

## April 10, 2025 Demonstration – Tom Huber – platter

Our April demonstrator will be Tom Huber from CAW. Tom last demonstrated for us in Feb. 2019 when he showed us some kitchen gear – a cookie/biscuit cutter and a spurtle. Believe it or not, that's now six years ago. Seems like yesterday.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Ae6iDRoKRvDs2S2A7>

More recently, you may remember Tom as one of our Critique panelists from last September, where he did an outstanding job – and he will be joining us again this year in that role.



Tom Huber, a long-time member of CAW, started off as a child in Southern California. As a Navy brat he traveled the country to his dad's various duty stations. Eventually, he landed in San Diego where he finished High School and attended the University of California San Diego in the 1960's when he wasn't surfing or making surfboards. After a brief stint studying Medieval History in a Master's Program he spent several years kicking around in odd jobs until he joined the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force was very good to him, and he retired as a Lt Colonel, after working at every level from base to the Pentagon. The Air Force sent him off to distant lands and he spent 14 years of a 23 year career outside the United States in Germany, Turkey, and England. He has been married to his wife Lt Colonel (ret) "Charlie" Brown for 40 years. They have lived in Northern Virginia since 1996. After he retired from the Air Force, Tom taught elementary school for several years and discovered woodturning in 2005.

Like many turners, Tom started off turning pens for friends and family. After taking a bowl turning class at Woodcraft, he joined Capital Area Woodturners and the American Association of Woodturners in 1996. He took advantage of CAW's Skill Enhancement Workshop program and was mentored by very talented local turners. After becoming more confident in his skills he began to take workshops from CAW's visiting artists including David Ellsworth, Mark St. Leger, Barbara Dill, Jimmy Clewes, Stuart Batty, Rudy Lopez, Mark Sfirri, and Jacques Vesery. For a long time, Tom was a "lurker" -- content to remain in the background, attend CAW monthly meetings, and take the occasional class. After a while he realized how much CAW had given him. He was part of a long established craft, he had a creative outlet, and he was in contact with others who shared his enthusiasm. As a result, he volunteered to become the CAW Program Manager and Newsletter editor in 2016. In this capacity, Tom has had the ability to explore the craft of woodturning by bringing in artists who span the diverse range of the craft. In addition he has written articles for the newsletter that explore various elements of the craft, as well as information about design, wood composition, and the various timbers used by woodturners. Tom has also trucked many demonstrators to MCW.

Like most practitioners of woodturning, Tom is a hobbyist turner. His only advantage is that he is fully retired and can spend as much time as his wife will allow him on his passion. As a result, Tom has a wide range of interests ranging from spindle turning, bowl turning, hollow forms, and off-center turning. Tom likes to turn items that have a purpose and isn't normally interested in doing art for art's sake. He believes embellishing a piece can elevate it and make it more interesting, but he rarely makes "art" pieces.

For MCW, Tom will show us his latest take on platters. You don't want to miss this one!