

2015 NWA Membership Interests Survey Results

(Members surveyed during the month of October)

Question - 1				
I am a member of NWA because... (select all that apply)		Response(s)	Ratio	
I want to learn more about fine woodworking		111	82.2%	
I want to meet people with similar interests in woodworking		97	71.8%	
I want to share my woodworking skills and knowledge with others		46	34.0%	
I want to become involved in charitable community projects		31	22.9%	
Other		12	8.8%	
Total		135	1	
12 Comments				
All of the above				
I want to improve my basic woodworking skills				
Being able to be a part of activities.				
I want a beginners class in woodworking				
Classes that provide information on specific skills are always welcomed				
To improve all my woodworking skills				
Wood Carving				
Good value for the money				
A member of AWA				
Learn how to use woodworking tools.				
I am dropping out. Too little content that I'm interested in. Too many rules.				
I enjoy the annual show in Saratoga				
Question - 2				
Do you find the articles in the NWA Online Newsletter informative?(Please comment why you chose "Yes" or "No")		Response(s)	Ratio	
Yes		123	89.1%	
No		10	7.2%	
No Responses		5	3.6%	
Total		138	1	
48 Comments				
I enjoy learning as much about all aspects of wooworking as I can.				

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Informative to the extent that it shows me extent of knowledge of the membership and their interest. It also keeps me informed of the social events and opportunities available to me through the organization.				
Since they are written by our peers, they are usually very informative and understandable. The subjects/topics are generally of interest to the majority of the members.				
They further the lesson and stir questions. Learning.				
I recall the bios that were a part of the newsletter years ago. It gave us a chance to connect to some people and appreciate their skills. Perhaps a short bio on the teachers of the classes who are also members would also help.				
while some are routine, we get some very thoughtful articles on things like Tom Osborne's chisel article or Bill's radial arm saw article. Excellent material.				
They keep me up to date on all that the organization as a whole is doing.				
because I have so much to learn				
Duh				
I still prefer the printed version.				
Keeping in touch w/ happenings. Interesting backgrounds of guest speakers. knowing what is happening and being able to contact various leaders of SIG's.				
different aspects of woodworking that I haven't though of				
I want a hard copy of the newsletter.I like to keep them, and do not wish to print them out. This online, save money, has gone too far.				
lets us learn other items of interest we do not know				
I do read it all. It is the only way we find out what the other chapters are doing. With the newsletter being electronic, it could be expanded.				
Keeps me abreast of NWA happenings				
Introduces me to club members who have knowledge to share.				
Since I am unable to attend most of the Thursday club events due to a class I teach, the Newsletter brings me many nice articles about the happenings of the organization				
It's nice to keep up with what the other chapters and SIGs are doing, and I like to know about coming events and activities.				
I get information on future meetings				
Enjoy reading the Newsletter. Contributors do a great job on articles.				
I enjoy the newsletter when I get a chance to read it.				
But not terribly informative.				
Generally covers a broad base of SIGs and areas of interest.				
Somewhat.				
sometimes I learn something				
It keeps me up to date on the latest in NWA.				

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Excellent newsletter.				
It is not formatted for reading on line.				
Some of the articles are interesting but for an organization with so many members and so many subgroups it amazes me that there are not more articles on a monthly basis. There is no limitation on pages since it is sent out via email. We also never see articles summarizing the big events held by NWA - Showcase, Totally Turning, the Auction, etc. Why is that? Is it a big secret as to the # of attendees, \$\$ received, etc.? What do you do to get articles?				
Only sometimes.				
It lets us know what is going on in the other chapters				
There is a great variety of talent and creativity that can inspire members. They also become connected to other woodworkers outside of our area who are resources for projects and skills.				
I particularly like the articles about wood species and how to make projects				
The NWA Newsletter is Great. Very informative and current. Please add a section on upcoming events, courses, trips, etc...				
Learning from other people.				
I really miss Ron's wood of the month article, but I know how hard it is getting people to write for newsletters. Nonetheless, short articles by members on topics of their interests or expertise would be really welcomed here.				
Not all articles are informative. But once in a while there is an interesting one				
To know what other people are working on				
Every time I get a chance to educate myself, reading something new in the newsletter, is time well spent.				
To a point.				
There is a lot that I do not know				
Seems to be a bit heavy on wood turning articles.				
It helps me learn about woodworking and keeps me up to date on nwa activities				
The articles are in general a very nice overview of the presentation made at a monthly meeting. However, a tech. Topic should be covered each month, showing details on how to do a particular subject matter (for example: how to cut blind dovetails inc, illustrations)				
It's more social which is fine.				
ANy info is good.				
The newsletter usually covers topics I don't normally think about, but find interesting when I read the article. I like the newsletter.				

