



# SLIGHTLY

# SKEWED

**Journal of the Glendale Woodturners Guild**  
545 TANGIER AVE, PLACENTIA CA 92870 (714) 528-4783

Volume 8, Number 10 – October 2000

## NEXT MEETING

### October



Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2000  
2:00 p.m. Sharp  
Crescenta Valley Regional Park  
Recreation Center  
(See Map on Page 3) □

## PRESENTATION



**Brigantine Boat Project  
Slide Show**

## CHALLENGE

### Round Ball Challenge

If you haven't done one of these before, this is your chance. Get in the competition! □

## LAST MEETING

**Bill Haskell** conducted the meeting. He asked all first time visitors to introduce themselves and tell where they are from, they're turning experience and what kind of lathe they had. We two new visitors.

He welcomed our guest, Kevin Wallace from del Mano, who gave us a slide presentation during the meetng. Thanks, **Kevin** for a great job.

He mentioned that our steam engine was featured in AAW magazine, Woodworkers West and the Glendale News Press.

**Bill** discussed the upcoming key events in the 2000 Calendar.

He mentioned there were articles about our award winning antique steam fire engine model in the current issues of the American Woodturner and the Woodworker West magazines. Also, there is an article in the Glendale News Press.

**Don Comer** gave us a program report on the round ball workshop and upcoming challenge.

### The October Round Ball Contest

by **Don Comer**

During the October 8 meeting the challenge is going to be a little bit different from any challenge we have had before. Instead of the turning being judged for design, material, and finish, the only criteria will be how precise we can turn a wooden ball, and that criteria will not be left to human judgment. We will roll each ball down a chute, across the floor and the one that sticks closest to a straight line will be the winner. "Pretty" won't count. "Finish" won't count, unless your secret finish will allow your ball to roll straighter. Remember, to level the playing field, only

common, hand held woodturning tools will be allowed. The honor system will apply.

### **Official Rules for the Round Ball Contest**

#### **Objective:**

Determine who can turn the most perfect sphere from wood using only ordinary woodturning tools.

#### **Rules:**

1. Materials: any natural wood may be used. Beauty of the wood will not be a factor.
  - a. No plastic impregnated wood products such as paralam, diamond wood, MDF, plywood or similar products.
2. Maximum diameter: 5 inches. Minimum diameter: 2 ½ inches.
3. Must be made with ordinary tuning tools. (Honor system will apply.)
  - a. Cutting tools must be hand held.
  - b. No ornamental lathes.
  - c. No machine lathes.
  - d. No special jigs.
  - e. Cardboard templates are permitted.

#### **Judging:**

1. Balls will be released down a common chute.
2. Winner(s) will be determined by which ball stays closest to a predetermined line.
3. No blowing, sweeping or other "curling" techniques will be permitted.

### **Round Ball Demonstration Report**

By **Don Comer**

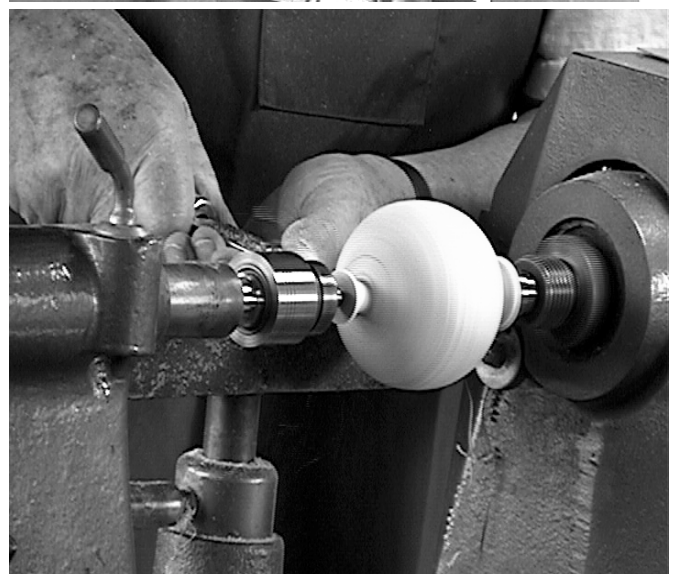
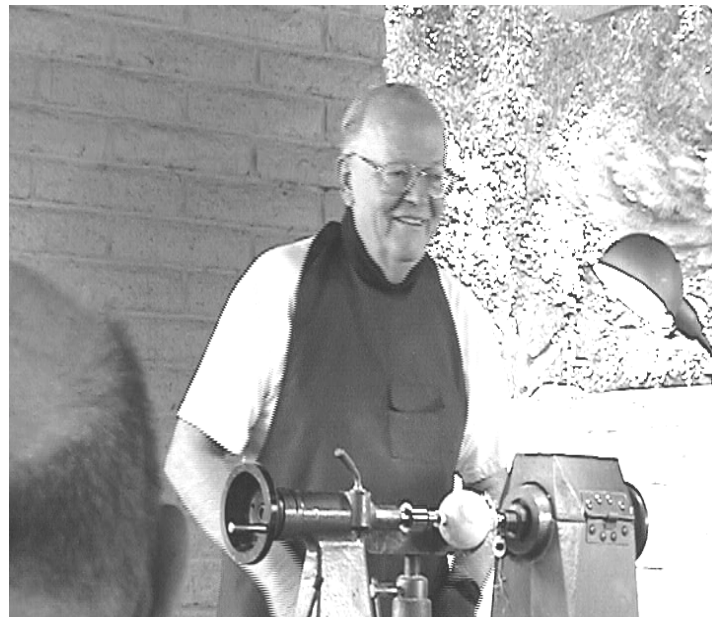
On Saturday, Sep 16, I gave a demonstration on methods of turning a round ball using ordinary handheld turning tools. It is possible to turn a wooden ball that is very nearly perfectly round if proper techniques, patience and skill is applied. But it's much harder to turn a ball that is round as opposed to one that just looks round. That is the reason for the Round Ball Contest which will be held next meeting, Oct 8.

