



Newsletter

November General Meeting — November 4th, 2025, at 7 PM at the Mount Vernon Christian School

EDUCATION UPDATE

Check out upcoming
NCWA Classes

WINTERFEST

Click for news on a
VERY Special
December Meeting

LIBRARY UPDATES

Click for details on
the Book Sale at the
November Meeting

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

President's Message...

The weather it is cooling down, holiday projects are on the way, and time in the shop is hopefully picking up for everyone!

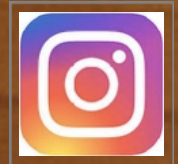
First, new officers will be getting voted in soon. Please be present at the next membership meeting. Our Holiday gathering is taking shape, and I highly recommend attending. Please RSVP with Craig and the team.

Our new website is taking shape and is being tested by the board. It will be launched soon with all kinds of great new features— photos and classes, etc. Not to mention a new forum discussion feature.

So, while outside activity might be slowing down, we have lots going on in the club. The Bylaws were taken off the old site for review and updating. We will be submitting them shortly for approval with the updates. See you all soon.

Barry Tonkin, President

Connect with
your fellow
members:



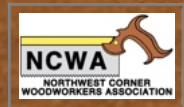
[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Website](#)

November 4th Presentation

Workbenches for Woodworkers

Club members **Rob Richey, Tim Buckley, and Bill Boettcher** will each present the story of their workbench, how it was built, why they chose the design they used, and what features they would change on their next bench.

If you are planning to build a workbench or want a better understanding of options for your current bench, you will want to attend this presentation.

Rob Richey recently joined NCWA. He has built a six-foot bench with wheels that he can move around his shop. Rob will be discussing his build experience and the advantages to his workbench layout.

Tim Buckley writes: I had aspired to be a competent woodworker since subscribing to Fine Woodworking magazine in their first year of publication 50 years ago, but I only had the resources and time starting about 10 years ago to be able to take up the hobby in earnest. Up until 6 years ago, I was still using a cheap Grizzly workbench that walked across the floor if I so much as sneezed. I was very much inspired by the Roubo style workbench and the elegant hardware manufactured by Benchcrafted and decided to tackle a build project that was a big step beyond my skills and experience at the time.

Bill Boettcher has been woodworking for 54 years and describes himself as an advanced beginner. There is always a lot to learn. In his retirement from his first career, Bill owned and operated a Woodcraft store in California for ten years. His store offered many workshops and seminars, including ones with world-renowned woodworkers.

Bill's primary interest over the years has been boat building. He has built several boats up to 18 feet in length. However, he has also built numerous furniture projects, such as dining tables, chairs, desks, etc. He is also a turner and does Northwest Indian-style carving, including masks, totems, and formline.

Bill's workbench is a Roubo-style bench which he built himself. It was designed by Andre Roubo in the mid-1700s and has stood the test of time for over 250 years. It is 8'6" long by 26 inches. It is constructed of European Beech and Sapele. It has a Benchcrafted leg vise and a wagon vise. The bench weighs approximately 660 pounds.

