

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



April 2016

<http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>

An association for woodworkers of all skill levels to share their common interest

The Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday, May 26, 2016** at 6:30 PM

Location: **Rockler Woodworking-Northgate**

832 NE Northgate Way

Seattle, WA 98125

Program Highlight: **Hand Plane and Chisel Usage**

Mark Martinez is scheduled to give a presentation regarding **Hand Planes, Chisels, and Their Usage**. This should be an educational meeting to help us understand these important, basic hand tools, including how to sharpen and use them.

April 2016 Meeting Highlights

Newsletter Photos by Chris Yee

Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson

The **April 2016** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, April 28, 2016** at **Woodcraft**. Twelve members were present including new members **Alex Smithing** and **Tony Grosinger** and guest **Peter Martincic**.

We want to express our appreciation to **Ron and Michelle Hall** and the **Woodcraft** staff for providing a wonderful venue and helping us set up for this meeting. We really appreciate your long standing support of the **Association**.

Current Projects & Q'n'A

Jan Erickson asked for advice related to reattaching a chisel handle to the chisel tang, as her tool parts had decided to part company. A number of suggestions were made, but the most common one was simply to assemble the two pieces vertically with the chisel portion on top and lustily whack the end of the handle on the workbench. This technique was tried and seemed to have resolved the problem. These handles are a friction fit with the chisel tang and sometimes loosen if the wooden handle dries out a little causing shrinkage.

Chris Green sought some suggestions for making 1 ½ inch deep crosscut kerfs in the end of a half inch dowel. The suggestion was made to bore a snug fitting hole in a 2 inch or so thick block on a drill press and insert the dowel, noting that a clamp could be used at the top of the block to prevent the dowel from slipping downward. Then the block with the dowel inserted could be ripped and crosscut on a table saw, accurately aligning the centerline of the dowel with the saw blade centerline prior to each cut.

Charlie Culler noted that he was having a problem with the design of a cocobolo valet box he is making. His attempts to describe the problem with sketches on the white board indicated that an analysis might be easier if he brought a drawing to the next meeting so that we could better understand the problem and assist him with a solution.

Charlie also mentioned that his custom fishing net project was a smashing success! He labeled the project “**Dragnet**” and the recipient, a police executive, hadn’t let it out of his sight since receiving it! Good show, **Charlie**!

Allen McCall provided us with his resolution to a problem he had described at our last meeting when he was attempting to come up with a design that would allow his TV remote control to engage his TV IR sensor system through a glass cabinet door. As shown, his solution was a creative and elegant one – a beautiful cherry cabinet door with an open grid work configuration, designed so that the IR sensor was positioned behind one of the open areas! Great solution, **Allen**!



Upcoming Events

Our **May 26, 2016** meeting will be held at **Rockler-Northgate**. **Mark Martinez** will give a presentation regarding **Hand Planes, Chisels, and Their Usage**. Should be an educational meeting to help us understand these important, basic hand tools.

The **June 30, 2016** meeting will be held at **Woodcraft Supply**. **Herb Stoops** will give us an interesting and entertaining presentation about the **Design and Fabrication of Wooden Locks**. He will be showing us a wide variety of wooden lock configurations, some of which are his own custom designs! This is definitely a “don’t miss” meeting! You will really enjoy it!

Program Highlight - “Challenged by a 2 x 4”

As in previous years, this program was dedicated to challenging the creativity of our members to come up with some interesting projects made from a construction grade softwood 2 x 4. Unlike previous programs, and in response to prior years' member comments, this year's program was not a contest, with no member voting or prizes awarded. Having accommodated the wishes of the group by eliminating the competition between participants, we hoped that there would be a good member response with a variety of projects. But unfortunately, only four of our members, three of whom were **Steering Committee** members, provided projects for our enjoyment! And interestingly, none of those who had objected to the previous year's project competition even took the time to attend this meeting or present a project.....! It would seem certain that continuation of this type of program will be under serious review by the **Steering Committee**. Folks don't seem to understand that *nonparticipation* does indeed send a message – or maybe they do.....!?

