

BAY AREA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING BAY AREA WOODWORKERS SINCE 1982

Newsletter

June

2001

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

June 21st

3rd Thursday

Starts 7:00 pm Sharp!

Our June 2001 BAWA meeting will be held in Oakland. It is somewhat complicated to get there so read the directions carefully!

Our main program will start at 7:00 pm and will be at Joinery Structures run by Paul Discoc, an ordained Zen priest. Joinery Structures is many things and it is not clear the total extent of their design/build operations. Their work primarily involves Japanese-style timber frame construction for houses and mansions throughout the Bay Area. Joinery Structures has a timber mill site as well as a design center with a shop where the the post and beam elements are created down to hand planed finish before shipping out. Additionally, there is a team from Joinery Structures at construction sites that erect the often tedious elements that were prepared in Oakland. Paul Discoc studied temple building in Japan for at least five years and based on some web-browsing, has participated in the design and building of many authentic or heavily Japanese-influenced designs: Greens restaurant in San Francisco, Green Gulch Zen Center and some residences in the Bay Area.

At 7 PM, schedule permitting, Paul Driscoc will talk with us for 15 or 20 minutes regarding the work and history of Joinery Structures (this will be in lieu of a Tech Talk). Then, we will immediately move to the shop area to tour the large shop

See **MEETING NOTES**, page 3

Directions:

From the Bay Bridge: Take 880 South and exit at West Grand Avenue. Follow West Grand (Heading East) until you reach Peralta Street where you turn left (North) for a block until you reach 24th Street - take a right and very soon take a left onto Kirkham. Go to 2500 on your right. Find the best parking that you can.

From the South: Heading North on 880, take the 7th St. exit which has a long exit and go right (East) onto West Grand Avenue and proceed a short distance until Peralta Street where you turn left (North) for a block until you reach 24th Street - take a right and very soon take a left onto Kirkham. Go to 2500 on your right. Find the best parking that you can.

From the East: Proceed West on 580. Exit Market Street but use 6th Street to continue westward. Continue until you reach Peralta Street and take a left. Continue on Peralta until 26th Street where you turn slightly left onto Kirkham. Head South on Kirkham until 2500 which will be on your left. Find the best parking that you can.

From the North: Go from 80 to 880 and take the West Grand Avenue exit. Proceed South and turn left onto West Grand Avenue (heading East), proceed a short distance to Peralta Street where you turn left (North) for a block until you reach 24th Street - take a right and very soon take a left onto Kirkham. Go to 2500 on your right. Find the best parking that you can.

(SEE MAP ON PAGE 3)

From Our President: **Linda Salter**

It's been a great couple of months in my shop. I love it when I'm working on new work-it's exciting. The new work is my segmented bowls. They are exciting and challenging to do. There is a lot of planning and thinking to do before starting a bowl-loads of problems to work out. It's giving my brain a workout (no comments please). It's also good because it combines woodturning and woodworking. In the past few years, aside from the puzzles, I find that all my time is spent woodturning. Of course, there are a few problems to deal with such as turning is relatively quiet and woodworking is not. I'd forgotten how loud the planer, jointer and table saw are especially if you are using them for any length of time. Also there is the problem of cooking-I don't want to! I have to tear myself away from the shop to go upstairs and cook dinner. One night Dick came down to the shop after 8 pm and said "I guess we're eating late tonight, huh?" Tactful isn't he? Lately, whenever he wants to find me, he just heads to the shop. I'm there some days before sun-up and after midnight. I do love a new project.

Last Month's Meeting

By Craig Mineweaser - Secretary

Last month's meeting was held at **The Japan Woodworker** in Alameda. Our guest speaker was **John Burt**. John is a very interesting and talented woodworker. Born in Japan, he did a variety of things, including blacksmithing, before studying Japanese ways of woodworking. John shared with us his philosophy and approach to many things about woodworking and woodworking tools. For example, "If you can't sharpen, you're lost." And "Sharpening is a tactile and auditory experience." He showed us many details of metallurgy, sharpening style, approach to one's work and so on too numerous to mention here. It was good information! Thanks for sharing your knowledge with us John.

