approximately 30 students to many styles, including 18th century period furniture,

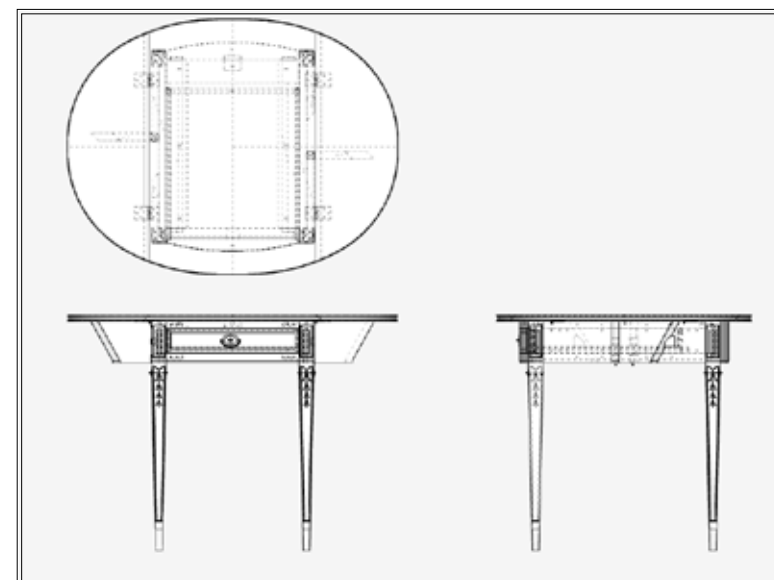
Maloof rockers, Danish, Shaker, etc. He emphasizes hand tools in his class, and much of the work on student pieces is done with hand tools. He prefers the older traditional



authored a digital-only book called *SketchUp Guide for Woodworkers* that covers all the basics and some more advanced concepts as well. By the time you get to the end of the book, you'll be a pro.

finishes such as shellac and French polish; he eschews modern stains.

Another feature of the program Tim demonstrated was the ability to create different scenes of the model. For example, the tracing of the Pembroke table (on the previous page) was a scene. A second scene was the completed table. A third scene was an exploded view of the completed table. Yet another scene was the orthographic view seen at right. Each scene is given a tab/button at the top of the drawing board, and clicking on a button will take you to that particular scene, much like a bookmark. Dimensions can easily be inserted where needed, and Tim prints out these scenes as shop drawings.



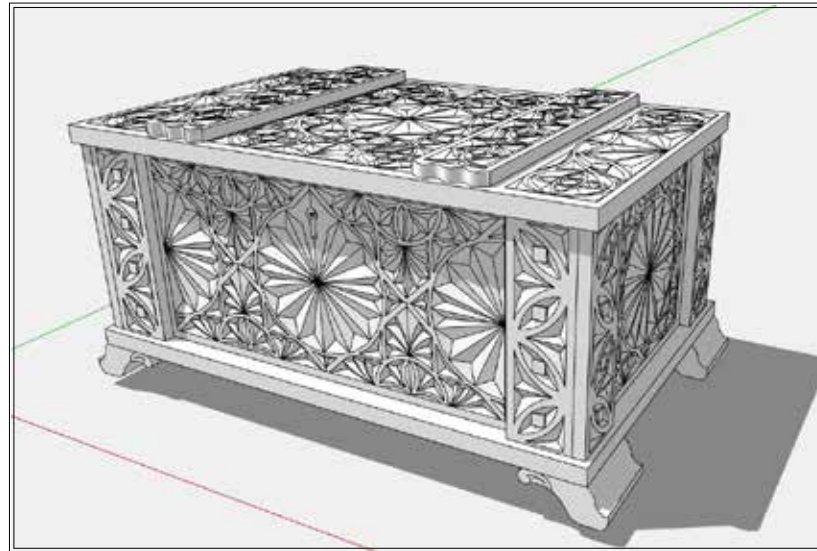
While he's at the printer, he makes full sized 1:1 prints of any odd shaped or curved parts, which he then attaches to the material chosen for the part, or uses to make a template (for multiples). Printing full size from a desktop printer usually means multiple pages, which Tim just aligns and tapes together.



Tim has a website that shows some of his work. In addition, there is a downloadable PDF available at <http://killenwood.com/Kate'sCupboardReduced.pdf> that is interesting because it shows his workflow, and how he goes from a black-and-white photograph to the SketchUp drawings, and then to the final pine cabinet.

Tim brought with him the small box shown above, which he calls a Trinket Casket. All the flat surfaces are decorated with chip carving. He made the original design in SketchUp, and to lend the drawing some realism he could have covered the surfaces with a .JPG

image of the carving, using the same method already mentioned. But instead, he actually created each of the facets three-dimensionally in the SketchUp model. He does not recommend the technique to others, although it was an interesting challenge, and turned out to be less difficult than it would appear, because many of the elements are repeated several times. Again, the beauty of SketchUp: draw it once, copy it many times.



