



# Newsletter

## No General Meeting in August but plenty of other cool stuff this month!...

### ANACORTES ARTS FESTIVAL

Info about the festival

### BRING AND BRAG

Check Out what  
members are building

### MEETING MINUTES

Get caught up on the  
goings on of your club.

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

### **President's Message...**

Come One come all! Looking forward to having the club together in the upcoming NCWA picnic on August 17th. Looks to be a great event with great food and our silent auction event. Bring tools and items you may want to sell off or donate to another good shop. This is an excellent opportunity to get more involved in the club by volunteering to help make this picnic a success!

Also look forward to the Anacortes Art Festival and thanks to all the volunteers that support our mission. Even if you are not working the booth, please come on by and say hello and support the club in its mission and connect with other local artisans.

I also want to say thank you to all those who have completed the survey and given your valuable feedback in what you want from the club. We have already started incorporating the feedback into the various committees and board discussions. There still maybe a little time to fill out the survey, however it is closing very soon.

– Barry Tonkin

Connect with  
your fellow  
members:



Instagram



Facebook



YouTube



Website



## **2024 Anacortes Arts Festival Aug 2-4**

*Click here to be taken to the website: [2024 Anacortes Arts Festival Aug 2-4](#).*

# **VISIT THE NCWA BOOTH IN ANACORTES DURING THE ARTS FEST! Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 2-4**

This year, our booth at the Anacortes Arts Festival will be in a new location, near the intersection of 7th Street and R Ave. This puts us near the Depot Art Gallery which will showcase this year's juried art by all the best local artists.

Our booth will include a variety of interesting woodworking demonstrations by members of NCWA, Shave Horse demos, Toys for Tots car building for kids, and many items made by members on display and for sale.

Many thanks to members who have already signed up to...

- help set up the club's booth
  - volunteer as a greeter
  - demonstrate a woodworking tip or technique with attendees
  - display a few personal and/or class projects – or even selling a few!
  - take down the booth at the end of the show
- ...it takes a village.

As mentioned, this year, our booth is in a totally different location from past years. The Port of Anacortes made changes which moved the Fine Arts exhibits from the north end of Commercial to the intersection of R Ave and 7<sup>th</sup> St. And that's where our booth will be. Event staff are providing signs to direct visitor traffic to our location and the fine arts displays which will now be in the Depot Fine Arts Gallery on R Ave. Refer to this map. Our booth will be on the east end of 7<sup>th</sup> St near the intersection of R Ave.



## Demonstration Schedule

	BENCH 1	BENCH 2
<b>FRIDAY, AUG 2, 10-NOON</b>	<b>Earl Kessler</b> Hand Plane Restoration	<b>King Dahl</b> Marimba construction and tuning
<b>FRIDAY NOON-2</b>	<b>Greg Koenker</b> Grain Matched Boxes & Hand Planed Miters	<b>David Shull</b> String Inlay
<b>FRIDAY 2-4</b>	<b>Jim Bucknell</b> Domino Joinery	<b>Barry Tonkin</b> Making Chopsticks
<b>SATURDAY, AUG 3 10-NOON</b>	<b>Joan Mann</b> Intarsia	<b>Andrew Pellar</b> Hand Planes
<b>SATURDAY NOON-2</b>	<b>Jerry Couchman</b> Decorative Inlays, Garrett Hack Style	<b>Richard Gillingham</b> Narrow Band Looms
<b>SATURDAY 2-4</b>	<b>Peter Gant</b> Fish Carving	<b>Samantha Chang</b> Building Picture Frames with Hand Tools
<b>SUNDAY, AUG 4, 10-NOON</b>	<b>George Knutson</b> Butterfly Inlays over slab cracks	<b>Jerry Couchman</b> Decorative Inlays, Garrett Hack Style
<b>SUNDAY NOON-2</b>		<b>Mark Lindenbaum</b> Kumiko
<b>SUNDAY 2-4</b>	<b>Richard Gillingham</b> Narrow Band Looms	

## Mark Your Calendars!

**August 2-4** – The Annual Anacortes Arts Festival!

**August 17th** – The Annual NCWA/Woodturners Picnic at Mount Vernon Christian School

**September 3rd** – Jim Bucknell hosts a meeting dedicated to unique tool and jigs



## Annual Club Picnic

**August 17th, 1 PM!**

*Let the Good Times Roll!* This year, the picnic will take place at the Mount Vernon Christian School – 820 W. Blackburn, in Mount Vernon. The picnic will be held along with the Northwest Washington Woodturners club.

