



# CHATTERMARKS



**The eNewsletter for Woodturners of Western Puget Sound.**

When you have a chunk of wood turning in a circle in front of you at a zillion revs per minute, the concept of a square bowl seems as mutually exclusive as a round peg in a square hole.

**Eric Lofstrom** will be with us this month to show us the finer techniques of making what is normally round, square.

In addition to showing us how to turn a square rimmed bowl, he will also touch on the basic A,B,C and D's of turning—Anchor, Bevel, Cut. (come to the meeting for the D and S) Then so as to not limit our concept of square, Eric will also introduce such designs as slumping and lifting forms as well the wave that was so much fun at a football game. Well, maybe that part's different.



Eric's website describes him as a woodturning artist, demonstrator, passionate teacher, and private instructor. Most of us are familiar with Eric as his is a familiar face, having presented several times with our club. Eric says that he is "excited about the creative process and the quest for clean forms and pure curves".

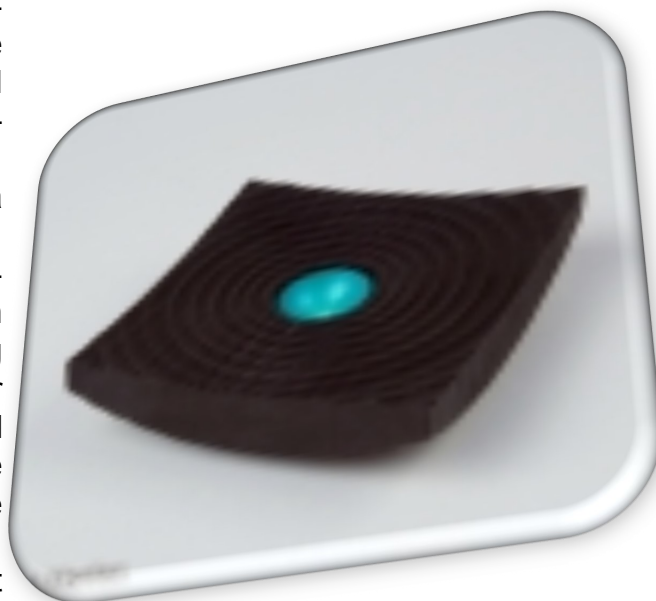
Eric is a member of the Puget



Sound Woodturners, out of Fife WA, just down the road. He also serves as one of the Mentors of the SPSW group, which is right in keeping with his passion as a teacher. We at the Peninsula Woodturners as well as the entire state of wood turners

are exceptionally lucky to have artist and teachers of the caliber of Eric Lofstrom. It only helps to raise the consciousness and abilities of everyone in the craft.

From his website, he says, "I hope to impact the world of woodturning by helping others build confidence in tool control and developing their own voice in wood turning."



**Next meeting**

**June 24, 2015**

**Social time-**

**6:00 PM**

**Meeting -**

**6:30 PM**

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# The 'Ah-Ha!' Moment

By Russell Neyman, president

For some of us, the woodturning experience is much like learning to ride a bike. Your father lifts you onto the seat, you're somewhat apprehensive, you wobble, and – more than likely – you crash a time or six. But at some point you let go of your fears and you simply float down the street. It's all a matter of trust.

Let me give you another example, one that's a bit more personal. I have two younger brothers, Roger and Roy. Roy was a good athlete, a hurdler on the high school track team, a versatile football player, and even played a bit of college basketball. The other brother, Roger, followed a more intellectual path. His sports were chess and Frisbee. In fact Roger is the most intelligent man I know, so when I point out that he isn't as "physical" that really isn't a put-down.

All three of us sail and have owned sailboats. In fact, Roy lives on a 42-foot ketch and is currently cruising the warm waters of Mexico. The point here is not what we do at sea but how we do it.

Roger really works at it; Roy doesn't have to. Roger is intensely studying the telltales and compass, always moving the rudder controls left and right. Roy can feel the boat lift and fall; he senses the movement of the full keel through the water, and he naturally adjust. He senses the wind direction through the most subtle sense of it against his cheek, knowing exactly how it fills the canvas and carries the boat through the water.

Roger has a mechanical, intellectual approach to sailing a boat; Roy's is intuitive.