John talked about making a set of Japanese measuring sticks or "shitaba jyogi". Used as a straight edge, to check the bottoms of planes, etc. The edge of these sticks can be kept flat by grinding on sandpaper stuck to a special flat granite stone. (Our host, **The Japan Woodworker** has both the granite blocks and adhesive backed sandpaper on sale.) To keep the sticks stable when not in use, the halves are held together face-to-face by dovetail keys of boxwood which protrude from one face and slide and wedge into tapered dovetail sockets mortised in the other. The set he showed was made of Cuban mahogany, but he encouraged us to make several of them from different woods so that we could see how a particular species of wood behaves over time.

Business Meeting

Treasurer **Don Stern** reports that we have \$2,350 (plus or minus) in our bank account. Newsletter editor **Mike Bray** emailed a newsletter to many of the members with email addresses. Outreach Co-Chair **Bill Henzel** reported on two projects BAWA members participated in for '**Rebuilding Together**' weekend. One project was building a set of stairs and a member told of the difficulties they had in working on site that day. The other project was building a large set of cabinets for a community room in a church. Secretary **Craig Mineweaser** noted that prior to the event, **Bill** had designed and measured the cabinetry installation, then purchased and cut 30 sheets of plywood to make the cabinets for the job and delivered it all to the site. Both teams worked very hard and had fun using our woodworking skills to produce something of lasting value for the two recipient organizations. Great job, guys

New Members and Guests

We had three guests attend the meeting. **Jay Fischer**, who's a hobbyist woodworker. **Neal White**, who has a piece displayed in one of **Fine Woodworking's** books on tables, and **Greg Rice**, who's a full time woodworker doing furniture and cabinets. **Claude Godcharles** of Menlo Park and **Jamie Buxton** of Redwood City have joined. Welcome to both.

Show and Tell

Yeung Chan passed around some machined dovetails and lap joints he had cut on a bandsaw. It was amazing to see these done freehand on the bandsaw. **Carl Johnson** allowed us to sit in a **George Nakashima** style chair. The seat is cantilevered off the leg, with a hidden joint, presenting a design challenge that Carl solved elegantly. He passed around a sample of his solution. **Bill Small** used the piece of **Fin Ply** plywood he received at our meeting at **Per Madsen's** shop to make a magazine storage box. **Linda Salter** showed another segmented bowl or vase she turned. This one had inlay stripes and is based on a paper pattern she made.

Door and Raffle Prizes

Glenn Krueg and **Jay Perrine** won the door prizes and **Mark Rand** and **Bob Holgan** won the hardwood pieces.

EDITORS-OUT AND IN

As **Mike Bray** mentioned a few meetings ago, personal and professional demands on his time makes it impossible for him to continue as the Newsletter editor. We will miss Mike's concise, well thought out and informative Newsletters. We owe him a big thanks for a job well done and hope that he can resume as Editor in the future.

As to me, I volunteered in a weak moment. Maybe I felt guilty. I have been a BAWA member since the early 90's and attended very few meetings. As to being a Newsletter editor, I do have some limited experience. I did the Newsletter for the Bay Area Woodturners (now West Bay) for about 4 years in the early 90's. However, it was using an ancient word processing program called Professional Write which was what I had at work. As to this Newsletter, I am on a huge learning curve. I am using a program which I never used before. With time, I can do better. In the meantime, please give me your FRANK comments and suggestions. I do not hold grudges! Mark Rand

IN MEMORIAM

Frank Sainsbury, longtime member, passed away in San Mateo on April 18th, 2001.

Captain Frank Sainsbury was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He served on many Army Transport Service ships, being Master on some. He was instrumental in gaining veteran status for merchant seamen, who had some of the highest casualty rates during wartime.

He was one of our older members who really enjoyed coming to meetings and would often bring something for show and tell. He would quietly discuss how he did the work, or bring a woodworking question or problem for the membership to ponder or give him advice on. He would show his work and he wasn't boastful or extremely animated but it was clear he liked woodworking. Frank made many small boxes of different styles.

This history was gathered from many of his BAWA friends. We knew Frank as a quiet, congenial and deferential man. His gentle enthusiasm and presence will be sorely missed by all.

