

## ***Northwest Woodworkers Association***

# ***THE SAWDUST NEWS***



February 2017

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

## ***The Next Meeting***

**Date:** **Thursday, March 30, 2017** at 6:30 PM

**Location:** **Woodcraft Supply**

**5963 Corson S.**

**Seattle, WA 98125**

**Program Highlight:** **Design and Fabrication of a Roubo Workbench**

Join us this month as Tony Grosinger gives an in-depth presentation on the inspiration, design, and build for the Roubo workbench he showed at our last meeting. His presentation will include bench theory, building material, and how he made a wood thread leg vice. Bring a few photos of your own bench on a thumb drive to share with the members.

## ***February 2017 Meeting Highlights***

### ***Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson***

The **February 2017** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, February 23** , 2017 at **Rockler - Northgate**. Eleven members and one guest were present.

We want to express our appreciation to **Casey Sheehan, Manager**, and the **Rockler - Northgate** staff for providing a wonderful venue for this meeting and the meeting refreshments. We really appreciate your long standing support of the **Association**.



## ***New Members & Guests***

We want to extend a hearty welcome to our guest for the meeting, **Don Beacom**, who also became our newest member. **Don** explained that he is nearing retirement and wishes to revive his interesting in woodworking. He explained that currently he builds cedar planter boxes for use on patios and such, which he sells at craft fairs. We hope that he will bring in some of his planters for us to admire. Maybe we could even twist his arm and get him to give us a presentation on his planter box design and construction methods and equipment.....?! What say you, **Don**??



## ***New Tools***



**Mark Martinez** noted that he had had his eye on a **Worksharp 3000** tool sharpener since **Tom Howorth** and **Herb Stoops** had shown their tools and accessories at a previous meeting. He explained that the recent awarding of performance bonuses by his employer, **Boeing**, had enabled him to finally make the leap and purchase one of these fine machines. We look forward to some future feedback on his experience with the **Worksharp 3000** in his shop. Congratulations on your purchase, **Mark**! [**Ed. Note:** If it doesn't work for you, and you are going to chuck it out, let me know and I will come by and take it off your hands..... :-) ]

**Scott Wilson** mentioned that he was now the proud owner of a new **Workmate Portable Project Work Center and Vise**. He noted that this was a really useful fold away tool for folks that live in condos with workspace limited to a garage.



## ***Problems & Solutions***

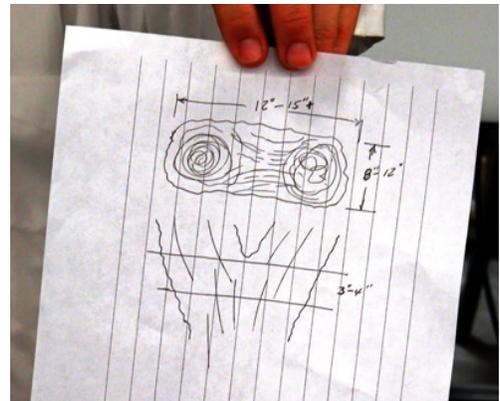


**Dan Cordwell** noted that he was looking for a slab of crotch wood showing double end grain areas for a project. As shown in the sketch, the desired slab is about

12"-15" L x 8"-12" W x 3"-4" Thk

If you have such a piece, contact **Dan** directly via email:

[DTC776@Frontier.com](mailto:DTC776@Frontier.com)



**Dan** also posed an interesting scenario in which he envisions making a box with all unequal sides, enquiring of the group suggestions for making the corner joint cuts.

A lively discussion ensued related to the fact that all of the cuts will probably be compound miter cuts, and the difficulties likely encountered computing the correct angles and cutting

them. Ever an inquisitive thinker, someone noted that in this case, **Dan** was really “thinking outside the box.....”!! We look forward to seeing your “crazy box”! [**Ed. Note:** Most of my boxes come out that way without even trying..... :-)!]

## **Show ‘N’ Tell**



**Tony Grosinger** brought along an interesting spice rack he had made from **Maple** and **Walnut**, with the sides and back joined with box joints made with a shop-made box joint jig shown later in the meeting. He noted that he had stack cut the **Mt. Rainier** profile and the back of the rack so that the butt joint between the two pieces would align perfectly. **Tony** also mentioned that he had successfully resawed **7 inch Walnut** stock with his 16” shop made band saw that he showed at the last meeting! Very clever design, and nicely executed **Tony!** I’m sure the recipient really appreciated the artistry.

## **Program Highlight – Woodworking Jigs & Fixtures**



In keeping with our program theme, and much to our surprise and delight, **Rockler – Northgate Manager Casey Sheehan** gave us a mini-presentation of the many jig and fixture products available from **Rockler**.

