

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 1998

April 16 Meeting

3rd Thursday

REFRESHMENTS 7:00PM

MEETING STARTS 7:30PM

This month we will again be meeting back at **HAFELE**. Our own **Bob Berryman** will give a presentation on his work, among which numbers 20+, exquisite Maloof style rockers. In addition to being a very interesting person, Bob has mastered the fine art of furniture making and woodworking. He will share his experiences and thoughts with us. Bring your notebooks and prepare to be entertained! In addition we will be judging the **2 x 4 Contest**, so bring your entries. Call 415/241-9176 for directions to HAFELE.

HAFELE is at **151 Vermont Street, Suite 9, San Francisco**. (No address on building. It's in the **VERMONT CENTER SHOWROOM**, between **15th Street** and **Alameda**.)

North on 101: Past **Army**, take **Vermont St.** exit, then immediate left and straight down hill on **Vermont**, 3 1/2 blocks. Look for cars.

- or -

East Bay: Take **Bay Bridge**, exit on **9th Street**. At bottom of ramp, go left at the "Y," immediately get in right lane. Go down to the "**Round-a-bout**" and turn right. Go 1 block. Turn left on **Vermont St.** Go 1-1/2 blocks. Look for cars.

- or -

South on 101: Take **Van Ness** to end, (where it becomes S. Van Ness). Turn right at the signal and continue on **S. Van Ness**. Get in the left turn lane and turn left at signal. Follow along *under* freeway 6 or 7 blocks. Turn right on **Potrero**, then left on **15th**. Go to **Vermont**. Look for cars.

OFFICERS

President Mike Bray 510/595-8168
 Vice Pres. Frank Hungler 650/343-9559
 Secretary Tony Fanning 650/323-1183
 Treasurer Linda Salter 650/365-4093
 Newsletter Craig Mineweaser . 408/926-1900

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Program Stan Booker 510/522-7879
 Hospitality Gene Wagg 510/527-5805
 and Don Wagg 510/769-8901
 Membership Pending
 Shows Pending
 Outreach Amie Champagne . 415-282-1704
 Librarian Rodney Finlay 650-747-9572

For any questions or information about BAWA programs, contact Stan Booker (evenings).

LAST MEETING

by Tony Fanning

Past President, Stan Booker filled in at the last minute for President, Mike Bray who had the flu. There were quite a few visitors and new members introduced, whose names unfortunately were not captured at the time.

Rodney Finlay, our BAWA librarian, has had a rough time of it lately. His La Honda home was flooded during the recent rains. He has also had a stay in the hospital. (You can read more about him on page 2.)

Stan reminded us of the annual 2x4 contest, and encouraged participation as broad as last year's. He also

(continued on back page)

Upcoming 1998 BAWA Meetings

Next 2 meetings: May 21 and June 25.

Program Chair, **Stan Booker** is lining up some great meetings so for further details, stay tuned to this space.

MEMBER FAVORITES

Members, what's your favorite place for buying tools, lumber, supplies, etc.? Let the editor know so it can appear in this list.

Variety of Woodworking Supplies and Materials

Craig Mineweaser's pick:

Tool Crib of the North a mail order house with good prices, no tax. Call 1/800/358-4096 and ask for the big, annual catalog, not just the little flyers.

Tool Storage in your Pickup

Craig Mineweaser's pick:

TruckVault 1/800/967-8107 or www.truckvault.com. Talk about fancy and secure -- you gotta' see it to believe it.

(Note: This is not an endorsement by BAWA. It is the sole opinion of the member(s) listed.)

SEND IT IN

Have something you want published in this newsletter?

Tell our members about: Ideas for future meetings, photographs, announcements, exhibits, shows or events?

Send to:

BAWA Newsletter Editor
3251 Almansa Court
San Jose, CA 95127-1001

or

408/926-1900 voice

408/926-7078 fax

researchchem@msn.com e-mail

Next issue DEADLINE:

May 2, 1998

MEET BAWA MEMBER: Rodney Finlay

by Craig Mineweaser

This article is the third of a new series of interviews with BAWA members. In the coming months you will be able to learn what our members are doing, and get the opportunity to know them better.

