

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



**VIKING Woodcarvers**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**Vol. 30 No. 3**

**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 79<sup>th</sup> St., Bloomington,**
- **4<sup>th</sup> Monday – March 22 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

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**Presentation: "The Wood turner and the Price of Cotton." By Fred Livesay**

Fred is a historian, archivist, and woodworker who specialize in the history of how people used wood and other materials in their culture. He works in different wood media, including birch bark, and teaches at the North School in Grand Marais, Minn. He has discovered a spinning wheel shop that was important for the frontier economy of Carver County, and he works at the Carver County Historical Society. He gave a presentation two years ago to our Viking group and spoke about various woodworkers in the Minnesota River Valley. He's coming with a fine set of slides and some fascinating stories.

# Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

February 23, 2004

By Nancy Dardis

An 'oh so special' meeting this month as the group attended a special viewing at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Many of us rode the free bus from the Knights of Columbus to the Institute. Thanks to Myrtle for suggesting the club pay for the transport. It was an ideal option. *Secretary's Note: Many of us found that the seats on a school bus have gotten softer, but seem to have shrunk in size. At least that's what we attributed for the tight fit.*

## Business Meeting

Jim Ayers opened our brief business meeting. There were about 80 people in attendance with guests from as far away as Faribault and Stillwater.

## Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Lew Forsmark updated the Treasurer's report. The balance on December 31st was \$3,994.87. The income in January was \$332.50, with expenses of \$364.96. That leaves us with a January 31 balance of \$3,962.41. The meeting minutes and treasurer's report were approved and seconded.

## Newsletter Publication

Kinko's bit Russ Scott on the printed version of the newsletter. As you may have noticed, they messed up the graphics of the show and tell. Too late to reprint, so if you want to see the 'should have been' newsletter with color pictures and lots of links to other articles of interest check out <http://www.russscott.com/~rscott/vwca>.

## Spring Show

Show Chairman, Russ, is working hard on the Spring Show.

**Remember...that's APRIL.... that's NEXT MONTH.**

Fill out your application and get it in NOW. If you didn't get an application, Russ will provide one on our web site (see address above) and you can print one out and send it in. He will also accept applications at the March meeting.

As of February, he had only 10 people confirmed – a total of 16-17 tables. Swede provided brochures at the meeting for everyone to use as handouts. These will also be available at the next meeting.

## Officer Election

You're stuck with the current slate of officers for another year. Elections were approved and seconded with only the current officers objecting. So much for our political pull!

## American Swedish Institute – Tonight's Program

Mark Johnson, Director of Development, welcomed us to the Institute. We have Jerry Erickson to thank for connecting our club with the Institute and arranging the visit. Thank you SO much from all of us!

The exhibit planning was started nearly a year ago. The committee started checking with local collectors in the community to try and gather items for the display. They were hoping for approximately 100 items. The generous outpouring of enthusiasm and donations for the project was overwhelming. They finally opened the exhibit with over 300 pieces. Not only did they receive carvings for display, but also tools and sketchbooks, as well as oil paintings of carver family residences in Sweden.

The exhibit was fantastic. The list of featured carvers is extensive, but to name a few: Emil Janel, Harley Refsal, Oscar Sjogren, and of course Sven and Urban Gunnarsson. Urban Gunnarsson was the resident carver for the evening. He was working on miniature busts of Winston Churchill. He has picked up a tradition started by his father of carving famous figures. Apparently, 'Winston' is one of the most popular figures. Urban's sister, mother and aunts paint the figures he and his brother carve. The results are truly unique.

Urban carved with a single knife, which he made from a saw blade. He finds saw blades to be a very strong metal, well adapted to use as a carving tool. They hold the edge through 2-3 carvings before needing sharpening. The metal rarely chips, and since the blade is thinner than a conventional knife, it doesn't need as much reshaping when sharpened. Watching the wood chips fly was very humbling as 'Winston' made his appearance from a block of wood not once, but three times in the matter of an hour.

Earlier in the day, Urban had carved three trolls. He put these out on the table as

additional examples of his carving although he said he doesn't do a lot of trolls. I grabbed the opportunity to purchase one of them - what a priceless memory from a wonderful tour.

Thanks again to Mark Johnson for hosting our group, Jerry Erickson for making the connection, and Urban for the entertainment and lasting memories.

For more information about the American Swedish Institute, class offerings, and the exhibit log on to:

[www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org)

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**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.**

**Gen Jensen** is interested in sharing a table at the **Har Mar Mall Spring Show**. She will attend Saturday, but cannot attend the show on Sunday. If any one is interested to show on Sunday only, contact Gen Jensen at: [gencarves@aol.com](mailto:gencarves@aol.com) or Russell Scott at: 651-917-2125

**Ron Fisher** from **Ducks-R-Us** ([www.ducks-r-us.com](http://www.ducks-r-us.com)) is wondering if anyone has a Roto-Carve machine for sale. The original machine was designed and made in Minneapolis then Janesville Iowa. Both companies are long since gone and a few were sold around the Twin Cities area. He can be contacted by e-mail or at my office at 800-231-7370

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## 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

***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

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## VIKING MAGNUM OPUS

(SHOW AND TELL) – February, 2004

**There was no show and tell during the February Meeting**  
Some pictures from the Swedish Institute are shown on the website

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

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