



# Newsletter

**December 2, 2025, 7 PM - SPECIAL LOCATION**

**Mount Vernon Library Commons 208 Kincaid St., Mount Vernon**

## EDUCATION UPDATE

Check out upcoming  
NCWA Classes

## WINTERFEST

Click for details on our  
VERY Special  
December Meeting

## BRING & BRAG

November's projects  
submitted by  
members

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

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

### **Happy Festivities and Tis the Season -**

We have a lot of activities as we head into the end of year. Where did it go? As we finish off the holiday projects for families that most of us volunteer for, or get volun"told" to do, I want to say thank you for all the support the membership have provided this year, and the countless hours the board/committees have put in to make a lot happen and grow our club in new and exciting ways.

I also want to invite and welcome everyone to **"WINTERFEST"** on **December 2nd**, at the **Mount Vernon Library Commons** (the new library) located at **208 W Kincaid St., Mount Vernon**. It'll be wonderful hanging out with everyone in a social setting (see details below).

Our new website will launch this December - look for your invitation coming soon, we will slowly ramp up more and more features as we settle in.

We will also vote in new leadership coming in and exciting times ahead. Want to be a part of the leadership team? The position of club Secretary is, as of yet, unfilled.

I hope you all have a great holiday season. *Barry Tonkin, President*

**Connect with  
your fellow  
members:**



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Website](#)

# Winterfest

**December 2nd, 7-9 PM**

***SPECIAL LOCATION –Mt. Vernon Library Commons***

**208 Kincaid Street, Mount Vernon**

## **Parking:**

***There is plenty of free parking on the upper floors.*** The Commons area of the library is in the East end of the building. Since the library closes at 6:00 PM, it will be most convenient for you to park near the East end of the parking area and take the elevator to the first floor. Then exit the elevator and enter the Commons area from the main doors from Kincaid Street.

## **Food:**

Great Holiday Desserts and Light Snacks  
Coffee, Tea, Water

## **Sack Raffle:**

Bring **CASH** or **CHECKS** for the raffle tickets. ***There are over 40 Sack Raffle Items ranging from \$40-\$400!*** Raffle items include both hand and power tools, gift cards from our preferred vendors, and wood, including several slabs. Most of these items will fit into a normal car, but we have one 9-foot live-edge olive wood slab, so if you're interested, bring an appropriate vehicle.

## **The sack raffle will operate as follows:**

- Tickets will be **\$1 each**. You can buy as many as you want. **CASH** or **CHECKS** only. Sorry, no credit or debit cards.
- You will place as many tickets as you want in the item's paper sack.
- The raffle will close at approximately 8:00 PM and the winning ticket will be drawn from each sack. If you are not present or cannot find your ticket in a reasonable time, another ticket will be drawn.
- Please take all items you win at the end of the evening.

**PLUS...**

## **Premier Tool Auction:**

**Festool Track Saw** – Model TS 55 FEQ-F-Plus-FS, and includes FS1400/2 Guiderail and comes with a 55" track – **Valued at over \$800**. This tool is highly rated and will be sold to the highest bidder in a live auction. This item can be paid for with cash or a check.





## Bring and Brag

### Form the November 4th Meeting



**Christi Brua Weaver, Dave McCandliss** – 12-sided vessel in Greg Koenker's class, Jim Bucknell was assistant



**Eric Shapow** – Walnut night stands finished with Rubio Monocoat, plans and templates from [foureyesfurniture.com](http://foureyesfurniture.com)



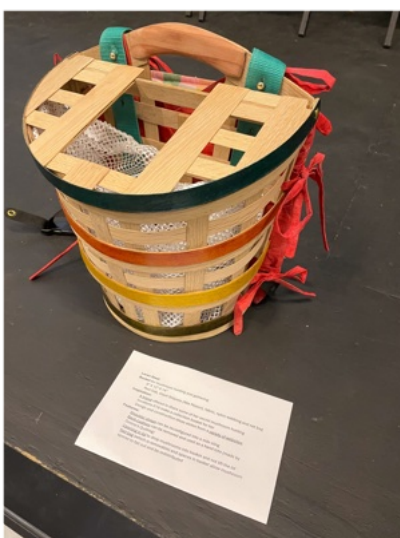
**King Dahl** – Sapele and maple necklace and earring holder, finished with Livos

**Clark Gaulding** – Toy trucks for grandchildren and great grandchild, various types of wood, finished with polyurethane

**Bob Laufenberg** – Pine Model T Ford that will be donated for Christmas, finished with shellac



**David Steele** – Hemlock helping tower for young kids to help in the kitchen



**Loren Steel** - Red oak and giant sequoia handle mushroom collection basket, padded back that has handstraps, back straps can be reconfigured to be worn as a backpack or on hip, unfinished

## **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - 2026**

#### **\$45.00 - Annual Dues**

Dues for 2026 continue to roll in – but a bit slower than expected! About 32% of our club members have renewed their membership as of November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Members have the option to renew their membership and pay their dues by mail or at one of our monthly membership meetings. Unfortunately, paying with PayPal has been temporarily suspended.