We'll have our traditional BBQ Picnic Lunch – Burgers, Hot Dogs, and all the trimmings will be supplied, including vegetarian options. Please bring a side dish or dessert to help round out the menu and to help ensure we all overeat! If you have your own camp chair, be sure to bring it.

Also, be ready to dust off those old tools or extra wood you need to sell in order to make room for new tools, as we will have a **TOOL SALE** by silent auction.



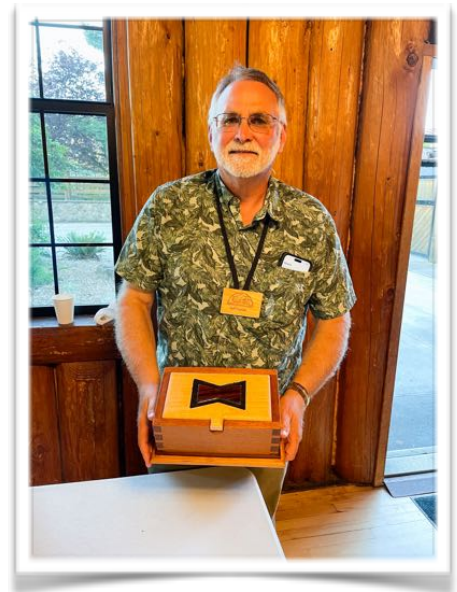
# Bring and Brag

## ***Bring and Brag and The President's Challenge!***

The President's Challenge was to incorporate a butterfly into a project that involved a new joint/technique to the craftsman. The winner was King Dahl with his coffee table constructed with double waterfalls along with multiple butterflies. Congratulations!



Jeff Palmer - Box with lacewood, maple, Bolivian rosewood and cherry with a butterfly inlay



Joan Mann - Intarsia  
Butterfly made of juniper, cocobolo, yellow heart and walnut



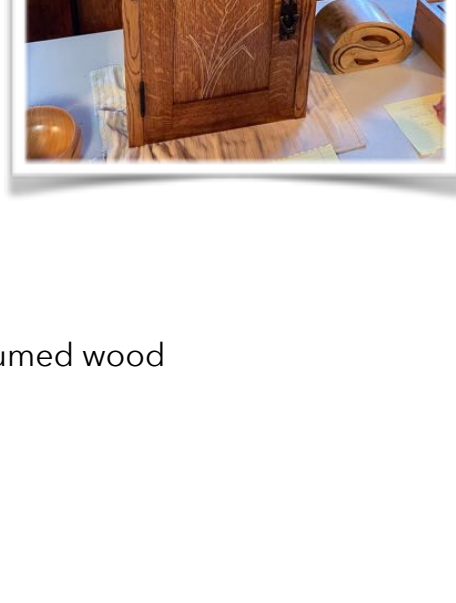
Andrew Pellar – Band sawn boxes, one of pecan and spalted sweet gum and one of maple



Earl Kessler –  
Bedside table of white  
oak



David Shull – Cabinet in white oak with holly string inlays



Jim Bucknell – Box of fumed wood





Charley Drake - Turned bowl



Don Mason - Box with coved cut lid of walnut and imbuia handle, with figured maple sides

## Class Announcement

Mark Kraus will be doing a demo/build class for a Shaker end table. Key focus will be mortise and tenon joinery and tapering for the table legs. He will demo the build (over several classes) in his shop, and students can then follow along and build their own table. If they don't have a mortiser, table saw taper jig, or other key tools, they can use Mark's. It will be based upon the Shaker end table by Tom McLaughlin. Full size plans, cut list and access to the videos by Tom McLaughlin (Epic Woodworking) for this build are included. Students can access Tom's videos at home as many times as they want.



If this demo/build is of interest to the club members, we can follow on at a future date with some more advanced versions of this end table that will introduce drawer building, blind dovetails, veneering and more complex mortise and tenon joinery."

## 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.*

### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!



