



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

January 2008

Next Meeting: January 8, 7:00 pm

Emerald Marine

703 - 30th Street - Anacortes

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

I-5 to Highway 20. Proceed West on Highway 20 to "R" Street in Anacortes. Turn right onto "R" Street and drive about six blocks to 30th Street. Turn right onto 30th Street and proceed to Emerald Marine.

Happy New Year 2008!!!!

From the Prexy

Our brand new Fearless Leader, Walt Meyers, is off on vacation, so you will have to put up with my literally skills for one more month.

I want to personally thank all the folks that made NCWA possible this year. As I mentioned at the December meeting, this is a volunteer organization, and without volunteers, NCWA would cease to exist. A lot of folks worked very hard this year, and their efforts are truly appreciated. At the end of this newsletter is a list of the 2008 officers and committee chairs.

Please note that the position of Vice President is vacant. Some of the members contacted were concerned as to the VPs workload, and I want to address this concern. The VP position is to give the individual time to get used to the organization, and to learn how the members and the board think and exercise their responsibilities. It is a training position for the Presidency, which, incidentally, is the easiest job in the whole of NCWA. Everyone else does the work; the President's main job is to make sure Nick Van and Bob Doop don't sit too close to each other at the board meetings and to

otherwise keep the humor from overtaking the proceedings.

Five years ago, it became tradition that the VP was the chairman of the Membership committee. I started some things with the committee in 2006, when I was VP, and I have a lot of unfinished business there. I asked to board for permission to chair the committee again in 2008, which was granted. The VP in 2008; therefore, would be co-chair with me. It will be an excellent opportunity for someone to gain insight to the board's long-range thinking, have a lot of fun, and to become a part of the organization. Fear not; there is not that much work involved. A couple hours a month will do it.

We need someone to step up and take that position. No particular skills are required other than the resolve to keep Van and Doop separated at the board meetings. The board is a great board and it literally runs itself.

Please don't forget to pay your dues before 1/31. That's the date you will be dropped from the membership list if your dues are not paid.

Please note that the January meeting is January 8, not January 1, and I'll see you there. Happy New Year to you all. As Bob Doop said last year, "it has been a hoot being your President". - Ed

NCWA Committee Descriptions

Here's a description of the committees. The list is based on our activities of the past several years and is designed to both spread the load and to get everyone involved. The "minimum" number of members for each committee include the chairperson. More folks than the "minimum" can certainly be on a committee. The more the merrier.

Activities & Club Projects - minimum 2 members

There is always some unforeseen opportunity coming up that needs special attention. This committee will literally handle anything that isn't specifically addressed by one of the other committees. In addition, this committee will be responsible for the annual picnic and club history. Gary Weyers will be leading this committee in 2008.

Education - minimum 5 members

Education is the hallmark of NCWA. That, plus companionship, is the reason we are who we are. In prior years, we worked on the development of a specific education program for beginning woodworkers. The idea has gradually expanded to include programs to augment intermediate and advanced woodworking skills. The program will be refined in 2008 and modified to incorporate the experience we have gained through the years. The Committee will be responsible for the continued design, implementation and monitoring of specific education programs and will, of necessity, be coordinated with the monthly meeting program. Chuck Robertson has agreed to continue to chair this committee in 2008.

Tours & Visitations - minimum 2 members

Each year we have several tours, usually one to Vancouver to Lee Valley or other woodworking venues in the Vancouver area, one to Seattle to the annual woodworker's show and a resources trip to Seattle. It has also been suggested we try to arrange a couple joint meetings with other groups in the NW. This committee will be responsible for the organization of these events. Jay Geisel has agreed to chair this committee again in 2008.

Library - minimum 2 members

The library of tapes and books has now been organized and is ready to go. This committee will be responsible

for maintaining the library, checking items out (and making sure they get back), making sure the members are aware of the materials and seeking additions via donations. Jim Torrence has agreed to chair this committee again in 2008.

Membership - minimum 5 members

This committee will be responsible for "marketing" our association, including developing and maintaining such tools as the brochure stands. It will also be responsible for "member relations" and keeping track of those who cannot attend regularly. It will also be responsible for membership cards. The Treasurer will continue to maintain the "official" membership list. Ed Pysker has agreed to chair this committee in 2008.

