

# GOLD COUNTRY WOODCRAFTERS

Newsletter September, 2018

Vol 47

## GCW NL Brief:

For the September meeting we had a great turnout with 43 members attending, including one new member. Our new member is Victor Larson. Welcome to the GCW club Victor. We had a special guest speaker for this meeting, Mr. David Stare. David gave a fun and informative presentation on traditional coopering as done at the fort Sutter. We had an exceptional turnout for the Show and Tell segment with a total of 14 members sharing projects and woodworking tips with our members. Three of the Show and Tells were Keaton Memorial Memory boxes. We offer a special thanks to all those members who spend their time, energy and money helping out in this very worthwhile cause.

September and October is a busy time for GCW so be sure to check out the Announcement and News section for upcoming events and announcements. In brief, here are the upcoming events: Sat. Sept. 22 Toy program kickoff at the home of Dale Gamble, Sat. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Woodcraft Club Day, Oct. 6 the annual GCW picnic, and Oct. 9 GCW Project Challenge.

## Presidents Message (September Meeting):



Gold Country Woodcrafters

Thank you all for the great attendance at last Tuesday's meeting and especially to Dave Stare of Sutter's Fort for the informative and entertaining presentation on traditional coopering.

Our show and tell segment was especially well represented including quality project entries from a couple of our younger members, Wesley and Sam, I'm not sure if we are influencing them or vice versa. In any case, it is great to see our younger generation involved in (and excelling in) woodworking. Also, I would like to thank all those who presented their projects.

I hope to see you all at our annual picnic on Oct 6!

Looking forward to seeing you there! Until next time, Happy Woodworking!

*Jim Hunt*

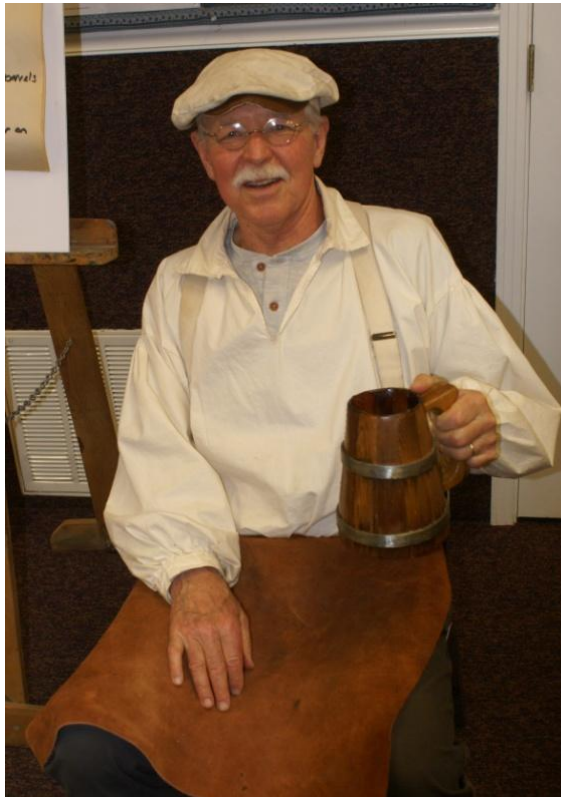
*GCW President*

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## Traditional Coopering Presentation:



A special guest from the Sutter's Fort Coopers Shop in Sacramento, David Stare, gave a presentation on traditional coopering as done at the fort in its early years. Much work has been done by volunteers to keep Sutter's Cooper shop alive. In the early days, daily life and trade required expert coopers to build from scratch both standard and custom barrels/containers of all types. The shop is open to the public and this interesting shop can be visited on the Fort's visiting days.

What is a cooper or cooper smith? A cooper is a person trained to make wooden casks, barrels, vats, buckets, tubs, troughs and other staved containers, from timber that was usually heated or steamed to make it pliable. Journeymen coopers also traditionally made wooden implements, such as rakes and wooden bladed shovels. Other materials, such as iron, were used as well as wood, in the manufacturing process.