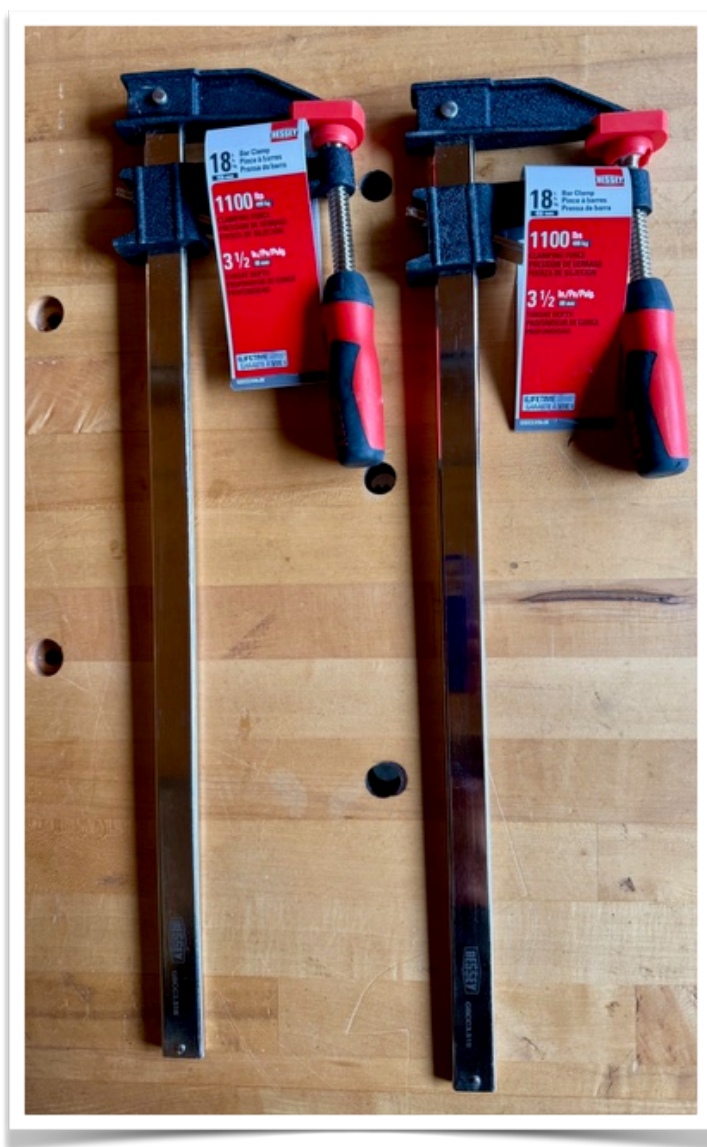
November Raffle Prize!

YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY CLAMPS!

Don't miss the **November 4th** meeting for a chance to win...

TWO Heavy-duty 18" Bessy Clamps.

Remember, tickets are free!





Library News

Library Sale at the November 4th Meeting

The NCWA Library will be holding a sale at the November meeting. The sale includes some books from our collection as well as donated books on woodworking and woodworking-related topics.

You can expect **garage-sale prices**, and some items will be free to a good home! Please bring cash (small bills appreciated). Proceeds from the sale go to NCWA programs.

Sales will begin at approximately 6:15 p.m., with a limit of 3 items per member, initially. At the break, sales will continue, with no limits.

Thanks to the members who have donated books!

Submitted by Bill Pierce and the NCWA Library Committee



Winterfest

December 2nd, 7-9 PM

Mount Vernon Commons Library

208 Kincaid Street, Mount Vernon

Our final meeting of 2025, on December 2nd from 7-9 PM, will be a Winterfest Celebration of our education, community involvement, and membership accomplishments.

Featuring:

- **Hosted at a new venue: The Mount Vernon Commons Library**
- **Multiple Raffle Items *PLUS* a Premium Tool Auction**
- **Snacks, desserts, coffee, tea and water**
- **Election for 2026 officers**
- **Plenty of time for great socialization**

More details will follow in the next few weeks. Meanwhile we need **YOU** to RSVP **NOW** so we can have enough food and prepare the library.

You may invite a guest or your spouse if you want. You can RSVP one of three ways:

1. RSVP at the November 4th meeting
2. Send a text to 425-246-8598. Include your name and if you will bring a guest.
3. Send an email to dcraig.edwards@gmail.com. Include your name and if you will bring a guest.



Bring and Brag

Form the October 7th Meeting



Peter Horton - cookbook stand made from sapele and maple, finished with Osmo 3051

Jim Bucknell - woven charcuterie board made from wood scraps, strips are made from maple, copper and rubber feet, finished with Howard's cutting board oil



Kent Crouse - English walnut box, parallelogram (80 and 100 degree), handmade aluminum feet and handles, 2 coats of orange shellac to bring out the color because the walnut was very pale, and then Seal Coat.





