

Northwest Washington Woodturners



A Local Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Newsletter for February 2012



President's Letter

Northwest Washington Woodturners....

meets every third Thursday of the month. There is no meeting in December.

We meet at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mt. Vernon WA. Take Exit I- 5 at Kincaid street, exit 226. Turn east up Kincaid to So 13th St., turn right on 13th St. Hillcrest Park is approx. six blocks south on 13th St. From the south take Exit 225. Turn right on Anderson Rd. Take the first left on Cedardale Rd. Turn right on E. Blackburn Rd. and then left on S. 13th St. The lodge is located in the Northwest corner of the parking lot beyond the tennis courts. Meetings are open to anyone interested in wood turning. All skill levels from beginners to advanced turners are welcome.

Contents

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| President's Letter: | Page 1 - 2 |
| March Program | Page 2 |
| Sawdust Saturdays | Page 2 |
| <i>Eggcentric</i> | Page 2 |
| Coming - Al Stirt: | Page 3 |
| Vibration | Page 4 - 5 |
| Mentoring News | Page 5 |
| February Meeting | Page 6 |
| Ads & Contacts | Page 7 - 8 |
| Membership Info | Page 8 |

Hello!

I hope you all enjoyed our February demonstration by Don Derry. March promises to be a very busy month with lots of activities to participate in.

Preparation for the Al Stirt all day demo on March 10 followed by classes on March 11 & 12 is near completion. The classes are full, but there is plenty of space available for the all day demo. It's still not too late to sign up and pay at the door on March 10th. Call me or Greg Anderson to register. You can find additional information on Al and his demo elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our 1st Creative Challenge at the February meeting was a great success with more than 30 interpretations of "**NOT QUITE ROUND!**" on display. Thanks to all who participated! I hope you will all join in the fun at the March meeting when the Challenge will be "**EGGCENTRIC!**" See further details elsewhere in this newsletter. Let's have lots of fun with this.

I want to say **THANK YOU!** To several members for stepping up and volunteering to help make our club enjoyable and successful:

Our new **Newsletter Editor** is **Fred Holder**. Fred is one of our Founding Members and still volunteering!

Jesse Charette has volunteered to move from Membership Chairperson to the **Webmaster** position.

Laura Matthews and **Hazel Thomas** have volunteered to Co-Chair the **Membership Committee**. Laura is also a Founding Member.

Ron Means and **Jim Breiling** have volunteered to do the **Gallery Photography** so photos of your work will continue to be posted in the gallery section of our Newsletter. Please be sure to give your personal thanks to each of these members at the March meeting.....it is members like these who make our club successful!

There is still opportunity to serve your club:

Currently we need help with:

Our **Secretary** has resigned. If you are interested in taking the minutes of our board meetings and keeping other club records I would like to discuss this position with you.

Coffee Maker(s) to arrive a few minutes early and set up and make coffee and clean up at the end of our meeting. This could be shared by 2 members.

Clean-Up Crew to assist putting things away after the meeting and do any necessary clean up. With our members putting chairs away before the Wood Raffle this isn't a big job.....we just need to make sure it's done. We need at least 2 members.....3 or 4 would be ideal.

Our March program will be a **Fun Night** as described elsewhere in the newsletter. Our April program will be Allan Rumpf from Seattle demonstrating top turning and showing his amazing collection of tops .

Our April meeting will NOT be at Hillcrest Lodge. It will be held at the Burlington Community Center. Driving directions will be sent out prior to the meeting.

February was our 2nd BYO dinner. I encourage everyone to participate in these dinners. It is a great way to get acquainted with newer members and a time to renew friendships with our fellow turners.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Al Stirt Demo on March 10th and at the meeting on March 15th!
Keep on turning! **Rick**

MARCH PROGRAM

FUN NIGHT

Our March program will be a **Fun Night** with several lathes set up for a variety of demonstrations and discussions. The presenters for "Fun Night" will be: Melanie Mankamyer doing small things such as jewelry, Dave Blair doing texturing, Rick Anderson doing chatter tools, and Jim Sebring doing screw chucks and off center chuck. This is a format we have done in the past with great success. It's unstructured and you are free to move from demo to demo at your own pace.

