



Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

Next Meeting: 9/7/ 2004 7:00 pm

A representative of Edensaw will speak.

Gary Holloman's Shop 500 Metcalf, Sedro Woolley, WA 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

NOTICE OF NEWSLETTER MAILING CHANGES

Producing the Newsletter has become an increasingly significant task as the membership and activities of our club have grown. In order to minimize the load on our Newsletter Editor/Publisher your Board of Directors at their August 18th meeting unanimously passed the following motion: "Effective with the October Newsletter those with email addresses will only receive the Newsletter via email unless there are extenuating circumstances." Those without email addresses will continue to receive printed copies via regular mail. If there are extenuating circumstances please contact Rick Anderson or Tom Chartier. Your cooperation will be appreciated

Hello!

First of all, a BIG THANKS to Laura & Val for organizing and hosting our picnic on the 14th. It was a very enjoyable afternoon/evening with very little accomplished beyond the consumption of great food and lots of fellowship. Just the way it's supposed to be. Anyone who went home hungry has only themselves to blame.....this club does know how to do a potluck! Hopefully we can get Greg to do a repeat of his cookie baking for a meeting soon. Yes Greg, that's a hint!!!

Lots of activities are underway.....but without an effective Newsletter it would be nearly impossible to effectively communicate all the information about our club and activities. Tom Chartier has been faithfully carrying out this task each month.....and has been very tolerant of those of us who make last minute changes to our contributions. Now Tom deserves to take a break.....and we need to recruit a new Editor/Publisher of the Newsletter. The ideal candidate has an interest in computers and publishing. Tom has offered to train his replacement so only a basic knowledge of computers is required. Other club

members contribute all of the writing. The club provides the necessary software and we are exploring adding some additional software which will make the job even less complex. We need a volunteer(s) SOON. Anyone interested please contact Tom who would be quite willing to explain what he does each month to produce the Newsletter.

I hope to see you all at our September meeting. We will be voting on a change to our bylaws and Bob Doop has once again arranged an interesting and informative program.

Rick

*It Was A Wonderful Picnic.
Aren't You Glad You Came?*

It's always a pleasure to have the ladies show up at a Club event and we were amply blessed at this year's picnic. And, their instinctive ways with food serving can't be topped by mere man. As if on cue, the women picked the right moment to tickle our palates with almost three dozen covered dishes brought to the event by that many

people. Desserts, salads, fruit bowls, vegetable side dishes, and anything else you could want for an outdoor get-together appeared on our picnic tables.

Of course we can't forget the considerable effort by two of our male members who fanned the flames that produced those luscious cheeseburgers, foot-long hot dogs, pieces of chicken, and deliciously sweet ears of corn dripping with butter. Bob Doop and Julian Lee sooted up a charcoal storm to bring us a feast that defied consumption by our relatively small gathering. So much food! We wallowed in excess.

Laura and Val Matthews hosted the picnic for the second straight year. As usual, they did a delightful job of entertaining. The grounds were in top condition for Olympic contention and a croquet set was at the ready for those so inclined. Alas, they weren't. Oh, there was exercise aplenty, as the muscles just below the cheekbones got a severe workout. Seated in this pastoral setting amid Laura's colorful, blooming garden plants on a near-perfect sunny, summer day with temperatures in the mid-70's, these slightly-over-the-hill members weren't thinking of body-building matters. Discussion groups fanned out in all directions. Finally, weary and hungry, these wonderful people feasted.

