



NORTHWEST CORNER WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

November 2005

ARTS ALIVE!

10 AM to 6 PM November 5th & 6th
Garden Club Building, 2nd Street in LaConner
Move-In from 5-8 PM Friday November 4th.

Come join in the fun! Bring a favorite project to show or sell.
Even if you haven't signed up to help, your company is always welcomed.

Sharpening demonstrations all day long!

For further information, contact Phil Choquette at (360) 675-8320

From our Prez.....

Colder temperatures and shorter days are herding many back to benches and new projects that will take form from wood we've had resting in corners for a while or perhaps a few years or possibly decades. I've some odd but cherished wood bits I've collected here and there over the years, a piece of rosewood on the short side of two board feet was given to me in 1972, too small really to do anything of any size with.

I have to be honest with you though, that's just an excuse not to do anything with it at all. Each time I look at it (or rarely pick it up), I'm immediately transported back to 1972 and the friend and situation that gifted me with the wood. The friend who gave it to me had just been released from his hitch with the Marines, where he got it from I don't know. I remember I was helping him rebuild the engine to his Volkswagen micro bus, and we

were listening to a live recording of a little open air music festival called Woodstock, on his TEAC reel to reel. I think at one point we had used the rosewood as a support plank, just before the engine went back in.

"That's a real valuable piece of wood", I remember him saying, "called rosewood, take it home and make something with it". The best I could do was sand it a little, it was tougher than train wheels, but wow, looked real nice. I think we all probably have a few pieces like that. Other special pieces take years of project sorting before it all culminates in the wood that's been collecting dust, finally contributes some of it's own to become the object you believe will celebrate its uniqueness best, and maybe even help make a greater memory.



Prez. James shows off Jim Murphy's
spalted maple bowl.

Still no plans for the now “well traveled” rosewood I got from Mike in 1972 on that hot summer day in August, if something does come up though, I’ll buy some.

Art’s Alive (THANKS Phil), is HERE! See what your NCWA does at this great annual event. It will also serve as our November meeting, so get yourself there at some point over the weekend of **November 5-6. New members, WELCOME ABOARD!**

The membership committee will be visiting with you soon to help us all “handshake” with you, we look forward to having you with us. **Toys for Tots** is moving right up to crunch time, involved members need to communicate with **Gene** to let him know who needs help, we’ve a commitment to keep, let’s hit it with time to spare. For those that enjoyed the Cloverdale trip, let us know what you saw, and brought home!

Enjoy the craft, enjoy your NCWA,

See you all at Arts Alive!

James Haddock Sr.
President
NCWA

The Nominating Committee Reports!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Your Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for the year beginning 1/1/06 and ending 12/31/06. Those nominated have consented to serve. You may make your own nominations and the election will be held at the December 2005 meeting.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Bob Doop
Ed Pysher
Jay Geisel
Doug Duehning

May the Saints preserve us! -Nick Van

When Last We Met Tuesday, October 4:

We chose this evening to honor **Al Stratton** whose many contributions helped steer this organizations through some rough water during its 20 years of existence. We named him a **Member Emeritus**, the first person so honored by the Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association. Al has reached that stage in life when eyesight dims and nighttime travel to meetings and other events becomes difficult. He will always be a cherished member and will continue to receive all Club benefits.



Lyle Hand shows off his latest jewelry box creation.

The meeting in Julian Lee’s large workshop was the perfect accommodation for an enthusiastic crowd who wanted to have a second go-around with the Club’s premier wood finishers. The popularity of the first finishing forum featured Julian, Bob Doop, and Larry Tomovick in a Battle o’ the Finish held only a few months ago.

Prez James Haddock reiterated some of Stratton’s accomplishments and also spoke about the many woodworking volumes Al donated to the Club Library. He announced that a framed letter of appreciation would be presented by the members at the January meeting.

Four guest were introduced and we expect to see most again as our newest members. Education

Chairman Ed Pysher reported solid turnouts for the two tablesaw classes and the router class given in September. He then gave a rundown on the October schedule of woodworking classes that feature Jointer/Planer Basics, Dust Control Systems, and Sharpening Plane Blades and Chisels. To prevent over-crowding, particularly with the hands-on sessions, members are asked to pre-register with Ed for any class they wish to attend.

