



Chips & Chatter

Newsletter for the Silicon Valley Woodturners

December 2025

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President's Turn

Happy holidays, SVW!

Our annual holiday dinner this month was once again a success—with good food, great camaraderie, wonderful gifts, and a lot of fun stealing... um, I mean exchanging them. And thanks again to Angela for another creative icebreaker game, which not only sparked great conversation but also helped us remember some of what we've learned this year through the Show and Tell photos.

Thank you as well to all of the presenters we had this year, the organizers of our two professional demos, and everyone else who contributes in so many ways to continually make this club an enjoyable place to learn and improve our woodturning skills. I've said it before, and I'll say it again—I'm proud to be associated with such a creative group of people. 😊

And apparently, I'm not the only one who enjoys this club. I've just taken a look at our roster, and we're now up to 80 members! I also noticed that 20 of our members are new this year, and that over half of our membership has joined within the last three years. I'm excited about the club's growth, and as we begin preparing next year's calendar, I'm left with two questions.

First, for our newer members: what woodturning projects or skills would you like to see featured in our monthly demos? Is there anything in particular you'd like to learn or focus on?

Second, for our "old"—excuse me—seasoned turners: the same question. What skills would you like to focus on? Or alternatively, what skills do you have that you'd be willing to share? Our calendar still has nine open slots for one-hour monthly demos of your expertise! 😊

Please let me, or any board member, know your thoughts and desires for woodturning instructional demos in the upcoming year.

Happy turning, and keep creating!

Kevin

Announcements

The next meeting will be on January 7 - bring a bead to exchange (Presidents Challenge) Also it will be the final meeting for 2025 challenge makeups. See the Ironman Tracker at the end of the newsletter for current standings.

Club membership dues for 2026 start in January.

Membership Has Its Benefits

Contribution by David Vannier

So why join a woodturning club? There are so many benefits. Some people think it is the discounts we get by pooling our purchases. This has recently included everything from turning tools to bandsaw blades. As well as our bulk purchase of wood sealer. Some will point to our shared notices about wood availability, the wood alert on the slack channel. Others will point to the inspiration from the show and tell, or the challenge of learning something new from participating in the president's challenge.

Never forget the learning opportunities. We have a demonstration at each of our meetings, usually by one of our talented members. There are hands on sessions as well as extended demonstrations on weekends by our members. Not to be ignored, the professional demonstrators that spend a day with us. Some have then offered hands on training as well. Those of us that travel to symposiums or classes will tell you this is a steal!

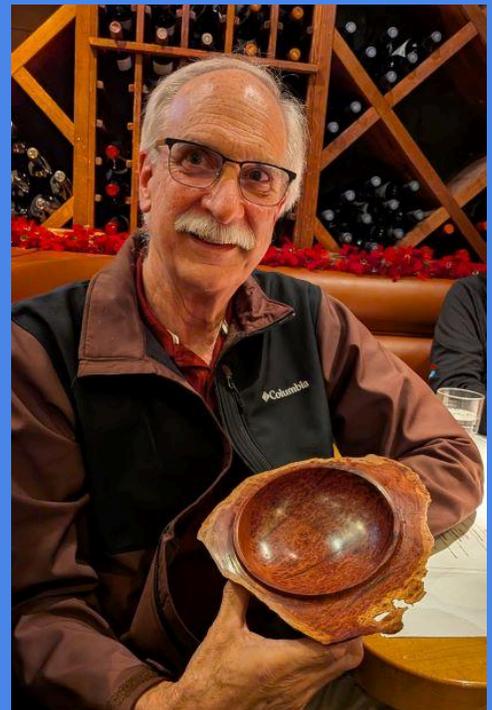
I also will point out all the good friends I made over the years. Our woodturning passions crosses all different professional careers. This leads to very different perspectives. All in all, this is my favorite prize. Thank you to everyone who has put the work in to make the club function. It isn't free, but it is appreciated and does have its own rewards.

Holiday Party Pictures

From Tomato Thyme in San Jose on December 3

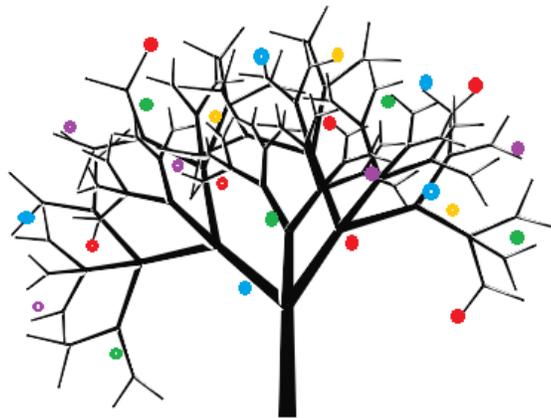






Mark Your Calendar!

Date	Event
Jan 7	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Demo: Pen turning by Jerry Galli- Pres Challenge: Bead to trade- And final makeups for 2025 Ironman Challenge
Jan 28	Board Meeting
Feb 4	General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ironman Awards- Demo: tbd- Pres Challenge: Pen or desk accessory



Happy holidays and have a great 2026!

2025 Ironman Tracker

2025 Iron Man Status												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Joel Bauman	■											
Bob Bley									■	■		
Dan Boehmke									■			
Brad Bond			■							■		
Don Bonnett				■		■	■					
Roman Chernikov					■			■				
Edy Chung	■	■		■	■					■	■	■
Calvin Breed							■					
Dean Caudle											■	■
James Craig	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■			
Steve Dahout	■	■	■	■	■	■				■		
Tammy Estes										■		
Jerry Galli	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Angela Gunn	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		
Brian Havens		■	■									
Mark Koenig				■								
Jim Koren	■		■	■					■			
Kevin Lee	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Dennis Lillis	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Gordon Levin								■				
Jim Loney	■											
Scott Lucas				■	■	■		■	■	■	■	
Ken Malloy							■					
Michael Maring							■					
George Mathew	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■		
Dylan McVoy		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Vic Mitnick	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Kat Napolitano		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Jim Ostrowski			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Sang Park	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Jessica Pineda	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Felicia Preston	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
David Vannier			■	■			■		■		■	
Milton West					■							
John Whittier	■						■					
	Name Badge	Weed Pot	Offset Bowl	Wig Stand or BoC Box	Twins, identical or fraternal	no sandpaper	Lidded Box	For the Kitchen	Inlay	Donation	Embellished	Ornament or Gift

About Us

Silicon Valley Woodturners Inc. is a non-profit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) organization dedicated to education and having fun. Every position in the organization is held by volunteers. The dues we collect and the donations we get go towards teaching the members the art and craft of wood turning.

We are a local chapter (in the Bay Area of California) of the [American Association of Woodturners \(AAW\)](#).

President: Kevin Lee

Vice President/Program Dir/ Pens For The Troops Coordinator: Jerry Galli

Treasurer: Tom Stutz

Secretary: Felicia Preston

Member at Large: Dennis Lillis

Newsletter:

Photos provided by Angela Gunn.

To submit announcements or articles for an upcoming newsletter, please contact [Sang Park](#). Newsletters will typically be published 2 weeks after each general meeting.

www.svwoodturners.com

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