JG

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

This is notice of a proposed bylaw change as provided for by Article XI of the NCWA Bylaws. All members present at the September general membership meeting will be allowed to vote on this change, with a 2/3 majority required for passage. There is no provision in the NCWA Bylaws for absentee voting. The purpose of this change is to bring the bylaws into conformance with our election schedule as it has been held in recent years as well as to have the officer year and the membership year coincide. The old bylaw wording is lined out and the new wording is in bold face italics.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

There will be four (4) officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers will be elected for a one-year term, lasting from October 1 through September 30 ***January 1 through December 31. The President will appoint a nominating committee prior to the October meeting. The nominating committee will present their proposed nominees at the October meeting. Nomina-***

tions will also be accepted from the membership at that time. They ***Officers*** will be elected at the September ***December*** meeting, by a majority vote of the members present. Officers may be recalled by the membership at a general meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of those present. If a recall is successful a new election will be held for the remaining term of the recalled officer. Elections and recalls will be announced to all members at least two (2) weeks before the proposed action.

Big 'Wood and Tool Show' Beckons Woodworkers; NCWA Charters Bus for Cloverdale on October 16th

Billed as the biggest annual woodworking show on the West Coast, the Vancouver Wood and Tool exhibition has caught the interest of enough Club members to warrant the chartering of a bus to this year's event at the Cloverdale, B.C. Fairgrounds. The Big Show runs for three days, Friday through Sunday, October 15 to 17. We will travel to Canada early on Saturday, October 16. Several members and, spouses, made advance reservations at the picnic. They include R. Anderson, Benson, Blair, Braeden, Chartier, Choquette, Doop, Ehrlich, Geisel, Hand, Lee, L. Matthews, New, Parry, Pyscher, and Van.

Reservations will continue to be accepted up to departure time, or until the bus is full. Fares are \$15 per person, payable in advance to Treasurer Ed Pyscher, or when arranged, when boarding the bus. All participants are required to have the proper identification for the border crossing. Photo ID's (a passport, driver's license, etc.) and birth certificate are required. Those who previously attended the Show recommend that you carry Canadian dollars to expedite shopping and when buying refreshments. Expect large crowds. Our aim is to make the experience comfortable and memorable for all. We will set our return boarding time on the northbound trip.

Schedule. The charter bus will depart Lowe's parking lot (southeast corner) in Mount Vernon at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, October 16. Lowe's hardware store is located at Riverside Drive and College Way, just west of I-5. A scheduled stop will be made in Bellingham to pick up Whatcom County members at the Bellis Fair Mall at approximately 8 a.m. The bus will make the pick up in the parking lot close to the entrance to the Mall Food Court. Other stops north of Bellingham on the I-5 corridor can be arranged in advance.

Reservations can be made by notifying any member of the Tours Committee: Ce Braeden, (360) 588-9830; Laura Matthews (360) 757-7730; or Jay Geisel (360) 466-3908.

Projects Committee:

First I would like to thank all the guys who visited the shops on Saturday, including mine. I greatly enjoyed the company and the fellowship.

I was pleased with the interest in the Model T Truck. I hope this means some of you will be sending me an e-mail with a commitment to make some trucks or truck components. The volunteers for the cradles are coming along, but the happy "truckees" seem to be a little shy. Come on fellows, we can have a great time doing something good for some unfortunate kids.

Many thanks to those who have chosen to help. For others, try to make the decision to help. Many can't because of obligations. We understand and just thank you for being a part of NCWA.

Gene Benson

BIRDMAN of CAMANO

Our ever popular Nick Van is busy building bird feeders and houses out there on the rock known as Camano. It seems he has a lot of used cedar as the result of a deck project so he has gone into production. Nick plans to have a table of his creations for sale at Arts Alive in November and has generously offered the proceeds to go into a special fund for support of high school student involvement in our educational programs and other activities. Nick is inviting his fellow members to also contribute items for sale on his table with all proceeds going to the same cause. Thanks Nick for your contribution & generosity!

Meet the New Guy

Lloyd Hopkins

Lloyd comes to us after a long trip with the Boeing Company where his profession was in Metrology (The science of measurement). This should help him a lot in his woodworking endeavors, especially when he wants to cut pieces to plus or minus a millionth of an inch. Lloyd has wanted to work with wood all his life but never had the time nor space to do so. Now, he has both and wants to learn the ropes as soon as possible. In addition to wood-

working, Lloyd's other passion, not including his bride, Ann, is ham radio. His 5 year old granddaughter, Kecie, describes his current employment status as "retarded." Welcome to the club, Lloyd. We know you'll enjoy the fellowship and activities that are available to our members.