As the evening drew to a close, Tim fielded a few questions from the audience, and was applauded enthusiastically for his presentation.



Here's a quick tip for readers from Guild Chair Mark Tindley: a somewhat obscure link to a searchable index of *Fine Woodworking Magazine* issues going back to the beginning of time up to the present day. It is regularly updated by its author, Charles Stroom of Amsterdam. Here's the link:

<http://stremen.home.xs4all.nl/fww.html>



Photo by Tyler Chartier

Close Quarters by Paul Marini



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Woman in a Hat by Mark Knize
Photo courtesy of Mark Knize



Canyon by Les Cizek

Photos by Tyler Chartier



Flower Burst by William Taft



Smoke by Kai Herd



Minutes From SCWA Board Meeting 3 February 2017

by Lars Andersen

Board members attending: Mark Tindley, Steve Greenberg, Tom Vogel, Don Jereb, Judi Garland, Joe Scannell, Lars Andersen.

Other members attending: Michael Wallace.

Tom called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

1. Finance.

a. Financial Statement for 2016.

Judi presented a preliminary financial statement for 2016. It will be finalized later.

b. 2016 Budget for 2017.

Judi presented a proposed budget for 2017.

We had a discussion about the email list that Steve uses for distributing messages. It is a left-over list from the past, and it is not obvious how it was generated. It contains many members, as it should. It also contains many non-members, who according to decisions from past board members should have knowledge about club activities. It is possible that there are members who are not on the email list. There was broad agreement that we need to understand this better. We need to have a process to ensure that all members do in fact receive our communications. There is no harm in including additional people on the email list, such as reaching out to College of the Redwoods students to encourage them to attend meetings or enter in the Show. Steve and Judi will work offline to ensure that our email list is a superset of our member list, and that we have a clear understanding of the difference between members and guests.

Don reported that the Show budget for 2017 has been tweaked a bit from 2016. The main change is an increase in the stipend for judges from \$150 to \$250. Don noted that the actual number of entries from 2016 was used as a projection for 2017. Since 2016 had a historically low number of entries, we are likely underestimating the 2017 revenue from Show entries.

Steve reported that \$300 for SSL encryption was added to the budget. It will be discussed later.

Michael expressed a concern with the budget running negative.

Lars moved that we accept the proposed budget for 2017. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition to a status of regular member, we used to offer a status of contributing member for an extra \$15 donation to the club. Since we do not distinguish between regular and contributing members, we decided to eliminate the latter category. Members can still donate additional funds to SCWA if desired. Steve will make the change on the website.

2. Programs.

a. Program Chair position.

Clyde has resigned his position as Program Chair. Clyde felt that proper expectations for the position were not set, and that proper training was not provided. Clyde felt that it was too much for him to

handle. Tom will write a solicitation to members for a new Program Chair. It will be in the next Wood Forum, and will also be included in Steve's next email blast. In addition, Tom will solicit volunteers at the next monthly meeting. There was broad agreement that the Program Chair position is vital to SCWA, and that it is critically important that the next Program Chair really wants to do the job – if someone volunteers because they feel like they “should” and then resigns soon after, it does not help them nor SCWA.

A prudent assumption would be that no one will step up, and that we will operate without a Program Chair at least until the Nov elections for 2018. The corresponding contingency plan is to assign an acting Program Chair for each monthly meeting in 2017. The acting Program Chair will own all communication with the speaker, and also all logistics. The details are covered below.

If we cannot find a Program Chair, we discussed the possibility of playing “musical chairs” with a current board member becoming Program Chair and a member filling his or her original position. This does not appear to be an option, since none of the existing board members are interested in the Program Chair position.

With 2017 in good shape, we also agreed that it would behoove us to start thinking about speakers for 2018. If we get to the Nov elections for 2018 with nothing on the books for 2018 and no one stepping up as Program Chair, we could find ourselves behind the eight ball. We brainstormed potential speakers for 2018. Several names were brought up – some local, and some from farther away who have connections to the area. We agreed to all think more about potential speakers, and start putting out feelers.

The club has a surplus, and one way to use it could be to attract higher-quality speakers – perhaps when they are already in California for other reasons. We would not be practically or financially able to do this for every meeting, nor would we need to, but perhaps as much as three times a year. A clear set of guidelines for this will need to be worked out, starting probably with a discussion at a board meeting led by the new Program Chair.

What would SCWA's members find fascinating? Mark will write a message to members soliciting input. It will go out as an email and also in Wood Forum.

b. Status for 2017.

i. Regular meetings (8x).

