



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

March 2008

Next Meeting: March 4, 7:00 pm

Hillcrest Park Lodge

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.

From the Prez Endlich!

Ich Bin Fertig!

It's Thursday, February 21, 2008 and I have applied the final coat of polyurethane to the bedside tables that I had promised to my friends from New Orleans who are now living on Bainbridge Island. I remember beginning this project in October, but when I checked my records, it was July. Time does fly.

By October, I was telling my friends that I hoped to have the tables finished by Christmas. Then Christmas 2007 came and I was then hoping to finish by Christmas 2008!

March Program

Bill Dowe will talk about building a traditional style dogsled with tied mortise and tenon joints.

Bill has made sleds since the late 70 s, with an entry in the first-ever NCWA show at the National Park Service office in Sedro-Woolley. Most of his sleds are in the Northwest, but his sleds live as far north as Resolute Bay, Northwest Territories, as far south as Arizona, and as far east as New Hampshire. You can see them at <http://alpineoutfitters.net/Secure/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=25>.

You ll get to see jigs used to make the parts, homemade steaming equipment (but no fire at the demo!), an incomplete dog sled and its parts, and a demonstration how the sleds are assembled.

-Jim Bucknell

That is not to say that I am slow...but I am slow! My theory is that what I lack in talent and knowledge, I can make up by "thinking" and being very careful in my construction.

It must be admitted that this only works to a certain degree. There just doesn't seem to be any way of getting around the "learning factor", that is, finding out those things during construction that have to be modified or adjusted to make everything work.

The "plans" that I used, when looked at closely really were not plans at all.

The author of the book

really wants the reader to purchase a separate set of plans that he also sells.

In retrospect, that is probably what I should have done but being cheap and hard headed, I thought that I could do it on my own and to a certain degree, I think I have succeeded. There is no doubt, however, that I would have finished the tables on my original schedule if I had gone ahead and bought the detailed plans.

It 's not just the appearance that I worry about. I think the tables look fine. A more important question is, "will they last?" For instance, the tabletops are of breadboard construction and mortise and tenon joinery. Did I leave enough room in my mortises for expansion?

The parts of the carcass are joined by mortise and tenons. The tenons are then pinned by screws which are covered by decorative wooden pins. Did the screws add strength or will they just make it impossible to repair if the table becomes damaged or loose in the future?

I am fortunate to have **Phil Choquette** as one of my best friends. He gave me invaluable advice during the construction and finishing stages but he could not spend his time looking over my shoulder as I worked , so the inevitable mistakes were made. What I hope is that the mistakes become apparent soon so that I get a chance to learn from them or they show up long after I am gone so that I don't have to worry about it!

That brings me to the subject of a new feature on our website (ncwawood.org) that **Mike New** as been working on, that is, the Forum. This is a place that you can go to any time you have a question pertaining to woodworking. Sometimes you have something that you want to find out about but you really do not know who to call to ask. Put your question on the Forum! Mike wrote an article about it in this newsletter (below) so I do not want to say anything more right now except to encourage your participation!

There is something else that I would like to alert you about. I think that everyone knows about the New Yankee Workshop but there is another TV show that I have been enjoying lately called Wood Works on the DIY channel. The host, David Marks, is a young guy and builds a lot of contemporary projects as well as things based on Egyptian design. From what I have seen so far he likes to use floating tenons and wipe on finishes. He also used a hand scraper in just about every episode. I think that you will enjoy it so check it out.

So what is the connection between my woodworking and the use of German? I have been working on my German since high school. Like I said...ich bin langsam! - Walter Meyers

(Editor's Note: Translating very loosely, "Endlich! Ich Bin Fertig!" means "At last! I am finished." "Ich Bin Langsam!" means, "I am slow!")

Show Your Stuff at Woodfest 2008

Plans for the forthcoming WoodFest event at Sedro Woolley High School dominated the business agenda at the February 5th meeting at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon. Co-chairs **Phil Choquette** and **Nick Van** outlined our participation at the revitalized and municipally-sponsored woodworking festival that annually brings competitors from several high schools together to exhibit student shop projects as they vie for merchant prizes as well as our own "Peoples' Choice" honors.

NCWA has for many years taken sincere interest in aiding the Sedro Woolley school's manual arts program. WoodFest is set for the first weekend in April, continuing for two days on Saturday and Sunday, on the 5th and 6th of day of the month.

The exhibition will also feature a re-appearance of local art and crafts vendors who were exclude from the event last year. Booths will also be maintained by NCWA and other woodworking

clubs. Schedules for the weekend include a raffle and a silent auction of donated items as well as a used book sale.

Several dozen local area vendors of wooden craft items will also be present. The student's projects will again be judged by a team from NCWA. And, according to Nick, the Peoples' Choice prizewill be given by our Club. All-day food service in the school gym is also planned.

