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**VIKING Woodcarvers**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**Vol. 31 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 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 – January 24 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

**January Presentation:** Leroy Osterbauer, will speak on Vintage Hand tools for cabinetmakers. Leroy is a woodworker who has collected a large selection of working hand tools which were used before 1910, when the technology changed. He has made a tool chest, a magnificent work of art, which was on display at last year's State Fair. Leroy will do an extensive 'show and tell' with his tools and will provide us an excellent opportunity to see a fine collection of tools – a time when tools were powered by hands of the artisans. This should be a fine presentation showing the wide array of tools from the past.

# Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

December 27, 2004

By Nancy Dardis

President Jim Forrey opened our meeting and wished all a happy holidays. By the looks of the attendance (39 members and no guests), there are still a lot of members enjoying their time off.

**Treasury/Meeting Minutes** - Lew Forsmark reported the November treasury balance as \$4,134.16. He is starting to receive dues payments now. Your \$15 membership is due on February 1, 2005. It would sure be easier on Lew if everyone would either send a \$15 check (*Viking Woodcarver's*) to Lew Forsmark, 2730 W 91<sup>st</sup> St, Bloomington, MN 55431, or bring it to the next meeting. Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report as printed in the previous newsletter were approved and seconded.

**Program Committee** – 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!

## Old Business

Iver Anderson is coordinating a group project to create a Viking ship and various figures. He will bring the patterns to the January meeting. Hopefully everyone will try their hand at a character, making this a true club project. Iver requests that we help pay for the minor costs of pattern reproduction.

Do you want your newsletter electronically? Russ hasn't asked for a while and thought he would update his list. To get the newsletter electronically, send an e-mail to [rscott56@netzero.com](mailto:rscott56@netzero.com). That way he has your e-mail address for sure and knows you are interested.

## New Business

A new slate of officers will be presented and voted on in January. If you have a suggestion, contact Jim Forrey at 952-831-2758 as soon as possible.

**Upcoming shows.** The spring show will be held April 23-24. The fall show is slated for

October 22-23. Both are scheduled at Har Mar Mall in St. Paul.

Jim Abicht recommended that we audit our books before the new slate of officers takes over. He has done this before and offered to do it again. That wouldn't have anything to do with you heading to Mexico soon on vacation would it, Jim?

## Vendors

John Krantz had another fine assortment of wood. He also announced the annual show in Mesa, AZ on Feb 19-20. If you are in the area, it is definitely worth a stop.

Jim Abicht had several bases and interesting woods to carve once you tire of basswood.

Gen Jansen announced that Snow Daze (Jan 7-9) has the largest group ever. There is only one opening. That's in Nancy's wood burning class. Lew Forsmark has backed out in lieu of shoulder surgery...a likely excuse!

## Tonight's Program – Golf Ball Carving

Those of us who have never tried carving a golf ball were in for an interesting experience. Tom Isaacson provided a box of split/peeled golf balls for our use. Many of us came prepared with our carving tools and enthusiasm.

**Step 1:** Find the right golf balls. Those that are elastic-wrapped core, rather than composite cannot be carved to any detail. To determine which type you have, simply drop the ball to a hard surface (garage floor) from waist high. If you hear a click when the ball hits the floor and it rebounds to nearly the same height, it is a keeper. If you hear a dull thud and the ball does not rebound well, don't bother.

The covers of the balls vary in weight. The cores of the balls vary in color. Jim Forrey provided the specs on various brands:

Titleist – Tends to be wound or have a heavy cover and hard core.

Top-Flite – Carves well. Cover depth and colors vary.

Top-Flite Magna – Has a white core, but the cover is heavy and hard to cut.

Top-Flite XL – Generally a blue core with a moderate cover.  
 Top-Flite Z-Balata – Yellow core with a soft, thin cover.  
 Top-Flite XL-W – Core is beige, cover moderately hard.  
 Top-Flite Tour 90 – Light pink core with a moderately hard cover.  
 Top-Flite Strata – Thin clear layer between core and cover that is hard to work with.  
 Pinnacle – Cores are excellent for carving, but the covers are heavy.  
 Pinnacle Gold – Core is yellow.  
 Pinnacle Extreme – Core is deep red or purple.  
 Precept – Core is light brown, cover is heavy.  
 Dunlop – Core is pink and hard, cover moderately hard.  
 Ultra – Light brown, hard core, cover heavy.

**Step 2:** Cut the exterior of the golf ball in half and peel off one side. Although Tom had already done this step, for those interested in future golf ball hacking, three different methods were presented.

- Lock a nutcracker in a vice. Set the ball in the nutcracker to hold it in place. Use a hack saw to saw through the ball coating until you hit rubber...you'll know.
- Lock the ball in a PVC cutter. It takes 6-8 cuts to go completely around the ball.
- Use a Dremel tool with an abrasive cutter. Note: This does tend to melt the edges of the cut. Do this outside to avoid the smell from the melting cover.

**Step 3:** Decide on your design. Although a caricature face is the most common carving, Bob Pitts had done a rose and sunflower, as well as drilled some out and mounted clocks inside.

