



# NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

August 2007

**Next Meeting: August 11th, 1:00 pm**

## **Annual Picnic**

**Val & Laura Matthews Yard**

**7550 Ershig Road, Bow**

**Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-319-7600**

**See complete details on Page 2**

**DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS:** **From the North**, take the Bow Hill Exit at the Skagit Casino. Follow Bow Hill Rd. west for a mile or so and take a left on Ershig Rd. Continue south to the bottom of the hill and over the RR tracks. First driveway on the right. **From the South**, take Chuckanut Drive exit and follow it to Allen where you will cross the Samish River bridge, take an immediate right onto Ershig Rd., and follow it for a mile and a half. Driveway is on the left just before the RR tracks. **From Anacortes**, travel highway #20 to the Avon Allen Rd., turn left and follow it around the hill and across the flat to the intersection with Allen West Rd. Jog to the right and catch a left on Chuckanut to the Samish River bridge. Make an immediate right onto Ershig Rd. Follow that for a mile and a half. Driveway is on the left, just before the RR tracks.

Here's a link to a MAP:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=7550+ERSHIG+RD,+bow,+wa&sll=48.537338,-122.378812&sspn=0.007061,0.014591&ie=UTF8&ll=48.537338,-122.378812&spn=0.007061,0.014591&z=16&om=1>

## **From our Prez.....**

Hi folks:

Don't forget the August meeting will be on Saturday, August 11. It is the annual picnic at Val and Laura Matthews' place in Bow. This is our annual "social" and Val and Laura have always been able to guarantee the best of weather. The affair is pot luck; however, NCWA will provide the soft drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers and brots. It starts at 1:00, and be sure to be hungry by 3:00. Chef Doop will again be operating the high-tech cooking apparatus. Cec Braeden is again organizing a "silent auction" for this year's event. Be sure to bring any tools, gadgets or other items you would like to sell or otherwise get rid of. Look for more info and directions to the Matthews' place elsewhere in this newsletter.

Speaking of which, we have a new "Editor-in-Chief for the Newsletter committee. Nick Van has succumbed to

the pleadings of the board, yours truly and others (not to mention the threats to his grandchildren's virility) and has agreed to take it on. Congratulations to Nick. This is a very big job and his continued contributions are very much appreciated.

We are still looking for "volunteers" for the "vendor relations" project. I have some folks in mind, so don't be surprised if I show up on your door step, hat in hand.

See you on August 11 at Val and Laura's.

Ed

## Monthly Meeting of July 10, 2007

It was a surprisingly large turnout for a summer's monthly meeting when NCWA members gathered at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon on Tuesday night, July 10, to see and hear the various methods others used in constructing drawers for their wood projects. The program followed the usual hour-long business meeting.

**President Ed Pysher called for an introduction of guests** and three men responded with the promise of becoming our newest members. Pysher then discussed the need for committee manpower and the opportunities and satisfaction of volunteer

work on one of the many committees that keep the organization in operation. He announced that a new Vendors' Discounts Committee was being formed to increase member privileges for lower prices on wood, tools, and other woodworking materials. The Club enjoys discounted buying (usually 10 percent off retail prices) from a half-dozen local area merchants and will make a concerted effort to enroll others in the program. The Club, in turn, will publicize these resources and urge its members to take advantage of the lower pricing. Merchants will also have the advantage of free advertising in the Club Newsletter. Volunteers are needed.

**New Editor Search.** Ed again told the membership that the one-person Newsletter Committee chaired by Editor Rick Anderson needs a volunteer. Anderson originally undertook the job for a promised two-year

stint, but it's now approaching three. He has stated his retirement date will follow the December 2007 issue. "So," Pysher said, "the need is getting critical."

**(Editor's Note:** At the Board meeting which followed on Wednesday, July 18, Nick Van, former president and 2007 Activities Chairman, has volunteered to accept the new Editor's post for a similar two-year period. The Board also approved the prompt acquisition of publishing software so that Nick can start his training in time for the January takeover. Nick has stated that a condition of his offer will be the training of a back-up member to assist him and assure that someone is ready to follow him as editor in two years. Rick has also promised to help

### It's Picnic time!

**Saturday, August 11th, 1:00 to whenever**, at the home of Val and Laura Matthews, 7750 Ershig Rd., Bow, WA. We will plan to eat around 3:00 o'clock. Bring your family, a side dish, (salad, desert, or veggie), and an appetite. There will be hamburgers, bratwurst, corn on the cob, softdrinks, coffee, and tableware provided by our club. Bring your lawn chair too....or sit on the grass if you prefer.

