



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May, 2008

**Next Meeting: May 6, Greg Aanes Furniture
7:00PM General Meeting
2115 Queen Street, Bellingham
Phone: 360-770-7203 or 360-387-4174**

I-5 exit 254 (Iowa Street Exit). Turn right onto Iowa Street and drive about 1 block East to Pacific Street. Turn left onto Pacific Street and drive about 1 block north to Kentucky Street. Turn right onto Kentucky Street and drive to Queen Street. Greg Aanes Furniture is on the corner of Queen Street and Kentucky Street.

From the Prez

At the start of this month my wife and I made our annual pilgrimage to Florida to visit her parents. Both of her folks are in their eighties but very active. Dad built himself a very nice flat bottomed boat that he uses for fishing. My mother in law is involved in a project of embroidering seat covers for their dining room chairs. She has a sewing machine that does the embroidering but still requires setting up the design.

I was observing the work as the machine did its thing when I noticed that the part that was being so beautifully done was nevertheless being manufactured at a distance from the center design different from the previous work! The cloth that she was working on is very

expensive and I thought to myself, "Boy, am I glad that I am a woodworker!"

There are many times when our best measured wood pieces end up too short or narrow but just as often there are ways to repair our mistakes. There are even complete books written on the subject and the other day my favorite woodworking TV show dealt with repairing mistakes.

Every so often, I will go on the web to check out what other woodworking clubs are doing. There are a couple of ways of doing this. You can Google "Woodworking Clubs" or you can go right to the NCWA website and click on Resources, then Woodworking Links. Viola! There are a lot of fine woodworking clubs out there.

May Meeting Greg Aanes Furniture

Our May Meeting will be held in the shop of Greg Aanes. You've probably seen Greg's work in numerous galleries and other venues up and down the Pacific Coast. He specializes in rocking chairs made from prize wood and his work is highly regarded by those who are privileged to own one of his creations. This will be a meeting where we can learn and enjoy Greg's successes.

I know that I am prejudiced but I think that in just about every area from website, newsletter, projects, programs, classes, library - you name it, we can be very proud of what NCWA provides and thankful for the work that is being done by our membership. The main thing that your officers would like in return is feedback; this could be positive, negative or ideas. I know that it is a human tendency not to say anything as long as you are satisfied but it is a real help in itself just to hear something from you.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting in Bellingham! - Walter

Demonstrations of Woodworking Aids Highlight April Meeting

NCWA members were treated to more than just basic instruction on vacuum clamping at the April



Bob explaining “fixturing”

meeting held in Gary Holloman’s workshop. Bob Doop, who has considerable knowledge about these techniques has, for years, used air power to both clamp and veneer his work.

Bob’s demonstrations of clamping tricks were a joy to behold. And the message he sent was “put your imagination to work and take advantage of the many possible ways to stabilize a work piece without using mechanical clamps.” For example, if you are confronted with the task of half-routing the edges on both sides of a small disk, a bottle top for example, Bob just adheres a circle of adhesive foam around the vacuum hole of his jig and has a first-class air clamp with no restrictions to hinder the movement of his router.

One of Bob’s jigs is an L-shaped double vacuum clamp; the horizontal base sucks up to the bench top while the vertical clamp grabs a heavy plank or composite panel that can be worked on in a vertical position. At 350 psig, these simple pods can be quickly shaped and put to hard work with little effort.

To demonstrate this, Bob constructed a jig from scratch and had it working in less than 10 minutes. He was using $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood, but to make sure there would be no internal voids to allow air leaks in the plies, he took time to wrap aluminum cloth tape around the four edges, effectively sealing his jig before drilling holes for the airways.

Bob’s demonstrations were primarily done with a refrigeration vacuum pump. Such pumps recently sold for several hundred dollars, but in the past year or two good new pumps began to be available on eBay for under \$200. And today some used pumps can be bought for under \$100.

More vacuum clamping education was demonstrated by RP Myers. He showed us some ingenious pods made from $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick Starboard. RP has made a family of 4 by 6-inch top and bottom air clamps that can hold a 4 by 8-foot panel or anything of lesser size. Small hoses connect each pod to a single hose that attaches to his electric pump. The pods can also be used singly or in pairs.