Joan Mann - intarsia portrait of his friend Ray who recently retired from the Everett Fire Department

Eric Shapow - Zebrawood and quartersawn white oak foot rest, finished with Danish oil



Charlie Drake - bowl with carved feet, used red and yellow milk paint

Bob Laufenberg - truck with crane (telescopes almost 4') and destroyer boat (floats but also has wooden ball wheels on the bottom), mostly made with scrapwood, some pieces of alder



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.

Dues for 2026 have started to roll in, and we need to keep them coming! About ten percent of our club members have already renewed their membership for next year.

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

To pay dues online 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 (\$45.00 will automatically be charged to your card).

To pay dues with a personal check:

Mail a \$45.00 check (payable to: NCWA) to the Club’s treasurer:

NCWA

c/o Al Ashley

26220 48th Ave NE

Arlington, WA 98223

Membership cards will be distributed to renewing members beginning in January.

Education Committee

Submitted by Andrew Pellar –

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, the sultry memories of summer are washed away by the wetness of winter. November and December loom before us with the promise of family and friends of the holiday season.

For the benefit of our newer members, a word about the club's Education program. We offer classes at the shops of your fellow members. They generously donate their time and knowledge for you. Sign-up sheets are available at the meetings. If a class does not fill at the meeting, it will then be offered via email to the membership.

In addition to the formal classes, we also offer Shop Talks. These are informal meetings where a host will discuss their work. The purpose is to get to know fellow members, learn about what they do in a low-pressure, social setting. It's a chance to ask questions and learn from the host and other attendees. Shop Talk events are announced in the newsletter. People wanting to attend will RSVP directly to the host. This is a great way to get involved. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your enthusiasm for woodworking.

Finally, we can use some help on the committee. Many hands lighten the load. Please consider helping out in some aspect; you and the club will be better for it.

If you have any questions, concerns, or want to help, contact Andrew Pellar at andf32plr@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Classes:

November 8, 2025 – **Chip Carving with Charlie Drake**

November 15, 2025 – **Engineering for Woodworkers with Bill Pierce**

December 6, 2025 – **Design Symposium** at King Dahl and Tom Bourne's shop, featuring Loren Steele, Kent Crouse, Bill Pierce, and Mark Kraus (*pending*)

Classes Under Development - In November and December, I will be reaching out to future class assistants for help in developing new classes in Routers, Table Saws, and Box Making. Together, we will formulate an outline and work through the class together. Then, early next year, we will offer the class to the club with me leading, with the help of some assistants. And finally, later in the year, after a class or 2, the helpers lead, and I act as the support. This method has worked well for other classes and is a great way to up your game and give back. Please contact me at andf32plr@yahoo.com to join the fun.

Shop Talks: We will be trying something different as the holidays approach. Something more social and very informal - Regional Morning Coffee. A time to get together with your fellow club members to talk about whatever and share. Stay tuned.



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.

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025, 2025

Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association General Meeting

President: Barry Tonkin

Vice President: Earl Kessler

Call to order: 7:01

Approximately 70 members in attendance

Announcements

- New website - hosted by Club Express, members will be able to see upcoming events, sign up for classes, see photo galleries, and more. Will take the place of the Google chat. Hoping it will be live in December. Will be two versions - one for members and one for nonmembers.
- Need volunteers to help categorize, organize, and price tools belonging to a long-time member who recently passed away in preparation for a tool sale. If you would like to help, see Nick Pederson or Charlie Drake.
- December 2nd meeting - holiday celebration at the new Mount Vernon Library Commons, will have appetizers and desserts, auction items, new officer elections. Please RSVP by the November meeting so organizers can appropriately order food.

New Members

Scott from Bellingham; Paul from Anacortes; Paul from Mariners Cove; east of Oak Harbor; Richard from Anacortes; Eric from Bellingham.

