



# Newsletter

**Next Monthly Meeting — December 5, 2023 at 7 PM**  
**In person at the Mount Vernon Christian School**

**Don't forget to renew  
your membership!**

## RAFFLE PRIZE

Check out this months  
Special Raffle Prize!

## MEETING MINUTES

Click to see what you  
might have missed at  
the last meeting or the  
B.O.D. meeting

*Click the underlined title in the boxes above to be taken directly to that section of the newsletter.*

## **2023 Wrap Up!**

**This Tuesday, December 5th, 7 PM**

**Mount Vernon Christian School – 820 West Blackburn, Mount Vernon**

**Come celebrate another year of shop time, cool new projects, acquiring new skills, buying new tools, hanging with other woodworkers, buying new tools, making lots of sawdust, and, of course...buying new tools.**

- **Recap of the year**
- **Special Raffle Prize**
- **Recognizing The 2023 Spirit Award Recipient**
- **Election of 2024 Officers**
- **And more...**

**Connect with  
your fellow  
members:**



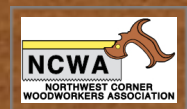
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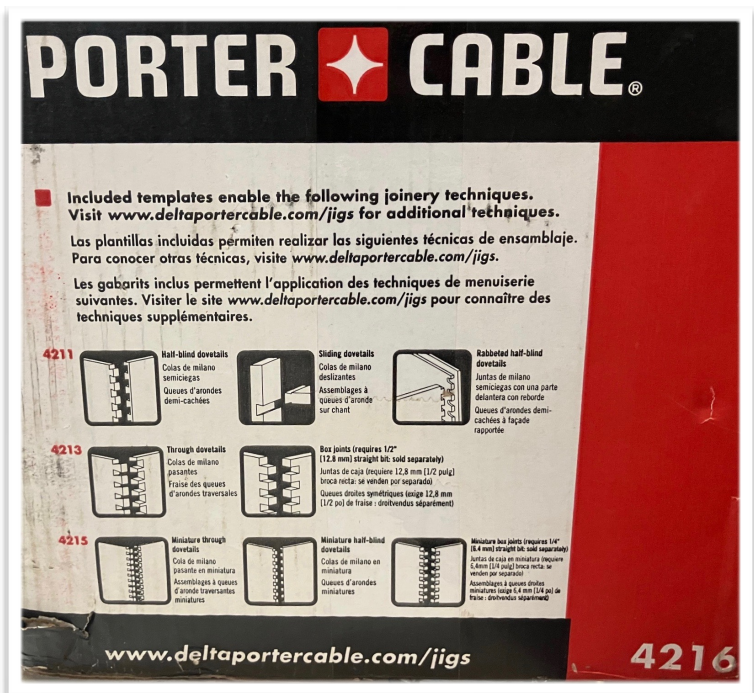
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Website

## This Month's Raffle Drawing!

All members will receive a **FREE** raffle ticket at the **December 5th Meeting** for a chance to win a  
**Porter Cable Deluxe Dovetail Jig Combination Kit**



# Mark Your Calendars



**December 5th General Membership Meeting** – 2023 Year-End Wrap-Up. Election of Officers for 2024.

**January 9th General Monthly Meeting Via Zoom** (*Special day, one week later, due to the New Year*) –

Tim Lawson, one of the founders of the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, will do a ZOOM presentation on traditional finishing.

*Please Note: The NCWA Board Meetings, held each month via Zoom, take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Just let King know beforehand, so a Zoom invitation can be sent to you.*



## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - 2024**

#### **\$35.00 - Annual Dues (no increase for 2024!)**

Dues for 2024 continue to roll in – but a bit slower than expected! About 35% of our club members have renewed their membership as of November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Members have the option to renew their membership and pay their dues on-line using PayPal, or by mailing a check to the NCWA Treasurer.

1. To pay dues on-line with **PayPal**:
  - Log on to the NCWA web page (<https://www.ncwawood.org/>) and click on the “Debit or Credit Card” PayPal button, enter your debit or credit card information (\$35.00 will automatically be charged to your card).
2. To pay dues with a personal check:
  - Mail a \$35.00 check (payable to: **NCWA**) to the Club’s treasurer:  
NCWA  
c/o Al Ashley  
26220 48<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Arlington, WA 98223

Membership cards will be distributed to each renewing member beginning in January.

