

Russell Scott
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VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 30 No. 2

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 CHAIRMEN

- Carol "Swede" Bengtson

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

- Initial Meeting Location – Knights of Columbus, 1114 W 79th St., Bloomington,
- 4th Monday – February 23 – Meeting Time – 6:00 PM
- Bus leaves from Knights of Columbus at 6:15 PM for Swedish Institute

Presentation: A bus trip to the Swedish Institute

We will view their large display of Swedish carvings. Later, we will attend a wood carving presentation by Urban Gunnarson.

The bus will leave from the Knights of Columbus parking lot at 6:15PM

See details inside if you wish to drive alone.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

January 26, 2004

By Nancy Dardis

Despite the 5-7 inches of snow, slippery roads and blustery winds, President Jim Forrey called the meeting to order. Thirty-three hardy members were in attendance.

The Merle Report

Merle Erickson is progressing slowly from his stroke. Cards are welcome - home address: 2012 Laurel, St Paul, MN 55104. If you want to visit, he would love to see you, but please call first and arrange a convenient time.

Keeping It In the Club

Bob Pitts took first place this year at the Woodcraft Santa carving contest. Bob entered his Flying Pig Santa (see the pictures from our November meeting for a peek). Our own Russ Scott won last year, so it's nice to keep the trophy 'at home.'

Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Lew Frosmark provided the up-to-date Treasurer's report. The balance on December 31st was \$3,994.87. Additional dues checks are coming in steadily, so we should be in good shape for the start of a new year (unless the officers decide to take a vacation with the proceeds). The Treasurer's report and December meeting minutes, as printed in the newsletter, were approved and seconded.

DON'T FORGET DUES!

Membership is due in February 2004. The membership year starts on February 1 each year. Get your \$15 in by the next meeting so you stay current. Lew has membership cards for those who have already paid. If you want to pay by mail, make your check to *Viking Woodcarver's* and send it to Lew Frosmark, 2730 W 91st St, Bloomington, MN 55431. Lew can also order name tags for anyone who wants one. These are \$5.00 – payable in advance.

Newsletter Publication

Russ Scott continues to provide entertainment for those of you with computers. Check the online newsletter with color pictures and lots of links to other articles of interest <http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca>.

Programs

Jim Ayers, has been doing a fantastic job as Program Chairman, but has found a talented 'committee' to take over this position as he turns his time to other projects. We thank Walt Grittner, John Krantz and Jim Abicht for volunteering to set up the club programs for the next year! They pick up a great batch of leads plus the following programs already set up:

February – special meeting at the Swedish Institute

March – Fred Livesay, from the Carver County Historical Society to discuss historical carving of daily utensils

April – Izo Becic (pronounced Ezo Besisch) *Thanks to Walt for the spelling correction!*

Spring Show – IT'S A GO!

Russ Scott is still in physical therapy after the arm-twisting he got from Swede. As usual, Swede got his way and Russ 'volunteered' to be the new show chairperson for the Spring (April) show. Swede will provide assistance, computer files, recommendations, and his usual enthusiasm! **Caution!!!!** Russ is a quick study. No doubt he learned the Swede technique of creating volunteers to help out. If you want to be at the show, figure out **now** what task you plan to volunteer for. Pick your poison – er, position - early!

Officer Election

Whether for good or bad, the current officers have offered to serve another year. If you would like to nominate someone for any one of the positions, please be prepared to do so at the February abbreviated meeting at the Institute. If no other nominees are forthcoming, we will vote on the following slate of officers for the 2004 Club year:

President	Jim Forrey
Vice	Jim Ayers
Presidents	Myron Asper
Treasurer	Lew Forsmark
Secretary	Nancy Dardis

REMINDER!!!! February Meeting at Swedish Institute

February 23 is our special meeting at the Swedish Institute to view their large display of Swedish carvings and attend a presentation by Urban Gunnarson. Hugh Salisbury arranged bus transportation to the Institute. **The bus is free to anyone who wants to ride.** We voted in December to pay any bus rental or driver costs from the Club treasury.

The bus will leave from the Knights of Columbus parking lot at 6:15 PM sharp! Get there at 6:00 to get a good seat. Per Hugh, the bus accommodates 77 'elementary school size butts', but more likely 50 adults. If we have more riders than seats, we will simply take a couple carpools.

Those who do not want to drive to the Knights of Columbus for the trip to the Institute can meet us there. An abbreviated club meeting will start at 7 PM. No Show and Tell at this meeting. We cannot bring coffee for the meeting that night, but the Institute may have a coffee shop available for those who would like to imbibe at their own cost.

Vendors

Thanks to our vendors who barreled through the snowdrifts to bring us their wares:

- *John Krantz* (Krantz Wood Sales). John, just back from a successful excursion in Arizona, was giving the wood away, according to Jim Forrey.
- *Jim Abicht* – brought carving mounts.
- *Clarence Moe (aka Grumpy)* – brought some remaining clown rough-outs from his class at Snow Daze in Spicer.