Sawdust Saturdays

Sawdust Saturdays have been designed by club volunteers to help new turners develop skills and be introduced to different opportunities in wood turning. Classes are held at Garrett Van Ness' studio in Bayview. We begin the class about 9:00 am and wrap up about 3:00 pm. Our club has eight mini-lathes available to learn on as well as a basic set of turning tools for each lathe.

The next classes will be:

March 31st: Platters, Flat things, Plates

April 28th: Natural Edge bowl, turning some air

May 19th: Boxes, lidded things

Sign-up sheets will be available at the Thursday meetings.

Please sign up early. The fee for classes is \$5.00 to cover the cost of materials and treats.

For information on classes contact: Ed Frank at 360.293.5534, or Mike Young at 360.293.4236.

THE CREATIVE CHALLENGE for MARCH! "EGGCENTRIC"

March will continue a new feature of our meetings.....our 2nd monthly **CREATIVE CHALLENGE!** For March the Creative Challenge is inspired by Don Derry's egg turning demo last meeting: **"EGGCENTRIC!"** This is a chance to have some fun with our woodturning and to tweak the creativity within our brains. Approach this from whatever level you are turning at.....you do NOT need to be an experienced turner to participate. Your work will be shown on a separate section of the gallery table, but NOT critiqued or judged in any way. This is NOT a contest! There WILL BE PRIZE(S).....everyone who participates will have an equal chance in our drawing. Is it egg shaped, sort of egg shaped or a cracked egg? It can be whatever you want it to be. Crank up your imagination.....we look forward to seeing your next creation!

AL STIRT... Coming to our club!

March 10th -12th



On March 10th from 9am to 4pm at the Anacortes First Baptist Church Al Stirt will be presenting an all day demo. Al will also be leading classes on March 11th & 12th. Al is one of the true masters of our craft and these events will be a unique opportunity to learn and advance your skills.

Al's all day demo will feature Open Bowl Turning, Fluted & Carved Bowls, Sgraffito Platters (visit Al's website to learn more about these unique pieces), Square and Textured Platters plus a slide show discussion of Al's work and the inspiration behind his unique pieces. Price for the All Day Demo will be \$40 which includes a delicious hot lunch, beverages and snacks. This will be a day that is full of useful information that can be applied to your work no matter what your level of turning.

On March 11th Al will lead a hands on class which will include turning 2 platters.....one will be one of Al's signature Sgraffito Platters and the other will be one of his wonderful Square Platters with texturing. At the end of the day you will have 2 platters to add to your collection! Price of this class will be \$110. Payment is required with sign up.



On March 12th Al will lead another hands on class on Bowl Turning. Al considers himself first and foremost a "bowl maker" and this will be a wonderful opportunity to learn. This class will include basic bowl turning and an exploration of various ways of carving, texturing and fluting your bowls to make them unique to you. Price of this class will be \$110. Payment is required with sign up

Al is from Enosburg Falls, Vermont which is near the US/Quebec border. He has been a popular demonstrator at many clubs and events in the US and abroad, including several AAW Symposiums. Al's work is primarily focused on bowls, many of which have very unique texturing and coloring.

The following artist statement from his website provides a brief glimpse into his art: *"I consider myself a "bowl maker" more than a wood turner because, although the turning process fascinates me, it is the resulting bowl that commands my interest. From the earliest times bowls have had meanings for people beyond the purely utilitarian. The bowl as vessel has a resonance deep within the human psyche. I have always thought of each piece that I make as a composition utilizing elements of pattern, line, weight, texture and form. Even in the most simple pieces I try to find a harmony of grain and shape. I seek a balance in my work between the dynamic and serene. By playing with the tension created by combining the circle's perfection with the energy of pattern I am trying to make pieces that have life. I use patterns, whether created by grain structure or organic fluting & carving or repeated geometric shapes, to develop harmony in each of my pieces. I find myself always looking for a new means of expression within the turned form."*



