

# Northwest Washington Woodturners



A Local Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners  
Newsletter for January 2012



## 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.

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## President's Letter

Hello!

Another year of woodturning fun has begun! The snow tried to keep us away from our January meeting, but our loyal group of turners was not to be denied. A week late, yet still a great turnout and a fun evening. A special thanks to all who participated in presenting our program.

January was our 1<sup>st</sup> BYO dinner. The turnout was good and the conversations lively. 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.

A busy month lies ahead. Don Derry is our February program with a demonstration on Turning Eggs and coloring them. He will be staying for 2 days of classes on Friday and Saturday. Sign up will continue at our February meeting, but if you can't make the meeting and want to sign up please contact George Way. Don is a very good teacher of forms and you will find his demo and classes to be of lasting value.

Preparation for our Al Stirt all day demo on March 10 followed by classes on March 11 & 12 is very much underway. If you haven't yet signed up, please be sure to do so at our February meeting or send your registration info and fees to our Treasurer Greg Anderson. *Registration for classes will be opened to non-NWW members on February 11<sup>th</sup>.* Payment of the class fee is required at the time of sign up.

A new part of our monthly meetings will be our Creativity Challenge. The Challenge for February is something "**NOT QUITE ROUND!**" See details elsewhere in this newsletter. Let's have lots of fun with this.

This will be the last newsletter published by Ron Wehde. After 3 years of doing both the Newsletter and Gallery photography Ron has asked to be replaced. Ron's contributions to our club have been huge.....first as club Secretary and then as editor and photographer. That is a LOT of work.....and we all owe Ron a big THANK YOU!!! We need a replacement.....see more info below.

Our club is very active. This level of activity requires members willing to contribute time, energy and ideas. I am very pleased to say that everyone I have asked to participate thus far has said "YES". Thank you! We are a volunteer group and are only as strong and productive as our members want to be. If you are interested and willing to serve please email or call me. There are still lots of opportunities to say **YES!**

**Currently we need help with:**

**Coffee Manager(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 or 3 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.

AI Stirt Demo set-up, tear down & clean up crews for the evening of March 9 to set up and after the demo on March 10 to tear down and clean up. Neither of these will require a great deal of time if we have adequate volunteers. Contact Dennis Shinn to find out how you might help.

Web Site Chairman: Jan Garlington has served us well in this position both building and maintaining our website. Jan is ready to take a break from this task and we need someone to take over management of our website.

Newsletter Editor: The newsletter is one of our primary ways of communicating with our membership. As mentioned above, we need a new editor. The job consists of editing and assembling writing done by others. If you have desktop publishing experience or talents please contact me for more details.

Gallery Photographer: Take photographs of members gallery work on meeting nights, then edit and post to our website. If you have photography talent we could use your help. This position could easily be shared by 2 people.

With your help we can look forward to another year of fun and learning.....two simple goals that all can share in!

Turn Safe!  
Rick

*New in FEBRUARY*  
***THE CREATIVE CHALLENGE!***  
***“NOT QUITE ROUND!”***

February will begin a new feature of our meetings.....our 1<sup>st</sup> monthly *CREATIVE CHALLENGE!* For February the Creative Challenge is ***“NOT QUITE ROUND!”*** 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 round or ***“NOT QUITE ROUND”?*** That is the only rule. Crank up your imagination.....we look forward to seeing your creation!

# AL STIRT... Coming to our club!

March 10th -12th



On March 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:president@nwwwt.org)

# January Meeting

The New Year began for the Northwest Washington Woodturners with a significant snow storm, which ultimately necessitated the canceling of our club's previously scheduled meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Better late than never! The meeting was postponed and held one week later on Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>. A full house was in attendance.

One of the new changes taking place is the fact that our club no longer has a 5:30 PM dinner service, which for many years had graciously been prepared by our dear Shirley. Our new dinner service, following the tradition of camaraderie and fellowship, is being continued with a *Bring Your Own Food* (BYOF) option now taking place at 5:30 PM. There are still a few board members looking for catering options that might be available to us in the future. If you have any ideas or thoughts of food providers in the Mount Vernon or Burlington area, please share them with NWW President Rick Anderson.

Rick Anderson opened the meeting in welcoming new visitors and introducing the club's new committee and board members to the general membership. Three Craft Supplies gift certificates were given out to lucky club members.

Membership Coordinator, Jesse Charette, announced to the general membership to "*Remember to update your contact information with the club*". Your contact information includes a mailing address, working telephone number, and working email address.

Our club president announced a new program beginning this year, the "*Creativity Challenge*". This program is designed to encourage woodturners at all levels of skill to produce turned objects. This month's challenge is "*Not Quite Round*". It is up to you to interpret what this phrase means to you in your producing an artfully crafted turned wood object. A random drawing for a prize will be awarded after each challenge.

Ellensburg, Washington resident, Don Derry, will be demonstrating at our February meeting. He also will be offering an all day demonstration on turning "eggs" in anticipation of Easter. As many of our club members (i.e. Bob Doop and TJ Anderson) have remarked collectively, "*Don't miss Don Derry's shapes classes*" and "*Don Derry's class is one of best I have ever had*".