Newsletter - minimum 4 members

This committee's job pretty much speaks for itself. The committee is considering reorganization to include representatives in each of the basic geographic areas of our membership. Nick Van has agreed to take this substantial effort in 2008.

Monthly Program - minimum 5 members

This is a biggie, folks. We rise and fall on this one. Jim Bucknell has agreed to take this committee again, and he needs your help.

Public Shows - minimum 3 members

This committee is responsible for all the arrangements for the public shows in which we participate. In the past, we have participated in two shows and this committee will reevaluate this program to see if there are additional shows that would be appropriate and if the interest is there on the part of our members. Phil "Low Tech" Choquette has agreed to again chair this committee. He will be assisted by Nick Van, who will be concentrating on member participation in the two shows.

Toys For Tots - minimum 3 members

For the past three years, we've had a great project that contributes much to the community. It's the Toys For Tots program. This committee will be responsible for such projects as well as any building projects that would be helpful in the display of our talents at the various shows. Examples would be a rack to display the birdhouses and feeders, display tables, etc. Glenn Koontz has agreed to chair this committee in 2008.

Vendor Relations - minimum 2 members This committee is responsible for maintaining a list of vendors that will offer discounts to NCWA members. This is a new function that will become effective in 2008. Larry Tomovick gave birth to this project in 2007 and will head the committee in 2008.

January 2008 Program

Our January meeting will be held on January 8. It will be held at Emerald Marine in Anacortes. They specialize in classic wooden boat repair and restoration. The address is 703 30th St., Anacortes. Their phone number is 360-293-4161.

James McMullen, a partner in Emerald Marine, will speak to us about their shop, boat building and a selection of related topics. It should be an interesting and enjoyable program. We will begin at 7:00PM as usual. - Jim

Dues are Due

Gosh, Christmas and New Year's Day have come and gone. That means you should have paid your 2008 NCWA club dues by now! Dues are due before January 1. It's still a great bargain . . . only \$30 for a whole year of education, sharing, camaraderie and fun.

I'll be collecting delinquent 2008 dues

at the January meeting, so bring your check for \$30 made payable to "NCWA." But if you don't plan to be at the January meeting, or would just like to get your name off the "dead beat" list, you can mail your check to your humble Treasurer, Doug Duehning, 150 Swinomish Dr., LaConner, WA 98257.

Remember, our Board of Directors voted this year that members who have not paid dues by January 31 will automatically be dropped from the membership list. But we'd miss you, so please don't let that happen.

If for some strange reason you don't intend to renew, please email me at daduehning@yahoo.com or phone (360) 466-1281, so that I won't continue to harass you.

- Doug

A Night to Remember

What an array of man-made toys! It's unbelievable what a bunch of woodworkers can produce in the name of charity. The December meeting at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon was a real heart-stopper as we paid our respects to a fabulous ending of the year 2007. The NCWA donation to Toys for Tots was a feel-good, fit finale to all our activities and enjoyment.



It's amazing what can be accomplished by five or six grumpy old men!!

In a seasonal holiday pizza and salad pre-meeting dinner for more than 60 members and their spouses and guests, the delivery of 262 toys to the local Marine Corps Reserve was our big Hurrah! Our speaker was Past Marine Reservist Rick Crossley, Senior Coordinator of the Skagit Valley Detachment, No. 1043, Marine Corps League, who accepted the Club's toy donation and gave us a look into the history of the Toys for Tots program now celebrating its 60th Anniversary.

The program started in California when a Marine was handed a Christmas toy by his wife and told to give it to a children's charity. Not finding one, he addressed the issue with his local Marine Reserve group and this eventually led to the national program "Toys for Tots" The idea got interest from

Walt Disney who added his touch with the familiar toy train logo. The Marine Corps Reserve has been the official sponsor ever since. Locally, the Corps volunteers have refurbished a donated truck and use it year-around to pick up toys and warehouse them for distribution through various agencies at Christmas. This year their goal is to distribute 15,000 toys in their local area, which includes Skagit and Whatcom counties.