Be sure to visit Al's website for more photos & information: <http://www.alstirt.com>

Please mail your Demo and Class registrations to:
Greg Anderson
23607 Hidden Valley Road
Granite Falls, WA 98252

For additional information contact: Rick Anderson
360-319-7600 or Email: president@nwwwt.org



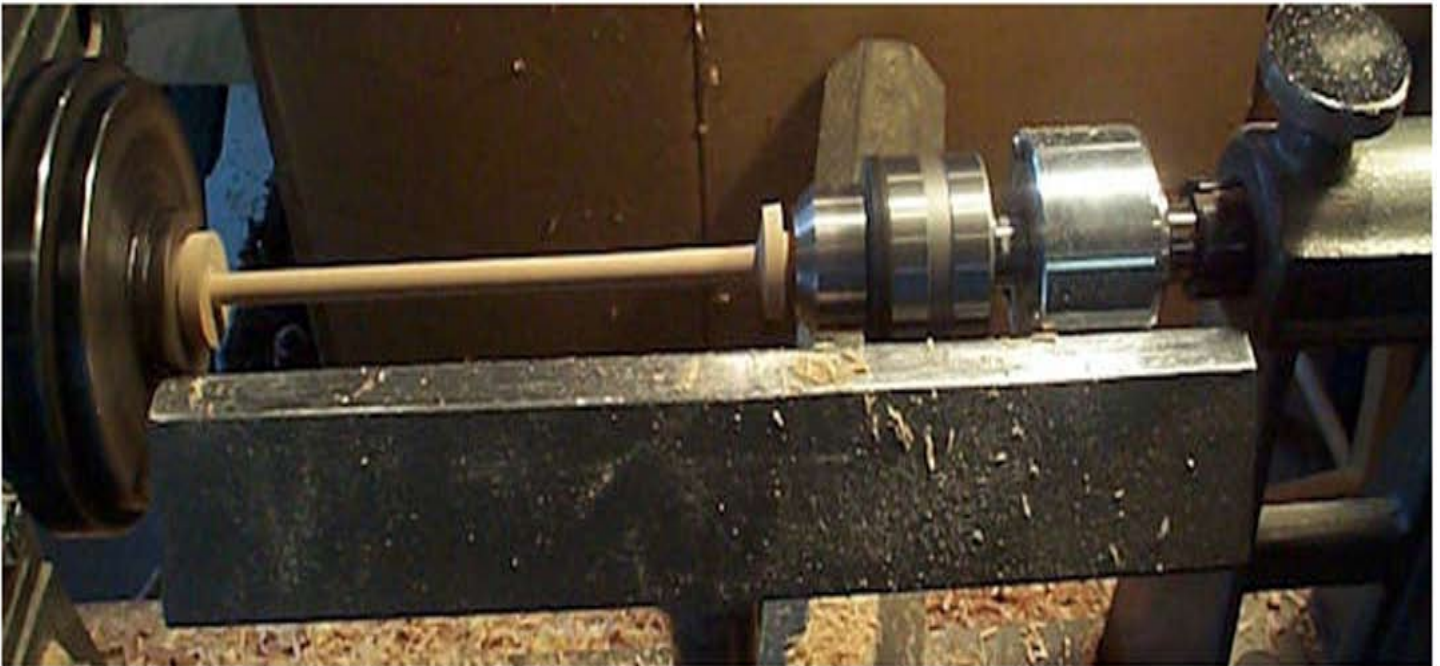
Page 1

Vibration

Question: I own a basic Grizzly lathe. I've used it off and on for ten years. I got it for turning handles and other minor chores. I'm still learning and all my tools are salvaged from flea markets and yard sales. I do mostly flat work so I haven't spent much time learning. I am making windsor chairs so I have to get better at the lathe if I want to make my own legs. I've been watching Curtis Buchanan's videos and reading Mike Dunbar's book on turning legs. I picked up some pointers and my tools are sharp and I'm getting the hang of a skew. My main problem now is vibration. I turn at my lowest speed and use my hand to steady the piece. I've tried all different approaches with the tools and even when I seem to have everything right (real sharp tool, clean continuous shaving peeling off) I still get vibration. It scallops the surface. Would loading a bunch of sand bags onto my lathe base make a difference? Anything else I should look for?