To our creative, passionate and talented members. We need help! We are looking for people interested in audio/visual work. If you have an interest in the area please contact Barry Tonkin. Time requirement is actual minimal and would help the club grow into the future . We are looking for around six people to share responsibilities. You just need to be interested and not have significant background experience.

### July's MEETING PRESENTER – BOB KRAMER

We all strive for sharp, keen edges on our woodworking tools. July's presenter, Bob Kramer, is a master bladesmith that takes knife construction and sharpness to a whole other level. His description and mastery of the knife's metallurgy in pursuit of the perfect edge was incredible. The result is a durable edge with an intricately patterned metal blade. **To read a detailed recap of Bob Kramer's wonderful presentation at the last meeting, see the meeting notes for the July 2nd general meeting below...**

# Meeting Minutes

**July 2, 2024**

## **Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association General Meeting**

President: Nick Pederson

Vice President: Barry Tonkin

Call to order: 7:04

Approx. 70 attendees

### Announcements

- Survey: What do members want from the club? Needs and wants have changed as the club has grown.
  - A few members of the board created a survey that will be launched tomorrow
  - Should take 10-15 minutes
  - Please take it! It will help guide our future presentations, class offerings, etc.
- Picnic: August 17, Nick is looking for volunteers
- A/V Volunteers: seeking 5-7 people to help on a rotating basis to set up for meetings; see Barry or George Knutson
- CNC: John Greene is looking for members who also have CNC routers or people who are interested in learning more about CNC; is offering a presentation on how to use a CNC machine and give tips for people who are interested in purchasing a CNC machine

### Committee Updates

Education: Andrew Pellar

- New class: build a shaker end table (Tom McLaughlin plan, \$47)
  - Instructor, Marc Kraus, will demonstrate in his shop and participants will go home and do the step; Wednesdays in August - see Andrew if you're interested
- Club showed some interest in carving/architectural carving and hand tool classes

Shows: Jerry Couchman

- Anacortes Arts Festival - Aug 2-4 (will be in a different location than prior years)
- Looking for fresh volunteers (2-hour shifts) to demonstrate (anything you want to do!), kids area, greeters; look for email and reach out to Jerry if you're able to volunteer
- Also looking for display items

September Program: Jim Bucknell

- Cool and useful tools and jigs
- We need audience participation - If you have a tool or jig that you find is particularly useful in your shop, store-bought (please have info about manufacturer/where to buy if possible) or shop-made, reach out to Jim Bucknell

### Bring and Brag

- President's Challenge: Butterflies and a joinery technique you haven't done before
- King Dahl: Winner of President's challenge, coffee table with plush ottomans nestled on each side, sapele and spalted maple, double waterfall sides (new joint) with butterflies, Osmo finish
- Earl Kessler: Night table, mid-century modern, white oak, turned legs on a lathe, Osmo finish
- Jim Bucknell: Framed panel box made from 87 pieces, panels slide into the frames
- Charlie Drake: turned bowl from a class on design with the Woodturners Club, oil/varnish finish
- Don Mason: President's challenge pagoda box, maple sides, walnut lid and legs, sequoia butterfly inlays, imbuia handle
- David Shull: President's challenge, white oak cabinet with string holly cat's tails inlay; butterfly is on the back for him to write his name on
- Andrew Pellar: box, pecan and spalted sweet gum; band saw box, maple
- Joan Mann: President's challenge, intarsia butterfly, juniper, yellow heart, walnut
- Jeff Palmer: President's challenge, box with double butterfly on top, lacewood, cherry, maple, bolivian rosewood, Osmo finish

### Raffle

Wixey WR100 Digital Calipers won by Deva Katir

## **Recap of Bob Kramer's Presentation – "Pursuit of the Perfect Knife"**

<https://kramerknives.com/>

- Member of American Bladesmith Society, organization of bladesmiths that travel around and teach other bladesmiths - join for \$50, after 3 years take a test and become an apprentice, then 2 years later you take another test to become a master bladesmith
  - See below for details of the ABS tests
- Traveled around the country and started working in restaurants (and worked in a circus as a clown along the way) and ended up in Seattle at the Four Seasons
- Had to have and sharpen his own knives; it took about 3 years to find someone who could really explain it to him

