



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

January 2012

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 3rd, 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.

FAREWELL FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Well, the time for me to step aside and let the new team take over is finally here! It was an honor to serve as president, but the most important thing I learned from the experience is the quality and the contributions of the members serving on your board. Without them, our club simply could not exist! Most of our monthly programs come from their ideas and planning - including our last meeting of the year that featured the workmanship of long time member and expert craftsman [Larry Tomovick](#). It was Ed Pysher's idea and Charley Drake's expert photography and audio visual expertise that made it happen.

The [January 3rd Membership Meeting](#) is another idea from Ed. He has coordinated one of the [Seattle Woodcraft](#) store's regular instructors, Steve Dando, to give a demonstration of the features of three different dovetail jig systems. Normally, there is a charge for his time, but the Woodcraft store is picking up the tab! According to Jay Geisel, a few years ago Steve conducted a router class in Anacortes for six of our members who each paid \$100, and they all felt the class was well worth it.

There is still one slot open in Tom Dolese's chair making class which is scheduled from Jan 9-13 in Bellingham. For more information, contact Jim Hickey at (360)734-0504.

Jerry Couchman

Year-End Meeting Program Brings Crowd

The December meeting attracted a good crowd eager to meet and hear from our physically disabled member who is making local history with his woodworking talent. Larry Tomavick brought some of his signature tables to the meeting and showed us more of his collection on the big overhead screen.

President Jerry Couchman called for guests to introduce themselves and seven visitors did so. The business meeting was short and quick, dominated by election of officers for the new year. The slate provided by the nominating committee was adopted unanimously. John Bellinger moved from Vice President to President for 2012. The new Vice President is hard-working woodworker, Bill Baer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer remain filled with the same members, Jay Geisel and Doug

Duehening, respectively.

Members were reminded to pay 2012 dues before the January 31st deadline. More than 50 members have already remitted. Gene Benson, Chairman of the very successful Toys for Tots program all members who contributed toys to the 2011 campaign to submit their names to him during the meeting. Educational chairman Gerald Anderson said woodworking classes are filling up and members should continue to sign on even though their desired class is filled. Some classes are expected to be repeated in 2012, if registrations warrant.

Bring & Brag brought out another jaw-dropping creation by Ben Gage who continues to surprise us with spheres. A couple months ago it was a soccer ball. Tonight he brought another ball made with the same curved triangle technology but formed as a geodesic dome mounted on a 10-inch spiral pedestal. A rocking horse fit to delight any young child, particularly at Christmas time, was displayed by Dwain Colby. The horse was attractively adorned with a mane that probably originated in the Colby's utility closet. For Val Matthews it was just another plane fact that you don't need sandpaper if you've got a properly ground and honed hand tool. Val's homemade plane class took some shavings off the surface of a maple panel and the resulting surface was as smooth as baby's skin.

One of our new members showed what happens when an aluminum guide accidentally stopped the blade on his SawStop tablesaw. Fortunately it wasn't his skin that touched the blade, but the machine did what it was supposed to do. The blade dropped undamaged. The crushed stopping mechanism was passed around for examination; it was replaced with a new one for under \$70.

--Jay Geisel, Secretary

No B&B Photos

I couldn't get the audio/video equipment together, run the power point and do photography so I don't have pics of the bring and brag projects. Same situation is coming up on the 3rd. Help! Drake

NCWA's Man of Renown: Larry Tomavick

How many people do you know that can peddle a bicycle around town for hours using only one leg? This and other physically demanding feats are everyday exercises that help keep 63-year old Larry Tomavick in physical shape to face the realities of his everyday life. When it rains he swims laps at the Anacortes Municipal Pool to keep in shape.



Tall and slender, with a great sense of humor, Larry is a friendly and familiar figure with crutches on the streets of Anacortes. People want to stop and talk with him, to tell a joke or give him their best wishes. All this friendly chatter keeps Larry smiling and happy and helps him through the day. His friends and a comfortable woodworking shop makes living worthwhile.

Larry got mauled pretty bad in Vietnam. An Army soldier riding on a tank, ambushed, and taking an RPG hit, left him for dead. Hours later a crew found him still alive, blinded and missing body parts. The year was 1969. Larry lost a leg and a hand but his vision has improved to the point where he is no longer legally blind.

