

NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

February 2005

Next Meeting: February 1st, 7:00 pm

Rick Anderson's Shop

1331 Meador Ave., Suite J-105

Phone: 360-650-1587

Program: Ron Grant on Segmented Turning Part II

Take I-5 Exit 253 (Lakeway Drive). Go East to Lincoln St. Go left (North) on Lincoln approx. 1/4 mile to the bottom of the hill to Frasier Street. You will see a sign for Haskell Business Center which is the complex we are located in. Take a right on Frasier Street and go approx. 3 blocks to Express Drive. Left on Express Drive until it ends at Meador Ave. Bldg. J is straight ahead on the other side of Meador.

From the Prez.....

Hello Woodworkers!

From the time of my last writing to you for the January Newsletter, the NCWA has roared out of the gate with a host of great opportunities for us all to enjoy. Our January meeting and program on finishes and techniques was another great example of our club member professional and personal finishing experience that brought new understanding to finishing options for our application(s), some of the challenges that we have all faced at times, and, will no doubt face in the future. Case in point, I had most recently been humbled with a finishing blunder that did ultimately add to my firewood collection! Ahhh, the thermal energy of red Alder....My thanks again to our finishing and techniques Program contributors, Bob, Larry and Julian, a great topic and presentation that we could have enjoyed until the wee hours.



Prez James presides !

Of our Programs, I would like to pass along a huge thank you, to Cec Braeden for stepping up as Committee Chairman of the Program Committee. Cec's perspective to our Programs Committee will be another brilliant facet to this gem. Thank you Cec, WE appreciate your help.

Of other things moving forward, our Projects Committee Chairman Gene Benson, will have a few things to report in this month's letter. I will want to add that I encourage all of you who would like to learn about woodworking, share your woodworking experience with others, give something to our local community and have a lot of fun with some other sawdust heads, this is a great opportunity for anyone in our club to do it all. We've underwritten the wood that will be involved, so, enjoy.

The Education Committee is rolling out the series very soon, another great year is ahead and will start with a great discussion and demonstration of sharpening and tuning your planes and chisels. The talented Dave Blair and Ed Pysher will share the helm, I missed this one the last time around, and I'll not miss it this time.

Speaking of our great Committees, at our last board meeting we agreed to combine the Tours and Exchange and Activities Committees into one Committee. The alignment of these two great committees will help us in a number of different ways, but, to get it off the ground and rolling we need both a new Committee Chair and at least four Committee members. Thankfully, last years Committee chairs Nick and Jay have agreed to assist in this new Committee to bring their experience to those that will fill it. Please be advised that if no volunteers step up I will take great joy in appointing you! If you are a member of our fine group, you are eligible. Experience not required, expected, and certainly not paid for! As the 2005 Volunteer Committee sign up sheet is circulated again at the February meeting, sign up early and sign up often.

See you all at the February meeting, another great program has been set. Have your nametag on or the undignified, and laser eyed Treasurer will extract the penalty fee from you!

Ok, enough already, it's time for me to go check in on the glue up and see if the clamps held!

James

Your Humble Prez

Minutes of NCWA General Meeting on January 4, 2005

It was the first meeting of the new year.

Emotions were high. We had just pulled off a major coup at the tail end of 2004. The **Toys for Tots** program, despite a late start, rushed to a roaring climax of activity led by the amazing efforts of several concerned members and a group of equally determined women crafters from around the Valley. Quilters and artists from other organizations

jumped in to help NCWA produce some of the best-quality childrens' gifts ever donated to the long-standing U.S. Marine Reserve Christmas project. Marine officials reported the unbelievable delight of the young girls who received our coveted doll cradles. And what about our members who contributed so mightily to the needs of disadvantaged children? They all agreed their happiness came from putting smiles on young faces. "It was," as Chairman Gene Benson stated, "a win-win opportunity for all."

January's meeting at Julian Lee's large Anacortes workshop turned out to be one of our most satisfactory meetings ever. Indeed, our meeting ran almost an hour past the normal nine o'clock closure, but no one seemed to care. We started the year off with a Treasury balance of \$2,147 and a member renewal of 31, according to Treasurer Ed Pysher. President James Haddock urged more committee participation from members in 2005, and he circulated a sign-up sheet to help volunteers make their choices. James is determined, in this respect, to get more people actively working on committees. In his "no member left behind" policy, he will *assign* committee participation, if necessary.

