

# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

**Next Meeting: Gary Holloman's Shop. March 2, 2004 7:00 pm 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 Woodworkers!**

Thanks to Cec Braeden for hosting the February meeting and providing an interesting program. Cec shared some great ideas with us. It's always interesting and informative to see how other members approach their craft.

I just received an email from one of our esteemed members who thought our monthly meeting was this week. He says he just gets SO excited about our meetings. (Hint.....He's the one who is collecting OUR pennies for a bandsaw). I must admit that I too am always excited to attend our next meeting.....both for the program and the opportunity to share "shop stuff" with fellow members. It's this sharing which makes NCWA so very special.

Equally important are all those members who are sharing their time to get our committees organized and functioning..... something that is vitally important as we grow. Thank you to all that are working so hard. Some great things are happening!

See you at the March meeting!

Rick

## **Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2004**

**Cec Braeden's Shop, Anacortes** President Rick Anderson called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. Thirty-three members and five guests were in attendance. Announcements were made regarding membership dues being payable now, the program for the March meeting at Gary Holloman's shop, and an offer of surplus hardwoods at reduced prices from the Wood House in Anacortes. Treasurer Ed Pysher announced that Club raffles accounted for a third of our revenue in 2003. Present balance stands at \$1,854.39. Bob Doop, Program Chair, said that present plans call for the April meeting to be held at Rick Anderson's new shop in Bellingham; the program will be given by a representative from Franklin Glue.

**WoodFest 2004.** Phil Choquette, Venues Chair, reminded those present to prepare the items they want to exhibit and/or sell at WoodFest at the Sedro Woolley High School on April 3 and 4. The exhibit tables will be set up between the hours of 7 and 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, and tear down will start after 4 p.m. on the following day. Show hours are 9 to 5 Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday. Volunteers were sought for duty at the Club's sharpening and joinery display tables. The Club will make a birdhouse donation to the school's traditional woodworking auction Sunday afternoon.

**Woods of the Month** Your Secretary displayed and passed around wood samples from the Argentine forests now being imported into this area by Karl Stout of Anacortes. The dense, heavy hardwoods are striking in texture and color. Karl has been offering them to woodworkers and woodturners at attractive prices out of his Sedro Woolley warehouse. Also available are surplus American hardwoods from the Wood House in Anacortes. The custom cabinet shop offers some good buys in cabinet grade maple, birch, oak, cherry, beech and other varieties. The lumber is typically available in 1 x 6 x 10 sizes. They also have a selection of sizes in finished cabinet doors at \$20 a pair. Wood House is located at 3111 T Avenue.

**Bring and Brag.** Ron Grant displayed a couple of his turned and textured bowls. He has developed a sandblasting process to erode the wood fibers of his bowls in areas unprotected by vinyl resist materials. This allows him to form his artistic designs using flat layouts that are then cut out and adhered to the curved sides of his bowls. The designs can be quite elaborate and the results are always stunning. His sandblasting procedures were developed over many months of experimentation. I also displayed a small segmented bowl made of Argentine woods and turned in one of Ron's segmentation classes. Cec then demonstrated his technique for edging plywood.

Welcome Richard Byford as our newest member. Our next meeting is at Gary Holloman's shop in Sedro Woolley. See you there!

Jay Geisel, Secretary

## **A Visit with Cecil at the Braeden Skunk Works**

**It was SRO all over again.** In the past three monthly meetings we assembled at some of our members' glamour shops to do business and plan future activities. These have been exciting venues, for sure, and we've had good attendance. Cecil Braeden's home workshop was no exception. Sumptuous it is and by any reckoning, "a shop to die for." The large area with high-ceilings was a key part of the master building plan that Cec and Maureen designed into their Anacortes dream home in 1999. The shop arrangement and selection of machines and work stations was carefully planned by Cec over many months and it was executed in a very professional manner to take advantage of machine placement in a layout that complements other machines used in the logical workflow from the lumber storage area to the saw tables, jointer and planer. Overall considerations were given to creating a dust-free environment at every workstation. His metal piping system is an impressive work of shining art.

**Space for Big Projects.** The 1400 square feet of space forms a light and airy working area for tackling large work projects. Cec recently replicated an entire bedroom wall in walnut forming storage cabinets and an in-the-wall, full-size folding bed (Murphy style) for his daughter's home in Seattle. His measurements were true and the wall was transported in sections and re-assembled without a hitch. This was his second stab at such a project. We were invited to see his original project incorporating a folding bed in the wall in an upstairs convertible bedroom. Another recent project that received member interest was a beautifully executed and finished wine cellar just a few steps outside his shop. Cec had fun planning the cuts and curves of the racks and trim needed to finish out a handsome wine bottle storage arrangement in limited space.

