

# WOODWORKERS NEWS



Northeastern  
Woodworkers  
Association

January 2016, Vol. 25, Number 1

## January Meeting

### Favorite Finishes

*Thursday, January 14, 2016 7:00 p.m.  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY*

*By Charlie Goddard*

A good finish is what makes or breaks many woodworking projects. However, for many woodworkers putting on the finish is not the most enjoyable part of the project. A finish may be as simple as a wiping varnish, or as complex as multiple layers of sprayed lacquer rubbed out with fine abrasives.

To take some of the mystery out of finishing, for the January meeting we have organized a panel to discuss favorite finishes. Included will be John Olenik and Bill MacTiernan (furniture makers), Warren Stoker (toy maker), Barbara Nottke (scroller), George Rutledge (carver) and Ken Evan (turner). Topics which will likely be addressed are wood preparation, stain, type of finish, sheen, application methods, durability, etc.

Each panelist will be allowed a few minutes to describe his/her favorite finish. Then the panel will take questions and comments from the audience. All of us can improve our finishing techniques, so come prepared with questions for the panel.

## We Need Volunteers In All Job Positions For The NWA 25TH Anniversary Showcase

If you are interested in helping WOODWORKERS SHOWCASE and TOTALLY TURNING, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [nwavolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:nwavolunteer@gmail.com)

Showcase and Totally Turning events are April 2 and 3rd, 2016. Volunteers are needed March 31 through April 4, 2016. Members can volunteer for the positions for which they volunteered last year or be contacted by Maria for a volunteer position this year by emailing Maria Witkins at [nwavolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:nwavolunteer@gmail.com). All volunteers will receive a Commemorative Lapel Pin and general admission to the show. Find friends and family to join in your volunteer efforts. Please specify time and date you can volunteer as well as the job you would like and include your phone number.

To assure all volunteers receive a pin, we need to order the Limited Edition Commemorative Lapel pins by mid February. Contact us as soon you select the position. The Commemorative Lapel pin is a token of appreciation for the 25th Anniversary Woodworkers and Totally Turner Volunteers.

For open positions for Woodworkers Showcase 2016 and Totally Turning 2016, click on the following link: <http://woodworker.org/nl/jan16nlatt.pdf>

## Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking

*By Susan McDermott*

On December 12 and 13, 2015 Bob Van Dyke, a founder and instructor of the nationally known Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking, gave two full days' instruction "Hone Your Hand Tool Skills" to 12 NWA members at 15 Solar Drive. Bob brought plenty of sharp chisels, planes, and marking gauges to teach the following skills: sharpening of irons and chisels, use of the Eclipse Gauge (see photo), the correct marking and sawing of finger and dovetail joints, testing of various planes' sharpness and the correct hand/body positions for tool use, and finally, the

*Continued on Page 4*

# NWA Wood Carvers' Service

*By Diane Balch*

The Comfort Bird Project is a public service project that the NWA Wood Carvers SIG has been doing for over a year.

The Comfort Bird

Design was created by a gentleman named Frank Foust in 1982. He had made and gave away over 1000 of them to those in need or sold them to raise money for charity. They function like a worry stone and are soothing to hold.

The birds are fun to carve and go fairly quickly as carving projects. No two birds are alike. They are a variety sizes, shapes and of various types of wood.

We started carving the birds in November 2014 as a public service. To date, we have carved and given away 125 birds. We have another 50+ waiting for new homes.

We have given away 50 to the Wounded Warrior Project, 50 to Hospice of Central New York, and 25 to VET HELP for 25 homeless men and women veterans.

This is a great beginners project. No experience is necessary. We will provide you with the blank, and lend you a glove, knife, and thumb guard. The Wood Carvers SIG meets Thursday evenings between 5:00pm and 8:30 PM at the NWA Learning Center in the Halfmoon Works building at 15 Solar Drive, Halfmoon, NY.



