

Newsletter



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2009

Club News

During the September 5th meeting these were the items discussed.



The Fresno Fair is right around the corner. (Wed. Oct. 7 to Sun. Oct. 18) and there are still empty spots on the sign up sheet. Also remember that we can have more than just two people show up on any given day. We have a much bigger space this year so we'll be able to handle more.

We would like to display your carvings during the fair in our locked cases. Please bring any carving to the next meeting (Oct. 3) and we will take them out to the fair grounds a couple of days before the fair starts.

This year we will be selling raffle tickets during the fair with the grand prize being a wolf carving by Lola Nelson.

Our carving contest at the fair will be held on Sat. Oct. 10th from 3:00 to 5:00. There is also room available for those that haven't signed up yet. For the record, there will be NO power tools allowed for the contest. Bud Sanders is in

charge of the contest and he has assured me that the item to be carved this year is extra special.

The annual carving class held after the fair will be starting on Oct 24th. The cost for the class will be held at \$45.



Greg Essman and Don Lenz would be happy to have more help at the carving class they are doing at the Rehab Center of the Veterans' Hospital in Fresno. They do it on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, but not every Saturday. If you'd like to lend a hand or find out more information contact either Greg at 903-8927 or Don at 291-3739.



Lola's Wolf

The club could earn a free book if enough

members register for a trial subscription of Woodcarvers Illustrated. The first issue is free and if you don't like the magazine you can cancel and pay nothing. For more information see Jim Hickey.



Speaking of club books, we've had numerous books and magazines brought in by Don Lenz from George Taylor's estate. They will be available to members to check out from our new club Librarian, Ed Hunt. Ed will be keeping tract of who has what



The Olivette is proving to be an amazing adventure. As it's being further disassembled to ready it for new paint and rigging, a couple of interesting discoveries were made. The deck appears to be made of mahogany and not just any kind of mahogany. It looks like little Howard used old cigar boxes of the time. It also seems that he had originally connected the rudder to the oversized helm. This may be why the helm is so big in comparison to the rest of the ship.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

☞ **Next Meeting** will be held on October 3, 10:00 am

Location:

1745 N Cornelia
Fresno, CA

*Between Olive and McKinley
About 3 miles West of Hwy 99*

☞ **Weekly carving sessions** every Saturday (10 to Noon) at Bert Frazier's (see address above) for learning, teaching, or just plain carving.

☞ **The Big Fresno Fair** – October 7th thru 18th

☞ **Carving class for rehabbing Vets**, Saturdays at 9:30 at the Veterans Rehab Center. Contact Don (291-3739) or Greg (903-8927) to help.

Time and Money Saving Tips on Tools for New Carvers

Part 1 — by **Lloyd D. Moore**

Introduction

I have been a successful carver for 70 years. Success is judged by the awards and money earned by my work. I retired from teaching in order to carve full time and, in terms of money earned, I have never been sorry. All of this bragging is to let you know that I have experienced needs all of you have who considered learning to carve. I suspect the usual thought by most folks who think about carving is: “if I had the right tools, I too could do carvings like yours!” I won’t challenge that thought, but I think there are a great number like you that have discovered the real money is in selling carving supplies to people like us. I speak as an expert on this subject because I have bought a whole garage full of carving tools and related supplies, most of which I have needed like a broken leg. As a result, I have given away my table saw with all of the attachments, stand and everything that went with it. It had occupied space in my shop for more than three years and was never once used before I got up the nerve to give the whole thing away. Likewise, this was also true of a big floor model lathe and all of the tools with it.

Each carver is always on the lookout for that new product that will make his carving easier and better! Old time carvers are not like that! I have personally just counted five carving knives on my desk top, six in my new tool box by my desk, 27 knives in the garage tool box, and 5 more on my work table. Along with those, there are 46 regular chisels and gouges, and another 18 micro chisels and gouges.

Most of my carvings are enhanced by being painted. I probably have 45 or more 2 oz bottles of Liquitex acrylic paint, which is the only paint I use, and I buy the colors as needed. Paint is expensive and averages about \$8 a bottle. I also have an air brush, compressor and storage tank.

Are you convinced yet—that I know what I’m talking about when it comes to blowing your money on carving supplies?

Wood Selection for Beginners

Basswood is the only wood that I recommend for a beginning carver. The grain is straight, the texture is uniform, and it is relatively soft. It is unaffected by moisture and

temperature. It is the perfect wood for beginners in the U.S. It can be purchased through the club. Speak to Jack Lloyd about your wants. Basswood may also be purchased at the Wood Shed in Clovis. The owner keeps a wide variety of sizes and will saw to the length you need.

I strongly recommend against beginners using exotic woods until they have mastered basswood. Other carving woods are hard, they check, tend to split, and are not uniformly grained. When you have gained skill at carving, then you may wish to explore the hard woods, which are beautiful.

