

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

January, 2010

Next Meeting: January 5th, Hillcrest Park Lodge

7:00PM General Meeting

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174

I-5 exit 226 (Kincaid Street Exit). Go East up the hill. This is Broadway Street. Continue on Broadway to

S 13th Street (which is about 5 to 6 blocks from the freeway). Turn right (south) onto South 13th and go

Toys, Toys, Toys!

NCWA Fulfills Christmas Dream for Needy Children

The December meeting was a culmination of all the hundreds of hours of labor we woodworkers devoted to our organization's most worthy public cause and results showed as we proudly conveyed 270 handmade wood toys to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's local detachment for Christmas distribution to needy children in Skagit, Whatcom, and northern Snohomish counties. It was a proud moment for NCWA members who worked selflessly throughout the year making high quality wood toys not usually available on the commercial market.



Flight check OK. Airplane by Dwain Colby and Nick Van. Dwain took the photo

Alder, our principal source of donated wood, the local Marine Corps Detachment, and principals from the Skagit Valley Herald who lead the vast local collection center for gathering thousands of toys and cash contributions each year. For the first time in our Club's history we were honored with a front page story in text and photos in the following Sunday's edition.

Guests included Megan Jacobson and Cathy Shalamunec from Washington Alder; L. Stedam Wood, publisher of the Skagit Valley Herald and

Marta Murvosh, journalist, and Matt Wallis, photographer; and from the Marine Corps Detachment Gunnery Sgt. Shane Inman, Rick Crossley, and Bill and Marie McCutcheon.

Toys for Tots chairman Gene Benson chaired the celebratory gathering at Hillcrest Lodge that included guests from Washington

Twenty-seven members, including several wives, contributed everything from rocking airplanes to complete train sets in the monumental effort to bring Christmas gifts to the children of needy families. Despite a record collection of 9,000 toys by the Herald staff and 4,000 by the Marine Corps at December's mid-point, Benson said: "We are running out of toys." They aim to serve 11,000 needy children.



Photo by Drake

Gene Benson, Bonnie Yost, Doris Benson, Vera Gruenewald

Our Club members also contributed \$480 at the meeting and another \$189 in wood raffle money for this year's stake. In addition, Benson and Val Matthews created 270 toy wood cars 2 to 3 inches in length, and in four different models, which they gave to small children on a couple of weekends recently at Haggen's grocery stores in Mount Vernon and Burlington where they

Gunnery Sgt. Shane Inman



Photo by Dwain Colby

set up cash box collections. In other member contributions, an earlier \$5 raffle by the Marine Corps netted additional funds for the Toys for Tots campaign. A single local mother with three young children won the Costco \$2,500 food award and the local Marine Detachment's Toys for Tots program received another \$6,000. Such an outpouring of compassion for needy children has elevated community awareness and respect for our collective efforts, as evidenced by the Herald's pictorial commendation in the prime, above-the-fold spot.

Members and others singled out for their Toys for Tots hand-made contributions at the traditional pizza dinner meeting included Doris and Gene Benson, Bill and Lorraine Baer, Vera and John Gruenewald, Val and Laura Matthews, Linda and Ed Pysher, Jan Schulrman, Bonnie Yost, Rick Anderson, Jerry Anderson, Dwain Colby, Jack Dunphy, Doug Duehning, Jay Geisel, Ken LaMarche, Roy Little, Mike New, Clarence Ochsner. Andy Swanson, Bill Thisius, Nick Van, Richard Zegers, and James Zielinski. Congratulations to all of you. You have made us proud of your accomplishments.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

Build a Workbench With Cec Braeden

We need more members to sign up for the "Build a Workbench" class to be conducted by Cec Braeden on the 30th of January, 2010. We need at least 5 members to sign up for the class by the 15th of January.

New members of the NCWA may not be familiar with Cec's unique method of building a rock solid workbench at a reasonable cost. Others who may want to build a bench have not taken this class. His method, featured in Fine Woodworking Magazine can be seen at <http://www.finewoodworking.com/FWNPdfree/011181054.pdf>. The approach

used is quite adaptable and can be easily modified to accommodate nearly any size bench.

One lucky member will be selected to have his/her bench built as a part of the program. The member will be required to buy the materials (probably less than \$250) and participate in pre-building about three fourths of the bench prior to the formal class in Cec's shop near Anacortes. Other members will be free to participate in this preliminary phase if interested.

Cec On the Job



Photo from Fine Woodworking

On the day of the class, a short presentation on the history of workbenches and the various styles of workbenches will be presented. The remaining parts of the workbench will then be fabricated and the bench will be assembled. A copy of the Fine Woodworking article which has detailed plans will be provided to each attendee. All class participants should be able to build their own workbench from what they learn in this class. To sign up just register on the club web site, <http://ncwawood.org/Education/registration.htm> or contact Chuck Robertson.

Library Update

Our library has added 2 new books with the club's box-making contest in mind. "Creating Beautiful Boxes with Inlay Techniques" by Doug Stowe and "Box-Making Basics" by David Freedman will be available for check-out at our January meeting.

We will also continue to have our magazine recycling bin available at meetings this coming year. When you get into your January "getting organized for the year mode" bring some of those old mags that are gathering dust to the meeting.

With new purchases and gracious donations, our club library now has 105 books and 35 dvd/videos for your use. In 2009 over 120 items were checked out and there are usually 25-30 items checked out at any one time. As always, the library committee welcomes suggestions on what we can add to your library. The box making contest happens in February. Contact Gary Weyers for more information.