**AND THAT'S EXACTLY** what I see with many woodturners: they concentrate on the angle of approach, rubbing the bevel religiously, focusing on the mechanical aspects of the activity without allowing the tool to do it's magic. Most assuredly, there will come a time when everything "clicks" and the shavings begin to flow.

For most of us, it's difficult to pinpoint that moment.

George Kromka, one of our best and most active mentors, says his "Ah-Ha" moment came several months after began turning decades ago. "I was turning

objects with the pointy tip of my gouge, constantly sharpening and re-sharpening it. Then I had a moment of realization. Why don't I use the whole tool? I tinkered with different types of cuts and angles, a bit of scraping, and bit of shear. Ten minutes later, my whole outlook changed. Something clicked. I stopped over-thinking and began to enjoy it."

Wally Dickerman, the 94-year-old woodturner who we expect to be the keynote speaker for OPCA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, says he knew from the first instant he put a sharp edge against a piece of wood that he had a passion for it. He wrote me a note about his first experience recently.

"I'm sitting here looking at my first ever bowl, a walnut nut bowl, turned 79 years ago in high school shop. That was in 1936 and I was 15 years old. That started a spark that is still there. That summer I bought a cheap Sears lathe and a couple of tools after making a few dollars at a summer job. Lots of things happened after that to put an end to my turning.

"After high school I went to Alaska. When WWII started I joined the Navy. Couldn't pack a lathe in my sea bag. I never forgot my strong desire to turn more bowls but it wasn't until around 1950 that I bought my second lathe. After that it was on to bigger and better lathes. My present lathe is my ninth. I've just finished getting it set up in my new shop.

"Yesterday I applied the first coat of finish to my first HF turned in my new shop. I'm just as enthused now as I was 79 years ago after my first bowl. What a wonderful lifelong hobby woodturning has been."

Norm Hicks, one of our own turners who specializes in segmented pieces, says he got off to a slow start in woodturning, but when he finally got around to spinning chips he never looked back.

"My wife and I were shopping for tools so we could do things around the house and somewhere along the line she insisted I purchase a lathe. It wasn't anything fancy, and I really didn't think I



Do a favor to the Club and a friend – print out this newsletter and pass it on.—Ed.

—Continued on page 3



needed one, but I just said, 'yes dear' and went along with it. Well, that lathe just sat in a corner gathering dust for a couple of years.

"Then I was building a rocking horse for my granddaughter I needed a handle for the child to hold on to. Now, I could have used ordinary dowel, but since I had that darn lathe, I decided to do something a little fancier and more ergonomic. I chucked up a block of work, began shaving off things, and realized, *'this is fun!'*"

Norm also says, "Since that day, I've loved every minute. Woodturning is thoroughly enjoyable."

John Jordon, a contributor to the Sawmill Creek Woodturners Forum, had a similar experience:

"Knowing nothing about turning and with no research, I drove to Home Depot and Sears to get what I needed to make something round to help my son, a first-year architect student. That done, the lathe sat unused for maybe 6 months until I noticed it and thought 'Hmm, I'm gonna make me a bowl.'"

"With no turning wood at hand and no idea where to find some, I glued up four pieces of rock hard 4/4 red oak boards and made me a bowl! It was ridiculously quick and easy and so instantly gratifying I was hooked."

Jordon adds, "Didn't take two weeks before I realized that lathe would not 'cut' it and started sliding down the slope towards today with four lathes and a new shop full of tools and two lifetimes worth of wood on hand. I infected a friend with a gift of the first lathe so the saga continues."

Hawaiian woodturner Kyle Iwamoto shared this:

"I started many years ago, with a Craftsman cheap lathe I got on sale, along with the set of tools they sold. I turned hundreds of pens, because the lathe was such a piece of junk, I couldn't turn anything bigger than a pen. For years I unknowingly suffered with the POJ lathe, and you know what? I was happy as a clam because I was turning stuff that people just loved."

"Well, THAT lathe motor finally blew, and a replacement was 90 bucks. Um no. Not buying a 90 buck motor for a 120 buck lathe. Few months later I had to buy a Jet mini that was on sale (\$199) at the local Woodcraft Store. Anything else was

just not in the budget. Took it home turned it on and WOWEEE. This is nice! Is it really running? So smooth. Everything I turned was a true joy. I actually could turn a small bowl. It's been downhill ever since."