However, we are thankful for the efforts of those who chose to participate in the meeting and share their projects with us. We enjoyed your display of creativeness, craftsmanship, innovation, and participatory support of the **Association**.

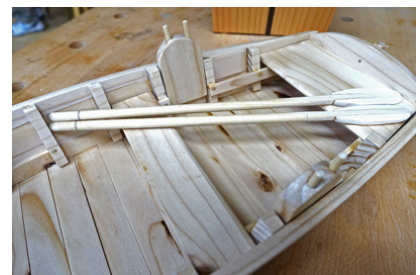
Tom Walko presented a delightful model boat named “**Fir Fishin**”, which he



had skillfully crafted from his 2 x 4. He noted that the boat model was a flat bottomed skiff – a design which is best suited for use on lakes and ponds. We were fascinated by the amazing attention to detail in the project which



included such features as oars and oarlocks. He said the model was built upside down and then inverted to add the interior floor planking, seats, and other details. **Tom** noted that model boat building is one of his favorite hobbies and one which he is intending to focus on in the future. What a great project, **Tom**! It certainly is a great illustration of what a complex, finely crafted project can be made from a humble 2 x 4! Thanks for sharing it with us.



Herb Stoops, reinforcing that old woodworker's axiom that “**You can never have too many clamps!**” used his 2 x 4 to make a pair of **Adjustable Bar Clamps**. **Herb** said that some searches on the internet produced a wide variety of plans for wooden bar clamps. Combining some of the best aspects of several designs, he built a dandy pair of sturdy bar clamps with some really unique features. Note that, except for the hardware items, all of the component parts of the clamps were made from the 2 x 4 stock.

One of the unique, user friendly, features of his clamp design was the quick adjust tailblock, made possible by the use of notches in the lower edge of the clamp bar to engage a linkage pin attached to the tailblock. This feature allows rapid resetting of the clamping range in what appeared to be about 1” increments.



Wanting to provide the best clamp screw adjustment, **Herb** opted not to use the easiest method, which would have simply used a length of Allthread. Instead, he ordered **Acme** threaded rod and matching **Acme** nuts from **McMaster Carr** (<http://www.mcmaster.com/#>). This high quality hardware greatly improves the smoothness of the screw travel, and provides a high strength, uniform clamping action.

To complete the clamp assemblies, **Herb** made the adjustment knobs from pieces of the 2 x 4 by drilling a series of holes in a circular pattern and cutting out the knobs along the hole centerlines, producing a fluted surface for secure gripping. What a great, innovative project, **Herb**, and a really practical one, too! Good job!!



Chris Green showed us one of his turned cone shaped art forms which he had made from his 2 x 4. Noting that the width of the 2 x 4 stock was not great enough to produce the largest diameter of his project, **Chris** cleverly decided to cut the material on the diagonal, effectively increasing its width to accommodate his desired diameter. The diagonally cut, wedge shaped pieces were then joined to produce a block of sufficient diameter for his project. Where there’s a will, there’s a way, huh **Chris**! Great solution!



He also noted that, having made the component parts of the project discrete pieces, he was able experiment with the stacking placement of the various individual shapes. This enabled him to develop the most eye pleasing combination to produce the desired effect. **Chris** also noted that the “checkerboard effect” noticeable in the center section, was produced by the orientation of the individual blocks used for that section – apparently the light reflection from the different orientation of the pieces produced the unexpected effect. This wonderful, if unplanned, feature further enhanced the beauty and uniqueness of the project.



Chris also brought along another of this cone project series for our viewing pleasure. This one, entitled “**Tibetan Thing-a-ma-jig**”, was made from laminations of Baltic Birch plywood, providing a very interesting striated appearance, which was enhanced by his colorful application of acrylic paints.

What beautiful additions to your “**Cone Series**” of artistic creations, **Chris**. Thanks for sharing them with us.



