Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS

May 2014 http://www.nwwoodworkers.org

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

The Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday,** ***May 29, 2014, 6:30 PM***
Location: ***Rockler Woodworking – Northgate***
832 NE Northgate Way
Seattle, WA 98125
Program Highlights: ***Mega Show 'N' Tell***
Bring your latest projects and show off your skills
Participation Drawing and Raffle

April 2014 Meeting Highlights

The April 24, 2014 meeting was held at **Woodcraft** in Seattle with 13 members present. We thank **Ron** and **Michelle Hall** and their **Woodcraft Staff** for providing such a nice meeting venue for us to hold our meeting. We also want to thank their **Associate Eli,** who helped get the video projector working for us so we could use it in our meeting.

We welcome new member **Chuck Hart**, who says his current woodworking interests include making woodworking tools such as hand planes. **Chuck** is our first member to join the **Association** via our website. **Chuck** said he found us accidentally on a web search. He suggested that we somehow make our presence more widely known on the internet search engines so that folks can more easily find us. Thanks for the input, **Chuck** – we will pass your suggestion along to our Webmaster, **Tom Howorth**.

Program Presentation

(Please see the Photo Gallery on Page 11 for additional photos)

Jigs and Fixtures – A Member Presentation

In a refreshing departure from our usual meeting format, we were delightfully entertained (and educated) by the presentations of six of our **Association** members regarding various innovative jigs and fixtures they had made to assist them in their woodworking projects. Those of you who weren't here missed a really good and informative meeting with great participation by all of the members present. Ya shoulda been here!!

Al Falco led off the show with several unique jigs and fixtures he uses to perform different operations on different pieces of woodworking equipment. He noted that the jigs and fixtures ranged from the super simple to the complex – and indeed they did! **Al** showed us a simple jig for holding some metal strips for drilling holes on his drill press. He followed that by showing a jig for making tapered shims on his table saw. His next jig was a simple one for tapering table legs. He also demonstrated a flush trimming router jig with toggle hold down clamps. Then **Al** showed us an adjustable router trammel jig for making various radius circles and arcs with a router. His finale was a convex male mandrel for vacuum forming curved drawer fronts and table aprons. He also showed us his shop-built venturi-type vacuum generating system which uses an air compressor to create the vacuum. The system has adjustable controls to allow using various vacuum levels and automatic intermittent cycling of the compressor to maintain the vacuum.

1 – Drill Fixture

2 – Shim Cutting Jig

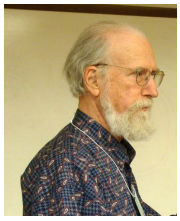
3 – Taper Jig

4 – Flush Cutting Router Jig

5 – Router Trammel Jig

6 – Convex Mandrel for Vacuum Formed Curved Part

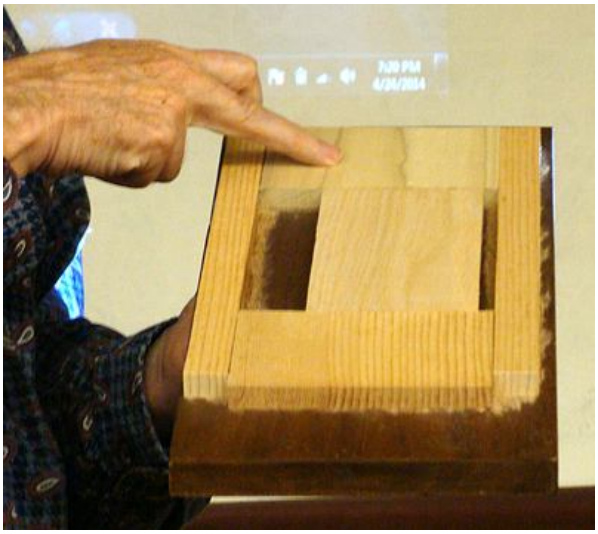
7 – Venturi Type Vacuum System



Chris Green then took us through a mini-presentation entitled, "***Tapering – When Less Wood Can Do More***". He showed us a number of jigs and fixtures he uses to produce tapered parts for his outstanding artistic creations that have graced so many of our **Show 'N' Tell** events. He also showed a slide show having a number of photos of his tapering jigs in use as well as displaying some of the parts he had made for his projects using the jigs.