*Comfort bird*



*Here is Diane Balch, NWA Wood carving SIG, presenting 25 Comfort Birds to Meaghan McEntee, of the Saratoga County Rural Preservation Company VET HELP program. They will be given to the homeless Men and Women Veterans of Ballston Spa.*



*Diane Balch presenting to Hospice of Central New York, Syracuse with 50 comfort birds.*

## OFFICERS

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, PHONE  
NUMBERS ARE IN AREA CODE 518

# The NWA Wood Carvers Special Interest Group

*By George Rutledge*

The NWA Wood Carvers SIG was officially recognized by the Board in January 2011 after more than a year of organizing and meeting informally. Our purpose is to promote Wood Carving and related skills and to have a good time while we're at it. We meet every Thursday between 5 and 8:30 PM at the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center at 15 Solar Dr. in Clifton Park to make chips and chat away.

We're a diverse and friendly group with Carvers of all skill levels from beginner through advanced. If you've ever wanted to carve but weren't sure how to get started, please drop in on one of our meetings. Someone will hand you a piece of wood and lend you a knife and a little direction to get you going. You don't need any tools and in fact it's best not to buy anything until you get a feel for it and a little advice on where to start. From caricatures to comfort birds, wood burning to letter carving, chip carving, relief and sculptural work, someone in the SIG is doing it, and we all take delight in sharing what we know.

If you already carve, we'd love to have you join us and share your experience with the group. We've been known to get a little boisterous, but the camaraderie is real and all in good fun.

For more info, you can contact:

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## WOODWORKERS NEWS

is published by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association for its members. The Association's aim is to provide a common meeting ground for lovers of woodworking who want to know more about wood and the techniques for forming it. The newsletter is published monthly. The newsletter is available online at [www.woodworker.org](http://www.woodworker.org)



Your next issue of  
**Woodworkers News**

will be published  
in early February

Copy deadline: January 15  
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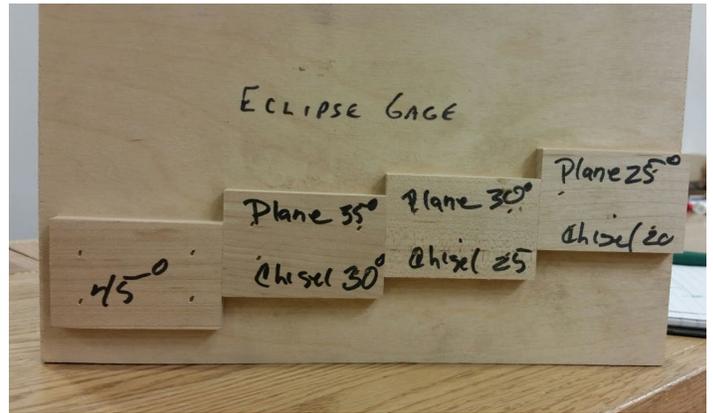


# School of Woodworking

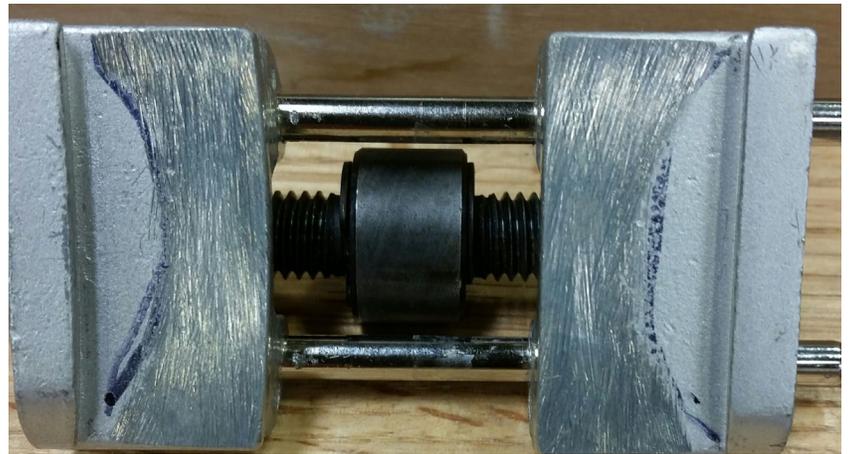
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sharpening of card scrapers. Bob emphasized the importance of sharp tools for successful joints.