So there you have it: For some it's love at first sight; for others, things are a struggle until they stumble upon the right tool, the right mentor, the right piece of wood. My advice to all who have a passion for the craft but still struggle to "sail along" is to keep rolling.

**IT HAS OCCURRED** to me that our club had an Ah-Ha Moment last year. It came during the Kitsap County Fair, when about 20 of our members stood at our display booth in President's Hall, sharing our enthusiasm for woodturning with passersby. During that short week together, the core group of the individuals who have since joined the leadership team became closer. Friendships blossomed, and the club is all the better for it. —RN

## ~Other Notes~

### THE JET 14-42 REFURBISHMENT

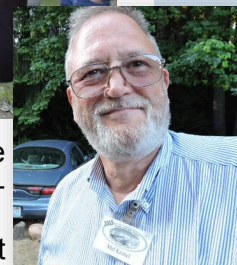
project was a tremendous success from several standpoints. Not only did it raise much-needed

funds for the video equipment upgrade, but a number of club members had a great deal of fun working on it. Troy Kellington, especially, "became intimate" with the machine, disassembling it completely, compiling a list of needed parts

(which the club purchased from Jet), and reconstructing it. Ron Gates also was a tremendous help, fine-tuning the Reeves drive pulleys and donating some new bearings.

The lathe was auctioned at our May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for \$900. The winning bidder was **Mel Knittel**.

—Continued on page 4







Of course, none of this would have been possible if member Daniel Cave had not been thoughtful enough to donate the lathe to the club. Yes, it needed some work, but our club has the talent to handle those details. When it was complete, it purred like a kitten and looked like a shiny new penny. (if pennies were white)

And that brings up an interesting point:

If you have a piece of equipment – working or not – that we might be able to refurbish, drop us a note. Or, if you're in the process of planning your "final arrangements" consider bequeathing your woodturning stuff to the club. You can be assured that it will be put to good use.

**THE NEW VIDEO SYSTEM** was unveiled during Alan Shepard's demonstration on airbrushing techniques last month, and – wow – the system was a huge success. The new mixer allows the camera crew to seamlessly switch between overhead and side views, employ a split screen, and generally improves the show.

The new high definition digital camera – we have only been able to purchase one so far – has incredible clarity and resolution, too. Best of all, that annoying default graphic that was previously popping up when the system sat static for more than a few minutes is gone.

Here's the rub: This has been an expensive upgrade. To date, we have spent \$2900 on the mixer, sideview boom camera, and the necessary cards and cables, and we still need to purchase another HD camera. All of the recent raffles and special auctions have been done specifically to help fund these improvements, but we can all see that it has been worth it.

Thanks to all who have contributed.

**THE MAY WOOD AUCTION** was one of the most worthwhile collections of bowl blanks and raw wood we have had in many months. In fact, we didn't have time to go through all of it, holding some back for next month.

Veteran member Dan Ackerman stepped in as May's auctioneer, replacing George Kromka, who "retired" after many years of helping us out in that capacity. In the future, Dan and Larry Lemon will trade off auction table duties, with an occasional helping hand from Kevin Taylor.

Larry has served as auctioneer in other organizations, and Kevin is in the wood sales business.

We can't thank you enough for responding to our request for more and better items for the auction. May was outstanding and we hope that trend will continue in the coming months. One thing that would really speed the wood auction along would be if the items were clearly identified, with notes attached in some cases. A tree round labeled, "Cherry, harvested 2012" would do wonders, and is easier to discuss.

**THE RAFFLE FOR THE** Delta Dust Collection system will take place at our June meeting, and the actual equipment will be brought in to the meeting hall for inspection. Tickets are available for \$5 each. If you'd like to purchase a ticket via mail, send in your money and a note to our Post Office Box, which noted in the back of this newsletter. If your money does not arrive in time, we'll issue a refund.

The Delta system is fairly complete, so much so that it was difficult to display it. While you don't need to be present to be the winner, we're hopeful that it will go home with someone next month.