Forty-five members and guests gathered to see the 'battle o' the finish' program and help President-elect James Haddock set the tone of his first meeting. Tom Chartier, retiring Newsletter editor, was lauded for his long and capable service to the organization. Committee chair reports were next. Nick Van, Activities, said shop visitations will resume in the Spring and another will be scheduled for Fall; specific dates will be announced later. Pysher's Educational committee has set an ambitious 2005 program for Saturday shop training beginning February 5 with a two-part, hands-on tool sharpening class instructed by Dave Blair and Ed. The class is limited to 8 students and will be repeated, if necessary. Call Ed for more info. Phil Choquette, our public events chairman, reminded all that Woodfest at Sedro Woolley High School is in the offing and April weekend show dates will be released soon. *Toys for Tots* Chairman Benson summed up the 2004 program by releasing final toy donation figures of 41 wood trucks and 36 doll cradles. He notified members that the 2005 program was on *Fast Track* and an initial planning meeting for everyone

interested would be held at Laura and Val's home in Bow at 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 12. Newsletter Editor Rick Anderson, getting ready for the next issue, announced that his copy deadline is the 3rd Saturday of each month. The deadline will be posted in the Newsletter Calendar of forthcoming events.

Woodworker of the Month. Nick Van started making things in a mud room under his house. The year was 1955, he recalled, and a suitable workshop environment didn't evolve until later when he remodeled an 18-year-old house, which gave him confidence that he could build almost anything. His present home on Camano Island boasts a shop envied by most with woodworking facilities to match Nick's expertise.. He proudly displays the level of his work by showing his extensive dining room cabinetry, cedar chests, and gifts made for his grandchildren. Nick has many projects in work at all times. He single-handedly created dozens of birdhouses for sale at *Arts Alive 2004*, and donated the proceeds to create our Club's new Vocational Institution Fund.

Nick served as our Club President in 2003, successfully revamping a tired organization into a vital and active group of woodworkers anxious to exchange fresh ideas and attitudes about the joys of woodworking. He said he joined us only 4 years ago after watching Phil demonstrate scroll cutting on a Hegner saw at an Arts Alive event. Nick concluded his short bio with the statement: "In this Club, I never met a sour apple." He then nominated Dave Blair for next meeting's WOM. He asked Dave if he would accept the challenge and Dave replied, rather glumly, "I don't have much choice." See you at the next meeting, Dave.

Wood of the Month. European Beech was introduced by Phil Choquette as an unfamiliar wood resource for woodworking. Readily available, easy to work, offered in five grade levels from knotty to veneer, European Beech can be found in a thickness of 10/4 (2-1/2 inches). This is a relative newcomer to our area, Phil said, but it is already finding a use in flooring

and furniture building. "Poorly dried, it will not work well," Phil advised. The light color wood has the density of Red Oak and costs about the same, or \$4 bf for premium grade. It is strong, hard, heavy and makes great boxes, barrels, and drawers. It machines well and takes a nice finish, Phil added.

Bring and Brag. In one of the most heart-warming stories ever related at a general meeting, Lyle Hand described how he was able to use one of his creations, a fly-rod carrying case, to excite the young minds of his mentoring students with a historical relationship of natural resources, specifically the Giant Redwoods of California. The context of biblical references and natural history were on parallel courses when the wood from an old Redwood beam that came out of a defunct California warehouse was given to him by James Haddock. Lyle said the wood was determined to be 2,480 years' old, "at a time Christ walked the

Earth." Lyle mentors three and four young people at a time in his Bellingham garage shop, where youths are invited to build on the natural beauty of wood.

Other B&B items were also presented: Bob Doop showed us another of his magnificent Madrona bowls and Larry Tomovick showed a well-finished cribbage box in three exotic woods with a storage space for dominoes. And Don Parry was at it again. This time our resident locksmith showed us a large railroad switch padlock with a trap door over the keyhole; the

entire lock, including the mechanical locking mechanism and key, were fashioned from wood. And it worked!