Chris showed us a wide variety of tapering jigs made for use on his bandsaw, router table, thickness planer, and even his disk sander. He noted that some of his jigs are designed for tapering parts with the grain and some of them across the grain – both situations providing unique challenges. He described in detail his method of shimming parts to be able to produce tapers on one or more edges of the parts. Of special interest were his unique sled-type jigs for securing small parts so he could pass them thru his thickness planer, along with adaptations to minimize or eliminate snipe. He also noted that some of his sled-type jigs were made wider and longer than his parts to provide better support and contact with the feed rollers in his thickness planer. For many of us, **Chris** really opened our eyes to a much wider variety of ways to taper parts.

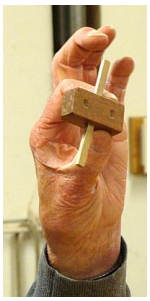
Hinged Bandsaw Taper Jig



Sled-type Planer Taper Jig

Planer Tapering Jig for Very Narrow Parts

David Beyl, one of our most senior **Association** members (and resident resource of all things woodworking) surprised us with the night's tiniest tools – which he mysteriously kept hidden under his hat until the unveiling……..



…….. and behold, the foxy old gentleman brought forth a set of tools – a shop made angle marking gage for hand cut dovetails, a Lee Valley dovetail marking gage, a marking knife, and a marking gage for laying out hand cut dovetails. Ya gotta watch out for the tricks of them there Sr. Members..... :-)

1 – Marking Gage

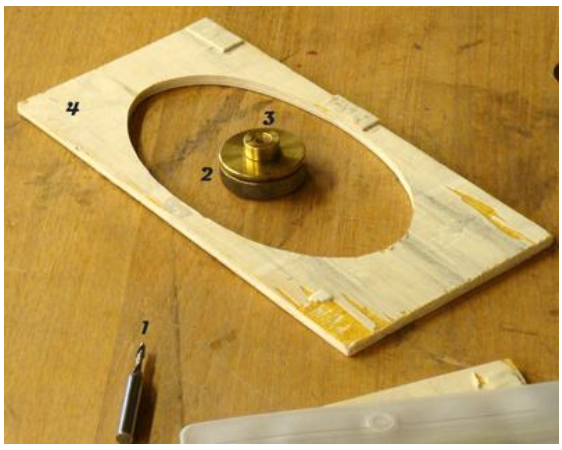
2 – Marking Knife

3 – Lee Valley Dovetail Marking Gage

4 – Shop-made Angle Marking Gage

David Beyl's Dovetail Layout Tool Set

Herb Stoops gave us a very interesting presentation about the use of a router inlay tool kit. The tool kit, which is available from **Infinity**, **Whiteside**, **MLCS**, and others, consists of a Porter Cable-type brass router base bushing and nut, a secondary bushing, and a small carbide router bit. Using a shop-made template having a hole of any desired shape or size, this tool kit is used to rout the pocket for the inlay, and cut the actual inlay itself.