—Jack

Fred's Response: If possible, i.e., if you have enough length in your blank, mount a chuck in the headstock and grip the wood with a chuck. This eliminated one of the problems from drive centers. A second thing that helps, if you have a lot of spindles to turn, is a Jacobs chuck mounted to a live center in the tailstock. Now, with a chuck on each end, you can apply a pulling pressure, which almost eliminates the vibration caused by pressure between the tailstock and the headstock drive. Using this technique I've turned 1/8" spindles 12 inches long with no great problem.



The attached link will show you the device that I have to apply pulling pressure on the tailstock end: http://www.morewoodturning.net/reviews/spindle_tensioning.php. Unfortunately, the fellow who made mine has retired and is no longer making them.

—Fred Holder

Lyle's Response: Verbally, you seem to be doing everything right to turn without vibration. My guess is that it is not a lathe problem but a technique issue. Everything you said so far is correct but it might be, even a little, tune up of some methods would get you over the hump.

Sharp tools are a matter degree. They have to be REALLY sharp. This is a rare place that I might even hone my edges to get them razor sharp and sharpen them often. I always hone my skew.

The lathe speed might help. Try a few higher speeds and see if that makes any difference. In my opinion faster is better.

Being self taught might mean you are scraping which causes vibration. Being relatively new at turning and if you are using a slicing cut with bevel support it is easy to get vibration with too much pressure on the bevel. We do not ride the bevel, we follow it gently. It takes considerable experience, time at the lathe, to perfect the touch the bevel needs.

The size of the shaving you are taking might be too big. If the tool is ground with a broad radius of a grind, the stress of the shaving itself can start vibration. Use a smaller tool or grind the edge so that there is a tighter radius at the cutting surface to scoop out a smaller shaving. A smaller shaving can be done by angling the cutting edge on a severe angle. A cutting edge approaching the wood at 90 degrees will be a lot more stressful than a 45 degree slicing angle. A 30 degree angle would be even better. Take small, slow, light cuts, you can't force it. The wood is going fast the tool is moving slowly across the surface. It might help to get some hands-on help from someone in a turning club near you with production experience. Turners love to help turners.

There is no mention of the kind of wood you are using. Some woods will flex more than others. The length between centers and the diameter will both determine how much vibration problems you will have. Do the details on the largest diameter parts of the spindle first, and leave the thinnest sections for last, keeping as much support as possible for as long as possible. If all else fails then the last resort would be a steady rest. Depending on the spindle, the steady rest might have to be moved several times, to do one stage of the spindle at a time, with support up close to where you are cutting.

The good news is that doing multiple repetitive things will give you valuable experience and shorten the learning curve for tool control to do other projects. I remember my first production run of 58 stair railing spindles and how much I learned from the project. One thing I learned is I don't like production work, but my tool skills were improved big time because of it.

