



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May 2011

Next Meeting: May 3rd, Hillcrest Park Lodge

7:00 PM General Meeting

1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon

Phone: (360) 366-5169 or (360) 766-5088

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 about 6 blocks. The park is on the right. Turn into the park, the parking lot is in front of the lodge.

April Membership Meeting

The April membership meeting was held at the Mt Vernon Building Center, and was hosted by Vice President and co-owner Kevin Kok. The Mt Vernon Building Center is another one of our club vendors offering 10% discount on most of what they sell (tools not included.) President Couchman summarized our participation in Wood Fest in Sedro-Woolley where we presented a Veritas block plane to the top high school student, Chris Cruise of Stanwood. Gary Danielson gave a brief run down on our recent shop tour, and then there were reports from other board members. Bring and Brag items included two nice boxes by Val Matthews. One was started in the box making class. The other featured tapered sides. Jim Hickey demonstrated his full face ventilated dust mask system. Dean Brittain, a local woodworker announced that he was selling all his shop tools and showed pictures of the major machines. Several members expressed interest. After the break, Kevin Kok described the materials and fine hardwoods that his company has to offer stressing the quality of their products. He handed out information on their products including a \$10 off coupon in addition to our club discount.

Jerry Couchman

May Meeting Change

The May meeting was to have been at Anacortes Community Maritime Center in Anacortes. Unfortunately, we will have to find another way to enjoy the Center. In short, we could not figure out a way to get all of us into the facility.

The ACMC mission statement is - "Our mission is to build a community where good friends meet to celebrate, learn, share, and preserve our rich maritime knowledge and tradition and to explore the waters and shores of Northwest Puget Sound. Our purpose is maritime education." A visit to ACMC is an inspirational experience. I would urge you to visit their web site ww.anacortescommunitymaritimecenter.org. For further information.

ACMC is co-located with Emerald Marine, which is a unique business that specializes in the repair of wooden boats. When I visited ACMC and Emerald Marine this week, there was a very large wooden sailboat in the repair bay that looked like they were re-calking the sides. They also were building a teak deck in the main room for installation in what must be one heck of a large boat. (I asked if they practiced "measure twice – cut once" and was told they "measure 15 times and pray a

lot". Clear teak, it seems, is quite expensive.) It was particularly interesting how many strange and wondrous tools they have that are unique to wooden boat construction and repair. They also have what must be the world's largest band saw.

I was assured that ACMC would be delighted to show NCWA members through the facility, either individually or in small groups. If you have an interest in seeing their operations first hand and learning more about their services, give Lyndon Greene a call at 360-299-9075.

The May meeting will now be at Hillcrest Lodge on Tuesday, May 3rd. Our program will be a presentation by local woodworker Greg Klassen, who attended the College of the Redwoods and studied with James Krenov. The format of the meeting will be similar to the one with David Selditz. Greg will be showing examples of his work and discussing his woodworking style. Check out his website: <http://gregklassen.com/>

Ed Pysher



Bench by Greg Klassen, featured in Fine Woodworking. Coopers, then shaped with two wooden planes Greg made just for this project.

NCWA Board Readies Plan for Woodworkers' Basic Training

Meeting Wednesday evening, April 14, at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Route 20, the NCWA board set plans for a basic educational program aimed at members who are new to woodworking or those who need some brush-up courses to help them restart their hobby. Noting that many of our new members are beginners looking for help, the Board has set in motion a new set of classes in fundamentals to help get them started.

Jerry Anderson, Educational Chairman, and his committee introduced a plan for woodworking classes to begin soon that will address shop tools and woodworking techniques in a hands-on teaching style that will enable students to create projects in the classroom. The series of classes will include types of tools and their uses, preparation of wood, design and layout, joinery and construction, wood movement, finishing, and shop safety. The new series is called "Instruction to Woodworking" and is open to all members. Classes will be given on Saturdays, but Jerry sees the possibilities of weekday classes, too. Instructors include Bill Baer, Gene Benson, Andrew Pellar, Ed Pysher and Jerry. Jerry noted that the schedule for our regular classes is nearing an end and his committee will soon be meeting to select courses for the fall season. He requests suggestions from members who have ideas of what courses should be given next or repeated.



One of Several Projects for the Intro to Woodworking Class

President Jerry Couchman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Minutes of the previous Board meeting in March were approved and a Treasurer's report was requested. Treasurer Doug Duehning reported a balance of \$5,072. Couchman then called for the Educational Committee proposal.

A report by Jim Bucknell outlined the special weekend exhibition by NCWA at Cascade Mall on June 18th and 19th. The event occurs on Fathers' Day weekend, he noted. Jim has several volunteers helping set up the display tables at the Mall's center Court. He plans to list all the entries as members report their items to him and then he and his helpers will arrange the exhibit. More information will be given at the May and June meetings.