1 – 1/8" Solid Carbide Router Bit

2 – Router Base Bushing

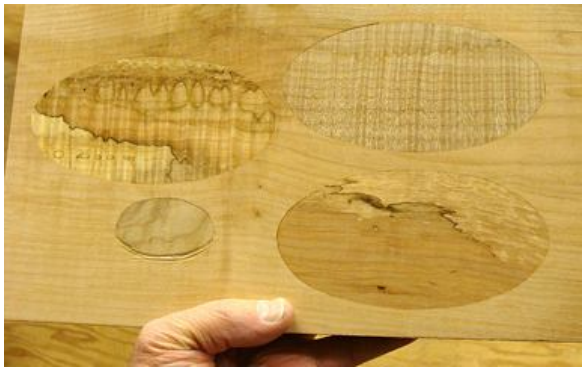
3 – Secondary Bushing

4 – Shop-made Template

Inlay Tool Kit and Template

Herb noted that the routing procedure is quite simple. Securely attach the template to the piece to be routed and rout the periphery of the cutout in a clockwise direction with the secondary bushing installed on the main bushing. This creates a narrow groove which defines the outer periphery of the inlay pocket. Herb came up with a clever way to remove the rest of the material from the field of the pocket without any danger of damaging the edge of the cutout – he installed a larger router base bushing and a larger bit just smaller than the bushing I.D., with the bit depth set to match the original routed periphery. This method prevented the router bit from making contact with the edge of the pocket while quickly removing the field material – good thinking, **Herb**!

To create the inlay, the same template was securely attached to the inlay material and the same inlay bit setup was used except that the secondary bushing was removed. Again the router was moved in a clockwise direction around the template, producing the inlay itself. To prevent the inlay from flying loose at the end of the cut, it is recommended to secure the inlay area with double back tape prior to routing. Some light sanding may be required to smooth the edges of the inlay. The inlay is then glued into the pocket and the excess glue removed. A light final sanding is usually required to ensure the inlay and the substrate surfaces are flush with each other.



Experimental Inlay Test Piece

Herb remarked that he was surprised at how well the inlays fit the routed pockets with very little special care. This is made possible by the close dimensional tolerances between the inner bushing, the secondary bushing, and the router bit.

He also noted that inlay shapes with sharp inside corners may require some hand work with a chisel to remove the material in the corners.

Vern Tator noted that quarter sawn old growth fir material frequently has pitch pockets along the grain lines, which sometimes make the material unusable for woodworking projects. To address this problem, **Vern** showed and demonstrated a unique router jig he built for removing pitch pockets in vertical grain fir material, enabling him to salvage valuable material that would otherwise be unusable and discarded as scrap.

The design of the jig was essentially a specially configured box which fit the base of his router fairly closely so that the router would travel in a straight line. The unique part of the design was that the top surface of the bottom of the box was shaped into a ***concave*** curve – thicker at both ends and thinner in the middle.

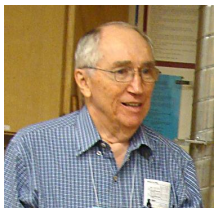
Router Grooving Jig

The router setup was somewhat unique in that the router bit used for this application is a sharp pointed sign making type router bit with a 90º included angle point. The extension of the router bit below the router base was set so that there was no protrusion of the bit at either end of the jig.

Traversing the router across the curved base of the jig, this setup enabled the router bit to inscribe a smoothly variable depth V-groove in the part ending in a sharp point at each end of the cut. This groove configuration essentially allows the inserted patch to vanish at the ends once the surface is sanded smooth.

Test Groove

Vern also stressed that the piece of material to be inserted into the groove must be cut with 90º square corners in such a way that the grain direction is vertical across the diagonal of the insert in order to match the grain orientation of the part being repaired. The patch is glued into the groove by bending it down into the groove by clamping pressure. When the glue dries, the excess patch material is removed flush with the surface of the part. He also noted that if the patch is prepared correctly, it is sometimes very difficult to detect in the finished piece. What a great solution for saving a valuable piece of material, **Vern**!



Charlie Culler came up with a really innovative fixture to solve a unique problem that many of us have faced – safely ripping long, heavy material on his table saw.

He explained that when he needed to rip some 80” long Bubinga stock for one of his recent projects, he discovered that his saw table and fence were too short to safely support such long, heavy material.