If you missed this presentation, you missed a real treat. This was a fun and very informative event. The information content was well beyond what can be included here. During his presentation David provided a lot of information on the history and tradition of the art of coopering. He described how he got started in this art and stated that he is not a master cooper. However his work is very impressive. He brought in a number of examples of his work and covered the process by which they were made and the tools used. He used a flip chart that aided in the presentation and covered the many types and intended usages for staved containers. Sizes range from the cup like David is holding on the picture to one in Germany that is said to be the largest at 58,000 gallons. The accuracy for a container is surprising as the objective for a wine barrel is to be within 1 pint.



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## Announcements and News:

- 1) **It's Dues Time:** September is the start of the 2018-2019 Gold Country Woodcrafters fiscal year. That means that your \$20 dues are due. If you are unable to attend a meeting to pay your dues you can mail them in. The address is provided at the end of this newsletter.
- 2) **Memory Box Team:** Our members are responding to the call to make Keaton Memorial Memory boxes in a big way. We have seen a number of the boxes in our Show and Tell meeting segment. For anyone that would like to help out in this very worthwhile effort and need design information please contact Ron Sexton at [hewpvl@directcon.net](mailto:hewpvl@directcon.net).
- 3) **Annual club picnic:** This year's GCW picnic is scheduled for Saturday October 6th 2 – 5PM. It will take place at the Park Community Church picnic area, 3901 Wild Chaparral Dr. Shingle Springs, Ca. Dale Gamble is taking the lead on organizing the picnic. He is looking for volunteers to bring ice chests, barbeque, etc. The club will be providing the food. If you would like to help contact Dale at [rndgamble@comcast.net](mailto:rndgamble@comcast.net). Plan to bring your own chairs.
- 4) **Annual Toy for Tots Effort:** There will be a kickoff gathering at Dale Gamble's home Saturday Sept. 22 so members can pick up parts and plans for this year's Toys for Tots effort. He has tons of wheels! If you need more information, his number is 530-363-3297, email: [rndgamble@comcast.net](mailto:rndgamble@comcast.net) The address is 6702 Mistletoe Ct. in El Dorado.
- 5) **October Project Challenge:** The October GCW Project Challenge theme will be to create a toy(s) that can be included in the December toy program. As before there will be 2 challenge participation categories. Category 1 will be for show and tell and participants will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 prize. Category 2 requires a \$5 entrance fee to be added to the \$25 prize pot. Members will vote to determine the winner of the category 2 prize.
- 6) **Woodcraft Club Day:** Woodcraft Supply has invited GCW to participate in their club day Saturday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 9AM-4PM. Our club along with SAW and a few others will be showing customers what our clubs have to offer. Ron Sexton will be heading up our participation. We will have a slide show showing our member's craftsmanship running plus club flyers available to those that are interested. Be sure to drop by to support Ron and his helpers and check out any special deals Woodcraft is offering.
- 7) **Annual Car Show:** Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the annual Park Community Church car show. The club has decided not to have a booth this year. However, don't let that stop you from dropping by. Besides all the interesting cars to visit as there will be live music, vendors, and lots of food. The show runs from 12-6PM.

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## 8) Meeting Topics:

**October 9th** --- Project Challenge night. This month the members are asked to make toys for our Christmas giving. Please bring the toys you make and show them to the crowd. There will also be further time to make more toys for later in the year, but this challenge is to get it all started and get us excited about designs and techniques. If you have made toys for your own family, bring them also for our inspiration. It should be fun.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** --- The plan is to have a Round Table night. The Round Table activity will be for members to break up into focus groups to discuss woodworking related topics. The club had this event last November and it turned out to be very informative and great fun for our members. More information will be provided as plans firm up and topics are chosen.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** --- The plan for this meeting is to show a number of woodworking related videos. This always prompts lively and informative discussions amongst our members so be sure to put this meeting on your calendar.

*Members that would like to give a presentation or have ideas for a presentation please contact Tim Bynon [steamglidertim@yahoo.com](mailto:steamglidertim@yahoo.com). Remember this is your club and the more club members participate in sharing knowledge, the more proficient we all become at our common interest, woodworking.*



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## Show and Tell (14 entries):

*Jim Hunt*



indentations at the outside corner you cause the squares outside angle to increase. Indenting the inside corner causes the outside angle to decrease.