Your Club has inaugurated a new policy of recognizing the volunteer speakers who assist us with our monthly programs and has purchased a quantity of elegant insulated beverage cups to use as “Thank You!” gifts. The tall,

brushed aluminum travel cups are inscribed “Thank You for Your Support of NCWA.” The officers realized there would be a demand for these cups from members so they are also offered to individuals at cost (\$15).

I wasn’t able to secure a suitable number of riders for the charter bus trip to the Wood and Tool Show in Cloverdale so I announced that we would make the trip in car pools. A week later, when the bus was still available, other members elected to join the bus tour and we put it back on the October 21 schedule. (Editor’s Note: A report on the Tool Show appears on another page.)

Toys for Tots Chair Gene Benson reported that several members were busy creating doll cradles and he expected a good quantity would be ready by the December meeting. He credited the Fidalgo Racing Team members (the trio of Julian Lee, Larry Tomovick, and me) with helping to get members involved with making race cars and other “boy” toys for this year’s donation to the Marine Corps Reserves’ program. Julian then trotted out some laminated hardwood that was ready for the bandsaw cuts that would transform the wood into race car shapes. He reiterated the Racing Challenge that would pit member’s car creations against each other in a downhill race scheduled for the December meeting.

Arts Alive! will dominate early November for many woodworkers. Chair Phil Choquette handed out work assignments for a dozen volunteers who will man the cash

box and act as greeters to the public that wend their way into the LaConner Civic Garden Club building on Second Street. Phil has ordered a sign maker to prepare signage that will direct the public to the Garden Club building, which is one block uphill from the main business area. Demonstrations of sharpening, joinery, and ther woodworking methods will be conducted during the weekend show. Members with projects to exhibit and others helping with the displays are asked

to be at the Garden Club building on Friday evening between the hours of 5 and 8. Arts Alive hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6. All members are urged to participate or visit.

Bring and Brag. Lyle Hand showed us his latest jewelry box made from a recent magazine plan. It’s a beauty. The case is designed to hold three drawers. Lyle gave Phil Choquette credit for helping him find an easier way to line the inner parts of the box with felt and

avoid problems with flocking. Jim Murphy has been quite busy of late. After completing that grandfather’s clock pictured at our last meeting, Jim displayed his newest project, a deep, bowl turned in spalted maple and finished in a glowing, wiped-on polyurethane. Another bowl, well-turned by Dave Blair, was created out of Madrona.

Jay Geisel, Secretary

Coming up in December.....

As most of you know, there will not be a November meeting, per se. We will instead be fully involved in the Arts Alive! event in LaConner on the weekend of 5 & 6 November. All members are encouraged to attend. The next meeting will be held at the Hillcrest Lodge on the 6th of December. We will be starting off with an optional box dinner at 6:30 PM. If you plan to partake of this dinner, you must have previously stated your desire to do so by calling Cec Braeden or emailing him at cb@ncwawood.org with your dinner preferences by Thursday evening, the 1st of December. The order will be placed with Gere Deli on Friday, the 2nd of December. Options for meals will be ham & cheese, pastrami & cheese, or turkey & cheese sandwiches. Potato chips, condiments and a soft drink will be included. Price will be \$7.50 per person, payable at the event. Since the meals will be ordered based on your request, you will be responsible for paying the \$7.50 whether you actually attend the event or not. This promises to be a fun filled evening with a brief business meeting and reports from committees starting at 7 PM. Following the meeting, we will present the Toys for Tots, which our members have made, to the Marine Corps representatives. There will also be a race car event with members seeking to gain fame with their shop-built race cars. See you there. Get your meal requests in early! -Cec Braeden

Wood Finishing Redux

We couldn't leave it alone. This was new ground. After hearing from three expert finishers a few months ago—Julian Lee, Bob Doop, and Larry Tomovick—we had to open a new can of material and hear from two other

Phil began by demonstrating how to brush the material on a cabinet door, coating the edges first and then flowing the material on the wood in non-overlapping strokes. The door front was quickly covered and set it aside to dry.



