



Slightly Skewed

Volume 11, Number 1-- January 2003

Next Meeting:

January 12, 2003

Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Sharp at
Crescenta Valley Regional
Park Recreation Center.

Presentation:

Don Comer will present a
seminar on finishing

Challenge:

There will be no Challenge at
the January meeting.

President's Column By Don Comer

By the time you read this we'll be beginning a whole New Year. I hope you all had a happy and loving Holiday Season and will continue with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Before the auction we presented Steve Jacobs and Al Sobel (photo below) with beautiful birds eye maple



Al Sobel, Steve Jacobs and Don Comer

desk sets for their five years of service to the club. The desk sets were made and donated by Jim Belknap who was unable to attend because of a severe case of flu or bronchitis. Let's hope Jim has recovered by this time.

At our January 12 meeting we are going to be looking forward to our club activities for 2003. I'll give a brief summary of the activity survey we took last November, and of course, we'll discuss any comments or questions you might want to bring up.



Our favorite elves, Alex and Trish

I'll bring you up to date on what little news I have on the upcoming AAW Symposium. Dan will give us a status report on his progress in lining up our program for the year. And I think Earleen will probably want to say a few words about the GWG show at the Brand Library. Dan or Bill Haskell will want to give us a report on the Project Hollywood Chapter Challenge a lot of you have been working on. (I've yet to get started on my parts).

Since we have a lot of new members and beginning turners, we thought it might be time to have another presentation on Finishing Methods. I'll do

President's Column *(Continued)*

the honors this time. I remember when I was a beginning turner how I went on an odyssey to discover the "perfect finish" for turnings. I wound up with a lot of cans of congealing finish setting around in my shop. Come to think of it, I still have a lot of cans of congealing finish setting around in my shop, but that's another matter. I won't be talking just about lacquer; I'll also consider several other finishes such as: acrylics, tung oil, Watco oil finish, polyurethane, regular varnish, waxes and maybe some others. It's a broad field but

we'll do the best we can in the short time we'll have available.

Take care and we'll see you January 12.



From the Editor's Desk

By Cheryl Schneiders

My thanks to the Don Comer and Kathy Benz for many of the excellent photos in this edition.

In the November issue, I proposed an ongoing handicap contest as a method of promoting interest in the challenges and at the same time encouraging beginners to compete and hone their skills. I only received about four emails in response so clearly my method didn't strike a chord with the majority of the members.

Still there is a problem and like most problems, it won't go away of its own accord. The problem is best summarized by a member who is a beginning turner who is no longer actively turning but still a member of the club who asked to remain anonymous. He wrote, "What's the point of entering the challenge when you know that Comer and Hogan and a couple others are always going to win?" But he wasn't thrilled with my solution, either.

Suppose a few of you less experienced turners put on your thinking caps and see what sort of solutions you can dream up. As space permits, I'll print your ideas.

Just to fire up your imagination, here's a few ideas.

There is currently a beginner's class in the challenge competition but it has not been well publicized and it doesn't work very well. An obvious first step is to fix that problem

The challenges are important because they represent goals, projects that must be completed in a satisfactory manner by a deadline. Perhaps it should be a club requirement that each member participate in at least four challenges a year, one every three months.

What's the penalty for not

meeting the requirement? Suppose at next year's auction the lazy turners have to purchase at auction challenge pieces made by the more industrious members?

On the back page of this issue is a list of experienced turners who have volunteered to be mentors, to help less experienced turners learn some skills. Suppose each mentor helps one promising beginner to complete a challenge piece.

Suppose we have a beginner's corner in this newsletter where we feature the work of one beginner each month?

President Don says, "The GWG Activities Plan is pretty much in a state of flux. We're going to discuss it in some detail in the January 12 meeting. If you want to influence or participate in what we do this year, be sure to be at that meeting." Yes! Come with ideas!

Happy New Year!

Party Time!



For those of you who could not attend, we had an enjoyable and profitable time at the Christmas party. Bill Kelley did another great job as auctioneer. It's fun to watch Bill in action even if he's not selling something you want to buy. Alex and Trish were our elfin helpers who delivered the purchases to the winners. Ken Pazera and Oscar Harris (Our faithful park rep) brought the items up to Bill. And Ed Hotchkin and Steve Jacobs were the record

keepers and cashiers. We had a lot of spirited bidding, especially for the pro turner's donated pieces and some white haired lady went crazy bidding on my little alabaster bowl. We had so many valuable donations and such interesting bidding battles that it all fades in my memory into one big laughable and chaotic fun time. In addition we made over \$2,300 so now we can pay the club's expenses for the next year and to send the President and the First

Lady on a much deserved vacation to Hawaii as we've all been wanting to do. The food you all brought to the party was really delicious and impressive. The cooks in the club really out did themselves this year. So many fine dishes were brought to share I can't do credit to them all. Cathy Pearman was in charge of the basic arrangements, with a little help from Jackie, and she really made the place look festive with all the bright tablecloths and poinsettia decorations.

Brigantines Report By Bill Kelly

Our brigantines, Irving Johnson and Exy Johnson joined Swift of Ipswitch and Bill of Rights to lead the Los Angeles Harbor Christmas Boat Parade in early December. The two new brigs are looking fine on the surface but much work remains to be done.

Amos Thompson is making some escutcheons of tatabu for the dingy davits and I made two binnacles which are compass mounts. Irving is coming along faster than Exy at this writing.

The anchor chains were laid out and depth markings painted on Irving while Exy's chain rests in a heap on her foredeck. The galleys are taking shape, but we are still waiting for drawings before the six-foot pillars can be turned.

The sailing dates for GWG members are tentatively set for May, June and July. More on this later.



Sailor Bill Kelly became an auctioneer for a day.

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2003 Calendar

The full calendar for 2003 will be filled in as the planning is completed. For now the dates for the regular monthly meetings are reported below. Demonstrations normally fall on the following Saturday. The actual dates will depend on the availability of demonstrators.

Note: the June and May meetings will be held a week earlier than normal to avoid conflicts with Mother's day and the Sleepy Hollow Carver's Annual Show.

Sunday Meetings

January 12	July 13
February 9	August 10
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 4	November 8
June 1	December 14

GWG Mentors List

Goblet Rings & Spiral Work:

Bill Kelly, Rancho Palos Verdes -
(310) 541-1144

Hollow Vessels:

Bill Haskell, Placentia - (714) 528-4783

Kaleidoscopes:

Bob Coleberd, Granada Hills
(818) 368-3525

Lidded Boxes:

Al Sobel, Northridge - (818) 360-5437

Pens:

Wes Hall, Palmdale - (661) 947-9326

Segmented Work:

Don Comer, Downey - (562) 928-4560

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