

# The Push Stick

## Jim Sparling



At the WOW Christmas party, Jim Sparling gave away candle holders that were popular. He was recently making some more, so I went to see how he makes them.

These candle holders are mainly made from tree limbs, and since Jim is a first class scrounger, they are free. Unfortunately some wood does not hold onto its bark or develops cracks. He has made them successfully from Birch, Hickory, Cyprus and Eucalyptus. 4x4 lumber works too. See the dice he made in the picture.

They are made to take a 1 1/2" tea candle that he gets at CVS or Dollar Tree, so the diameter of the wood should be 2 1/2" or greater. He makes them 2", 4" and 6 inches tall to make a pleasing set. He cuts the lengths using a bandsaw. A helpful hint he learned the hard way was to hold the wood in a

wooden hand-screw clamp, so the piece does not spin. Once it did spin on him and bent the bandsaw blade.

To make the ends smooth and the holder stand up straight, he sands the ends on a belt sander. After this, Jim bores a 1 1/2" hole in the center with a Forstner bit. He drills this deep enough so the candle sits flush. For finish he uses four to five coats of Minwax clear gloss oil modified polyurethane. The smooth shiny finish gives the holder a great look.

He gives them as gifts in sets of three or four. Jim also uses round slices of the same limbs to make drink coasters or snowmen. Thanks for sharing Jim!

For more pictures of Jim's creations, go to WOW's

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/woodworkersofwhittier/>



## Canning's Hardware

At the March meeting Curtis Smith from Canning's Ace Hardware came to tell us what his store has to offer the community.

Canning's Hardware was established in 1960. By 1970 they had 3 stores. Only one remains now and it is not owned by the Canning family, but the pride in having items that no else has remains. They specialize in parts to fix things. Curtis said they can often make a part if it is unavailable.. He was proud of that.

## Club Volunteers

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Dave Reid  
(562) 693-3204

Vice President  
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Dick Toney  
(562) 328-6102

Membership  
Jim Lockwood  
(562) 926-7069

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Gene Getz  
(562) 777-1480

Refreshments  
Julie McCamey  
(562) 698-7496

Push Stick Editor  
Website  
Alan Webster  
(562) 943-4919

Founders  
John Erickson &  
Jerry Hughes  
Established 1993



“Big Box Stores” do not offer the odd size screws, small hinges and hardware that they have or the knowledgeable staff. He said they have aisles of “do it yourself” stuff. If three different customers ask for the same product that they don’t carry, he will stock it. They even make car keys with the chips in them. Try them before going to the dealer and getting ripped off.

Thanks Curtis for stopping by!

## April Meeting

Jessica Kidderman from the new Orchard Supply store in Whittier. In May we will have Bill Haskell. He is a bowl turning artist.

*April is National Woodworking Month. Introduce someone to woodworking.*

## General Club News

**Dave Reid** told us about his brother who works at a Lowe’s store in South Carolina. He built a flag deposit box for old, worn out American flags. Instead of being thrown in the trash, they can be brought to the Lowe’s store and put in the box. From there the local VFW and Boy Scouts dispose of them properly and with respect in a ceremony. In a short time 200 flags were collected. Kudos to Dave’s brother for having the idea and initiative to solve the problem of what to do with old flags.

At the April meeting **Jim Sparling** will bring red oak scrap wood. He asks you to **bring boxes** to take it home in.

**Welcome to new member Jeff Mericle.** He is interested in learning how to use a scroll saw his grandfather had. We have members that can do that.

**Thank you to WOW.** Club Secretary Dick Toney reports that WOW has received thank you letters from Samaritan's Purse, Options for Learning and the City of Santa Fe Springs

**Woodworkers of Whittier will be 25 years old in 2018.** WOW Vice President Paul Wilson has volunteered to put together a collection of pictures for the event. If you have any early pictures of WOW activities or stories, please give them to Paul.



### Club Calendar

April Meeting- Thursday April 13th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Steering Committee- Tuesday April 18th 7-8:00p.m.  
 May Meeting -Thursday May 11th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 Steering Committee-Tuesday May 16th 7-8:00p.m.  
 Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at Adventure Park  
 10130 Gunn Avenue Whittier , CA 90605

**March Show and Tell** Intarsia birds by Albert Winberg, Car by Herbert Ludeking, Basket by Stan Quade, Stylus and holder by Bill Covell

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