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Question - 3

Many times the NWA Email Announcements are ignored. Do you read NWA Email Announcements?(Please comment why you chose "Yes" or "No")		Response(s)	Ratio
Yes		134	97.1%
No		0	0.0%
No Responses		4	2.8%
Total		138	1
37 Comments			
The more information the better.			
All the time.			
To stay informed			
Always			
Depends on which ones interest me. I like to know about classes and things but not the many banquets.			
all the time, to participate in courses and activities			
yes but I only skim them			
Staying in touch with activities.			
Informative			
Want to up on whats new like classes being offered.			
I do read every announcement email I get. I also know I do not get them all, and have heard from others that they aren't getting all of them either. It may be time for the membership committee to verify that all members emails are correct.			
I'm interested in what is happening at NWA			
Helps me know what is happening in club.			
Again, the newsletter and emails are my lifeline into the organization			
I like to know what's going on,.			
I normally take a look and see quickly what the email is about.			
This is how I learn about upcoming course offerings.			
Timely info, of course I had to read one to know about this questionnaire!			
I read all of them			
It's how I stay in touch with what's happening.			
In order to know if I would I would be interested being part of a class or work project			
I read every one...			
Why wouldn't I? How else to find out about classes?			
Because I am interested in what NWA is doing			

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Some members might not have e mail communication ability.				
I prefer paperless, and I read EVERY single email. I just don't have the time to participate as much as I would like. This earning a living crap sucks so much time out of my life...				
Yes because they sometimes tell you about a new class that is coming up. Sometimes though they are very repetitive. Five or six stating the same thing				
Keep myself informed				
I check my email 2-3 times a day. Having information at my finger tips helps planning my day.				
Absolutely, good communication is everything except from the Sacandaga Chapter, they desperately need a good PR person with communication skills				
Its good to be informed about upcoming events and opportunities for classes but the multiple emails about some events is overuse of email. The repetitive emails about signing up for the October banquet is one such example.				
I usually do not go to the meetings so I can stay informed that way				
Keeps me posted on events and groups				
Announcements are necessary.				
I am very interested in NWA and learning all I can about woodworking. Towards this end, I read all of the NWA email announcements.				
I read them all. I may not respond, but I read them. It is a very effective way to communicate with the organization members.				
To be informed				

Question - 4

Have you taken any NWA Sponsored Courses?	Response(s)	Ratio
Yes	82	59.4%
No	52	37.6%
No Responses	4	2.8%
Total	138	1

Question - 5

Do you find NWA Education Courses... (Select all that apply)	Never	Sometimes	Most times	Always
<i>(1st number is the count of respondents / 2nd number is the percent of the total respondents)</i>				
Are interesting Topics	0 / 0%	21 / 19%	68 / 61%	23 / 21%
Are Affordable	1 / 1%	14 / 13%	60 / 55%	34 / 31%
Are posted with enough advanced notice to register for the course	5 / 4%	19 / 17%	57 / 51%	31 / 28%
Are scheduled at convenient times	1 / 1%	38 / 34%	56 / 50%	16 / 14%

