



THE CHIP PILE

North Arkansas
Woodcarvers Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 531
Mountain Home, AR 72654

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www.northarkansaswoodcarvers.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our last Board meeting spent most of its time discussing tool sharpening and a supplier for lessons and the effects this all has on our new students. All agree that the quality of Ramelson tools is in the tank and the consensus is we need to find a new supplier. Jay has not been able to get them to exercise any quality control. If we can provide our students with quality sharp tools, the thinking is we are more likely to retain them as members because it is so much more pleasant to carve with them. Curt is going to give our sharpening machine a fresh new approach and we will see how that works.

So the question is how do we do this. Do we charge more for lessons or do we loan tools to students, charge for the lessons and cut-outs and then they can buy the tools if they find they enjoy carving. These are some things we need to thinking about and discuss at our general meeting.

As I watched the Red, White, and Blue parade with the grandkids, I was thinking why don't we put a float in the parade at Christmas as it would be a good time to advertise our club and lessons. Think about this also as we will address this at the general meeting. All this thinking, I've about used up my brain power, but we need your new ideas to keep the club fresh and interesting so share them with us.

Hope everyone had a nice 4th of July, guess Labor day is the next Biggie. Keep the chips flying and have fun.

Sid

General Membership Meeting of June 19, 2008 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by the president, Sid Edelbrock. Following the Pledge to the Flag, Sid introduced his grandsons, Isaac and Evan.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Chip Pile. Kathi Clark reported that our membership is now 150. Norm Rutledge said that sign-up sheets are available on Thursdays for two classes being held in July. A Dogwood flower class will be given in the fall.

The Treasurer, Ray Kropke, reported that the anticipated money from memberships has been exceeded, and that he does not foresee an increase in membership dues.

Dick Dulaney has done some test painting on the totem poles in the park. He and Steve Warner will complete the painting work.

Kathi Clark said that three remembrance crosses have been completed and several more are works in progress. Sid said that we

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need more ideas for projects to be carved on Thursday afternoons.

The question of having R-Gems bring carving supplies on General Meeting days was tabled until July.

Pat Helmus, our Sunshine Lady, read a card from Mary Booth, the wife of a former member. Pat said that she sent two cards this past month. She also asked for two additional volunteers for the Christmas party committee. The party will be held at the VFW.

Sid urged members to enter their carvings at the County Fair in September. More than one carving may be entered. Dick Dulaney said that if carving participation continues to be low, the carving category may be eliminated from the Fair.

Roland Ellis proposed conducting a series of classes from pattern making through painting carvings. He would show various styles of carving. The cost would be \$10 a week, with carvers taking as many or as few classes as they want. A sign-up sheet will be available on Thursdays.

Ray Kropke suggested that we encourage the Beginners classes to stay for the pot luck lunch on General Meeting Thursdays.

Show and Tell: Sandy Smith showed a carving group, to be entered in Fred Cogelow's "Fed Ex Challenge" at the International Congress in Davenport, Iowa this month. Sid Edelbrock carved a large "lawn art" turtle and a relief with three buffalo done in Desiree Hajny's class. Norm Rutledge showed a Santa carving from Bruce Futterer's class, a German Brown Trout with habitat, a small trout, a Dogwood flower, and a small bell from his own class. Kathi Clark carved a mouse and a bunny from eggs and showed three crosses carved

by her and Naomi Inglett. Roland Ellis carved two Green Winged Teal ducks with habitat, a woodpecker on a tree, and a relief carving of a fawn. Betty Gregory showed a bust of a mountain man carved in a class in Wisconsin by her husband, John, and her own blue heron painted in oils on a panel. Dick Dulaney carved The Curious Dragon using a very small picture as a guide. Kathi Clark won the Show and Tell drawing.

The Name Tag drawings were won by Pat Helmus, Paul Baumann, Warren Brown, and Linda Heydt. The 50/50 winner was Betty Gregory.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 and was followed by a pot luck lunch.

Submitted by: Bonnie Davis, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting of July 3, 2008 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by the president, Sid Edelbrock. The Treasurer, Ray Kropke, reported that due to our increasing membership, the budget is in good shape. Kathi Clark said that our current membership is 150.