Bob was assisted by NWA's Dick Flanders who provided materials, wood, assistance to individuals, and the organization of the many hand tools used by the class. Bob had his preferences for hand tool brands. He felt Lie Nielson handsaws are best; Starrett Squares are the most reliable; and Lee Valley's PMV11 chisels, Winsted, Beaver, Swan, or Veritas chisels keep good edge retention. He was not keen on Narex nor Wood River chisels. He preferred 1000 and 8000 grit ceramic wet stones for iron and chisel sharpening and a diamond stone for card scrapers' polishing after filing. Bob claims keeping all bench chisels and planes sharpened to a consistent angle (either 25 or 30 degrees) with a micro bevel at the last 1/16 or 1/32 of an inch of the blade or iron prevents confusion or errors in sharpening. He recommended frequent use of candle wax (or paraffin) on the soles of planes and preferred kerosene lamp oil (unscented) to mineral oil (too thick) for lubricating oilstones. Bob plans to return in spring to give another weekend workshop, so watch your calendar!



The Eclipse Gauge



Modified honing guide filed to fit blades and irons



Van Dyke's body and arm position while sawing



Van Dyke's dovetail technique using a bench jig



Van Dyke Sharpening #4 plane iron

# Kaatskill Wood Turners

*By Wally Cook*

**Using the Rolly:** Carl Ford showed how he uses the Rolly Munro hollower on both the inside and outside of a blank. Due to a power outage at the Opdahl building, the demonstration was spontaneously moved to Henry Rua's workshop.

Carl made shallow bowls using the Munro Hollower II. Carl has his Rolly rigged with a laser to facilitate hollowing closed spaces

where there is no visibility -- the laser was, of course, not needed for these open bowls. Note that Carl embellishes portions of the bowls with milk paint.



*Carl Ford demos the Munro Hollower while folks look on*



*Carl's bowls are partially embellished with milk paint*

**Open House and Annual Meeting:** The KWA annual meeting and open house was held on Saturday, December 12. At the meeting, we reviewed the changes at the building in 2015, identified meeting dates and topics for 2016, and confirmed officers for 2016.

The past year has seen a distinction made between the education area and the studio room. The larger education room was cleared of excess equipment. The better lathes were moved into the studio room, and older equipment belonging to Bob

Opdahl was given to beginning turners with the permission of the Opdahl's. One workbench and table saw in the education room was redistributed to NWA SIGs. The resultant space allowed more room for seating for lectures and demonstrations. In addition, new heating was installed to extend our meeting season through the winter. A new Powermatic 3524b lathe was purchased to act as the demonstrator lathe in the education room.

**A Big Thanks:** The KWA held a raffle to raise money to defray the cost of the Powermatic. A big thanks to [Bear Tooth Woods](#) for donating pen blanks and kits; [Back Gate Industries](#) for donating a peppermill/salt shaker kit; and to [Packard Woodworks](#) for providing a gift certificate. Check out their products -- we appreciate their support!

**2016 Plan:** Officers for 2016 were confirmed:

- Wally Cook, President
- Steve Sherman, Vice President
- Lenny Peluso, Treasurer
- Dennis Dugan, Secretary

A schedule for 2016 will be posted in late January. In the meantime, the KWA will meet on the second Saturday of each month from 9-11AM. The next demo will feature John Franklin making tru-stone jewelry using Nova soft jaws.



*Henry Rua, Joe Gaddis, and Brad Conklin collaborated on this bowl encased in antlers*



*John Tenuto and Gary Goodstal check out the raffle table at the open house*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## Mid Hudson Chapter News

By Wally Cook

Earlier in 2015, Mid-Hudson Chapter president John Van Buren brought in his latest skin on frame kayak to show the group. John has made a number of kayaks, and his enthusiasm is catching.

One of the attendees, local artist Steve Ladin, was inspired to build his own kayak design. Steve picked up 16' spruce boards from Condon Lumber and jumped right in. The result is a light, neat craft. Steve is already looking forward to building his second kayak. Here's Steve's description of the process:

### Building a fuselage frame kayak – by Steve Ladin

I employed a 15' extension ladder as the 'strong-back'. A perfectly flat and rigid surface is required upon which the frame of the kayak is be constructed.

