



Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

Next Meeting: June 1, 2004 7:00 pm

Gary Holloman's Shop 500 Metcalf, Sedro Woolley, WA 360-854-9060

Take Highway 20 through Sedro Woolley until you go under the railroad trestle. Take an immediate right onto Metcalf. Turn right into industrial area just before you get to the railroad tracks. Go to left rear buildings. (This is one of the old Skagit Corporation Buildings.)

Hello!

It's almost summer and while most organizations are slowing down for the summer months NCWA continues to accelerate with monthly meetings/programs, shop tours, education classes and our annual picnic all on the way this summer. It's a good thing our lawns will soon be brown.....leaves us with more time for the important stuff of woodworking!

As we all know, monthly programs are such a vital part of our activities. Our May program at Jay Smith's shop was absolutely outstanding. THANKS to Nick Van who read about Jay in the paper and took it upon himself to arrange the program. Even though Bob Doop and his program Committee do a great job, we can all contribute to our monthly programs. Each of us can be alert to program opportunities.....through people we know or meet, articles we read, businesses we are familiar with or maybe even sharing our own special skill/interest as will be happening for our June program.. Let's all follow Nick's example.....if you see, hear or know of anything that might have the potential to be a program GET INVOLVED and help make it happen. Doop & Committee will thank you. All of the members will thank you!

On another note.....it seems that some of us (my face is turning red) tend to procrastinate when it comes to submitting information to Tom Chartier for the monthly newsletter.....and then Tom has to stay up all night in order to get it published on time. Soooooo.....I have assured Tom that henceforth we will ALL have our submissions to him not later than the 20th of the month. Please cooperate with this deadline so Tom's job will be a bit easier. THANKS to Tom for producing an excellent newsletter each month! It's a LOT of work

I'll see you all at our June meeting.....it should be very interesting to learn about Bob Doop's and Gary Holloman's veneering expertise.

Rick

Minutes of General Meeting on 4 May 2004

Jay Smith's boathouse was a bit of a squeeze for 40 plus members, but we got it done. Jay had a wonderful story to tell so we quickly disposed of business. Here are the highlights of that meeting.

Shop Tours. Nick Van's Activities group completed planning for the year's program that encourages members to open their smaller home workshops to visits on three selected Saturdays in three different areas beginning next month in Bellingham. Eight woodworkers in the Bell area will hold their individual shops open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all who take the tour. LaConner,

Anacortes, and Oak harbor shop tours are scheduled for August 28 and Sedro Woolley, Mount Vernon, and Bow workshops will be toured on October 16. This marks the first time the Club has come up with a plan that allows woodworkers to see the garage and basement shops of their fellow members. It is expected to be a popular event.

Education. Ed Pysher's committee will kick off its "Introduction to Woodworking" program with Table Saw Basics, followed by Router, Jointer/Planer, Planes and Chisels, Joinery, and Dust Collection basic classes. The schedule for these Saturday workshops will be announced in the Newsletter, Ed said.

Dovetail Clinic. Larry Tomovick, having just completed the nine drawers in his large bookcase project, invited members to meet with him at his shop on Sunday afternoon, May 23, for a general demonstration on creating dovetailed drawers using various commercial dovetail jigs. Five individuals and five different jigs, accepted the invite.

Future Programs. Bob Doop announced programs for the next few months that included a veneering demonstration program for the June meeting, which will be held in Gary Holloman's shop in Sedro Woolley; a wood sculpture program is slated for the July meeting tentatively set for Julian Lee's shop in Anacortes; and the annual Club picnic will be held again at Laura and Val Matthews home in Bow, but not on a weekday evening as in the past. This year's picnic has been moved to a Saturday afternoon, August 14, to give everyone more time to enjoy the day and visit with fellow members. A 2 p.m. starting time is suggested, with the pot-luck evening meal to take place later.

Vancouver Tool and Woodworking Show. I reminded those attending that we will be busing to the Cloverdale woodworking show in British Columbia in October, on either Saturday, the 16th, or Sunday, the 17th. We will poll the participants for a definite date.

Newsletter Deadline. Editor Tom Chartier asked that items submitted for the Newsletter arrive at his desk by the 20th of each month.