His solution was to fabricate a box-like structure to slip snugly over his existing fence, having a long, wide auxiliary fence as one side of the box. This enabled him to secure featherboards along the auxiliary fence to provide downward force on the piece being cut. **Charlie** also added a smooth melamine surfaced board to each end of the fixture, in line with his saw table to act as extended infeed and outfeed tables. In the photo below, the gap between the two infeed/outfeed tables fits the metal table of his table saw, which clearly would not be long enough to support an 80” workpiece.

Charlie noted that the auxiliary fence fixture performed very well for his ripping task and he found that the extended infeed and outfeed tables were especially helpful in guiding his long stock through his table saw in a safe manner. Great solution, **Charlie**!

Ending our member presentations, all of the participants were given tickets to a drawing for a **Participation Prize** – a **Woodcraft** gift card. The winner of the drawing was **Vern Tator.** Congratulations, **Vern**!! Let us know if you need help spending it..... :-)

At the conclusion of the meeting, we had our annual **Attendance Sweepstakes** drawing to reward those with the highest rate of attendance of the 164 total members who attended our 2013 meetings – the **Woodcraft** gift card winner was **Charlie Culler**. Congratulations, **Charlie** – well deserved, especially for making the effort to attend our meetings despite traveling on the bus across Seattle (including packing along whatever project he has to share with the members)!

Show 'N' Tell

(Please see the Photo Gallery on Page 11 for additional photos)

Chris Yee graced our meeting with a very interesting discussion about applying photo images to wooden projects.

Wondering what to do with a pile of cedar cutoffs from a deck building project, he discovered some folks on the internet who were using photographic images to decorate wooden craft projects. So he did some research and came up with a relatively simple way to utilize some of the many family photos he has been taking over an extended time and at the same time produce some treasured wooden plaques and wall decorations.

In addition to the information concerning the materials and techniques used, **Chris** developed the following step-by-step procedure for transferring photo images to wooden surfaces such as boxes, trays, wall plaques, desk ornaments, etc.

Materials and Techniques

- Use only photo prints made on a ***laser*** printer or copy machine – ink jet prints do not work
- Make the photo prints on ***standard copy paper*** – lighter weight paper preferred
- The photo prints may be color, black and white, grayscale, or sepia
- The photo prints must be printed in a ***mirror (or reverse)*** image printing mode, particularly if the photo contains any printed text
- Photos with light or white backgrounds will allow more of the wood grain to show
- Lighten the photos somewhat as they may appear darker when transferred
- ***Liquitex Professional Matte Gel*** was used to adhere the photo to the wood surface
- ***Mod Podge Matte Finish*** was used to coat the transferred image on the wood (Both of these products may be found at craft stores like **Joann's**, **Michaels**, etc. or online at **Amazon.com**)

Typical Photo Transfer on Wood Procedure

- Select photos (printed in the ***mirror image*** mode) for transfer to your wood pieces
- Size the photos to suit the size of the pieces of wood selected

- Sand the wood surface to at least 220 grit, making it smooth and flat
- The final trimming of the wood pieces can be done before or after transferring the image
- Wet the wood surface and wipe off the excess
- Apply the ***Gel Medium*** in a smooth, generous, even coat over the entire surface of the wood using a sponge or foam brush. Avoid brush marks as they may interfere with an even transfer of the photo image
- Apply the photo face down on the wet gel coating. Try to locate the photo accurately as it is difficult to adjust once it starts to adhere to the wood
- Starting along one long edge of the photo, smooth the photo onto the surface of the wood using a brayer, roller, credit card, or just your fingers. It is important to carefully smooth the whole surface to remove all bubbles and local buildups of the gel material
- Allow the adhered photo to dry overnight or at least 12 hours
- When dry, lay the wood panel on a towel or similar and apply a wet rag to the paper for 5 – 10 minutes, rubbing the water thoroughly into the surface
- Roll the wet paper off the image with your fingers or with a wet rag. This is a time consuming process and may have to be done several times to remove all traces of the paper.
- Clean off the residue from the paper removal operation and remove excess water with paper towels or a cloth towel. Avoid aggressive rubbing so as not to damage the image
- Coat the image with the ***Matte Finish*** using a foam brush. The surface does not have to be completely dry before coating. One or more coats of the finish may be applied to provide more protection. The finish will dry clear.
- Trim the wooden panel to final size if necessary and attach whatever hardware might be desired for holding or hanging the panel
- Stand back and admire your work of art!
- ***Note***: There are a number of YouTube videos available online which may be found using a Search for ***Photo Wood Transfer***