1" thick Sitka spruce boards were ripped into 3/8" x 16' long strips for all the frame members. The six ribs were fashioned from a 3/8" plywood board.

1" x 3/8" slots were mortised out on the ribs to receive the spruce strips. The ribs were fastened to the strong-back and the spruce strips were glued and nailed to the ribs, forming the hull. The entire frame was painted with an oil based tile red paint.

Once all the members on the hull and deck were assembled and painted, the fabric was ready to be applied (Thanks to John Van Buren for his guidance at this point). A polyester oxford-weave fabric was stretched over the frame. Staples were used to fasten the fabric to the frame, much the same way an artist stretches a canvas for painting. The stretched fabric was painted with: one coat polyurethane, two coats oil-based tile red paint, and two coats of clear marine varnish.

A 'skid plate' (fashioned from a spruce strip) was screwed down on the bottom edge of the hull. Copper flashing was used to cover the area where the skid plate meets the bow and stern members.

All stapled seams were covered (and thus reinforced) with spruce strips, which were screwed down onto the frame and painted with a Rust-o-leum yellow paint. Two short strips were added, aft of the cockpit to serve as a cargo carrier. For carrying handles, lengths of nylon webbing were screwed down fore and aft.



*The completed fame showing all members*



*Copper flashing was used as a skid plate*



*Karen Aune shows off her turned kayak pendent*



*The finished kayak is 14" long and weighs just 23 lbs.*

# CHAPTER NEWS

## *Sacandaga Chapter November Meeting*

*By Gary Ratajczak – Chapter President*

Safety glasses on – substrate loaded – engage laser! No, we're not watching the new Star Wars movie release - welcome to 21st century woodworking! Our featured speaker for the Sacandaga Woodworkers December meeting was Ernie Balch, covering laser cutting and engraving. Having worked with lasers in a manufacturing environment for twenty five plus years, Ernie has never ending knowledge in this area. Upon retirement several years ago, he and his wife decided (more Ernie, I was told) to move into CNC routing and laser engraving. Today, Ernie and his wife operate a small contract based shop specializing in CNC work, laser cutting, and laser engraving.

We had about eighteen attendees at the monthly meeting. With continued good weather, we have had a consistent turnout each month. Our night began with our usual 50/50 raffle as well as door prize raffle. Thanks again to Fastcap for our donation of samples. We raffled several products this month, so any feedback from winners would be appreciated. Ernie was also kind enough to donate laser cut items for the raffle as well. Several members placed orders for Sacandaga Woodworkers logo hats and t-shirts.

After a short refreshment break, Ernie walked us through a great introduction to lasers. We covered many of the available types of units, and then moved to a more detailed description of the unit that Ernie has in his shop. His Chinese made 80 watt unit is capable of engraving in a variety of materials, as well as cutting through plywood just under a half inch. Numerous examples of etching on material such as ceramic tile, metals and wood were shown. Samples of some very detailed boxes were displayed. The club members were all very interested in the laser cut hinges and bendable forms. On closing, Ernie invited anyone with more interest to his shop to see his CNC or laser unit in action. Several members had ideas for projects that they would like done, so Ernie may see some visitors soon.



## **Family Night in Review**

*By Wally Carpenter*

The 2015 Family Night was enjoyed by nearly 70 NWA members and their spouses / friends this past December 10, 2015.

We were pleased to see the wonderful turnout of baked goods and treats provided by those in attendance. It was fun meeting everyone in a casual holiday setting and enjoying the stories that come with friends old and new.

I do regret not taking pictures of our Fiske Fund auction items as 6 items were produced using a "build and pass" technique on their way to completion. As Ken Evans explained to us, a box was provided to each team with the explanation that the finally constructed item had to fit inside the box originally provided and that the box was handed from one team member to the next in a serial process through completion. A lot of freedom was given in the process to provide the highest possible creative output. I was personally impressed by each team's end product. These six items were auctioned to the highest bidders near the end of the evening's events.

