



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

May 2005

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 7th, 1:30 pm
Making Furniture from Driftwood at Dick Iverson's Shop
Guemes Island

Phone: 360-202-0099 or 360-319-7600

See complete details on Page 2

NOTE: THIS IS A SATURDAY MEETING.....NOT TUESDAY!

Greetings From Your Prez.....

First of all, a big "thank you" to Phil Choquette and his talented committee (Ron Grant, Jonathan Blake and Greg Anderson), in putting together another successful show for us at Wood Fest. The work displayed represented from the high school group, shows a strong commitment to teaching and their enjoyment of the craft. New next year at Woodfest will be an additional "NCWA jewel" for area high school students that will be discussed in next month's newsletter. Suffice to say that we are definitely "stepping up" to applaud their accomplishments and assist in their personal development that we hope will stay with them past our ages."

Our own member displays are always of interest and inspiration, several were there to enjoy. Thank you all for bringing your work.

To accelerate meeting of our members and their respective woodworking interest and talents, beginning in May, we will add another "Woodworker of the Month", making two that will be featured each month. I think this is a great idea, (thanks Jay!), we'll enjoy meeting more of us sooner.

Nick has got the Shop Tour schedule hammered out to every corner, so get ready to enjoy this great day to meet several members and their shops. From concern registered regarding our monthly meetings being held at member shops, this is just one of the ways yours truly had mentioned that we can enjoy member shops, so lets get ready to have some fun.

With huge effort in scheduling and logistics, a great program for May has had final spit and polish applied by Cec. Look forward to seeing you all there and enjoying yet another wonderful interpretation of our craft.

I know I've missed something, but I need to scrape down some walnut, test some finishes.....

Enjoy the craft, enjoy your NCWA!

James D. Haddock Sr.
President



WoodFest '05
A good time was had by all!

May Meeting – Special Time & Place

Our May meeting is a special event being held on Saturday, 7 May at the shop of Dick Iversen on Guemes Island. You will find it very interesting. Dick is an all around talented guy with many interests. Following a curiosity regarding the methods of building furniture from driftwood, Dick has evolved a thriving business, selling items all over the Northwest and even in Canada. He has developed a line of chairs, settees, and benches with a nautical motif, which really strikes a chord with islanders. You will enjoy seeing how Dick has developed innovative methods of working with driftwood where no two pieces are alike. He uses these processes to consistently turn out quality products. “Low-tech Phil” will especially appreciate his methods. For those who are interested, (and presuming we have enough vehicles to transport people) we will also visit the nearby shop of Scott Campbell who has an extensive collection of old tools.

If you would like a good place to have lunch before getting on the ferry, try Gere-a-Deli’s located at 5th and Commercial in Anacortes. They have excellent sandwiches and soups. The soup is a great bargain, especially if you buy the refill when you order.

May 7th ferry info:

The Guemes ferry terminal is located at 6th and I St. in Anacortes. To get there, go north on Commercial Ave. (the main drag) to 6th St. and turn left (west), proceed to I St. The ferry landing is to the right.

(Note: This is not the Washington State ferry terminal in Anacortes!)

If you plan to walk on the ferry, be there before 1:00 PM. There is parking available in a new lot at 6th and K. Parking is also allowed on the north side of 6th between K and I Streets. There is another parking lot on the north side of 6th just beyond I St.



Gene models the latest in woodworking safety gear....or is he the newest member of The Village People? C’mon Gene, give us a chorus of Y-M-C-A.

When you get off the ferry, go to the left (west) along the shoreline. It will be low tide at the time so you will have no problem with the beach. Proceed down the beach past the gray house with the fence around it. Just past the fence and on the west side of the property, go up the hill to Dick’s shop.

If you are planning to drive onto the ferry, be there by 12:45 PM and get in line for the 1:00 PM ferry. Should you be left behind because of too many vehicles, the ferry will return and take any waiting vehicles.

Upon reaching Guemes Island, proceed up the hill about a block to Southshore Dr. Turn left (west) and proceed until you see a funky little sailboat on the left. Turn down the hill to Dick’s shop.

