



CHATTERMARKS

December 2013
Volume II Issue 12

Olympic Peninsula Woodturners
Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
P.O. Box 623 Silverdale, WA. 98383
www.OPCAAW.com

LET'S HAVE A PARTY!

The social highlight of the year for our woodturning community is our Annual Christmas Party. Dinner and Raffle are the highlights of the evening.

This is what Cindy Allen had to say in last month's *Chattermarks* about the dinner: It will be held at the same location as our monthly club meetings for the paid membership.

Anyone wishing to help with setup the night of the party please arrive about 5:00 pm. If a member or their spouse would like to decorate a table or would like to participate in the planning, please email me. As in years past, the club will be providing ham and turkey. We'll be asking that members with the last name starting with A - P, please bring hors d'oeuvres or your favorite potluck dishes. Members with last name starting with Q - Z, please bring desserts. As in years past, sliced ham and turkey will be provided. We will also have tables set up for a special display at the party so that members and their families can see and admire the talents and growth of the club. Encouraging all members to bring in some of your work - if something is for sale, feel free to put a price on it (may help some of us do our Christmas shopping!).

The raffle is the other highlight of the evening. All year we have been putting our names on tickets that we are given for wearing our name tags, donating wood, or exhibiting pieces in Show and Tell. We will draw names until all the prizes are given out, which is in the neighborhood of \$2000 worth of tools, accessories, and gift certificates, according to club President, Russell Neyman.

Christmas Party

11 December 6:00 pm,
Kitsap Adventist School 5088
NW Taylor Rd. Bremerton,
WA

Even some woodturners celebrate
Christmas, and we will be
celebrating our Christmas instead
of having our regular meeting.

Pushing the Limits.

By Russell Neyman.



OK, I confess: *I'm* the one who jinxed Alan Carter at the November demonstration. I was sitting next to Jimmy Allen when Carter had extended the incredibly fragile goblet stem to about seven or eight inches, and – like most everyone in the room – was marveling at his ability to turn a piece of simple wood to less than an eighth of an inch without a fracturing occurring. I occasionally turn very thin objects myself, so I know a little about pushing the wood to its limits. I sarcastically leaned over to Jimmy and whispered, “Right about now, mine would snap.”

And Carter's did just that: *it snapped!* Carter was embarrassed and apologized several times, as though these things never happen. Well, they do—to all of us. In a way, Alan taught us more than just how to create an incredibly delicate, needle-thin, wonderfully beautiful piece that mesmerizes art lovers. In that instant, he taught us the value of risk-taking, of turning a bowl too thin, a stem too long, or creating an object from an unusual species of wood that should not be turned.

Thanks, Alan, for nudging us a bit further down the road

of experimentation. Thanks for showing us what you do and what can be done when an artisan goes beyond the declared safety zone.

Dick Raffin, the world-famous woodturner (who will be in our area soon) puts it another way. In his shop is a stack of broken bowls and shattered pieces of wood. Next to it is a placard that reads, “*If you don't have a pile of these, you aren't trying hard enough.*”

As woodturners, let's all make a point to push ourselves in the coming months. Let's move past our comfort zones and begin to experiment, pushing tools and materials to their point of failure so that we know what, exactly, is possible. Try something new. Do the difficult. Go where you didn't think you could go. Stretch your capabilities.

I'm betting all of us will be surprised at what we can achieve.

* * *

That one brief portion of Carter's presentation on thin-stemmed goblets is hardly the totality of what he conveys to audiences everywhere. He is unique in the woodworking world because he is a trained fine artist. He painted landscapes, designed furniture, and explored other media before he began to turn wood. Those goblets are merely a fraction of his scope of work.

Amid his discussions of putting tool-to-wood and lathe speed, he gave us hints about woodturning design that elevates him above most artisans. His bowls have a natural feel to them, with harmonious lines and balance. “If we simply make the bowl of the goblet



round,” Carter said, “the design becomes static. There is a natural point where the curvature *feels right*, usually about one third the way down but often elsewhere.”