Back in San Francisco, mended and in fairly good spirits, he took up sailing while in college and suddenly found interest in building a grandfather clock. With no previous experience except for school manual training, and without a shop or tools, he ordered an 85-piece grandfather clock kit. His tools were a hand miter saw and some Magic Marker pens,

to draw lines that he could see. Finally a successful project, the clock graced his Anacortes home until six months ago. "I just got tired of the noise and the chimes. So I gave it away," he said.



control. That's it, all the other power and hand tools are conventional. Just recently he found a cuff and tool manufacturer who builds a hammer head and a few other tools that can be slipped over Larry's handless wrist to give him extra help.



As he demonstrated Tuesday night, his work has a unique "signature," whether it's furniture, a picture frame, or a rocker. His wood choices are usually bubinga and maple or walnut and maple, and he mixes them for contrast. Other design parts that he uses are two-toned inlays and reveals. In 2003, Tomavick entered the annual National Disabled Veterans Creative Competition in Chicago. His bubinga and maple end table won the top prize in the Woodworking Division.

His "two mistresses, sailing and woodworking," drove him northward in 1980 to the San Juan Islands area where he located a home in Anacortes and bought a Cal 28 sailboat. He and his sailing buddies were soon racing other boats around local waters. In 1993, when Larry discovered NCWA and became an enthusiastic member in "The Guild," as he refers to our organization. Larry wanted to fit out his two-car garage shop with good woodworking tools and the proceeds from the sale of his boat allowed him to buy really good equipment.

Despite being one-handed, Larry's tools are like yours and mine. The only exception is his drill press. He sits on a stool and allows his foot to switch power on and off. After a few trials he found a router with a strap that gives him good two-arm



Larry has trained and monitored many fellow members. He has instructed classes in making inlays and bent wood boxes. A few years ago he partnered an NCWA catalog that listed tools, hardware,

and wood resources. The bound publication was very useful in quickly finding sources for almost anything that could be useful for woodworkers. Larry also organized the dealer discount program that we have today. His humanitarian efforts, an inviting personality and good humor, plus success in woodworking, make all of us proud to know and be called a friend of this man.

A few years ago a couple of us tried to expand Larry's woodworking expertise by introducing him to woodturning. He agreed to try but after only a few minutes, and several catches, he put the gouge down and said: "A man's got to know his limitations." Larry Tomavick has very few.

--Jay

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 January meeting, \$1.00 per ticket. Here's a chance to get some (almost) free stuff! (We were to have raffled the certificate off at the December meeting, but it got a bit hectic with dues collection and all, and I didn't get it done. Sorry bout that.)

2012 Membership Cards and Vendor Support Group:

All the vendors in the Vendor Support Group provide us with a 10% discount, with the exception of Hartville Tool, which provides us with 15%. This is a prized feature of membership in NCWA, and we guard it jealously. Once again, in the next few days we will be notifying all the vendors in the Group to ask to see the 2012 membership cards when a member buys from them. The 2012 cards will be available for you at the January meeting, if you have paid your dues. If you have not yet paid, bring your check payable to NCWA to the January meeting. If you can't make the meeting, send your

dues quickly to our Treasurer, Doug Duehning, and we will mail your card to you. By the way, the dues are a minimum of \$30 annually, but there is no maximum.

Doug Duehning
150 Swinomish Dr.
LaConner, WA 98257

The vendors in the Group are listed each month at the end of our monthly newsletter, but for your information they are as follows:

Vendor Support Group:

South:

Woodcraft - Seattle
Rockler Tools & Hardware – Seattle
Martin Lumber & Hardware – Everett

Central:

Frontier Building Supply – Sedro Woolley
Mount Vernon Building Center – Mount Vernon
Sound Cedar – Mount Vernon
Karl's Paints – Mount Vernon

West:

Frontier Building Supply, Oak Harbor, Anacortes
Sebo's Do it Best Hardware & Equipment Rental
– Anacortes

North:

Windsor Plywood – Bellingham
Hardware Sales – Bellingham
Stockton's Paints – Bellingham
Targo Woods - Bellingham

Other:

Hartville Tool – catalog sales
Edensaw Woods – Port Townsend

When you visit one of our vendors, be sure to show your card. That's the only way you will get the discount.

Ed Pysher
360-770-7203

Tools for sale?

A couple members recently asked if there was a way to let members know when they have tools they would like to sell. There are three ways you can “pass the word”; one is to bring the tool to a regular monthly meeting and post a sign on it with your name, phone number and the price. A second would be to send Charley Drake, our Newsletter Meister, an email with a picture, if you have one, and the details about the tool to be included in the next newsletter. Charley’s email is cndrake@wavecable.com. If you’re not in a hurry, you could bring the tool to the annual NCWA picnic in August, when we have a silent auction for just this purpose.