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Have knowledgeable instructors	0 / 0%	2 / 2%	43 / 42%	58 / 56%
Are the appropriate length (number of sessions) for the course material	0 / 0%	6 / 6%	72 / 73%	21 / 21%
Provide useful training materials	0 / 0%	12 / 13%	57 / 59%	27 / 28%
The classroom/workshop environment is adequate	1 / 1%	5 / 5%	54 / 52%	44 / 42%
34 Comments				
The learning center is loud with power tools and difficult to hear instructor while tools are running. more so from Half Moon team				
I know people who have taught classes here. They are very good at what they do.				
Being a snowbird, I miss out on many of the courses which would interest me. Is there enough interest to repeat some during summer?				
More is gleaned from each course if one does self imposed homework when none is given. The exposure to all types of ww'king is priceless. It is much like the merit badge program in scouting, primarily for exposure to a potentially elected career for youth. Talents vary and to just touch on different types of woodworking can either stir interest or not.				
relatively new to NWA				
I live in southern ulster and have a bad back. The learning center located in Albany is just to far for me to have to travel back and forth.				
Two wonderful courses so far, both by Bob Van Dyke. Top notch. Looking forward to more once I retire.				
Where do you find information for the courses? I have looked online but haven't found anything. I can't really answer the above because I haven't seen what the topics are. The only thing I see on the calendar are the SIGs.				
I have taken courses that were very good, and courses that were very bad. I find that a lot of times the courses are so small, that by the time we get the email the course is full.				
Living in Poughkeepsie classes more than one day require too much travel or an overnight stay that adds to cost				
finishing classes				
it would be nice if the students were able to use the tools in the NWA shop. I see some members using them, why can't I?				
I haven't been able to get into one yet, hoping to in the near future.				
Not living in the local area I have not taken courses. If I move to the Albany area, I agree with the above, always.				
I have not taken any paid courses, and have only gone to the woodturning Wednesday night sessions.				
Are you thinking only of the Clifton Park facility? We in Mid-Hudson have some of our own.				
You didn't ask about how easy it is to get to the training facility				

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The shop is very noisy and sound resonates around the building. It is often very difficult to hear the instructor.				
Great courses! Keep it up! We need more!!				
Not having attended any classes this does not apply				
just keep doing what you are doing, it looks good to me...				
I have not used one of these courses in a long time, so I can not properly answer most of the questions.				
I've only taken a couple of courses, ken's turning intro and George R's bench stop and winding stick project. Most of the bigger project oriented ones look interesting but end up with a furniture piece I don't need. A couple looked like they might be good ones for me but then I couldn't make the time commitment. It pretty much comes down to I need more time in the shop, mine and NWA's.				
Based on 1 course taken.				
I signed up for a weekend of basic equipment operation. The class was limited to 15. I signed up within hours of the posting, but the class was already full. I suspect it was filled before members got the e mail. Word of mouth among members in advance of announcements seems to be the real means of communication.				
Generally, I prefer not to travel 90 minutes to attend the courses, good as they are.				
Need to have a process where one, NWA Member, can be qualified on the different pieces of machinery in the shop. It is disturbing when one needs to use a drill press or sander and the first question is are you qualified on that item? Please set up a program where members can become qualified and it is shown on their Name Badge that they are qualified. (small stickers)				
Run a qualifying session on the new saws every 3 months, not just when we have enough interest.				
The mix of courses on basic skills -- dovetailing, sharpening, etc. -- are important and always welcome, and more advanced classes, such as the violin, or a multi-weekend course on building a piece of furniture would be also welcome.				
Attending classes offered during the day is difficult and most times impossible for those of us who are working during the day. Maybe an option could be, if a class is popular, to try and have another iteration of the course offered later in the day or in the evening.				
The power tool usage restrictions are absolutely absurd and Solar Drive is too far away.				
I find many of the extended (multi-week) classes I'm interested in are held on weekdays during working hours. Would like to see more of the multi-week classes held on a weekend day...				
Havent had the chance yet but will when I can back off of work a bit.				
Most of the courses that I know of are during the day. I work and can not do the courses that are offered and would like to take.				
Travel time for me is too long to enrol and enjoy course offerings.				
The courses presented by non-member professionals rarely include training materials (handouts).				

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Question - 6

What woodworking courses would you like NWA to Offer?

