



Newsletter

October General Meeting — October 7th, 2025 at 7 PM at the Mount Vernon Christian School

EDUCATION UPDATE

Check out upcoming
NCWA Classes

IN MEMORY OF VAL MATTHEWS

Members share their
thoughts

LIBRARY UPDATES

Get the latest on the
New Library
Acquisitions

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

President's Message...

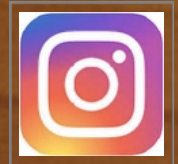
Thank you for your continued support and for being a valued member of NCWA. Our members are the heart of this organization, and your participation is crucial to our success.

This letter is to inform you that our annual membership dues will be adjusted from \$35 to \$45, effective for all renewals beginning October 1, 2025. This decision was made after careful consideration by the Board of Directors while reviewing the 2026 budget to ensure we can continue to deliver and enhance the high-quality programs, communication services, and benefits you expect from our club. Like many organizations, we have seen an increase in our operating costs, and this adjustment is necessary to keep pace with these rising expenses.

This membership fee increase, which has not happened in over eight years, will directly support our mission by allowing us to:

- Move to a hosted website at ClubExpress that will improve communication and connection between members, offering photo storage and enhanced services.

Connect with
your fellow
members:



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Website](#)

- Keep our operations running smoothly and sustainably with investments in food, monthly programs, classes, and audio-video equipment.
- Grow our library and social events, enabling us to improve learning and connectivity.

Our total operating expenditures have been growing year over year, from \$7.76K in 2023 to \$10.8K in 2024, with our current budget for 2025 coming in at \$15K. We are committed to being responsible stewards of your contributions and believe this adjustment will provide a better overall membership experience for everyone. While this is a relatively small increase, we are confident that the enhanced value you receive from your membership will continue to make it a worthwhile investment. Remember to use your 10% discount at our many local vendors that support NCWA.

Thank you once again for your support. We look forward to the year ahead.

Warm regards,
Barry Tonkin, Presiden

October 7th Presentation

Tom Bourne

Tom Bourne is a retired musician and woodworker who has combined these lifelong interests into building marimbas for schools and guitars for himself. Tom studied music in college and taught it at Central Washington University in the 80s, then worked independently for 25 years as Bourne Marimbas, making and selling marimbas to schools nationally and worldwide. A lifelong guitar player, Tom, in retirement, is satisfying the fretter's obsession with acquiring ever more guitars by building them as the urge dictates! He looks forward to presenting his approach to building guitars and playing his collection for NCWA

Upcoming Events at Grizzly

Tuesday, October 7, 10-2 pm: Shaper Origin will be here on their first stop of their west coast tour. They'll be demonstrating their tools, including their new Bench Pilot. They will be serving hotdogs!

Friday, October 24 8:30-4: Customer Appreciation Day in the showroom. We'll have special deals on tools (10% off every Grizzly, Shop Fox, and Steelex machine), plus light refreshments. SawStop will also be here demonstrating their tools.

October Raffle Prize!

Don't miss the Oct 7 meeting! Remember, tickets for the raffle are free and you can't win unless you attend.



This month's item is a high quality German made thin kerf, 10" X 24 tooth carbide-tipped ripping blade from Kingspor. Valued at \$47!

Bring and Brag

From the September Meeting



Mark Lindenbaum - Sapele and maple music stand from his own design -donation for the Bellingham Symphony's charity auction; 3 bent laminated legs; Osmo finish



Jim Bucknell - woven charcuterie board, nonskid rubber and copper-colored feet, finished with Howard's mineral oil for cutting boards; also brought a 3D printer glue bottle opener and a 3D printed hanger for a miter gauge



Jeff Palmer - Walnut and maple bandsaw box with spalted maple handle, used a Dremel to simulate the look of bark, finished with poly oil



Dave Steele - American chestnut root "Rorschach tests," book matching experiment to find faces and other objects in wood; used a mirror to see what pieces would look like



Christi Brua Weaver - Cedar dinosaur bank for Wood for Good (Toys Program) and table made of alder, cherry, purple heart, padouk, and pine; finished with spar varnish



Charlie Drake - embellished cherry turned peppermill



Library News

New (to us) Video Titles at the October Meeting

submitted by Bill Pierce and the NCWA Library Committee

Thanks to a generous donation, we are featuring a few new video titles at the October meeting for those of you fellow dinosaurs who still have a DVD player.

