



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 2011

Next Meeting: Tuesday December 6th, Hillcrest Park Lodge

7:00 PM 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 about 6 blocks. The park is on the right. Turn into the park, the parking lot is in front of the lodge.

2011 Toys for Tots Biggest in Our History

It was the best of times, taking Christmas to the needy children of Skagit County. Our Club did not disappoint: 259 wooden toys, 670 smaller “stocking stuffers,” and almost two thousand dollars in toy-spending money. What an accomplishment!



Full House for Toys for Tots

Hearts and hands of those who cared gave big in the annual Toys for Tots program. It was another celebratory dinner meeting on November 1st at the Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon where we loaded the U.S. Marine Reserve’s Skagit Valley big red truck with our out-poring of children’s gifts, an amazing output for an organization of our size. At

the Lodge we displayed a mountain of toys with real keepsake value, something more tangible and lasting than the usual store-bought plastic and electronic toys available today. A crowd of more than 80 members and guests were on hand to honor the event.



Bill Bayer, Gene Benson and Toys

The short business meeting was opened by Presiident Jerry Couchman and followed a satisfying meal of pizza and salad that brought members and guests together at 6 p.m. Couchman named the slate of candidates for office in 2012 as John Ballinger, President; Bill Baer, Vice President; Jay Geisel, Secretary; and Doug Duehning, Treasurer. Nominations from the floor were requested, but none were made. Elections are held at the December

meeting. The program was then turned over to our Toys for Tots chairman Gene Benson.

Honorary guests were introduced and included: Heather Hernandez, publisher of the *Skagit Valley Herald*; John and Louise Janes, he is the former Commandant, Skagit Valley Detachment, U.S. Marine Corps League; Dave Gibbons and Tim and Caroline Klein, volunteer woodworkers from Camano Island who worked closely with Benson at his shop while making doll cradles and small wood cars.



Lucky Winner Susan Wood

The beautiful wooden chest created by Bill Baer and donated by him to the Toys for Tots raffle fund was won by Susan Wood, wife of member Stephen Wood. The raffle garnered \$516. Gene and his Camano Island friends made 67 doll cradles; 27 were still in Gene's shop on meeting night because of space restrictions. Another busy Toys shop running all year 'round is Val Matthews'. There volunteer Club members produced a multitude of small cars, pull toys, treasure boxes, helicopters, and tractor-trailer combinations. Meanwhile, in Bill's shop, the Baers put together a bunch of doll cradles and fuzzy, stuffed animals.

Members opened their wallets wide Tuesday night, contributing a new high in cash donations. Of the \$1,258 placed in the Fund Box passed around the room, \$150 came via train sets sold by John Gruenwald, the skillful toy trainmaker who has been crafting these sets for Toys for Tots through

the past three years. John was taking a break at his favorite Anacortes coffee shop one morning and got a few patrons interested in his work. The sales came easily. Our handmade wooden toys have lasting value. Some of the 670 stocking stuffers were colorful spinning tops donated by the Woodturning organization.



Gary Weyers with Gene Benson

Again, we had the support of ladies in the various local quilting clubs who gave time and talent to furnishing layettes for the large number of doll cradles offered.

It was a grand evening and we salute Laura Mathews for her salad fixin's and Ed Pysher for putting together a great toy display and a wonderful program.



Roy Little, Toymaker (center)

We owe thanks to these prolific toymakers who made a Christmas for our local children in need of help: Gerald Anderson, Bill Baer, Gene Benson, John Bellinger, Stan Brown, Dick Carey, Jack

Dunphy, John Gruenwald, Ken LaMarche, Roy Little, Laura Matthews, Val Matthews, Andrew Peller, Steve Wagoner, and others unnamed. Thank you, all!

--Jay



Val's Toy Shop Crew



Treasure Chests



Heirloom Toys



Fun with Wood



End Table by Larry Tomovick
December Presenter

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Thanks to everyone who made our annual Toys for Tots celebration another success, with special thanks to Laura Matthews and Ed Pysner for taking care of the food. Also, very special thanks to all the toy makers, who under Gene Benson's inspiring guidance, delivered more than 250 wooden toys and 620 "Stuffers." Bill Baer's beautiful wooden chest was raffled off to a lucky winner, raising \$516 for Toys for Tots, and to top it all off, our membership also donated an additional \$1258 to the program! Well done, Gene!

Our December meeting will feature long time member and expert craftsman Larry Tomovick. Larry will present pictures of much of his work (courtesy of Charley Drake), and talk about his woodworking style, technique and current projects. He'll also have examples of his work for us to admire. Oh, and don't forget - we really need to elect some new officers, especially president, so I can "retire!"

Remember the November newsletter article about Tom Dolese's chair making class? Well, two members have signed up for a class in January, but there's room for one more! For more information, contact Jim Hickey at (360)734-0504.