70 Comments

Might be nice to have skilled folks from the Society of American Period Furniture Makers teach some classes using period techniques.				
finishing any and all types				
I would like to see courses on hand tool use and care form those with real skills.				
Hands on finishing				
How to tune up woodworking machines and tools. How to put finish projects with stains, oils and poly.				
I've had difficult time attending of late but would like to review veneering and steam bending vs/ lamination				
scrolling, building a cabinet, various kinds of joinery				
Veneering, chisel work, relief carvings,				
More Turning Classes				
Basic measuring, marking, and cutting to get accurate results (for beginners).				
I particularly enjoy classes that involve hand work. Carving and joinery. Learning skill.				
chair making				
finishing				
Finishing, paints, stains and others				
Woodworking techniques and furniture making, also finishing. I've enjoyed Bob Vandyke's table course.				
basic courses				
Steaming wood for bending.				
General construction framing as I see people attempt projects with little knowledge (just a basic framing for structurral strength and safety).				
Maybe picture framing also.				
Kit work projects				
Skills on specific tools- band saw, shaper, jointer, table saw, drill press.				
There have been written many books specializing in specific tools. Tips, tricks of doing things, sources for purchase, maintaining, dealing with rust and corrosion, storing and many more.				
There may be a lot of interest in the more general tutorials.				
Too new to make any suggestions.				
veneering. finishing				
Really looking for the basics to get started. Thought there was going to be a class this Fall, but haven't seen anything in the newsletter or calendar.				
I believe a course relating to furniture repair and re-veneering would interest a large group.				

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I think the NWA could bring in more expert demonstrators where larger group could get together and learn from them. They would be all day demonstrations, and not so much hands-on classes.				
something that would allow me to use the NWA shop tools				
Anything related to canoe and kayak building				
More frequent beginner courses, classes fill up too quickly and are not offered very often.				
All types of what working classes				
bring in more woodturning professionals. there money to do it;why isn't it being done?				
Introduction to woodworking, plane sharpening,intro to furniture making.				
chip carving				
construction of a Maloff chair				
cabinet making				
specialized woodturning classes!				
Any course that helps develop "fine" woodworking.				
Shaker styled furniture				
Flat boarder courses in cabinet making and furniture making.				
veneering				
I am a newbie to woodworking. I would like to learn how to safely and effectively use basic workshop tools --- table saw, router, drill press, etc. A course was offered last year, but it filled up quickly.				
Have done some woodturning on both a large and small lathe. I need to learn how to properly sharpen the turning tools.				
Furniture repair				
Basis wood and tool skills.				
no wish list..				
Since I don't have a lot of time short courses like the candle box course would work for me. I have a combined power and hand tool shop and would like to concentrate on hand tool skills.				
Intro to wood working, especially hand tools s/b given every year or 2. Also, the courses used to certify people to use power tools at the shop s/b given as well: don't we want safe operation of the tools in ALL venues?				
Rocking chair				
Picture Framing				
Continuation of good monthly speakers at woodturner's meetings.				
Carpentry classes: trim work, installing doors, etc.				
Box making, Basic, Intermediate (with designs and different hinging and locks) and advanced (Set up the design, sketch it out, and build and personalize the box.				
continue what you aare doing				

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A class on vacuum bending & veneering would be great. Also, some more courses that would basically be 'test' courses (like Hack's drawer class) are good to have to help people develop their skills under the guidance of an expert.				
Is there a list somewhere of all the classes we offer? I seem to remember past years where the classes were listed. Even past courses, including descriptions and schedules would be helpful. This way if we saw one or more courses we were interested in we could inquire when the next iteration of that class would be offered.				
Jigs and fixtures				
Segmented woodturning, projects that include hand cut dovetails and tenons.				
Mandolin-building classes?				
Not sure at the moment				
Make Segmented Bowls				
Bandsaw boxes and I have the fellow to do it--he is a member of the scrollers.				
Carving courses				
Equipment use courses				
Dobro making				
More on finishes/finishing				
Turning				
Carving				
Identifying different wood				
Hand tool skills are always necessary as a great foundation for successful woodworking. Run a series of woodworking classes on different joinery, inc, where, when and why each joint is used, design methods, etc. Also finishing classes are much needed. A good project goes to a great project, when the right finish is done right.				
Fundamentals Course (ie.. How to layout your work, how to saw and saw straight, how to cut dovetails etc.), Making a Backsaw, Saw Sharpening, Intro to turning. More fundamental courses. It would be difficult to make a banjo if you can't layout your work or cut straight.				
The one you have on making raw wood become usable wood was fine but I couldn't get in because it was full already, so please offer that one again.				
Steve latte line and berry spice cabinet				
More workshops on SawStop Use and Safety				
Small Box Making				
Small Shop Set-up, including Dust Containment and Safety				
Refinishing				
Finishing				
Make small items like cutting boards, bird house, etc.				
everything and anything. Biggest issue I have is I live 2 hours away so night time stuff is hard to do.				