Paul Stoops displayed an angular, faceted jewelry box made primarily of **Douglas Fir** 2 x 4 material. Other wood species were also used on the project, such as **Peruvian Walnut** to provide a contrasting color trim accent, and **White Ash**, used for some of the thinnest parts of the drawers to provide improved dimensional stability. **Paul** noted that the **Douglas Fir** material less than ½” thick, milled from his 2 x 4, was very unstable and prone to warpage – a characteristic he could almost see

happening!

Self-adhesive velvet material from **Rockler**, was used to line the bottoms of the drawers.



This box had an angular shape similar to a hardwood version he showed at last month’s **Show’N’Tell**, except the previous one had a hinged **Walnut Burl** lid and a lift out internal tray.



Originally intended to be a possible charity auction project, **Paul’s** wife **Sara**, informed him that, “**I gotta have that one!**” Well, doesn’t the old saying go that “**Charity begins at home!**”.....??!!

David Beyl (206-409-1321, ddbeyl734@aol.com) generously offered to tutor any of the members to help them prepare a project for a future **2 x 4 Challenge** or similar event.

Show ‘N’ Tell

Dennis Green, a former **Association** member stopped by to visit our meeting and brought along a couple of his exquisite marquetry creations. Both of the pictures were stunning! **Dennis** noted that he has redirected his focus away from woodworking to writing short stories.



In this picture, **Dennis** was attempting to capture the contrast in appearance of his Asian girl subject, dressed in typical Western clothing with her appearance when she emerged from the dressing room attired in her full native costume.

The second picture depicts a Nativity Grotto scene:



Note from the Editor



Frankly, I was disappointed in the apparent lack of interest in our “**Challenged by a 2 x 4**” meeting, since the **Steering Committee** attempted to be responsive to comments from the membership about this type of meeting by removing the competitive nature and relaxing the rules. I’m sure there were probably some valid reasons that so few members chose to participate this year. The **Steering Committee** will no doubt review this meeting and decide whether or not similarly themed meetings will be conducted in the future.

It was great to have our **Secretary, Jan Erickson**, back with us for the meeting and providing her great notes for this **Newsletter**. A special thanks to **Chris Yee** for helping us out, on such short notice, by taking the photos for this meeting in the absence of our regular **Staff Photographer, Scott Wilson**. Good job, folks! We really appreciate you stepping up to the plate for us!

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

Items for Sale

Tom Walko is downsizing his shop and has the following items for sale:

These are the tools I am selling either before or during the yard sale on May 21. If any club member wishes to see anything before the sale, I am home most days. My number is **206 498-5877** and my address is **858 NW 65th St. in Ballard**.

General 10" tilting arbor cabinet saw, wired for 110/120V with Shopfox movable base, mite gauge, zero clearance table insert, regular and dado inserts, splitter, 3 blades, wrenches and all instructions.

A Jet 12" bandsaw on stand with retractable wheels. Includes 1/8", 1/4" and 1/2" blades, zero clearance insert, all wrenches and instructions.

A Jet Shop Vac with 4" hose.

Rockler router table with fence, plate for Porter/Cable router, feather boards, and coping sled. Porter/Cable router with assortment of 1/2" shaft router bits, plunge base, case, etc.

Rikon midi lathe 70-100. 12" swing, 16" between centers, 6 speeds. Includes lathe stand, Woodriver 8 piece turning set with canvass case, Delta GR450 grinder set on a Wolverine grinding jib, with DVD instructions, Teknatool Nova 1" chuck insert and a Nova midi chuck.

Misc. Tools:

belt sander, electric nail gun, various bar clamps, Bessey clamps, vise grips, hatchet, keyhole and hand saw, Incra Miter 2000, magnetic feather board, Gripper system for table saw, Freud dado blade set, Rockler "L" braces and clamps, a sheetrock-size 'T' square, and many smaller shop items.

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We encourage our members to contact any of the above individuals with questions, comments, or items that may be of interest to the membership.

In addition, please visit our website and forum: <http://www.nwoodworkers.org>