

# The Push Stick



## Joshua Fang

At the April WOW meeting, Joshua Fang talked to us about the different steps in making a violin. Joshua makes and repairs violins and bows in Hacienda Heights

[www.joshuaviolins.com](http://www.joshuaviolins.com) The first step is to make a violin bow, as a violin does not work without one. Brazilian wood is used that is straight and strong. It is harder to get now because of ecological concerns. Fossilized mastodon instead of ivory is used for decoration. The part of the bow that is used to tension the horsehair string is called a "frog". The bow has to be rosined or it will just slide across the strings and not make a sound. Bows can last 100 years. When he repairs a bow for a client, they have to sign a release of liability. There can be internal stresses in the wood and can shatter unexpectedly. Bows cost up to \$1000 and take 20 hours to make.

The first violins were made during the 16th century in Italy. Italian Spruce is the preferred wood for the front of the violin as it has the right resonance to produce the wanted sound. The wood has to be seasoned for 14 years. Joshua uses scrapers on a thick piece of spruce to make the bowed out front and back of the instrument. Maple is used for the frame and back. Ebony is used on the neck to resist wear from the strings. Maple is used for the bridge which conducts the sound of the strings to the body which amplifies the sound. There is a sound post inside that supports the top and conducts the vibrations to the back of the instrument. He used to make his own finish using a recipe he learned from a French violin maker, but now he just buys it, as it took too long to make. It takes 15-20 coats. Joshua said it takes about 300 hours to make a violin.

Joshua brought a cello he had recently purchased and played it for us. He told me he was excited to have found information on the man who had built it. Those things are important to you when you are a builder of fine instruments.

Thanks Joshua for sharing your talents with us at WOW. *(pictures by Arie Korporaal)*

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## May 10th Meeting

**Cliff Schmidt** gourd carver. I met him at the Orange County Woodcarving Show. There was a separate section for gourd carvers and there sure was a variety. Did you know they buy a special kind of gourd down



### Club Volunteers

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Established 1993

in Temecula, because it has a thick skin to carve? Come to the meeting and find out more interesting tidbits.



Some of the **show and tell** offerings at recent WOW meetings include a Bowl made of Iron Bark Eucalyptus by Robert Bilevich, Patterned cutting boards by Louis Lopez, Intarsia guitars by Albert Winberg, Bicycle obstacle course wall hanging by Stan Quade, Mallet/gavel by Bill Covell, Turnings by Robert Bilevich, Bird wind chimes by Mike Scott, Helicopter by Alan Webster, Surfer Woody Car by Herb Ludeking. Thanks guys for the inspiration. Keep them coming.

## General Club News

**We have 41 paid member so far.**

**President Paul Wilson thanked Jim Sparling** for finding guest speakers for our meetings for many years. **Thanks Jim!**

Don't forget to attend a **Steering Committee Meeting**. All members can attend. See what goes on behind the scenes of WOW. We meet at the Whittier Senior Center, 13225 Walnut St., off of Painter. Time and dates listed below.

**Club Speakers** If you are at an event and see someone there who would be of interest to our group, talk to them about giving a 20 minute talk to our group. If they are interested, get their contact info and give it to Jim Sparling. If you are interested in giving a short presentation talk to Jim 562-943-3013

### Club Calendar

May Meeting -Thursday May 10th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Steering Committee-Tuesday May 15th 7-8:00p.m  
June Meeting-Thursday June 14th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Steering Committee- Tuesday June 19th 7-8:00p.m.

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

*Duct Tape is like The Force. It has a light side, a dark side, and holds the world together.*

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