Our thanks to all who attended, those who donated to the auction, as well as those who helped make this a successful evening in so many ways.

## Token of Thanks by Jayson Cote

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the NWA, it seems fitting to remember a little about how far we have come.

The main purpose of our workshop is for the education of our members, hence our classes are for those who may not have had the opportunity to see what the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center is all about or has to offer. Our NWA shop had pretty humble beginnings with activities first taking place in basement shops of our members. The opening of the NWA workshop in Stillwater began a metamorphosis with a shop dedicated to the NWA membership (although *maybe* it's still too small).

Next came the generosity of Tony Hynes and PVA. In case you do not know, PVA (Precision Valve Automation) afforded NWA the opportunity to upgrade the NWA workshop to 4000 square feet when it moved into PVA's facility at Mustang Drive. The space was so much more adaptive to the needs of the NWA compared to what had been available in the past. However, as PVA's business needs changed (and to our benefit), PVA had to take over the space being used by us at the Mustang Drive location. We took the advantage by swapping one PVA provided space for another, bringing the Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center to Solar Drive where we now enjoy 8000 square feet of shop space that is wonderful.

We now have dedicated areas where many of our special interest groups (SIGs) can meet. The Carvers have a room set for their needs as do the Scrollers. The Turners have a dedicated area as well. The main/remaining areas of the shop are utilized the Hand Tool and Crafters SIGs and many individuals. There is a new SIG, NWA Musical Instrument SIG, as well. Check this newsletter for meeting dates and times. We do have a number of workbenches, thereby making it suitable for small hands-on classes for the benefit of our membership. {Watch for those Education Committee e-mail blasts announcing classes that you may wish to attend.} The facility also affords a small classroom for gathering as needed, access to a nice kitchen area, and also an NWA office.

And we are not the only ones who benefit from the generosity of Tony Hynes and PVA. We share the building with Halfmoon Works, whose fully equipped 3,000 square feet facility adjoins our workshop. For the benefit of those who do not know, Halfmoon Works teaches woodworking skills to young adults with developmental differences. These talented people are creating and selling quality wood products.

As PVA now enters the "cold season" at their new Engineering Office, NWA is showing our appreciation to PVA with the gift of a coat cabinet. NWA surely appreciates the use of the Solar Drive space and utilities; and therefore as a token of our appreciation and a ***Thank You*** to Tony Hynes for his generosity, a group of NWA members led by Pete Howe has been busy putting the finishing touches on this item for PVA. Crossing the *finishing line* is a coat cabinet for PVA as seen in the photo below.

So, if you haven't yet, please take some time to observe the SIGs when they meet and use the shop space. Better yet, take some time out of your busy schedule and stop by our Herm Finkbeiner Learning Center at 15 Solar Drive to see what our shop has to offer. You very likely will learn something to assist in your woodworking projects.

As mentioned at the onset, the shop's goal is to support education of our membership first and foremost! There are few organizations out there that can claim to compete with the number of members who not only will, but WANT, to share their knowledge and talents with YOU.

Oh, and if you do it right, you might even get a cup of coffee...



*Gerry Verner considering the finishing touches*

# January Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2016 7:00 p.m.  
Shaker Heritage Society Meetinghouse  
Albany-Shaker Road, Albany, NY

