

The Push Stick

In Tune



At the August meeting, Dan Wright made a return visit to show us his latest Street Organ creation. His son Phillip came along to assist. Dan owns D&L Stained Glass in Whittier. He said after working with glass all day, he likes to come home and work with wood in his shop.

His interest in Street Organs, (also known as Busker Organs, Hand Cranked Organs) began in 2002 when the Fullerton Arboretum had an event with a collection of calliopes. There a man had a Street Organ that sparked Dan's interest. He liked that it was portable.

Street performers have been using this portable means to entertain crowds for centuries. A bellows has been used to blow air through whistle pipes all this time, but the means to control the notes has changed. In the 13th century a keyboard was used. In the 17th century they started

automation using a barrel with wooden pegs in it to activate

the valves, like a music box. In the 1800s cardboard with holes punched in it was used to mechanically activate the valves. In the 1900s paper rolls with holes were used with vacuum or air pressure to activate the valves.

In 1996, John Smith of England wanted a Busker Organ, but could not afford one. He made his own and drew up plans. These are the plans that Dan's organs are made from. www.johnsmithbusker.co.uk is John Smith's website. Also do a google search for more info.

The organs are identified by the number of pipes they have and how many notes they play. Dan has made three organs. The first two have 20 pipes with 20 notes. The newest (pictured right) is 40 pipes with 26 notes plus different "stops" that give combinations.

It doesn't matter what the tubes are made of. Some people have made them from cardboard. Dan's first one was from balsa wood, but now he likes to use Bass wood for its straight grain. His first organ was made in 4 months worth of spare time. The second took a year and the newest 5 years. He still is going to add the facade on the outside of it, along with the animation he does. He is quite talented doing the animation.



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To get started, he made one whistle to see if he could do it. Then he made another one and more until the first Busker Organ was done. He said the key is to do a little every day. Even if you just go out to look at it, you will probably end up doing something.

Thanks for showing us your creations Dan. They sound great! We look forward to your next one.

September 8th Meeting

September Meeting demo will be a change of pace with member Jim Callen aka “Doctor Presto” showing us some of his magic skills. Be prepared to turn your chairs to face the back of the room. There is more room there for him to perform

Cars to be Made

At the August meeting, club secretary Dick Toney sent around a form for members to write down how many cars they are going to make for the November “Wheels and Axels” meeting. He did a counting and found we have 1600 cars that members plan to make or have already made. The club needs a count to see how many wheels and axels we have to buy. The list will be sent around again at the October meeting for a final count. So go out to your shop and make some cars. Find templates here www.woodworkersofwhittier.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/WOW-Toy-car-templates.pdf

Too Many Clamps?

At the August meeting, Dave Reid asked how many clamps members had as compared to a magazine poll. We were close to the poll. **Louis Lopez** went home and did a count. He has 165 clamps. It think he is just bragging. Clothespins don't count Louis.

Kudos to Jim Sparling and Jim Lockwood for finding speakers for our club meetings. It is not an easy task. If anyone knows of a speaker that would be a good fit for our meeting, please let us know. We need their phone number and what they can speak about. We only need a 15 to 30 minute demo. Members are especially encouraged to do a demonstration. Call Jim Sparling 562-943-3013 or see a club officer at a meeting.

Thank you also goes out to **Todd and Jared Sparling** for helping out at Hathaway Ranch while Jim Sparling is healing from shoulder surgery. They are his son and grandson.

The **WOW Facebook page** is being updated often with club news, videos, announcements between meetings. Give it a look and a “like”. www.facebook.com/woodworkersofwhittier

Thanks to: Harold Ehlers for mailing the newsletter, Julie McCamey for bringing the snacks, Gene Getz for organizing the raffle.

Club Calendar

Sept Meeting -Thursday Sept 8th 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 Steering Committee-Tuesday Sept 13th 7-8:00p.m
 October Meeting- Thursday Oct. 13th 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 Steering Committee-Tuesday Oct. 18th 7-8:00 p.m..
 Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at Adventure Park
 10130 Gunn Avenue Whittier , CA 90605