A Duel to the Finish..... Phil reaches into his never ending bag of tricks, this time for shellac, while Ron offers a toast to the merits of his favorite lacquer techniques.

finishing experts who had other opinions to share. They were all winning systems, though, so we enjoyed every bit of it and learned there's more than one way to skin a cat, or finish him off.

The October meeting and program held in Julian Lee's shop involved the materials and methods dear to Phil Choquette and Ron Grant. Phil is a professional furniture restorer and Ron is an avid woodturner who lectures and sells his segmented bowls. Their divergent views on how to get the best finish on their products raised hopes in even the poorest finishers present

Getting Shellacked. The efficacy of Phil's shellac and easy application won our approval from the start. In his business, shellac is a bread-and-butter finish for restored and repaired furniture pieces. It's a useful sealer on raw wood and a great undercoat for any oil finish. Phil told us that de-waxed shellac ready for brushing and spraying can be purchased in orange or white (clear) formulations. Zinnser offers it both ways.

The panel was ready to be passed around the room before Phil completed his talk. He advises de-nibbing each coat with 320 grit sandpaper. Drying time is usually 45 to 60 minutes between coats. Two or three coats are usually sufficient.

In restoration or repair work, Phil eschews silicones that come with certain brands of dusting sprays (like Pledge) because it is difficult to remove silicone from wood before it can be refinished. About the only negative thing that can be levied against shellac, he said, is that it's not water resistant. But a shellac coat can be protected with polyurethane. Sometimes orange shellac will give the user the warm tint needed to bring out the best in darker woods. Phil suggested that we experiment with a few drops of toner also, which can enhance grain and figure. Another product, KILZ, is a toxic mold preventer, white pigmented shellac used as an undercoat for painted work.

You Gotta Lacquer. Ron Grant is a chemical finish "tinkerer." He has considerable industrial experience with paints and knowledge of how to mix various compounds;

in retirement he continues to use this experience to refine the coatings on his turned bowls. He loaded a table with chemicals, elixirs, and dark dyes and solvents. His lab included spraying and brushing lacquers, tung and other oils, thinners, and secretive UV inhibitors and retarders.

Ron cautioned that spray lacquer must be filtered and thinned properly because the nozzle aperture of the gun or airbrush is a diminutive 0.180 part of an inch. Also, he said, be sure to work in an area with good ventilation and wear a chemical-type respirator. Retarders slow the drying time but allow the airbrush tool to work efficiently at the lathe. To avoid getting a “plastic” look, Ron uses a formula of one pint of gloss to two pints of thinner. The applied coats will dry fast and not need sanding, he said.

Ron showed us a jar filled with his mixture and a mop-like brush ready for use on the work piece. The mix will last a long time if you keep the jar sealed. The funny looking brush, immersed in the lacquer, is a deluxe powder brush obtained from a beauty shop for \$14. He’ll wet-sand the brushed-on lacquer between coats on his lathe-mounted bowls. He finds 2500 and 3000 grit sanding sheets at auto body shops and he says wet-sanding keeps the paper usable for a long time.

“If you want a final gloss coat,” he stated, “cut the lacquer by 50 percent.” Ron concluded his remarks by saying that lacquer finishes are very durable and he likes Deft because it contains an ultraviolet inhibitor. He also acknowledged that shellac makes a good sealer coat under lacquer. Ron opines that silicone in Pledge stops wood from drying out and prolongs the life of a turned piece,

Phil concluded the program with a remark about catalyzed lacquer, or CAB, where it is sometimes used to prevent a finish from “yellowing,” but said the downside is: “You can’t get it off.” He also reminded his audience to use a plastic spray cup because lacquer will eat up aluminum. And for a parting shot he gave us “Phil’s Finishing

Secret.” He said that white water rings on a finished piece of furniture can disappear overnight if treated with mayonnaise. Shh. . .