**A MISUNDERSTANDING** with our glue supplier – it was no one's fault, really – led us to incorrectly overcharge some people for bottles of CA glue. If you feel you were shorted, please contact Barb Davis at the Glue & Sandpaper desk. —RN

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For those who missed the presentation by Jay Shepard last month, we had a full room of interested turners watching "paint dry", as Jay put it. Of course when it looks like this photo, who could blame us.



# Lathes for sale

The following are lathes that are for sale in the area. These are from the South Puget Sound Woodturners Club.



A Delta 12" Variable Speed lathe offered by Rockey Isley, 360-250-5203. rockeyis@msn.com. \$250.

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An old Delta lathe with a non working motor. Located in Winlock, an hour south of Olympia. Call Harold 360-508-1313. He says he'll give it away!

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The next one is a brand new lathe, never been used. It is a Woodtek Model 961-976. It is currently wired for 240v, and is a variable speed Reeves drive. Included are a

face plate, chuck with cole jaws and extra chuck jaws as shown in photo. A great starter lathe. The lathe alone is \$1500 and is being offered by Dan Woolett for \$1000 with accessories. Call 360-790-6594 or bkcenry49@gmail.com.



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## Help the Auctioneer

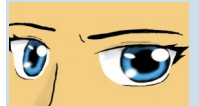
Not everyone is an expert at identifying chunks of trees that are brought in for the monthly wood auction. So take a couple of minutes and write the name of the wood that you are donating to the auction.

Remember, the wood auction is a major source of revenue for the club. So don't be a Scrooge. Bid often. Bid high.



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# Coming up -

## Calendar of events, shows, classes and other things



### 2015

June 24— Monthly meeting      Eric Loftstrom    Square bowls  
 July 29—Monthly meeting      Art Leistman - a great Canadian turner  
 August 8 - Club Picnic      Otto Jarstaad Park, Gorst WA  
 August 15 - Olalla Bluegrass Festival      One day booth with demonstrations and club information  
 August 26-30 - Kitsap County Fair      Three day booth with show and tell and club info  
 October 28—**25th anniversary celebration** with 94 y.o. guest speaker Wally Dickerman

**Celebrate  
your  
heritage,  
your  
freedoms,  
your  
opportunities  
as an  
American**

**Celebrate  
the 4th of  
July next  
month**

### Volunteers Needed

The Olympic Peninsula Woodturners are signed up for more exposure this summer. Last year, we had a great response to our booth at the Kitsap County Fair, and welcomed many new members from that experience.

This summer, we will again be at the KCF (not to be confused with fried chicken) and will again need volunteers to greet the public and talk about our group. It's a fun time and very rewarding, so be sure to sign up for a slot or two. Many hands make light work.

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### Creating Something

"Go into the Arts. I'm not kidding. The Arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow for heaven's sake. Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possibly can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something."—**Kurt Vonnegut**

### WIT Pages

Women in Turning has a FB page for all of you interested. It's <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Women-in-Turning/732036653523097?fref=ts>.

They also have a monitored page, but it's for the ladies only, guys. Sorry.

Check out the 'everyone' FB page and see some interesting egg creations, like the one here.



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### From our Show and Tells—past



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Jim Conway,  
Editor



# The Mentoring Program

The OPCA AW Mentors are a select group of artisans and professionals who we have designated to promote, encourage, and guide novice and intermediate woodturners within our organization. Mentors provide counsel on subjects like shop setup, equipment purchase, safety, wood preparation and specialized skills. These are some friendly folks willing to give you a point in the right direction.

While not actually a formal training program, meetings with mentors often become just that. In some cases, advanced formal instruction is available for an hourly rate.

OPCA AW Mentoring is available only to members. Please bring your current badge with you to the first session.

The current Mentors are:

<b>Dan Ackerman</b> (Brinnon)	360-796-4155
<b>Tones Briggs</b> (Port Orchard)	360-271-6448
<b>Bob Hickernell</b> (Bremerton)	360-479-5501
<b>George Kromka</b> (Bremerton)	360-373-1028
<b>Jim Leary</b> (Kingston)	360-297-5872
<b>Jim McFarland</b> (Shelton)	903-352-9807
<b>Brad Stave</b> (Gig Harbor)	206-910-5459

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bowl every  
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then,  
you aren't  
trying hard  
enough."**

**-- Dick Raffin,  
Master  
Woodturner**

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