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 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.

***SAVE THE DATE!* January 6, 2026 General Meeting Presentation:**

### **Building Machines for the Shop with Bob Barnard**

Forty-seven years ago, I had no money and needed a table saw. So, with an old washing machine motor and a work arbor, I built one. With some modifications, this is the same saw I use today. My success with the table saw has led to a long series of machines that now populate my shop, culminating in a monster born of hubris that I am struggling with. I'll talk about my successes and failures, as well as some design considerations, to give you a perspective on what machines can be made in the home shop.



# Education Committee

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

December 10, 10-Noon – You are invited to a **Shop Talk** at Skylark's restaurant in Fairhaven on This is strictly social but I expect woodworking will be discussed. I encourage newer members or uninvolved members to come out and meet their fellow club members. Just so we can get a head count, please RSVP to Anne at: [eanncotton@gmail.com](mailto:eanncotton@gmail.com)

**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.

## **Members Gather to Boost Engineering Skills** – *Submitted by Bill Pierce*

On Saturday, November 15th, Kent Crouse, Jim Bucknell, Dave McCandliss, and Dana Wolf gathered at Bill Pierce's shop for a brand-new class: **Engineering for Woodworkers.**

After a review of some basic math and physics, we learned about the mechanical properties of wood. We learned how to calculate the magnitude of hygroscopic expansion for different species and compared the results to real samples of wood. We learned about the physics of tipping with a table made of 2X4s, estimating the load that a piece of furniture can take while remaining upright. Then, we learned how to calculate the strength of wood posts and beams and measured the bending of an alder beam until it failed.

Finally, we looked at clamping pressure requirements and saw, first-hand, how clamping pressure is distributed by cauls of varying thickness.

Gingersnap cookies from Bill's wife, Lisa, were a welcome Fall treat.



## 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](mailto:mark.kraus@outlook.com)) by the last Monday of the month for inclusion in the next NCWA newsletter.*

Jeff Brandenburg is selling a shaper. He can be reached at **360-202-3510** or email [jbranden4444@gmail.com](mailto:jbranden4444@gmail.com) if interested.

3HP 220V Jet Shaper, Model JWS 25CS with a Grizzly 4129 ½ HP Power Feeder and an impressive set of fixed and custom cutters.

With the power feeder your hands never get close to the cutter and it will run clean edges all day on anything you run through it.

**Price: \$1200** for everything included:

Shaper, Power Feeder, Long Power Cord, ¾" Spindle, ½" Spindle, ¾" Cutter Head for custom knives with one set of custom knives for half-lap tongue and groove. Dozens of cutters for tongue and groove, rabbeting, edge jointing, bull nosing, glue jointing, and cabinet door rail and stile profiling, and cabinet door panel cutting.



Eric McRory has a saw sharpener for sale. The tool is a SVOPE Circular Saw Blade Sharpener 370w. 3600-RPM Rotary Angle Mill Grinder. It can be [purchased at Lowes](#) for \$169.99. **Price: \$50.** All you have to do is pick it up from my shop. It's a machine that is used to sharpen carbide table saw blades. Contact Eric at **360 303-7410** or at [ericmcrorey@gmail.co](mailto:ericmcrorey@gmail.co)



# Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2025

## Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association Business Meeting

President: Barry Tonkin

Vice President: Earl Kessler

Call to order: 7:00

Approximately 100 members in attendance

### **Announcements**

- Most of classes are full but add name to waitlists in case of cancellations
- New website will be in beta testing in December-January
- Class signups will remain in person at meetings first, then go to online signups
- Next meeting will be in Mount Vernon Library Commons - Winterfest celebration (spouses welcome), raffle, tool auction, new officer election, Spirit Award

### **New ByLaws**

- Sent out in email, approved by membership

### **Need Volunteers!**

- Looking for members to volunteer on committees, put together the newsletter, new secretary

### **Bring and Brag**

- Ray Bechard, Maple turned bowls, finished with wax
- Dave McCandliss, Jim Bucknell, Christi Brua Weaver - hemlock 12-sided vessel in Greg Koenker's class, Jim Bucknell was assistant
- King Dahl - Sapele and maple necklace and earring holder, finished with Livos
- Eric Shapow - Walnut night stands finished with Rubio Monocoat, plans and templates from foureyesfurniture.com
- David Steele - Hemlock helping tower for young kids to help in the kitchen
- Bob Laufenberg - Pine Model T Ford that will be donated for Christmas, finished with shellac
- George Lamphear - Pine rocking giraffe that will be donated for Christmas, finished with shellac