And of course as the old saying goes, "***The Proof is in the Pudding***"! Below is a collage of photo images transferred to wood pieces by **Chris** to make family treasures.

Great job, **Chris**! Amazing resolution and detail in the transferred photos. What precious and poignant images! Thanks for sharing this with us – it really opens up a large number of opportunities and applications to all of us for creating family treasures and enhancing our work.

Steering Committee Report

The **Steering Committee** is pleased to announce that we have secured two new Association sponsors – **Blackstock Lumber**, and **IsGood Woodworks**. Contact information is located on our **Sponsors** page in this Newsletter. Member-built holders filled with our **Association** brochures were placed at both of these facilities.

Blackstock Lumber is a long established firm in Seattle. They are offering our members their 10% Contractor discount.

IsGood Woodworks is a company that offers a variety of services from high quality custom cabinetry, furniture, and millwork to shop space rentals and project building guidance and design assistance. They are offering us a 10% discount on selected services.

A Note from the Editor

The **April 2014** meeting was very encouraging to me on a couple of levels – degree of member participation and new appreciation for resident resources.

Although our attendance was less than I had hoped, I really appreciated that almost half of the attendees brought jigs and fixtures and made informal presentations to describe them and their function. In essence, it was a kind of **Show 'N' Tell** devoted to jigs and fixtures. The audience participation was very active, with a lots of good questions and inquiries for the presenters – a great shared learning experience!

But what impressed me the most was a new appreciation for the vast reservoir of knowledge, experience, and ingenuity contained within our membership. After thinking about the member presentations and the real solutions, simple and complex, developed by you folks to solve such a wide variety of woodworking problems and situations, it gave me a new admiration for your smarts and skills. Hats off to you great group of problem solvers – you are all a great inspiration and truly represent the fiber and fabric of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association**!! I would not have been able to come up with some of those unique designs!

Wishing You Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

P.S. It was great to have our Secretary, **Jan Erickson**, back with us after her winter vacation. Thanks for the great notes from the meeting, **Jan**. And thanks again to **Chris Yee** for having so ably filled in for **Jan** in her absence.

Upcoming Events

May 2014 Meeting – This meeting will be a **Mega Show 'N' Tell** with members being able to show off their woodworking talents and ingenuity. Please bring one or more projects to share – along with any jigs and fixtures you used and any photo documentation of the work in progress on a thumb drive for viewing on the video screens at the **Rockler – Northgate** store.
There will also be a **$25 Rockler Gift Card** awarded in a Participation Drawing and a Raffle (one great item to be raffled is a power tool mobile base donated by **Al Falco**).

June 2014 Meeting – Program to be determined.

July 2014 Meeting -- Program to be determined. We will ***not*** have the annual Picnic this year due to the lack of a suitable venue.

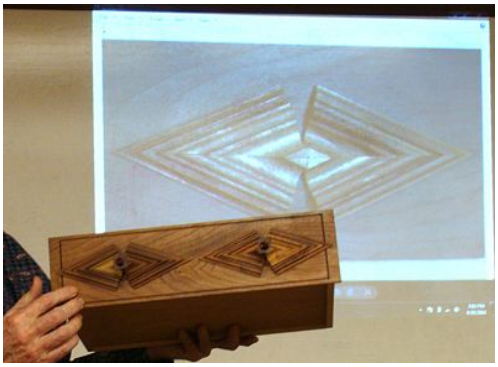
August 2014 Meeting – The "**2 X 4 Challenge**" – We had great response and fun with this last year. For photos of last year's entries, please see the **September 2013 Newsletter** here: (http://nwwoodworkersorg.ipage.com/newsletters/September%202013%20Newsletter.pdf)

Note: The guidelines for this year's **2 X 4 Challenge** are included at the end of this Newsletter.