The Saturday ferry schedule from Anacortes to Guemes is:

6:30a.m.; 7:00; 8:00; 9:00; 10:00; 11:00; 1:00p.m.; 2:00; 3:00; 4:00; 5:00; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:30; 10:00; 11:00; 12:00. The ferry loads the Anacortes bound vehicles and people immediately after unloading at Guemes.

Fares are as follows:

Driver & Vehicle 20 ft & under (including overhang) \$7.25

Senior (65 years & over/Disabled) \$6.50

Passenger fares: (in-vehicle or walk-on) Adult Passenger \$1.50; Senior/Disabled \$0.75

Youth (6-18 years) \$0.75 Age 5 & under No charge

Minutes of the April Meeting

We were 50-plus strong, crowded between the machines that shape wood and give us inspiration for our creative urges. We were meeting in not-so-strange surroundings, seeing for the first time the facilities that support one of the most successful kitchen cabinet shops in Northern Washington. Wood House, in Anacortes, exudes professionalism, and our members, jam-packed, were there to learn what it takes to make a production shop stand out in the crowd.

But first we had to take care of business. Prez James Haddock was in good humor and had us laughing all the way from the saw table to the back of the room. James could hardly contain himself, getting right to the point of Gene Benson's bandaged head with an appreciative award for the Toys for Tots Chairman. The construction hard hat he presented bore the message **OUCH!**

Several guest were introduced, most of them learning of our Club from a visit to our tables at Wood Fest a week earlier. Some signed up that night and we now have a paid-up membership of 73, according to Treasurer Ed Pysner. Wood Fest Chair Phil Choquette received congratulations from James and the members for his work with the Sedro Wooley High School woodworking festival. Phil, in turn, thanked the volunteers who manned our displays and engaged in informative discussions with show visitors. We demonstrated blade sharpening techniques, showed examples of our projects for the Toys for Tots program, and presented the always-interesting workbench full of joinery exhibits. Phil reported a good crowd was there for both days and sales exceeded expectations.

Shop Tours. As the winter season winds down and with summer vacations within our sights, club activities slacken, but Chairman Nick Van reminded us that some of the best is yet to come. He was speaking about the shop tours program scheduled for Saturday, May 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., covering the geographical area south of Bow. At this time we have an opportunity to meet fellow members in their own shops, learn new tricks, and maybe find meaningful relationships with a person we hardly knew. The number of shops scheduled for this year's tour was not firm at this time, but Nick expects five or six will be offered.



Woodworker of the Month
Glenn Koontz

Toys for Tots program got a boost for Gene when Gary Weyers, Julian Lee, Val Matthews, and Nick Van contributed sample projects that could be produced in quantity for the 2005 program. The toys, mainly vehicles, were displayed and publicized at Wood Fest where they captured the interest of the crowd. Gene reports he has alder and some maple available for those who have yet to commit their talents to the program. You are asked to give Gene your preferences for the toys you would like to make.

Larry Tomovick is building three bedroom furniture pieces out of bubinga and maple. He reported that a new finishing tactic worked out very well for him and suggests that others might find it useful. Larry finished the inside faces of his maple drawers with Pro Fin *before* they were assembled and the result was an unmarked, clean and even luster that any perfectionist could love. When gluing the drawers, he suggested that glue be used on the pins only to keep squeeze-out to a minimum, and then wipe any remaining glue off the inside finish before completing the assembly. Larry also announced that he is buying a quantity of Pro Fin, Titebond III, and Top Cote for resale to members at discount. He cited member prices of \$10.75 a quart for Pro Fin, \$8.50 a quart for Titebond III Extend, and \$11 for a spray can of Top Cote. These prices include taxes. Anyone wanting to take part in the exchange should call Larry (no e-mails, please).