President Ed Pysher opened the ceremonies with an introduction of guests, greeted new members, and announced the slate of officers for 2008. Without nominations from the floor, the slate was voted unanimously, electing Vice President Walter Meyers to head the organization in 2008. Secretary Jay Geisel and Treasurer Doug Duehning retained their jobs, but the

Nominations Committee failed to come up with a Vice President candidate. Electing a Vice President will be a priority.

Dinner was organized by Program Chairman Cec Braeden with help from Club Hostess Laura Matthews and other volunteers. What an evening to remember! - Jay

Toys Chairman Glenn Koontz energized the audience with his congratulations to fellow woodworkers for their strong effort to produce the large stock of quality toys on display at the front of the room. He insisted that individuals be recognized and applauded for their individual and team woodworking effort. Glenn also asked members who could not make toys this year to donate cash instead; a total of \$422 in cash was collected and contributed to the Corps.

Significant individual high-production honors go to several members including Gene Benson, Judy Hemenway, Gary Weyers, Val and Laura Matthews, Richard Zegers, Clarence Oschsner, and Nick Van. Lynn Koontz, Glenn's wife, read her inspirational poem about the team of woodworkers creating toys in the family's downstairs shop. Lynn's poem is printed elsewhere in this issue. The new figure of 262 toys includes 34 additional handmade car toys delivered on December 20th by Val and Laura Matthews.

Finally it was time to load our several hundred toys into the big truck.

DEDICATION

Five gray heads sit around a table, coffee cups in hand, a paper spread before them – planning something grand.

Their combined experiences, talents and years, give assurance a plan WILL emerge –no one need fear.

“Last year’s train took too much time”, say’s one
“Let’s make something easier –but still have fun.”

Five gray heads talk and plan and plot
Two sketches take shape – they’re HOT.

“OK, we’ve got it” –they see the results of their creative brains;
“We’ll make Easels and wagons –just no more trains.”

Materials are gathered – wood, paint and dowels
Brushes, glue, tools, and utility towels.

Day by day the sawdust rises high,
“Hey, that look’s great” – they often cry.

The machines cut and plane as the projects take shape; Crafted with great skill – they give whatever it takes.

What has inspired this dedication and assembling of skills,
what has unified them – subdued their separate wills?

It’s kids of course that fuel their inspiration and dreams; Toys for Tots – are the beneficiaries it seems

Handcrafted wooden toys beneath many Christmas Trees;
Made by seasoned Seniors, with one goal – a Child to please.

Lynn Koontz

Toys For Tots

We had a fun and exciting evening Pizza Party on December 4th at the Hillcrest Lodge. It was great to see the enthusiastic participation of our members to craft projects and donate both toys and money.

Hand crafted toys were made with great skill and we know the kids receiving them will really love them. Because of the recall of so many toys made in China, Toys for Tots donations are being severely impacted. Our toys will be greatly appreciated.

-Glenn

Hee’s Baack!!



Discounts Loom Big for 2008

With the New Year, Club members will begin to enjoy widespread savings on their purchases of tools and woodworking materials, thanks largely to project chairman Larry Tomovick. (Please see pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter for a complete list of advertisers.) One of the persuasive perks of Club membership, discount shopping, is more valuable now because of a new advertising policy enacted by NCWA that offers merchants free business card presence in every issue of our Newsletter.

Tomovick, with help from his only committeeman, me, has tracked down various woodworking resources in Skagit and Whatcom counties to obtain retail discounts of 10%, or more, from members' preferred retailers. To date 13 merchants have agreed to grant significant savings



Cec shows his 'Treasure Boxes' for the kids

to us. Our approved sources are printed on two pages in the current issue and will be repeated each month.

One of the best deals to come our way is being offered by catalog giant Hartville Tools in Ohio. Starting this month, Hartville will mail members their new catalog and an ID that will allow us to take a 20% discount off any listed item. The offer is good for one year. After that, the discount drops to 15%. Starting with the third year, Hartville will rebate to NCWA an amount equal to 3% of all purchases made by members throughout the year. This money can be used for prizes, awards or other Club purchases of catalog items. So, woodworkers, watch your mailbox for deals of a lifetime.

We will add new resources to our advertising pages in the future. The start-up has not been without a few problems. Members have reported disappointment in getting their discounts at a



Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!!!

couple of our retail stores. Make sure you clarify your request by showing your NCWA Membership Card before completing your purchases. Also, for the present

anyway, it would be a good practice to carry those printed advertising pages with you to show an uninformed sales clerk.