Upcoming Class

Lonnie Gay is offering a class through the Lake Area Woodcarvers in Forest Lake. It will be held at the Senior Center on March 6-7, 2004. Lonnie has three projects to choose from: A Kentucky Long Rifle, a pair of Dueling Pistols and a Pair of Angels. If you would like to sign up, contact Esther at 651-464-2087 and let her know which project you would like to do. Lonnie needs to know how many of each design to bring.

Show and Tell was filled with a wonderful variety of artworks from our talented members. Check out the pictures in this newsletter. Russ Scott continues to do a phenomenal job of capturing the beauty of each piece.

The Woodcarvers of Bali – Dennis Mathiason

Dennis has moved to northern Minnesota, but has not forgotten his Viking friends. After a recent sojourn to Bali, he offered to come back and share his adventure and the treasures – both in art and spirit – that he found on this beautiful island.

Life in Bali

Dennis has been immersed in Bali for the past four years. His neighbor is from Bali and finally convinced him it was a land he must see for himself. Dennis found the people of Bali to be the friendliest people he has met. They are always smiling – always willing to help anyone at any time. They practice a version of the Hindu religion. Dennis found the people to be very in tune with nature, ancestor worship, and the ebb and flow of life. They believe strongly in karma – both good and bad. Each type of karma merely adds to the fullness and beauty of your life.

Even crossing the street was an adventure in karma. Traffic on a 2-3 lane street appeared to be 5 lanes wide as cars weaved in and out. A native took Dennis by the arm and led him calmly across the street while cars dodged around them. Fortunately it was a 'good karma day'! In Bali, if you are in an accident, it is always your fault because you were obviously not following your karma and you were in the wrong place.

Dennis saw many temples wherever he traveled, but they all looked run down. When he asked a native why they didn't repair and keep up their place of worship, he was met by a blank stare. 'The land is our place of worship, not a building. Everywhere is our temple,' was the response. This view was carried out in every aspect of their daily life. They were in total harmony with their natural surroundings.

The Carvers and Tools

The carvers of Bali that Dennis had the opportunity to observe were all men. The women sold carvings, but none of them actually did the carving. The only power tool on the island was a chainsaw. All the carving is done by hand.

There appeared to be two types of carving – repetitious designs created for tourist trade and the unique designs crafted by the artisans. Dennis passed around two samples of the ‘tourist trade’ carvings. He had purchased them for as little as \$1 each. They were small, but beautifully detailed wall hangings that had the look of wooden lace. These were produced in quantity and took generally under a half day to

create. We all agreed we could not create that kind of intricacy in such a short time with hand tools. They were incredible!

Dennis showed us some of the tools he had purchased – a set of 10 tools for \$4.00. The tools had special blades and crude handles, but were obviously getting the job done! Most of the carvers make their own tools, generally handleless blades. The blades are not kept as sharp as ours, but they shave the wood with a fulcrum movement, rather than thrusting or drawing the tool across the wood. Even the comparatively dull blade cuts beautifully with their method.

2004 Spring Show and Sale April 17, 18 HAR MAR MALL Snelling & Co. Rd. B, Roseville, Minnesota

REGISTRATION FEES

Table or Space	\$20.00 Each
Exhibitor Chairs	\$ 2.50 Each

There is no limit on number of tables or spaces required to display your products

Please return registration form and check for fees to:

Russell Scott, Viking Woodcarvers, 1238 Edmund Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104

**Please Register by April 1, 2004. Make checks payable to "Viking Woodcarvers".
Registration fees are non-refundable.**

VENDORS

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 – 137th 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**

Chris Thompson, Carver and Instructor, **(651) 457-4130**

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

Bob Masse "Ruff-Cuts"

4930 Whitcomb Dr, Madison, WI 53711

(608) 271-2883

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

VIKING MAGNUM OPUS
(SHOW AND TELL) – January, 2004

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Leo Mielke Jeff Lippka	Fiddler and Dancing Girl Eagle Feather with Medicine Wheel	Basswood Basswood	Acrylics, Wax Acrylics	Ruff outs by Dave Stetson
Jim Forrey	Trygg – Carl, John 1939	Unknown	Unknown	Purchased at Antique store in Belgrade, Montana
Nancy Dardis Russell Scott	Captain St. Nicolas with Quilt Patchwork Coat	Basswood Basswood	Acrylics Acrylics/Wax	
Hugh Salisbury Duane Edwards	Hill-Billy Band Snowman	Basswood Basswood	Acrylics Acrylics	
Swede Bengtson	Intarsia Raccoon	Aspen/Walnut	Bri Wax	
Iver Anderson	Smaland Butter Knives	Butternut, Wence, Black Walnut, Red Cedar, Aspen, Birds Eye Maple, Orange, Ebony, Mahogany, Partridge Cherry, Poplar		

Color Images are available on the Viking Web Site:

<http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca/> under Galleries

Remember – No Show and Tell at the February Meeting.

REMINDER – We will meet at the K of C and bus to the Swedish Institute

REMINDER – Applications are taken for the Viking Spring Show NOW!!