Woodworker of the Month nominee Glenn Koontz said remodeling his homes gave him a continuing interest in woodworking and he thinks the Club activities are helping him become a better woodworker. The Shelter Bay hobbyist is a recent, but active member who can be seen (and heard) at most of the Club's informative Basic

Woodworking training sessions. Glenn said he remodeled three houses; not bad for a machinist who strives for perfection in all his projects. He admits to liking jigs for his woodworking efforts because they offer him the opportunity for the precision that he demands of himself.

Program Chair Cec Braeden is working on a ferry schedule and other details for a Saturday daytime meeting in May that will introduce members to Dick Iverson, noted for the unusual driftwood furniture he creates in a shop on Guemes Island. The daytime meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 7. Be sure to see the Guemes Ferry information on Page 2. Iverson's shop is only a block from the ferry landing, but Cec will ask for some transportation to be available on the island because he wants members to visit Scott Campbell's shop of antique tools at the same time. Campbell's place is a mile down the road.

Cec has made arrangements to have the Editor of *Fine Woodworking Magazine* address members at a June gathering while he is in our area to photograph and develop a magazine article featuring Cec's unusual plywood workbench design. Time, date and location will be announced as soon as arrangements are finalized.

Education. Monday night, April 18, concluded a very successful series of educational programs put together and performed under the direction of Chair Ed Pysher over the past year. Ed deserves the ovation of all members for finding good instructors and developing helpful content for a Basic Introduction for Woodworking series. The level of competence of our own Club instructors couldn't have been better,

and Ed worked their presentations through many dry runs to achieve highly interesting and informative seminars. The success of the series can be measured by the crowded classes and the demand for more instructional gatherings next fall. Ed has promised to offer reruns to new members when a need occurs. Our Club instructors this year included Ed, Dave Blair, Gene Benson, Ray McInnins, Rick Anderson, Bob Doop, Gary Holloman, and Phil Choquette. They deserve our highest praise.

Other Announcements included a promise from Haddock that the new member packets will be ready for distribution next month; a request from editor Rick Anderson for members to submit pictures with sufficient

interest to be included in the Newsletter; and an announcement by me that members will again have a group opportunity to attend the big Cloverdale Wood and Tool Show next Fall, as another Club charter bus tour.

A Reality. Mike New, our first Webmaster, told the group that everything is in place to launch our Club website. Spider's prodigious efforts will soon pay off for all of us when www.ncwawood.org goes into operation. Mike is asking for content contributions now as he organizes the site into various categories and links. The content of our Club website will include

Newsletters, meeting announcements, a current schedule of events, roster information, resources, pictures, and other reference data. Setting up and maintaining a Club website requires effort on the part of several volunteers. Who else will step up?

Wood of the Month. James Haddock asked members if they had experience using wood from the Catalpa tree. He had acquired some and was planning to use it, attracted by its "great pattern." The wood is light in weight and somewhat toxic, like Cedar. Ron Engstrom had praise for Honey Locust, a wood he finds good as turning stock.



Mike New fills us in on the details of our new website.....created by Mike. Check it out: www.ncwawood.org
Thanks Mike!!!

Bring and Brag. Julian Lee showed the gloss he obtained on a wood piece after applying 10 coats of Pro Fin Gloss finish. Unlike Tomovick's earlier demonstration, Julian sanded between every coat. Vern Tator showed us his simple, sheet-sized sandpaper cutting board with a hacksaw blade running vertically down the middle.
Jay Geisel, Secretary

Production Cabinet Shop Hosts NCWA Members

For Wood House partners David Cerwick and Mitch Larson a decade of designing and building beautiful kitchens satisfies their creative souls, but to keep this successful operation going requires constant attention to detail on the other side of the house. Their business strategy is constantly being tested in a competitive world that challenges the ability to find improved production methods and make sharp pricing decisions in both selling and procurement. Wood House has earned a reputation for high quality workmanship in fine homes in Skagit and neighboring counties.

We saw a little of both worlds at our April meeting hosted by the owners of the Wood House in Anacortes. The show room is filled with distinctive kitchen designs. The several models of complete kitchen layouts show off beautiful wood cabinetry that's the hallmark of the company. Workmanship is top-grade and materials are the best. The amount of work coming out of this shop is, well, staggering.