I have a system like Myers' only mine is not driven by an electric vacuum pump. I use the compressed air from a 2 HP pump, through a venturi, to maintain vacuum. RP demonstrated this mode with a commercial vortex unit. So, with a pump or compressor, a little foam adhesive tape, some clear plastic tubing of either ¼ or ½ inch in diameter, and a few hose fittings a woodworker has a jump



RP explaining “vacuum”

start on making it easy to hold a work piece in place while he sets his tools in motion. It's like having an assistant.

The evening's demonstrations concluded with one of my own. I recently purchased a sharpening unit that was well reviewed in the woodworking magazines. Work Sharp uses thick glass disks and sandpaper for sharpening chisels, plane irons, and most blades used in the shop. Turning at under 1,000 rpm, disks of various grits can quickly flatten chisel backs and then, via a special port, give it a perfect 20, 25, 30 or 35-degree bevel. By adjusting the control to a 5-degree higher bevel you can achieve a neat microbevel on your plane blades.

Work Sharp comes with slotted disks and slotted sandpaper that enables the operator to see the edge of his wood turning tool while he sharpens them upside down. Disks of different grits are furnished as well as a leather honing disk. Two



“Crazy” Jay explaining “Sharp”

models are offered. The higher priced Work Sharp can handle 3-inch wide plane blades; the lesser priced unit is limited to 2-inch widths. I've been pleased with the quality work done on my 3-inch blades. –Jay Geisel

S-W Student's Woodwork Takes First at Woodfest

Entries from Sedro-Woolley High School woodworking students won top awards at Woodfest 2008. The regional student woodworking competition was held April 5-6 at [Sedro-Woolley] high school.

Byron Dickie, a sophomore, captured first prize with his “Segmented Ring Bowl” entry, as chosen by judges from the Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association. His prize was a portable power tool. Dickie also received the Mike Chandler Judges Choice Award, which honors the

top student project, and an engraved block plane from the **Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association**. The plaque, in the memory of the late Mike Chandler, former Stanwood High School woodworking teacher and Woodfest committee member, was presented by Chandler's widow,



Byron Dickie, first place winner of the student competition, is flanked by Chamber director David Bricka, Becky Chandler, Rachael Vaniski and Mike Stewart.



Second place student competition award winner, Klaye Kitchen, is congratulated by his woodworking instructor, Mike Stewart and the Chamber director David Bricka

Becky, and daughter, Rachael Vaniski.

Klaye Kitchen, a senior, placed second for the "Hope Chest" entry and the People's Choice Award for his "Coffee End Table Set" entry, which placed seventh. Other Sedro-Woolley High School winners included Ryan Gugle, Trevor Eaton, Shay Walker and Morgan Nunley, all of whom finished in the top nine.

All of the winners are students of Sedro-Woolley High School's woodshop instructor, Mike Stewart. Students from Stanwood and Auburn (high schools) also entered the Woodfest competition, which was conceived in the 1990's as a Skagit Valley Tulip Festival sanctioned event to celebrate the rich traditions of woodworking and tulip bulb production. - Reprinted from the Skagit Valley Herald

Inspiration from an Oldtimer

The following article was posted on W.O.W. recently, authored by Clay Foster. He inspired me to try for a cleaner and more organized shop. As I get older, the time spent "looking for" is close to equal to my time spent "doing." I like the "doing." The "looking for" is nonproductive and frustrating. -Bob Doop

"Zen and the Art of a Clean Shop"

Some are born to have a clean shop, and others are called to it. Some of us even answer the call.

I haven't always been a clean shop keeper. Oh, I always wanted one, but not enough to actually do it. I was attracted to the concept, but not the reality. The logic of efficiency and safety always ended up being sacrificed on the altar of urgency, the rush to see to fruition the project at hand. A broom was not a tool that fit my hand as well as one that flung wood chips to the farthest reaches of space.

But life has been a long upward spiraling journey to know its essence, the essentials, the elemental core. The further I traveled on the journey, the more I realized the necessity to jettison nonessentials, pare away the superfluous, and leave excess baggage behind.