09-1157 Rob Crosman's The Wood-Hinge Box
Boxes are very popular in the club, and are a great way to try new skills with small bits of materials.

09-1158 The Secret Mitre Dovetail, by David Charlesworth
Feel like a graduate course in joinery with English attention to detail?

01-1159 Making Traditional Side Escapement Planes, by Larry Williams
Moulding planes are an elemental way to make small batches of custom mouldings. Learn the nearly lost art of making them.

10-1160 The Workbench, by Christopher Schwarz
Over the years, Christopher Schwarz has put a lot of thought into ways to hold work and get the most of your shop fixtures.

Stop by the library at the meeting and check them out!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - 2026

\$45.00 - Annual Dues - The best value in town.

Yes, it is that time again - time to renew your membership for 2026!

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

To pay dues on-line:

Log on to the NCWA web page and click on the PayPal button (note: most members will select the "Debit or Credit Card" button).

Enter your debit or credit card information (\$45.00 will automatically be charged to your card).

NCWA web page: <https://www.ncwawood.org/>

To pay dues with a personal check:

Mail a \$45.00 check (payable to NCWA) to the Club's treasurer at
NCWA

c/o Al Ashley, Treasurer
26220 48th Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223

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

Benefits of membership include:

Discounts from our vendor support group,

Monthly membership meetings - most will be in person with a few held via Zoom,

NCWA woodworking classes,

Library books and DVDs,

Monthly newsletter,

NCWA Chat - an online forum available only to our membership, and

As always, the opportunity to be associated with the best group of woodworkers in the Northwest.

Education Committee

Submitted by Andrew Pellar –

SHOP TALKS Shop Talks are informal educational opportunities. They offer an chance to see other members' shops and talk about woodworking. Its a great way to get ideas for your shop, meet other members, eat cookies and talk woodworking. To register you contact the host directly. We try to offer 2 each month. This month we will visiting Mark Lindenbaum and Earl Kessler.

Shop Talk # 1 - Bent Laminations and More

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Time: 10:00 - Noon

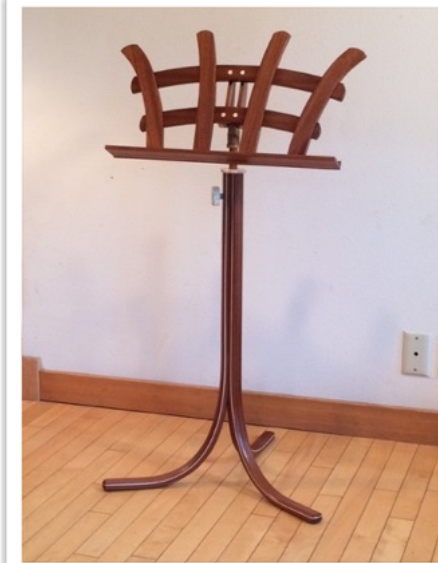
Location: 4101 Mill Avenue, Bellingham

Host: Mark Lindenbaum

Mark Lindenbaum is a musician and a woodworker. What could be better than combining his two passions into one. Mark will talk about his music stand made with bent laminations. But this being a Shop Talk allows for learning about much more. Mark makes and uses wooden hand planes. Heck he even has taught a class or two about making wooden planes. He has repaired furniture, he has built doors for his house. He certainly is a man of many interests.

To register, please e-mail Mark at: mlindenbaum3333@gmail.com

A \$ 5.00 donation is suggested for refreshments.