Raffle

Klingspor 10" 24-tooth ripping saw blade - Winner: Rick Anderson.

Bring and Brag

Peter Horton - cookbook stand made from sapele and maple, finished with Osmo 3051.

Kent Crouse - English walnut box, parallelogram (80 and 100 degree), handmade aluminum feet and handles, 2 coats of orange shellac to bring out the color because the walnut was very pale, and then seal coat.

Joan Mann - intarsia portrait of his friend Ray who recently retired from the Everett Fire Department.

Eric Shapow - Zebrawood and quartersawn white oak foot rest, finished with Danish oil.

Jim Bucknell - woven charcuterie board made from wood scraps, strips are made from maple, copper and rubber feet, finished with Howard's cutting board oil.

Charlie Drake - bowl with carved feet, used red and yellow milk paint.

Bob Laufenberg - truck with crane (telescopes almost 4 feet) and destroyer boat (floats but also has wooden ball wheels on the bottom), mostly made with scrapwood, some pieces of alder.

Presentation

Building guitars - Tom Bourne

First building experience was building a replica Gemini space capsule in 7th grade with his brother and father, 1967.

Studied how to build his first guitar in 1971.

Started making hardwood computer mice, then transitioned into making marimbas for schools - Bourne Marimbas (1998-present).

Has a shop in Bellingham but also travels to schools around the country and world to build instruments and work with kids.

Does 3-day workshops to teach adults how to make marimbas.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdzlwJQQcDg>

King Dahl took over his shop and builds the marimbas now.

Now he makes guitars - has made 9 so far and is still learning.

How to start building guitars? Started with books - John S. Bogdanovich Classical Guitar Making; Guitarmaking Tradition and Technology; and guitar schematics to get the right dimensions (Guild of American Luthiers <https://luth.org/> but lots of other places to purchase schematics).

Guitar wood and components

Backs and sides: wenge and padouk flooring, originally bought to make marimba bars

Roughly 3mm thick

Necks - sapele is becoming more common in necks - a sustainable alternative to mahogany

Most important to have the best piece of wood for the top

Bracing - tight grain, quartersawn spruce and cedar - lightweight and strong for bracing the tops and backs - purchases his from luthiery suppliers to ensure suitable grain

Gurian Instruments in Seattle; Pacific Rim Tonewoods in Concrete, Targo Hardwoods to get in Bellingham, Northridge Hardwoods in Sumas, WA

Fret wires, binding (can make your own or buy), rosettes and purfling/trim (can make your own or buy)

Go board - for gluing braces to tops and bottoms - fashioned from PVP pipe scraps

Bending sides - 2-3mm thick, then bend around a form - wet wood, piece of sheet metal and a heated rubber blanket, another piece of sheet metal, then clamp to form

Put it in a form with a spreader to conform the sides to the form

Uses Titebond glue for the most part

Neck block, heel unite the sides

Kerfing attached to sides to increase glue area to attach back and sides

Wide enough to allow for channel routing for binding strips

Binding needs to be bent on a bending iron to fit the channel without breaking

Before binding is applied, a trapezoidal strip of padauk is inserted where the sides meet

Neck - dovetail joint - the pencilled center line on the neck must align perfectly with the top's jointed center line and the neck top surface must be flat with the top of the body - the toughest part

Luthiery tools, jigs, and templates

Must have a template

Made an adjustable jig for any size guitar

Uses scrapers for thinning tops, bottoms, and shaping the neck

Straight edge rectangular aluminum tube for sanding perfectly flat surfaces

14" radius sanding block for sanding a radiused fingerboard

Fret hammer - for installing frets on fingerboard - one side is plastic and one side is brass

Flush cut fret trimmers (also can be used to pry out fret that needs to be replaced)

Fretboard leveler - after frets are installed, they must be leveled

Fretboard beveler - to smooth the sides of the fret board

Fret file for smoothing and shaping the frets without marring the fingerboard

Tapered reamer - for shaping tapered holes for the bridge pins and the end pin that holds a guitar strap.