Jim shared a tip that I know a lot of us could use. We have all dropped our cabinet square and as a result have compromised the accuracy of the square's angles. Then it just gets tossed or relegated to outside building tasks. Jim passed around a square that he fixed by using a metal punch at its corner. By adding indentations at the corner you cause the metal to expand and subsequently force the square's angle to change ever so slightly. Applying the

*Wesley Aring*



said the wood cost was about \$250 and that it took about 1 and 1/2 months to complete. For a project this size and complexity, that's amazing. Check out his website to see Wesley's project portfolio <https://www.wesleyaring.com>

Wesley brought in a computer desk he recently completed. This piece is yet another example of the fine craftsmanship our members possess. The reason for this project, as he stated, is that he spends at least 4 hours a day at his computer. Wesley designed the desk from scratch using Google's SketchUp computer aided design and modeling software. He told us that this project offered numerous learning experiences. One was that the design dimensioning needed to account for wood movement. He used numerous dados, rabbits, mortise and tenons for the joinery. The wood for the side panels was re-sawed to create a book-matched design. For this project he used African Mahogany and the finish is General Finishes Armor Seal. He

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## *Jerry Preston*



Jerry showed our members 3 Memory Boxes he recently completed. The primary wood used is Maple and the raised panel top and splines are Sapele. The tops are hinged and required a bit of engineering to get right. Jerry showed the members a router jig (no picture) he created to aid in routing the hinge recesses. The effort paid off as the all the box tops and bottoms align properly. He quipped that the finish is a 10 foot finish, meaning that he is not really satisfied with the finish (like most of us) but it looks great from 10 feet away. He actually showed the first, unfinished, unit last month.

## *Paul Velk*



Paul showed off this Walnut Memory Box a friend, Charles Rush, made. It features inlayed Cedar Wood hearts on both top and bottom. In addition the inside floor has a felt covering. A really unique feature is the cork board in the top allowing pictures and mementoes to be attached. The finish is Shellac.



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*John Brideson*



Ok, when you just have to eat lunch or dinner at the sofa you need a place to put it, right? Well John solved the problem by creating this “sofa table”. The table can be pulled right up to the front of the sofa to allow the user to access his or her meal easily. Bet it holds cocktails as well, you think? John’s design uses Red Wood for the frame and Mahogany for the top. For the finish he used General Finishes Armor Seal.

*Jim Terrill*



Jim brought in another of his fine turnings. This one he turned from Mesquite wood. It is about 6 inches in diameter. I’m sure he used his favorite finishing technique, the Beall Buffing System.

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## Dale Gamble



Here are 2 Memory Boxes that were created by Dale. These incorporate Koa wood and feature sliding tops. The finish is Varathane spray, the can version. The Koa really shines.

## Harvey Myers



Harvey never fails to surprise and entertain us. Gee, what should my next project be? Well, why not a barber pole? This project was inspired by a request from Harvey's barber. Harvey needs a barber?? Well, anyway he turned this pole from Poplar. The barber found someone to do the painting though. The design dates back to the early 1900s. The colors are thought to be originated back in medieval times. Barbers acted as doctors and would bleed patients, extract teeth, etc. The pole is thought to represent the pole patients held onto while procedures were being performed. The color red is for blood, white for bandages, blue venous blood and brass is for the wash basin where the leaches were kept.

Glad that that time is over, sounds quite painful!