- Started a mobile sharpening business where he would drive to restaurants and sharpen knives for 5 years until he got bored, then took a 2-week knife-making class in Arkansas, using coal, and made a knife that he thought was better than the knives he had been using in restaurants. Wanted to make knives for the rest of his life, even as just a hobby
  - "Perfect is relative to who you are" - just depends on your preference
- Built a shop in his garage and made a forge out of a hair dryer and propane tank and nearly burnt down the shop the first time he used it
- People would drop off their knives for him to sharpen and then they return to pick up the knives; was paid more and didn't have to drive all over and felt he got more respect than when he was mobile
- Sold retail knives, practiced making knives, swords, hunting knives, throwing knives, daggers; eventually made kitchen knives and that has been his focus since then
  - Has been trying to constantly improve his technique to make an excellent knife that is comfortable to use
  - Part of high performance is how easy it is to sharpen - knives that say you won't need to resharpen generally aren't as sharp to begin with and are very difficult to sharpen when you do need to
- Steel is iron and a little carbon (.15% carbon for structural steel, .5-1% carbon for tool steel, but there are many different steel recipes for different purposes)
  - Over 1%, the steel becomes brittle and will break
  - Too low, it doesn't get sharp, will be tough and springy but won't get a good edge
  - So fold together different compositions of steel for strength and beauty
- Types of Steel he likes to use
  - Ball bearing steel, 52100 (best for general kitchen knife use) - extremely fine grain, has some chrome in it, very hard
  - Damascas steel - made from different layers of steel with different chemistry that are forged together to make various patterns
  - Water quenching steel made with meteorites
    - Bought a meteorite off of ebay; sandwiched it with steel in made in his shop and Japanese sword steel to make it stronger
      - He can make a kilo of steel in 15 mins in his shop induction forge
- Techniques
  - Pattern welding: various types of industrial steel with different compositions stacked in whatever shape you want
  - Forge weld: Power hammer that can deliver 220 blows per minute with a hammer that weighs several hundred pounds that welds the pieces together
    - Can continue to cut and forge weld the layers together so 20 layers stacked 5 times become 100



- Stretching and folding the steel makes it stronger (Tan ren)
  - Constantly looking for improvement ([Kaizen](#))
- Acid will eat the metal at a different rate depending on composition
- Plugs - cookie cutter essentially to cut out a shape and then cut out the negative space in another piece and the forge weld together together at 2300 F under heavy pressure
- Making Steel
  - Iron comes from core of earth and meteorites; first instance of using a meteorite in a blade (that we know of) was in Indonesia
    - King Tut's tomb has blades made from pure gold and another from a meteorite
  - There is no pure iron, so you have to free the iron from the ferric oxides by heating it over charcoal (chimney furnace or forge; yield is about a quarter of how much ore you put in)
- ABS Tests
  - Apprentice Test: Make a 10-inch blade with a 5" handle and cut a free-hanging rope, cut through a 2x4 twice, shave hair off your arm, and then put the knife in a vice and bend 90 degrees without breaking the blade (edge can crack but blade can't break). If you pass that and journeymen approve five of your knives, then you can become an apprentice for two years
  - Master Test - Same test as above but with a forge welded blade with 300+ layers, plus you have to make 5 flawless blades (even one small scratch will get you booted). Only approximately 120 mastersmiths in the world
  - His knife bent to 90 degrees and sprung back about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way - spring back depends on how it's made and heat treated
- Q&A
  - How long does it take to make a knife?
    - Some take months to build, one took a year, but generally it takes a month. Without embellishments, he can make a blade in an hour. Takes longer if he's making the steel from scratch, some of plug welds can take 24 hours just to cut the pieces
  - Is there an issue with electrolysis when using plug welds with different metals?
    - Not much because there isn't a lot of moisture, may be some surface corrosion
  - How does he set his prices?
    - He doesn't anymore, he auctions them off