NCWA Membership offers multiple benefits, including:

- Monthly membership meetings – most will be in-person a few may be held via Zoom,
- Purchase discounts from our vendor support group,
- NCWA woodworking classes,
- Monthly newsletter,
- Library books and DVDs,
- NCWA Chat – an online forum available only for our members, and
- As always, the opportunity to associate with the best group of woodworkers in the Northwest.



## **Community Bulletin Board**

*If you'd like to let other members know of tools or wood you have for sale, or if you offer any type of service you feel would benefit members, here's the place to post it. Just send King Dahl an email at [kingdahl1@gmail.com](mailto:kingdahl1@gmail.com) for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.*

**One of the benefits of membership is the chance to improve your woodworking skills by getting involved in some of the NCWA Woodworking Classes.**

Here are a few shots from one of the club's most popular classes –  
Jerry Couchman's Box Making Class...



# Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of the NCWA General Meeting November 7, 2023

Call to order: 7:00pm

Vice President: Barry Tonkin

### Committee Reports

- **Education:** New classes being organized, more to come in January
- **Library:** Donations of Fine Woodworking magazines for free to make space in library available. Can also donate magazines (just not too many at once!)
- **Treasurer:** Collecting dues now, can pay in cash or check in person, or at ncwawood.org via PayPal or Venmo
- **Programs:** January meeting date changed to January 9th; Tim Lawson from Port Townsend School of Woodworking - finishing
- **Toys for Tots:** Looking for more people to build toys; No toy-making experience necessary! Talk to John Braun if you want to join.
  - George Lanphear is opening his shop (north of Arlington) to anyone interested in meeting up to make toys

### New members

- Tom, Bellingham, has been a woodworker for 50 years
- Ed, Mount Vernon, novice woodworker who would like to learn
- Ken, Burlington, woodworking most of his life, saw flyer at Ekram's Hardware
- Jerry, Mount Vernon, guest at Sept. meeting, builds birdhouses and clocks, turns bowls
- Austin, Marysville, manages preferred vendor Stockton's Paint in Mount Vernon, woodworking since he was a kid but getting back into it
- Scott (father), Mount Vernon, returning member
- Dylan (son), Mount Vernon, woodworking since he was a child, looking to improve skills

### Bring and Brag

- Joan Mann: four intarsia starfishes - pine, zebrawood, leopard/lacewood, purple heart; intarsia sailboat
- Andy Rudy: Model of the Santa Maria boat, mahogany, in process of being finished

**Raffle Winners:** Woodpeckers Box Clamps - Jonathan Peachey; Rockler magnetic tool holders - Sascha Vandetti and Christi Brua Weaver

## **Presentation**

"The Three Vacuum-ers" - Greg Koenker, George Knutsen, and Charlie Drake

- Two types of powered vacuums
    - Venturi vacuum pump
      - Needs an air compressor; turns off and kicks on when needed
    - Electric motor driven
      - Some have pressure switches that automatically turn on and off to maintain pressure setting; some run continuously to maintain pressure, making those better for clamping operations
  - Pressure is measured in inches of mercury, 21 inches of mercury = 10.5 PSI
1. Vacuum in veneering
- Vacuum bags:
    - Vinyl: stiffer, has a "memory" or retains shape of item to an extent, easy to custom make for a specific size for fairly cheap
    - Polyurethane: more expensive, more flexible, conforms to a shape better and doesn't retain that shape when you're done
  - Substrates - want something flat and smooth (so not construction-grade plywood or anything with cracks)
    - MDF; Cabinet-grade plywood; Baltic birch/ApplePly; Classic Core/Armor Core/J-Core (plywood with mdf on both faces, lighter than solid MDF, dead flat surface, still have solid plywood interior for screws - what George prefers to use)
  - Veneers
    - Benderply has a lot of flexibility, commonly 1/8th-3/8ths
    - Standard veneer is 24/1000th of an inch (less than 1/32nd)
    - Some available at 1/16th and up to 1/6th of an inch
  - Suppliers - often have to purchase by the bundle
    - Edensaw Woods; Veneer Supplies; Rockler; Woodcraft; Certainly Woods (out of NY, a lot of variety, thicknesses, sizes, can order single sheets or a lot)
  - Glues
    - PVA with additives to reduce penetration through the veneer pores - vacuum pump will pull glue through pores, especially if you use too much glue
      - Titebond Cold Press - about the same thickness of Titebond 3 but additives to reduce suction of glue through pores
      - Unibond One (VacuPress, but available elsewhere)
      - Better Bond (Veneer Supplies) - finely ground walnut shells to clog pores