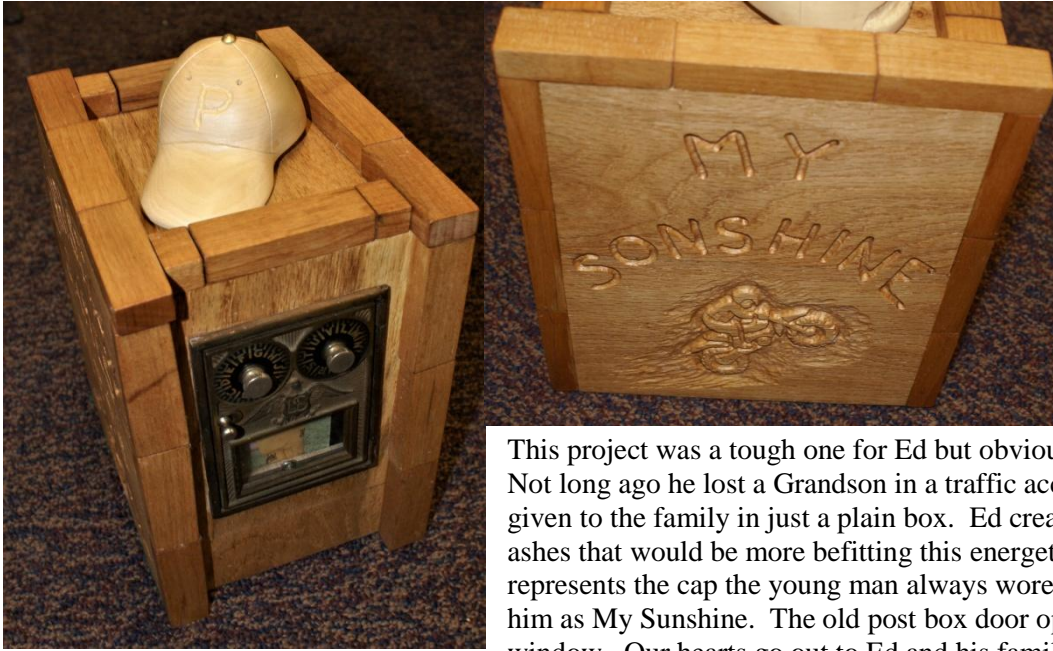


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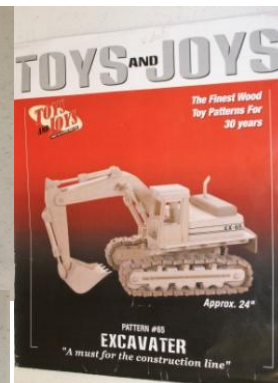
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## Ed Woodards



This project was a tough one for Ed but obviously one from the heart. Not long ago he lost a Grandson in a traffic accident. His ashes were given to the family in just a plain box. Ed created a place to house the ashes that would be more befitting this energetic young man. The hat represents the cap the young man always wore. His mother referred to him as My Sunshine. The old post box door opens to put pictures in the window. Our hearts go out to Ed and his family for their loss.

## Ron Sexton



Ron is definitely into toys these days. He has his truck done so now he needs something to haul. Well, why not an Excavator? Here he shows the progress he has made on the excavator track.

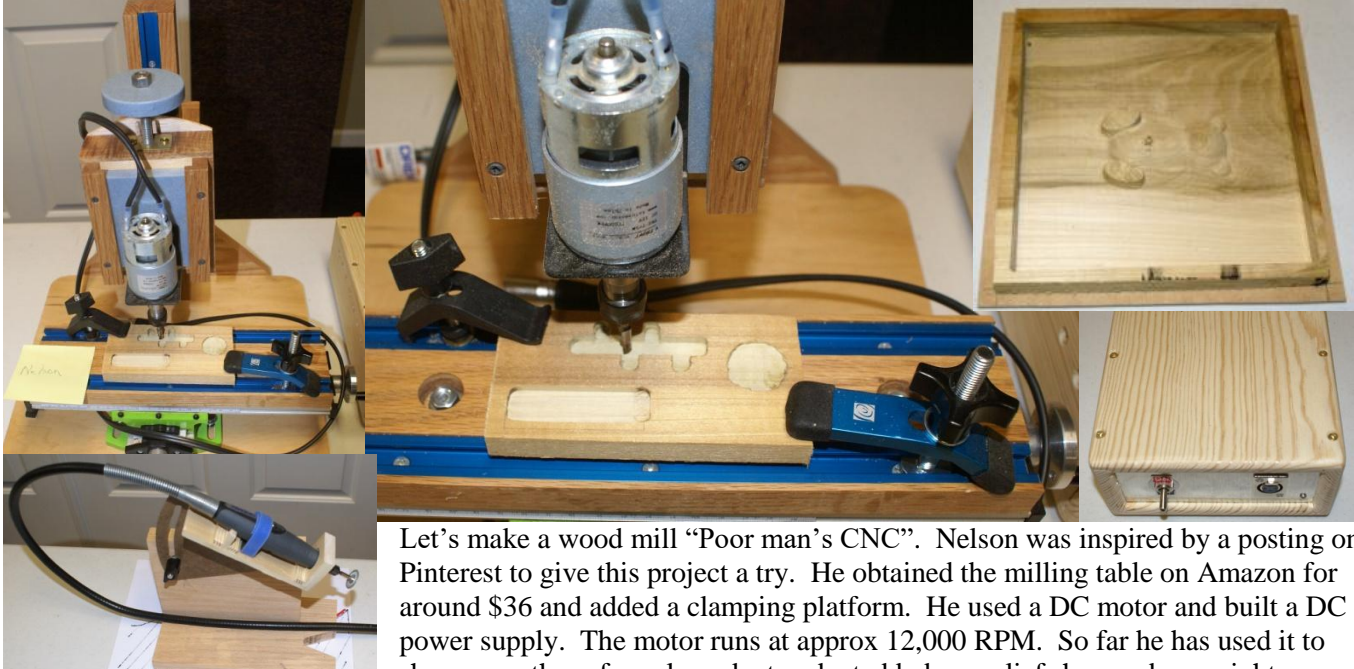
The router jig he used in machining the track segments is also shown. Ron described some of the detailed routing tasks he had to perform in order to make all the segments, 70 in all, work together. He had to bevel each track segment to allow for forward and reverse flex. The primary wood is Big Leaf Maple. All of us woodworkers have that kind of patience, right?