Jerry Couchman

MEET THE NEW MEMBER

Kent Crouse studied as a mechanical engineer and worked in the natural gas industry in the Southwest in that profession for a number of years. Originally from the Midwest, Kent moved to the Bellingham area in 2005, and started his own business creating custom architectural features for homes. His work included high end cabinetry and custom concrete countertops, and he's also is a skilled metalworker. The economy has affected his business, but he hopes to continue with it in the future. He has developed some interesting jigs for creating box joints with angles other than 90 degrees, and has gotten quite good at it. Could this be a new course to add to our education program? ~Jerry Couchman



Kent Crouse and son

MEET THE NEW MEMBER

Kyle Huntoon moved to Bellingham from Michigan where he grew up and went to school. Currently a civil engineer in Mt. Vernon, Kyle's interest in woodworking was influenced by his grandfather from whom he inherited several good quality hand tools. While still living in Michigan, he decided to take a woodworking course at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, and produced his first furniture project, a Nakashima style coffee table with a live edge walnut slab. He has an eye for creativity and likes to make custom razor handles from exotic hardwoods. He plans to also make custom fly boxes for fly fishermen and enjoys finding good tool bargains at garage sales. Don't we all! ~J. C.



Kyle Huntoon

November 2011 Board Meeting Report

The NCWA Board of Directors opened its November 9th meeting at the Farm House Restaurant on Rte. 20, Mount Vernon, at 7 p.m. President Jerry Couchman presided with a quorum present. Minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved as amended and copies of the current meeting agenda distributed.

Gerald Anderson, Chair of the Education committee, reviewed the forthcoming class schedules and said he was satisfied with the enrollment process and number of signees for future classes. Some popular classes might be repeated, he said, and "standbys" can register for these.

The Board has decided not to file NCWA as a non-profit organization with the State as it continues to search for insurance waivers for its members. Charley Drake has added a second microphone to our A-V system and is pricing a second loudspeaker also. The Board will act on the speaker purchase at its next meeting.

The President reviewed plans for the December meeting and election of officers. The program will be given to member Larry Tomovick who will comment on his style of furniture-making.

Jim Torrence unveiled his promised shop apron and NCWA cap ideas before the Board. These items would have our logo attached and would be available for sale to members. The apron sample is similar to the aprons he contributed for the Cascade Mall exhibit but with tool pockets. Board members almost unanimously decided against long aprons, preferring a short style with waist tool pockets as sold by Grizzly and Rockler. A motion to purchase 12 caps like the sample Jim was wearing was approved. The Board will discuss aprons again at their next meeting.

A major part of the meeting was consumed in a discussion of future programs. The President distributed a list of potential speakers and projects and asked Board members for comments and other ideas. Certain program ideas receive support of the majority and will be researched before the next meeting.

The Board is considering a second exhibition at Cascade Mall in 2012. At the same time we have been invited to take part in a retail opportunity in Burlington. The Club or individuals in the Club would have selling space for their woodcraft at a retail store that has space available to rent. The Board took no action. Another April is approaching and with it the question of whether there will be a Woodfest in 2012. Our co-chairmen of this event, Phil Choquette and Jim Torrence, will start investigations as early as the first of the year.

We have received a check for \$30 from our mail-order discounter, Hartville Tool. This marks the annual percentage of sales by our members. The award will be the prize of a raffle next month.

The Board adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Board members present: Anderson, Bellinger, Choquette, Couchman, Drake, Geisel, Peller, Pysner, and Torrence.

Respectfully submitted by Jay Geisel, Secretary

Classified Ads

NCWA CAPS

The Club has ordered a limited number of caps with the NCWA logo embroidered on them. They will be available for purchase at the December meeting at a cost of \$20.00.

For Sale

I am selling my 14 inch Jet bandsaw. It has a 6 inch riser block, a Kreg fence, mobile base and an assortment of blades. I am asking \$350. If interested contact Jim Torrence. Phone 360-540-1630, email jetink1@frontier.com

For Sale

Craftsman 10" Contractor type Table Saw With steel stand. Older type Cast Iron table. 1 1/2 Horsepower 120/220 Motor 50 inch width table including 3 aluminum table extensions. Dust Collector ready. Richard Carey
360-766-4305 \$150

For Sale

Mortising Attachment, for drill press, Delta 17-924 with 4 chisel and bit sets and manual. Amazon price \$89.99. Sell for \$45. Tenoning Jig, Delta 34-184 Universal-Deluxe with manual. Amazon price \$129.99. Sell for \$65. Both in excellent condition.

Bob Gaubatz 360-738-8875 or gaubatz@comcast.net

For Sale

Jet 1642 lathe. Please see listing on Craig's List for photos and description:

<http://seattle.craigslist.org/snotls/2681856095.html>

All Members are Welcome

If you would like to attend the board meetings please feel free to do so. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month, Farmhouse Inn at 7:00 P.M.
Charley Drake

Woodworkers---Toys for Tots

2011- Toy Makers (Wood, Fabric, Yarn, Other) plus Helpers, I would appreciate your contacting me by email or telephone to acknowledge your efforts toward the Toys for Tots program. It is unfortunate, but I don't know all of you who have participated in this effort.

