



# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

March , 2003

**Next Meeting: *Greg Aanes Furniture***

**319 E. Champion St. Bellingham, Wa 98225 360-733-1901**

**Driving Directions - From I-5 North, take exit 253, turn right on Lakeway, stay in the right lane, turn right onto Ellis St., go about three blocks, turn left onto Champion, proceed about 1 1/2 blocks on the right.**

**Driving Directions - From I-5 South, take exit 253, turn right on King St., proceed to Lakeway, turn right and follow as above.**

## Notes from the Prez:

*February 4, 2003*

'Twas a night for having fun. For learning about how to outfit your shop on \$5.00 a day. For understanding the process of building a shop during adversity and hardship – with a sense of humor. For taking part in the activities of the Club by “voluntarily” volunteering for the work to be done.

I had a ball! We tried to keep the business meeting short and focused on the items needing decisions. The 50 – 50 raffle went well and provided the Club treasury with some much needed funding and the Bring & Brag and Wood(s) of the Month was both interesting and informative. Many thanks to all who were there, especially to our guests and new members, and to all of you who made the meeting so enjoyable.

To all of our members who volunteered to serve on committees, many thanks from all of the membership. To those of you who are not yet on committees, please contact our committee chairpersons or myself and volunteer your services. There is much work to be done and many happy and informative times ahead. Preparing for those times falls to the committees and their assignments. There will be trips to plan, workshops and hands-on activities during the current year and beyond. There are projects to plan and complete, community service to perform, and techniques to learn and master. All of this takes member participation and the sooner we get at it, the more fun we're going to have. So raise your hands and take part in the Club and its activities.

Finally, many thanks to Ray DeVries for a totally enjoyable program. Somehow, my 1948 Craftsman combination bench sander/grinder and my 1965 Unisaw are taking on new meaning. Having just finished constructing my shop as an attachment to our home, I have some appreciation for the trials and tribulations concerning Ray's shop construction and outfitting. It's obvious Ray and his family have great patience and humor. Thank you, Ray.

Just a short reminder. The officers and committee chairs will meet at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Highway 20 on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 at 12:00 noon. Any of our members are welcome to attend. The only constraint is space so if you want to join us, please contact me to make certain there will be space available. Thank you. Oh, yea! You'll have to buy your own lunch (Bummer).

**Nick**

## Secretarys' Report

*Nick Van States His Plan*

In his inaugural address, President-elect Nick Van laid out plans for starting meetings promptly at 7 and ending at 9, and for shortening the business portion to give a full hour to the evening programs. He outlined his idea to establish several standing committees to handle the business matters of the organization before presenting them to the general membership for action. Personal discussions, bull sessions, or committee sessions can be held after nine o'clock, he said. To achieve the goal of a limited half-hour business meeting, Van plans on having committees work each month independently, conducting their sessions as necessary to keep the organization moving ahead on a full schedule of activities envisioned for 2003.

Committees have been organized for specific purposes. They are designed to open more venues for members to exhibit and sell their woodworking craft, to support local community events, to develop community service projects, to establish Saturday workshops using particular skills of member instructors, to promote two bus tours during the year to give members the opportunity to purchase tools and other resources at discount, and to develop collaborative woodworking projects within the NCWA. These ideas will be promulgated within the various committees and reported to the membership by their chairmen

at the general meetings. Members were forthcoming, willingly offering their help in forming the various committees.

More than 40 members and guests assembled for the February meeting in Ray DeVries large workshop at his Mount Vernon farm to learn his technique for amassing powerful under-utilized woodworking machines.

### *Old Business*

Treasurer Ed Pysher reported a bank balance of \$1,602 and later conducted a 50-50 raffle that added \$50 more when winner Nick Van contributed his gains to the treasury. (Nice gesture from the Prez.)

Secretary Jay Geisel corrected his spelling of Stuart Welch as reported in last meeting's Newsletter and notified those visiting the Rexville Grocery to take notice of Stuart's photographic collection of fine furniture from the decade he worked as designer for an international manufacturer in Jakarta. It's an amazing body of work. Geisel announced that the planned woodworkers' bus trip to Veritas in Vancouver, B.C., was set for Saturday, April 19. The same 46-passenger deluxe coach used on the Seattle tour in November has been engaged for the all-day Canadian adventure. Seats are available for members and wives at \$27 each; adult guests are welcome for \$30. The full schedule and pickup sites in Mount Vernon and Bellingham will be announced later. Reservations can be made now by making payment to Laura Mathews. Touring members are reminded that border regulations require two identifying documents: a passport or birth certificate and a photo ID, such as a driver's license. Geisel also introduced the new permanent nametag system. The large tag, worn around the neck on an elastic cord, will be issued at each meeting and is not to be taken home. Guests will use the stick-on paper tag.

### *New Business*

Program Chairman Bob Doop announced next month's meeting was not positively *nailed down* (that's his woodworking terminology) but would be announced in the next Newsletter. The tentative program, constructing rocking chairs, was to be scheduled for Bellingham. Doop said the September meeting will take place in an Anacortes church that has large screen TV. The program by our Lyle Hess includes a video on building the fly rod.

Treasurer Ed Pysher urged members to pay their annual dues now so we can begin printing the new Roster pages. "Don't be left out," he cautioned.