This applied to my work as well, the art and furnishings that I was compelled to make for both satisfaction and livelihood. I learned that when a design was not quite right I was better off taking things away until it worked rather than adding more bags and pouches. Reduction, not addition, has been my touchstone.

And, eventually this applied to my shop as well. The convenience of tidiness was not as important as the reduction of visual clutter. The safety of a clean environment was not a motivation, but the elimination of anything that stood between me and a purer involvement with what I was making and living. The two aspects were merging into one life style. My shop became cleaner and tidier, my life became simpler, and my work acquired a greater depth and presence.

One day, after brushing my hair out of my face for the umpteenth time, I realized that my freak flag of long hair I'd flown for 35 years was not making life simpler. The next weekend I bought some clippers and had my wife give me a bur haircut. Honesty forces me to also confess that my pony tail over the years had become more of a rat tail, but that's not what brought about our reenactment of Sampson and Delilah. Rather than lose my old hippy strength, I gained a freedom from attachment to an old emblem. It's one less thing that takes time away from my work.

I don't believe that what I make in a clean shop is inherently better than the work made by

someone who's shop looks like an explosion at a thrift store. I do know that my work made in a clean shop is better than my work made in a mess. It's a choice, and not one for everybody, but one I've leaned to live with.

Fiction and Fact

From Nick's Almanac

Johnny Plessey batted .331 for the Cleveland Spiders in 1891, even though he spent the entire season batting with a rolled-up, lacquered copy of the Toledo Post-Dispatch. What do you think the Mariners could do with a lacquered copy of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer?

The sport of jai alai originated from a game played by Incan priests who held cats by their tails to swing at leather balls. The cats would instinctively grab at the ball with their claws, thus enabling players to catch them. I know a certain tight end who needs to learn this tactic.

The typewriter was invented by Hungarian immigrant Qwert Yuiop, who left his "signature" on the keyboard.

In 1843, a Parisian street mime got stuck in his imaginary box and consequently died of starvation.

Among items left behind at Osama bin Laden's headquarters in Afghanistan were 27 issues of Mad Magazine. Al Qaeda members have admitted that bin Laden is reportedly an avid reader. Now you know how their terrorist strategies are developed.

Napoleon's favorite wood was chestnut. Describes his humanitarian acuity, also.



Members waiting for the gates to open at Gary Holloman's shop



Jeff and Jim show us their better sides



All they need is a picket sign.



Members waiting for the meeting to begin. Man! That's a tough audience!



Toys for Tots Cash Box
Thanks, Gene

The following shop tip will appear in the June 2008 issue of Popular Woodworking Magazine. (Reprinted with permission)

Tricks of the Trade

Mobilizing a Contractor's Saw

My contractors' saw shares a garage with my car, so it's stowed against a wall when not in use. It's not an easy thing to drag into place when it's time to set up for woodworking, so I decided to outfit it for wheelbarrow-style mobility. I screwed a couple sturdy non-swiveling casters to a stiff board, then bolted a couple strong L-brackets to the board, matching the spacing of the saw legs.

I bolted the brackets to the rear saw legs with the casters just clearing the floor. Next, I bolted two stout wooden rods to the sides of the saw base, extending them toward the front just enough to serve as handles for comfortably lifting that end of the saw.

Now moving the saw is as easy as lifting the handles just enough to allow the casters to engage the floor. After wheeling it into place, the saw once again sits solidly on all four feet. It works great, and I find that the projecting handles don't get in my way while I'm working.

pw — Richard Zegers, Bellingham, Washington

Way to go, Rich!



Welcome new members
Paul and Nancy Anderson.

Thanks, Gary

Many thanks to Gary Holloman for the use of his manufacturing facility for our last meeting. We always enjoy visiting Gary's place and marvel at the variety and quality of work going on at any given time. Thanks, again, Gary.

Notice

Due to your editor's unfailing inability to manage modern communications and data, the article about "El Ripperoff" is not published in this issue. A copy will be provided at the June meeting.

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COMING EVENTS

May 6th	7:00 PM	Membership Meeting	Greg Aanes Shop - Bellingham
May 21st	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
May 24th	Noon	Newsletter Deadline	Nick's Email (nvan@verizon.net)
June 3rd	7:00 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.

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