I tried to illustrate the methods I (and several professionals) use by working through the different stages and showing my approaches to the problems involved. Starting with a hexagonal turning block held between centers, I rough it down to a near round ball using a cardboard template and finish it up with the work held in a jam chuck. Since I am a slow turner, time was

short and the temperature was hot, I glossed over some of the details, but the attendees asked many questions and everyone seemed satisfied when the session was over. If not, you know my phone number and e-mail address.

**Linda Hovenden** asked if I was going to enter the Round Ball Rolling contest Oct. 8. I replied I was not because I will be one of the contest officials. Since then I have decided that some of you probably would like to beat the old "Master" (?) at his own game so I am preparing one or two entries. So, if you want to have some fun, be sure to show up and bring your best shot for an entry. I'm not giving any odds or handicaps.

#### **Pictures by Don Comer**





All who took purpleheart wood to make belaying pins and other items for the gift shop to sell to help fund the brigantine boat project should be sure to bring their work to the next meeting. We will be having, as our special guest, **Captain Jim Gladson, President of the Topsail Youth Program**, (the recipient) of the two brigantine boats being constructed. We would like to present him with the work we have finished so far.

### Sad News

**Ed Pikari**, a member of the **Inland Woodturners**, passed away earlier this year and his wife is having an auction to sell his tools and equipment in his shop. **John Butler** will be the auctioneer on Sat. Oct. 21 in Corona. In addition to the auction of **Ed's** items, anyone wishing to bring and sell equipment or tools may do so on consignment for a 20% fee if they bring them by 9:30. See the bulletin board for details.

## SHOW AND TELL

**Curtis Thompson** displayed three nice Christmas ornaments of redwood burl and maple burl with box elder 2" dia 4 1/2" high finished in lacquer and a 14" serving plate of quilted maple, 14" dia and 1 1/4 high finished in tung oil and buffed. Great work as usual for **Curt**.

**Wes Hall** had 2 nice boxes of black locust and eucalyptus.

**Bill Haskell** brought a hollow vessel of lacewood with a pierced pebble design, a hollow vessel better half design of camphor, and a magnolia

platter with pierced pebble design with carved rim. Outstanding.

**Linda Emery** showed a jarah platter. A maple platter and a fig pecan bowl. Beautiful jobs.

**Pete Carta** displayed his small "platter" of quilted maple 10" dia. Very nice.

**Carrie Caires** had done a magnolia box and a bell shaped ring holder of carob. Good work.

**Ralph Otte** did a fine candlestick with an inlaid cross a top thimble and vase of purpleheart plus an exquisite tooth pick holder of pink ivory.

Jean Claude Brule had a segmented vessel of walnut, fish paper oak and padauk totaling 275 pieces. Magnificent piece.

**Jim Blumenkrantz** had two small lidded boxes of unknown wood finished in acrylic lacquer and a 10" platter of madrone burl also finished with acrylic lacquer. Very nice.

The winner of our platter challenge was **Curtis Thompson**. Our judges, **Dick Lukes** and **John Tarpley's** keen eyes did it again. **Curt** won a packet of sandpaper.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Susan Gendreau and Barry Friedman**  
We're glad to have you aboard! ☐

## 2000 GWG CALENDAR

### SUNDAY MEETINGS (start at 2PM)

Meetings usually consist of announcements, a feature presentation, Challenge, Show & Tell, and wood raffle.

