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**VIKING Woodcarvers**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**Vol. 31 No. 8**

**PRESIDENT**

- Jim Forrey

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

- Jim Ayers
- Myron Asper

**SECRETARY**

- Lynne Medgaarden

**TREASURER**

- Leo Mielke

**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 – October 24 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

## **October Presentation: Carving Faces with Stan Weros**

Stan Weros, one of our Viking carvers, will present on Carving Faces. This will be a carve-in so come prepared to do some carving. You will need a hand knife and a v-tool. If you don't have a v-tool, others can share with you. Stan will provide basswood egg blanks and guide us through carving a face in the egg. Stan is an expert on this approach to face carving and his hands on-approach should provide plenty of learning for all of us. So come prepared to do some carving.

# Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

September 26, 2005

By Lynne Medgaarden

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Forrey. There were 48 members and 3 visitors present. The visitors were: Frank Kemp, Burnsville; David Rouch, Farmington; Charlotte Enright, Bloomington.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Leo Mielke, reported that we have a balance of \$3,600. He is concerned about the number of unpaid dues. Patches are available for \$3.00. Nametags can be ordered from Leo. The minutes and treasurers report as reported in the last newsletter were accepted.

## Newsletter Report

Contact Russell Scott or Leo Mielke if you have not received your newsletter. They will check to see if your dues have been paid. If you see Viking club members at other shows, or if you participate in a show, please send Russ write-ups and/or photos to include in the newsletter.

## Show Report

The fall Viking Show will be October 22-23 at Har Mar Mall. Russ reported that 47 tables and spaces had been reserved so far. He needs people to help set up the show on Friday, October 21. **Russ will be at Har Mar at 5:30 p.m. If you get there earlier and would like to start setting up tables before he arrives that would be great. We can rearrange them when he arrives.** Also, he requested that members come to the show to demonstrate at the club table.

Several Viking members participated in the Minnesota State Fair Creative Activities competition: Jeff Lipka, Russell Scott, John Jensen. There were wonderful carvings this year. Russell made a suggestion that we look into demonstrating basic carving at the State Fair next year. There was a very advanced carver demonstrating at the fair this year which beginners would have found intimidating.

Jim Forrey reminded everyone that we need to push the chairs and tables back into order when we are through with our meeting.

## Vice President Report

Stan Weros will speak at the next Viking meeting in October. Stan will lead us in a carve-in (bring your carving knife and v-tool) and we will carve a face in a wooden egg. Let Jim Ayers know if you have come across any interesting carvers that would be good potential speakers for future meetings.

## New Business

It is time to start thinking about elections of new officers for next year. Contact Jim Forrey if you are interested in being an officer or if you would like to be on the nominating committee.

## Vendors

- Luther Kliche had a big chuck of wood available.
- Everett Ellenwood had tool sharpening and beginning wood carving VHS videos or DVDs, and sharpening supplies.
- Bernie Enright will be moving from his home in Bloomington to a smaller condo next spring and was selling carving magazines, books, patterns, cutouts and bases.
- John Krantz will be at the October Viking show in Har Mar. Contact John or Dick Allen if you need a special item cut and delivered to the show. John will also be at the Redwing Woodcarvers show on October 8 and 9.
- Charlie Eiler had pieces and parts for sale, most at \$1.00 each.
- Jupe Haupp had canes, walking sticks and vices for sale.
- Bob Spangenberg had diamond willow sticks around \$6.00-\$10.00.

Show and tell followed. There was an example of tramp art from the Depression era. Everett Ellenwood pointed out that tramp art was constructed from mainly old cigar boxes. The government would not allow cigar boxes to be reused once the seal was broken so there were a lot of wooden cigar boxes around at that time.

## Speaker

Everett Ellenwood, a member of the Rochester Woodcarvers club, gave an excellent demonstration of tool sharpening.

Ev pointed out that the Rochester club has the same color of heads (gray) as the Viking club. He is teaching beginning woodcarving classes to encourage more young people to get involved in the art.

He started out selling presharpended carving tools for 17 years. He researched and experimented with many sharpening techniques on the road to developing the sharpening method he teaches in his demonstrations and on his video. He has noticed two things about people during his years with carving: 1) people don't know what they want to achieve with sharpening; 2) they use too many parameters while sharpening.

Before you start you should know what the tool should look like when you are done. Ev had three drawings of knives showing what the tool looks like in the beginning, how it should look in the end and how it should not look in the end. The sides of the knife should be straight coming down to a point when you are finished sharpening.

He starts the sharpening process with a coarse stone to take off more metal and works his way down to a smoother and smoother edge.

For beginners he recommends gluing a piece of 400 grit sandpaper to a board. There are enough abrasive qualities in the sandpaper to sharpen a knife. Put finer and finer sandpaper on top of the 400 grit as your work your way down to a finely sharpened knife.