**The Shop Tour.** Cec took us on a quick tour of the machinery and placement of the workstations and commented on the reasons for making the decisions he did. The shop is laid out with a separate room to silence the compressor and dust removal systems. His office, near the private shop entrance, is comfortable yet efficient in storing woodworking journals, patterns and plans, and he has surrounded himself with pictures and memorabilia of his military days. The workshop is sited on the lower level of the hillside home and where the ceiling height is low under the sloping property that area has been assigned to lumber and materials storage. A restroom is situated near the office. Cec has given special attention to creating centers for sanding and routing operations. Jigs, fixtures and other accessories for each work station are either hung from the room's center post, the walls, or they are stored in special cabinets he has made under most of his machine tools. Many of the drawers and cabinets are fitted and hold smaller tools or accessories for the machines they support. Everywhere you look you can see the careful attention to detailed planning.

**Remarkable Router Table System.** The innovative cabinet he made to go under his router table collects dust in a chamber below the table while allowing space for drawers of router bits and accessories below the dust plenum. Two different sized vacuum hoses are built into the cabinet to clear dust from both above and below the router table, and each is connected to its own vacuum system. He cited an electrifying example of why it is important to maintain grounded copper wire continuity in the dust hoses or metal piping systems. Braeden is very pleased with the accuracy and quality of cut he's getting from his table saw and Freud Glue Line blade. He demonstrated a technique for edge-banding plywood that entails sawing a very thin strip of face veneer from the plywood panel and using that as edging material. He also demonstrated on the saw his homemade sled and the Dubby commercial miter jig.

**Cec's Raffle Pleases.** Our generous host provided many items to the evening's raffle. A major prize was a duplicate of his table saw sled. He also boxed up some hardwood cut-offs and created several push stick assortment kits. Nick Van contributed a nice electric grinder, and first winner Pres Rick Anderson sledged home.

***Flying the Blackbird.*** Cec Braeden is a man of many talents. His modesty conceals the value of his contributions to the U.S. Air Force as a pilot of the world's fastest jet, flying reconnaissance missions over selected global *hot spots*. He flew the famous Lockheed SR71 Blackbird on assignments that often lasted 12 hours at a stretch. It's difficult to imagine how a tall, lanky framed man can insert himself into a strait jacket of a cockpit and be immobilized for 12 hours in an oven cooled only by a mechanical A.C. system. Cec described how hot the fuselage became at those high speeds. He wore four special gloves to protect his hands yet could feel the extreme heat in a second if he inadvertently touched the inside skin. The consequences of a failed cooling system could be instant toast. When pushed, Cec described a troublesome, recurring problem in mid-air refueling. The Blackbird pilots had to reduce speeds of more than 2,000 mph to almost a stall to allow the tankers to keep pace when refueling. A stall pushed the nose up and was unrecoverable.

***Garden of Love.*** But talent doesn't stop there. Cec has a deep love of gardening and his research and investigative abilities have earned him respect from the faculty at the University of Washington's Agricultural School. A couple hundred feet below his office window, on the southern slope of the Braeden property, are Cec's experimental vegetable and berry gardens. He plants, experiments, observes, and keeps meticulous records for the UW Agricultural Extension Office and Farm near Mount Vernon. Information flows both ways, and Cec has found yet another path to make his hobbies beneficial to others.

Hail Cecil!

JG

## **Do you like a good story?**

Haven't you wondered what brought the Northwest Corner Washington Woodworking Association into being? We're on the threshold of our Twenty Year Anniversary and none of us have heard "The Greatest Story Ever Told" because it hasn't been written yet. Many of us wonder what our early years were like and what struggles we went through getting started.

Founded in 1984, the infant organization might have been a bunch of buddies banded together to set prices for their woodcraft pieces, or maybe they were all furniture and cabinetmakers enlisting work. It makes for interesting speculation whether hobbyists were a part of the early group. Who were the principals involved and what were the circumstances that led to our Club's formation? Might they have been a bunch of good ole' boys sitting around in someone's shop swapping stories and getting some interesting ideas of how to work wood? Were there formal meetings, speakers, or programs back then? What kind of activities brought members in the door?

We won't know the answers to these questions for a while, but we're working on it. Historian Nick Van has organized a committee to delve into Club history. You can help them gather material as they do interviews to put a story together. If you have any photos, news clippings, or fond memories let this committee know before you go brain dead! For latter-day members, this should make a good read.

JG

## ***Dubby, Anyone?***

You may not be familiar with the name, but the Dubby table saw miter guide has been around for years and is popular with woodworkers all over the world.

Cec Braeden demonstrated it on his saw the other night. He likes its ease of use, accuracy, and repeatability. The unit is similar in appearance to the Jointech miter jig and boasts the same results at a lower purchase price.