The upcoming Al Stirt event will be held Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost for the demo is \$40 dollars if you preregister and \$45 dollars at the door. The event includes lunch. Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> will feature an Al Stirt all day class on "platters" for a bargain price of \$110 dollars. Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> will feature an Al Stirt all day class on "bowls", also for a bargain price of \$110 dollars. Classes will be open to non-members of the NWW organization beginning February 11<sup>th</sup>. If you absolutely don't want to miss this event, and you are not currently a club member, then join Northwest Washington Woodturners (NWW) for \$35 dollars a year. We could really use some help getting the work area set up before the lathe and other equipment gets unloaded, things like spreading out the tarp, setting up whatever tables Mr. Stirt might need, and most of all, help cleaning up afterwards. I'd like to thank Hazel Thomas for stepping up to help with this last chore. But we could really use a couple more people. The sign-up sheet will be on the membership table at the February meeting – please consider lending a hand. The more people we have, the less each one has to do! If you're not able to attend the Feb. meeting please feel free to contact me directly ([skagitdude@isomedia.com](mailto:skagitdude@isomedia.com)) if you can be available before or after Mr. Stirt's demonstration to help out. Thanks in advance!

This month's presentation featured an evening of many speakers. Opening the evening was Rick Braun, who discussed his experiences and the inherent benefits for all wood turners in attending the annual AAW symposiums. As a follow up to that thought, Fred Holder had discussed other significant woodturning

symposiums currently held around the country such as the Utah Woodturner's Symposium (his personal favorite). While our highly informative demonstrators at regular meetings and special all day sessions along with classes conducted by some of the more notable names in the turning industry do indeed provide a great deal of inspiration and direction, there are many many other sources for advancement in the craft of turning. Specifically – the many symposiums conducted by the AAW and other clubs throughout the country, live-in studio group and individual classes offered by top name turners, and a variety of on line discussion groups where members are eager and willing to share their knowledge and advice.

If you're new or consider yourself new to turning, the club offers several springboards to help launch you into the next level. For the very new, there's our Let's Start Turning basic spindle turning classes where you'll learn about safety, proper tool technique, and to some degree lathe maintenance. Ask any of the board members about the next scheduled session and signup. Jim Siebring and Bob Doop are co-chairs of the Mentoring Committee who generally manage the basic spindle turning sessions. But feel free to ask any one of the board members about signing up and we'll see to it that you're included.

Then there's Sawdust Saturday where each month we provide a chance to explore specific project types like boxes, off center work, multiple axis, and so forth. Usually there's a sign-up sheet at the regular meeting each month. There's a \$5.00 class fee for these sessions to help defray costs of equipment maintenance, small refreshments (coffee and donuts), and any material the club might need to supply. Mike Young and Ed Frank manage the Sawdust Saturdays – check the signup table for the month's topic and space availability.

For both the beginning spindle turning and sawdust Saturday sessions you'll need to bring your own lunch. A basic set of tools is available but you're encouraged to bring yours if you have them. Most importantly, full face shields are required; no exceptions!

There are individual mentors, members of the club who are quite willing to share time with you in their shop. The list of mentors is available through the club and each has her/his own area of expertise along with a solid grasp of wood turning in general. Date and time for shop sessions like this are to be arranged between the parties involved.

Paul Anderson brought along some of his wonderful woodturnings for the membership to view, as he had relayed how classes he had taken with master woodturner, Trent Bosch, had perfected his skills. TJ Anderson then spoke about his experiences in taking classes from woodturning legend, David Ellsworth at his studio located in Pennsylvania. As a finale to the topic of *taking classes*, Bob Doop discussed his humorous experiences in taking week long classes at both the Arrowmont and Campbell craft schools. Club Vice President, Melanie Mankamyer, had highlighted the significant benefits in gaining increased woodturning skills by taking all day demonstration classes, versus taking only one or two hour courses.

Jim Sebring provided an adept overview to the membership about woodturning online forums and web sites available to the woodturning community. Both Fred and Mildred Holder discussed the benefits woodturners can gain by joining local collaborative groups. Closing the evening, "El Presidente" (Rick), had discussed the significant benefits of becoming an American Association of Woodturners (AAW) member and the AAW's informative web site.

The meeting was concluded with our monthly wood raffle. Every month we have members and woodturners at all levels donate pieces of wood and or wood blanks from their holdings. The wood raffle is an opportunity that provides some members with a source of quality wood, as well as providing the club with a modest revenue source in support of the organization.

Sincerely,

**Tom DiNardo and Dennis Shinn**

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# 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 Mankamyer, 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.

If you have any questions regarding mentoring or need assistance in being connected with an appropriate mentor please feel welcome to call or email me.

Rick Anderson 360-671-0532 [VicePresident@NWWWT.org](mailto:VicePresident@NWWWT.org)

## Member Contact 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 February or March meetings, to verify that it is correct and something you wish to share with the general membership. If you will not be able to attend either meeting, please contact me by email or phone.

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

Jesse Charette

NWW Membership Committee

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.

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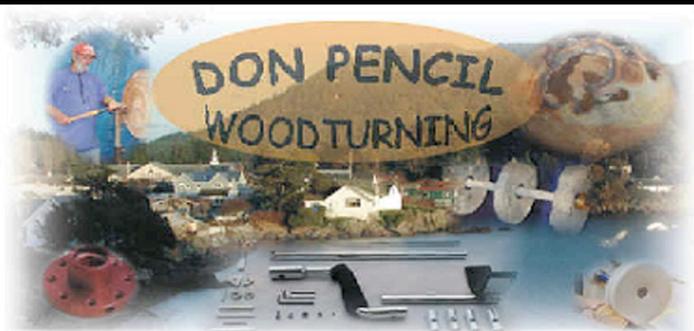
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