### *Bring and Brag*

Several members brought crafted items, wood and books to share with fellow members. One of our guests displayed a

woodworker's mallet with a four-sided, beautifully figured exotic hardwood head and a nicely turned handle. Sol Schneyer took a woodworking class in Bellingham and showed us one of his projects, a pivoting arm, precision sliding miter jig for the table saw. The work somewhat resembles the commercially made "Dubby." Val Mathews, aided by some strong-armed members, unveiled a 3 by 4-foot doll house with a gorgeous roof which he constructed from plans 13 years ago; it has never been occupied. Ray passed around a piece of wood and asked for identification. After much discussion, Phil Choquette opined aged Western Red Cedar. Jim Murphy extolled the virtues of the well-constructed, fairly expensive Starrett verniers and squares made for the professional trade, paying particular attention to the sliding mechanism and the finely etched markings on the steel blades. Doop showed four more of his well-turned boxes, each featuring friction lids (see photo), while Geisel recommended two recently acquired books of interest to woodworkers: *Understanding Wood, A Craftsman's Guide to Wood Technology*, by Bruce Hoadley (Taunton Press) and Jim Tolpin's *Working Wood, A Complete Bench-Top Reference* (Spiral bound by Davis Publications). The former also can be found in our NCWA Library.

Nick announced the NCWA Board and committee chairmen would meet again at noon Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Farmhouse Restaurant. The business end of the meeting was wrapped in one hour, giving Ray DeVries equal time for his presentation.

Jay Geisel,  
NCWA Secretary

### *A Dream Well Spent*

Ray DeVries had this dream: he owned a huge woodworking shop filled with tools that helped him make things. Not furniture, but THINGS. Things to hang on walls. Décor, maybe? In this dream there is no organic garden pushing up plants to send to market. In his world there would be huge machines milling timbers and crafting "Things." Part of that dream has come true; he's got the huge milling machines in spades.

By this month Ray's big shop was supposed to be ready. It's not. Wires were dangling from the ceiling in front of us and the dusty machines sat silent in a haphazard way around the confines of his expanded shop. We camped on his stools, benches, and car seats while he explained how he fell behind.

Ray's grandfather and then his father created a thriving organic vegetable business on 3 acres of land near Mount Vernon. Naturally, they expected Ray to help with the family business. Ray had an honest desire to fan the flames of his passion for woodworking, but he saw this as an opportunity to raise the

money he needed. So he allowed himself to be dragged into the family furrows to till away his time until he funded his dreams. He began buying used tools whenever he could find a bargain. When his father died, Ray was suddenly thrust into farming big time. Putting his woodworking goals aside for the time, Ray needed all his waking hours to keep a profitable business growing. Whenever he had a spare moment, he hunted the nooks and crannies of Skagit County seeking out used and useful machines for his future shop, flushing out bargains at auctions, failed businesses, and schools that had discontinued their shop training. He was able to make some good buys, particularly in unpopular 3-phase equipment. He collected a barnfull of pre-owned machines, all of them big and some bordering on humongous. Trouble was he was acquiring duplicates and triplicates of bandsaws, jointers, and the like. He eased out of some problems by trading and swapping for what he didn't have. His philosophy at the time seemed to be "Buy low, store high."

During these years he farmed his heart out; that's where the money was. Ray said they went through some rough seasons when winter weather became severe and flooding washed out his crops. Each growing season had its problems, but Ray remained optimistic, thinking that the next one might become the break-out year he was expecting. Mother Nature's perversity kept him off-balance, but his dream remained alive.

Ray's tool buying habits didn't go unnoticed by his wife. Ray, sitting on his work table smirking and winking with his cap turned sideways looked like a misbehaving child as he told us how he explained to his wife that he was using his *discretionary* money, money that would go otherwise for beer, entertainment, and other sinful pursuits.

Meanwhile, Ray had selected one of the farm outbuildings for his shop and busied himself over several years enlarging it to a commercial size. He restructured and beefed it up, added a new roof, moved walls, made major electrical changes. "The shop is essentially finished," he declared. What he must do next is hook up his 3-phase power converter and get his steel servants moving again.

Ray is confident that he'll be ready by A-Day, June 20, when his first "Things" are due for jury review at Bellingham's Artwood.

Jay Geisel,  
NCWA Secretary

Check out Vern Leibrant's Website:  
<http://www.vkliebrant.com/>

Saul showing his the table saw.



sliding angle jig for

Jim showing ma-  
vantages of using  
measurement.



chinist tools and the ad-  
decimal over fractional



Val Matthews' doll house and several turned boxes



by Bob Doop.

Ray DeVries sharing his  
ing, woodworking and



philosophy on leek farm-  
used vs. new tool buying.

**Don't forget our "Bring and Brag", We all do something unique or have something that others would enjoy seeing.**

**Jake Strauss**  
Kiln dried NW Washington hardwood  
lumber. (Sales by appointment only)  
6389 North Star Rd.  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
(360)384-3948

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 \$24 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	Nick Van	(360) 387-4174	Education:	Val Matthews
VP	Rick Anderson	(360) 647-7039	Public shows/exhibits:	Phil Choquette
Sec.	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Club Projects	Gary Holloman
Treas.	Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Historian	Ray McInnes
Library	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473	Roster	Larry Tomovick
Programs	Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Membership cards	Vern Tator
Editor	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473		

**NCWA Newsletter**  
925 South Hills Dr  
Bellingham WA. 98229