We have speakers and acting Program Chairs lined up for all 2017 meetings:

- Jan is done.
- The speaker for Feb is Tim Killen. The acting Program Chair is Mark, with Tom as backup.
- The speaker for Mar is Michael Wallace. The acting Program Chair is Lars. [As an aside, Lars will also be working with Michael on the proper pronunciation of any Danish names in Michael's presentation.]
- The speaker for Apr is Tripp Carpenter. The acting Program Chair is Tom.
- The speaker for May is Om Anand. The acting Program Chair is Joe.

- The speaker for Jun is Mark Knize. The acting Program Chair is Judi.
- The speaker for Jul is Tom Vogel. The acting Program Chair is Tom.
- The speaker for Aug is Don Jereb and possibly others. The acting Program Chair is Don.

ii. Show Meetings (2x).

Per below, the Show meetings will likely be in Sep and Oct. The acting Program Chair is Don.

iii. Guild Meeting (1x).

The Guild meeting is in Nov. The speaker is Mark Tindley. The acting Program Chair is Mark.

iv. Holiday Potluck (1x).

The Holiday Potluck is in Dec. We need to determine if it will again be hosted at Don Naples' house in Healdsburg, or if we need to find another venue. We also need to assign an owner.

3. Show.

a. Budget. Preliminary budget based on last year's budget with adjustments.

Don reported that he has met with Eric Stanley at the Museum. We have two possible slots – a four-week stretch starting in Sep, and a six-week stretch in Nov-Dec. All board members felt a Sep slot would be the least disruptive to the annual rhythm we have established, and also that there would be too many question marks regarding member availability for setup, drop-off, meetings, pick-up etc. if the Show were to span the Holidays. Don will approach Eric to lock in the Sep slot, making sure it is a full four weeks.

Like in 2016, the Museum requests a donation of \$750. Given that other venues would likely cost several thousand dollars and might not be available, board members felt the \$750 is reasonable.

As usual, we expect the Show to display the best work of SCWAs members. As such, the board agreed with Don's assessment that advertisements for the Show are inadequate at best. While it is the Museum's responsibility, we may choose to add some SCWA muscle here at a later time.

b. Judges. selection and stipend/travel considerations.

In the past, the stipend for judges has been \$150. Don felt it was too low, and increased it to \$250 in the budget for 2017. Don has received a list of judges from the past decade. We want a furniture maker, a turner, and someone with an expertise in arts. Don would like to send out feelers in late spring, and have commitments in place by early summer. While it is ultimately Don's call, Don seeks feedback from board members and members at large.

There was a discussion of past judges. Some have been quiet and nice, some have been quite opinionated and dismissive. There was broad agreement that we have relied heavily on College of the Redwoods and their Krenov style judging in the past, perhaps

because it has been the easiest. We will continue to seek judges from College of the Redwoods, but we should welcome judges with a different background.

- c. Possible creation of small working subgroup of past and present guild members or other interested members to clarify and make suggestions on direction and show issues (one relatively brief meeting).**

As the new Show Chair, Don wants to solicit input from members about the current state of the Show and potential improvements which could be made. It will be an evening meeting at Don's house. SCWA will provide pizza to attendees. Don will pick a date, and invite members at the Feb monthly meeting.

- d. Other.**

There was a discussion about whether the standard for entering pieces into the Show is too high, and whether this is a barrier that keeps members from displaying their work. It was noted that when we allowed all entered pieces into the Show, we once had some shoddy pieces which caused the Museum to complain they were not exhibit-worthy. It was also noted that we do not reject many pieces. At the same time, it was suggested that there has perhaps been a certain sense of Guild snobbery in the past, where legitimate pieces have not been accepted into the Show. Mark emphasized that his focus as Guild Chair will be to drive Guild members to jury pieces with a mindset of wanting to accept them if possible, not with a mindset of wanting to reject them if possible. We also discussed the idea of additional awards for first-year attendants and high-school attendants, but no decisions on this were made.

4. Website

- a. Web Site Secure Access (SSL/Certificate) options.**

Steve explained that websites can either be secure ("https") or non-secure ("http"). For secure websites, personal data such as names, usernames and passwords are encrypted and therefore cannot be snooped by others. For non-secure websites, the lack of encryption creates a vulnerability. All else being equal, secure websites are better. But all else is not equal – secure websites cost more to host. Given this, everyone hosting a website needs to decide whether to pay for the extra security. Security is obviously critical for banks and others who take payment information online. For a website which only displays information but does not require a login and does not take personal information, this type of security does not matter at all. The SCWA site is in-between. We do not take payments for membership renewal on the website. However, you can sign up on the website, and we do have usernames/passwords for member-only features such as forums. None of the above is new. What is new is that the Chrome browser now flags non-secure websites, creating an annoyance for end-users and possibly building fear for end-users who lack a deeper understanding of what the warning means. Steve presented three options. We can do nothing. We can remove logins/passwords and expose member-only features to everybody. And we can pay about \$300 annually for SSL security. Steve noted that the Chrome warning has been in place since the beginning of the year, and that we have not received any complaints. Steve recommended that we remove logins/passwords, but do not pay for

