

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



January 2017

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

The Next Meeting

Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017** at 6:30 PM

Location: **Rockler Woodworking - Northgate**

832 NE Northgate Way
Seattle, WA 98125

Program Highlight: **Jigs and Fixtures**

The next meeting will feature favorite woodworking jigs and fixtures. Be sure to bring along your favorite jigs and fixtures and photos on a thumb drive to illustrate their use.

January 2017 Meeting Highlights

Meeting Notes by Jan Erickson

Newsletter Photos by Scott Wilson

The **January 2017** meeting of the **Northwest Woodworkers Association** was held on **Thursday, January 26, 2017** at **Rockler - Northgate**. Seventeen members and three guests were present.

We want to express our appreciation to **Casey Sheehan** 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

Tony Grosinger brought along two guests, **Ansel** and **Alex**, who we hope will become future members.



We want to welcome three new members to the **Association**.



Cory Cross mentioned that he was moving on from mostly house reconstruction to setting up his garage workshop, noting as many of us have found, that the workshop and cars do indeed compete for space!

John Gonder noted that he had recently completed construction of a duplicating lathe.



Wayne Tucker mentioned that he was getting back into woodworking and was in the process of setting up his shop.

Thanks, guys, for joining our group. Our members have a wide variety of woodworking talents, skills, interests, and experience. Please don't feel intimidated by all of the old timers. We firmly believe that all of our members have unique, valuable, knowledge and experiences that can benefit the whole membership as we share with one another. We welcome all questions and inquiries that will help you along your woodworking journey. We also believe that we can benefit from what you have to offer – please don't hesitate to share.

Safety Discussion

Mark Martinez led off our meeting with a discussion of a serious safety issue he encountered recently while working in his shop. While using his table saw to mill some pieces for a box he was making, one of the pieces caught in the blade, resulting in a serious kickback, producing a painful injury to his abdomen! **Mark** surmised that probably he had not allowed his piece to clear the edge of the blade before releasing his hold on the part. He displayed the scarred box side and noted that he was going to complete the box and mount it in a visible location in his shop as a safety reminder! We are thankful that he wasn't injured more seriously. From the reaction of the group, it was obvious that a lot of us have either experienced similar situations or narrow escapes!!! This is a reminder to all of us that the power tools we use are **very dangerous** and bad things can happen in the blink of an eye!



In that vein, we are happy to see that our **Secretary, Jan Erickson**, has largely recovered from the broken arm she sustained as a result of a recent table saw kickback. Glad to see you well again, **Jan**, and back in the shop!

Group Project

Bill Bond mentioned that he is spearheading a group woodworking project to produce an item for a charitable cause. He welcomed all participants and suggestions for a worthwhile project. This endeavor is in the early planning stages and **Bill** circulated a signup sheet for those who would be interested in helping develop the project and participating in the woodworking operations. For those of you who were not in attendance at the meeting, but who would be interested in the project, please contact **Bill** directly via email: (williamcbond@comcast.net). Members of all skill levels are welcome. **Bill** has generously offered to produce the drawings for the project and the use of his shop for some of the activity.

New Tools



Tom Howorth, who admits to being an *appreciator* of antique tools, as opposed to being a *collector*, (noting that the distinction is based upon his selection *for use* in his shop), brought along his latest finds.



As shown in the photo, from left to right, these treasures consisted of a Stanley All-in One Tool, a sliding bevel square with Rosewood handle, and a sliding blade tri-square. All of the tools were in various stages of refurbishment. **Tom** also shared some of the interesting information he gleaned from his research about these antique tools.

Problems & Solutions



Mark Martinez showed us the lid for a box he has been making, explaining that some of the right angle mitered corners do not fit properly. His attempts to fix the problem appeared to make it worse. Sad to say, **Mark**, but the group consensus was that it was not fixable – you will have to remake it! A discussion of miter joint fabrication problems made it pretty clear that there are a whole flock of factors that can affect miter joint fitup – such as machine setup accuracy, part slippage, jig tolerances, etc. to name just a few. A number of the members noted that their preferred miter joint fitup tuning method was the use of a hand plane and shooting board to shave off minor amounts of material to correct discrepancies.

Show 'N' Tell



Charlie Culler brought along an interesting scroll sawing accessory which he had fabricated with a series of test cuts made at different angles. The cut shapes exhibited both concave and convex surfaces. He explained that this accessory is intended to be an aid to selecting the proper cutting angle for scroll sawed inlays. He noted that the test cuts provide a visual indication of the depth of inlay, depending upon the angle and thickness of material.



As a side note, **Charlie** mentioned that in the Spring, he will be teaching basic scroll sawing classes at the **Pratt Institute**. He encouraged all interested **NWWA** members to sign up.



New member **Cory Cross** showed us a very interesting Japanese inspired portable tool box configuration. He noted that the modular design of the box allows it to be scaled up or down to make stackable units, saving storage space.

He said that the unit he showed was made from 1/2" plywood milled with his track saw.



Cory demonstrated some of the unique features of the tool box including integral racks to hold his collections of Japanese pull saws and chisels, and storage compartments for miscellaneous items and accessories.

As shown in the photo on the right, the racks were designed to allow vertical mounting, providing excellent access to the tools. He noted that this tool box concept was a work in progress, anticipating future additions and improvements. Hopefully he will update us periodically on his progress with this unique tool storage system.



Tony Grosinger, our **NWWA Webmaster**, provided us with an entertaining and informative slide show about building his version of a Matthias Wandel-designed 16" wooden band saw, (<http://www.woodgears.ca/bandsaw/homemade.html>).



Lots of Parts



Basic Frame Assembly



Final Assembly -- Rear View



Final Assembly -- Front View

Great job, **Tony!** That looks like it was a fun project to build and will certainly serve you well for a long time. That big work table will really be a handy feature.