—Lyle Jamieson

MENTORING NEWS

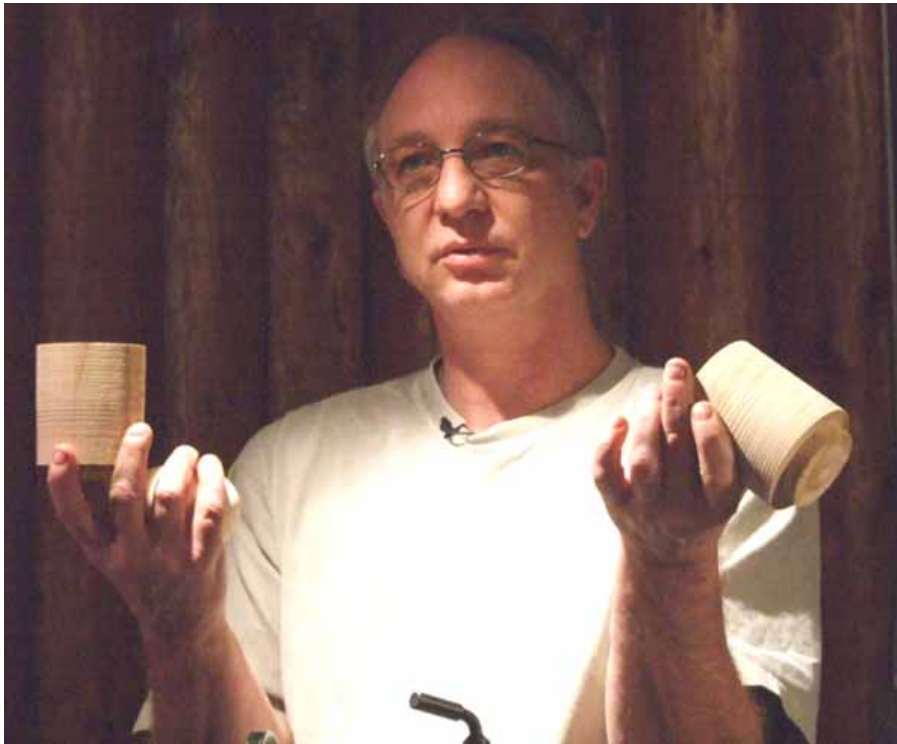
Don't forget that our Basic Mentoring program is available for beginning turners as well as more experienced turners.

Our Basic Mentoring program was created using the AAW Teaching Woodturning Basics teaching guide. The program focuses on learning spindle turning basics as a way to master tool control which can then be applied to most other modes of turning. Our basic turning mentors are George Way, Lucinda Van Valkenburg, Bob Doop, Fred Holder, Dave Blair, Melanie Mankamy, Jim Short and Rick Anderson.

In addition to the basic mentoring program, we have developed a list of volunteer mentors with expertise in specialty subjects (such as hollowing, texturing, bowl turning, etc.) as well as more advanced turning skills. These mentors stand ready to assist you.....it is a great opportunity to advance your skills.

Printed copies of our mentor lists and their contact info are available on the membership table at our monthly meetings. Be sure to pick up copies and keep them handy for the next time you want to advance your turning skills.

Don Derry: Shape & Form



ends. Of the many tips and tricks Don shared with us, perhaps the most important is that of removing the waste wood to a “hard shadow line” as shown in the bottom left photo. Doing so helps the eye follow the curve through the design rather than be distracted by the more common cutting process of working to a cove at the bottom of the cut. The waste wood then becomes more a part of the lathe and holding hardware enabling a better visualization of the developing form.

Many thanks to our programs chairperson George Way for including Mr. Derry as our featured presenter for the evening. Be sure to check out the club website and calendar for upcoming events and activities. And don't forget our major event this month of March, Al Stirt, providing an entire day of wood turning artistry.

We've been fortunate to have Don demonstrate for our membership a number of times and again, his skill and unique sense of humor provided an evening of education and entertainment. His passion for perfection in form is obvious.

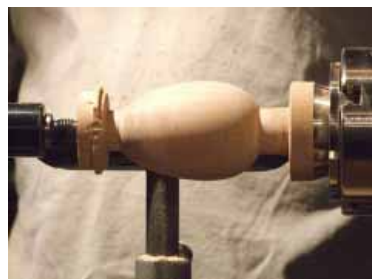


Don's primary focus when creating a piece on the lathe is the end product. “Decide where you're going”. Not simply the overall design but with each cut, plan not just the beginning but the end of each pass of the tool. With flowing curves, identify the high spots then work to recreate the shape. And

don't be dismayed if the cut goes too deep: This is simply the new finished surface!