Meet our librarian, **Rodney Finlay**, a man of amazing resilience. Rodney was recuperating at his mother's house from a double embolism which included an emergency helicopter trip to Stanford hospital. After losing electricity at 4 p.m., the skies opened up the night of February 2, 1998, and the rains poured down. Now the San Gregorio Creek in La Honda was rising alarmingly fast. At about 2 a.m. they were awakened by the angry sound of tree limbs slamming into the side of house. The wall of water smashed the limbs through the windows, and water soon filled the first floor. By now Rodney's cottage on the same property was also underwater. They huddled on the rear deck, the steps and part of the railing torn away. By 3 a.m., when they were evacuated on a paddle board by a Swift Water Rescue Team, the creek had crested at 8 feet and was starting to go back down. "It was scary, but these guys were amazing. They get special training for this. Some of the volunteer (rescuers) had come from as far as Grass Valley to help."

All Rodney's possessions in his cottage and everything on the first floor of his mother's house was covered with mud. Even our club video tapes, which he had carefully placed up high in anticipation of a flood, were destroyed. He said he knew the cottage was bound to get water, "but I never expected an 8-foot-high wall to come washing downstream with such force." He had four ocean going cargo containers full of tools and shop materials. Two of them are downstream about a mile, all four were full of mud. "I had just started to build a 36' x 40' Steelmaster metal building on the other side of the creek as my shop. It's all gone."

Now, each day -- in between the rains -- he spends sorting through everything. Most he carries up to the road to be hauled away to the dump. A few things, like some hand tools, he's been able to clean up and salvage. Everything he had in his cottage is gone. All his power tools are gone. His library, his pool table, his shop -- all gone. The first floor of the main house will be demolished. And yet, what does Rodney talk about?

"You can't waste time feeling sorry for yourself. You have to be positive and just deal with it. So I'll build my shop elsewhere. I still find the 'Five Acres and Independence' book appealing. I am interested in building bird feeders, pergolas, and outdoor structures. I had just started to set that up."

In grammar school he was inspired by a strict shop teacher who made the class draw each project first and then gave them a good grounding in hand tools. "(Our projects) had to be square and plumb. We were graded on this. . . . I was always curious and interested in a lot of different things. . . . In high school, I took an

(continued on back of insert page)

MEET BAWA MEMBER: Rodney Finlay (cont. from p.2)

(experimental) course in bacteriology. After graduation I went in the Navy." Rodney was thrilled that the Navy taught him boat-building, welding, fire-fighting and many other skills. "The hospital ship I was on in '53 went to Saigon to rescue some French Legionaries. While his ship was serving as a hospital base in Korea he taught classes to his ship mates and others in leathercraft a couple nights a week. What he liked best were "the Dali-type figures I did on some custom wallets."

Rodney loves to travel. A friend let him go on a cruise ship to England. He liked Stonehenge. He toured through Amsterdam, Belgium, Switzerland, France and Italy. "I ran out of money in Paris, so I walked 3 1/2 days to La Harve to meet the ship. I was knocked over by the antiquity of the buildings." But his biggest thrill was seeing Pope Pius III at his summer palace. Upon returning to New York, he hitch-hiked cross country to the Bay Area. Then he went to college, majoring in sociology, but he soon found he could make decent money working nights setting up trade shows at the Palace Hotel. Four years later he went to work for the Saint Francis and after four more he moved to the Fairmont, where he worked for 28 years.

While at the Fairmont, he had been doing some woodworking some in his brother-in-law's basement shop. "But after retiring at 62, I wanted to get on with my second life – woodworking." He also had been a volunteer set builder for a local theater. "My first project was a volcano. I rigged it so you could shoot a fire extin-

guisher up a dryer vent I hid inside. They put colored lights on the (carbon dioxide) as it shot out the top and it looked very realistic." Stage work is fun because "you have to make something from practically nothing. Its very 'low tech' and I'm very self-sufficient and practical, so it's appealing."

