



# Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

## **Next Meeting: Jay Smith's Shop May 4, 2004 7:00 pm**

### **Driving directions to Jay Smith's shop:**

**Highway 20, west across the Swinomish bridge to the Oak Harbor/Deception Pass turn. Turn left at the light and proceed on Highway 20 for about 1 mile to Campbell Lake Road. Turn right onto Campbell Lake Road and proceed about 1 mile to the Lake Erie Grocery. Bear left onto Rosario Road and drive about ¾ mile to a fork in the road. Take neither fork but make a hard right onto Wildwood Lane. The first driveway on the right is 13113 Wildwood Lane and is where Jay's shop can be found**

### **Hello Woodworkers!**

Another month has passed.....with lots of NCWA activities going on. THANKS to all who helped with Woodfest, especially Phil Choquette and his Show Committee. While we recognize that Woodfest is not a great selling show it does provide us an opportunity to present our skills and activities to the community.

The Education Committee has rolled out their first class with many more to come. THANKS to Ed Pysner and his entire committee. This is one of the most exciting projects our club has ever undertaken and is the result of a lot of time and hard work by this committee.

Even though all of our committees have at least their "minimum staff" it is never too late to get involved on a committee if you aren't already. We especially welcome new members to serve on a committee.....it's a great way to get acquainted and get involved!

I would like to remind all of our members that your Board and Committee Chairs (the two-legged variety) meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Farmhouse Restaurant on Highway 20. All members are welcome to attend any of these meetings, whether to bring your thoughts before the Board or just to observe. If you would like to attend, please give me a call ahead so we can make sure there is room at the table for you.

One of the issues of discussion recently by your Board has been the issue of the growth of our club and some of the implications of growth. While traditionally we have met at a variety of member's shops, we now recognize that only a very few members have shops large enough to house all of us. The chance to see other member's shops, equipment and projects has always been an important part of our club. To insure we don't lose that "flavor" of NCWA we will be planning (under the astute efforts of Bob Doop & Nick Van) "open shop" days in which several shops in the same geographical area will be available for touring by all members. This should be a fun time.....so spiff up your shops 'cause Bob & Nick will be calling!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting.....it should be a great program!

Best regards,  
Rick

## Minutes of General Meeting on 6 April 2004

**Another good crowd** got an up-close look at Rick Anderson's Bellingham shop for the second time this year, but this meeting was in his newly occupied, much larger work- space in an industrial park just off I-5. Moving into the new digs single-handedly was a chore for Rick yet he met this deadline in good shape. The new shop is up and running and Rick's arbor business hardly missed a beat. Our program was furnished by Bob's Super Saw Service of Bellingham.

**Basic Tools Classes Ahead.** As usual, committee reports dominated the business part of the meeting. Mike Larvia, Education, outlined the first of the basic tools classes to be offered this year. Table Saw Fundamentals was scheduled for a test run the following week, Mike said, and if all goes well members will get their first instructional opportunity in early May.

**Local History.** Historian Nick Van reported the Activities group has met to plan and research the documentation of our organization's history, but he cautioned that the project "will be a time-consuming affair." Librarian Tom Chartier reported that recent funding has produced five new books with another five on the way. Newsletter Editor Tom also made a pitch for reducing the Newsletter mailings to members having home computers. Electronic mailings are faster, cheaper, and a lot less work, he said.

**Surveys of Woodworking Interests Slow in Coming.** The Membership committee is encouraging everyone to complete the survey of personal woodworking interests, a form circulated a few months ago. Chairman and VP James Haddock noted that members have been slow to return their survey sheets and this is delaying the planning of future Club programs and educational activities. Haddock also announced the interest of Bellingham's Western Tool in granting the Club meeting space in their new store addition. Western recently made the decision to grant discounts to NCWA members.

**Cloverdale in October.** As Tours chairman, I proposed Club participation at this year's big Cloverdale, B.C., gathering known as the Vancouver Woodworking and Tool Show scheduled for October. This is a popular event with many of our Bellingham members. The reaction was positive and planning is underway. We will take a chartered bus to the event on Sunday, October 17. The trip will originate in Mount Vernon and pre-arranged stops will be made north along the I-5 corridor. Mark your calendars, get you I.D.'s in order, and plan to join the crowd.

**Wood Fest Report.** Phil Choquette directed our successful participation in Wood Fest at the Sedro Woolley High School again this year. He reported a steady flow of people past our display tables and said people were interested in observing our sharpening demonstrations on both days. A few members exhibited their woodcraft and several items were sold. The Club donated 15 bird-houses from our December contest to the school's silent auction; all were sold at an average price of \$25, Phil said. He thanked everyone who assisted with the program.