—Jay Geisel

Zoom, Zoom Race Challenge Moves Indoors

NCWA’s model race car challenge will be the feature program for the final meeting of the year at the Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon on Tuesday night, December 6th. The model car downhill (gravity) race will pit member-designed racers against each other following the business meeting, according to the Fidalgo

Formula Race Team that issued the challenge. Spokesperson Julian Lee said the downhill race planned for his new driveway, the *Concours d’Julian*, would be held next Spring. Car makers now have only four weeks to get their entries ready for Race Day, the first competition of its kind in the history of our organization.



Julian explains the construction of the sleek race cars he & members of the infamous Fidalgo Formula Race Team are building for Toys for Tots.

The Fidalgo team of Geisel, Tomovick, and Lee are busy putting the finishing touches on some 50 model toy racers that will be donated to the Toys for Tots program that same night while Marine Corps Reserve reps are present to receive numerous doll cradles, racers and other toy donations by members.

The race challenge was issued to spark interest and participation in our 2005 Toys donation.

It’s not too late to start creating your own entry. The Team has set only three requirements for the racing cars: They cannot exceed 5 inches in width, 7 inches in length, and 18 ounces in weight. If you are entering the race with one or more racers, please let a Team member know at least one day before the December meeting. —Jay Geisel

From the Education Committee:

Hi folks: Here is the education schedule for November:

Dust Collection Systems was the end of the Power Tools part of the program for this year. We have one more power tool class coming up in January, which is a live demonstration of band saw resawing techniques and how to convert a raw log into finished lumber, but that will be in January.

Be sure to check the website for more in-depth descriptions of these classes.

Planes 1, An introduction to planes, their history and nomenclature and a look at a huge collection of planes – over 50 in all. Monday, November 7. No class limit

Planes 2, Live sharpening of one of your own plane irons or chisels. Saturday, November 12. Limit of 5.

Scrapers, How to sharpen, hold and use a scraper. Live. Monday, November 14. Limit of 5

Planes 3, How to hold and use a plane to get the best cut. Saturday, November 19. Limit of 5.

Schedule reminders will be sent out each week on the upcoming classes and where they will be held. Again, if we have more than the limit, the class will be held how ever many times it takes to get everyone in.

That's it for this year. -Ed Pysher

Projects Committee News:

It looks great for **Toys for Tots** this year, if everyone fulfills the commitments that were made early on. We are hoping to see approximately 50 cradles and 10 vehicles, plus a variety of other items for the kids including a bunch of chalk boards by Jamie Haddock. Great Thanks Jamie! Toys will be on display at Arts Alive! (Nov 5-6) in LaConner. Come see and enjoy what your fellow woodworkers have achieved. Any member that has a toy that they have made and want to donate to Toys for Tots, please bring them to Arts Alive! or the Dec. 6th meeting. We still have until Dec. 6th to join in the Toys for Tots program. Your contribution would be greatly welcomed.

-Gene Benson

Ah Cloverdale! Tool Show Full of Energy

Canada's big wood and tool show at Cloverdale never disappoints. Only a few of the big names were noticeable by their absence in 2005. While Bosch was teasing us by dropping their tools onto the macadam from a 10-foot platform, other vendors exhibited their products at indoor booths where crowds were gathered so thickly that you wanted to climb upon someone's shoulder to catch a glimpse of the action.

It was a real Fair with lots of great bargains to be had. The NCWA bus crowd found lots of small things to purchase. Weighty and bulky items weren't on the "Want list" this year. Some of us went to the Veritas showroom to deposit orders for next week's free shipping. Rick Anderson found a real "buy" in Bessey K-Body clamps. I spied a 23-gauge pinner nail gun for under \$40 Canadian. Two boxes of pins almost doubled that price. Other favorite items were angle-dividing tools for under \$3 and good values in Veritas planes.

The high spot of the Show each year is the Gallery of Fine Woodworking on display in one of the three big barns buildings. The artistry in wood is overwhelming. Fifty-some entries in four proficiency classes were accepted for exhibition and cash prizes of \$3,500 in each division. Only four competitors made it to the Novice class. The work is of the highest order and it was difficult for this writer to vote four times for the best in class. The public faced similar voting dilemmas but found so much to enjoy. Cec Braeden and I couldn't agree on three of our four votes.