We have completed our eighth year making toys for tots, which, I believe was our best year. The need in Skagit County keeps increasing every year. Not much of a surprise, as we all know, considering the economy and the job losses.

We have no chance of changing the above problems, but we do have the ability to give some hope for the children in some of the affected families. Most of us love kids, but all of us love woodworking. Why can't those of us who love both kids and woodworking join together and make toys for those kids who have no hope for a better Christmas.

I'm asking all the members to please join the Toys for Tots program, if you possibly can. I know many want to help, but just not able to. Look into your hearts and try to find a way to help. Many of you may feel like you do not have the skills to participate. There is help available. This can be a great way to learn more woodworking skills. The wood is free. Give me a call or an e-mail saying you want to be part of the Toys for Tots program. I thank you all.

Gene Benson
snooks@valleyint.com
360-466 3004

Val's Toy Shop



Morgan Motor Company

The Morgan Motor Company located in Britain doesn't change in a changing world. Not only is it still independent, but it also makes each car by hand. A base model is about \$44,000, with some cars costing up to \$300,000. People wait for over a year to get their exclusive hand-built cars with the shell made out of metal and much of the vehicle made out of wood. Every year Morgan produces about 600 cars. The company, still owned by the Morgan family will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011.



Parts ready to go, and a demo of proper British spokeshave use when shaping a roadster



Wooden body frame, and the finished product



Submitted by David Blair

Hartville Tool gift certificate

Again this year, Hartville Tool has given NCWA a gift certificate for \$33.33. This is based on 1/2% of the sales to NCWA members. This is the second year in this part of their club program.

The certificate will be raffled off at the December meeting, \$1.00 per ticket. Here's a chance to get some (almost) free stuff!

New Member Statistics

NCWA now has 141 members. This is up from 106 at the beginning of the year. Of the new members, 18 are new to woodworking, 15 are “intermediate” and 2 are “advanced”. By far the vast majority of the new members are interested in cabinet making, boxes and arts and crafts, but it is also interesting how many are interested in chair-making. The following are the stated interests of these new members:

Furniture	23
Cabinet making	9
Carving	6
Marquetry	1
Hand tools	3
Arts & crafts	8
Boxes	17
Chair- making	7
Boat building	3
Toys	4

Jerry Anderson and his Education Committee used this data to design their new educational program for 2011/2012. In it you will see classes specifically designed for “new woodworkers”, including a class on how to be a woodworker and still have all your fingers. This class is taught by Bill “three-finger” Baer. (Editor’s note: Ed had one of those cute little smiley face icons at the end of this sentence. I spent 1/2 hour trying to find the same thing with the fonts I have and gave up. The long version of the story is, Bill actually has all his fingers. And Ed is a joker.)

Incidentally, 19 of the new members are still employed, while 16 are retired.

I’ll have to see how many are from Camano Island or Shelter Bay. I was sure we already had every woodworker from those two locations, but maybe not. Be sure to check out the educational program on the website. There are some great classes!

Ed Pysher

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER CLASS PREVIEW:

Thanks to Jim Torrence, who taught Routed Boxes with Sliding Dovetail Jigs and Val Matthews who taught Flat Straight & Square classes in November. There was excellent feedback from those attending these classes.

December classes are:

Getting Started-Woodworking Fundamental class #4. This will take place at Bill Baer’s shop in Bow on December 3rd from 9 a.m. until noon. Making a small project, such as a step stool will be the “hands-on” portion of this class. Students are asked to bring a $\frac{3}{4}$ ” x 12” x 6’ long pine board for this project. There are 3 openings remaining in this class.

Small Shop Organization: This will be held at Roy Little’s shop in Burlington on December 10th from 10 a.m. until noon. The focus will be on revising a two-car garage into a useable woodworking space. There are 2 openings left.

January classes will be:

Wood Characteristics & Identification, taught on January 14th from 9 a.m. until noon by Jim Torrence and Samantha Chang at Jim’s shop in Stanwood (4 openings remaining).

Toy Making, taught on January 21st from 9 a.m. until noon. by Val Matthews at his shop in Bow (2 openings left).

NCWA members can again enroll for classes at the NCWA website, thanks to the effort of Mike Titus, who ‘repaired’ the glitches that prevented the registrations being forwarded to me. This is an easy and timely way to sign up. The class fee can be paid at the next meeting you attend or at the class when you take it.

As always, your Education Committee solicits your ideas for new classes & welcomes any of you who would like to instruct a class in one of your favorite topics.

Jerry Anderson

360-770-8559

Email address: j.anderson9574@gmail.com

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COMING EVENTS

Dec. 6th	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge
Dec. 14th	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Inn
Dec. 3rd	9:00 AM	Woodworking Fundamental	Bill Baer
Dec. 10th	10:00 AM	<u>Shop Organization</u>	Roy Little

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.

2011 Officers and Chairpersons

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**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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