Consider the use and purpose of each piece. Every hollow form does not require paper thin walls. Think in terms of “appropriate design”.

For the evening's project, Don created an egg “box”. One of the most difficult tasks in producing such a shape is forming the smooth continuous curve at the



Donald has been a woodworker for 35 years and has made everything from fine furniture and cabinetry to rock and roll guitars. In 1993 Don and his wife Kathy adopted a baby girl and made the decision for Donald to change his job status from cabinetmaker to full time stay at home dad. Fatherhood gave Donald time to reconsider his career and go into Woodturning. Donald states, “Turning appealed to me because it isn't dependent on the cutting, fitting and endless measuring that my cabinetmaking required.” So in 1993 He began in earnest to teach himself the craft of Woodturning . His interest in color was initiated do to an observation which he made at an American Association of Woodturners symposium in '94. A highlight of the symposium was an instant gallery containing several hundred turnings by amateurs and professionals alike. When he viewed the gallery he asked one question.” What do I not see represented in this exhibition?” Donald noticed that vibrant color and optical quality finishing were two attributes being neglected by modern woodturners and he set out to exploit both to the highest standard of optical brilliance possible. So successful was his quest that his work is, more often than not, thought to be Fine Art Glass rather than finely crafted wood.

Reprinted by permission from **Page 6**
www.donaldderry.com/art-bio.html

This space is set aside for members to advertise free of charge to sell or purchase tools, wood, etc. Please submit your ad to the Newsletter Editor by the last Thursday of the month or submit it to him at the meeting for inclusion in the next months newsletter.

MORE WOODTURNING

The magazine for turners. Published 10 times a year by Fred Holder.

One year: \$35.00;

Two years: \$70.00;

Three years \$105.00.

Electronic version \$25/yr. delivered from More Woodturning online at:

www.morewoodturning.net Lots of great information for your browsing pleasure.

More Woodturning

PO Box 2168

Snohomish WA 98291-2168 Phone:

360-668-0976

email: fred@morewoodturning.net

Club Discounts Available:

Show your Club Membership card and get 10% off at Rockler's, Woodcraft and Crosscut Hardwoods

Targo Woods

1104 C Street Bldg. B

Bellingham, WA

Just three blocks south of the old site.

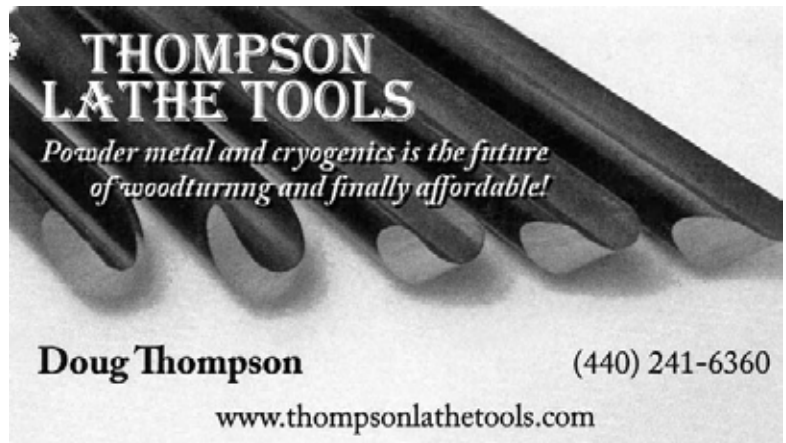
www.targowoods.com [or]

www.hardwoodstoget.com

Local Bellingham wood source for your projects. Hard woods, Burls, Veneers. Wood to replace a leg on a chair, make a whole dining room set or turn a bowl, you will find it at Targo.