- Clark Gaulding - Toy trucks for grandchildren and great grandchild, various types of wood, finished with polyurethane
- Loren Steel - Red oak and giant sequoia handle mushroom collection basket, padded back that has handstraps, back straps can be reconfigured to be worn as a backpack or on hip, unfinished

## **Raffle**

Two 18" Bessey clamps - Ron Collinson

## **Presentation**

### **Work Benches for Woodworkers - Rob Richey, Tim Buckley, and Bill Boettcher**

Rob's Workbench

- 6' long, 23" depth, fir top (poplar, ash, red oak, maple for the rest of it, walnut accents), on wheels so he can move it where he needs it
- Face vise is inset into the top so a piece can be clamped the whole way across the front
- [HNT Gordon tail vise](#)
- Tool tray on the bottom
- Rockler barrel bolts holds the base together
- Frustration making the top: Used several planes trying to get it flat. Ended up making a router sled and using a 2" router bit, which made the top very flat (Don't do it inside your shop! It makes a huge mess!)
- Uses bench dogs
- Recommends using YouTube and workbench books
- One coat of tung oil on the top, 2 on the legs and stretcher

Tim's Workbench

- 7'3" long, 24" depth
- Purchased [plans](#) for a Roubo workbench by Benchcrafted
- 8 quarter ash with sipo accents
- Watched YouTube, read lots of magazine articles, and studied the plans
- Face vise, sliding deadman, wagon vise
- Gap in the middle is designed to allow you to clamp things in the middle of the bench
- Shelf on the bottom gathers chips and sawdust, which is a pain to clean because he stores things on the shelf. An option would be to build cabinets.
- Uses bench dogs
- Barrel bolts on the legs
- Designed to be able to be disassembled if needed

Bill's Workbench

- 8'6" long, 26" depth, 660 pounds, top is dead flat and dead level to the floor, built to the right height for him
- Leg vise, wagon vise, sliding deadman
- Consider the size needed - Bill builds boats and large pieces of furniture, and uses handtools, including making his joints, so he needed a larger workbench (but used power tools to build his workbench)
- Suggests 8 quarter minimum but prefers 12 or 16 quarter, and buy 150% of the amount of wood needed so you can select the pieces
- Wood for the bench cost about \$940, total with all materials \$2,560; Benchcrafted will send a similar bench for nearly \$6,000
- [Festool hardware](#) to make it very solid (essentially a stainless steel tenon) - need a Festool Domino to install
- Bench took about 120 hours to build, takes 2 people - it takes a workbench to build a workbench
- Top is laminated with 2x4 European beech (1800 janka scale)
- Uses a variety of holddowns
- Did not use dovetails because there is a risk of wood movement
- [Christopher Schwarz](#) workbench book - recommends using a 4 quarter chunk of wood all in one piece that he has to replane occasionally, so Bill does not recommend that.
- Finished with Danish oil
- Beyond 26-28" wide is probably too wide for a workbench, but you can't go too heavy or too long. Cabinets under the bench may interfere with ability to clamp under the top.

Adjourn: 8:42pm



**November 20, 2025**  
**Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association**  
**Board Meeting**

**Attendees** – Barry Tonkin, Earl Kessler, Al Ashley, Christi Brua Weaver, Andrew Pellar, Mark Kraus, King Dahl, George Knutson, Bill Pierce, Marc Lathrop, Kent Crouse, Loren Stee, John Braun  
Call to order: 7:04pm

**Treasurer's Report - Al Ashley**

- See Al's report for details
- About \$2,900 less in the bank than at this time last year
- 270 members - (265 last year); 39 new members this year (51 last year)
- 32% of members have renewed so far
- Application to IRS for nonprofit recognition resubmitted and waiting to hear back
- New federal ID number received
- Banner Bank requires a board resolution to be passed to update our account with the new federal ID number
- Al will apply for Stripe credit card service for Club Express

**Winterfest - Earl Kessler**

- 129 RSVPs - 11/24 will be the cutoff for RSVPs and committee will order food then
- 37 confirmed raffle items (wood, tools), plus auction item - must be present to win
  - Will be taking checks and cash
- George and Greg checked out the AV system and are ready, King will be MC
- Meeting agenda is established

**Spirit Award - Earl Kessler**

- Winner has been determined and will be announced at December meeting

**Website Launch**

- Scheduled to go live on December 3 but may change
- Finalizing final details
- Will retain same URL, it will just go to the new website
- Once we're live, membership will receive an email announcing it and asking them to set up an account so they can access roster, sign up for classes, etc.
- Will plan a demo but members may need more training, perhaps over Zoom

**Wood for Good**

- Laura and Val's son Leo has offered his shop to continue making toys
- Skagit group will be turning in toys to the Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund tomorrow

Adjourn: 8:25 pm

## 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](mailto: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