### It's Silent Auction Time Too!

There will be a silent auction tool swap at the picnic event. For those of you who have never participated in a silent auction, the rules are pretty simple. The seller displays the item for sale with a sales sheet that lists the item, the sellers description of the item condition (e.g. new; works good; needs repair; etc), the seller's name, and minimum allowable bid, if the seller wishes to state one. Anyone interested in buying the item writes down the amount they wish to bid for the item and their name. Anyone else interested in the item can overbid by writing their bid amount and their name on the sheet. Normally, bids should advance by at least 10% over the previous highest bid. Check back often to see if you are still the highest bidder. The highest bidder at the sale cutoff time wins the item, if their bid exceeds the stated minimum bid. The buyer should then pay the seller for the item and take possession. *\*Bring items you wish to sell\* along with the silent auction bid sheet (attached). Also, **\*bring money and/or a checkbook\***. You never know what might show up for sale!*

Nick through the early phases of editorship.)

At this point in the meeting, someone noted that it was Nick's birthday and, of course, everyone broke out into a rollicking, if somewhat discordant, "Happy Birthday" song. **Chuck Robertson, our new Educational Chairman**, passed out a two-page schedule of woodworking classes that start in September and run through next Spring. Classes are given on selected Saturdays and Monday evenings, and members can enroll by telephone or through our Club Website.

**Annual Picnic Next.** Fifty woodworkers, and their spouses, are expected to arrive at Val and Laura Matthews home for our annual picnic celebration on Saturday, August 11. The magnitude of work this entails for Val and Laura boggles the mind. Equally arduous is the task of seating and feeding a hot meal to fifty hungry people. Each year Bob Doop and a small crew of volunteers manhandles the chairs, tables, grilles, charcoal, propane tanks, ice, soft

drinks, trash cans, and accoutrements required to make their guests happy and satiated. We cannot thank them enough, but please try. Each year Bob and the other cooks prepare burgers, franks, corn on the cob, and other delights that make the picnic so popular. Bob reminded all they would again be served to a sumptuous feast in the middle part of the afternoon. Picnickers were reminded to bring other food to the table, such as a dessert, salad, or side dish. Notable events for the day are the silent auction of tools and materials no longer needed by their owners and the awarding of Cec Braeden's latest workbench. The party starts at one o'clock.

**Glenn Koontz, our new Toys for Tots Chairman,** has taken on the task of selling raffle tickets for the workbench fund. His stentorian voice transcends all conversation while he sells \$5 chances at every meeting. He took in \$90 this night and promises to give you an opportunity to buy more before the winner is rewarded in the late afternoon.

**Bring 'n Brag.** Jim Murphy is a very active woodworker and every so often he will honor us with his latest project. Jim showed us an elegant table constructed of maple. The half-round furniture piece features a bent wood front with three tapered, outward-bowed legs exquisite in design and workmanship. He noted that the finish is made up of sixteen coats of tung oil. Phil Choquette, who was our design and wood joinery speaker at two previous meetings offered a critique of Jim's effort: "The flared legs," he said, "gives the table balance. Had Jim designed it with straight legs up and down it would have looked top heavy."

Ron Wehde presented his first attempt at making a bandsaw box.....a finely crafted walnut box that would be the envy of veteran box makers. Members rewarded Jim and Ron with a hearty round of applause.—Jay Geisel, Secretary

## REMEMBERING DON PARRY, MD

It is with much sorrow that we report the passing of club member and board member Don Parry at his home on Pleasant Ridge on Friday, July 27, 2007. Don was 68 years old. There will be no funeral service at his family's request. A complete obituary is available on the Skagit Valley Herald website: [www.legacy.com/skagitvalleyherald/Obituaries.asp](http://www.legacy.com/skagitvalleyherald/Obituaries.asp)

Most of you will remember Don for his whimsical working renditions of old fashioned padlocks and lock sets. Each part was handcrafted and all the parts were fashioned to make the lock sets as authentic as possible, considering that he used many different varieties and species of wood to complete his work. And they all worked! Don's research and curiosity was undoubtedly honed by his career as a pathologist.

Don will have many stories to tell St. Paddy and St. Peter upon his arrival and surely he will provide them with a new lock for the gates! His subtle sense of humor and contributions to our club will be remembered and greatly missed. Farewell our friend.....