Which brings us back to today. He was just getting his shop set up to make outdoor structures, and do more theater. Now he has to start all over again. Yet Rodney's perseverance and positive attitude is amazing. In response to "How can we help you," this self-sufficient woodworker asks "No -- how can I help you?"

The good news is the property is being sold, and yes, Rodney had some things insured, but he is starting over. Right now you can reach Rodney at a temporary number: 650/747-0481, and or mail to his home at 6719 La Honda Road, Rt #1, Box 108, La Honda, CA 94020.

ANNUAL 2 x 4 CONTEST

Last call for entries for our annual 2 x 4 Contest. **BRING THEM TO THE APRIL MEETING.**

Rules: Use only Douglas Fir with a maximum dimension of 2"x4"x8' as materials for the **entire** project. You can make anything you wish, within these limits.

Projects will be judged at the **April 16 meeting by BAWA**. Several great prizes to be awarded, including a handmade marking knife, a plane, and a \$25 gift certificate, so start soon if you plan to compete. This is always a fun contest and there have been some great projects presented in previous years.

FOR SALE

- Classic water-cooled sharpening wheel. 415/282-1704
 - Several reversible electric motors. 510/284-7966
 - Shop machinery including table saw, miter saw, shaper, small planer, etc. Leaving country soon. 510/238-8701.
- Wanted:* Inexpensive Excalibur scroll saw. 650/365-4093

Members, if you've got a woodworking tool for sale, place your ad here. You know your item will go to a good home!

CHRISTMAS in APRIL?

Remember you can still volunteer to help renovate a house on April 30. Crews will be building in Oakland, Albany, Berkeley and on the Peninsula. If you want to be on a crew in the West Bay, call **Arnie Champagne**, 415/282-1402. East Bay call **Mike Bray**, 510/595-8168. Don't miss the fun!

LAST MONTH'S PRESENTATIONS

(continued from page 5.)

A strongback form of 2" x 6" lumber with cross-sections shaped from 3/4" plywood was the armature on which the strips were stapled, with decorative placement of contrasting woods. After smoothing the wood surfaces, two layers of fiberglass cloth were epoxied onto the outside; the strongback form was removed and the inside was smoothed and epoxied. The gunwales were shaped and added to the shell, and then the deck, seat frames, and yoke were added and finished. Rawhide seats were stretched across the seat frames. Finally, polyurethane varnish over the inside and outside preserved the transparent glow of the wood. Result: a sturdy and practical canoe which is also a work of art.

Attention Members

from the Editor

Hey BAWA member, see the form at the right?

Yeah, that one. Please fill it out and return it as soon as possible with your renewal check. We're transferring all of the information about our club, including our club records, into computer format. Much of the info we have on our members is not up to date. So, when you renew, please fill out and give our treasurer this form and we'll enter it into the computer.

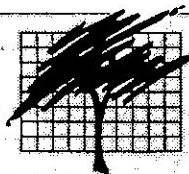
The sooner you do this, the sooner BAWA will receive the operating money we depend on to continue bringing you the high quality programs and other benefits that our members receive each month. If you've already renewed, we still need the info, so fill out the form anyway and send it in.

DO IT TODAY !!

BAWA: Who We Are

The Bay Area Woodworkers Association was formed in 1982 by a small group of dedicated people who felt the need to strengthen the woodworking community by holding regular meetings, establishing an informal forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, sponsoring shows and meeting others in woodworking and related fields. Since then, this non-profit organization has grown to many members.

BAWA meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00PM. Meetings usually have a specific topic, such as router techniques, finishing, turning, or business aspects of woodworking; or focus on a distinguished guest speaker who gives a presentation in his area of expertise. Meetings are held at TOOLAND in San Carlos, or at woodworking shops and businesses in the Bay Area.



