

# The Push Stick

## Al Winberg



I went over to Al Winberg's house recently to find out about the man behind the legend. He is the guy that has made thousands of cars for WOW's charity groups. He has shared in our show-and-tell segments the beautiful intarsia pieces he makes. When you go to his house you find there is even more. There is the furniture, display cases for his wife's Precious Moments collections, stained glass (I am surprised how many woodworkers have done stained glass), and a large dollhouse including the tiny furniture made for it. There are intarsia pieces on most of the walls. He said they are running out of wall space..

Al grew up in Michigan near Flint. His father and uncle built things. Al learned through observation. In High School he took drafting as a vocation and actually landed a job in drafting right out of school. He worked ten years for Consumer Power Company until a friend told him about warm winters in Southern California. He moved with his wife Norma here in 1960 to the house in which they still live. Al started working for Southern California Edison where he stayed for 30 years until his retirement in 1990.

Al had been enjoying woodworking even before his retirement. He was heavy into scroll sawing, contributing patterns to magazines and even Patrick Spielman books. Al's friend Spielman wrote 32 books about woodworking before his death. Al started Intarsia about 1992. He made the patterns that everyone else did from magazines and catalogs. He grew tired of them, so he started designing his own. The most time consuming part of intarsia is the sanding and shaping parts to get a 3D effect. Without that, it looks like a drawing in wood.

Al built a dedicated shop in his backyard. At 12'x16' it holds the power tools to build his creations. There are many sanders, bandsaw, drill press and his treasured Hegner Scroll Saw. It is not a huge workshop, but all his tools are on wheels so they can be pushed against the walls when not in use. It is an efficient system and helps explain how he can be so productive.

Al's favorite wood is Dog Eared Cedar fence boards at Home Depot or Lowe's. They come in many different shades so they can be used in intarsia for natural colors.

Al has found a great outlet for his creative abilities in woodworking. Thanks for sharing them with us Al!

## March 12th Meeting

Making Cars, Hathaway Ranch what we do, Beads of Courage and Cub Scouts

### Club Volunteers

President  
Paul Wilson  
(562) 968-4162

Vice President  
Louis Lopez  
(562) 947-0503

Treasurer  
Arie Korporaal

Secretary  
Dick Toney  
(562) 328-6102

Membership  
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(562) 926-7069

Raffle  
Gene Getz  
(562) 777-1480

Refreshments  
Julie McCamey  
(562) 698-7496

Push Stick Editor  
Website

Alan Webster  
(562) 556-2701

Founders  
John Erickson &  
Jerry Hughes

Established 1993



## Message From the Prez

This month I have a couple of thank yous I would like to take care of. First: to all of you who filled out a Birthday Card last month for Harold Ehlers, his son and daughter informed me that he was grateful and touched by the cards. Thanks to all who participated in making his 90th Birthday that much more special. The other thank you I have is for Ron Holtz and Skip Porter. For the past few weeks they have improved the vacuum lines for the dust collection system at Hathaway. It has made a huge difference to those who sand the blocks. On behalf of all of the Hathaway Crew, thank you Ron and Skip for all of your hard work.

.....Paul Wilson



## Guitar Man

At the February meeting Allan Zolnekoff came to show us a “cigar box” guitar he made. Actually he made his from a fruit box, which looked better and was bigger. The construction is the same and gave him the tone he wanted. Between a bass and regular guitar.

Allan grew up in Whittier and he was introduced to woodworking at a early age. His father bought a Shopsmith from Battles hardware in Whittier, so that was the first large woodworking tool he used. Allan retired from Southern California Edison after 30 years. By building a guitar, he could get the sound he wanted.

He bought the neck for the guitar from a supplier. It wasn't cheap, so he was careful not to mess it up. There are many places online to buy parts. Even complete kits. He also bought the pickups, the part under the strings that picks up the vibrations and sends them to the amplifier. After a year of tinkering he had a beautiful creation that he plays with pride. Thanks for sharing Allan.

## Club News

We have a new member Chris Voien. Welcome Chris! We have \$1200 in the bank. All car and block projects are on schedule. Whittier Founders Day is May 9th at Central Park. WOW will be there. Long time WOW member Harold Ehlers turned 90 years old. Happy Birthday Harold!

### Show and Tell

- Herb Ludeking Flag Display Box
- Jim Sparling Segmented Bowl
- Steve Lelewer Bowl live edge Camphor
- Alan Webster Sanding Block and Sanding Bow
- Michael Perovich Sandpaper Organizer and Planes
- Rubin Johnson Pencil Boxes Birdseye Maple



### Club Calendar

March Meeting -Thursday March 12th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Steering Committee-Tuesday March 17th 7-8:00p.m.  
 April Meeting- Thursday April 9th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Steering Committee- Tuesday April 14th 7-8:00 p.m.  
 Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at Adventure Park  
 10130 Gunn Avenue Whittier , CA 90605