That impressed me. I wonder if we could bring him back simply to discuss the elements of design? Thanks, Ralph, for going the extra mile to bring Alan Carter into our lives.

* * *

The fragility of the goblet stem and the subtlety of technique would have been lost on the crowd if it hadn't been for the new video crew who provided full screen overhead and close up images. Our thanks go out to Crew Chief Jeff Shields, Tex Lewis, Pete Gerstel and the others who stepped in to man the cameras. In fact, the efforts of all of our support staff – the technicians, the people who sign us in, man the lending library, and set up the room – significantly enhance the experience each month.

* * *

It's hard to believe that there will be only two more weekends between our Woodturners' Christmas Potluck and Christmas itself. For many of us, this is the time of year that we are showing our work at holiday boutiques or working late in the evenings to make pepper grinders for all of our relatives. Some of us switch from our usual bowls to holiday-themed giftware—tree ornaments or decorative platters filled with cookies. 'Tis the season to be turning, eh?

The December 11th potluck is our end-of-the-year social gathering, and we encourage you to bring your spouses and friends to the event. No, we won't have a demonstration, but Cindy Allen has seen to it that will have plenty of good food. And all of those red tickets that our members have accrued throughout the year will be translated into door prizes. At last count, there are many hundreds of dollars in prizes and gift certificates scheduled to be given out.

* * *

If you're the type who drops hints, you might consider steering your friends and families to one of our many sponsors for your holiday gift. Rockler, Woodcraft, Edensaw, Cooks, D-Way Tools... all of these companies support us throughout the year, and it just makes sense that we should return the favor.

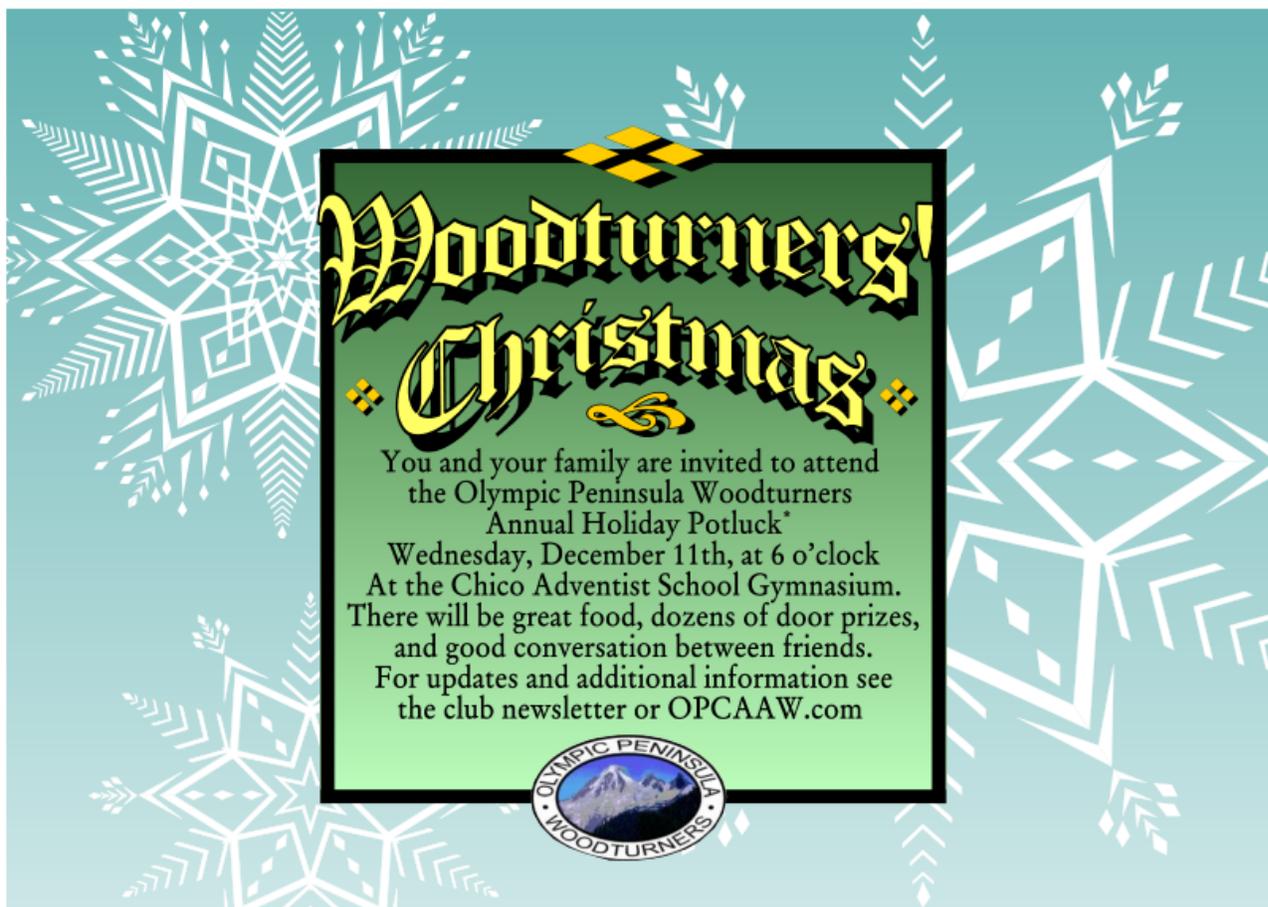
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Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings to you all!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR CHATTERMARKS?