Contest. Doug Wharton, our Everett member and owner of the Puget Sound Woodworking Center, invited woodworkers to take part in a competition offered by the Center. Doug announced that a 2x4 Contest is being sponsored by the Woodworking Center and that the deadline for entries is August 1st. Grand Prize is a handplane crafted by Yeung Chan. Other lesser prizes will be awarded. The judging and presentation occurs at the Center on August 14th. The crafted piece must be made from a single 2" x 4" x 8-ft fir timber. Call Doug for details.

Bring and Brag. Well it finally happened! Before the ink had dried on new member Courtney "Corky" Erikson's check he was responding to the B&B call with some beautifully carved pieces, a bird and a dolphin. Very nicely done, Corky, and a big welcome from the gang.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

Like Jay Smith, Vikes of Yore Were Ingenious Craftsmen

It often happens that an outside source unearths extraordinary events right under our unsuspecting noses. In this case it took a Hollywood film company to unveil an Anacortes boat builder with an unusual talent and ability for building Viking ships. Half the Earth away from the Scandinavian countries that originated and perpetuated the distinctive Viking design is an American builder recognized as an expert in lapstrake hull construction and learned in the methods of the ancient Norsemen.

Jay Smith has sufficient international credibility that Hollywood beat a path right to the door of his modest little shop on Wildwood Lane near Lake Campbell. It was there we gathered to hear a remarkable story of challenge, intense research, and skillful labors against an almost impossible deadline to create an authentic craft in the tradition of the Vikings (a ship that took its unmistakable form as early as 850 B.C.) and to replicate it with found materials and the crude iron tools of the times. Authenticity was demanded because this film crew was working under the direction of its client, television's History Channel, and the story they were filming would be the lead program for a 13-episode series of programs dedicated to the ingenuity of ancient mankind.

Jay told how he picked a local team of four experienced Norwegian craftsmen and then set about to search for clues that could help him lay out the lines of an authentic Viking ship. Jay had earned a research grant a few years earlier for his two decades of

lapstrake study and technology and that deposited him in Norway for the better part of a year while he worked under the tutelage of a respected Norwegian builder of Viking-style boats in the classical way, which is to say very slowly and mostly with hand tools. The builder's output was only a few boats a year, but his four-oared vessels equipped with a single sail were built to last a century or so. Jay added that the earliest known use of the lapstrake hull occurred 100 years after Christ.

Once the design for their ten-foot model was on paper, Jay and his crew took on the difficult task of searching for, and finding, native materials appropriate to the task. They collected clear cedar for the hull and natural crooked trunks of the locust tree that held the desired shape for the vessel's ribs. What stumped (!) them for a time were the large tree slabs that would provide the towering 8-foot distinctive stern and stem posts. NCWA member Rocky MacArthur was on the team and was charged with the responsibility for finding these massive pieces. It took awhile, and a lot of team digging, to unearth old growth stumps that could meet the specifications. They were fortunate to uncover three acceptable specimens in Skagit County.

The workers then had to sculpt bow and stern garboard strakes and since they were needed in both concave and convex shapes the planks had to be steamed, which made them the most difficult pieces to make. "There was a lot learning for all of us," Jay admitted.

Jay hired the services of a local blacksmith to forge the iron hammers, adzes, a broad axe, and other tools used in the documentary. They were forged out of 1-1/2-inch diameter rebar. The ship's half-inch thick, air-dried planks were fastened together with forged iron rivets made in two pieces. A wool and pine tar concoction was used to seal the planks where they joined. A rudimentary caulking hammer was created for this work. The red cedar roots had to be heated to 600 degrees F! To attach the tiller to the rudder, lashings were formed from long, thin red cedar roots capable of supporting a weight of 400 pounds. A Viking ship's rudder is hung off one side of the double-ender vessel, and this called for more ironwork.

Finally, three months later, with four oars freshly cut and fashioned, the ship was launched out the shop door followed by a crew of producer/director, two camerawomen, a scriptwriter, sound and lighting people, and thousands of feet of film. Asked if the crew enjoyed filming the project, Jay smiled and replied, "Three Norwegians building a boat; nothing is more boring."

Jay then darkened the shop's windows and showed us a couple dozen slides of his apprenticeship with a true Viking ship builder in Norway. Prez Anderson was so enthused by the presentation that he confided to me later that his grandfather was born in Norway. "I'm definitely going to make that trip soon," Rick vowed.

The one-hour Viking ship program will be aired on the History Channel in September. A probable date was mentioned as the 13th, however that is not confirmed. Watch your TV schedules for time and date, and we'll also try to keep you alerted by e-mail.

