

Russell Scott
Newsletter Editor
1238 Edmund Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-917-2125 rscott56@netzero.com



VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 30 No. 1

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
- Merle Erickson

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

- Meeting Location – Knights of Columbus, 1114 W 79th St., Bloomington,
- 4th Monday – January 26 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM

At the January Vikings meeting on January 26, Dennis Mathiason will give a presentation on "The Woodcarvers of Bali." Dennis has returned from a recent trip to Bali where he studied Balinese woodcarvings and spent time with woodcarvers. He has much to share, including carvings and fascinating stories. Over a year ago the Vikings had a presentation on Balinese Mask Carvings by Tom Dengler, who demonstrated the rich woodcarving tradition of Bali, known the world over for their distinctive carvings. Dennis is a great speaker, and we can look forward to a mind-expanding presentation.

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

December 22, 2003

By Nancy Dardis

Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

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President Jim Forrey called the meeting to order. There were 44 members in attendance. Tony Guthrie was introduced as a guest. We welcomed him with a round of applause. Tony is a young, up-and-coming carver. We hope to see more of him and invite him to bring his work to future show and tell sessions at our meetings. We all like to learn by sharing. Ken Anderson was back for the holidays and dropped in to visit. It was great to see his familiar face.

Merle Erickson is still experiencing slow progress on his road to recovery from his stroke. Cards are welcome - home address: 2012 Laurel, St Paul, MN 55104. He can also have short visits. Please call first and arrange a convenient time.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Lew Frosmark provided the up to date Treasurer's report. The balance on November 30th was \$3,782.57. After the monthly deposits, the current balance is \$4,005.57. The Treasurer's report and November meeting minutes, as printed in the previous newsletter, were approved and seconded.

DUES IS DUE!

Membership is due in February 2004. The membership year starts on February 1 each year. Thanks to those who prepaid and avoided the rush! Lew has your membership card if you pre-paid your dues.

Lew has badges for John Esch and John Duerr. Pick them up at the next meeting.

There are also a few Viking hats (\$10) and some patches (\$4) left. If you need a good birthday gift for the coming year, talk Lew out of one of these at the next meeting.

Newsletter Publication

It looks like Nancy Dardis is the only one who didn't get her newsletter in the trusty US Mail. Just so everyone knows, Russ Scott did his usual fine job – the missing newsletter arrived in pieces on Tuesday (12/23) in a special '*we beat the crap out of it*' envelope from the post office. Fortunately, there were extra copies at the meeting. For those of you with computers, check the online newsletter with color pictures and links to other articles of interest (<http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca>).

Programs

Jim Ayers, Program Chairman, needs someone to volunteer to be the Program Chairman for the next year. Jim has been doing a fantastic job for the club for 6+ years. He will remain a member of Vikings and pay us a monthly visit, but he has other projects demanding time in his life and it is time to pay attention to them. Jim readily admitted that if you volunteer for the position for next year, your work is already half done. He has already lined up:

January – Chad MacAnally, returning to discuss Celtic Knot Carving

February – special meeting at the Swedish Institute

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

April – Ivo Bacich

In addition, Jim has a long list of contacts, willing to speak on their latest passion. It's just a matter of coordinating the time. If you would like to take on this rewarding and educational position, call Jim at (612) 721-6074.

REMINDER!!!! February Meeting at Swedish Institute

February will be a special meeting at the Swedish Institute with a presentation by Urban Gunnarson. The Institute has a large carving exhibition open from February 11 through May. They plan to use all three floors of the Institute to display 100-200 carvings.

It looks like we will have a bus available for transportation to the Institute. It will leave from the Knights of Columbus parking lot around 6:30PM. A motion was made to have the club subsidize the cost of the bus and driver with our educational budget. This was seconded and approved by the attendees. Final details will be ironed out at the January meeting so don't miss it!

Spring Show – Go or No-Go

Show Chair Person Needed!!

We still need a new chairperson for the Spring (April) show. Swede has offered to provide assistance, computer files, recommendations, and his usual enthusiasm to help out the new chairperson. This is a great couples opportunity (you and your spouse, you and your best friend, you and your worst friend) Two heads and four hands make the work go faster!