Gary Danilson, Steve Johnson and Jim Torrence

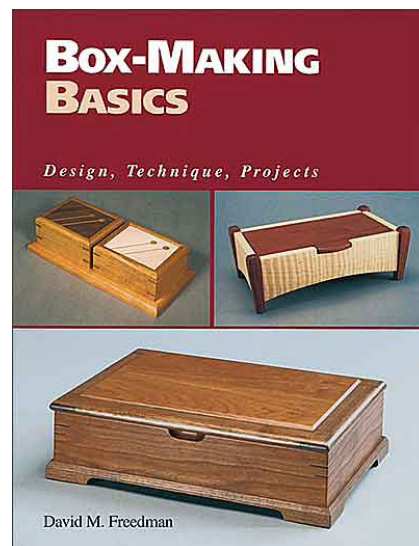


Image from Fine Woodworking

NCWA Annual Member Fees Due Now

Treasurer Doug Duehning is busy these days collecting membership dues for 2010, and he reminds us that to keep your membership in NCWA intact you need to pay up by the end of January or lose your Club privileges. Your Board has mandated that the dues deadline occurs one month after the new year and that benefits stop for non-members after that date.

Our Club is offering some excellent wood-working classes and has rolled out a new method of planning exciting programs for the monthly meetings. You don't want to miss out on the attractive discounts, raffles, and summer picnic either.

Our non-profit organization keeps a slim budget and the \$30 fee per member is needed to pay Hillcrest Lodge rent and other bills that are on-going. You have an opportunity to submit your dues payment at the January meeting. Beyond that you will need to mail your check to the Club Treasurer at 150 Swinomish Drive, LaConner, WA 98257.

We want to keep our valuable members. Re-up time is now.



Program for January Meeting

Jigs and tools you like and use is the theme for January's meeting. If you want to save time and improve accuracy you may just find the trick you need at this meeting. If you have a new tool or a jig you find very useful and are willing to share, contact Jim Bucknell to get on the presenter's list. 360-766-5088.



Image from Fine Woodworking



Photo by Drake

Perfect Project for Jig Development

Board Meeting 12/18/09

Vice President Jim Torrance brought the meeting to order at 7:00 sharp. To everyone's surprise, he handed out a proposed agenda, something that has been missing since the board first met. Wow! The actions of your board were as follows:

1. It was proposed, moved, seconded and approved to have the minutes of all board meetings included in the newsletter.
2. Doug Duehning reported that the treasury contained \$3,748 as of 11/30/09, that all bills have been paid and the books of the club are in good order.
3. Gene Benson reported that over 250 toys were fashioned by club members for the Toys for Tots program.
4. Chuck Robertson reported that the club's education program was running smoothly and that he is actively seeking his replacement effective at the end of the current education year (June 2010).
5. Jay Geisel brought a copy of the article written in the Skagit Valley Herald about our club and the Toys for Tots program. We all agreed that the SVH did a bang up job of reporting our activities.
6. Jim Torrance reported that, effective January 1, 2010, the beginning of his term as club President, he'll seek out and appoint two members at large to serve on the board for a one and a two year term. (At this writing, Nancy Anderson has agreed to serve for a one year term and Andy Swanson has agreed to serve for a two year term.)

THE WOOD SHED.....

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7. It was agreed that Nick Van will serve as junior assistant to Secretary Jay Geisel for the purpose of recording the activities of the board and to make certain that there is a recording secretary at each and every meeting of the membership and the board.

8. It was proposed, moved, seconded and unanimously passed that each board member (including all four officers) and each committee head take the responsibility to organize at least one general membership program during the club year.

9. Gene Benson reported that "Flag Boxes" are needed. Plans are on the Internet. He also reported that he is building two new cash boxes for use by the club.

10. Doug Deuhning presented a proposed budget. The board approved it except that the budget for meetings was increased to \$1,200 to allow for a few paid program speakers during the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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COMING EVENTS

Jan 5	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Jan 12	7:00 PM	Jointer Maintenance	
Jan 20	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant
Jan 23	Sunset	Newsletter deadline	Charley Drake cndrake@wavecable.com
Jan 23	10:00 AM	Sketchup	Burlington-Edison HS
Jan 30	9:30 AM	Workbench	Cec Braeden's shop

The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers, and was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education and showcasing local woodworking. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Location is announced in the newsletter. Dues are \$30 per year, payable to NCWA, 150 Swinomish Dr., Laconner, WA 98257. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 3rd Saturday of the month. Submit to NCWA Newsletter, 5955 Central Ave., Anacortes, WA 98221, or email to chdrake@wavecable.com or call 360-588-8448.

2010 Officers and Chairpersons

President:	Jim Torrance	(360) 629-6670	Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333
Vice President	Jerry Couchman	(360) 366-5169	Librarian	Gary Danilson	(360) 424-9268
Secretary	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-1281	Newsletter	Charley Drake	(360) 588-8448
Treasurer	Doug Duehning	(360) 466-5910	Membership	Ed Pysher	(360) 770-7203
Board at Large	Nancy Anderson	(360) 318-1299	Shows	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Board at Large	Andy Swanson	(559) 970-9601	Toys for Tots	Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004
Programs	Jim Bucknell	(360) 766-5088	Webmeister	Mike New	(360) 707-2314
Activities	Gary Weyers	(360) 380-0888			

**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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