## Comparing Members' Drawer Styles Is A Fresh Approach to Learning

Drawers, wood ones, not the kind you wear, was the theme of the July meeting and sponsors Cec Braeden and Bob Doop put on quite a show of them. Ten wood drawers, all different in some joinery respects, were lined up on tables to be viewed and their details made public by their creators. From simple joinery to more complex and showy dovetails, they all had been used as drawers in the shops and homes of our members. The collection included four different styles from Doop and two by Nick Van, with single entries by Jim Bucknell, Dave Blair, and Shelly Close. Larry Tomovick submitted a corner sample of one of his recent bedroom furniture pieces.

Basically a box with a handle, drawers can have added features for good looks and a better fit-and-finish joinery system. We were viewing them out of context, so to speak.

The stand or carcass was left at home so we didn't have the opportunity of seeing them in their true environment. But they all looked fine and their makers gave us a few comments on how they were constructed, the tools they used, and some of the problems encountered. As with most volunteer, off-the-cuff presenters, informative and detailed steps in construction were skimpy. There were no notes or diagrams handed out and the final product hid the inner construction. Since corner joints were visible most of the speakers dwelled on their choice of equipment to make dovetails and finger joints.

Jim Bucknell led off the discussion with a nice appearing drawer with neat dovetails at the corners. He described at some length how to make dovetails with the Keller jig, a tool he is happy to promote. His description of how to use the rather simple Keller jig was informative and should win some adherents. Nick Van followed with his two quite different drawers, one with dovetails made on the Leigh jig and another with finger joints at all corners. Neither used hardware slides. The first used dado slots cut in the cabinet s while the second unit operated as a center slider using a centered dado cut. Nick told the story that his raw maple 5/4 boards, bought from Steve Intveld, was "rough stuff," but when he planed and sanded it he uncovered its beautiful flame texture. Nick admits the Leigh jig can be "difficult to set up."

Larry's corner sample was submitted to show how a fantastic finish was possible with the right preparation and use of his favorite finish, ProFin. Larry told his audience that you had to feel the difference, as he

passed the piece to the members. Larry's primary tip was to finish the pieces before they are glued together. Any glue that escapes the joint can easily be wiped clean. Always tape off the glue area before starting the finish operation. Larry uses the Porter Cable jig.

Doop's examples of four differently styled drawers were assembled with self-locking corners stabilized with a pin nailer, by through dovetails with a center slot on the bottom, and by pin nailing only. They were all strong, heavy-duty drawers. Dave Blair showed how he hand-cut his large dovetailed joints into 3/4-inch hardwood to make a strong drawer fitted with outside-mounted slide hardware. Shelly Close exhibited a large, shallow drawer with simple butt joints that had been used successfully for some time.

The evening's half-hour program was highly entertaining but all too brief. The theme deserves a reprise. Doop, or another craftsman, should create a drawer or two that can be put together dry on the spot to clearly show its anatomy and how the various parts are crafted. Such a dry fit assemblage would show the sequence of each step in the construction process and warn of the possible pitfalls that could ensue.

Earlier, Bob showed members some of the new abrasives available from 3M, including a bristle disk that he finds useful when finishing turned projects. He suggested that members take a look at some of their newest products. Another product was a special composite disk available at NAPA stores for about \$6. Both items are gentle but effective, he said. —Jay





**All About Drawers.....**presented by Jim Bucknell (page 4), and clockwise from upper left, Larry Tomovick, Nick Van, Dave Blair, Bob Doop & Shelley Clouse sharing their time tested methods and helpful tips.



## Maybe Next Year.....

There are two major woodworking trade shows held in the U.S.A. on alternating years in Atlanta and Las Vegas respectfully. It is the AWFS fair and this year was held in Las Vegas. I am not fond of gambling with my money and much prefer to throw my money away purchasing woodworking tools or similar related items and the AFWS is the place to do it. Now that my boat is gone I can concentrate on woodworking and the tools that I cannot live without.

I have been fortunate enough to have been able to attend two of the fairs; one in Anaheim (where it was held before moving to Las Vegas) and one in Atlanta. It is sort of like going to an airshow and getting to see the latest fighters and bombers right in front of you. Most people will never be able to fly them but it is certainly interesting to see them. For tool junkies these shows cannot be beat! It is true that the *raison d'être* is to for equipment manufactures to show their wares to professionals and wood factory related industries which is certainly out of my league but for lovers of fine machinery, it is drool inducing to be able to see a Martin or Altendorf table saw or a CNC router table right in front of you rather than a picture in a magazine.