- Hide glue has been used with hammer veneering
- Matching veneers
  - Book Matching (two way/four way/etc)
  - Slip Matching (like fanning out cards, grain all goes the same direction rather than mirror image like book matching, looks more like one piece of wood than book matching, particularly if the grain is fairly uniform)
- Edge jointing
  - Thick veneers (1/16"+) can be jointed and ripped like a thin board
  - Thin veneers are prone to chipping out with jointer, even when sandwiched between thicker wood. Need to be cut or sawn (with veneer saw) or jigs used for table saw or router table.
    - Don't cut with utility knife (2 beveled sides) because you'll get a wavy cut even with a straight edge as your guide. Use something with only one beveled edge (like marking knife) with the flat edge against your guide, or veneer saw - hone veneer saw to get a flat surface on the bottom so teeth don't scratch your veneer
- Taping
  - Connect your pieces of veneer using painters/masking tape on the backside of your piece - put on one piece, stretch the tape, stick to other piece - acts as a clamp to hold your pieces together
  - Use veneer tape on the front side - very thin paper tape, perforated or non-perforated tape. Some people prefer the perforated because you see the wood beneath it. George prefers non-perforated because it's not as stretchy
    - Use a frisbee or something similar with a wet sponge in the middle, and pull the veneer tape over the sponge, and it's ready to go!
    - Cross pieces first connecting the two pieces of veneer, and then 1 piece along the full length down the middle.
  - **Remove the painters/masking tape after taping the front with veneer tape (and veneer tape is dry!).**
  - To remove veneer tape after vacuuming - use sponge to wet tape, let it sit for a few minutes, then use sharpened putty scraper to carefully peel off tape
- Glue spreading options
  - Foam paint roller cut down to 4"
    - Pour glue onto substrate and roll to distribute evenly (do not pour glue on the veneer - it will warp within a few minutes)
  - Pour, trowel, and roll



- George has better success getting the poured glue evenly distributed with this method, foam brush helps even out the thickness
  - Commercial rubber roller with hopper for large applications:
    - Then follow up with foam brush to get an even finish; example: <https://www.veneersupplies.com/products/Hand-Held-Veneer-Glue-Applicator.html>
- Platen - aids in keeping your workpiece flat and allows better evacuation of air from the bag - has grooves around the edge to allow better suction, glue won't stick to it
- Can use a piece of mesh like a window screen or a caul on top of the piece to allow airflow over the entire top
- Bag closures
  - Most use a snap together pvc closure
  - Wrap bag around a long board, sandwich with another long board, clamp
  - Can also just pinch bag closed with your hands when the vacuum is running
  - Also available are bags that zip up on 3 sides
- Length of time in bag
  - With PVA-type glues, one hour is usually enough time on flat panels.
  - Then remove the panel from the bag and lean against a wall for 2-3 hours so air can circulate all the way around. PVA glue cures by moisture evaporation.
- Pumps
  - Manual hand pump - very small projects
  - Vacuum pump - small (1 cubic foot per minute) - small-medium projects
    - Slower evacuation gives more time to align veneers with panels and cauls
    - Allows for messing with the bag around the sharp corners of a piece. You don't want the corners to puncture the bag.
    - Can also ensure that the bag sucks down evenly with no puckers. If there is a pucker/ridge, the pressure will not be uniform.
  - Vacuum pump - medium/large (6-10 cfm) - large projects, or bent lamination when quick evacuation time locks it in place
- Curved Pieces
  - Forms for curved panels
    - Can use foam insulation to cut your form shape/platen, mark center lines on your form and piece, and line them up
      - Better for thinner pieces or Bender Ply (less pressure needed)
    - For thicker pieces that are more rigid, use MDF or something that can handle the stress better
  - Using Bender Ply to make a curved shape
    - 2 or 3 thin layers of Bender Ply is more rigid than one thicker piece

