

# The Push Stick



## Gene Getz

“Just an old country man, that grew up on the Okie side of Modesto.” That is how Gene Getz describes himself. As his description says Gene grew up in Modesto, CA on a ranch. They grew alfalfa and grapes. Farming is a hard business with the weather, disease and the market working against you. His family opened a restaurant on the main highway. Living in agricultural area, Gene had a lot of apple crates to build things with. He has always been building things, but he did not think of himself as a woodworker until retiring.



After graduating from high school in Modesto, he joined the Navy at age 17. He was put on the aircraft carrier Yorktown and served from 1962-1965. She was stationed off of Vietnam. He worked the hangar deck and elevator.

After mustering out, Gene decided he liked Long Beach. He started working for Harvey Aluminum Anodizing in Torrance and then worked for Douglas Aircraft for three years until being laid off. His unemployment counselor suggested he go to trade school on the GI Bill. That sounded like a good idea to Gene, who was married with children, so he went to welding school. He started working at a place making trailers, until their checks started bouncing. He then went to work for Alpha Beta at the distribution center in La Habra. Later Ralph's bought them and Gene worked there in total for 30 years.

Gene had made things from wood over the years. One was a bookcase out of 2x12s. It weighed a ton. Gene's wife knew Jim Sparling's wife, that is how he met Jim. Jim told him about a group called the Woodworkers of Whittier. He came to a meeting and liked what he saw. He was inspired by what other members displayed at the show and tell. Gene bought some patterns and made some things. He especially likes making birdhouses. He also likes barns, so he made barn birdhouses, the hard way. He made them using individual slats and shingles! Good thing he is retired. Gene says his favorite wood is pine and figures he has been with WOW for 12 years. Thanks Gene for being an active member of WOW!

## July 12th Meeting: Celebration

This meeting celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Woodworkers of Whittier. Doctor Presto, (aka Jim Callen) will amaze us. There will be a free drawing to win two \$25 prizes in cash for paid members. We will have the show-and-tell and the regular raffle. We will also find out who the Woodworker of the Year is. You are encouraged to bring family members, especially kids. Come join us.

## Elected Officers

Elected officers for 2018-2019 are: Paul Wilson, president; Louis Lopez, vice-president; Arie Korporaal, treasurer; Dick Toney, treasurer; and Jim Lockwood, membership. Non-elected positions are: Gene Getz,

### 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  
Jim Lockwood  
(562) 926-7069

Raffle  
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

raffle chair; Julie McCamey, refreshments; and Alan Webster, Push Stick editor and webmaster.

Congratulations to all, and a big thanks to all for agreeing to serve another year.

## Young Woodworkers

Two members of Cub Scout Pack 919 joined us at our June meeting. They came to show us what they had built to earn a woodworking patch. In addition to a Pinewood Derby car, they had to build something practical. Gavin Fisher showed us the bookend book holder he made. Elliot Haun made a box shaped like a book. Several WOW members judged the projects and trophies made by Jim Sparling were awarded. Elliot won first place and second went to Gavin. They told us what went into making the projects. They both said sanding was the hardest part.

The cubs in Pack 919 that have earned the badges are moving on to the Webelos rank of the Cub Scouts. Those in the pack that have passed a knife safety course can carry a pocket knife. They learned to whittle and carve on bar soap first.

In the picture. Den Leader Laura Fisher, Gavin and Elliot are standing in back of an Uncle Sam flag holder that Gene Getz made for the Pack. Jim Callen donated a bunch of pocket cars to the group as well. Congratulations to all involved!



## Message From the Prez

My friends and fellow woodworkers. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the club's president for the next year. My goal is to work with the other officers and members to keep the club moving forward and relevant in the community. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome, either through the suggestion box or by attending a steering committee meeting. As president, I will do my best to ensure that all ideas and suggestions are heard. Thank you for all of your support and hard work.

Paul Wilson

## Club News

We have 44 paid members. \$1362 in the bank. 2000 toy cars projected to be given away at Christmas. It was decided to give the Woodworker of the Year winner free WOW membership for a year.

**Warning!** You must hide valuables out of sight in the Adventure Park parking lot or anywhere for that matter. One of our members had something **stolen** from his car during the June meeting.

There is **suggestion box** in the front of the room. Please use it to leave thoughtful suggestions on how we can make the meetings better or improve the club.

### Club Calendar

July Meeting -Thursday July 12th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Steering Committee-Tuesday July 17th 7-8:00p.m.  
Aug. Meeting-Thursday Aug. 9th 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Steering Committee- Tuesday Aug. 14th 7-8:00p.m.

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

**Herb Ludeking** is going to bring items to sell to the July meeting. These are things he has left over from selling at craft shows- parts, plans, etc.

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