Phil has arranged for our organization to display and sell our products on expanded floor space and at least two large tables, which we supply. He asks that we exhibit our crafts at the show, and he announced a set-up time starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday, the opening day. Show hours are from 9 to 5 Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday. All members are invited to participate in this fun and exciting event. -Jay Geisel

More Club Business

Announcements from Committee Chairmen included the following:

Gary Weyers urged members to make birdhouses for WoodFest. The competition will be rewarding and the contributions will be sold that weekend with proceeds going to the Club. "You can be a money winner," he said, asking for a good turnout of items by members. Gary also said there were a few openings available for his scroll saw class on Saturday.

Larry Tomovick, chairman of the Club's Vendor Relations and Discount committee, announced that Hardware Sales in Bellingham requires cash or check but not credit cards.

Larry also announced that students planning to attend his forthcoming "Making Box Handles" class at his shop on Saturday, May 8th bring their own selection of rough wood for hands-on work.

Our Club Webmeister, **Mike New**, reported several advances he's made to our Website and

asked members for pictures of their wood projects that could be displayed in the new Gallery section.

Treasurer **Doug Duehning** issued a "Last Call" for membership renewal dues. The deadline to retain membership had arrived. Doug also announced that, while there have been some dropouts this year, the membership has grown from the same time last year.



Quido strikes again!!!

Tours chairman, **Jay Geisel**, notified members that the annual national woodworking show this year would be held for three days at the Puyallup Fairgrounds April 25 thru 27. It is suggested that members make their own plans to carpool for this event.

Program chairman, **Jim Bucknell**, asked members to give some thought to the programs being offered by the Club. He is interested in all ideas that will make our monthly meetings interesting and rewarding.

Newsletter Editor **Nick Van** notified us that the deadline for the next Newsletter is Saturday noon, February 23rd, and he invited items from anyone

that cared to write or send pictures for the next issue. He also told us that email copies of each newsletter are sent to our discount store advertisers.

Bring and Brag. Jim Murphy's ideas keep bouncing out of his shop and into our meetings. This month he showed us a fixture that works well to hold a belt sander on its side and provide a useful fence and working platform. Gary Weyers exhibited a whimsical scroll sawn piece, a wall plaque, entitled "Before Six Beers and After," a work that continues to bring his humor to fellow members. -Jay Geisel



More of Murphy's Marvelous Machinations



Shelley Clouse & RP Myers talk woodworking

NCWA Forum Online

We've just added a significant new enhancement to the NCWA website. The new Woodworking Forum lets you share ideas, ask questions, and find out what others are thinking.

The Woodworking Forum is the foundation for a wide array of information about woodworking. You can browse among five different categories – ***General Woodworking, Hand & Power Tools, Finishing, Wood Turning, and The Workshop.***

Within each category, you can review the topics posted by other participants, add your two cents, or create entirely new topics for discussion. You're free to read all you want without signing in, but if you want to add something, you'll need to fill out a short registration form to get a username and password.

If you're new to forums, don't worry. You'll pick up the concepts in a heartbeat. Start by clicking on ***How to Use the NCWA Forum***, where you'll find an introduction to how the forum works and how to register as a user. Then, just click around and explore. Click on various topics, where you will see the original entry, plus any replies made by other forum participants. Fill out the registration form, and then make your own entries by replying to an existing topic – or starting a new one. The forum is intuitive to use – and a real kick in the pants when a good discussion starts developing.

The Woodworking Forum is open to all NCWA members – but is not limited to NCWA members. By allowing non-member woodworkers to register and participate, we get the benefit of expertise that resides outside our club. We may change this policy if things begin to get out of hand, but as with many things on the web, there is much to learn from the worldwide community.

The forum has a few simple ground rules. First, topics should relate to woodworking. Second, your entries should be in good taste – no swearing, name calling, spamming, etc. We may see some of this from outsiders, but inappropriate entries will be immediately removed from the forum and, if appropriate, the responsible party may be banned from further participation. The NCWA Forum is reserved for classy people - like us!.

Content on the forum is pretty lean right now because it's brand new. But over time, the forum has the potential to become a warehouse of expert opinions on everything from table saws to finishing. You can help get things rolling by registering and starting new topics, asking questions and providing your opinions.

You can get to the new NCWA Woodworking Forum from our home page, www.ncwawood.org.
- Mike New

Appraisal Program Leaves Many Questions Unanswered

If you believe professional appraisers work with smoke and mirrors then you aren't alone. Our speaker at the February 5th meeting did nothing to dispel the myth as he led us through a discussion of generalities in the appraiser's craft. **Mark Allred** and his wife, **Haydee**, operate their business, **Appraisalink**, in Anacortes. Members had hoped to hear the "how" and gain useful insight into evaluating their own arts and crafts.

Allred spoke at length about qualification and certification standards and the need to be a recognized authority in the practice. He states, "A properly prepared appraisal is a costly legal document primarily used to answer questions posed by the courts, IRS, or insurance company." His fees reflect the need for research and study, costs that members can ill afford for inquiries as to what their handmade items may be worth or what they might bring on the market. Allred cautioned us that

a minimum appraisal might run \$450. Research alone is priced at \$75 an hour.