**Step 4:** Start carving. Sounds pretty simple, but a golf ball is a slippery little devil. Mounting it on a screw embedded in a handle seemed to work the best. *Small* tools are also a requirement. Keep in mind, golf balls dull your tools quickly, so using your best wood carving tools is probably not good idea.

**Step 5:** Finish your masterpiece. Keep the cover of the ball you peeled off in step 2. You can use this and a golf tee for a mount. You

can leave the ball core in its original color or paint your carving with acrylics.

We ended up with several renditions of different characters. I started a rose and ended up with something that looks more like a lion (better than started out to make a Canadian goose and ending up with a toothpick!) This is definitely an interesting medium that I will give another try. Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable evening.

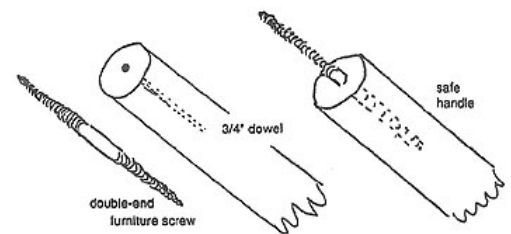
## Getting a Handle on Golf Ball Carving

By GEN JANSEN – *Chip Chat Article*

PHOTOS and articles on carving golf ball faces have prompted me to share this safe method for carving an item which is difficult and unsafe to hold. Many of us do not have the lathe needed to remove part of the cover as well instructed by Ted Kona in the May-June, 1995 Issue.

I had my first golf ball carving lesson/demonstration with Harold Enlow in March of 1993. Harold held the ball with a handle, to be made as instructed below.

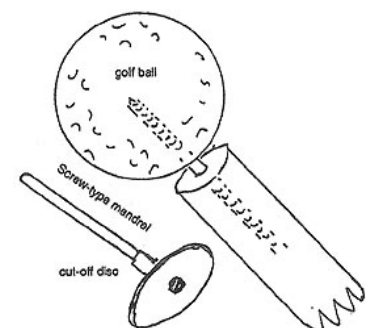
Frustrated by the difficulty of removing the ball cover with a V tool and knife, I found that using a Dremel cut-off wheel (#409) in a screw-type mandrel worked great! The power of a Foredom or Dremel actually melts the cover as well as cuts. You can usually sense when the cover has been cut through without ruining the ball carving material.



## Constructing a Handle

Use a 3/4" dowel for a handle about 6" long. Drill a 1/8" hole in the center of one end. Epoxy a small double-end furniture screw into this hole. Use 2-ton epoxy rather than the 5-minute type as it does a better job bonding metal screw to wood.

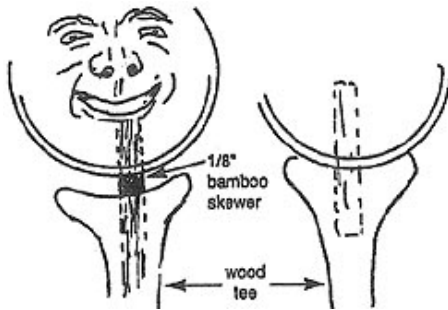
Use a small gouge to punch a hole



through the cover of the golf ball. Turn handle into this hole, about 3/4" deep. Hold handle while holding ball to workbench as you cut a circle on the cover of the ball. When circle is complete, use a knife and/or screwdriver to pry off the unwanted part. I use a V tool laid on one side, to trim off melted plastic and clean up the edge.

### Now carve!

Make any face you wish - human, animal, etc. When carving is completed, unscrew handle. Using a 1/8" bit, I now redrill the hole into the ball and another in the top of a



tee. Bamboo skewers have more tensile strength than wood dowels, so I cut a small section of 1/8" bamboo and glue it into the

ball and slide it tightly onto the tee with glue. I drill an appropriate-sized hole in a small finished piece of scrap walnut for a base. Cut off the tip of the tee and glue into base.

The insides of these carvable golf balls come in many colors. They can be painted. I use white acrylic paint for the eyeballs. Sometimes the ball is hair colored, so I use a flesh tone for the skin. The choice to paint or not to paint is that of the carver.

Be certain to wear eye protection, when cutting ball covers. [The wheel will spit hot plastic!]

Golf ball brands that are usually the 2-part type are

Golf ball brands that are usually the 2-part type are: Pinnacle, Maxi-fli, all Spalding styles (Flying Lady Top Flite), Golden Ram, Ultra Plus, XXX outs in all above brands.

Gen Jansen lives in St Cloud, MN.

## The Wood Carving School Classes – 2005 Phone (612) 927-7491

### WHITTLING HEARTS AND ANGELS

– In three sessions

**Mondays: January 10, 17, 24, 2005; 7:00-9:30 p.m.** Instructor is George Effrem.

Cost: With cutouts & Knife **\$54.00** or with out knife **\$45.00**.

### WOOD CARVING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

– In three sessions – Instructor Kevin Showell

**Saturdays: February 5, 12, 26, 2005; 10:00-12:00**

(Ages 8 to 14 years old) Tuition cost: **\$50.00**.

