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Whidbey Island Woodworkers Guild Newsletter

Vol.. 1 - NO.1 - January 2005

Happy New Year! This is our first attempt to move from an informal e-mail announcing our meetings each month to a more formal newsletter. Our intention is to begin the process of providing a forum for putting out a wide variety of information that is of interest to us all. We highly encourage you to submit anything that you think might benefit the group, and we'll include it in the next issue. The look of this newsletter will undoubtedly change and expand, and hopefully improve as time goes on, but it's the beginning of what we hope will be a very informative and dynamic publication that we can all find useful.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WHIDBEY ISLAND WOODWORKERS GUILD AND A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

Larry Rohan first hatched the idea of us woodworkers getting together as a group several years ago. Eventually he called a few people together and gatherings were held at several different shops over the course of the next few months. On 5/19/02, an effort was made by about 6 people to organize and become more formal. Nothing substantial materialized, other than a commitment to maintaining some sort of a woodworking group as best as possible.

One of the early ideas was to establish a gallery at the "Gary Ando" bam at Greenbank Farm, but again time and money were the real constraints in preventing anything from happening.

In an effort to develop some sort of continuity, an e-mail began to go out each month starting in June of 2002 announcing a meeting to be held at a woodworker's shop somewhere on the Island. Meetings have been held on the 1st Thursday of each month since then, again with very little formality or structure other than an attempt to have a "topic" for discussion as a part of the meeting. It turns out that the socializing among woodworkers and the "shop talk" has been one of the more rewarding aspects of these meetings.

In February of 2003, another effort was made at organizing the group, with the chief result being the establishment of a "steering committee".

This committee consists of Rob Hetter, John Shinneman, Randy Scofield, Karl Nielsen, Bruce Schwager, Kevin Fristad, and Craig Yamamoto. The committee has been meeting regularly since its inception, brainstorming about the future, directing the Guild's activities, and generally planning ahead for what we hope will eventually become one of the more highly regarded woodworking groups in the country. The crowning achievement for the Guild thus far has been the highly successful and critically acclaimed woodworking show held in early September of

2004 at the Front Room of the Cash Store at Bayview.

One of the more astounding revelations of this organization has been the number of prominent woodworkers that reside and work on Whidbey Island - some are literally among the best in the world. Membership in the Guild is as yet completely informal in that it consists of getting on the mailing list, which has evolved strictly by word-of-mouth. This list has grown from around 10 people in the beginning to over 100 at this time. Up to a third of these folks make their living as woodworkers - the remaining are hobbyists looking for more knowledge, camaraderie, or simply a night out with like-minded enthusiasts. All have been welcome and each has contributed significantly by their strong interest in the group.

Future plans for the Guild include the development of a web site; legalizing the entity as a non-profit; continuing to host an annual woodworking show; holding educational discussions or forums outside the realm of the monthly meetings; and the possibility of instituting a small membership fee which could then be used for community events, an emergency fund for injured or needy members, basic expenses, or anything else required to fund a viable organization such as the Whidbey Island Woodworkers Guild.

Thanks to all of you who have either attended or hosted meetings over the last 3 years. Each gathering has been unique and inspiring. We trust that all of you will continue your support of the organization in whatever way you can along with your pursuit of excellence in woodworking on Whidbey Island.

JANUARY MEETING

Our next general meeting will be held this coming Thursday, Jan. 6th at 7:00 PM at the shop of Dennis Jensen. For those of you who are interested in boats or boat building, this is a meeting you'll not want to miss! Dennis spent 61/2 years building his 31' sailboat, after which he and his wife spent the following 3 years sailing around much of the world. They arrived home this past Sept. and Dennis now has his boat in his shop for repairs. We'll all have a chance to see the results of 7,000 hours of work and to hear Dennis tell about some of the unique challenges that can be encountered while building a craft such as this.

Dennis' shop is located at 1169 Sherwood Lane in Greenbank. If you're coming from the South, take Honeymoon Bay Rd. to the right off the highway just outside of Freeland and go 3.5 miles to Sherwood Lane. The green street sign indicating Sherwood Lane IS actually on the right, but you'll want to turn left. Dennis' place is the second driveway on the left after turning on to Sherwood. He will park his white Ford Van with a "Jensen Plumbing" sign on the door at the foot of the driveway. Park along the side of Sherwood and walk up to the shop at the end of the driveway. Be sure to bring along a flashlight so you don't trip over anything getting to his shop! Dennis says it's really dark out there in the evening this time of year!