The sturdy Dubby sled slides in the saw table miter groove to the left of the blade. It incorporates an extendable, moving aluminum fence with adjustable stop. A routed arc in the baseboard allows accurate pivoting of the fence and an integral clamp locks it in position. A metal gage runs along the left side where every angle is clearly etched. Squares, polygons, octagons, etc. are depicted so that no angle measurements need to be made to set the fence position. For example, if you wanted to rip your boards for an eight-sided planter, you'd set the fence at the octagon image. You can cut projects with 4 to 16 sides right off the scale without calculating angles. Panels up to 24" x 52" can be cut on full size table saws. Each unit carries a 90-day money-back guarantee, and a set-up video and hold-down clamp are included.

One of Cec's friends who was at the meeting, a senior buyer in business life, has been in contact with the Dubby manufacturer

and distributor, In-Line Industries, requesting discounted pricing for a bulk buy of three to six units. If you would like to order a *Dubby Cut-off Fixture* for your saw, give me a call. Three units have already been requested. Discounted prices are expected to be under \$150, depending upon the number of units ordered. The final order will be placed during the first or second week of March. Contact Jay Geisel at (360) 466-3908.

### **NCWA 2004 Membership Survey**

In an effort to better understand members' areas of interest, please take a minute to fill out this brief survey. The more information we have from our members, the better we will be able to match members' interests with activities and resources.

#### **Club Education - What would you like to see?**

Examples: beg., int., adv., programs applied to wood projects,

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Club Programs - What would you like to see?**

Examples: specific workshop topics; i.e. dust collection, jigs, tool set up and calibration - specific technique topics; i.e. veneering, marquetry, turning, Club tool "test driving";

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Club Reference Resources - What would you like to see?**

Examples: Club library books/videos/CD's/project plans, specific books

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Club Tours & Exchange Programs - What would you like to see?**

Examples: specific field trips, other club visits; i.e. Veritas, Fraser Valley Woodworkers,

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Club Public Shows/Exhibits - What would you like to see?**

Examples: Arts Alive, Woodfest

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Club Activities - What would you like to see?**

Examples: Club History project

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Club Projects - What would you like to see?**

Examples: Toys for Tots, bird houses,

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Many Club members carpool to meetings and workshops, would you like to give or get a ride? YES \_\_\_\_\_. If "YES", we'll need your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your completed survey to James Haddock at our upcoming March meeting or via email at [jdhaddock@msn.com](mailto:jdhaddock@msn.com).**

Thank You,

NCWA  
Membership Committee

### **Welcome to the new kid!!**

**Richard (Dick) Byford** is our newest member. Remember, new members get three months of courtesy before they're fair game like the rest of us. Dick has been a carpenter for over 30 years and currently is employed by Nelson Lumber in Sedro-Wooley.

His current home is the only home he has not built for himself and his family. He bought it because it has a big shop previously used to construct aluminum river boats and it was a property he couldn't refuse. Dick has recently published a genealogy of his ancestors and enjoys building furniture and cabinets for his woodworking diversions. Welcome, Dick. We hope we can learn from your experiences and that you'll be able to pick up a few tidbits about woodworking from us.

## Newsletter Tips of the Month

**Ebonizing Wood** Apropos to a question raised by Jim Murray at the January meeting on how to ebonize walnut, we offer the following suggestions from *Woodsmith*. When ebonizing, start with a dark-colored wood, such as walnut. You can ebonize any wood, but a darker wood gets black more quickly. The process is as easy as applying a stain. Mix up a fairly concentrated black aniline dye. Water-based dye is easiest because its easy to use and is lightfast. Because you're putting water on wood, you need to raise the grain first with water and then sand off the whiskers. Mix three teaspoons of dye in one quart of hot water and brush the mixture on heavily, letting it sit to dry. Don't wipe off the excess if you want it dark. If you want it darker, add a couple more coats. When it is dry, simply apply a finish. Phil Choquette uses liquid shoe dye, sometimes dipping smaller objects.

**Flattening Thin Wood** Another serious question from the January meeting concerned the warping of a jewelry box lid. We don't know whether the following suggestion will work on woods thicker than quarter inch, but reports say scrollers love it. The product is a liquid treatment called Wood-Loc from Cash Coatings (888-729-1591, \$7.95 per quart and \$17.95 a gallon) that stabilizes wood fibers and controls dimension. It's also a permanent barrier to moisture and controls penetration of stains to produce a uniform color and avoid blotching wood and end grain. The material is brushed, rolled, or sprayed onto a bowed or warped wood panel surface and then simply clamped flat. It's interesting to note that Wood-Loc reportedly can hold a twist, such as in a propeller blade, in thin woods.