Allred likened appraising to detective work; try to solve the question of "value" for a piece of furniture, art, or an antique. "How do you determine whether a piece is an antique," he asked, and then answered by citing "the technology of the time and its condition." Antiques generally run in time from 1680 to 1900 when water powered the circular saw rather than electricity. Rarity and condition



Mark and Haydee Allred share their professional appraisal experiences

dominates the evaluation. All this requires close inspection and research, he added. "For example, with rockers," he said, "you compare techniques with what other rockers are out there." These evaluations determine age as well as construction techniques, like dovetails, and hardware materials such as wrought iron fittings and nails. These

What is the longest word in the English language that has no duplicate letters? Answer on Page 7

bloodhound investigations are often difficult because hardware can be replicated today.

Mark's advice to us? "Insure your items for the highest retail price, the fair market value." For collectibles, we need to compare catalog values, make a video, insure the piece, and get an appraisal. But, he admitted, some items are of low enough value that an appraisal is not justified.

-Jay Geisel

WOODFEST 2008

April 5 & 6 (Saturday and Sunday)

Sedro Woolley High School

A CELEBRATION OF WOODWORKING

Please select your most recent, oldest, most loved, best built, and/or your most stylish project, large or small, softwood or hardwood, flatwork or turning, glued or pegged, finished or unfinished and enter it in our Club's display.

Our role in Woodfest is to display a community of woodworkers of all skill levels. It is an opportunity for us to "show 'em what we got!"

Woodfest is not a competition nor is there a



Phil Choquette explains Woodfest

requirement that you sell your wares (for those of you who want to sell your wares, that's OK, too). It is a large scale "Bring 'n Brag" for our membership.

Please contact **Nick Van**, 360-387-4174 (or by e-mail, nvan@verizon.net) and let him know what project you will be entering. If necessary, Nick and/or another member of the Club will pick up your project, transport it to Woodfest, and make certain it is returned to you in good condition, with as few dings and dents as possible.

So, let's get crackin' and let Nick know what you'll be showing. This will be a lot of fun for all.

- Nick Van

Library Corner

The library committee is considering what new additions to make in 2008. The committee would appreciate suggestions from the membership. Specific suggestions as well as general subject matter suggestions are welcome. We plan to focus on adding to the video section of the library but not necessarily to the exclusion of written material.

Suggestions should be sent to **Jim Torrence** at jetink@hughes.net You can also contact **Steve Johnson** or **Gary Danilson**. -Jim Torrence

Membership Committee

Greetings! Each meeting I see folks with no name tag, and I know you are not all guests. Starting with the March meeting you will get fined \$1, to go into the Education Fund, if you are caught with your name tag down. If you do not have a name tag, please email me and I'll make sure you get one.

Also, a number of members did not pick up their membership cards at the February meeting. I'll have them with me at the front door at the March meeting, so be sure to catch me when you come in. You will need your membership card to get the discount at all the vendors other

Recall of \$180 to \$280 De Walt Corless Drills

In case you missed it, DeWalt has issued a recall notice for 346,000 drill motors sold between June 2006 and December 2007. Apparently, the trigger switch can overheat and poses a risk of fire. You are asked to stop using the drill immediately and call De Walt at 888-742-9168 or go www.dewalt.com for a list of all recalled drills and help to find your nearest service center to get a free inspection and, if necessary, a free repair. (Consumer Reports, March 2008)

than Hartville. I'd had to think anyone was paying full bore when you didn't have to.

-Ed Pysher

Our Budding Author

Some time ago I submitted an article to "Tricks of the Trade" in Popular Woodworking Magazine, and I had received a phone call from one of the editors that they had decided to use it. A couple weeks ago they sent me a check for \$50, which is better than a sharp stick in the eye.

The article was supposed to have been in the April issue, which came yesterday, but the article was not in it. He did tell me that sometimes the articles get postponed to a later issue if there is not enough room, so I guess I'll just have to wait and see. The next issue will be the June issue that will come out in 2 months. Stay tuned. -Rich Zegers

Wood You Know?

....**that you can identify a piece of wood by asking the U. S. Forestry Service?** The Products Laboratory allows U.S citizens to request a maximum of five wood samples a year. Check it out at www.fpl.fs.fed.u.s./WoodID/idfact.html.

...**that protecting your lungs from wood dust is your biggest safety concern in the shop?**

Disposable masks differ widely in price and quality. Don't use the single strap kind. Instead, find a double-straped 3M mask with an adjustable nosepiece (metal band), or the #M 6979 with an exhalation valve. Good disposable dust masks have two straps and are made with three layers of material, one electrostatically charged. When breathing becomes difficult, it's time to toss it.

-Jay Geisel

Fiction and Fact from Nick's Almanac

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.! Boy!! Ain't that the truth! I need a tarpaulin to blow my nose these days! And I celebrate the 4th of July by painting the stars and stripes on my ears.

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What is the longest word in the English language with no duplicate letters? Uncopyrightable (15)

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COMING EVENTS

Mar. 4th	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon
Mar. 19th	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Mar. 22rd	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
Apr. 1st	7 PM	Membership Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon

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

2008 Officers and Chairpersons

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