- Need a hard glue line - Unibond One
  - Next step up is a urea resin glue (WeldWood and Unibond 800 are examples) - need to mix, more toxic
- Greg likes to use breather mesh (screen door mesh without metal fibers, but it can be hard to see through) to assist with even air evacuation
- After gluing the Bender Ply pieces together and vacuuming them to hold their curved shape, glue edging on the sides, then put veneer on top and bottom, covering the edging you just put on it, and put it back in the bag
- How to make a long curved piece look like solid wood, not individual veneers
  - Stack sequentially cut veneers, tape all the way around with painters tape at center line, put veneers over form in vacuum bag (it's OK to leave the painters tape on for this).
  - Bag should be raised off the table so you can get under it. Clamp over the bag at the center mark to ensure your piece is lined up properly with the form. Turn on vacuum and clamp along the length of the form, working out from the center. Turn pump off if you need more time to move the piece along the form and ensure the bag evenly flattens
- Bending without a form
  - You can also make free-form curves by bending the wood manually and turning on the vacuum to make whatever shape you want

## 2. Using a vacuum for epoxy

- Need to fully mix the A and B parts. If you don't mix well, it won't work well.
- Use flat stir stick and scrape the sides. Stir until you're sure it's fully mixed, and then keep stirring. Pour it into another container and then stir some more.
- Vacuum canister will take care of the air bubbles. Don't have to leave it long, just until the bubbles rise to the top. Hair dryer will pop the bubbles on the top.
- Then you can pour your epoxy and not have to worry about all the bubbles!
- Examples of a vacuum canister:
  - [https://www.amazon.com/BACOENG-Gallon-Vacuum-Chamber-Stage/dp/B00W8ZU5FK/ref=asc\\_df\\_B00W8ZU5FK/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=198097951144&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=7532543698809304394&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9033393&hvtargid=pla-378401058366&psc=1&mcid=89d7df47dd903f389703209cc5581264](https://www.amazon.com/BACOENG-Gallon-Vacuum-Chamber-Stage/dp/B00W8ZU5FK/ref=asc_df_B00W8ZU5FK/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=198097951144&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=7532543698809304394&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9033393&hvtargid=pla-378401058366&psc=1&mcid=89d7df47dd903f389703209cc5581264)

## 3. Using a vacuum for clamping/hold downs

- More often used in commercial applications

- Uses pucks/pods to suction pieces down to worktop in various orientations
- Store-bought pucks/pods - quick, efficient, can be tied together for more strength
  - Example: [https://www.rockler.com/rockler-vacuum-clamp-pod-kit?country=US&sid=V91156&promo=shopping&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_term=&utm\\_content=pla&utm\\_campaign=PL&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAxreqBhAxEiwAfGfndMlkm4sf7gPfQ\\_kB6O0R2TgD7ekf7KumUI\\_UKeG1AgSfq\\_04stf\\_5BoCPhgQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.rockler.com/rockler-vacuum-clamp-pod-kit?country=US&sid=V91156&promo=shopping&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=&utm_content=pla&utm_campaign=PL&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAxreqBhAxEiwAfGfndMlkm4sf7gPfQ_kB6O0R2TgD7ekf7KumUI_UKeG1AgSfq_04stf_5BoCPhgQAvD_BwE)
- Shop made - Can be any size to suit any application
  - Use closed-cell foam gasket material and brass plumbing fittings to connect to pump
  - Need a tight fit for maximum holding power
- Non-porous materials for pucks, worktop, and workpiece will give best results

Adjourn: 9:19pm

## **Minutes of the NCWA Board of Directors Meeting**

### **November 16, 2023**

#### **Attendees**

Nick Pederson  
 Al Ashley  
 King Dahl  
 Christi Brua Weaver  
 Jerry Couchman  
 Barry Tonkin  
 Chuck Barnett

Call to order: 7:16pm

#### **Membership Survey**

- Will be a short survey sent out to membership in early 2024
- Barry and Nick are working on questions
  - What's drawing members in?
  - What would they like to see more of?
  - What do they want out of their membership?