Shop Talk #2 - Getting Started in Woodworking

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Time: 10:00 - Noon

Location: 1411 Wilson Ave., Bellingham

Host: Earl Kessler

Join Earl Kessler as he discusses his journey from newbie to today. Earl works out of a small shop, a very small shop and yet produces some big furniture. An important part of his journey was a willingness to try things and build things for his shop. Cabinets, tables, jigs and various storage pieces to keep things organized were functional experiments to improve his craft.. Some have even been rebuilt a time or two as the shop evolved. Along the way he has collected tools that work for him and what he does. He will discuss equipping the shop.

This will be a great opportunity to meet other newer woodworkers and learn how to get better together.

To register, please e-mail Earl at: earl@earlkessler.com

CLASSES Our class are taught by generous members in their own shops. Registration is first offered at the meetings. If the class does not fill, then will be offered club wide via email. Just another great reason to attend meetings.

Scheduled Classes:

October 4 - Sharpening and Tuning a new Block Plane with Don Carlton and Anne Osborne

October 11 - 12 sided vessel with Greg Koenker and Jim Bucknell

October 11- November 15 (6 sessions) - Block Print - Jim Redding *** OPENINGS AVAILABLE**
To register contact me at: andf32plr@yahoo.com

November 8 - Chip Carving - Charlie Drake

November 15 - Engineering For Woodworkers - Bill Pierce

December 6 Design Symposium - King Dahl

December 6, 7, 13 - Box Making - Jerry Couchman

Recent Classes

Recently Bob Laufenberg, with Andrew Pellar, conducted Sharpen, Tune and Use a New Block Plane. It was a great chance to learn about hand planes and how to use them. Sharpening is a must and sharpen they did. Everybody got paper slicing sharp before putting those planes to work. The shavings were a flying for sure.

Bonnie writes:

... Although I have taken apart, and partially restored, a couple of hand planes, to have the parts function individually and collectively explained was very informative. Sharpening methods, and how to measure the progress of each step towards completion, was covered in detail. And along with the how-to, the why of each step, each part of the process, brought the whole into focus of the complete usage and beauty of the hand plane” ”

Bonnie definitely got it and so did the others. Silky shavings were expertly shorn.



Community Bulletin Board



If any member has an input that they would like to share in the monthly newsletter, such as tools / wood for sale, an upcoming woodworking event or some other pertinent woodworking news, please send a write up to Mark Kraus (mark.kraus@outlook.com) by the last Monday of the month for inclusion in the next NCWA newsletter.

REMEMBERING VAL MATTHEWS

1940 - 2025



With the passing of our friend and mentor we celebrate our memories of Val Matthews. Val helped many of us learn and improve our woodworking skills. We were always welcome to stop by Val and Laura's shop to see what projects were underway, get some help with issues we encountered in our own projects or just to visit and observe.

Val was a major force in the NCWA Toys for Tots project. He and Laura for many years hosted a Friday workshop with many of our members gathering under his watchful eye to create hundreds of cars, planes and boats for kids in need. For this, and their many other contributions, Val and Laura were the recipients of the NCWA Spirit Award in 2011.

Val was a skilled and creative woodworker by trade. It seems like there wasn't anything he couldn't make. Yet his skills weren't limited to woodworking. Val also loved cars. He restored a few and built a few.....the last of which many of us watched for several years in progress. It was

this car that seemed to be the combination of his skills.....not only did he build it from the frame up, he then applied his woodworking talents and it became a Woody! And in true Val fashion it was "perfect"!

Val and Laura hosted our club picnics for many years. These were memorable gatherings enjoying their spacious yard, viewing what was in progress in their shop, silent auction and feasting on a delicious potluck meal. At a few of our picnics we had contests.....pine box derby and spinning tops. Val's little car with precisely balanced wheels was the fastest! Val's spinning top with a turned brass point spun the longest!

Our memories of Val will be cherished forever.....always helpful, inspiring and with a great sense of subtle humor!

