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**VIKING Woodcarvers**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**Vol. 30 No. 10**

**PRESIDENT**

- Jim Forrey  
(952) 831-2758

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

- Jim Ayers  
(612) 721-6074
- Myron Asper  
(952) 445-7274

**SECRETARY**

- Nancy Dardis  
952-888-3479

**TREASURER**

- Lew Forsmark  
952-888-3650

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

- Jim Ayers
- Myron Asper

**COFFEE COMMITTEE**

- Keith Fredrickson
- Leonard Kampa

**SHOW CHAIR**

- Russell Scott

**Viking Web Site - <http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca/>**

- **Meeting Location – Knights of Columbus, 1114 W 79<sup>th</sup> St., Bloomington,**
- **4<sup>th</sup> Monday – December 27 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

## **November Presentation: Golf Ball Carving -**

Jim Forrey and several other members will guide carvers through the process. Members should bring their carving tools and a safety glove if they have it. Also, it has been suggested that carvers bring a handle with a two-ended screw in it so the handle can be screwed into the golf ball. This will make the golf ball easier to handle and allow for safer carving. There is no cost for the golf balls which have been prepared by one of our Viking members. If you have never carved a golf ball before, this a good opportunity to work with some new material and you will find very interesting.

# Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

November 22 2004

By Nancy Dardis

**Happy Holidays to all!** President Jim Forrey reminded us that if you are making Christmas presents, there are only 31 days of carving left before they are due – that leaves 3 days for painting, drying and wrapping. Get those woodchips flying! Attendance at tonight's meeting was 55 strong with two guests – Sandy Larson and Don Groen. Don also joined the club tonight and even brought a carving for Show and Tell. Lew Forsmark warned him that he could save himself a quarter.

**Spring Show** - Russ Scott reported that the Viking Spring show dates are changed to April 23-24 at the request of Har Mar Mall. That's good since our previous dates conflicted with the Red Wing show and many of our group attend both. Russ brought some pictures of our Fall gathering. He even sent several to Chip Chats. Watch your next issue. A suggestion was made during the October meeting that we have a 'Saturday Only' show. Since Russ had to leave early tonight, we will discuss this possibility at the next meeting so he has a chance to review the ramifications with Har Mar.

## Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Lew Forsmark reported the October treasury balance as \$4,265.14. The bill for the fall show is \$1,047.00 which Lew paid in November leaving us with a current balance of \$3,218.14. We actually made \$260.50 on the show this time. The attendees approved and seconded the Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in the October newsletter.

Membership is due by February 1, 2005. Make out your \$15 check to *Viking Woodcarver's* and send it to Lew Forsmark, 2730 W 91<sup>st</sup> St, Bloomington, MN 55431, or bring it to the next meeting.

**Program Committee** - Our January meeting highlights a carver specializing in carving furniture completely with hand tools – totally unplugged. He will bring a magnificent chest for us to peruse. Jim said it is an award winning piece not to be missed. The

Committee is always looking for additional speakers. If you have a recommendation, be sure to give Jim a call as soon as possible (612-721-6074). Remember, it takes some time to get schedules arranged!

## Vendors

John Krantz was double-booked so the Allens were kind enough to fill in with a wide variety of wood. If you need something special call John at 651-464-5632 (evenings).

George Effrem brought tools, books and his new catalog; hot off the press. He will not be mailing this first catalog. Stop at the store to pick one up. Call George for that special tool or class (612-927-7491), or check out his web site ([www.woodcarversstore.com](http://www.woodcarversstore.com)).

## Old Business

We need to discuss the possibility of changing our Spring and Fall show to one day events. This will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Iver Anderson is coordinating a group project to create a Viking ship and various figures. Hopefully we can get a report on the project kickoff at the next meeting.

## New Business

It's that time of the year again. We need a new slate of Club officers. The current officers have served for two years and want to give everyone a chance for a guaranteed parking spot and chair at the meeting. Volunteer yourself or your best buddy. The new slate of officers will be presented and voted on in January.

## Forest Lake Club Classes

Esther Allen reported on upcoming classes presented through the Forest Lake club: Intarsia with Lonnie Gay, three days: Jan 7 (6-9), Jan 8 (9-5), Jan 9 (9-5) - \$60. Students are encouraged to bring a dust mask. Face Basics/Caricatures with Gerry Mollberg, two days Mar 12 (9-3), Mar 19 (9-3) - \$45. Students can use hand or power tools.