Shop Tours II Continues Fine Tradition in Skagit County

It was that time again for the second round of NCWA Shop Tours, this one in the central area of Skagit County. Our woodworking shop hosts were grouped in the communities of Anacortes and LaConner, and in the vicinity of Camano Island. It was Saturday morning, the 28th of August. I picked up Cec Braeden at 9:45 and we headed for Oak Harbor to visit "Low-Tech" **Phil Choquette**, the famous Oak Harbor furniture restorer. We found Gary Weyers already in animated discussion with our host who was busy explaining yet another of his jiggery concoctions.

Phil's idea, which he was demonstrating on his router table, was an efficient system to create tenons with a large diameter straight bit. His wood jig was a right angle (miter) slider consisting of a fence and adjustable stop easy to set up and use. It made sense to me; it bypasses the need for installing a dado blade set in the table saw. The Choquette clinic for restoration of mis-used fine furniture is housed in a two-car attached garage, small in comparison to most commercial, one-man woodworking venues. But Phil has found ways to extract maximum usable space in a smart, organized fashion. For example, his big table saw takes over the central space but a massive off-feed table doubles as his workbench and finishing table. He has other innovations also, including an A-frame storage rack that holds most of his sheet materials, lumber and, on shelves inside the frame, his valuable hardwood cutoffs.

Phil invited us into his home to see the storied two tables that stubbornly refused to shed their finish. They sat on the floor of his dining room awaiting approval by his Bellingham client who remains as intractable about refinishing as the once offending finish itself. Phil has laboriously removed all the old coating from the attractive maple furniture by sanding down to bare wood and using, in some cases, a Dremel tool to get into all the crevices and holes of the spalted wood. We left in a hurry before Phil

started to repeat himself.

We arrived at the **Walter Meyers** place high on an Oak Harbor hill overlooking Skagit Bay. Walt has a double garage dedicated to one great, expensive machine. The Felder four-in-one machine fills the central area, gleaming in its newness and excellent fit and finish. Walter took us for a spin, a spin of one of the Felder's high-speed components, the shaper. After winding it up to max rpm's, Walter astounded us with an abrupt stop, the work of a very efficient electronic braking device. The sliding saw table, jointer, and planer components were recently employed to help Walt create a Murphy bed. Other basic machine tools lined the outer perimeter of the garage shop, including a little-used ShopSmith. Walt was able to leave his shop at noon to visit others on the tour route.

We've been to **Larry Tomovick's** double garage in Anacortes many times, drawn by fanciful furniture pieces constructed in an efficient, well-equipped workshop. Larry recently added a new European-made combination jointer-planer, which is now producing dead-on accuracy in jointing lumber. Larry's current project is three matching tables in maple and contrasting Argentina Quina. The tables feature Larry's signature cutouts and dual color reveals plus intricate insert patterns. He has experimented with a variety of techniques to create the latter and used the process as a talking point for his shop visitors. He confessed to me later that he didn't think his demonstrations were a complete success. "I don't think everyone got it," he said. True enough. It's a tricky procedure that requires exacting accuracy in measuring, cutting, and the glue-up of many small pieces of wood.

Driving over to **Bob Doop's** nearby shop, we marveled at the space he has created with his big, two-storied tall building that sits behind his home. His building is an ideal cabinet shop with all the best Powermatic equipment installed. Recently Bob has added three wood lathes, one a top-of-the-line Vicmarc. Vern Tabor was there also finishing up work on a large, handsome maple bowl. Many of our woodworkers, it seems, are adding woodturning expertise to their repertoire. A MIK 18-inch band saw has also been added to the shop inventory to give Bob the cutting height needed to rough cut logs into circular disks for bowl turning. Bob was pleased to show us a heavily used de-burring wheel mounted on a grinder platform. "I find a use for it every day," he said.