These products included a variety pack of jig parts shown in the photo, as well as many others, including a router table box jig, a spline jig, radius jig for rounding corners with a router, a rail coping sled that works off the router fence, a taper jig with hold downs, and a circle cutting jig for a router. We were somewhat amazed at the wide variety of useful jig and fixtures, parts, and accessories available from **Rockler**, one of our valued **NWWA Sponsors**. Thanks, **Casey**, for sharing this information with us.

As a side note, **Casey** shared with us that he is leaving **Rockler** to join a company in Texas in the near future. We wish him all the best in his new endeavor and offer our thanks for his support to the **Association** through **Rockler-Northgate**.



**Tony Grosinger** showed us an interesting box joint jig he had made from the **Ultimate Box Joint Jig** plans purchased from <http://www.ibuildit.ca>. This device is an interesting design which employs a piece of 1 inch diameter x 8 TPI Allthread as a joint spacing index. A steel washer engages the threads to index the tool in a preselected pattern to provide the uniform spacing of the box joint fingers. Since no rotation of the threaded rod is necessary, the threads in effect act as evenly spaced notches, allowing a multiplicity of

accurate box joint spacing and configurations.

In addition, **Tony** also showed us a simple but effective bench top mounted jig for securing stock in an upright position. The jig is clamped in his bench vise and uses wedges to secure the stock. As shown in the photo, the jig is inverted – in use, the upstanding member is actually turned downward and clamped in a vise.



**John Gonder** brought along a couple of versatile and interesting jigs and fixtures.

The first was a portable bench and shooting board with some really unique features. The tool looked to be about 12” wide x about 48” long. An array of holes in the top allowed the use of standard benchtop dogs and hold downs. As shown, adjustable clamps can also be mounted in the dog holes for other applications. **John** noted that by using shop made triangles, the shooting board feature could also accommodate angled trimming.



The second fixture was a very interesting adjustable sliding router table jig. In essence, the fixture was a sliding, adjustable angle sled. Ball bearing drawer slides were used to ensure low friction, easy and accurate movement of the sled along its base. As shown in the photo, the support plates incorporated tee tracks to enable fastening a variety of parts at the desired angles. **John** noted that the fixture was made of fairly commonly available materials and products, though he did have to purchase the pillow blocks for the pivot joints from Ebay.



Wow, what a versatile, well thought out design, **John!** Well done!!



**Allen McCall** brought along a part holding fixture for clamping in a bench vise. Tee tracks, inset in the fixture base, and equipped with hold down accessories, provide a secure means of clamping a wide variety of part configurations. Though simple, this fixture can be used for many common woodworking operations, including drilling, planing, assembly, etc.



**Herb Stoops** showed us several different jigs and fixtures, some of which were designed for specific woodworking tasks. Shown in the photo at left are two tapering jigs for holding wooden staves he had made when building a bucket for a **2 X 4 Challenge** a couple of years ago. These are **right** and **left** hand jigs to mill the taper on both sides of the staves to accommodate the top to bottom taper of the bucket. **Herb** noted that he also had to tilt the blade of his table saw so that the adjacent staves would mate together around the circumference of the bucket.

**Herb** also showed us a couple of jigs he uses to enable safe cutting of dowels on his bandsaw. These were simple pinch type clamping jigs that secure the dowel on both sides of the cut so the severed ends don't fly around the shop!



He also showed us a simple adjustable fence he uses for resawing on his bandsaw. The fence mount indexes to the miter slot in the saw table and enables adjusting the fence the desired distance from the saw blade. **Herb** noted that he gets more uniform results when resawing against the flat surface of the adjustable fence than by using the line contact method against a somewhat pointed guide bracket that some woodworkers seem to favor.



**Chris Green** gave us a slide show depicting some of the challenges of one of his current projects and some simple jigs and fixtures he developed to accommodate them.

One of the challenges was uniformly pointing the ends of an array of dowels. The dowels varied in size from 1/8" to 1/4".



To accomplish this task, **Chris** devised a simple jig with the appropriate size holes in the end of the jig to guide the dowels against his disk sander at the correct angle, using a hand held drill to rotate the dowels. This is an excellent example of a simple, single use jig that can be fabricated from scrap materials very quickly and discarded after use.

Another fabricating task for the project required generating uniformly spaced semicircular notches in the edge of a segmented disk. Again, **Chris** devised a simple method of producing accurate spacing of the notches by use of a plywood router template and flush trim bit, repositioning the template multiple times to generate adjacent groups of equally spaced notches.



Although these are only two of the unique jigs and fixtures **Chris** developed for this project, they are good examples of what complex looking tasks can be performed with simple jigs and fixtures, many of which can be made from available shop scrap materials and discarded after use. He also noted that such simple things as scrap material stops clamped to a tool's table can be used to control the travel of a part into a band saw to provide uniformly deep cuts into a part profile for repetitive operations. Very innovative thinking, **Chris!**



**Paul Stoops** showed a couple of examples of dual use jigs and fixtures. He noted that wherever possible, he likes to build jigs that will hold parts during successive milling operations. As an example, he showed a series of slides illustrating this principle in the fabricating parts for a jewelry box for a **2 X 4 Challenge**.



