

# The Push Stick



## My Shop

by Alan Webster

Thanks to those who came to my open shop last month. After putting it off for years, I finally started to redo my garage shop 6 months ago. It started with the construction of a large shelving unit and getting rid of a lot of unused junk. This opened up the space needed. I do have the luxury of a three car garage, but I like to pull a vehicle into it. The picture makes it look larger than it is.



Putting the wood shop into the smaller section worked out well. It is just a couple steps to each power tool. I use a shop vac for dust collection. Having a smaller area allows stretching a hose to a tool without moving the vac. This was wasting a lot of my time previously. I made stands for all my big tools. It is great not having to set up tools to use them. If it is hard to use the shop, I will put it off.

Here are some things that I have found useful in my shop:

- Using a cyclone dust collector before my shop vac keeps the filter bag clean and suction strong. I haven't had to change a bag in years. The Oneida Dust Deputy is the one I use.
- Using rubber mats from Harbor Freight to stand on for long periods helps stop my knees and hips from aching. Especially when sanding for long periods
- Putting a sheet of wood siding on the wall lets me put a screw anywhere to hang stuff.
- LED light fixtures are bright and use half the power of florescent. A pull string switch is a must for me. I can just turn on the ones needed.
- Have a table the same height as the table saw so it can be used both as an out feed and assembly table.
- Put everything on wheels so re-arranging is easy.

## Power Tool Batteries



Larry Farnworth, from Interstate Battery Whittier, came to our February meeting to discuss the rebuilding of tool battery packs. Wow members are most familiar with them in rechargeable drills. If you ever have to buy a new battery, you may be shocked at the price. A rebuilt one may be half the price. There is a "gotcha" though, new tools have Lithium Ion batteries. They are not rebuildable or companies don't want to do it, because they could catch fire in the process.

Lithium Ion is the future and the technology keeps improving, but if you have an older tool with a NiCad (Nickel Cadmium) or NiMH (Nickel Metal Hydride)

### Club Volunteers

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battery, they can be rebuilt. The label on the battery should say what it is made of. To extend the life of these batteries, do not charge them until they are fully discharged.

Larry informed us he had just sold his Interstate franchise back to Interstate, so the Whittier store is closed. He owned it for 35 years. If you want to get battery packs rebuilt, the San Gabriel Store can do it 626-282-7770.

Thanks Larry and have a nice retirement.

## March 8th Meeting

**Nohad Sabbagh** Artist/Sculptor shares with us her passion for art. From a bronze bust of the Pope to dinosaurs at Disneyland, Nohad has had a varied career. <http://www.sculpturebynohad.com/>

## General Club News

**We have 33 paid member so far.**

**Dues of \$30 are now due.** Please make checks out to Woodworkers of Whittier. You can also pay by mail. Send to our treasurer Arie Korporaal, WOW Dues, P.O. Box 9314, Whittier, CA 90608.

**Rockview Dairy** at Leffingwell and Santa Gertrudes gave Ron Holtz a \$100 donation to WOW for a couple of wooden toy cars.

**Raffle Donations** by members are encouraged. If you have a tool or something woodworking related that you are willing to donate to the club raffle, please do so. Junk is not wanted.

**Hathaway Ranch** block building project—is an ongoing project to build toy blocks to give away to children at Christmas time. It has been going for 20 years. The gang at Hathaway would be glad to have your help. They meet Monday mornings 8:30 - noon at Hathaway Ranch, 11901 Florence Avenue, between Norwalk Boulevard and Pioneer Boulevard. Open the gate and drive in, close gate. Call Jim Sparling 562-943-3013 for more information. They often meet for breakfast at Mike's in La Mirada (Santa Gertrudes and Imperial) beforehand if you like.

**Save Money!** Don't forget to show your WOW membership card when you go to Rockler or Woodcraft and save 10% off your purchase. After 20 people from WOW make a purchase at a Rockler store, WOW gets a \$20 Rockler gift card to raffle off!

## Toxic Woods

With many of our members turning bowls and pens and all the dust it creates, it is good to keep in mind that some woods create dust that can be harmful. It is never good to inhale too much of any kind of dust, but some woods are worse. I have heard of some of the exotic woods and spalted maple being bad, but Western Red Cedar is real bad too. Here is a list to look at. <https://www.deckwise.com/wood-allergies-and-toxicity.html>

### Club Calendar

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

Steering Committee-Tuesday March 13th 7-8:00p.m

April Meeting-Thursday April 12th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Steering Committee- Tuesday April 17th 7-8:00p.m.

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

*There are no mistakes, just design changes.*

Thanks to Julie McCamey for bringing the snacks and Gene Getz for running the raffle.