Do you have a favorite web page or video related to woodturning that you might like to share with the group? Do you have some extra tools, wood, or materials that you might like to sell or see put to good use? Get hold of me at a meeting, or send an email to PublicRelations@opcaaw.com, and we will try to get it in. If you submit a tip that's accepted in Chattermarks, you will earn five free tickets for the Christmas party drawings.



Woodturners' Christmas

You and your family are invited to attend the Olympic Peninsula Woodturners Annual Holiday Potluck*
 Wednesday, December 11th, at 6 o'clock
 At the Chico Adventist School Gymnasium.
 There will be great food, dozens of door prizes, and good conversation between friends.
 For updates and additional information see the club newsletter or OPCAAW.com



*OPCAAW will provide ham and turkey; Members whose last names begin with A-P should bring hors d'oeuvres, salad, or side dish; Q-Z should bring a dessert.

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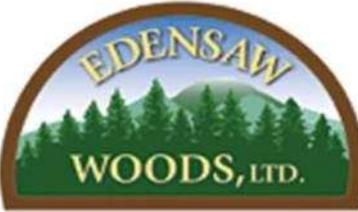
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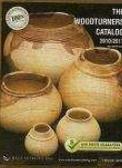
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MENTORING PROGRAM

We are looking for some new mentors. The folks who are currently doing the great service have been doing it for a long time. See any of the board officers if you are interested. The mentoring programs has been set up to answer questions and give help to new members and those whom may be having a problem in a specific area. Although not intended to be free lessons in woodturning (many of those volunteering are professional turners and derive their income from turning and teaching), these are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

Dan Ackerman	(360)796-4155
"Tones" Briggs	(360)871-7607
George Kromka	(360) 373-1028
Jim Leary	(360) 297-5872
Bob Hickernell	(360) 479-5501

Chapter Officers

President	Russell Neyman	(360)813-4484	President@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Education and Training	Ralph Lindberg	(360)779-5979	Training@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Public Relations	Larry Matkins	(360)551-1044	PublicRelations@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Membership	Schuyler Beaver	(360)698-4108	Membership@opcaaw.com
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Sergeant at Arms	Vern West	(360)479-8634	SargeantAtArms@opcaaw.com
Vice President of Special Events	Cindy Allen	(360)373-3041	SpecialEvents@opcaaw.com

OPCAAW Staff Positions (appointed)

Librarian	Barb Davis	(360)373-1858
Librarian	Bob Flynn	(757)839-5270
Video Cameraman	Dick Bird	(360)779-4618
Audio Engineer	Stan Stumbo	(360)842-1458
Photographer	Dan Marler	(360)638-2939
Sand Paper and Glue Sales	John Clauson	(360)275-5386