To sign up for either class, call Esther at 651-464-2087

### **November's Program – Jock Holman, The 'Norwegian Termite'**

Driving through the small town of Mendota, it is not hard to spot the workshop of the Norwegian Termite there on the east side of the main drag. Jock Holman is a professional woodcarver who produces everything from furniture to smaller acanthus pieces for decoration.

Jock has been carving for about 30 years. He started with the Becker Furniture company in Holland, Michigan in 1972. That



was a great training ground for learning the finer parts of grain and tool sharpening. However, he found his creative nature was bored by the repetition of creating the same item over and over.

As companies moved to less handwork and more use of computer and laser cutting, the carvers were phased out.

Jock moved to Chicago where he worked as a cabinet maker. One of his favorite 'hobbies' was driving around the more affluent parts of town and 'dumpster diving' to retrieve wooden furniture in need of repair. He enhanced his skills by replicating missing chair legs or broken acanthus attachments. Although he never really learned to draw, he found he could be quite successful working directly with the wood to duplicate a piece.

In Chicago, Jock met Lawrence Jones who had trained in drawing and carving at the Smithsonian. The two have teamed up on multiple projects from repairing single pieces to redecorating an entire house.

Jock finally migrated to Mendota and set up his shop. Here he found customers with an interest in the special touch of hand carving and a creative base of carvers. There are five full-time professional carvers in the Midwest. In Chicago, a large carving club had 20 members; our Viking club averages 75-100

members. That's a testament to the interest and talent in the area.

Norwegian style acanthus is Jock's first love. This is a more 3-tiered pattern than the other Scandinavian styles we have seen. In Norwegian acanthus, the back of the piece is also partially carved. Often a leaf will wrap up from the back of the piece, increasing the appearance of depth. Using this style of carving, Jock is helping 'Norwegianize' a home in Wisconsin. Floral-patterned beams and railings, as well as acanthus attachments on the kitchen door panels, are just some of the parts of this project. He also brought along samples of bedpost sidings in a dragon head design and a four-sided acanthus column header he recently finished for another commission.

**Planning the Project.** Initially, Jock used carving and architecture books to find samples of original Norwegian buildings. Then he discovered that the Norwegian Museum in Oslo had a library of architectural books and drawings. They will gladly provide copies of any building with photographs and scaled drawings. All you have to do is ask.

Jock encourages clients to find pictures of works they like so he can help them adapt the designs to their site.

Jock uses a scroll saw to rough out his projects whenever possible. This is an important step when you are trying to make more than one of an item. If he takes his time while cutting out the pattern, the carving and trimming time is greatly reduced. He saves time and money – the name of the game in business. He also keeps two sets of tools. One set is for rough cuts, one for fine detail. That way he doesn't dull all his tools as quickly. Stropping the tool before it is dull is also important. Strop your tools whenever you need a break. That gives your wrists a rest and often delays the need to fully sharpen the tool.

**Adapting Drawings/Photographs.** Jock is learning to draw now that he is carving – sort of the backwards approach. As he attempts to adapt drawings, he is finding that basic drawing is an essential skill. There are two basic patterns in Norwegian acanthus: the C pattern and the S pattern. All designs work in one or a combination of these principles. Being able to draw a pattern in different variations not only

gives his work a more personal touch, but allows him to express his creativity. He doesn't have to do the same exact thing in the next project. He has learned the art of the 'carving doodle' - combining several quick cuts to produce high detail.

Even if you aren't doing acanthus, the ability to adapt a pattern is important. Practice with your next carving. Instead of putting that character's hand completely in his pocket, leave the thumb sticking out or push the thumb in the pocket leaving the fingers out. Turn the head or body to create movement and interest.

Bidding on Projects. This is probably the most difficult part of the woodcarver's job. We all get excited about a new project and occasionally underestimate the effort or time involved. Jock started pricing by the square inch, then 'gut feel'. Neither was particularly appropriate. Now he can review a project in light of his many years of experience. In many cases he has done a similar project. He knows the pitfalls and can often avoid expensive mistakes. He still underbids sometimes and chalks it up to another learning experience.

The type of wood required on the project also makes a difference in the delivery schedule. Jock finds he can physically work 65-70 hours a week on basswood or pine project if needed. Mahogany is another wood that he can carve 8-10 hours a day. Oak is less forgiving. After about 6 hours of oak, he needs to give his arms a rest.