The first jig was a simple one which allowed the stock blanks for the box sides to be secured on the bandsaw at an angle to accomplish tapering of the sides. Although the 4.5° angle of the sides could have been band sawed by tilting the table, he designed the fixture so that it could also be used to hold the parts horizontally for subsequent processing through the drum sander. Small beads of hot melt glue temporarily adhered the part to the jig.



**Using the fixture for sawing the taper**



**Using the fixture for drum sanding**

For the same project, **Paul** designed and fabricated another simple dual use jig for securing the small box legs for safe trimming on the table saw and drum sander. Though not shown in the photos, each of the legs was secured to the jig with a **carefully** recessed screw prior to passing through the table saw and drum sander.



**Rough trimming the legs on the table saw**



**Box Leg**  
**(Yes, that is a dime!)**



**Final trimming on the drum sander**

These two jigs also illustrate another important aspect of using jigs and fixtures when building projects – namely **OPERATOR SAFETY !!**

Processing parts **safely** is a very important factor in intelligent woodworking. The machines we use are very dangerous with blades and cutters that operate at very high speeds. Always work safely, even if it takes a little extra time to build that simple jig to hold the part or stock securely before processing it through **any** machine. Also, consider alternate jiggling methods – hot melt glue is a great, secure, temporary attachment method and is easily removeable.

**REMEMBER -- Accidents happen much more quickly than we can possibly react!**



**Bill Bond** treated us to a slide show of one of his projects which involved converting a full size, slate topped billiard table to a pool table. He noted some of the challenges and successes he experienced with this ambitious project. However, the results were spectacular – the converted table looked as though it had been built that way by the manufacturer! Fantastic job, **Bill!** Thanks for sharing your success story with us.

He then went on to show us several jigs that he has built for various projects, including ones for milling spline joints of various configurations:



**Corner Spline Jig**



**Miter Joint Spline Jig**

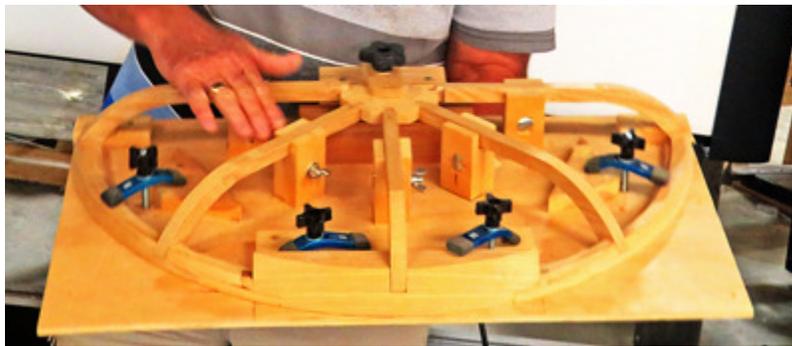


**Angled Spline Saddle Jig**

**Bill** also showed us a line drilling jig with 3D motion capability for use on his lathe:



And then as a fitting finale to his collection of jigs and fixtures, he showed us a marvelous assembly jig he designed and built for a curved dart board cover project currently in process.



Although the photo doesn't really do it justice, this fixture elegantly demonstrates **Bill's** outstanding tool design expertise and fabrication skills! Great job, **Bill!** We look forward to subsequent photos showing the use of this fixture and the resulting dart board project.

## **Note from the Editor**



I never cease to be amazed at the creative thinking and expertise we are blessed to have in our diverse membership. These qualities somehow really show themselves in such a meeting as this month's because each of the member's jig or fixture was carefully designed to address the unique woodworking challenges presented by the project at hand! And when you stop to think about it, we are really double dipping! Think about it – in addition to the creative enjoyment we experience building a project, isn't it a satisfying experience to design and build a useful jig or fixture that addresses a project challenge, or makes our woodworking operations safer and more reliable?

It is unfortunate that so few of our members attend our monthly meetings to enjoy the camaraderie and sharing of information and ideas – but those who do bring with them years of experience and expertise and a plethora of creative thoughts. What a great bunch to be around! Thanks to all of you who do attend and willingly share with us from your treasure chests of woodworking skill and expertise.

Again, I was pleased to see some of our newer members actively participate in this month's meeting. We really appreciate you bringing your contribution to our monthly woodworking smorgasbord! Thanks, guys for being proactive members of the **NWWA**.

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

# **Northwest Woodworkers Association Sponsors**

We appreciate the generous support provided by our NWWA sponsors, from providing member discounts on purchased items to providing state of the art venues for us to conduct our monthly meetings. Thank you, Sponsors!

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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: <http://www.nwoodworkers.org>