- He got a letter from a customer explaining that he wasn't charging enough so he put a knife on ebay for a \$1 for 3 days (normally would sell for \$1800), it was at \$4k in 15 minutes, closed at \$8k
- Sotheby's told him to do it again in 6 and 12 weeks and the prices went up each time.
- Doesn't take orders anymore, just auctions what he makes, generally \$18-40k
- He only makes 12-14 knives a year and rich people are willing to pay for it
- Not setting the prices takes the pressure off of him
- Does he test meteorites for what the content is?
  - Three types of meteorite composition: Stony, iron stony, Iron nickel - he prefers these - 93% iron, 6% nickel, and traces of other elements
  - Likes meteorites from Campo de Cielo (Argentina) - huge fall 400-500 years ago
- How has social media changed things?
  - Not sure, but he feels like he has to participate though he doesn't think it gives him more business
- Do plug welds change the knife's capability? Could it bend at 90 degrees?
  - He has not pushed one of the plug welds but he should to see what happens; thinks some of the really artsy knives won't ever be used and are not likely to pass the stress test
  - Will post the results on social media
- What alloy does he prefer for general kitchen use?
  - 52100 ball bearing steel - fine grain, strong, takes an sharp edge
  - Stainless steel isn't great for tools because it has chromium and sometimes molybdenum and other things, makes a blockier carbide so you're limited in how thin/sharp you can make the edge
  - Simple steel is better for tools - as you add in more alloys, you limit how sharp you can get
  - Powdered steel - atomizes the steel with all the alloys and it cools when hits the drum, so every bead should have the complete chemistry - metals separate when in liquid form, so as long as you don't take it back to liquid, it shouldn't separate
- Where to buy his knives
  - Auction on his website
  - Henkel makes three lines of his knife designs, one uses 52100, others use stainless (AEB-L stainless that is used for razor blades, makes a sharp edge; Super Gold 2 is a stainless steel that takes a nice edge and is stain resistant but harder to sharpen)

**Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 18, 2024**

**Attendees** – Barry Tonkin, King Dahl, Nick Pedersen, George Knutson, Al Ashley, Christi Brua Weaver, Jerry Couchman, Andrew Pellar, Peter Gantt, John Braun, Mike Titus

Call to order: 7:00pm

**Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley**

- See Al's report for details
- About \$2,800 more in the bank than at this time last year
- 250 members (219 last year); 37 new members this year (19 in 2023)
  - 3 honorary members (included)
  - 3 pending members
- Prorated dues went into effect, \$20 through September 30
- Financial report - expected budget is hard to predict because plans are made months in advance, not a year in advance

**Shows - Jerry Couchman and King Dahl**

**Anacortes Arts Festival**

- Jerry met with event organizers; club is allowed to keep trailer there during the event to store equipment and display/for sale items because there is a gap between when the event shuts down and security starts at 11pm
- Very few new people are volunteering but there are a few new volunteers
- Lost some demonstrators who have demonstrated in the past, have a lot of holes in our schedule; George has volunteered to do multiple demos as needed
- How to recruit new demonstrators? A lot of talent in the club.
  - 56% of survey respondents are willing to volunteer 1 or more hours per year
  - A volunteer can also assist demonstrator
- New spot is on Q street, not at the very end of Commercial; will have traffic controllers to let people cross; booths are closer together
- There will be signs on Commercial but Board voted to allow the purchase of some more sandwich boards as Shows budget allows
- If you are bringing an item to sell, print club price tag and have it prepared in advance

**Skagit Garden and Arts Festival**

- June 2025 at Skagit Fairgrounds, should we consider being involved?
- Booths: \$100, generally 10% of sales go back to the club

- Doesn't appear to be a demonstration show, more an option for people to sell (only 24% of membership is interested in more opportunities to sell)
- King will try to find out more information; some members will check it out in 2025 to see if it's a good option; Board can reconsider for 2026

### **Picnic - Nick Pedersen**

- Nick is coming up with schedule and volunteer needs; will put out a call with a list of tasks that need to be done; lots of members are willing to volunteer one hour
- George, Peter, and Jerry have volunteered to help with planning; Nick will set up a Zoom call for this purpose
- Nick will reserve grill; will require a few people to load it
- Club members should bring:
  - Sides or desserts for potluck
  - Chairs for themselves
  - Additional canopies if they want them
- Will library be selling anything? Barry will check in with Bill

### **President's Challenge - Barry Tonkin**

- Board thinks more regular challenges will build traction
- Idea: make something inspired by the library or a presenter over the last 12 months
- Ask membership for ideas on theme/criteria