Call Jim Forrey (952-831-2758) to volunteer.

NOTE:

**IF WE DO NOT GET A NEW
CHAIRPERSON VERY SOON,
THE SPRING SHOW WILL BE
CANCELLED!!!**

Vendors

Thanks to our vendors who arrived offering us some last minute Christmas deals:

- *John Krantz* (Krantz Wood Sales). John had his usual wonderful assortment of wood. He also mentioned if anyone is going to Arizona in January. He has a brochure on a great show in Mesa. If you have any questions about any type of wood you are trying to identify or carve, just give John a call.
- *George Effrem* (Woodcarvers Store and School). George had coloring books and tools just right for those last minute gifts. Remember: *Thursday is 10% off day for club members on everything except electrics.*
- *Jim Abicht* – brought carving mounts and puzzles to confound the 'out-laws' in your life.

Upcoming Classes

Snow Daze in Spicer is next week already – January 2-4, 2004! Gen Jansen reported that 44

people are attending the gathering. It promises to be the usual combination of activities – both educational and fattening, all in one great weekend!

A Scandinavian Flat Plane Carving Class is being offered at the Forest Lake Senior Center on Jan 17-18, 2004 (9am – 5PM). Bill Jaeger, a former instructor at the Swedish Institute will teach the class. If you would like to sign up, contact Esther at 651-464-2087. The cost of this class is \$40, plus cost of the blank.

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.

Jim Forrey ended the meeting on a groan:

He was apparently Christmas shopping in downtown Minneapolis this week and was met by a panhandler. Dressed in dirty, torn clothes, the elderly man was begging for a dollar for food. Jim refused, claiming the man would merely buy a cheap bottle of wine. 'Oh, no,' the man announced soberly, 'I've given up drinking!'

Unconvinced, Jim still refused, telling the man he probably would run off and buy a lottery ticket. 'Oh, no,' the man proclaimed, flashing a smile with teeth as white as dice, 'I've given up gambling, as well. All I want is something to eat.'

Jim tried one more time. 'If I give you money, you'll just blow it on the golf driving range!' 'Oh, no,' the man sliced back – now getting a bit teed-off. 'I don't play golf anymore either!'

With that, Jim quickly grabbed the man by the arm and took him home for a hot meal. The panhandler brushed off his dirty clothes and asked 'Why are you taking me home instead of just giving me a dollar?'

Everyone groan it together now: 'I wanted to show my wife what a man looks like when he gives up drinking, gambling and golf.'

Gifts of Woodcarving – Reflections of Psychology in the 21st Century

Jim Ayers couldn't find an outside speaker for this holiday week meeting, so he decided to fill the slot himself. Jim has worked as a Clinical Psychologist for over 30 years. He spent much of that time treating individuals with mental illness, often suicidal, and mostly in a hospital setting. Jim has also worked as a therapist for the last 11 years with elderly sex offenders.

More recently, Jim has taken on the position of Clinic Director for a walk-in counseling center at 25th and Chicago in Minneapolis. This clinic is definitely NOT the norm. In a normal clinic visit, the patient completes forms, guarantees payment, then sets up a future appointment. All they really wanted to do was talk – now!

This Walk-in Center provides the counseling services of over 100 professionals absolutely free. There is no appointment needed, no forms to fill out, or insurance hassles. The patient does not even need to provide a name. Jim said the staff has determined that those are the key issues that keep people from seeking help when they desperately need it.

One of Jim's favorite quotes is from Bob Dylan: "If you ain't busy livin', then you're busy dyin'." To be truly alive, we must continue to learn.

The Process of Learning: Learning is an iterative loop involving three distinct steps. If any one of these steps is overlooked, the learning cycle is broken and there is no learning. Jim applied the learning cycle to both his clinical work and carving.

Three Learning Steps:

1. **Know the Anticipated Results.** This is the step where you first picked up a carving knife. You had probably looked at carvings that others had completed and felt 'you could do that'. A healthy level of confidence is a good motivator. It helps us deal with the inevitable fear of the unknown. This fear of failure

could immobilize us from expressing ourselves.