AWFS is not all large machinery, however, and there are tools of all kinds including thing such as Leigh Jigs, the Wood Rat, hand tools of all kinds, router bits, shaper tooling, sandpaper – you name it: if it has anything to do with woodworking, it will be there.

There is another guilty pleasure that I will admit to, namely, roaming what I call the “wiz bang” area. This is the area that contains booths with everything from super glues that can glue plastic to shellac to clamps that will hold a piece of wood in any position that you could imagine. You can buy the item for a “mere” \$50 but today, at a show price you can purchase this item for only \$19.95...but wait, there’s more – today you can get two of these items for the same price! You just cannot beat such wonderful deals! In all seriousness, however, I can recommend the AFWS as a very fun thing to attend that will take at least a day and maybe more to see everything and there really are good deals to be had. Yes indeedy, I wish that I was there but maybe next year! - Walter Meyers

## Bring ‘n Brag.....

Once again members share their projects: Ron Wehde shows off his first attempt at bandsaw box making.....with outstanding results. Jim Murphy displays an exquisite small table with cabriole legs, figured maple base and, the editor can’t remember what wood was used for the top. Great work Ron & Jim!



## MEMBER TO MEMBER

This is a new section that will appear in the Newsletter as needed. All members are invited to submit to this section

Gary Danilson is researching table saws and would like to know if anyone has a hybrid. If so, please call Gary at (360) 424-9268, or email him at [gdanilson@hotmail.com](mailto:gdanilson@hotmail.com). He would appreciate your input and advice.

## WOOD TURNERS GATHERING AUGUST 24-26, 2007

Vernon Leibrant's Shop  
3807 Cabrant Road  
Everson, WA 98274  
Camping and RV's onsite

For more information: 360-966-5183 or 360-393-1310 or [Vkleibrant1@msn.com](mailto:Vkleibrant1@msn.com)

Anyone interested in woodturning is welcome....this will be a great introduction to turning!

## ***FROM OUR WEBMASTER.....***

Any members who have a woodworking related website are invited to submit the URL to their website for inclusion on our NCWA website. To see examples of websites already listed, go to [www.ncwawood.org](http://www.ncwawood.org) and click on "resources" and then click on "woodworking links". This is another benefit of NCWA membership! -Greg Shumate

## ***THE WOOD SHED.....***

### **Maple 'r Us!**

Lots to choose from in a wide selection of sizes.....\$.75-\$2.00/ BF. Call Steve Intveld 360-592-5670

### **Laura's new lathe has arrived.....and Val says SELL the old ones!**

DELTA MODEL #46-700 VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE

12" x 36" w/ #2 morse taper, 2 tool rests (4" & 12"), spur drive, dead center, knock out bar, 2 face plates (3" & 6") and instruction manual. \$150

GENERAL MODEL 160 4 SPEED LATHE

12" x 36" gap bed, 4 speeds (850 to 3500 RPM), #2 morse taper, 3 tool rests (3", 6" & 12"), spur drive, live center, indexing head, 2 face plates (3" & 6"), 2 homemade collet chucks, knock out bar, wrenches & tool holders. Includes 2 sand bags for weight. \$550

VARIABLE SPEED MOTOR

1 HP Totally Enclosed Fan Cooled DC Motor w/ electronic speed control. \$350

Contact Laura Matthews 360-757-7730

## COMING EVENTS

August 11th	1PM	Annual Picnic	Val & Laura Matthews Lawn, Bow
August 15th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
August 18th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Sept. 4th	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon

**NOTE:** Annual picnic is in lieu of August membership meeting.

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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, 1331 Meador Ave., Suite J105, Bellingham, WA 98229 or Email to [rick@gardenarches.com](mailto:rick@gardenarches.com) or call 360-650-1587.

### **2007 Officers and Committee Chairs:**

President:	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Librarian:	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
V.P.	Walter Meyers	(360) 279-8632	Newsletter:	Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
Secretary:	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Membership:	Walter Meyers	(360) 279-8632
Treasurer:	Doug Duehning	(360) 466-1281	Shows:	Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Board at Large	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910		Nick Van	(360) 387-4174
Programs:	Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Projects:	Val Matthews	(360) 757-7730
Activities:	CHAIRPERSON NEEDED		Toys for Tots:	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
Education:	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333	Webmaster:	Greg Shumate	(360) 387-2066



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