**BAY AREA
WOODWORKERS
ASSOCIATION**

Membership Application / Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip +4 _____

Work Phone () _____

Home Phone () _____

Profession: _____

Speciality/Interests (List): _____

Skill Level: ☐ Professional ☐ Amateur ☐ Beginner

☐ Please don't circulate my name/address to other organizations.

I would be willing to volunteer for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter for Guests/New Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee or Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality for Guest Speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating/ Election Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Set-Up/Clean-Up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Toys for Tots projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organize Tours-Woodworkers' Shops | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and Community Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Show Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian for Video Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Show and Exhibit Coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Handling AV Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter articles or Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity for BAWA in Local Press | |

Check as many as you want, but check at least one.

BAWA Membership Dues

BAWA dues are currently \$25.00 per year (family memberships are \$30.00 per year) payable by December for the following year.

Membership can begin during any month of the year. Make check payable to BAWA. Bring it **AND THIS FORM** to the monthly meeting, or mail to:

BAWA TREASURER
2527 1/2 Graceland Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Membership Application/Renewal

FURNITURE SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1998

The Furniture Conference 1998

Thurs. June 25th at
Oakland Museum
Fri, Sat & Sun, June 26 - 28 at
CCAC in SF

Admission: about \$70/day or \$200/conference with separate admission for extra events.

Speakers and Demonstrations: our own **Yeung Chan**, Gary Bennett, Art Carpenter, John Cedarquist, James Krenov, Kristina Madsen, Toshio Odate, and more...

Exhibit: there will be an exhibit of members furniture. So join the society and you may get national exposure for your work!

The conference is put on by the Furniture Society which is composed of furniture makers, collectors, suppliers and furniture lovers in general. Annual membership cost is \$30.00 and includes a newsletter, web site, resource directory (an incredibly rich source of contacts!).

To join or for more information on the Conference contact:

The Furniture Society
Box 18
Free Union, VA 22940
Ph (804) 973-1488 or e-mail
Furniture@avenue.org

If you're willing to volunteer or have ideas to contribute call Mike Bray, 510/595-8168, or e-mail mbray@ix.netcom.com.

SHOW YOUR STUFF

Thomas Moser Cabinetmakers needs our help! John Walker from TMC will be setting up a display of wooden hand planes in their San Francisco showroom and wants us to furnish the planes. The display will run from May 1st to just after the July 4th weekend. You may sell your planes on consignment there if you wish. Antique and recently hand-made planes of any type are sought for this table top display. John will be at HAFELE during our April meeting to tell us more. If you have a little box or pedestal for displaying your plane, include it too.

For more information call John Walker, 415/931-8131, or Mike Bray, 510/595-8168, or e-mail mbray@ix.netcom.com.

LAST MONTH'S PRESENTATIONS

by Tony Fanning

(See "Last Meeting" on p. 6 for intro to this story.)

WINDSOR CHAIR MAKING

Alvin Lichty, current TRW President, is so much a toolmaker and engineer that it's almost scary. He not only builds his own jigs but his own tools—John Schmidt says Alvin has the ability to turn a four-foot bowl in his workshop. When Alvin visited the Thomas Moser factory in Portland, Maine, his wife fell in love with a Windsor chair and wanted one; like most of us, Alvin reacted by saying, "I can make one of those." He took some photos and a few measurements, and went to work on his first chair ever, a mix of cherry and maple.

Alvin approached the chair like the engineer he is. He considered the splay of the legs, the positioning of the seat, and the angles of the spindles in the seat and in the top, and the shaping of the arms and back. To solve the problems he encountered, he built a seat template as the base from which he measured all angles; he built a compound-angle drilling jig for leg and spindle

placement; he bent soft copper tubing for the arm shape and used this to form a laminating jig for the elaborately-curved arm piece. Using 3/32" cherry strips and polyurethane glue he was able to glue up a piece with only 1/4" springback. The whole chair was assembled with decorative exposed joints—spindle and wedge construction.