SSL security. Lars moved that we follow Steve's recommendation. The motion was not seconded. After more discussion, Mark noted that our website gathers personal information from people joining SCWA and moved that we therefore pay for SSL security. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Steve will contact Wild Apricot and start making the changes. This is not considered urgent, and Steve will do the work as time allows.

- b. Annual vs. monthly payment of website fees.**

When the new website launched in 2014, we pre-paid web hosting fees for three years thru Aug 2017. By Aug, we have to pay either monthly or annually. For simplicity and to get a discount in the form of a free month, website fees will be paid annually from now on. This no longer needs to be discussed at board meetings.

5. Administration

- a. How do we want to conduct business for 2017? Email, meetings, ... Officer meeting before regular meeting.**

There was broad agreement that three board meetings in a year seems about right – a kick-off meeting at the beginning of the year, a mid-year meeting focused on Show readiness, and a fall meeting to prepare for the Nov annual meeting. In-between, business can be conducted via email. If needed, we can informally huddle before a monthly meeting.

6. Other Topics

- a. Guild lending library.**

Mark explained that the Guild Chair has traditionally been in charge of the Guild lending library. Michael Wallace has volunteered to maintain it going forward, and the board is appreciative and fully supportive of this. Loan requests will still go to Mark, and he will simply forward them to Michael, who will handle the logistics. There was a discussion about whether to continually buy more DVDs to keep the library fresh, or whether this is a poor use of funds in the age of YouTube. No purchase of DVDs was authorized.

- b. Running monthly meetings.**

Based on the Jan monthly meeting, Mark observed that we need to better plan the initial/pre-speaker part of the monthly meetings. Tom should open the meeting, and deliver the Chairman's message. We should always ask new members and guests to introduce themselves. We should know who will introduce the speaker – typically the (acting) Program Chair. We should know if other board members want to speak – for example, between now and Sep Don will likely give a brief update about the Show each month, perhaps soliciting volunteers. There was agreement that the agenda can be created over email.

- c. Educational support group.**

Michael reported that an Education Committee was established in 2016. The committee was focused on supporting high-school education in Sonoma County. For detailed history, please see the SCWA minutes from 2016. The Education Committee did not finish its work in 2016. Since the committee sunset at the end of last year, Michael asked that the Education Committee be re-established for 2017. The members of the committee would remain unchanged. The committee would aim to better understand the woodworking programs

in 15 high-schools in Sonoma County, and ask them what receiving "support" from SCWA might look like. It is easy to assume that support means money, but there could be numerous other ways in which high-schools could need/receive support – regular mentoring, talks, demonstrations, etc. Once the committee has completed its assessment, it will report back to the board – what would support look like for the various schools, and how does the committee envision SCWA can best help. No commitment was made from the board regarding specific support of any of these requests – we need to better understand what support might look like before we discuss whether/how to support the schools. No funds were authorized.

- d. Process for bylaw changes.**

Michael asked for guidelines as to how one might propose changes to the bylaws. Lars, who is responsible for maintaining our bylaws, explained that according to Section VIII.B of the bylaws, the board will review proposals for "consistency" and "appropriateness" prior to a vote by the general membership. Michael explained that he is an English Major, that he did not know what "consistency" and "appropriateness" meant, and that he would like a more precise definition so he could feel assured that any proposed changes would be accepted by the board. Lars rejected the request, and asserted that if and when a proposal to change the bylaws is submitted to the board, the board is fully capable of making a fair assessment of its "consistency" and "appropriateness."

- e. Spending our surplus.**

Michael noted that we have a large surplus, and argued for spending it.

The meeting ended at 6:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lars Andersen
SCWA Secretary.

Officers of the Association

<u>Chairman</u>	Tom Vogel	<u>Secretary</u>	Lars Andersen
<u>Program Chair</u>	vacant	<u>Guild Chair</u>	Mark Tindley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Judith Garland	<u>Show Chair</u>	Don Jereb
<u>Editor</u>	Joe Scannell	<u>Web Master</u>	Steve Greenberg

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. Advertisements are also accepted with a nominal cost for paid members.

Membership Application

I would like to join the SCWA to meet other people interested in the craft, the art and the business of fine wood-working. 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.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

What can you do to help further the organizational goals of our volunteer-run association? Please tell us how you would like to help:

Please send check and completed application to:

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