David related that the shop generally works 9 projects a month. Taking into consideration that each job requires off-site installation and averages \$15,000, the task seems daunting for a small company. When asked the number

of employees, all full-time, David reported they had nine. He then shrugged and added, "When they all show up."

David's on the road at times to estimate new jobs and close orders. He says a lot of the firm's success stems from subcontracting where it's economically feasible to do so plus keeping up with the latest technologies. We toured the facilities and saw machines in the various rooms that had no likeness to our own woodworking equipment, special task machinery that's new and expensive and needs work to fulfill their role. Redundancy of some equipment is also a necessity, we learned. One of the tour highlights is the large painting room where we saw maybe a hundred newly sprayed cabinet doors drying while hanging from an overhead conveyor system.



**Members check out the equipment at
The Wood House in Anacortes**

One of the perks for woodworkers this night was a special pricing of maple and walnut boards. Several members picked out lumber and hauled boards home from the meeting.

Wood House operates several wide belt sanders and member woodworkers in the area have for some time now taken their tabletops and other big projects to these machines for finish sanding. Frequent users such as Larry Tomovick said the charges are a dollar a minute, which

he feels is quite satisfactory.

Our thanks go to David and Mitch for their generosity in making our visit so inviting. For most of us this was a first inside look at production cabinet-making.

Jay

Shop Tours

**Saturday, May 21, 2005 9:30AM
through 4:30PM**

Driving Directions

Michael New

7349 Teal Lane, Bow WA, 98232, 360-707-2314

Interstate Highway 5 to Bow-Hill Road. West on Bow Hill Road to Ershig Road. Left on Ershig Road to Allen Road (If you cross the railroad tracks you have gone too far). Left on Allen Road to Teal Lane. Left on Teal Lane to 7349. Parking is available at the shop (Please do not block driveway).

Jim Murphy

1005 McGarigle Road, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284, 360-856-6695

Interstate Highway 5 to Washington State Highway 20 to Washington Highway 9. Left onto Highway 9 McGarigle Road. Right onto McGarigle Road to 1005 (First driveway on the right at the end of a chain link fence) Parking is available at the shop or on the road (Please do not block driveway).

Ron Engstrom

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284, 360-854-0564

Driving directions will be available at Jim Murphy's shop.

Ron Grant

8823 – 108th Street NE, Arlington, WA 98223, 360-658-2621

From Interstate Highway 5, proceed east to Washington State Highway 9 (Smokey Point, Arlington or Marysville exits from I-5 link directly with Highway 9). Proceed south on Highway 9 to 108th Street NE. Left onto 108th Street NE to 8823. Park on road or near shop (Please do not block the driveway).

Jim Torrance

4909 – 300th Street NW, Stanwood, WA 98292, 360-629-6670

Interstate Highway 5 to exit 215 (300th Street). Proceed west to "Old Highway 99" and turn right. Highway 99 to 300th Street (about ½ block) and turn left. 300th Street about 1.4 miles to a private asphalt road (Mailbox and address posting is on the road). Right onto private road about 500 feet to stone pillared gate. Drive around house, keeping to the right, past the house. The shop is about 200 feet past the house. Plenty of parking at the shop.

At this writing, we are still attempting to add one or two shops to the tour.

Nick

See Saws in Tacoma

We did indeed see many fine saws in the Tacoma Dome when the annual Woodworkers' Show came to town. It was bigger, better and more instructional, I thought, than other years. Five of us loaded into Jim Davis' big Ford truck and joined the crowd on the second day of the yearly visit.

All the big brands were there and many new ones you only see at shows like this. Rockler and Woodcraft, two local outlets that spurned the national show last year, were back in the fold. Craft Supplies and other big woodturning suppliers were present, as was the Lynden, Washington, Toys and Joys outfit. One of the air tool manufacturers touted a dandy airbrush system that caught Ron Grant's eye when they offered to let him "play with it." Kreg had a large presence this year with a lot to sell and a clientele excited by the products used in the cabinet-making seminar. One of their new products appealing to me is a large clamp (Vise Grip style) used to hold two wood pieces together while driving the screws. One arm of the clamp ends in a pin, or spigot, shaped to fit in a bored hole. They also offered several videos on how to use the Kreg system.