Roy Little's Box Joint Machine

Couchman honored Gary Danilson for the excellent Shop Tour event in late March. Estimates of 70+ members, some with their spouses, enjoyed the invitation to visit four member workshops in the Bow area on Saturday. Gary said our next tour is planned for the Bellingham area in October.

The May program has been changed from a meeting in Anacortes back to our Hillcrest Lodge. The earlier plan to meet at the Anacortes Maritime Museum was scrubbed when it became apparent to our hosts that they could not accommodate a crowd of our size at their waterfront facility. The new program for May

will feature a talk by noted craftsman Greg Klassen of Lynden. In June we will travel to Ferndale to revisit the Northstar Door Company facility. This was a popular visit for us several years ago and bears repeating.



Jim Bucknell's Coin Bank

Rounding out the Old Business issues was another general discussion of liability insurance coverage and the purchase of gift coffee mugs carrying the NCWA logo, which we present to speakers and meeting hosts.



Roughly 3% of Bill Bayer's Shop

Doug has had several discussions with insurer agents and could find nothing to enhance our current contract. Pellar, a registered attorney (but not in the State of Washington) discussed possibilities and ideas that he is presently pursuing to find waivers and a way to better liability protection. He said he would continue to explore this need.



One Example of Andy Rudy's Work

The Board finally selected their gift coffee mug, one of two samples sent to us, and voted to purchase 36 of them for future use. The members again chose a silver finish, but with a slimmer design. The new mugs will cost us \$10.99 apiece, plus a \$50 logo set-up fee. Members can buy these handsome insulated coffee cups with logo at our cost. See Doug.

In other new business not on the evening's Agenda, the Board discussed our lack of presence at 2011 WoodFest and the need to revise and reprint our Club brochure.

Copies of our full-color folder are almost depleted and more must be printed before our forthcoming exhibition at Cascade Mall in Mount Vernon. I suggested that I revise the brochure with new photos and layout before reprinting.

Missed communications and some misunderstanding combined to put NCWA out of its traditional role as a principal participant in the 2011 WoodFest competition at Sedro Woolley High school last month. We gave up our presence and project exhibition space in early March when it appeared

that the event had been cancelled, as in the previous year. The Board discussed the situation Wednesday night.

(FANFARE!) However, our plucky President did a great recovery in the final moments when he realized that 2011 WoodFest was a reality and took immediate action to secure a quality Veritas plane



Inside Andy's Shop

and get it inscribed by award time. Our "People's Choice Award" was presented to the honored student at the awards ceremony. Three high schools had entered student projects in the contest. Without our judging team this year, the schools' woodworking teachers made the decisions for all the awards.



Jerry Couchman, Chris Cruise from Stanwood High School

Education Committee Report

Jerry noted that it was actually a one-day event. By Sunday morning almost all the student projects had been removed. The Woodturners were there, he said, with several tables offering turnings, but sales were disappointing.

Jerry's alertness saved the day and our Club's award carried on an unbroken tradition for another year. One of NCWA's public aims is to promote woodworking education in the area high schools; WoodFest is our primary path to keep that effort alive. Jerry also gave student participants a letter that invited them to free membership in our Club with full membership privileges.

We adjourned at 8 p.m.

Board Members present: Jerry Anderson, John Bellinger, Gene Benson, Jim Bucknell, Jerry Coiuchman, Gary Danilson, Charley Drake, Doug Duehning, Jay Geisel, Andrew Pellar, Ed Pysher, and Matt Titus.

Submitted by Jay Geisel, Secretary

LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT!

To safely rip a board on the table saw you need a straight edge. (T or F?) True. What if a board has two very uneven edges? Still true, two wrongs don't make a right. Head to the jointer? No, I said two VERY uneven edges. Taking a 1/16" off at a time would be a task to test the patience of Job. I attached, with screws, the board to a scrap piece of oriented strand board which had a straight edge with which to ride against the table saw fence. An added bonus was the screws kept the board from rocking during the cut. Furthermore, you could angle the board to make a tapered cut or align the cut with the grain for a better appearance.

- Andrew Pellar

The cabinet making class has finished the cabinet, complete with doors and drawers. Thanks to Bill Baer & Chuck Robertson for a great job of instructing. We still can't offer the wood carving class on April 30th, since no instructor can be located now. This class is being postponed until our next class season.

May classes are:

May 14th: how to photograph your work - Charley Drake, instructor

May 21st: sculpturing & shaping - R.P. Myers, instructor

The education committee welcomes suggestions for new and varied classes for the upcoming 2011/2012 season. Call or email Jerry Anderson with your requests at 360-770-8559 or gconsulting@wavecable.com.

The Introduction to Woodworking classes will begin in the fall, with four classes in the series.