Average tool cost: \$50.00.

### POWER CARVING PROJECT CLASS

– In five sessions

**Thursdays, February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 2005, 7:00-9:30 p.m.**

Instructors are Kevin Showell and George Effrem. Tuition cost: **\$89.00**.

### WHITTLING BUNNIES & BEARS

– In three sessions – Instructor is George Effrem.

**Mondays: March 7, 14, 21, 2005; 7:00-9:30 p.m.**

Cost: with cutouts and knife **\$54.00**; with out knife **\$45.00**.

### WHITTLING A LOON AND A WOLF

– In three sessions – Instructor is George Effrem.

**Mondays: April 4, 11, 18, 2005; 7:00-9:30 p.m.**

Cost: including knife and cutouts **\$54.00**; with out knife **\$45.00**.

### WHITTLING AUTUMN THEMES

– In three sessions Carve Duck/Deer/Dog

**Mondays: October 3, 10, 17, 2005; 7:00-9:30**

**p.m.** – Instructor is George Effrem. Cost: W/cutouts & Knife **\$54.00**; with out knife **\$45.00**

### WHITTLING CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

– In three sessions

**Mondays: December 5, 12, 19, 2005; 7:00-9:30**

**p.m.** – Instructor is George Effrem. Cost: With cutouts and Knife **\$54.00**; with out knife **\$45.00**

# 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) – December 2004

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Jim Forrey	Golf Ball Faces	Golf Balls	Acrylics	
Duane Edwards	Bears in stump	Basswood	Acrylics	
Gen Jansen	Flat Plane Fisherman	Basswood	Acrylics/Stain	
Len Kampa	Folding Swedish Spoon	Basswood	Mineral Oil	Chip Chats 9-10/94
	St. Francis/Infant Jesus	Basswood		
	Bunny	Basswood		
Myrtle Brandvold	Chip carving ornaments	Basswood	Finish/Stains	
Hugh Salisbury	Grizzly Bear	Basswood	Acrylics	
John Mitchell	Chip Art	Basswood	Polyurethane	
Lee Olson	Santa Bear Ornament	Basswood	Acrylics	
Lew Forsmark	Tompste Swedish Santa	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	
Darwin Krueger	Nativity Set	Basswood	Natural Wax	
John Sailor	“Omar” Carol Man	Basswood	Waxed	
Bob Pitts	2 Butterfly Crosses	Bass/Butternut		One w/wing in, one w/wing out
Russell Scott	2 Raccoons and a Stump	Basswood	Acrylics	Won Honorable Mention / WC
	Christmas Ornaments	Basswood	Acrylics	

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**From:**

*Carvers' Companion – Woodcarver Online Magazine* – Loren Woodard, editor of Notes from the Net  
<http://www.carverscompanion.com/>  
November 1998

**-- PAINTING TECHNIQUE --**

From: *Loren Woodard* <wdcarver@mail.usmo.com>

If you use acrylic paint thin it down with water. You'll have to experiment with different colors because all work somewhat different. I generally add about 4 to 5 drops of paint to a paint tray of water (one of those acrylic paint trays, about a tablespoon). Since this is an acrylic wash the wood should show through. I let the paint dry for a day or two and then seal it with a mixture of boiled linseed oil. For small projects I dip the entire carving and let the goop soak in. For larger projects I paint the stuff on with a large wash brush. I use paper towels to gently wipe off the excess oil. Generally, I tint my linseed oil with raw umber and/or raw sienna to give the sealer a slight color. If you use this oil concoction you must make sure that the oil and paint are thoroughly mixed. The best method is to use an old blender. Make sure that you safely dispose of the wiping rags. The oil is subject to spontaneous combustion.

From: *Adrian McKee* <irish@access1.net>

If you have detail you don't want to lose, try Berol Prismacolor pencils. You can apply them lightly or heavy, until they are a solid color. You can also thin them out with turpentine or turpenoid for a "wash" effect that looks like a watercolor. Clear acrylic can be used as a final finish when dry.

**-- PASTE WAX FINISHES --**

From: *Anthony J. Last* <alast@globalserve.net>

The only finish I use on basswood reliefs is tung oil followed by a beeswax based wax. If your tung oil is unpolymerized you should cut it with a little Varsol. Coat the piece, using your hands, and let it soak for 5 to 10 minutes. Wipe off all the excess being careful not to leave any in the crevices. Using your hands adds a small amount of heat (body temperature) that appears to help in the 'take up' of oil by the wood. If your tung oil is pre-polymerized, it is less viscous and usually has hardeners added. Even so it needs cutting with Varsol or paint thinners. I find that tung oil is one of the best sealers for basswood. One trick with basswood is to wash it with a stiff brush and soap and water since it takes up a lot of oil from your hands and also dirt from natural handling. Not too much water to cause it to warp but just enough to remove the dirt film. After this you may need to go over the carving to remove any raised grain. Then use tung oil to seal it after it is bone dry.