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I want to take the intro to turning again.				
Airbrushing				
Question - 7				
The Exhibit Gallery is the main attraction in both the Mid-Hudson Woodworkers Show and the Woodworkers Showcase. We are concerned that in recent years many members have elected not to display their items in the Exhibit Gallery. We want to understand your concerns if you are reluctant to enter your work in the Exhibit Galleries. Please give us your comments				
69 Comments				
I've had items damaged... and theft of associated props. In recent years time ran out in the face of other commitments.				
I am proud to enter my beginner type projects along side the expert work. 'we need all types of projects.				
I try to put some pieces in the Gallery at Showcase but find it awkward to get anything to Mid-Hudson. They are trying to help by coming up to pick things up though.				
currently still working and have limited time to give to my desire to know and do more. I FIND my artistic talents are very limited compared to what I see from other members. Does it rub off?				
increasing quality of ideas and workmanship scare off a lot of people				
I always have something in the exhibits				
logistics. Getting my _____s in gear mainly.				
sometimes I feel intimidated by the very high quality. The classes should make it a requirement that the items are displayed.				
1) too difficult to get piece into staging area during the short time window. 2) Big pieces taking over ramp for way too long. 2a) Had to park on other side of hotel and drag piece back across hotel . MUST make it easier on exhibitors.				
If I ever make something worthy, I would enter it.				
No concerns. I have not been able to get enough downtime to really make a piece that is worth showing.				
None at this time				
I entered my table this year for the first time because it was displayed as a product of course work. My table did not qualify for the exhibit galleries in my opinion.				
In the past we have encouraged to show novice and/or intermediate work. Some members may not wish to be exposed this way. Perhaps, we might suggest a no name unless they choose . This can be worked on as it takes courage to display what has not reached fruition.				
I found the same when offering disabled fly-fishing courses. People were uncomfortai				
Have not created many projects yet				

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I have no problem with displaying items.				
most items are just average, not top shelf quality				
It appears that the same few awarded a ribbon. One would learn better if the judge's likes and dislikes were optionally available.				
It is very hard for some to get their items up to Showcase on Friday, and then be there again on Sunday to pick it up. We have a lot of members that do not live near Saratoga. I also think the judges need to be changed up every year, instead of having the same few. We have lots of members who could do it.				
Other years it seemed very crowded and items were broken. This past year was better but I feel there isn't enough "monitors" in the room to keep people (esp kids) from touching the items.				
1- I am unable to get my item to the Showcase at the required time for drop-off				
2- most of the things I build are not something for display (ie, built-in bookcases in my family room)				
3- my talents are far exceeded by other craftsmen leaving me a bit embarrassed to display my item next to theirs				
Too often perfection is over emphasized.				
I'm just a beginne, I don't have much of anything to exhibit...yet!				
I enter every time.				
As a carver I must give more thought to entering an exhibit.				
did				
I am my own worst critic				
Perhaps send out more email reminders leading up to the two shows.				
I thought that I had followed the proper procedures to display a small item but on the afternoon of the show the people in the registration office never heard of my entry!				
It is likely due to the high level of workmanship and professional exhibits nearby. Woodworkers enjoy working				
with wood, but there is a natural comparison that occurs, and only few woodworkers produce really nice pieces.				
I really don't need the ego boost of going through the hassle of putting my items on display.				
It means that I have to be at the opening of Showcase and at the close in order to exhibit. At times that does not fit my schedule.				
I'm just getting started. Need to get a few more miles of experience.				
I am not reluctant to display any of my projects.				
In fact, I am running out of projects to display.				
I am personally trying to fill the shortfall of entries because of the reluctance of others.				
Not good enough -- yet				
Why bother. Select members seem to get preferential judging.				
Dna				
Not reluctant. Nothing new in the last 2 years.				