**Phil, Again.** There being no Bring and Brag this time, Phil was allowed to rant about his encounter with a stripper. A lady customer supplied him with two tables to refinish; neither could be coaxed to release their coating. Phil said he tried every stripping chemical he knew about, but the finish couldn't be removed. He asked for our help. Short of sandblasting, suggestions were few. The table coating was traced back to its origins and proved to be a hard floor type finish. More *Adventures with Phil* later.  
Jay Geisel, Secretary

### Coming Attractions!!

#### May 4 Meeting

Learn about making a Viking long boat and hear Jay Smith tell us about his work with the History Channel and the construction of the long boat using traditional Viking materials and tools. This should be a great meeting. Jay has opened up his shop to us and will have much to share with us.

#### June 1 Meeting

This meeting is certain to be a thriller, although I haven't a clue about where it will be held or what the program is.

**July 6 Meeting**

This will be an opportunity to revisit Julian Lee's shop and check out how he recovered from his winter water carnival. The program that night is scheduled to be a noted wood sculptor who will take us through the trials and tribulations of visioning and creating art from raw wood.

**News From the Bookkeeping Department:**

The cash report for the year-to-date is below. We have collected all but three dues. I'll notify Vito "Thumbscrew" Laguchi, our bill collector, to contact them if I haven't received their dues by the next monthly meeting. Fourteen members paid in 2003 and their dues are included in the January 1 balance.

**NCWA****Cash Report – 4/30/04****Balance January 1, 2004 – Note 1**

\$1,854.39

<b>Revenues &amp; Projects</b>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>	
Dues				\$1,330.00
Raffle				53.00
Interest				6.07
Air Museum – Note 1	\$350.00	\$726.00	-\$376.00	
Woodfest		80.00	-80.00	
	<u>\$350.00</u>	<u>\$806.60</u>	<u>-\$456.00</u>	

**Operating Costs:**

Bulletin		-114.49	
Library		-212.38	<u>606.20</u>

**Balance April 30, 2004**\$2,460.59

Note 1: \$290.00 was collected in 2003 and is included in the January 1, 2004 cash balance.  
Annual net cost was – \$86.00.

**Tech Help Wanted**

Want to borrow quality straight-edge to level my jointer tables. Need 2 or 3 days in late Summer. Larry Tomovick (360) 293-4580.

Looking for someone who has installed an after-market retractable splitter in a Delta contractor's saw. Contact Jay Geisel at (360) 466-3908, or e-mail jaygeisel@yahoo.com.

Note: We welcome your questions or need for assistance in future editions of the Newsletter. Mail to Newsletter Editor Tom Chartier.

## Member Discounts:

A good reason to carry your card in your wallet and not in your Name Tag carrier is to take advantage of discounts offered by the following retailers:

Crosscut Hardwoods (Seattle)  
 Frontier Lumber (Anacortes)  
 Karl's Paints (Mount Vernon)  
 Puget Sound Woodworking Center (Everett)  
 Rockler (Seattle)  
 Western Tool Supply (Bellingham)  
 Woodcraft (Seattle)

## Just Plane Chatter

The **Julian Lees** are in Europe for a month, and new member **Doug Duehning** and family are in Mexico for a similar period. Julian's first stop will be Israel and then back to Europe to rejoin his wife.

The **Ron Grants** have loaded up the camper with a large collection of turned, segmented bowls and his more recent sand-blasted, decorative bowls where they will be exhibited and sold at the Lewiston, Idaho, annual Arts & Crafts Show on April 24 and 25. Artists exhibit by invitation only and this is the first year Ron has been recognized for this classy event. It's also the area where he spent his childhood and early working years. Ron plans to camp for a week on the Snake River and visit friends and relatives. Ron has had to raid some of his gallery assigned bowls to maximize the Lewiston display.

With the advent of Spring, **Cec Braeden** has had to set his router aside and pick up the garden hoe. The growing season means he'll be working soil on his experimental vegetable plots as he helps WSU farm extension agents develop plant knowledge and growing techniques.

**Larry Tomovick** is finishing up the largest, heaviest woodshop project of his life, a walnut and maple bookcase that stands as tall as Mr. T. The project features a half-dozen drawers and clever design inlays.

**Bill Hakins**, who with his wife, **Judy**, put together the Club's 2002 spiral-bound *Membership Roster and Resource Directory*, reports that his hockey team won the Northwest Postal league trophy for the first time this year. Bill works for the Anacortes U.S. Post Office and plays a tough goalie position. (He has all his teeth!) He forfeited membership in NCWA last year when team practices were moved to Tuesday evenings.

Meanwhile, **Nick Van** is putting together another wall of beautiful wood cabinets in his dining room to match others you might have seen when Nick hosted our recent meeting.