It was a comfortable, easy charter bus ride to the Cloverdale fairgrounds for 16 members and guests and it was rewarding to have so many newbies aboard. We arrived at the Wood and Tool Show shortly after the opening at 10 a.m., leaving the showrooms at 3 p.m. for an easy return and border crossing. Nick Van won the 50-50 raffle on the trip back. — Jay Geisel

**Remembering
Marcellus Charles Keck
(Charlie)
1919-2005**

Charlie Keck, one of our early members passed away on October 15th. Born into a family of well known artists and sculptors and educated as an aeronautical engineer, Charlie's talents were evident in his architectural designs, fine woodworking and the 55 ft. sailboat he and his wife built. After his career in the aerospace industry Charlie and his wife Billie planned to sail their boat around the world, but arrived in Anacortes in 1981 and liked it so much they never left. Charlie spent many hours building fine furniture and heirlooms for family and friends.

Laura Matthews remembers: "Charlie was one of those unforgettable characters, a perfect gentleman, who was so knowledgeable and interesting. He was a very fine craftsman to boot. He had some beautiful pieces of furniture in the past shows at LaConner. He would always attend meetings with his friend Ernie Baxter, who was a machinist. They were both about the same age and wisdom. When Ernie moved up to Ferndale, they both kind of quit coming to meetings. Too bad many of you didn't have the good luck to know them. I think fondly of them often."

Larry Tomovick remember Charlie as a champion of Alder.....using our most common local wood in both furniture and cabinetry, including kitchen cabinets for his home.

Rest In Peace Fellow Woodworker!

AS THE WEB SPINS.....

This month, as an addendum to our October program, some finishing tips found online:

From the pages of Fine Woodworking Magazine:
www.taunton.com/finewoodworking/pages/w00060.asp

A wealth of information from the Woodweb.com Knowledge base:
www.woodweb.com/KnowledgeBase/KBFinishingGeneral.html

Didn't receive your Newsletter?

Each month, 2 or 3 members report that they haven't received their newsletter. This is likely attributable to a number of possibilities: Most likely it is due to your (or your internet provider's) Spam filters automatically dumping emails going to multiple parties. On some spam filters you can make instructions to accept emails from specific parties. If this is possible on your spam filter, try giving it such instructions. Another frequent cause of failed delivery is if your email box is full. So if you haven't checked your email lately.....or have been away on vacation.....be sure to empty your email box before the last week of the month.

You can also find the past & current newsletters on our club website. Mike New posts the current newsletter as soon as available on our website www.ncwawood.org.

You are also welcome to email me (ra@ncwawood.org) or give me a call (360-650-1587) and I will re-send your newsletter asap.

- Rick Anderson

THE WOOD SHED

PERFORMAX 22-44 PRO, 5 yr. old heavy-duty style, casters, poly feed belt, 115V or 230V option, probably \$200 worth of sandpaper, all for \$750. John Rutter 360-647-1343

MAPLE FOR SALE

Very nice maple boards for a great project! Will cut my logs to your specs. Steve Intveld 592-5670

JOINTER FOR SALE

6" Rockwell (Delta) Model 37-220 jointer. 1/2 hp Baldor motor. Enclosed Stand. Good Condition. New knives. \$275 Rick Anderson 650-1587

RADIAL ARM SAW FOR SALE

9" Dewalt Model MBF. Vintage quality. Good condition \$195 Rick Anderson 650-1587

COMING EVENTS

Nov. 4th	5 to 8 PM	Arts Alive! Move-In	LaConner
Nov. 5 & 6	10 to 6	Arts Alive!	LaConner (NOTE: Arts Alive! is in lieu of our regular November meeting)
Nov. 16th	7PM	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Restaurant on Hwy 20
Nov. 19th	NOON	Newsletter Deadline	Rick's Email Box
Dec. 6th	6:30PM	Monthly Meeting	Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon

NOTE: See Page 3 for further December meeting details.

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.

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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