Val became a valued friend and an unrelenting mentor.
John Braun

Val was a great example for our community, especially us retired folks. Stay engaged and do something worthwhile!
Craig Edwards

Taking a woodworking class from Val Matthews was somewhat like attending an Irish Folk Dance Festival... lots of jigs. What an impressive mechanical mind and a kind-hearted and generous teacher.
David Shull

There will be lots of memories and tributes for Val. I think we should also honor and thank Laura for her generosity in sharing Val, their home and time to the club.
Chris Richards

I had the privilege of witnessing Val as a carpenter and woodworker, which in his case were the same thing. I will view his work around my home with awe for this amazingly talented person who was also a "Good Guy."
Don Power

Val & Laura's shop has always been much like a Boys & Girls Club for adults.....warm, welcoming, interesting and fun!
Rick Anderson

Val was a kind man, outstanding craftsman, patient instructor, always willing to answer questions, give advice and share his knowledge whether in his class or with a visit to his shop. He will be missed by all who knew him.
Bill Langjahr

Val was an amazing woodworker who shared his talents with so many of us as an instructor and a mentor. We were all fortunate to know him and Laura who were so generous to host our annual joint picnic for so many years.

Jerry Couchman

Val Matthews was GENEROUS...with his talent, time, and tools...and Laura's cookies were always the bonus. Val was the GENIUS of JIGS-they were ingenious and of heirloom quality.

Steve Johnson

Not only was Val a creative genius when it came to inventive ways to do just about anything, but he was always happy to share the how's and the why's of these creative nuggets with one and all.

George Knutson

Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2025, 2025

Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association

General Meeting

President: Barry Tonkin

Vice President: Earl Kessler

Call to order: 7:00

Approximately 60 members in attendance

Announcements

Upcoming Shop Talks - Chet Knoll (making a harpsichord) and router discussion

Classes - chip carving, engineering for woodworking, and sharpening and tuning up a new hand plane

Longtime member Val Matthews passed away last week, celebration of life is upcoming

New website is under development, will better serve the membership

Looking for someone who knows how to do sunburst finishing on a guitar - contact Chuck Barnett if you have experience

New Members

New members: Eric, part-time in Bellingham, mostly furniture building and turning; Larry, Concrete, carpenter all his life and interested in building furniture; Jerry, Burlington, experience remodeling and building cabinets but wants to improve skills; Lloyd, new to the area, beginner but wants to learn more

Bring and Brag

Charlie Drake - embellished cherry turned peppermill

Jim Bucknell - woven charcuterie board, nonskid rubber and copper-colored feet, finished with Howard's mineral oil for cutting boards; also brought a 3D printer glue bottle opener and a 3D printed hanger for a miter gauge

Christi Brua Weaver - Cedar dinosaur bank for Wood for Good (Toys Program) and table made of alder, cherry, purple heart, padouk, and pine; finished with spar varnish

Mark Lindenbaum - Sapele and maple music stand from his own design -donation for the Bellingham Symphony's charity auction; 3 bent laminated legs; Osmo finish

Jeff Palmer - Walnut and maple bandsaw box with spalted maple handle, used a dremel to simulate the look of bark, finished with poly oil

Dave Steele - American chestnut root "Rorschach tests," book matching experiment to find faces and other objects in wood; used a mirror to see what pieces would look like

Raffle

Flush cutting saw - Christi Brua Weaver

Three piece wood rasp set - David Fox

Presentation

Making a chisel - Paul Thorne, blacksmith

Smithing has been around for about 10,000 years, probably starting with copper; took 20 years to become a master

Does not take brute force, it takes technique

Paul works with iron, usually finds or is given free scrap iron

Iron is 55,000-65,000 pounds/square inch tensile strength, up to 120,000 pounds

Heating iron to 1800-2000 degrees fahrenheit (using propane forge) allows you to mold it into any shape by hitting it. Forging makes the metal close to 40% stronger than it was.