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The organization of the room and lack of walls that permit hanging of pieces and shelves that provide clear spaces impacts many folks who wish to enter their work. Plus, for people who live any distance away, the restriction to keep things until 5pm on Sunday is an issue. Maybe the exhibit gallery could close at 4pm on Sunday.				
no reluctance, I enter pieces every year.				
My biggest problem is that showcase is usually the same weekend as my mother's birthday party in Boston.				
My primary work is repairing and refinishing other people's furniture; how would I display that? And what liability do I risk to do so? If I am satisfied with a piece I've made I do display it, but I'm seldom satisfied.				
I never have a project finished to the point of showing to someone				
I would consider displaying my woodturning in the future.				
I am not yet skilled enough to display my projects.				
It is cumbersome to find your pieces at the end of show, when you also have to break down exhibits and toy factory.				
The biggest problem for me is getting my stuff there on Friday for the set up, and then having to be back on Sunday to recover it. While I try to work a shift to two on Sunday, that Friday 90 mile round trip is very difficult to fit into my schedule.				
Nothing available to enter				
Timing, If I am not spending the week end in makes for at least 4 trips Saratoga and back about 2 hours each way.				
I always try to exhibit something				
I don't always have a project.				
Have entered items				
Many don't get into wood working until they are retired for a lot of good reasons, this same group is down south for the winter when Showcase comes around.				
The quality of the other entries is intimidating, and the logistics of getting my piece(s) placed for and returned from the event is a challenge.				
Love the exhibitions - I unfortunately am not at a level yet to display my work, but someday hope to...				
My biggest beef about the gallery is dropping off and pickup after the show. It's always a zoo and parking is tough near the loading area. I have usually brought large items.				
None				
Difficulty in access for delivery and pick up,				
No comment, no work at moment				
Too New to NWA for this.				

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I'm a fairly new member within the last two years. I was hesitant to enter, due mostly in part of my understand the level of quality permitted/accepted to enter. After having been to the Showcase for last two years, I realize it's a show for everyone. Think NWA needs to market it as such, that all skills levels are recognized and encouraged.				
I'm not advanced enough. I've never made anything since I'm just a beginning woodworker.				
n/a				
not reluctant to enter but sometimes hard to compete maybe merit judging would bring more entries				
Don't think my items are good enough. Having to keep items for both days means having more expenses for the weekend				
Not at the necessary skill level at this time.				
Private skill workmanship.				
only a member for less than a year. I would like to enter some items this coming year.				
I have a reluctance to enter an item that is produced by a beginner or is not completed after a very significant number of hours on the project. I have to work and have to help with family matters and maintain my house and I help maintain a neighbor's house. I run out of hours in a day. I would love to resume showing up at the turners Wednesdays				
Question - 8				
Do you have any suggestions how NWA can improve its services for its members?				
67 Comments				
find ways that the beginner can get more involved in making things other than toys. Need group projects to work on. Toy building gets rather redundant after a while.				
I think they are doing a great job as it is, but there is usually room for improvement.				
Not at this time				
Concentration on and more opportunities for machine qualification for those who need it.				
Have some structured, scheduled times to train groups of people, not just Tues and Sat with crafters.				
More classes. Try to get younger people involved. Mentors for less experienced people.				
This group has been the most patient and sharing bunch of artisans. Giving my time to them is what's needed.				
Often I CAN NOT WORK BECAUSE THE "Rules" are in the way of progress. I do not see how I could ever become machine qualified on all the machines that I even own in my own shop.				
Bring back the hard copy newsletter. Bring back chairs to monthly meeting.				
Continue to use the meetings and newsletter to announce learning opportunities and courses.				
No. You do very well.				
more courses				