### **New A/V equipment - George Knutson**

- Several months ago, Board approved spending the money to purchase an HDMI wifi device for the video camera or the microphones, Greg and George have worked through a lot of the technical issues but still need help interfacing with the school's soundboard because settings are changed without our notice
- Likely will hire an expert; King will talk to the A/V person when his band plays at Anacortes Arts Fest

### **Toys for Tots - John Braun**

- As of January, John will be resigning as chairman; committee will need new chairman
- Survey shows more people are more willing to help if there were more satellite shops or if they would be able to make things in their own shop and come together to assemble
  - Barry recommends bringing signup sheet to picnic to gauge interest

### **Education - Andrew Pellar**

- New volunteer is helping to assist Andrew



- One class scheduled for fall, has a few more ideas; he's working on a calendar; hard to get classes on the calendar more than a month or so in advance
- Some recent classes have had very few people or no registrants
- There is a possibility that having class assistants will allow for larger class sizes
- Survey showed interest in hand tool classes
- Discussion on special interest groups, like hand tools, luthiers, etc.
  - Is it possible to add skills/interests/available tools to membership roster? Jerry has a lot of information on new member registrations from the last few years. Would this require a new database?
  - Barry will bring this up again at a later meeting when we discuss future of the club - how do we meet the needs of a larger club?
- Andrew will talk to Wood Turners about a few of our members taking a turning class
- Survey shows that a lot of members get info on YouTube, but lots of people prefer a hands-on class; can instructors record and post on our YouTube?
- Can Education Committee curate 2 or 3 current YouTube videos a month? Could be featured in newsletter. George has seen videos in which they tell you to do the opposite of what you should do, so any videos that we recommend should be validated by a club member who knows
- Fine Woodworking has quick tips on their instagram, we could do something like that; members could submit tips and tricks to the newsletter

### **Newsletter - King Dahl**

- King and his group will look at survey and come up with ways to update the newsletter
- Possibly split the newsletter in two or send out newsletter but only upload meeting minutes

### **Survey - Mike Titus**

- Barry has been sending out reminders to complete the survey to the club
- Have received 85 surveys and have good information, would possibly repeat next year
- There is another 1-2 weeks before the next billing cycle, so we'll close the survey before then. Mike has exported the detailed reports
- Mike will combine early board responses with membership.
- Once we have all responses, will likely have another meeting specifically in response to what we have heard in the survey

### **Membership - Jerry Couchman**

- Three new members in June and one in early July

### **Programs - Peter Gantt**

- We could ask other demonstrators at Anacortes Arts Fes to present on crafts tangential to woodworking; several suggestions for presenters in the surveys
- Still working with Tom Dolese to make a video on processing wood; King may be able to help with editing the video

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## 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 Woodworking Shop

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 2024 Board of Directors:

**President** – Nick Pederson

**Vice President** – Barry Tonkin

**Treasurer** – Al Ashley

**Secretary** – Christi Brua Weaver

**Members at Large** – Peter Gantt, Chuck Barnett, Don Mason, George Knutson

### Committee Chairs:

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

**Education** – Andrew Pellar

**Shows** – King Dahl

**Toys for Tots** – John Braun

**Newsletter** – King Dah

**Library** – Bill Pierce

**Membership** – Jerry Couchman

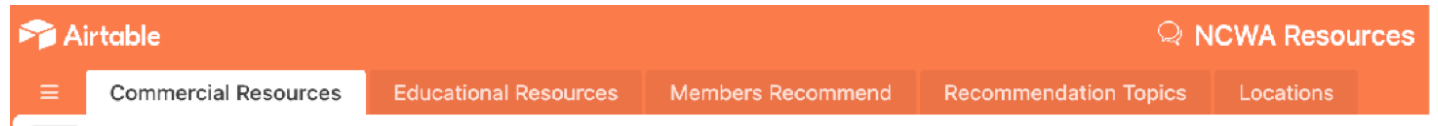
**Shop Tours** – TBA

**Webmaster** – Michael Titus

# 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.



The screenshot shows the Airtable interface for 'NCWA Resources'. At the top, there's an orange header with the Airtable logo on the left and 'NCWA Resources' on the right. Below the header, there are five tabs: 'Commercial Resources' (which is selected and highlighted in white), 'Educational Resources', 'Members Recommend', 'Recommendation Topics', and 'Locations'. Below the tabs, there is a list of five items:

- **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.