If you purchase an oil stone for sharpening get one that is presaturated with oil. The oil keeps the metal particles floating on the surface of the stone. When you wipe off your stone you wipe away the particles. The problem with oil stones is that they cup over time. If that happens, then he takes his oil stone outside to his concrete driveway and flattens it out again.

Water stones will abrade very quickly. They are high maintenance stones and should be flattened out after every use.

Diamond stones are the optimum. They are the lowest maintenance. Use honing oil (light weight mineral oil is best) to clean the metal buildup between the diamonds. The oil keeps the metal particles floating on the surface.

## To sharpen your knife

Lay your knife flat on the stone (or sandpaper) with the blade facing away from the direction you are going to move it. Use long sawing strokes (up and down) with a light finger pressure applied to the blade as you move the blade over the stone. A small burr will form as you thin the metal of the blade. This is caused as the metal rolls over on the cutting edge. You can feel the small burr that is formed. Remove the burr the first time you sharpen a knife to be sure you are getting a sharp edge. Use a finer grit stone or sandpaper to remove the burr. His objective in sharpening is to remove as many variables as possible from the process.

He uses a long strop (about 10 inches) to finish up the sharpening. Be sure to load the strop with honing compound. Ev has found white gold to be the best compound. Lay the knife flat on the strop. Pull it across keeping the blade flat. Leather is slightly pliable and pulls around the edge of the knife to automatically put on a micro bevel. Strop 5 or 6 times before the micro bevel gets too thick. If so that happens go back to a fine stone to remove the micro bevel.

## Sharpening gouges

Decide how you want the gouge to look when you are finished. You want the gouge to be straight from toe to heel. If gouge is rounded then the tool won't grab and won't work as fast as it should. Use approximately at 22° angle for sharpening chisels. When carving with a chisel don't pry out pieces of wood with your chisel. It ruins the blade. Ev uses 600 grit dry sandpaper to start the sharpening process. Pull it across the inside of the gouge. He does not use leather on gouges or v-tools. He does not want the micro bevel. He uses cardboard loaded with honing compound (white gold) on gouges and v-tools. For the inside of the gouge Ev folds cardboard to the shape of the inside of the tool to finish them.

Ev gave an excellent demonstration and you can learn his techniques from his sharpening videos. Several members of the Viking club have the video or you can purchase one directly from Ev.

**Need help set up Friday night  
I won't be at the Mall until 5:30!  
It's OK to come early to start  
setting up tables. I'll catch up  
with you when I get there**

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## VWCA Fall Show

October 22, 23, 2005.

### Change of Time for Set Up

#### VIKING MAGNUM OPUS (SHOW AND TELL) – August, 2005

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Randy Briggie	Toy Soldier Frame	Basswood Other Wood	Acrylics Unfinished	Distressed Tramp Art
Erik Meade	Pierre the Voyager	Elm	Acrylics	
Barb Gritche	Shallow Relief	Basswood	Acrylics	
Charles Eiler	Wood Turned Vase Wood Lake Walleye	Buck Thorn Pine	Acrylics	Very interesting grain & color Hand Carved Scales
Lew Forsmark	Northern Pike	Basswood	Acrylics	All is basswood
Bob Spangenberg	Cane	D-Willow		Duck Hunter's Poem
Jim Kuepper	Indian	Basswood	Acrylics	
Jupe Houman	Santa	Basswood	Acrylics	2"x2"x12" Basswood
John Jensen	Canada Goose	Basswood	Acrylics	
John Sailor	Madonna	Basswood	Stain	
Mel Michalik	Walking Stick	D-Willow		
Marv Meyer	Mallard in Corn Stock Carving Tools Handles	Butternut		
Duane Edwards	Santa and Pumpkins	Basswood	Acrylics	
Russell Scott	Troll House Santa Head Hillbilly	CW Bark Basswood Basswood	Polyurethane Acrylics Acrylics	CarvFest Class CarvFest Class CarvFest Class
Clarence Moe	Santa looking at the Globe	Basswood	Acrylics	

#### Time to start thinking of Spring Classes in Forest Lake with Lake Area

##### Woodcarvers

##### Chip Carving with Walt Grittner – Mid March, 2006 - \$60, plus supplies

Walt will be teaching a two day class on the art of chip carving on a basswood plate. Make sure to bring a #2 Exacto knife, a school quality mechanical pencil and a flexible ruler.

##### Flat Plane Scandinavian Carving with Becky Lusk – April 8-9, 2006 - \$75, plus blank (\$8 to \$14)

Becky requests a \$40, non-refundable deposit to secure a place in her class. She also needs a minimum of eight students, with a maximum of ten.

For info on these classes, contact Esther Allen at: 651-464-2087