Many of you saw the portable drum sander that Lyle Hand put together from a kit purchased in Cloverdale last year. For a couple hundred bucks or less you got plans, an 18-inch drum, bearing blocks, drive belt, Velcro, sandpaper, and other items. Lyle furnished the wood and motor. Sand-Flee, a complete, portable drum sanding system appeared at the show selling for just under six C-

notes, a “show special” that shaves \$160 off the regular price. For that, the manufacturer includes a fence, dust control, and a 1/3 hp Baldor motor.

Later I watched a demonstrator make flawless pins and tails with the new Akeda dovetail jig, back on the market after a short halt caused by a manufacturing glitch. Here was a demonstrator I would like to have in my back pocket. I like my jig, but there is, as always, a learning curve before one reaches proficiency. Every demo had an amp and speaker system a rock band could hunger for, but there wasn't time to listen to every pitch.

The best demo of the day for me was a revelation of the many virtues of the Dubby sliding miter jig. This guy, Jerry, had to be the best in the business. He was funny, profane, biased, and a bit of a braggart, but boy could he work the crowd. In-Line Industries was selling several products, but Jerry concentrated his attention on the table saw jig and the new combo set that puts a Dubby on both sides of the saw blade. He drew the biggest crowds with his fast-paced demo of how to make an octagonal-faced clock (schoolhouse style) in five minutes, and this included the octagonal plywood back. He probably does this project four or five times an hour, but it was impressive nevertheless.

He wowed Jim and I with precise cuts that formed multi-sided boxes and frames and, at one point said he would make an enclosed frame with seven sides. “Do the math,” he exclaimed while pulling a pocket calculator out of his apron, “and set your miter gauge to an angle that is half of 51.42857 degrees.” After the laughing subsided, Jerry stated, “There isn't another device in this entire show that can be set accurately to that angle.” He asked me to set the Dubby rotating fence to the engraved “7” mark and proceeded to make a precise seven-sided frame. Jim and I walked out of the show, each with a Dubby in our hands. Jay

BUYING AT A DISCOUNT

Once again for those who have ordered the various products from me at the discount rate I will have them at my home for pickup after the May meeting. Please try to bring exact change. The prices are: top coat \$11, profin \$10.75, titebond glue (with extended open time) \$8.50 per quart. The prices include sales tax and, once again, bring a glue container since it comes in gallon form. For those in need of directions to my house, I'll be at the May meeting.

Larry Tomovick

More WoodFest '05



Gene Benson (sans hardhat) explains some of the finer points of sharpening.



One of the high school competition winners with his project and award. Next year NCWA hopes to take a more visible role in the awards.

As the Web Turns.....

Like old tools & equipment? Check out these sites!
Old Woodworking Machines www.owwm.com
Museum of Woodworking Tools www.antiquetools.com

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

COMING EVENTS

May 7	1:30PM	Monthly Meeting	Dick Iverson's Shop (Guemes Island)
May 18	7 PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
May 21	All Day	Shop Tours	See more information on Page 6)
May 21	NOON	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box (Don't Be Late!)
June 7	7 PM	Monthly Meeting	Northstar Woodworks (Ferndale)

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.

www.ncwawood.org

2005 Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: James Haddock	(360) 650-1562	Newsletter: Rick Anderson	(360) 650-1587
V.P. Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522	Librarian: Tom Chartier	(360) 734-9473
Secretary: Jay Geisel	(360) 466-3908	Shows: Phil Choquette	(360) 675-8320
Treasurer: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Membership: Bob Doop	(360) 293-4522
Programs: Cecil Braeden	(360) 588-9830	Activities: Nick Van (Acting)	(360) 387-4174
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects: Gene Benson	(360) 466-3004



NCWA NEWSLETTER

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