JG

## Greetings from the Education committee!

We have been concentrating our efforts on the development of a program for the many new members who are new to woodworking. We want to help them get off the ground and then we plan to turn our attention to the needs of the more experienced members. In the meantime, the Membership committee will be working to find out what those needs are.

In considering the needs of a new woodworker, we came up with the idea of a comprehensive "Introduction To Woodworking" scheme. The program as it is currently formatted contains 12 seminars. These are:

- Tablesaw Lite
- Bandsaw Lite
- Router Lite
- Joiner Lite
- Planer Lite
- Planes and chisels
- Basic joinery
- Dust collection systems
- Project layout
- Wood selection and preparation
- Glues and gluing
- Basic finishing

We have a syllabus ready to go for the Tablesaw Lite seminar, copies of which will be available at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. They will be at the "head table", wherever Rick Anderson is presiding. Be sure to pick one up. This is the format that will be followed for all the seminars. A syllabus for the bandsaw, router and joiner seminars are in process and will be available in about two weeks.

## Photos from the February Meeting:

The objective of the Introduction To Woodworking series is to provide the new woodworker with an understanding of the basic equipment used in woodworking, how to pick out equipment, equipment set up and maintenance and fundamental woodworking techniques. The idea is to arm the new woodworker with enough information to be able to get going, be safe and to begin to have fun as quickly as possible.

None of the seminars are intended to demonstrate techniques, although some of the machines will likely get turned on and Planes and chisels will have some examples of sharpening at different stages. Likewise, Glues and gluing will probably have some demonstrations of clamping techniques. The five “Lite” seminars do not involve demonstrating the equipment. Again, take a look at the Tablesaw Lite syllabus for a look at what will be covered.

The thinking is that as soon as the new woodworker has had enough input, he/she could begin to work with a “mentor”, a more experienced member, and actually start making sawdust. This can begin whenever the new woodworker feels comfortable and ready to get started. The Membership committee is working on the “mentor” project also.

Our next step is to line up “instructors”. Volunteers can call anyone on the Education Committee or notify Ed Pysher. (360-766-01360 or [epysher@aol.com](mailto:epysher@aol.com)). As soon as we have an instructor the Tablesaw Lite seminar will be scheduled and we will let everyone know. Members (and guests) who would like to attend this first seminar please let Ed know.

This whole program is obviously embryonic and comments and suggestions will be gratefully received.

## Important Recall Notice!

Craftsman table saws manufactured between 1958 and 1992 were sold without a proper blade guard. For more information, contact Emerson Tool Company at [www.radialarmsawrecall.com](http://www.radialarmsawrecall.com) or 800-511-2628. You will need your model and serial numbers to see if your saw is included in the recall.

## Photos from the January Meeting



**Clockwise from top left:**  
Necessities for sharpening a crooked knife: C clamp, various grits of emery cloth and a piece of dowel.



A carving vise by Jim Murphy.

Low Tech Phil's jig for cutting biscuit slots in mitered joints.



Two bowls by Bob Doop.



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



**Top Left:** Tools and jigs used by Cec for arch top frame and panel construction.

**Top Right:** Bureau style desk by Cec.



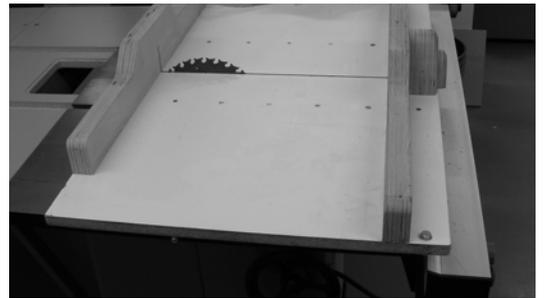
**Center Left:** A quick look at Cecil's wine cellar.



**Center Right:** Crosscut sled designed by Cec. Note the bolt head attached to the tablesaw and the stop on the coener of the sled. The stop prevent sawing through the sled and possible injury.



**Bottom Left:** Cecs' method for magazine organization and storage. Plywood scraps, a couple of dowels, a brad point drill bit and three ring binder not shown. (Binder bought at the Boeing Surplus store)



**Bottom Right:** A set of three center finding jigs shown by newest member, Richard (Dick) Byford.



**Jake Strauss**

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

**For Sale:**

For Sale at 1/2 new purchase cost, Appolo HVLP spay Set up .2 qt pressure pot with 2 regulators and gauges, 6' fluid and air lines, cup yoke and gun assembly and complete set of Nozzles and air caps allowing capability of spaying all sprayable coatings. \$ 400. firm. contact Julian Lee (360) 299-2900 or julianengrep@earthlink.net.

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](mailto: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:

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