### **Update on 2024 Skagit Wood Expo**

- Jerry has had trouble reaching organizer, but event is tentatively planning on April 4-6 (Thursday-Saturday)
- Skagit County Fairgrounds in Mount Vernon

### **Technology Updates**

- To address hybrid technology
  - Barry will work to coordinate necessary parties

### **Maritime Trades Program - Marysville Middle School**

- Marysville teacher is teaching maritime trades classes, such as building cedar strip canoes, for a few middle and high schools
- Would like advice on equipment he could use in his school shop
- Jerry has a list of members who live near Marysville who may be interested in visiting his shop and providing advice
- Teacher will also be offered membership like other woodshop teachers

### **Recruiting Committee Members**

- Developing a short list of people to ask directly to serve on committees and to be At Large members - Nick will reach out to identified members
- Incentives?
- Shows Committee: King would like to no longer be chairman, but would appreciate helpers if that's the best option
- Programs Committee: Chuck is willing to continue serving as de facto chairman if no one else is found to take it on
- Will be two At Large vacancies on Jan. 1; can be an At Large member and on a committee at the same time
- Bylaws allow for creation of additional committees at any time
  - Motion to create a Technology Committee, no quorum so vote pushed off
  - Nick will reach out to suggested committee members to gauge interest
- Also need people to take pictures of Bring & Brag items, operating camera for video, host Zoom calls, etc

### **2023 Spirit Award**

- Barry has nominations; Jerry is getting plaque ready for December

### **December Presentation**

- 2023 recap





## Preferred Vendors offering DISCOUNTS to NCWA Members:

### NORTH –

Hardware Sales

Bellingham Millwork

Hardwoods to Get

Windsor Plywood

Village Books

### WEST –

Sebo's Hardware

### SOUTH –

Martin Lumber/True Value

Stormo Hardwoods

### CENTRAL –

Ekrem Hardware

Stockton's Paints

Mt. Vernon Building Center

Cedar Country Lumber

Sherwin-Williams Paint

### EAST –

E & E Lumber

### SPECIALTY –

Edensaw Woods

FASTCAP

Klingspor

NCWA is open to all interested woodworkers, and was formed to promote high standards in woodworking, woodworking education and showcasing local woodworking. Meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$35 per year, payable to NCWA, 26220 48th Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223. Submit newsletter articles by email to [kingdahl1@gmail.com](mailto:kingdahl1@gmail.com).

## NCWA 2023 Board of Directors:

**President** – Nick Pederson

**Immediate Past President** – Greg Koenker

**Vice President** – Barry Tonkin

**Treasurer** – Al Ashley

**Secretary** – Christi Brua Weaver

**Members at Large** – Peter Gantt, Chuck Barnett, Craig Edwards, Tony Etienne

### Committee Chairs:

**Programs Committee** – Peter Gantt, Chuck Barnett, Craig Edwards

**Library** – Bill Pierce

**Education** – Andrew Pellar

**Membership** – Jerry Couchman

**Shows** – King Dahl

**Shop Tours** – TBA

**Toys for Tots** – John Braun

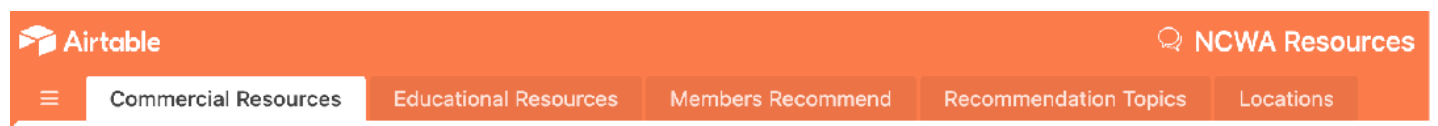
**Webmaster** – Michael Titus

**Newsletter** – King Dahl

## NCWA Resources

Click this link – [NCWA Resources](#) – for our user-friendly database serving the purpose of storing information about recommendations from NCWA members.

There are 5 tables (1 tab for each) across the top, you can click each one to see its contents. This page is evolving and being updated in real time, so there will be new additions frequently.



- **Commercial Resources:** list of companies (incl website and phone #) and what people recommend them for
- **Educational Resources:** online resources for different topics, grouped by topic (this doesn't have to be limited to videos, we can have books and other stuff too)
- **Members Recommend:** This table is automatically generated by the first two, and keeps track of who's recommending what
- **Recommendation Topics:** This is another automatic table, and lists commercial resources (the first table) grouped by topic
- **Locations:** a final automatic table that lists which commercial resources (again, the first table) are located in which cities, so that it's easier to see what's near you

Let Tony know, or post on NCWA-Chat, what you think. This has the potential of being a super convenient, user-friendly database for all members.