Kings often had slaves who were ironworkers, were valued for their skills

Uses basic tools - everything can be done strictly with muscle power using an anvil, tongs, and a heavy hammer

Presentation was on making a chisel out of an old file, which are extremely hard and tough and can retain a sharp edge

First need to calculate how much material you need and cut the chisel to the right length

Forge the tang (handle) first

Uses a "guillotine" to dent the sides and then pound out the tang

Tang is pounded to about ¼" wide and burned into a wood handle, he uses a special epoxy to secure it in the handle

Next, forge the blade. He always brands his work with his name

Final shaping and cleanup using grinders

Heat treating to make it even harder on the cutting edge but tough enough not to break

When iron hits 1675 degrees, it loses its ability to hold a magnet (critical temperature), so that's how he checks that it's at the right temperature

Cools it very quickly to freeze the molecules where they are. First use oil to quench it (will catch on fire) - will cool quickly without breaking metal. Can't let it cool slowly or the molecules go back to how they were. As long as he doesn't heat it back up again, it will stay that combination of hardness and toughness.

Handle is made of mahogany, put 2 copper rings on it to prevent it from splitting when pitting it with a hammer.

His art pieces are colorful using heat patina - 300 degrees makes the metal turn yellow, continuing to heat it will give you gold, then pink, then royal purple, then blue. Coat with wax or lacquer to stop corrosion and the colors will last for decades

Hammers (made from truck axels) have 2 ends - one rounded to move the metal in all directions, and one cross peen to move it in just 2 directions. Using those to head shapes, he can move the metal into any shape he wants. Handles made from hockey sticks (clear ash). Hickory baseball bats are also good, but cut them into rectangles so you know which way your head is facing when you're quickly switching between ends.

Can tell if the steel is low carbon (.1% carbon), medium carbon (.8% carbon), or high carbon (1.1% carbon) by the sparks when you put it to a grinder

Takes about an hour total to finish a chisel once you know what you're doing.

Classes - Call 360-293-8257, visit thornemetals.com, for more info

Adjourn: 8:54pm

Next Meeting: Oct. 7, 2025

September 19, 2025, 2025
Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association
Board of Director's Meeting

Attendees: Barry Tonkin, Earl Kessler, Al Ashley, Christi Brua Weaver, Jerry Couchman, Mark Kraus, Don Carlson, Andrew Pellar, Mike Titus, King Dahl

Call to order: 7:05pm

Card Reader Comparison - Christi Brua Weaver

Board approved using PayPal app for shows and other events

Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley

See Al's report for details

About \$2,400 less in the bank than at this time last year; Toys program (Wood for Good) has fund balance of about \$1,600

262 members - (256 last year); 30 new members this year (43 last year)

Expenses: Picnic, presenter, school rental, extra canopy for shows

Picnic was cheaper than last year; bbq grill was included with rental

Preliminary 2026 Budget - Al Ashley

Board reviewed preliminary budget and proposed changes

Discussed possibility of a shared workspace, speaker fee increase, holiday party budget, dues increase, storage space

Also discussed raffle tickets only to members who wear their nametags

Board voted to increase membership dues to \$50/year but there were concerns, so discussion will be continuing

Club Express

Still under development. Could take the place of much of the newsletter.

Members should be able to register for events/classes online

Tool Donation - Mark Kraus

Club has opportunity to obtain a significant amount of equipment, but Board must make a decision by the end of the year at the latest

Would require moving crew, storage space if we want to keep it for a future shared space

Mark will discuss with donor about possibility that we may need to sell it

Club should look into setting up as a 501(c)3 to accept tax-deductable donations

\$250-300 fee for application, \$20 secretary of state annual fee

Can take several months to get approval from IRS

Annual reporting and filing requirements

A lot of woodworking guilds in the US are 501(c)3s

Would also be beneficial for future shared space

Challenge is timing and work to set it up

Board voted to pursue 501(c)3 status

Andrew and Al will take the lead, Christi will be kept in the loop

Mark will talk with donor and will look into storage option

Adjourn: 9:09 pm

Next Board Meeting: October 18, 2025

Preferred Vendors offering DISCOUNTS to NCWA Members:

NORTH –

Hardware Sales

Bellingham Millwork

Hardwoods to Get

Windsor Plywood

Village Books

Grizzly

WEST –

Sebo's Hardware

SOUTH –

Martin Lumber/True Value

Stormo Hardwoods

CENTRAL –

Ekrem Hardware

Stockton's Paints in Bellingham and Mount Vernon

Mt. Vernon Building Center

Sherwin-Williams Paint

EAST –

E & E Lumber

SPECIALTY –

Edensaw Woods

FASTCAP

Klingspor Woodworking Shop

Rockler (in store only in Seattle and Northgate)

TrueTrac (use discount code WWGuild10)

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.