Jock welcomes visitors to his Mendota studio - watch for the 'Norwegian Termite' sign. He also has a website [www.norwegiantermite.com](http://www.norwegiantermite.com) and offers classes during the year. Thanks for a fun and informative presentation.

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**Email**

I am a member of the Eden Prairie Arts and Culture Commission, which is planning to publish an arts directory for residents of our community. We are interested in featuring a free listing of Eden Prairie artists (who live or work in our community), but have been unable to locate any wood carvers/wood workers in Eden Prairie.

Do you know anyone who might be interested in being listed in the directory and who lives or works in EP? If so, please ask them to call or e-mail me with their name, business name (if related to their wood carving work), address, phone number, and e-mail address. We will send them a letter to confirm their participation.

Thank you!

Heather Olson

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Heather S. Olson

7373 Ann Court

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

952.943.0839

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***Carvers' Companion -  
Woodcarver Online Magazine***

Loren Woodard, editor of Notes From the Net

<http://www.carverscompanion.com/>

**July 1998**

**CLEANING CYPRESS KNEES**

**From: William Aker**

**<mawpaw@citlink.net>**

If you have cypress knees that still have the bark on them, they need to be boiled until the bark breaks off easily. You want to avoid stripping a green knee with a knife or sanding it as that will ruin all those beautiful contours, and rambling flowing lines that suggest so many things. Boiled and dry, you should have a piece that is golden brown. Cut into it and you should have golden brown highlighted by a glorious cream color. This needs no stain other than a light protective sealer (perhaps a little walnut stain for depth and detail).

Wizards, gnomes, wood spirits/sprites, dragons, trolls, fantasy flowers ... look with your heart and imagination and you will see wondrous things to bring forth for all to see!

# VENDORS

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**Woodcarvers Store and School**

3056 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55416-0127  
**(612) 927-7491** (www.woodcarversstore.com)

**Jim Abicht, Fine woodworking**

Specializing in bases for carving projects  
**(651) 451-7217**

**Ivan Whillock Studio**

122 NE 1st Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021  
**(507) 334-8306** (www.whillock.com)

**Krantz Wood Sales - Carving & Specialty Woods**

16748 Stanford St., Forest Lake, MN 55025  
**(651) 464-5632** (Evenings)

**David Lindroth, Custom Cut Woods for Woodcarvers & Artists**

8150 – 137<sup>th</sup> St. W. Apple Valley, MN 55124 **(952) 432-7066**

**Nelson-Johnson Wood Products, Inc.**

3910 Bryant Ave No., Mpls., MN 55412 **(612) 529-2978** - cell phone **(612) 644-4567**

**Gen Jansen, Carver and Instructor,**  
**(320) 252-3966**

**Brad Oren Sculpture Supply**

*Complete source for stone, wood, clay, abrasives & tools.*

**Rockler Stores:**

**Maplewood, MN (651) 773-5285; Minneapolis, MN (612) 822-3338; Burnsville, MN (952) 892-7999; Minnetonka, MN (952) 542-0111**

**Woodcraft Supply**

9741 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington, MN  
**(952) 884-3634**

**Gregg McCabe, Stubai tool distributor**

425 Madison St NE, Minneapolis, MN  
**(612) 379-9342**

**Garry N. Kolb - Woodcarving Supplies**

2528 24 Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901  
**(507) 289-9138**

**Copperhead Road Logging and Lumber**

Joe Jewett – 54852 Great River Rd. Palisade, MN 56469  
**(218) 845-2832**

**Duck-r-us.com** Ron Fisher

Duck Decoy Blanks. 1-800-231-7370  
www.ronfisher.com

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## VIKING MAGNUM OPUS (SHOW AND TELL) – November 2004

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Dennis Schuster	Wood Duck (Stylized)	Butternut	Unfinished	
Luther Kliche	Sand Piper	Basswood	Oil	
Clarence Moe	Hot Air Balloon	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jim Ayers	Madonna Statue	Pine	Oil	Carved when I was 16
Jim Kuepper	Music Box			Bought at Estate Sale
Len Kampa	Foursome Golfers	Basswood	Acrylics	Tom Wolff's
Marv Meyer	Cedar Snow Goose		Unfinished	
Don Groen	Bird / Scandinavian Man	Butternut	Acrylics	
Myrtle Brandvold	Ale Bowl	Basswood		Made by Becky Lusk
Ray Gritche	Santas	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	
John Sailor	Lady w/basket	Basswood	Wax	
Lee Olson	Santa Head	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jim Forey	Sled			
Lew Forsmark	International Santas	Basswood		