

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



VIKING Woodcarvers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vol. 30 No. 7

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 79th St., Bloomington,**
- **4th Monday – September 27 – Meeting Time – 7:00 PM**

September Presentation: "Wooden Puzzles

Challenging Curiosities," by Harold Kallio. Harold has had a lifelong fascination with wooden puzzles ever since he received one from his grandfather. Since then Harold has collected wooden puzzles from across the world, including some from Japan stamped with "made in Occupied Japan." A few of them he has never opened, for fear of not being able to reassemble them because the instructions aren't very clear. Harold will have stories to tell about the history of wooden puzzles and examples of puzzles ranging from very simple to nearly impossible. He will also have some handouts with instructions on how to make a few puzzles. Now here's an interesting twist for woodcarvers to wrap their minds around!

Meeting Minutes of Viking Woodcarver's Meeting

August 23 2004

By Nancy Dardis

Back from the dry, cool summer we opened our August meeting at the Knights of Columbus hall. A hearty 53 members were in attendance. Carl Swanson from south Minneapolis paid us a visit. Carl is a Scandinavian-style carver. President Jim Forrey refreshed everyone on the Club rules – coffee is free, donuts are \$1, put your chairs and tables back where you found them and clean up all your trash before leaving.... and welcome back to all!

The Recovery Road

Merle Erickson wants to thank everyone for all the good wishes over the summer. Keep the cards and notes coming (home address: 2012 Laurel, St Paul, MN 55104). He is able to receive visitors, so if you would like to stop over and spend a few minutes, please call and set up a convenient time.

Treasury/Meeting Minutes

Lew Forsmark reported the July treasury balance as \$3,578.93. If you have not paid your 2004 dues and want to pay by mail, make out your check to *Viking Woodcarver's* and send it to Lew Forsmark, 2730 W 91st St, Bloomington, MN 55431.

The attendees approved and seconded the Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in the June newsletter.

NOTE FROM NANCY: Remember: I will be thinking of you from Nova Scotia during the next monthly meeting. Someone needs to take the meeting minutes. I'm sure there will be a stampede for the opportunity. I look forward to reading my October newsletter.

Fall Show

Russ Scott reminded everyone that the next Viking Woodcarving show is on October 23-24 at Har Mar Mall. He brought along applications to the meeting and will also send them out.

Important Notes:

A motion was made and passed that we offer tables to members at half price (\$10) if they opt

to DISPLAY ONLY and not sell items at the show. Hopefully this will bring in more tables and a greater variety of items. The agreement for this fall show only. We will discuss the pros and cons after the show. Many people do not feel they have enough items for a show so table sharing was encouraged. Find a friend, share a table, share the \$20 fee, and share your talent!

If you feel you had a bad spot last year, talk to Russ. He tries to arrange everyone under the skylight, but you may have some special needs of which he is unaware. Please note – those people who help with set up on Friday night have the option of choosing their location. The storeowners have complained about parking when shows are held at the Mall. If we are to continue using Har Mar Mall, we must park on the far east side of the complex. You may unload at a different door, but you MUST move your car as soon as possible and park on the east side. We will be charge \$150 to pay for a security guard to monitor the unloading and parking for this year. Our club is not singled out. All organizations holding events at the Mall are required to pay for the 'parking cop'. No exceptions – if you are in the show, park on the east side – period!

Russ is going to check on signage and determine the size and possible placement. He will report back at the next meeting.

Program Committee

Jim Ayers 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!

Tonight Bob Nowicki will present Old World Santas, September is still a bit 'iffy', but he is hoping to have a presentation on how to best display your works. October finds the always-enjoyable Ken Brown (Rochester) returning to discuss 'Lessons from a Scandinavian Woodcarver'.

Seminars and Other Shows

The Whillock family held their *Woodcarving Festival* on Aug 21-22 at the Faribault Ice Arena to celebrate their craft. They also had several activities to benefit Marnie Whillock and her cancer recovery. Several Viking members attended and said it was a wonderful gathering.

The Lakes Area Carving Club is offering several classes this fall. For more information, contact Esther at 651-464-2087.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Oct 2-3 | Karen Henderson-Whimsical Bark Houses |
| Oct 15-16 | Lonnie Gay – Intarsia |
| Oct 16 | <i>Carving with Izo Bezić – Cancelled</i> |
| Oct 30 | Walt Grittner-Chip Carving |
| Tuesdays | Charley Jahn-Traditional Acanthus (<i>starting Oct 5</i>) |

First Annual Metro Carving Weekend will be held November 20-21 at the Mary Ann Young Senior Center in Blaine. There are nine teachers offering classes and the \$35 fee includes lunch. Contact Alice Spadgenske (763-631-8006) for more information. Classes include: Whimsical Bark Houses, Beginning Acanthus, Chip Carving, Leaping Deer, Semi-realistic Wood Duck, Santa Ornaments, Flat Plane Carving, Relief Carving, Stylized Fish.