April 2014 Photo Gallery

Photos by Scott Wilson

Al Falco demonstrating some of his jigs



Chris Green with some of his tapered project parts

Chris Green's Walnut Table with Tapered Legs and Drawer Front Decorative Trim

David Beyl's Hand Cut Dovetails

Using the Lee Valley Marking Gage

Chris Yee's Photo Transfer Project

Photo Transfer Supplies

Drying Panels with Applied Photos

Daughter Solveig helping Dad

A New 2014 Bundle of Joy
Image Before and After Paper Removal

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!

Blackstock Lumber
1039 Elliot Ave. W.
Seattle, WA 98119
10% Contractor Discount

Crosscut Hardwoods
4100 – 1st Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98134
10% Member Discount

Edensaw Woods
8032 S. 194th St.
Kent, WA 98032

IsGood Woodworks
4660 E. Marginal Way S, Suite 7
Seattle WA 98134
10% Member Discount on Selected Services

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware – Northgate
832 NE Northgate Way
Seattle, WA 98125
10% Member Discount (not valid on sale items and power tools)

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware – Tukwila
345 Tukwila Parkway
Tukwila, WA 98188
10% Member Discount (not valid on sale items and power tools)

Woodcraft Supply
5963 Corson S.
Seattle, WA 98108
10% Member Discount (not valid on sale items, power tools and workbenches)

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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.nwwoodworkers.org

2014 RULES FOR THE 2 X 4 CHALLENGE

ENTRY MATERIALS

1. **Each entry must be made from one, softwood, construction grade, 2 x 4 x 8 ft. piece**
2. **Any glue or fastening method is acceptable**
3. **Any wood finishing method is acceptable, but please limit use of opaque finishes**
4. **Other non-wood materials are allowed for decorative purposes, or for parts which cannot be fabricated from wood**

ENTRY NUMBER

1. **An Entry Number shall be issued for each entry submitted**
2. **Entries will be displayed anonymously, and identified only by Entry Number**

ENTRY LIMITATIONS

1. **Each entry must be new and not have been entered in a previous Challenge**
2. **Challenge participation is limited to current Association members**
3. **An unlimited number of entries shall be accepted from each Entrant**
4. **All wood components shall be made from the same 2 x 4**
5. **The majority of the entry must be constructed of the 2 x 4 material**

JUDGING OF ENTRIES

1. **Balloting shall be performed by voting of the members present at the meeting**
2. **When balloting, each member shall select a First, Second, and Third choice from the entries**
3. **Members are encouraged to bring unique jigs or tools and discuss any materials, special methods, finishing techniques, etc. used to prepare their entry**
4. **Suggested possible criteria for evaluation**

    a. **Craftsmanship**
    b. **Complexity**
    c. **Originality**
    d. **Uniqueness of design**
    e. **Joinery**
    f. **Finish**

5. **Ballots will be counted at the meeting, with prizes being awarded for the entries receiving the most points**

PRIZE AWARDS (via Woodcraft Gift Cards)

1st Choice Prize = $35
2nd Choice Prize = $30
3rd Choice Prize = $25

Participation Prize Drawing = $20 (Open only to members submitting entries; other prize winners ineligible)

Each member is only eligible for one prize, even though he/she submits more than one entry

For photos of last year's entries, please see the September 2013 Newsletter here:
(http://nwwoodworkersorg.ipage.com/newsletters/September%202013%20Newsletter.pdf