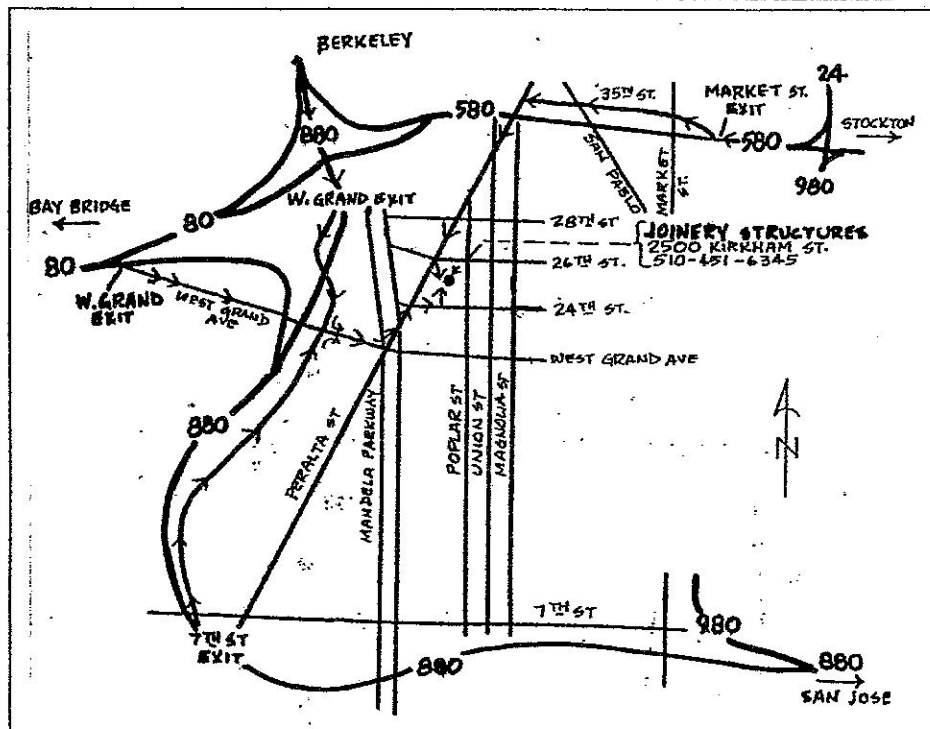
MEETING NOTES

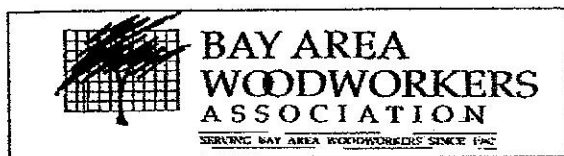
Continued from Page 1

where the timber frames pieces are prepared. Our coordinator for the evening will be Joinery Structures employee, Ed Russzel whose dad is a first cousin to Jay Perrine's wife. Ed runs the band saw mill (a few blocks from the shop) where many timbers get turned from log to various dimensions before entering the shop. Because Ed hopes to have one or more employees available to discuss the work, we will need to accommodate their schedule and thus move the club business and snacking to the end of our visit. There is a distinct possibility we will move to the second site 3 or 4 blocks away for the second portion of our tour. The final details will be known at the start of the meeting. This should prove to be a solid experience for our club, especially to members interested in Japanese tools and construction techniques.

NOTE: This area of Oakland is economically depressed. We are visiting in the Summer to allow members plenty of daylight for safe arrival. Parking on the street will be necessary to accommodate us all. Study the map carefully, as Kirkham Street only exists between 24th and 26th/Peralta Streets.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I would like to thank the officers and other members for the huge amount of support I received in doing this Newsletter. I hope to get better at it with time. Mark Rand





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Join or Renew Today!

On the Mailing label to the left, the date above your name tells when you need to renew your BAWA membership.

To join or renew, please call the Treasurer.

If you haven't joined yet, and there is no date on the label, it means that should join now, otherwise....

....**THIS MAY BE YOUR FINAL NEWSLETTER**

Important Dates

June

23rd - Toy Making Workshop at Bill Henzel's shop. He says HELP!

July - September

Jay is working to bring us some more great programs.

October

Jigs & Fixtures - Bring your handy helpers.
Make a scale model if you have to or bring the real thing.

Submission Deadline:

First Friday of every month
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For questions or information about BAWA programs,
please contact Jay Perrine