Snow Daze - the entertainment, eating and carving extravaganza in Spicer every January, still has a few class openings. Contact Gen Jensen at (320-252-3966) or gencarves@charter.net to get more details.

Wood Carvers Roundup – Ewart, Michigan June 15-18, 2005. Call 231-734-5125 or 231-734-9131 or check their website (www.woodcarversroundup.com) for more information.

Vendors

Iver Anderson brought in several small duck and bird blanks. The price was right (free). John Krantz had a wide variety of wood available. He will NOT be at our September meeting so if you need something special before the Har Mar show, call him (651-464-5632) and he will try to ensure someone brings your order next month. John will be at Red

Wing, Omaha and Har Mar Mall in the next month.

Jim Abicht has Honduras Mahogany available for a limited time. Most pieces are 10-13” in length, but he will cut to fit your needs. Call him at 651-451-7217.

George Effrem brought another nice assortment of tools and books, as well as information on fall classes offered at the Woodcarvers Store and School. Call him for more details (612-927-7491) or check his web site (www.woodcarversstore.com).

In case you didn't get *Chip Chats*, try to beg, borrow or steal a copy. Russ Scott sent in several pictures from the Spring show and we got a nice spread and story.

Jim Forrey ended our meeting on his usual note: An Attorney went to his doctor and said he wasn't feeling well. After an examination, the doctor gave him the sad news that he only had 30 days to live. The Attorney begged for a suggestion to relieve the pain. The doctor recommended he go to a sauna every day. 'Will that help?' asked the Attorney. The doctor responded 'Not really, but it will help you get used to the heat.'

Tonight's Program – Old World Santa Carving with Bob Nowicki

Bob Nowicki is a self-proclaimed 'student of mistakes'. He loves to try things and see what happens. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. His first 'carving' project was to design and produce a coat of arms for a friend's mailbox. He carefully drew it on a scrap of pine lumber and was all set to paint it when he remembered a nice set of palm tools he had stored in a drawer. He decided to make it a relief carving. After all, with those new tools, how hard could it be? He quickly found that new tools were not necessarily sharp tools. After developing blisters on his palms, the tools went back in the drawer where he discovered another forgotten tool – his Dremel. Hey, power is better!

Now, you have to understand that Bob is a tool lover. If something looks interesting (or cheap – like a garage sale Freedom), it finds its way to Bob's tool Rest Home. Why? You might ask. His response is simple and

unapologetic 'Because I'm a guy.' His favorite tool to bring to his Power Carving classes is an old knife to which he has carefully taped a power cord. That starts his classes on the right note!

His Santa carving started with a book his



wife found at a neighbors. It had pictures of twelve Santas. His first Santa carving was in box elder. Harder than basswood and since he wanted to paint it, he didn't want to do it in walnut. Per Bob, 'You will go to hell if you paint over walnut!'

Then there was the painting – remember the 'student of mistakes'? He wanted Santa in red and white with black boots and some gold trim. So, he bought red, white, black and gold paint and set to work straight out of the tubes. Ehgads! That was bright! He decided to try toning it down with some walnut stain. What's the worst that can happen? He dumped on the stain and the piece turned black. He grabbed several rags and quickly wiped the stain off the carving leaving a nice antique look. Now he saves a bit on stain by diluting it.

Bob calls himself a Type A Whittler. He keeps trying to slow down, but once the chips start flying, he loses control. He claims he started figure carving when his wife came home and found him with another woman. He declared she was just a model for his next work, so he had to start carving figures.

Bob continued carving and tracking dust around the house until Joan complained about the mess. He quickly devised a plan that quieted the complaints. As he completes each Santa, he signs the bottom '*For Joan, Love Bob*' or '*Happy 17th Anniversary, Joan. Love Bob*'. Each and every piece is for Joan. He calls that his 'Get Out of Jail Free Card'!

One day a visitor commented on their beautiful collection of Max Duncan's. He found he had been copying highly collectible porcelain figurines. Ooops – at least he wasn't making them for sale!