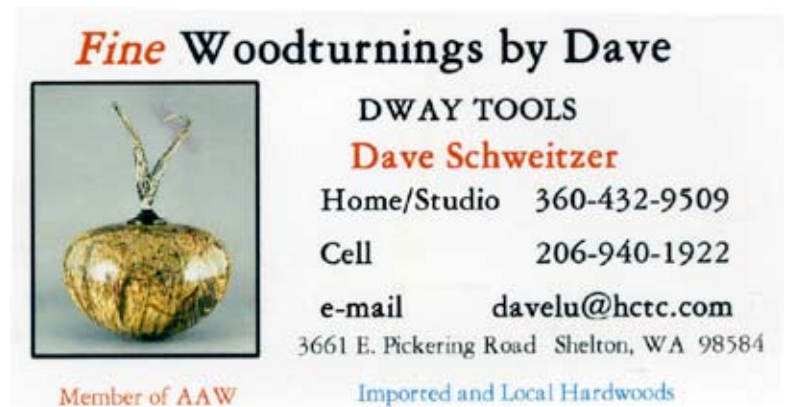
Oby says: NWWoodturner Club members will get 10% off on their Purchases.

Save on gas buy local



**THOMPSON
LATHE TOOLS**
*Powder metal and cryogenics is the future
of woodturning and finally affordable!*

Doug Thompson (440) 241-6360
www.thompsonlathetools.com



Fine Woodturnings by Dave

DWAY TOOLS
Dave Schweitzer
Home/Studio 360-432-9509
Cell 206-940-1922
e-mail davelu@hctc.com
3661 E. Pickering Road Shelton, WA 98584

Member of AAW Imported and Local Hardwoods



Kerf's Products by ShadowWood Too
Kerf's Wood Cream
Kerf's Lavender Wood Lotion
Kerf's Lemon Luster for Wood

Anne Collard
owner
phone: 360.738.3369
fax: 360.647.6789
email: annecollard@earthlink.net
website: www.kerfs.com

Membership Information

In accordance with a motion passed by the board in October 2011, we will begin sharing member contact information with the general membership. Starting after the March 15th meeting, all members in good standing will receive a Member Listing by email. We ask that members use this information for club business and activities only and not to share it with nonmembers.

Please review your contact information at the membership table during the March meeting, to verify that it is correct and something you wish to share with the general membership. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please contact the Membership Committee by email or phone.

If you wish to opt-out of having your contact information shared in this way, please inform the Membership Committee.

Membership Committee contact info - Email: Membership@nwwwt.org. or phone co-chairpersons Hazel Thomas 360-929-6075 or Laura Matthews 360-757-7730.



**"WOOD N THINGS" BUFFING SYSTEMS
SCORPION/STINGER HOLLOW VESSEL
TRUE TURN FACEPLATES and more.**
This is my home club.
Therefore, 25% off everything for NWW members
Call Don Pencil or use code NWW25ALL

**WWW.DONPENCIL.COM
360-376-4586 EASTSOUND, WA 98245**

Club Contacts:

President

Rick Anderson 360-319-7600
President@nwwwt.org

Vice President

Melanie Mankamyer 360-766-7004
VicePresident@nwwwt.org

Secretary

Secretary@nwwwt.org

Treasurer

Greg Anderson 425-501-8088
Treasurer@nwwwt.org

Member at Large

Bill Rawls 360-387-2993
wrawls1@gmail.com

Jim Sebring 360-691-3788
n7blw@yahoo.com

Ray Shields 360-671-3072
rayshields@msn.com

Dennis Shinn 360-854-9909
Skagitdude@isomedia.com

Programs Chairperson

George Way 360-293-7305
georgerway@gmail.com

Website Chairperson

Jesse Charette 360-920-1485
jesse.charette@gmail.com

Membership Chairpersons

Hazel Thomas 360-929-6075
Membership@nwwwt.org

Laura Matthews 360-757-7730
Membership@nwwwt.org

Mentoring Chairperson

Jim Sebring 360-691-3788
n7blw@yahoo.com

Sawdust Saturday Chairpersons

Ed Frank 360-293-5534
edwinfrank@comcast.net

Mike Young 360-293-4236
mjyoungana@gmail.com

Events Chairperson

Dave Blair 360-733-3911
lblair39@comcast.net

Ray Shields 360-671-3072
rayshields@msn.com