Knives for Beginners

Two knives are recommended: one with a straight edge blade 1 inch long, and another of the same length with an up-curved tip on the blade. All members of the class receive the straight edge blade. It is the most used of all knives. The shape and size of the handle vary as the hands that use it. There is no one best handle shape or size. The class knife has a very usual, acceptable shape. Jack Lloyd’s knives are handmade and perfect.



Fund Raising Raffle & Stuff

September’s raffle was a bit eclectic. Along with the regular carving items we even had The Club[®] in the mix. Most that attended must have had lunch on their minds as ticket sales were a little lower than average at \$45 and numbers had to be repeated often. Thank you to everyone who participated and especially the ladies that helped set up lunch.



Show & Tell

Five members showed off their work at the September 5th meeting.



Don Cathey brought in a great looking caricature carved out of bass wood, with the shoe laces made from string.



Roy Smith showed us two carvings. The first was an interesting dragonfly relief carving out of a piece of Myrtlewood that he won at a raffle. Roy says the wood is harder than Basswood but not as hard as oak. Myrtlewood is also called Pepperwood or Bay Laurel



Don's Caricature

unique bowl he created. This one is made out of 225 pieces, including Pine, Walnut, and Poplar dowels. The dowels darkened during finishing causing them to blend in more than Dennis had originally planned, but it still looks good.



Dennis' Bowl

was looked at from. Some thought it was a fish, some thought it was a woman, and some thought it was a rock. We'll have to wait and see what the judges think. Hopefully they think it's worthy of a blue ribbon.



Jim Hickey revealed what will be his entry in the Fresno Fair this year. It's a modern free form art sculpture. And although it's not a wood carving, the

Del Dixon brought in some pictures from a trip the club took together about 25 years ago. The pictures are of carvings done by Rudy Vargas.



Roy's Shark & Dragonfly



Del's Pictures

Rudy was an amazing craftsman. If you went on this trip, it should bring back some fond memories I'm sure. One of Del's favorite carvings from those pictures is the one of the

The next carving Roy showed was a shark carved from Cocobolo. It is a very hard and brittle wood. Although an attractive wood the dust and oils from working it can cause severe allergic reactions. Roy mentioned that it was not fun to work with, despite it being hard, brittle, gummy, and potentially lethal.



Dennis Fairchild displayed another

Alabaster stone is soft enough to carve with a knife for the details. For the general shaping Jim used air chisels and air hammers. One of the interesting things about Jim's work is that it looked like something different from every angle it



Jim's Rock Sculpture

two children that shows the features of a face even through the towel draped over it.

And yes, that is Bert Frazier posing in one of the pictures.



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NEWSLETTER

Barry Walzberg—Editor
Lloyd Moore



Lost Book Notice & Editors Notes

Let me start with an important request. Del Dixon had lent out a book and would like it returned but doesn't remember whom he lent it to. The hard cover book includes a picture of the "Crystal Gazer" that he used to carve the one he brought to Show & Tell back in June. (The same time he lent the book.) Del would appreciate if you'd take a look and see if you have it and bring it to a meeting.



Del's Crystal Gazer

Speaking of not remembering things . . . This "reporter" has fallen victim to the "can't remember" syndrome. After having my computer problems last month, that

delayed the newsletter till now, (sorry 'bout that), I had some additional self imposed problems too.

First I couldn't find my camera that I had taken pictures with during the meeting. I figured I had absent mindedly left it at the meeting. The following week during the carving session I proceeded to search and ask if anyone had seen the camera to no avail. I was saddened and in disbelief that one of our group might have walked off with it. That was until, as I sat at my computer, my wife walked up to me and pointed behind me saying, "Isn't THAT the camera you couldn't find?" Sure enough, sitting amongst the piles (of stuff yet to do or to put away) there was the camera. Right where I had put it. In easy reach of the computer so I wouldn't have any problem finding it. Or so apparently was the plan.

Well, only a one week delay. Not too bad. YET. So let me get my notes from the meeting and . . . Now what did I do with THOSE? They have to be

around here somewhere Arrggh. Don't tell me. I left THEM at the meeting and was so busy looking for the camera (that I didn't leave) I didn't see the notebook.

After another week of looking around the house (and especially the spot the camera magically appeared in) I once again spend part of the carving session searching and asking. Nothing. One more look around the house and a more thorough dissection of a stack of papers that I was sure didn't contain the notebook. What do ya know. There it is not three feet from where the camera was found.

So I did what anyone would do in this situation. The area where these items materialized has now been cordoned off with yellow tape and the computer has been moved away from this "Bermuda Triangle." Now as long as my brain doesn't have any more relapses, the newsletter should be back on track. But frankly I'm more sure of the new computer.