Jay Geisel

SCARY MOMENTS

. . . Woodworking Lessons to Live By

Val Mathews recalled how he almost severed his big toe with a circular saw.

Seems he was making a pocket cut into a wood floor while working close to a wall and did not have his body in a good position to control the downward pressure on the blade. The saw backed up and ran over his right foot just cutting the skin of his large toe but completely ruining a good pair of boots.

Do you have a "Scary Moment" story you would like to share with fellow members? Send it to Tom Chartier, our Newsletter editor, and maybe you can spare the bloodshed of a friend.

Newbies – March and April 2004

Meet **John Greene**, our March new member. John started a furniture manufacturing company in Santa Barbara called Whittle Wood in 1976, specializing in 'mission style' items. He and his associates also completed a number of special commissions, including reproductions and custom furniture. He and his wife operated a store on Chapalla Street where they also sold Framed Art, Jewelry and Pottery. John is now retired and enjoys working with wood and being creative without a deadline. Welcome,

John. We know we'll learn a bunch from your experiences.

And now, fellow woodworkers, please welcome **Corky Erickson**, a devotee of wood sculpture and fine finishing using highly figured hardwoods. Corky has not yet retired, but is working on it. He's currently engaged in providing aerial gondola experiences to patrons of the Puyallup, Yakima and Oregon State fairs having purchased the gondola equipment from the Seattle World's Fair in 1970. Corky has been involved in aerial tramways and ski lifts for most of his career after attending Roosevelt High School and the University of Washington (Arf!! Arf!!). He started working with wood making model airplanes and cars out of balsa wood and LePages sniffable glue. Glad to have you aboard, Corky.

Previews of Coming Attractions

June 1, 2004 - This meeting will stimulate some real interest. Bob Doop will demonstrate the mystical alchemy of vacuum veneering at Gary Holloman's shop in Sedro-Wooley. Don't miss this one. We'll all learn much from Bob's vicarious vacuum veneering.

June 26, 2004 - Shop visitations in the Bellingham/Whatcom County area. See article below.

July 6, 2004 - Julian Lee will host the July meeting where we'll be treated to a discussion on sculpting from one of the country's leading artists, Mr. Tracy Powell. Mr. Powell has sculpted in a number of media, including wood, and created the Maiden of Deception Pass totem pole now located at Deception Pass State Park. If all goes according to plan, our meeting will be at the co-op meeting hall on the water and we'll be treated, not only to the development, design and creativity that is required to complete a sculpture, but also a beautiful Northwest sunset.

August 3, 2004 - The August meeting will be the annual picnic, to be held on August 14.

August 14, 2004 - The annual picnic. All members and spouses/significant others/partners/children are welcome at this annual event. This is the one time during the year that we have a chance to meet the people in our lives who tolerate us when we're not at a NWCWA meeting. The Weber Kettle will be hot and stay hot, so bring the meat and beverage of your choice and a potluck dish, sit back and enjoy. Come and enjoy great food, a very brief and informative program and super people. Put this one on your calendars.

August 28, 2004 - Shop visitations in the Anacortes/Oak Harbor/La Conner area. More later.

Shop Visitations – Bellingham/Whatcom County

Saturday, June 26, 2004 -- 10:00am to 5:00pm

All driving directions, below, start from Interstate Highway 5. Many, many **THANKS** to the members who have made their shops available for our first Visitation Day.

Dave Blair

1311 East Maplewood Avenue Bellingham

Take the Meridian exit. Proceed south on Meridian about ½ mile to Maplewood. Turn right. Dave's house is the 5th or 6th house on the left. Please park in the driveway. The shop is on the back part of the property.

Rick Anderson

1331 Meador Avenue, Bldg J105 Bellingham

Take the Lakeway Exit (Exit 253) and proceed East to Lincoln Street. Turn left onto Lincoln Street and proceed

The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and show casing local woodworking. The NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers.. Dues are 30 per year, payable to NCWA, 5268 Island View Way Bow, WA. 98232. Newsletter submissions are welcomed and are due by the 18th of the month to NCWA Newsletter, 925 South Hills Dr. Bellingham, WA., 98229. or call (360) 734-9473, or Email, tc1376gp@aol.com. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Location is announced in the newsletter .

2003 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Rick Anderson	(360) 671-0532	Editor: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473
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