2. **Learn to Take Risks.** It is precisely in taking risks that we can lay claim to ownership of the accomplishment and learn to manage the risk. Patience and passion fuel the learning and make us even more willing to take a risk. This is the step where you actually spent your hard earned money on a piece of wood to make a carving (rather than just whittling on some of the Krantz free wood). The more risk you were willing to take, the more complex the projects became. You were now learning what the knife could really do! However, risk is not without failure. We have all had a few pieces that may be better described as firewood than art. But, that is a learning experience too. As competency increases, learners expand their expectations and take greater risks and are constantly pushed to greater competencies. The learning cycle fuels itself.
3. **Observe the Results of your Cycle.** Bring your carvings to the club and share. Accept praise and criticism equally. Observe others' works. Fuel your passion by sharing theirs.

Jim is trained in pathology, not health. He tries to concentrate on what is right in a client's life; what is creative, what they can do. He tries to help clients break large concepts into smaller pieces – in essence 'whittling away' at the negative issues until the positive is revealed. In a similar fashion, carvers who want to try a complex project should break it down into manageable phases. As each phase is accomplished, confidence grows, ownership is created and you develop a sense of craftsmanship (*I did that!!*)

Technology is becoming more prominent in our lives. The world is shrinking, but at the same time, human interaction is being eliminated. Carving allows us to interact with other artists and non-artists alike; to share our thoughts and

talents; to make unique items and create a beautiful living legacy.

Share your talents with others. Teach and watch what the students do with your teaching. Soon you will get to a point where the students will be teaching you.

***Holiday Pause:
You will be remembered by the beauty
you make and the people whose lives
you touched in the process of learning.***

Jim finished the evening's presentation with a series of poems he had written to accompany his fan bird carvings. He provided handouts of both his Learning Cycle and poetry.

Although all Jim's poems are poignant and special, my personal favorite for this war-tainted holiday season is one Jim wrote to accompany his Peace Dove carving:

ON WINGS OF PEACE

Happy are you who wait in peace for you shall have the courage to listen.
Happy are you who listen for peace for you shall have the courage to speak.
Happy are you who speak up for peace for you shall have the courage to work.
Happy are you who work for peace for you shall have the courage to hope.
Happy are you who hope for peace for you shall have the courage to suffer.
Happy are you who suffer for peace for you shall soar and lead us all.
Jim Ayers ©2000

***A Most Blessed and Peaceful Holiday
Season to Everyone!***

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

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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

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www.ronfisher.com

VIKING MAGNUM OPUS
(SHOW AND TELL) – December, 2003

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Leo Mielke	Carpenter	Basswood	Acrylics	Phil Bishop Ruff out
Lynne Medgaarden	Christmas Ornaments	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jupe Houman	Santas	Basswood	Acrylics	Same pattern for fisherman
Alice Larson	Sign	Basswood	Oil	
Gen Jansen	Eyefull Tower	Basswood	Acrylics/Wax	
Charles Rathsack	Elf Christmas Deco.	Basswood	Acrylics	
Lew Forsmark	Skinny Leg Santa	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	Pattern from Folk art
Jim Ayers	Parrot	Balsa		From Guatemala
	Wood Duck Landing	Pine	Airbursh	Fan-Carving
Lee Olson	Bull Dog Head	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	
Gary Fleming	Russian Sunflower	Bass/Walnut	Polyurethane	
Bob Pitts	Cross	Butternut	Polyurethane	
Nancy Dardis	Floral Woodburning	Basswood	Water Color/Wax	
Myron Aspen	Spoons	Butternut	Unfinished	Christmas Spoons

Color Images are available on the Viking Web Site:
<http://www.russcott.com/~rscott/vwca/> under Galleries



Dick Peters passed away on January 9, after a struggle with severe pneumonia. Dick developed a reputation for his fine carvings of birds, and about two years ago he gave a fine demonstration on using wire to form bird feet. He was 77.

Celtic Knot Carving Pattern by Bob Pitts