

The Push Stick

Monte Koch

Longtime WOW member Monte Koch passed away November 2nd. He was 95 years old. Here is an article I did on him 4 years ago. Rest in Peace Monte. Thanks for being part of the WOW family.

I stopped by long time WOW member and Hunter Smith award winner Monte Koch's house recently to get his story. "How did you get into woodworking?", I asked. Born in 1926, he started as a child in his father's basement shop in Stockton, CA. His father liked metal working, but figured turning wood

on his metal lathe was safer for

Monte than metal. Turns out he liked turning wood better anyway. When Monte went to school there was one vocational school for the district. He got to go there two Fridays a month. He gravitated to the wood shop, where they had lathes he could happily make shavings with.

High School ended, but Uncle Sam was waiting for him as WWII was raging. Monte chose the Navy where he ended up as a Radioman on a converted Merchant Marine ship for transporting aircraft. First trip was west coast to east coast. The ship was too big for the Panama Canal so

they had to go around South America. One night they heard a big crash, but could find nothing wrong with the ship. Later in dry dock they could see a big dent in the side of the ship where a torpedo had hit. Good thing it was a dud!! They transported aircraft where they were needed. The war ended and Monte was discharged after 3 1/2 years.

Back in California, Monte married his wife Bonnie in 1946. They were married until her death in 2014. After the War California was booming. He worked at various places picking up different skills ending up at Bechtel in Santa Fe Springs. An engineering firm, they were building power plants all over the world. He became a troubleshooter/ inspector on welding and finishes, traveling to different sites, he even went to China.

Monte told me he has always done woodworking in his spare time and his favorite tool is still the lathe. You can see the segmented bowls he has made in the picture. He also likes the scroll saw. His shop is a shed in the backyard with a lot of



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Established 1993



character. It reminds me of an old-time hardware store with “treasures” hidden in the nooks and crannies. He even has his father’s Atlas drill press in there.

Monte became a member of WOW in the early days. His daughter, Robbie, estimates it was at least 20 years ago. A friend of his belonged to WOW and invited him to join. Thank you Monte for your story and being a part of the WOW family for all these years.

Message From the Prez

by Paul Wilson

As the holiday season approaches it almost time for the club’s annual Christmas Party. Last year the pandemic shut us down, but this year we are back. The party will be held on Thursday, December 9th from 6pm until 8pm. The doors will open at 5pm for set up. The location for this year’s party will be at a different place than 2019. This year’s party will be held at the La Habra Church of Christ in La Habra. The address is 1621 W. Lambert Rd, La Habra 90631. The location is just a few miles to the east of Parnell Park. Once again we will have the opportunity to celebrate the holidays and another year of the clubs toy project completed.

As for other club news, I will be working on a location for our club meetings in the next few weeks. I will keep you updated on any news.

I would like to thank all the members who attended Monte’s service on the 6th. Monte’s daughter Robbie was thankful for the club’s attendance in their club shirts. So until we meet at the Christmas Party, I would like to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. For those of you who will be traveling, I wish you a safe journey. Thanks again to all for your hard work this year.

Paul Wilson

P.S. For those of you who will attending the Christmas Party please remember the door prizes.



Club Calendar

November Meeting- None

Steering Committee Tues. Nov. 16th Call Paul

Christmas Party December 9th

No December Steering Committee Meeting

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

Past Show and Tells Left to Right

Paul Wilson, Ray Sosa, Rubin Johnson, Ray Wolven