Various sanding blocks to fit every nook and cranny.

Building guitars means you learn how to repair a broken guitar too.

Long-neck clamps reach in and reattach the bridge.

Plays every other Friday at Welcome Road Winery in Bellingham.

ournemarimbass@gmail.com

Adjourn: 8:55 p.m.

October 16, 2025
Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association
Board of Director's Meeting

Attendees: Barry Tonkin, Earl Kessler, Al Ashley, Jerry Couchman, Christi Brua Weaver, Don Carlson, Andrew Pellar, Mark Kraus, Mike Titus, King Dahl, Nick Pederson, George Knutson, Bill Pierce, Don Mason

Call to order: 7:03 p.m.

Spirit Award:

VP Earl will take nominations.

Winner will be kept secret until the December meeting.

Bylaws - Al Ashley:

Need to be voted on by membership in the November meeting.

Preliminary 2026 Budget - Al Ashley:

With \$45 dues, we end up with a shortfall of about \$3,845; enough in the bank to cover this loss comfortably.

Proposed budget was unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley:

See Al's report for details.

About \$2,300 less in the bank than at this time last year.

266 members - (261 last year); 35 new members this year (48 last year).

Applied for 501(c) status, but the EIN was incorrect; Al is working on it.

Winterfest - Earl Kessler:

Soliciting vendors and members for donations (tool, wood, etc.).

George has a donation solicitation letter from a previous club that he will share with Earl.

Confirmed that it will be at the Mount Vernon Library Commons; AV committee will go soon to learn about the AV equipment and what we need; King will be MC.

Will have light appetizers, desserts, and nonalcoholic drinks.

31 members RSVP'd at the October meeting, hoping for 100 so there will be several emails about it.

EIN issue has hindered PayPal tap-to-pay app.

Programs - Earl Kessler

November - Workbenches - 3 different sizes and styles, Bill Boetcher, Tim Buckley, Rob Ritchey

December - Winterfest

January - Bob Benard, Building your own shop power tools

February - Chet Noll, Butterflies

March - Stuart Welch, 50 years of woodworking and mistakes he's made

Also in discussions with Lynden Door for a tour next year.

501(c) Update

Some concerns about the bylaws, so the board will review before re-posting on the website.

Reserving the club name with the Secretary of State.

Andrew will be the incorporator.

Will need to update the address to the Treasurer's address and information.

Al will send all board members' names, titles, and addresses to Andrew.

Need to register as a corporation first.

Will need to create a corporate binder with all our official documents (multiple copies for select board members), will need to file an annual report.

Tool donation

Board voted to decline the donation due to no viable storage space; would like to connect the donor to Maker Space on Camano Island.

Dedicated Workspace

Most of the board is in favor of the idea of a dedicated space, but cost and practicality may be prohibitive.

Recommendation to have a feasibility study done first.

Suggestion to have our president reach out to Turner's president to gauge interest in a shared space.

Need to provide more information to the membership about the idea.

Adjourn: 9:15 p.m.

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

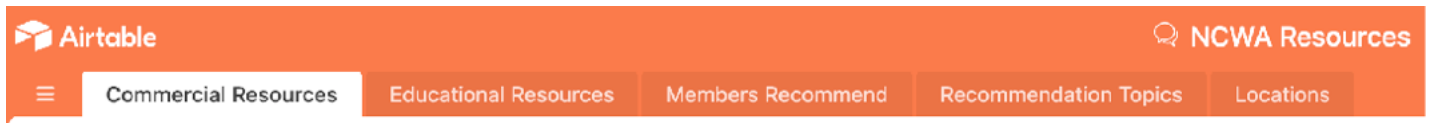
Shop Tours – TBA

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.



- **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.