Alvin also showed us the spectacular tractor-seat stool he made using the same techniques and jigs. The seat was massive black walnut pieces shaped after an actual tractor seat. Alvin shaped the seat first with a chainsaw, then with a heavy-grit disk sander, then with scrapers. The curly maple legs were installed using the same techniques he used in building the Windsor chair.

STRIP CANOE BUILDING

Richard Spoon then showed us his latest strip canoe, a fourteen-foot beauty made with nine species of wood (including redwood burl, black walnut, redwood, sugar pine, western red cedar, ash, oak, and chestnut). He stepped us through construction details and then gave a

brief slide show.

A strip canoe is a marvel of engineering. The wood shell is only a quarter-inch thick, and provides mostly the shape of the canoe; transparent fiberglass cloth and epoxy provide rigidity and strength.

Richard contrasted his canoe with the "\$200 canoe you can buy at Costco that's stamped out in 27 seconds." His canoe took 150 hours to finish and cost about \$1000 for all wood, epoxy, fiberglass, and varnish. "So you take care of it for the rest of your life. You feel good on the water. It's so light that it glides like a leaf."

Richard recommends Gil Patrick's book *Building a Strip Canoe*, from Delorme Press in Maine. It has step-by-step plans and full-sized plans are also available from the author. He also had suggestions for buying and using epoxy and fiberglass cloth. The 1/4" x 3/4" wood strips were prepared with table saw and band saw, then cove-and-beaded on the shaper for easy handling and joining.

(continued on page 4.)

San Mateo, CA 94402-5481
PO Box 5481



LAST MEETING (cont. from page 1.)

announced that Sandor Nagyszalanczy, who was scheduled for the February BAWA meeting, is eager to present to BAWA when we can reschedule. As you remember, the heavy rains closed the roads from Santa Cruz and Sandor couldn't reach us.

Stan also said the schedule for 1998 BAWA meetings is filling in nicely. Member Yeung Chan has agreed to give a presentation, plus there are two potential East Bay meetings, one on water stones at Woodline/The Japan Woodworker, one with custom furniture maker Jaap Romain, whose been in the business for about 40 years, and maybe a presentation by Warren White, who runs a small mill in Stockton. DeWalt Power Tools has offered to do a tool showing. So the year looks good.

SHOW AND TELL: Member George Comstock showed us cherry wood

slabs that he had cut from a fallen cherry tree two years ago. He wrapped them in black plastic and left them outdoors for drying. As it was a small tree, and he slabbed 1" and 2" pieces from it, there was some warpage—kind of like strips of bacon. We spent some time arguing about whether he might have done anything to avoid this.

PRESENTATIONS: In February, the Tuolumne River Woodworkers (TRW) hosted our own Carl Johnson and Arnie Champagne, who gave a marquetry demonstration and presentation. This past month, two members of TRW, Alvin Lichty and Richard Spoon, returned the favor. They were introduced by our own John Schmidt—also a member TRW. John praised the advantages of having exchange programs among our regional groups. (You can read about these on p.5).

TRIPS and CLASSES

- Arnie Champagne is holding another **MARQUETRY CLASS** at his shop on the weekend of May 2 - 3. In addition to basic marquetry techniques, he'll teach how to set up a bandsaw and jointer, how to prepare veneers, etc. Call him at 415/282-1704.

- Yeung Chan will teach a **TOOL-MAKING CLASS** at his shop on the weekend of May 9 - 10. He'll demonstrate how to prepare and sharpen knives and chisels. Call him at 415/872-1628.

- Al Semenero is organizing an **ORGANMAKER'S SHOP TOUR** for some Saturday soon. He has 5 people so far and is looking for 10-12 to sign up so he can set the date. There is a lot of woodworking in organ making. Call him at 650/595-1273.

Members can list their classes or activities here. Call the editor at 408/926-1900 or e-mail him at researchchem@msn.com.