**Nov. 12** GWG Meeting – Chucks and Chucking by **Bill Haskell** and Xmas Ornaments Challenge.

**Dec. 10** GWG Holiday Affair /Auction auctioneer **John Butler**

### SATURDAY WORKSHOPS (start at 9AM)

**Oct 14** Xmas Ornaments by **Bill Nelson**.

**Oct 28** **Soren Berger**, Professional New Zealand woodturner

**Nov 25** Hollow Vessels by **Steve D'Arc**.

**Dec** None



## President's Column

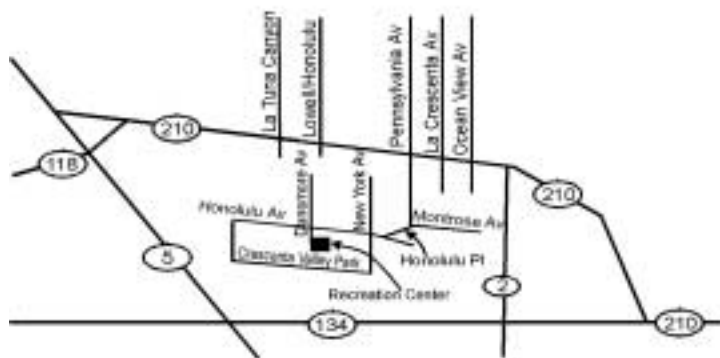
The lucky owner of our American LaFrance Steam Fire Engine drove down from the state of Washington to pick it up from **Don and Jackie Comer** last month. It was good to meet **Ron Gerton**, a fine woodturner in his own right, and to have him visit our September meeting. The fire engine went back with **Ron** to his home in Richland and he plans on making it a gift to his father, a retired fire chief from Denver, this coming Christmas. What a fantastic present!

Fall is upon us, next year is just around the corner, and the time is near to hold elections and fill positions for our organization. We will hold elections and ask for volunteers at our November meeting. One of the keys to the success of our group is the support and enthusiasm so many bring to all the things that need to be done. We need your help in stepping forward to fill one of the many positions, or to help find someone who will. We will need to fill several board positions, as well as find someone who will bring the food and drinks we enjoy at the meetings. Please give the matter some thought.

*Bill Haskell*

## HOW TO FIND US

Crescenta Valley Regional Park  
Recreation Center  
Dunsmore & Honolulu, La Crescenta



Thomas Guide 534-E-1

## HOW TO FIND US ON THE INTERNET

- (1) At our Web page <http://www.woodturners.org>, and
- (2) An e-mail List for Q&A and Information exchange within GWG at ([turnings-subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:turnings-subscribe@onelist.com)). If you have any questions please e-mail Harry Chittick at [newspro@att.net](mailto:newspro@att.net) or call him at 818-789-5290 evenings .

## Classified Ads

### For Sale

Sorby RS2 Lathe and Stand  
Spindle 1" 8 thread, 24 inch between centers, 3/4 hp 5 speed - 250 to 2400 rpm 13 inch swing over bed rotating headstock and accessories for large outboard turnings.

Contact Ed Hotchkin (626) 795-7726 or  
[edhotchkin@aol.com](mailto:edhotchkin@aol.com)

20 inch bandsaw. 50's Craftsman  
Excellent condition. \$750..

Contact Tom Kimbrell (805) 984-9701 or  
[tjpkimbrell@jps.net](mailto:tjpkimbrell@jps.net)

Don Comer's  
round ball  
entry



## How this for a closer

If you could count the number of times a cricket chirps in one minute, divide by 2, add 9 and divide by 2 again, you would have the correct temperature in celcius degrees...  
On the other hand you can always look at a thermometer.

*See you next meeting*



*Al Sobel, editor*



President: Bill Haskell (714) 528-4783 [bhask@home.com](mailto:bhask@home.com)  
Vice President: Don Comer (562) 928-4560 [dncom2@aol.com](mailto:dncom2@aol.com)  
Treasurer: Bob Devoe (818) 507-9331

Editor: Al Sobel (818) 360-5437 [alsobel@loop.com](mailto:alsobel@loop.com)  
Secretary: Steve Jacobs (626) 282-5499 [jacobsm@greenheart.com](mailto:jacobsm@greenheart.com)  
Librarian: Bill Nelson (310) 326-2163 [wnnelson@juno.com](mailto:wnnelson@juno.com)