January meeting

January is dovetail jig night. Steve Dando, who teaches dovetail jig technique classes with Woodcraft of Seattle, will be our presenter. Steve will bring three different jigs and review their features and cut some dovetails to demonstrate both through and half-blind dovetails. This is a chance to explore this mysterious tool with an expert before you pay out a bunch of bucks and get the wrong one.

Ed Pysher

NCWA Board of Directors Meeting

The NCWA Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at the Farmhouse Restaurant in Mount Vernon. With a quorum present, President Jerry Couchman opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with a discussion of next year’s budget. A draft prepared by Treasurer Doug Duehning was circulated and changes were discussed. Total revenue for 2012 is estimated at \$4,535 with operating costs at \$4,010. Our current bank balance is \$4,464. Changes were noted and approved and the draft budget was returned to the Treasurer for finalization.

Couchman, who retires as President at the end of December, will be back on the Board as immediate past president. He also is serving as Program Chairman. Jerry has been working on program ideas

for several months and the other Board members are continuously firing ideas at him. These group discussions are helping to produce more meaningful speakers and demonstrators for 2012. They also involve speaker fees and other expenses. One of the events we will probably host next year is a repeat of the our Cascade Mall presentation in the Spring and participation at WoodFest in April, if the latter event is a go. Education Chairman Gerald Anderson reviewed the remaining classes of this year and presented the January line-up as mostly filled. He reminded us that registrations can be made online and that filled classes may be repeated if enough registrants sign up.

Mike Titus, our Webmaster, is working on the rejuvenation of our on-line website, but it will not be completed until some time next year. Ed Pysher reported that almost more than a third of the membership have paid their 2012 dues. Our total hit 141 persons this year and we expect similar numbers in 2012.

Jim Torrence reported that the 24 caps with our Club logo attached were a big hit. Following December’s general meeting and the Board meeting he sold out in eight days. The Board wants to re-order the caps but is leaving the details of when and how many up to Torrence. Jim favors members pre-ordering to him if they want a cap (\$20) or a logo patch sewn on their apron (\$12).

A plan to purchase another speaker similar to the one used at meetings is underway. The Board approved a motion to purchase a second loud speaker for the Club and gave Charley Drake the authority to purchase it.

Ed Pysher outlined January’s program for the Board, which will be a demonstration of cutting dovetails with routers. Phil Choquette said that he will report any information on a possible WoodFest event as soon as the Sedro Woolley High School woodworking department makes a determination.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Members Present: Anderson, .Samantha Chang, Choquette, Couchman, Drake, Geisel, Pellar, Pysher, and Titus.

Respectfully submitted by Jay Geisel

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Val Matthews displayed a piece of wood at the December meeting finished from raw stock by Jesse Charette & Frank Marzec under Val's expert guidance in the November class, Flat, Straight & Square, using only two different types of hand planes. The finish on the wood was velvet-smooth!

During December, Bill Baer instructed four members in the fourth Fundamentals of Woodworking class in making a step stool. The examples shown at the December meeting showed the results of these classes.

Roy Little provided a very informative class, Small Shop Organization, on December 10th to 6 NCWA members.

The NCWA Board of Directors asks all members enrolled in hands-on classes to bring the following personal protective equipment to class, so that they can work safely during the training:

Eye Protection – Wrap-around unbreakable glasses or a full face shield

Respiratory Equipment – A good-quality filter mask or similar equipment. Ordinary dust masks don't provide adequate safety for your lungs.

Hearing Protection – Either foam ear plugs or complete ear covering type.

If you would also bring a measuring tape or rule, pencil and paper, it would be very helpful, since most instructors don't have enough equipment for an entire class.

Hands-on classes will be identified on signup sheets, in the NCWA newsletter and in the on-line class calendar.

January Class Schedule:

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. (The class is filled, with no openings remaining).

Toy Making, taught on January 21st from 9 a.m. until noon. by Val Matthews, Bill Baer (& possibly others) at his shop in Bow. Various types of toys & methods of construction will be taught in a hands-on class. Please bring your safety and measuring equipment, as mentioned earlier in this article. (1 opening left). NOTE- Class date may be subject to change!)