Norm Rutledge reported that there is a sign-up sheet for Roland Ellis' class. We are in need of an advanced wood-burning instructor. The next beginners' class will be in January. There is also a need for a sharpening class for all club members. There was a discussion on making a sharpening belt or disk for use on Thursdays. Ray suggested purchasing a sharpener. Terry Balcom said that the beginner classes should have a hands-on tool sharpening experience.

Tools for the beginner classes were also discussed. Ray suggested that the club

purchase top-of-the-line knives and gouges for the beginners to use in classes. The beginners can then buy them if they want to continue carving. The feasibility of purchasing these tools will be investigated.

The subject of R-Gems bringing wood on Thursdays was tabled indefinitely. Anyone is welcome to bring wood, rough-outs, etc. for sale on Thursdays.

At the General Meeting, Sid will encourage members to enter their carvings in the County Fair competition. If there are not more entries, the carving category may be eliminated.

Dick Dulaney reported that the Baldwin piano Company, based in Arkansas, is looking for carvers to carve parts, legs, music racks, lid supports, etc., for their pianos. The only club involvement would be to present the idea to individual club members. If there is any interest, Dick will ask a Baldwin representative to make a presentation at a General Meeting.

Sid suggested club participation in next year's Fourth of July parade as a means of creating community awareness of our club. The idea will be presented to the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.

Submitted by: Bonnie Davis, Secretary

Think Safety!!

By Neil Foster

Some time ago, Len Dillon sent me a picture of the 19 stitches he had in his left hand. These were the result of trying to carve with a dull V-tool and not wearing a carving glove on his left hand. Len ordinarily carves with only the sharpest of tools. His shop contains the most sophisticated sharpening equipment

available. But he was carving at the VFW and had used the V-tool a little too much. He tried to make a cut with it, it slipped and went into his finger up to the bone and severed a ligament.

Len and I both started carving long before someone found that by using a filleting glove on the hand holding the wood, small cuts could be avoided. Yes, our first gloves were purchased at the Fisherman's Annex (now out of business) and not from carving suppliers. It took a long time for us older carvers to get used to carving gloves. Len was a fine carver and taught many classes in our club and other clubs.

But there is one advantage to the gloves that is not connected to the small cuts. The glove keeps the oils from the carver's hand from getting on the wood. This means that the dirt and oil from the carver's hand does not affect the paint or other finish which is applied later.

Once I took a class from a fellow who insisted that we strop our knives at least every twenty minutes. Often stropping is all that is needed to bring a knife to its sharpest. You don't have to go to the grinding wheel every time.

Several years ago I went to work in a paper manufacturing plant. Now in places, this plant had water standing in the aisles and few guards on the many moving machines (OSHA hadn't found us – yet). We had a superintendent who started each shift with about a five minute safety talk, either by himself or one of the workers. Everyone thought safety and we had one of the best safety records in the industry.

Do Safety!

Activity Calendar

July

- 10 Dick Arndt - Cane/Stick Carving #1
- 17 Dick Arndt - Cane/Stick Carving #2
- 24 Dick Arndt - Cane/Stick Carving #3

August

- 14 Don Davis - Woodburning #1
- 21 Don Davis - Woodburning #2



THE SUNSHINE LADY REPORTS

Please let Pat Helmus or Board members know of any member who may be ill or who may have lost a loved one. Our members appreciate knowing that we are thinking of them and that our best wishes are extended to them during these stressful and often traumatic times.

2008

Beginner Classes Second Session

- July 3** NO CLASSES
- 10 Rufus #2 Sid Edelbrock
- 17 Rufus #3 Sid Edelbrock
(General Membership Meeting)
- 24 Painting Rufus Sandy Smith
- ? Knife Cover Bonnie Davis

Roland Ellis has proposed conducting a series of classes from pattern making through painting carvings, showing various styles of carving. Cost would be \$10 per week, with carvers taking as many or as few classes as they want. A sign-up sheet is available on Thursdays.

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