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

February 11, 2016

Bugs in Lumber

March 10, 2016

Spoon and Ladle Carving

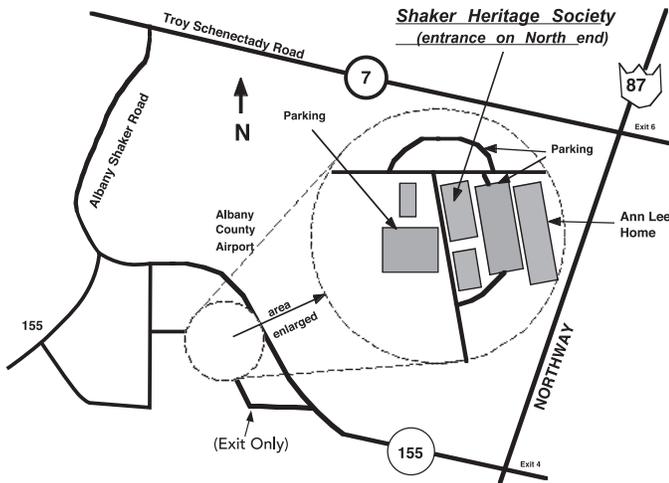
April 14, 2016

Grain vs Design

May 12, 2016

Furniture Restoration

For meeting cancellation information,  
call Ken Evans 753-7759  
or Charlie Goddard 370-0388



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

**Adirondack Woodturners Association (AWA)** - The AWA is active throughout the year. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and July when it is the second Wednesday), and are held at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY from 6:30 PM to 9:00PM.

Wednesday "Learn and Turn" sessions occur on all other Wednesdays at the NWA Learning Center. These sessions run 6pm-9pm. [www.adirondackwoodturners.com](http://www.adirondackwoodturners.com) **Contact:** Ken Evans, 518-753-7759 or [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com)

**Scroller's Guild** - Meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month (Starting Nov. 19) at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. A beginner's session starts at 6:30 PM followed by a general meeting at 7:00 PM. **Contact:** Jeanne Aldous at [AMJAMtat2@aol.com](mailto:AMJAMtat2@aol.com) or Barbara Nottke at [scroller87@aol.com](mailto:scroller87@aol.com) or 869-6268.

**Kaatskill Woodturners** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Opdahl property in Hurley, NY. **Contact:** Wally Cook at [wally.cook@gmail.com](mailto:wally.cook@gmail.com).

**NWA Crafters** - Meets every Saturday and Tuesday, from 9:00 am until noon at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The Crafters provide public service woodworking for various charitable organizations, including the Double H Hole in the Woods camp for children and the GE Toy Modifications Group, and the Make A Wish Foundation. Sharing information, fellowship, and relating experiences are a major part of these sessions. **Contact:** Dave Axton (518) 237- 6942, [daxton@nycap.rr.com](mailto:daxton@nycap.rr.com), Wayne Distin (518) 674-4171, [wdistin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wdistin@nycap.rr.com) Steve Schoenberg (518-371-1260), [sschoen1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:sschoen1@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

**NWA Musical Instrument SIG** meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7PM to 9PM at the Learning Center. The purpose of the group is to discuss all aspects of all musical instruments, playing, building, repairing, and history. Meetings involve a show and tell table, a program on an appropriate topic, and lots of member interaction. If you want to be on the email list for notifications, **contact** Ken Evans at [kevans1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kevans1@nycap.rr.com) or 518-753-7759 or 518-281-0779.

**The NWA Wood Carvers SIG** - The NWA Wood Carvers SIG - Meet each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 pm all year at the NWA Learning Center located at 15 Solar Drive, Clifton Park, NY. The goal is to promote the art of Wood Carving and to have a good time doing it. The only prerequisite is a desire to carve while making new friends. Wood, tools, and patterns are available. **Contact:** George Rutledge (518) 366-3606, [c.howie.dudat@gmail.com](mailto:c.howie.dudat@gmail.com), Diane Balch (518) 338-5637, [signs@balchsigns.com](mailto:signs@balchsigns.com)

**Hand Tool SIG** - Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Herm Finkbeiner Education Center at 15 Solar Dr, Clifton Park, NY. **Contact:** Dave Parkis for further details: [dparkis@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dparkis@nycap.rr.com)

## CHAPTERS

**NWA Mid-Hudson** - The chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday, except July and August, at the Hurley Reformed Church. The Church is just off the the Hurley exit from Rte. 209. Right at the exit, right at the stop sign and left into the Church parking area. John VanBuren, President (845) 444-8281 **Contact:** Pete Chast, [pchastnow@gmail.com](mailto:pchastnow@gmail.com).

**NWA Sacandaga** - The chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the Second Wednesday of each month at 55 Second Avenue, Mayfield, NY. **Contact:** Gary Ratajczak, President - (518) 852-1204