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More courses should be free. Perhaps a raffle system could be used for a limited number of seats (with appropriate penalty if a won ticket is not used or offered back for re-assignment).				
Offer classes that more people can sign up for.				
I wonder if specialists or experts could be identified for members, especially new ones, to get answers to basic questions they may have. For example, where to get specific supplies, preferred woods for a project, best finish for a project, ways for dating and naming your project, suitable jigs for a job, etc.				
I prefer a hard copy of the newsletter. I know it costs money, but the club has an abundance of money.				
provide starter courses				
I think you guys are doing a fine job. If not broke.....don't fix !!				
New member orientation				
See #6				
Have more shop tours.				
More professional guess speakers.				
More projects to help the community				
The online calendar is not very user friendly. Very limited information.				
I think regular surveys like this would be very helpful to see what everyone thinks. The SIG's could also send them out. But they only work if the NWA, and SIG leaders read them, and use the information collected. There are times things are said and the leadership brushes it off, making members feel their voice is not important.				
Please post, or provide an NWA organizational chart that shows who is responsible for what and how the various SIGs and chapters are related.				
perhaps offer different days/times for events. It seems like Thursday is often chosen and I can't attend. Offer some means for ALL club members to be able to use the shop tools. Why have this beautiful workshop and tremendous tools if only a select few can use them. Or have I just missed something?				
Provide more classes in the Mid-Hudson area using instructors for the capital area				
Take the pen turners more seriously, and show a bit more respect. Turning a pen at Showcase is what got me interested in turning. More support towards the pen turners SIG could generate many more members for the entire group. It could be a great introduction to the organization and the shop, if it was better represented.				
No				
You are doing well.				
just keep growing				
Spend more time on content at meetings and less time on business, raffles, and show stuff.				
Guest speakers topics at meetings are getting less interesting and repetitive. A portion of the Fiske fund should be used to subsidize courses at the Learning Center - not just to support a few individuals at specialized outside courses. There should be a program to teach youngsters the art of woodworking. They no longer get any training in school				

2015 NWA Membership Interests Survey Results

(Members surveyed during the month of October)

Allow all to learn the power machines. Not over 30 years but in a reasonable time.				
I would like to get specific emails sent to me about the woodturning SIG. It seems like I always miss the Wednesday sessions because I didn't realize it was going on.				
Continue with the many fine course offerings. They are the biggest draw for me.				
Need to try to get younger demographics involved in the club. It is certainly a challenge because people work and have families with children, but the 'old man's club' mentality seems to curb this effort. Changing days and times classes are offered may help improve the situation. Many classes tend to be during midweek work hours.				
Be more responsive to those new to NWA or woodworking.				
Continue with the courses! They're fantastic!! Run a workshop/course on hand tools - sharpening, etc. Run a course on machinery - table saws, router tables, jointers, etc.- introduce us to new ways to use machinery that we don't know about.				
More no fee courses.				
NWA does a great job of offering training, work space and conducting the annual woodworking show in Saratoga Springs.				
i have attended a few meetings at the Shaker Site, which have been informative. However, I do have some difficulty hearing in that large space what the speakers are saying.				
No it is very good				
have a more inviting atmosphere for new people at the shop				
Have you considered extending the Saturday hours at Showcase/Totally Turning for the vendor show and exhibition hall to 6 or 7pm? Many attendees are in classes all day and have no time to shop or look.				
Also, consider borrowing the AAW video setups for Showcase. They are fabulous!				
I think it is doing fine, Now				
No				
Open up the shop.				
It can be difficult to get certified on the equipment. As a relatively new member who will train even newer members on some of the basics, there is a huge benefit to being able to use band saw, chop saw, drill press sooner rather than later.				
Continue to be responsive to the membership and their needs and interests				
Materials and tool discounts to members on the basis of club membership.				
Have more weekend classes on use of hand tools and power tools. I want to learn router and table saw use.				
This is a very good organization. Steady as she goes.				
none				
I think that some forum (like Google-forums) that would enable members to communicate with other members -- for instance, to ask advice, or help, or solicit common interest in projects -- would be a great catalyst for building community.				