Making & Using Spoke shaves, taught on Saturday, January 28th from 10 a.m. until about 3 p.m. by Steve Wagoner at Rick Anderson's shop: 3219 Adams Ave., Bellingham. Participants must obtain a spoke shave kit (Steve suggests the Lee Valley on-line catalog item 05P33.30: \$39.50) and a favorite piece of wood 11" x 1 1/2" x 7/8" for a handle. Handle templates are included in the instruction sheets. This is a hands-on class...please bring your safety & measuring equipment). You should also bring a lunch & beverage. (1 opening left)

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. Have a pleasant & productive 2012.

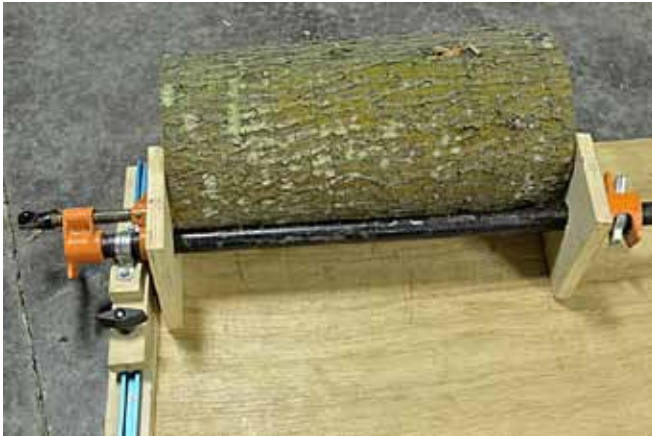
Jerry Anderson

360-770-8559

Email address: j.anderson9574@gmail.com

FREE WOOD

The band saw is a wonderful tool. I made a sled so I could cut small logs. Use a coarse wide blade and a sled to hold the log. Then discover the beauty hidden in some firewood. Try new species. Get true quarter sawn material. It's fun. – Andrew Pellar



Andrew's Mini-Sawmill

SNEAKY SOLUTION

Have you ever read an article telling you to “sneak up” on the cut? Did the article tell you how? Well there is a better way than bumping the fence a “smidgeon” and hoping you get it right. I use a ¼” – 20 thread toilet bolt inserted into a block which butts up against the table saw fence. The head of the toilet bolt offers a large surface which prevents fence damage. A wing nut at the tip serves both as a reference point when making adjustments and a knob making it easier to turn. My fence rides in an extruded rail, so I made a locking device for the block to ride in the rail. It could just as easily be clamped on top of the fence rail. For really fine adjustments, you can use playing cards or slips of paper as shims between the adjustment block and the fence. This locking device also allows me to “remember” fence distances. The use of shop made micro adjusters and shims enabled great progress in accuracy for me. Furthermore, their use is not limited to the table saw. – Andrew Pellar



Andrew's Fine Tuner for the Fence




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COMING EVENTS

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 3rd | 7:00 PM | Membership Meeting | Hillcrest Lodge |
| Jan. 11th | 7:00 PM | Board Meeting | Farmhouse Inn |
| Jan. 14th | 9:00 AM | Wood Id | Jim Torrence's shop |
| Jan. 21st | 9:00 AM | <u>Toy making</u> | Val Matthew's shop |
| Jan. 28th | 10:00 AM | <u>Spoke shave const.</u> | Rick Anderson'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 cndrake@wavecable.com or call 360-588-8448.

2011 Officers and Chairpersons

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Past President | Jerry Couchman | (360) 366-5169 | Education | Gerald Anderson | (360) 766-6248 |
| President: | John Bellinger | (360) 708-4036 | Librarian | Gary Danilson | (360) 424-9268 |
| Vice President | Bill Baer | (360) 766-6020 | Newsletter | Charley Drake | (360) 588-8448 |
| Secretary | Jay Geisel | (360) 466-3908 | Membership | Ed Pysher | (360) 766-0136 |
| Treasurer | Doug Duehning | (360) 466-1281 | Shows | Phil Choquette | (360) 675-8320 |
| Board at Large | Andrew Pellar | (504) 339-0871 | Toys for Tots | Gene Benson | (360) 466-3004 |
| Board at Large | Samantha Chang | (360) 941-3294 | Webmeister | Mike Titus | (360) 714-8182 |
| Programs | Jerry Couchman | (360) 366-5169 | | | |
| Activities | Gary Weyers | (360) 380-0888 | | | |

**NCWA NEWSLETTER**

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