Jay Geisel, Secretary

Battle o' the Finish

No, this wasn't a Scandinavian skirmish or a fight between the forces of Good and Evil. But a lot of *Good* did come out of the January meeting program that witnessed three different wood-



Wood you believe it? A railroad switch lock by Don Parry!

finishing ideologies, ones favored by each of our three volunteer speakers. The presenters were Bob Doop, a shellac and varnish guy with worlds of application experience; Larry Tomovick, a man who aims for simplicity and swift results with a brand product used straight from the can; and Julian Lee, a proved winner in the mechanical equipment and versatility derby who strongly advocates spray finishing. Each demonstrated a favored technique in an almost two-hour-long show of method and muscle.

Lines Are Drawn. Doop started his show-and-tell session by displaying three quality, badger-type brushes with a combined worth of nearly \$200. He inadvertently allowed us to take a closer look, thereby setting the stage for phony accusations and shouts of “Where are my brushes?”

when the pass-around objects disappeared from view. Bob’s testy attitude disappeared when he launched into the subject of marine varnish and techniques. He gave us valuable lessons on correctly laying down a coat of varnish. His years of coating boat hulls and topsides give him authority on matters of brightwork, and I couldn’t help wish that I had known a fellow like Bob when I fought tough refinishing problems on my boat a few years ago. He proceeded to add a coat of varnish to a handsome piece of teak railing, showed us how to load the brush and how to flow the material and evenly in straight lines that followed the grain. Important points were made about keeping a wet line and how to come back to it after reloading the brush.

Doop has a reputation locally for his fine marine finishing work. He has become a woodturner of



Mr. Doop & his million dollar varnish brush!

note also, and applies his marine experience to his popular wet-turned Madrona bowls. One of the keys to using shellac and varnish successfully is in the thinning. Bob will cut his products as much as 89 percent with thinner. He likes a two-part epoxy varnish from Italy and will apply as many as 10 thinned coats on a single surface. During a month or more of the bowl drying out process he continually coats them with a thin-as-water mixture, allowing the oil to replace water as the bowl slowly takes on a wholly different shape. “Most people don’t sand enough,” he said. If he needs to strip a piece in preparation for re-varnishing, Bob will use a heat gun and scraper and then sand bare wood with 150 grit before applying the first thinned-down coat. He also advises a light 320-grit sanding, wet or dry, after the first coat and between coats because all varnishes have a releasing agent that shows

up on the surface. He adds, “Be sure to remove all sanding dust.”

Next Up, The Nude Dude.

Larry Tomovick couldn’t resist showing up with his X-rated barbecue apron. (Enter hearty laughs, snickers, side-glances, pokes in the ribs. ‘Nuf said.) He came prepared to demonstrate the finish he regularly applies to the fine furniture for which he’s known. “It



Larry T. shows his stuff!

all comes out of a can,” Larry confesses, but he has developed a way to apply ProFin oil that gives him that satisfied smile when others praise the beauty of his finished pieces. “With me,” Larry says, “the surface has to feel good. I’ll sacrifice luster every time.” An advantage with ProFin, he said, is if you scratch it, you can easily add another application. He admitted that his choice of finish is not without drawbacks. Alcohol spills and other liquids can cause problems.

Larry’s technique is to use no-lint paper towels, lots of them, folded into one-quarter squares, and a

throwaway brush. ProFin is offered in gloss or satin and the application method is the same. Brush on a heavy coat of the oil and then wet-sand the material into the wood. He demonstrated a circular, scrubbing motion. On larger objects the application must be done in small, two-square foot areas so that the product does not remain on the surface for too long a time. Following the sanding and working of the material into the wood, Larry takes his paper towels and dries the wood thoroughly. He uses all surfaces of the towels to make sure drying is complete. He allows the surface to air dry two to four more hours before repeating the process. "You only wet-sand the first coat," Larry cautioned. In all, Larry finds four coats to be sufficient. He passed around an attractive, multiple wood cribbage board finished with 8 or 9 coats of ProFin.

