

The Push Stick

Wheels On



Ramiro and Veronica Garate's 4 year old daughter Nathalia was showing us how to get it done

At the November meeting WOW members stepped up and got it done. It was "Wheels and Axles" night and there was a lot of tap tap tapping to be heard. Wheels were installed on cars our members had made in their shops. We actually finished early this year as many cars already had wheels installed by their makers.

Wheels were placed on 722 cars at the meeting, but we have a total of 2,300 to be distributed to charities. Also almost 5,000 wooden blocks from Hathaway Ranch will be included. Accolades have to be given to Stan Quade, Al Winberg and Jim Callen for making a majority of our cars. They are speed demons

on the scroll saw. We have never had this many cars before!

Thanks to all who made cars and put the wheels on at the meeting. A special thanks to Dick Toney for getting, keeping track of and distributing the thousand of wheels to those that needed them. Time to take a break until next year.

Monte Koch



I stopped by long time WOW member and Hunter Smith award winner Monte Koch's house recently to get his story. "How did you get into woodworking?", I asked. Born in 1926, he started as a child in his father's basement shop in Stockton, CA. His father liked metal working, but figured turning wood on his metal lathe was safer for Monte than metal. Turns out he liked turning wood better anyway. When Monte went to school there was one vocational school for the district. He got to go there two Fridays a month. He gravitated to the wood shop, where they had lathes he could happily make shavings with.

High School ended, but Uncle Sam was waiting for him as WWII was raging. Monte chose the Navy where he ended up as a Radioman on a converted Merchant Marine ship for transporting aircraft. First trip was west coast to east coast. The ship was too big for the Panama Canal so they had to go around South America. One night they heard a big crash, but could find nothing wrong with the ship. Later in dry dock they could see a big dent in the side of the ship where a torpedo had hit. Good thing it was a dud!!

Club Volunteers

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Founders
John Erickson &
Jerry Hughes
Established 1993

They transported aircraft where they were needed. The war ended and Monte was discharged after 3 1/2 years.

Back in California, Monte married his wife Bonnie in 1946. They were married until her death in 2014. After the War California was booming. He worked at various places picking up different skills ending up at Bechtel in Santa Fe Springs. An engineering firm, they were building power plants all over the world. He became a troubleshooter/ inspector on welding and finishes, traveling to different sites, he even went to China.

Monte told me he has always done woodworking in his spare time and his favorite tool is still the lathe. You can see the segmented bowls he has made in the picture. He also likes the scroll saw. His shop is a shed in the backyard with a lot of character. It reminds me of an old-time hardware store with "treasures" hidden in the nooks and crannies. He even has his father's Atlas drill press in there.

Monte became a member of WOW in the early days. His daughter, Robbie, estimates it was at least 20 years ago. A friend of his belonged to WOW and invited him to join. Thank you Monte for your story and being a part of the WOW family for all these years.



December 14th Meeting

The annual **Christmas Potluck** for members and guests is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 14th, 2017, at Parnell Park and Senior Center, 15390 Lambert Rd. (corner of Lambert Rd. and Scott Ave. in Whittier). We will have Food, Awards and Prize drawings. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for setup. Food should be brought in at 6 p.m. Guests should arrive shortly after 6 p.m. Dinner will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Members are encouraged to bring their spouse, partner, friend or other guest. Each member is asked to bring a main dish or salad or dessert, and serving utensils to serve 6 to 8 persons. If appropriate, food should be cut into portions at home. Beverages, plates, cups, napkins and tableware will be provided. Persons bringing soup or chili should bring disposable bowls. Cooks are invited to share their recipes. If you wish to do so, please write your recipe on a small card and place it next to your dish.

Food Bank

On November 18th some of our WOW members volunteered at the Interfaith Food Bank Thanksgiving food distribution. About 900 pre-screened families receive a shopping cart of food to prepare Thanksgiving dinner. Actually there is more food than just for one meal.

I worked at the one last year and this one was even more organized. Very well planned! They even had kids from Whittier Christian and Saint Paul's helping. You work hard for several hours, but it is worthwhile and you meet nice people. I look forward to next year.

WOW members who participated were Jim Lockwood, Rick Stiffle, Alan Webster, Jared Sparling, Jim Sparling, Paul Wilson

Club Calendar

December Party- Thursday Dec. 14th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Steering Committee- None in December

Jan. Meeting -Thursday Jan. 11th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Steering Committee-Tuesday Jan. 16th 7-8:00p.m

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at Adventure Park
10130 Gunn Avenue Whittier , CA 90605