Another Anacortes hobbyist, **John Gruenewald**, has a

double garage workshop that faces the street on a cul-de-sac. John, like so many of us, has loaded up to the point where his wife has asked that he get rid of unneeded gear. He was displaying a sign that listed seven or eight tool items for sale that he claimed were duplications. They included a motor and a Dremel tool. But, he also had several small wood lathes that were not for sale. On one of the workbenches John displayed several attractive toy trucks that he delights in making for his grandchildren. And on occasion, he has sold a few. I asked if he turned the wheels himself. As if anticipating my query, John grabbed an open catalog nearby and showed me that, for a quantity buy, wooden wheels could be purchased for 16 cents each. "Does that answer your question?" he asked. With that we grabbed a soda out of his cooler and moved on, pointing our truck toward LaConner and the Shelter Bay workshops of our final two hosts.

Two freshmen members with less than a year of service were hosting their open workshops within a few blocks of each other. We stopped first at **Eugene Benson's** home in the Shelter Bay Community. Like Cec Braeden's workshop, Eugene planned the design of his shop into his home environment before construction began. The result was a finished-off, pleasant room of large proportions that suited the needs and goals of this woodworker. Gene has made good use of space, providing workbench areas along two walls and balancing out saw operations along another, with a miter saw at one end and a radial arm saw at the other. Wood dust inside the home was an early consideration. Eugene claims he solved that problem with a large capacity dust collector and a powerful through-the-wall fan that forces dust-laden air outside. Joint-Tech tools on the router table and table saw help ensure accuracy in his constructions. Of interest are the major modifications to his table saw, which just happens to be a ShopSmith set up in the table saw mode and then covered with in-feed and out-feed tables that completely hide the saw's origin. He was displaying several copies of the wood toy car and truck bodies that will be made by members for the 2004 Toys for Tots program. Gene discussed some of the tougher aspects in making the toys, principally the time-consuming sanding of cross-grain fibers in the tight confines of the cab interiors. Several suggestions have been made regarding this operation as well as the materials to use for final finishing.

Our final visit was made to the home shop of **Ken La Marche**, only a few blocks away. Ken is an active furniture builder. His fair-sized shop is located in the base-

ment where he has installed all the basic sawing and boring power tools. His sawdust production is held to a minimum. Large sanding operations are jobbed out. Ken showed us some of the cabinetry he has installed in his home's computer room and talked about his most recent project, a very attractive drop-leaf table for the living room. Ken noted that his wife wanted him to make that particular piece of furniture but he pointed out to her that he would be unable to produce turned legs without a lathe. That stratagem worked well. Ken got his lathe and his wife got her table.

It was time now to head home to our own shop, suggestions and new ideas spinning in our minds. We spent an entire day knowing more about our fellow members, their dislikes and preferences, and how they treat wood. Our gracious hosts were happy to speak their minds and show off their recent projects. It was another successful one-on-one woodworkers' meeting, a time of show and tell that generated good feelings of togetherness.

Summary. In retrospect, how did the first two shop tours compare? There were significant differences and similarities. The northern tour consisted of one fully commercial workplace, three part-time commercial enterprises, and three hobbyist home shops. The central area tour in late August consisted of one fully commercial workplace, one part-time commercial enterprise, and five hobbyist home shops. All three northern hobbyists were planning to enlarge their work areas; no one in the central area had plans for a makeover. Typically, most of the hobby type woodworkers turned their garages into dedicated workshops. The exceptions were the Shelter Bay boys who brought the workshops inside their homes.

JG



The NCWA was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education, and showcasing 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*. 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 Choquette	(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) 387-4174
Education: Ed Pysher	(360) 766-0136	Projects:	Mike Larvia	(360) 854-0291
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