Education committee meeting: Tue. May 3rd at 5:00 p.m. - La Casita restaurant at 102 S. 10th Mount Vernon. We'll begin to set up the 2011/2012 class offerings.

Jerry Anderson, chairman



Andrew's Edge Truing Setup

"Found on the Web"

Here are six short videos about a Japanese woodworker who specializes in constructing tansu (small cabinets). The videos are in Japanese without English subtitles, but his skill with hand tools is impressive to watch. Highlights include cutting blind dovetails freehand with a chisel and piston-fitting drawers.

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?p=D4787E2CE3447E4A>

Mike Titus



Bill Bayer's Cabinet Making Class

News from your Library Committee

We will have some new books and DVDs available at our general meeting in May at Hillcrest Lodge. Our DVDs are from Lie-Nielsen Toolworks:

Coarse, Medium and Fine explores the use of the right handtool for each stage of woodworking project.

Handscrapers: Understanding, Preparing and Using the Ultimate Finishing Tool covers the use of an often ignored tool.

We also have 3 new books from Fine Woodworking that each come with a companion DVD:

Spray Finishing Made Simple
Vacuum Pressing Made Simple
Kitchen Cabinets Made Simple

We will also have the new **Best Tips** book from Fine Woodworking. We have also pre-ordered the new Jim Tolpin book **The New Traditional Woodworker** which will be available at our June meeting. As always you are welcome to request any of these books to be held for you at the next meeting. Contact Gary Danilson to reserve.

We are also searching for some books that have come up missing from the library. If anyone has seen **500 Wood Bowls** or **Care and Repair of Shop Machines** please let us know.

We are in the process of culling out older books that receive little use by club members and will have them available for interested members at our next meeting.

Gary Danilson



New Toy

Speak Up! How many times have you said or thought that when we have someone talking at a meeting? Our meeting room is large and there are a lot of us. We signed on because we like woodworking, not because we have a politician's voice or are professional presenters. The little mike we have been trying to use isn't really designed as a hand held mike. The photo above shows my at-

tempt at a solution to our audio problems. This is a sound mixer, with a small boundary mike. The mike is designed to work on a stage or in a board room, picking up presenters who are not right on top of the mike. If it works right you should be able to come up front for bring and brag, talk about your project and have your voice amplified without you having to do anything except talk. This stuff is in addition to the speaker and clip on mike we already have (donated by Bob Doop). The mixer will allow us to add more mikes and more speakers if we want to expand in the future. We could even hook up an I-Pod for music before the meeting! (Or not).

after the cut.

– Andrew Pellar



Missing

Remember when we had the tool sharing meeting last winter? There was an interesting plane and many carving tools, but I couldn't see them until break, when everyone else wanted to see them too. To improve our ability to show detail to a large group I stole ideas from the wood turner's group. We now have a camcorder and projector. The projector will work for either a laptop computer or a camcorder.

Photos. This month I was goofing off in Mexico and missed the meeting at Mt. Vernon Construction Supply. Jerry Couchman did the shop tour photos. Andrew Pellar did the images for his articles. We'll have lots of photos next month. Charley Drake

If you would like to be a part of the Audio/Video team, please come to the meeting May 3rd about 6:30 and learn how to hook this stuff up. We have well over 100 members, so I'm sure a few will be willing to learn how to make this stuff run. I shouldn't be the only one who gets to play with the new toys. Photographing and doing the newsletter is enough entertainment for me.

Charley Drake

ANOTHER WAY TO CUT MITERS

My table saw tilts to the right or towards the fence. Cutting miters in this configuration makes me nervous. When cutting miters on both ends of a piece, the cut "point" is not in direct contact with the fence and might catch in the space between the saw's surface and the fence. Also the blade seems like it is pointing at my hand. So I cut the piece from the left side of the blade which is buried in an auxiliary fence. I feel more comfortable, get cleaner cuts, and have the added benefit of being able to cut to length while square and maintain the same measurement

Classifieds

For Sale:

4 Stanley wood chisels: 1", 3/4", 1/2", 1/4". Resin handles with steel striking cap. Good condition, sharp blades! \$20/set.



Mike Titus, 360-714-8182, mjt365@comcast.net

4" Woodcraft diamond jointer / planer hone. 300 and 600 grit surfaces. Tune-up straight-blade jointer and planer knives while they are still installed in the cutterhead. \$15 (over \$30 new).

Mike Titus, 360-714-8182, mjt365@comcast.net

All Members are Welcome

If you would like to attend the board meetings please feel free to do so. The Farmhouse has good food, and the board discussions can be entertaining. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 P.M.

Charley Drake

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COMING EVENTS

May 3rd	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Park Lodge
May 11th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
May 14th	9:00 AM	Photographing Projects	Charley Drake's shop
May 21st	?? AM	Sculpting	R.P. Myers at Val's shop (I think)

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 cndrake@wavecable.com or call 360-588-8448.

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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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