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## Nelson Exum



Let's make a wood mill "Poor man's CNC". Nelson was inspired by a posting on Pinterest to give this project a try. He obtained the milling table on Amazon for around \$36 and added a clamping platform. He used a DC motor and built a DC power supply. The motor runs at approx 12,000 RPM. So far he has used it to shape a mother of pearl pendent and a teddy bear relief shown above, right.

Nelson admits that he is still really learning how to use it effectively. The tool to the left he made to allow him to "sharpen band-saw" blades. It uses a Dremel Tool with a diamond wheel and is adjustable. Some people have all the patience.

## Homer Rail



Homer brought in his latest project that has helped him further organize the shop. Its main function is to store cordless tools. It incorporates a power strip for the charges and a place to hang the cordless tools, drills, etc at the bottom. In addition it provides plenty of space to store accessories.



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*Victor Larson* (newest member)



Victor just joined our club and he is already participating in our club's most favorite event, Show and Tell. He has a wide background in woodworking having been in the cabinet making business. These days he pursues wood turning. Here he shows some of his recent works. From top left to right are 2 Madrone and 1

Sycamore. The bottom row shows 3 natural edge bowls 2 Black Oak and 1 White Oak. Great work Victor, we look forward to seeing more fine examples of your work in the future.

*Sam Garcia*



Sam always has a project to show us. This time he brought in his latest effort in turning. The type of wood is unknown which allowed some members to do some guessing. Maybe yellow heart?? If you have an idea, let Sam know at our next meeting. He used mineral oil for the finish.



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**Businesses that support GCW:** Be sure to stop by Pro Builder Placerville, The Paint Spot\*, Churchill Hardware Cameron Park\*, Woodcraft Supply Sacramento and the Rockler Woodworking\* store in Rocklin. Please let them know how much Gold Country Woodcrafters appreciates their support. ***Note those marked with \* give GCW members discounts.***

**Membership Dues:** For those members wishing to renew their membership for the 2018-2019 year by mail here is the information you need. Make out a \$20 check payable to Gold Country Woodcrafters. Send to: Steve Cabrol 3000 Builders Place, Rescue, CA. 95672. ***Please note on the envelope ATT: Gold Country Woodcrafters.***

**Notice to members:** If your contact information has changed since joining please let the club know. Just send any changes you may have to the email address used to send out the newsletter. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

**Gold Country Woodcrafters Meeting Place:** GCW meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise notified and are at the Park Community Church meeting hall, 3901 Wild Chaparral Dr. Shingle Springs, Ca. exit 37 off highway 50. A map is provided on the home page of the GCW website.

## Saw and Planer blade sharpening:

For members that need some blades sharpened GCW member Ken Welsh can handle the job. Just give him a call.

### WELSH'S SAW WORKS

Formerly Rocklin Saw Works

**Ken Welsh**

Owner

3021 Crystal View Drive  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
(Off Bass Lake Road)

**Phone: (530) 677-4938**

**Cell: (916) 275-3388**

Regards and happy woodcrafting.

***Gail Cone***

GCW Newsletter editor



**GCW Web site:** [goldcountrywoodcrafters.com](http://goldcountrywoodcrafters.com)

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