Western Tool has not responded to our requests for discounts, and, for the present, is not included in our free advertising program.

Not listed in this month's issue, **Steve Intveld** on Mount Baker Highway. Steve has always given fellow members a good deal on lumber purchases and is a highly desirable source for savings. He will join the advertisers' list next month.

Caveats exist. Some retailers are unable to offer discounts on items when prohibited to do so by certain manufacturers. And all will not further discount sale items. In rare cases discounts will not be offered on corded tools. Always check. Bob's Super Saw offers the lowest prices around for new saw blades and router bits. Although we are among their preferred customers, you may not always get further price cuts on these items. If you have any difficulty with our discounters please get in touch with Larry or a Club officer. - Jay

Discount Rules

Hardware Sales and Service

In order to receive the discount from Hardware Sales & Service in Bellingham, members need to cite pin number '26959' or say they belong to the 'Northwest Corner Woodworkers.'

Hartsville Tool

Members should be receiving an email catalog from Hartsville Tool fairly soon and this will give you information on how to order online to receive your 20% discount. The information can also be used when ordering merchandise over the telephone. When talking to customer service at Hartville, and giving your name, they will be able to identify you and the discount you're entitled to.

In the near future Hartville tool catalogs will be mailed to me and I will distribute them in the regular monthly meetings.

In addition to the 20% discount Hartville is offering free shipping for all orders placed before January 10, 2008.

As for those who did not provide an e-mail address to Hartville, I believe you'll be notified by mail. However if you don't hear anything, you are welcome to give them a call to verify your status. Their phone number is 800-345-2396.

Just remember, the 20% discount is only good for the first year and from then on the discount rate will be 15%. Note, this discount is not applicable towards sale

or clearance priced merchandise.

Upon completion of our second year of participation, we will receive a 3% rebate based on the total purchases made by our members. These rebates will take the form of gift certificates good toward any merchandise found in Hartsville's catalogue. - Larry

Education Classes for January

If you haven't make it to one of the classes yet, it's your loss. The evaluation forms that the participants filled out indicate that every one of the classes has been truly outstanding. With that said, the classes in January are destined to be equally good.

On Saturday, January 5, Nick Van will teach his students (and himself) how to make dovetails by hand. The following Saturday, you might want to go to Gary Holloman's shop and learn all about different kinds of joints (not those for carousing but for wood projects). The last class of the month will be presented by Larry Tomovick on bentwood boxes. No dovetails or square joints here!

To see the details of any of these or our other classes, log on to the NCWA website (www.ncwawood.org) and click on 'Classes.' This will give you the schedule for the whole year. Then click on 'Class Calendar' which will bring up the calendar where you will see specific classes. Details of the class only require one more click. If you want to sign up, click on 'Registration Form' on the 'Classes' page and fill out the form. Or, you can email me (cerjor@hotmail.com) and your name will go on the list.

There is a bumper sticker that says, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." This is true here, too. A day spent learning from one of our masters will undoubtedly save you much time and materials compared to trying to teach yourself. - Chuck

Fiction & Fact from Nick's Almanac

Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a 'Friday the 13th.'

It's against the law to own a pet dog in Iceland.

One quarter of the bones in your body are in your feet.



John's Trucks



Chuck's new drawers
are not dovetailed!!

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COMING EVENTS

Jan. 8th	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Emerald Marine - Anacortes
Jan. 16th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Jan. 19th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email - nvan@verizon.net
Feb. 5th	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon

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, 24 Jacks Pass Court, Camano Island, WA 98282 or email to nvan@verizon.net or call 360-387-4174.

2008 Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President:	Walter Meyers	(360) 279-8632	Librarian	Jim Torrence	(360) 629-6670
V.P.	Vacant		Newsletter	Nick Van	(360) 387-4174
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	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910	Tours	Jay Geisel	(360) 733-3911
Board at Large	Dave Blair	(360) 733-3911	Toys for Tots	Glenn Koontz	(360) 466-5910
Programs	Jim Bucknell	(360) 766-5088	Webmeister	Mike New	(360) 707-2314
Activities	Gary Weyers	(360) 380-0888			
Education	Chuck Robertson	(360) 387-6333			



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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