"I don't particularly enjoy finishing," Julian confessed, "but I find Minwax and polyurethane products very easy to work with." The problems, he continues, are with the long drying times involved. Julian pointed to Exhibit A, his long board finished with a sequence of squares denoting successive coats from a spray gun. He used a water-based, low odor polyurethane finish and sprayed eight coats between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Julian lays it all on the table w/ his HVLP gun!

Case closed? Not quite. While these remarks were quite appealing, Julian admitted that some sanding was involved. The first application of water-based finish raised the grain and required a light sanding of 150 grit. Although he doesn't sand between coats, Julian does sand the last two coats with fine paper.

Caveats include careful stirring and filtering the material before loading the gun. "You do not thin water-based," he said, "and you can lay down 10 coats in one day." Of course you also need some expensive equipment like a high-capacity air compressor, gun, and accessories.

So there we had it. There was no winner. Everyone felt better informed and we thoroughly enjoyed the battle. The choice, as always, is ours. —Jay

Projects Committee:

The first meeting of the New Year was held Jan.12 with ten attendees. With a semi-show-and-tell on what toys to make, cradles are high on the to-make list, with small toys, (cars, blocks, etc.) also discussed. There are many options for "small toys" and members are encouraged to make the toys of their choice, subject to safety screening by the committee. The next meeting on Jan.27 should refine the "what to make issue". The meeting will be at Val and Laura Matthews in Bow at 7 PM. All members are welcome!

The most important issue identified was the decision to find sources of wood. Steve Intveld agreed to sell us maple at a very good price and then your club board agreed to cover the first purchase of 500 bd. ft. Don Parry has received an offer from Washington Alder of "mill-ends", plus "planer outs" for quote "little or nothing". Planer outs are 4/4 and 5/4 of rough sawn 8-10 ft. lengths, kiln dried. Members could mill the wood at cooperative workshops. The surfacing operations could be conducted with assistance from members participating in our educational training programs

This is a great start for 2005. We are still looking for additional toy makers. All members are encouraged to participate! --Gene Benson

Advice from the Dues Collector

Please remember to bring your check/cash/greenstamps to the next meeting. The dues are \$30. I'm going to be in San Diego the date of the February meeting (yes, on business, darn it), so please give your check/cash/greenstamps to Honest James Haddock. If you wish, you can mail a check to me (AKA Ed Pysher) at 5268 Island View Way, Bow, WA 98232. (The next notice you receive will be from my associate, Luigi "Thumb Screw" Laguci, and he don't mess around.)

**Education Committee announces
Spring class schedule:**

Well, we finally have a schedule (which, of course, is subject to change without notice, as “they” say) for the balance of the sections in the Introduction to Woodworking Series. As you can see, we have some holes in the location of some of the sections, but we will fill those in over the next week and will include the data in the next bulletin.

The next section is Scrapers, Planes & Chisels, Part II. If you are one of the folks who has a plane, but do not use it because you are uncomfortable with it, or it isn’t sharp enough, or you simply don’t know how to use it, this is the section for you. In this section we will have a brief review of Part I and then launch into the tuning, which includes sharpening, of the tools. We will cover the various types of grinders, jigs and stones to give the attendee a broad understanding of what is involved in sharpening and using the tools. This is a hands-on section. Attendees should plan to bring either a plane or a chisel of their own to be tuned. If you don’t have one, what the heck, you can practice with one of ours. The attendee will do the tuning, including the dismantling and cleaning of the plane and sharpening of the plane iron/chisel.

This is a Saturday session, which will start at 1:00PM and we estimate will be about 3 hours long. It will be on February 12 and will be led by Dave Blair who will be assisted by “yours truly”. It will be at Dave’s shop in Bellingham. The address is 1311 Maplewood Ave, Bellingham. Dave’s phone, in case you get lost, is 360-733-3911. It is easy to find. Take the Meridian south exit off I5. Get in the right lane, and when you run out of lane (just past the railroad tracks) turn right onto Maplewood Ave. Dave’s house is on the left behind a huge Maple tree, about 0.1 miles from Meridian.

Because this is a hands-on section, attendance is limited to 8. Once the hands-on tuning begins, Dave and I will each work with four attendees. This is a first come, first served event, folks, so be sure to call/email me (360-766-8019) if you would like to attend. Everyone who calls/emails me will be signed up and if there are more than eight we will hold the section again. No one will be left out.