NCWA 2025 Board of Directors:

President – Barry Tonkin

Vice President – Earl Kessler

Secretary – Christi Brua Weaver

Treasurer – Al Ashley

Members at Large – Don Mason, George Knutson, Mark Kraus, Don Carlson

Committee Chairs:

Programs Committee – Craig Edwards

Education – Andrew Pellar

Shows – King Dahl/Jerry Couchman

Toys for Tots – John Braun

Newsletter – King Dahl

Library – Bill Pierce

Membership – Jerry Couchman

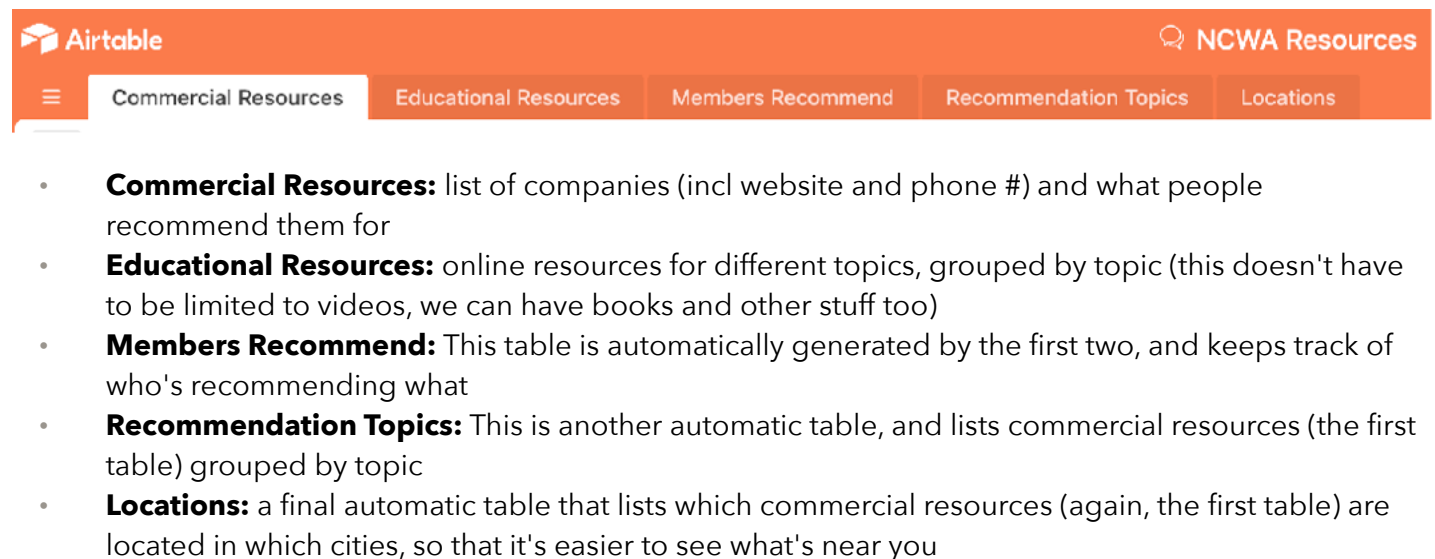
Shop Tours – TBA

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'. The top bar is orange with the Airtable logo on the left and the title 'NCWA Resources' on the right. Below the bar are five tabs: 'Commercial Resources' (selected), 'Educational Resources', 'Members Recommend', 'Recommendation Topics', and 'Locations'. Below the tabs, a list of five items is displayed, each with a bullet point and a bolded title followed by a description.

- **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.