If you're coming from the North, take Classic Rd. to the left at the phone booth. Go to the end of Classic where it Ts into Honeymoon Bay Rd. Turn right on to Honeymoon Bay Rd. and go about 1/2 mile to Sherwood Lane.

If you get lost, call Dennis at 331-8813. Hope to see you there!

THE ADS

NOTE: This space is reserved for anyone looking for help, wanting to list an item to buy or sell, wanting to list an event or opening, or even a place to advertise for a new partner!

HELP WANTED: The Whidbey Island Woodworkers Guild is looking for someone familiar with setting up a non-profit organization. This individual should know all the rules and regulations associated with such an endeavor. Compensation is limited to the satisfaction you might achieve from a task such as this - in other words, we are asking you to work for free! Call Bruce at 730-8165.

FOR SALE: Fine Home Building magazines - Issue # 3, (June / July 1981) through issue # 100, (February / March 1996). Make offer. Will consider giving them away. Call Kevin at 321-2034.

FOR SALE: Baseball caps with the WIWG logo on the front. High quality. Various colors available. \$20 each. Call Rob at 222-3121

The Guild is hosting a tool sale and swap meet on Saturday, June 4th, 2005 at the Greenbank Farm. Call Rob for details at 222-3121.

FOR SALE: 220 V. Rojock slot moriser. \$950 Call Rob at 222-3121

FOR SALE: 300 BF 6/4 Hickory - make offer. Call Rob at 222-3121

FOR SALE: Cherry backer boards - 3/4" to 1" thick , \$2.75/ sq. ft. Call Rob at 222-3121

THANKS: To all of you who sent cards, gifts, food, money, and good wishes these past few weeks during my recovery - thank you so very much. Your generosity was overwhelming and words cannot express my appreciation for your kindness - Pat McVay

Editor's Note: Pat is making great progress, but he still has 4 more months of difficult physical therapy ahead of him. He is able to use his hand to turn a door knob or to hold a phone, but -that's about it. He will not be able to work for quite some time. Please continue to help in any way you can.

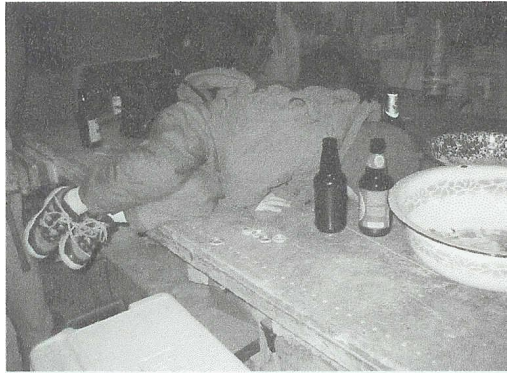
THANK YOU: A hearty thanks once again to Kim Hoelting for hosting the 2nd annual "Woodworkers Family Gathering and Potluck" at his Woodland Hall showroom in December.

FREE: 2 -New # 49 hp black printer cartridges. Call Kevin at 321-2034

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GUILD MEMBER

Many of us know people whose lives and careers have been drastically altered mid-stream. Gary Leake's version included exiting his engineering career (much of which was spent on airplanes) in order to grow his hobbies of woodworking and antique restoration into a self-employed business. Although supportive throughout the transition, most of their friends and family questioned the timing of Gary and Sandy's career change. Both Gary and Sandy quit their daily-grind jobs while they had two sons in college. The business quickly outgrew their Burien home and they relocated to more appropriate shop / office facilities near Coupeville in 2000. In addition to the antique restoration and building custom furniture (these pay the bills), Gary's passion is in creating one-off wood art. Gary's wood art is currently displayed in two Whidbey Island galleries and in La Conner.

More about Gary and Sandy and their work can be seen at their web page at:
<http://home.att.net/~garv.leake>



Ari Rohan, a future member of the Guild, crashes on Tom Fisher's workbench.

Whidbey Island Woodworkers Guild Steering Committee Members

Please submit anything you would like to list in forthcoming publications to any of those listed below.

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1/6/2006