After that wonderful appetizer, **Tony** proceeded to wow us with his Chris Schwarz-designed mondo workbench! He noted that he had fabricated the 21" wide top of the workbench from 4" x 6" x 96" Douglas Fir construction lumber. As shown in the photo, hand planing the top to flatten it produced a very impressive pile of shavings!.....:-)



Note the laminated legs with both square and dovetail tenons, attaching the legs to the top! **Tony** also noted that the project was constructed with no metallic fasteners!!



The Finished Work of Art

Needless to say, **Tony**, we were impressed! That is a superb example of hand tool craftsmanship -- of which you can be justifiably proud! Your skill, patience, and craftsmanship is exemplary. Thanks for sharing your wonderful projects with us.

Program Highlight – Woodworking Joints



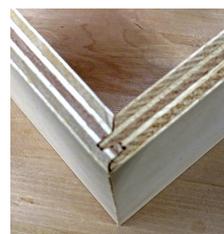
Mark Martinez brought along a miter jig he had made for box making. Although he said he made it in accordance with instructions he had read online, he suspects the jig accuracy – referring to it as his “89 1/2°” jig! He noted that for some reason, his box corner miter joints don’t fit as well as he wants them to. His discussion of the jig resulted in a number of responses from the membership. Included in the suggestions from the group were to purchase a drafting square to enable him to accurately gage the vertical position of his saw blade, applying adhesive backed sandpaper to the faces of his jig to prevent part slippage during cutting, and using a hand plane and shooting board to correct minor discrepancies in the joint fitup – the latter suggestion appeared to be the favored one among the members.

Charlie Culler showed us a sample of one his favorite joints – **half blind dovetails**. He brought along a small drawer, which he said was part of a bedroom furniture project, which incorporated half blind dovetails to join the front and back panels. In addition to being a great example of woodworking joints, the drawer demonstrated the exacting craftsmanship that we enjoy seeing in all of **Charlie’s** projects.



Herb Stoops brought along samples of a wide variety of woodworking joints, including some that most of us had probably never seen before. These sample joints included the following:

- Simple miter joints which he used recently to fabricate tissue box covers
- Lock miter joints, which produce very strong corner joints with large gluing surface are also self-aligning, requiring minimal clamping.



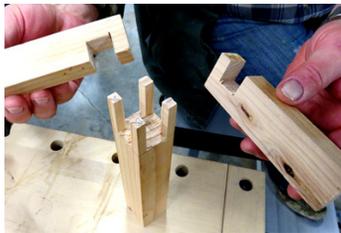
- Mortise and tenon joints
- Axe-handle mortise and tenon joint, including a wedge to tighten the tenon fit



- Dowel peg on a tenon joint for beauty and strength



- Castle Joint, a variation of the mortise and tenon joint, usually applied to three way joints – i.e. attaching legs to a table



Herb noted that the **Lock Miter Joints** are made on the router table with specially configured router bits, which can be purchased from such sources as **MLCS** (<http://www.mlcswoodworking.com/>), and **Infinity Tools** (<http://www.infinitytools.com>). Due to the exactness required for setting up the **Lock Miter** bits, he recommends purchasing the **Lock Miter Master Jigs** from **Infinity Tools**.

Thanks, **Herb**, for showing us such a wide variety of woodworking joints and adding to our understanding of the many possibilities available to us in this wonderful woodworking craft.

Steering Committee Report

The **Steering Committee** welcomes **Scott Wilson** as its newest member. We hope that **Scott**, our **Staff Photographer**, who usually takes the photos found here on the **Newsletter** pages, will be able to add his experience and expertise to the **Steering Committee** and provide some new insights and ideas to help map out the ongoing journey of the **NWWA**.

As suggested by **Mark Martinez** in our last meeting, the **Steering Committee** has authorized our **Treasurer, Chris Green**, to make a donation of **\$500** from the **NWWA** to **Rob Cosman's** effort to help wounded/disabled military veterans learn hand tool woodworking as an alternative therapy to assist them on their road to recovery from their tragic war experiences.

Many of you remember the informative presentation **Rob** gave to us a couple of years ago at **Woodcraft**.

For more information and contact information if you wish to make additional private donations to this cause, please watch the short, informative video presentation on **Rob Cosman's** website: <http://www.robcosman.com/>

Note from the Editor



I was pleased to see some of our newer members actively participate in this month's meeting. But more than that, I am amazed at the innovative ideas and woodworking skills exhibited in the projects shown by **Cory Cross** and **Tony Grosinger**. You guys are a great example to us all, and we were blessed by your presentations. Thank you so much for being proactive members of the **NWWA**.

I was also pleased to hear that the **Steering Committee** authorized a donation to **Rob Cosman's** effort to help wounded and disabled military veterans, both here and in Canada. Due to the high percentage of Sr. Cits in our meetings, I'm sure that there are a number of military veterans in our midst, who can certainly relate to those who serve our country and are forced to live with physical and emotional disabilities as a result of their service. I am in agreement with **Rob Cosman**, who is Canadian, when he states that he doesn't think our governments adequately meet the needs of these veterans and welcomes the support of the woodworking community to offer some means of help to these unfortunate individuals. It is very interesting to discover that there is apparently a definite therapeutic value to woodworking, especially with hand tools, for these veterans, which seems to help them find emotional and mental peace and accommodate their disabilities. That said, maybe it isn't so surprising though. Haven't we all found that sometimes this wonderful craft of woodworking provides not only a creative outlet for us, but also seems to be a means of stress relief for us from the busy pace of life we seem to live these days?! I am proud to be a member of an organization that has stepped up to help these deserving folks in need.

Happy and Safe Woodworking,

Paul

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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>