The Barefoot Santa Saga

The copycat Santas took about 16 hours to complete and he wanted to do something special for some kids that wouldn't take that many hours. At that time he was working at IBM and decided to take part in a corporate project to make ornaments for the annual *Festival of Trees*. An engineer-type dictated the rules that the ornament had to be completed on ALL sides. The Santas Bob had carved all were designed to sit on a base. He came up with a quick 1" x 1" Santa figure and carved the bottom to look like bare feet.

Viola! Barefoot Santa was born. The idea had a mind of it's own! He made kneeling Santas, dancing Santas, a monthly series of Santas. Santas with toys - Santas with pets - Santas with kids - Santas with friends. All barefoot. He knew eventually his wife would ask 'why is Santa always barefoot?' He dreamt up the story of a Santa who was so kind he gave his shoes away to a poor child at Christmas.

The fantasy spread like his sawdust. One year after retiring he managed to get a reproduction contract with Department 56 and sold 18 different pieces for royalties. Eventually, the contract ran out and he's looking for another distributor, but the ride was sweet!

So, the house is full of Santas everywhere. When a neighbor noted they were all 'for Joan', she asked Joan when she developed this love for Santas. 'I didn't', Joan lamented. 'I figured if I suggested he carve Santas at least it would be something I could put out once a year and then box up and not have to dust!' The best laid plans...

Thanks, Bob, for keeping us laughing all night long!

11th Annual Woodcarvers Exhibition

Sponsored by Redwing Woodcarvers

When: October 9 - 10, 2004

Where: Riverfront Center, Redwing, MN

Contact Dennis Koenig at 651-388-0978 or dekmk@redwing.net

VIKING MAGNUM OPUS

(SHOW AND TELL) – August 2004

Now that everyone wrote on cards that did not have wings or legs ...

NAME	CARVING	WOOD	FINISH	COMMENTS
Nancy Dardis	Fish Wall Hanging	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	
Nate Benton	Aphrodite Statue	Yellow Poplar	Polyurethane	
Dennis Schuster	Spoon	Basswood	Unfinished	
Marv Meyer	Sleeping Redhead Duck	Walnut	Oil	Sleeping on water w/ lily pads
Roger McCullough	Relief Sign	Green Birch	Polyurethane	12" X 22"
Lee Olson	Drunk Swede	Basswood	Oil	
	Mountain Man	Butternut	Oil	Marty Dolphen's Class ND
Duane Heng	Covered Bridge	Basswood	Water Colored	John Engler's water color class
	Mark Twain	Basswood	Acrylics/Deft	
Gerry Erickson	Celtic Knot Spoon	White Pine	Unfinished	
Vangie Kruger	Santa Face on Antique Shoe Stretcher	Oak	Unfinished	
Paul Thompson	Indigo Bunting	Tupelo	Acrylics	
Luther Kliche	Christ Praying in Garden	White Cedar	Oil	
Iver Anderson	Letter Opener	Aspen	Polyurethane	
	Spoon Fr. Oland Sweden	Basswood	Polyurethane	Copy of original
	Viking Mask	Butternut	Unfinished	Viking Era Interesting Carvings
Len Kampa	1911 Stanley Steamer	Purple Heart,		From "Making Antique Cars
	Antique Car	Ebony, Walnut		from Wood" by Reevec
		Maple, Brass		
		Mahogany		
		Aluminum		
Hugh Salisbury	Moose	Butternut	Acrylics	Oak Antlers
Jack Tourtillotte	Three Bears	Basswood	Acrylics/Poly	From Same Blanks
Darwin Krueger	Chip Carved Candle Sconce	Basswood	X Wax	
Jim Bastyr	Dolphin	Red Cedar	Lacquer	
Clarence Moe	Clown Kop	Basswood	Acrylics	
Esther Allen	Pied Bill Grebe	Basswood/Pine	Acrylics	
Jim Ayers	Fan Bird	White Cedar		Sally & David Fan Carving Book
Bob Hotvet	Nativity Scene	Basswood	Acrylics	10 of 13 Shawn Cipa Book
Lew Forsmark	Four Santa	Basswood	Acrylics	From all over the world

Metro Carving Weekend

November 20 & 21, 2004

Sponsored by the Metro Chapter of the
Minnesota Wood Carvers Association
at the Mary Ann Young Senior Center
9150 Central Avenue Blaine, Minnesota

Classes are available

Call Alice Spadgenske at: 763-531-8005.

VIKING WOODCARVERS

2004 Fall Show and Sale

October 23, 24 - HAR MAR MALL

Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

(7:30 Door Opens)

Sunday, Noon to 5:00 pm (9:30 Door Opens)

Snelling & Co. Rd. B, Roseville, Minnesota

*** Apply for your tables NOW! ***

VENDORS PAGE

Not available to make room