Our Treasurer, **Ed Pysher**, caught the riding habit himself after taking his daughter to her riding instructor only a couple times. Will he be our *Hoarse Instructor* or *Galloping Routerer*?

**Rick Andersen's** new shop in Bell is certainly an improvement in size and at only a slight increase in cost ... despite the high overhead (read lofty). It's an enjoyable 40-person plus meeting room that can also serve as a workshop. Those most welcome folding chairs were provided by **Bob Doop**. Thank you!

The national interest in hobby woodworking extends to woodturning as well. Both NCWA and Northwest Washington Woodturners' organizations are finding new members to swell the ranks. Part of the recent NWW growth can be attributed to cross-over joiners who like both sides of the street. Dual memberships belong to **Dave Blair, Tom Chartier, James Davis, Bob Doop, Ron Grant, John Gruenwald, Julian Lee, Vernon Leibrant, Laura Matthews, Jim Murphy, Al Stratton, and me**. Doop got the turning bug more than a year ago and has now acquired a grand total of three excellent lathes.

Jay Geisel

## Holy Toledo! How Are YOU Fixed for Blades?

**Doug Favro** is as knowledgeable about saw blades as anyone can be. He understands their anatomy and how best to keep them sharp and in top condition. He's been in the sharpening biz a long time and works, with his son, at Bob's Super Saw in Bellingham, where he prescribes cures for ailing blades to hundreds of customers each year.

As our April guest speaker, Doug's saw savvy was evident when he described what makes a good table saw blade, what works best in specific cutting, and how to tell the good from the fair. "The ones that ring the longest," he declared, "are the better blades." He showed some examples, a Matsushita 10-incher that fairly gleamed with a beautiful mirror-finish, and another, a Gold Systematic aluminum-cutting blade. The mirror finish, he said, was a smoother grind that imparts efficiency and longevity.

**Saw Nomenclature.** Doug was asked to run through the nomenclature when he glibly described blade features. Doug responded with a discussion of hook angles, gullet sizes, types of grind, and a comparison of thin versus regular saw kerfs. He told us that all premium blades are cut with lasers today and most have enough good carbide to last through several sharpenings. He described how tension is worked into a blade with tension rings that keep a blade from dishing. The dish effect is caused by heat build-up, he noted. Thin kerf blades have favorable features that allow them to run cooler, waste less wood, provide a smoother cut, and do it all with less horsepower. For lower-powered saws, this is a boon, particularly when cutting hardwoods. Stabilizers help. He described how gullet size relates to cutting efficiency by eliminating sawdust more quickly and how important it is to have large gullets when ripping. Doug added that today's combination blades are aggressive.

**Band Saw Blades.** Doug took a few moments to discuss blade selection for the band saw. He has a liking for quality food processing type blades that are used in meat-cutting operations and are made from soft back-milled plate. Milled teeth cut much better than those made with metal stamping equipment. One of the better products mentioned carried the Lenox brand name. With all blades, keeping them clean is a must to cut better and hold sharpness, he said, and suggested using kerosene and a nylon brush or one of the commercial cleaners such as *Oakite* or *Top Cote*.

**Saws for the Gander.** Take a good look at the blades on sale the next time you're in Bob's Super Saw. You might find that it makes more sense to purchase one of the new blades than to pay for sharpening one of worn and modest character. When you bring a blade for sharpening, it will be worked on one of three automatic sharpening machines. A new, recently purchased machine gives marginally sharper results and hones a mirror-like finish on the blade. Asked if they could specify sharpening on the new machine, Doug replied: "Sure, of course, if it's available at the time. If not, you can leave your blade and we'll put it on the new machine as soon as it's available." Normal turnaround time is about a week, he said.

Jay Geisel

## Woodworking Tip of the Month

While demonstrating blade-sharpening techniques at April's Wood Fest in Sedro Woolley, some of us became aware of a problem when using a typical vise type honing guide that holds plane blades and chisels. This common device has a steel roller that rides on a stone. Works fine on stone, but apparently not on a diamond hone. Many complaints were heard that the diamond-studded plates were wearing prematurely, after only short usage. We put the blame on the steel roller and suggest that you don't use it on the Monocrystalline Diamond Bench Stones. A better honing guide when using the diamond stone is the type that has the extended arm to the rear with an attached roller that rides on the bench or a substrate, not on the stone itself.

JG

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

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:**

President: Rick Anderson	(360) 671-0532	Editor:	Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473
VP: James Haddock	(360) 650-1562	Tours:	Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908
Secretary: Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Public shows/Exhibits:	Phil Chowuette	(360) 675-8320
Treasury: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Membership:	James Haddock	(360) 650-1562
Programs: Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Activities:	Nick Van	(360) 387-1475
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects:	Mike Larvia	(360) 854-0291
Librarian: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473			

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