Be sure to let me know if you would like to attend any of these sections.
Ed

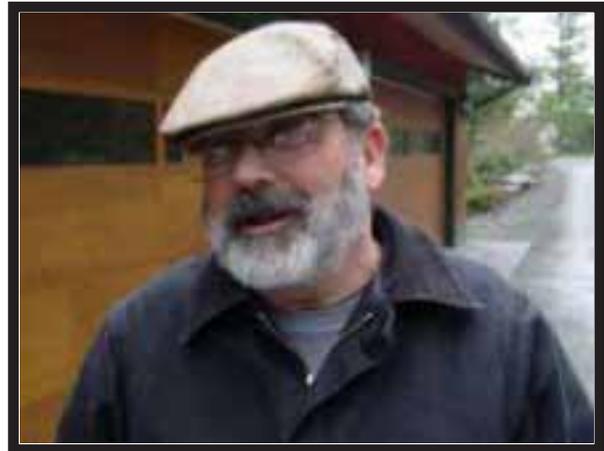
EDUCATION SERIES SCHEDULE

<u>Section</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
Scrapers, Planes & Chisels, Part II	Feb 12, Sat.	Blair’s shop	Dave Blair & Ed Pysher
Wood Selection & Preparation	Feb 21, Mon.	To be determined	Phil Choquette
Basic joinery	Mar 7, Mon.	Holloman’s shop	Gary Holloman
Basic Finishing, Part I	Mar 21, Mon.	TBD	Phil Choquette
Layout, Measuring & Takeoff	April 4, Mon.	TBD	TBD
Basic Finishing, Part II	April 18, Mon.	TBD	Phil Choquette

Meet our newest member!

Jack Richardson.

Jack lives in Anacortes with wife Cynthia and their two dogs at the top of Cap Sante. In his shop he has two lathes, one for wood, the other for metal. Sharing space with the lathes are a table saw, a milling machine, two restored motorcycles, a good sound system and a leather recliner ! His next project is a wooden wheelbarrow. He is also restoring a hot red MZB convertible. Jack is a recently retired electrical engineer, living formerly in Seattle. Welcome Jack !!



Jack Richardson

More Bring 'N Brag



**Cribbage Board w/ Dominos
by Larry Tomovick**



**Madrona Bowl dried in the
microwave by Bob Doop**

THE WOOD SHED

MAPLE FOR SALE Very nice maple boards for a great project! Will cut my logs to your specs. Call Steve Intveld 592-5670

MAPLE BURLS & rough cut maple 1-3" thick or custom cut.
Tom Goetz (360) 333-2006

CLOSING MY SHOP SALE

Hardwoods—Large selection of full length boards and shorts in variety of species

Softwoods—Approx 200 bf 2nd growth vg fir, 6/4 & 8/4

Sheet goods—Plywoods, MDF, particle board.

Rockwell Unisaw, 1957. Solid performer, fence needs repair. \$600

Yates American shaper with cutters. 1/2 hp, 1/2" spindle all cast iron. \$200

Dust collector. 220 volt, 2hp, 2 bag with extra high filtration bag. \$200

Various dust collector **ductwork and fittings.**

Numerous other **small items**

Mike Hess 360-650-1070 or 360-650-0964

COMING EVENTS

February 1	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Rick Anderson's Shop (Bellingham)
February 12	1 PM	Scrapers Planes & Chisels	Dave Blair's Shop (Bellingham)
February 16	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
February 19	11 PM	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
February 21	7 PM	Wood Selection & Prep	TBA
March 1	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	TBA
March 7	7 PM	Basic Joinery	Gary Holloman's Shop (Sedro Woolley)

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, 5268 Island View Way, Bow, WA 98232. 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 or call 360-650-1587.

2005 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: James Haddock	(360) 650-1562	Librarian: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473
V.P. Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Newsletter: Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
Secretary: Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Shows: Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Treasurer: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Activites/Tours: TBA	
Programs: Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Membership: Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects: Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004



NCWA NEWSLETTER

1331 Meador Ave, Suite J105
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