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Bring back the turners SIG to Curtis lumber, get a facility that's not so far away.				
One extremely very dominant individual needs to step aside.				
The LCOC committee needs to get their their heads out of their butts!				
The Learning Center should be more accessible to members. More effort is needed to make it an inviting and welcoming resource of the NWA.				
Be friendlier to newcomers. Most woodworkers I have met are introverts and crumudgeons and you guys seem to carry that stereotype.				
Doing great!				
Courses fill up too quickly, giving few a chance to participate.				
Courses on using equipment				
Meetings in Halfmoon				
continue surveys like these to identify needed services				
No				
Overall, it's a very well run organization, members involved are extremely dedicated and hard working. One suggestion: I would suggest expansion of time for seminars during the showcase. At most classes, it's too much material to cover in such a short time period. Start classes earlier in AM and allow more time for classes and in between classes.				
I know this is a difficult situation but it's not very conducive to using the facility when the hours are limited and someone has to be there. I drive 45 minutes to get to the facility.				
Make more classes available.				
NWA does a good job regarding services for its members.				
More classes on making specific items with fellow craftsmen.				
offer weekend classes				
No				
Question - 9				
Do you have any other comments or suggestions on topics not discussed in this survey?				
39 Comments				
Not right now.				
No				
Things will come up I'm sure. Thanks				
Nope				
No				
No but keep doing the great job you are doing!				

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I think NWA is doing a great job. I know of no other organization that pulls in 60 or more members each meeting. Keep up with interesting presentations.				
At the risk of patronizing, I'm just pleased to be among such giving talent and a great bunch of people.				
While I am becoming less able to participate in actual programs and projects, I just like being around you all when I can get there.				
Thank you for allowing me to participate in family night auction until you find a pro.				
Thank you all				
No				
Encourage participation in ad hoc groups- turners, carvers etc..				
I have been a member for over 2 years now and only received 1 membership name tag. The fist one I received 6 or 7 months after I paid my membership, now after I paid the second I still have not received the 2nd. It makes you think they do not want newer members. I will not be renewing my membership. I would have really liked to have been in the show				
I'm 63 years old, and just now finding my way to woodworking. Regret that I hadn't much earlier in my life. Makes me wonder if there's a strategy within the organization for pulling younger folks in. There are so many knowledgeable older craftsmen in this group, most of whom would love to pass on their skills.				
Minor: sometimes wondering if I'm going to receive my membership card.				
I believe members would be willing to pay more in dues, if there was more open shop time. Lots of members don't come because it takes longer to drive back and forth then the time the shop is available. Also including more of the members in running of the NWA. It can't continue to be the same few making all the decisions.				
I love the auction and Showcase, though the auction does seem to drag on too long in time. I know the auctioneer is trying to maximize the bidding, but when he starts the bidding at some outrageous amount on every lot everyone knows the price will come down, so we wait....and wait....and wait....				
No				
no				
NWA does a great job				
It seems to me that it is very difficult to establish friendships in this organization. It seems that many "old timers" stick together and new members are not readily accepted into their "clicks."				
Thank you so much for the folks who put in the time in the education committee to bring us great instructors and great courses. We really appreciate it!				
THANK YOU!! YOU'RE AWESOME!!!!				
Thanks to all the members who have encouraged me in my efforts to learn woodworking.				
Have a way to let people know what and when charitable projects are being worked on				
Not at the moment.				
No				
No				

2015 NWA Membership Interests Survey Results

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I have great admiration for the members of this organization who have worked for years to make this such a viable and important club.				
I think Charlie, Dave, Dick, Wayne, and other members are very generous with their time, teaching, and advice. I am glad to know them.				
none				
I live outside the Albany area, therefore can attend most functions. I do make it a point to be at the Showcase every year.				
Surveys such as these are only as good if the right people read and implement them!!!				
The wood auction and the Showcase are both excellent events that I attend faithfully and really enjoy. Thanks for doing them!				
Thanks for asking.				
The general meetings are not worthwhile all the fun is in the special interest groups.				
Keep I and this kind of outreach up!				
No				
Annual Shwcase vendor area- Would like to see more woodworking hand tool exhibitors. Currently Lie-Nielsen and Lee Valley participate each year. Would like to see folks like, Blue Spruce, Vespar Tools, manufacturers of high quality hand tools (ex: we always see rep from power tool company's, how about their counterparts from the hand tool world).				
No				
Has a tool exchange or sale (outside the annual auction) program been explored?				
No				
No				