

the Cutting Edge

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION

CTWA STAFF 2003

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Vice President	
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Bill Buckler.....	255-9507
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David Loeffler.....	335-7354
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Advisory Board	
Jim Roby.....	'02
John Thompson.....	'01
Jake Heugel.....	'00
Ronnie Reed.....	'99



January's Show & Tell Table

A Word from the Editor

by David Loeffler



A lot has happened since the last newsletter in December. Long time member Tom Small passed away and is remembered in this issue by his friend, Jim Brinkman (page 2). The shuttle tragedy took the lives of NASA astronauts Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, and Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon. We also held our Holiday party January 14th (see Shirley's coverage on page 3).

I found an interesting on-line newsletter and have included an article by the editor, Chris Pye, from his Jan 2003 issue (see page 2).

If you have not renewed your membership please do so. This is the last issue that is sent to *last* year's members. Added bonus is the 10% on all hand tools at Woodcraft for 2003 members. Sign up at this month's meeting and get your membership card.

We have new officers. See the side bar for new names and phone numbers.

You can save the club postage if you elect to download the newsletter and view or print it on our computer. Please send e-mail to the editor (loeffler@onr.com) if you prefer this option. The electronic **color** version of this newsletter is available at:

<http://www.onr.com/ctwa/newsletters>

February Blank of the Month

Jake Heugel



Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 11th at 7 PM at St. Barnabas Church.

Doors open at 6:30. If you need directions call one of the officers or visit the club website.

Tom Small, Gentle Giant



I met Tom and Diann some 10 years ago. That was the time The ROUND ROCK carving gang started up. Tom was one of those guys that you warmed up to right away. He made you feel comfortable in his demeanor. He was “one of the good guys”. He was quiet and non-assuming on one hand, but direct and forthright on the other. He was never afraid of telling you what he thought, but he always respected

your opinion. I think one of his greatest traits was that he was interested in other people; he was not self-centered. I think of Tom as a gentle giant. Of course sometimes the gentle giant was not above putting his foot in his mouth; I’m sure some of you that were with Tom know what I mean. Diann managed to corral him though! And I know Tom put a spark in her. They complemented each other.

Tom and Diann were elected co-presidents of the CTWA in 1997. They were a fun team. Tom’s style was laid back while Diann kept things on track. We all learned very soon that “Diann” has two “ns” and DOES NOT have an “e” in it!

Shirley and I always looked forward to the twice a year carving session at Fredericksburg. Our routine was always the same: after the day of carving was over, we’d either gather at their RV (in later years at their motel) or at our motel for snacks and drinks. No telling how much Beringers White Zinfandel was consumed by the girls! Yes, I guess Tom and I made the folks at Shiners happy! The conversation usually centered on where we were going to eat: Friedhelms? Mamacitas? Pasta Bella?

One of the standing jokes about Tom was that he had a bunch of carvings that never managed to get finished. At our December meeting the highlight of the night was at show and tell.....guess what? Tom brought in a FINISHED carving! And that carving? A star!

Tom will always be a bright star in our lives.

We’ll miss him.

Jim Brinkman



December Show & Tell Table

PROGRESS IN CARVING

by Chris Pye

<http://www.chrispye-woodcarving.com/>

Someone wrote to me about how, although his friends and family were complimentary about his work, he himself was dissatisfied. He wanted to know how to get better, how to improve, progress. Some thoughts:

I think that being dissatisfied with what you are carving and wanting to improve is probably THE prerequisite for becoming a good carver.

We are driven by desires for things to be better than they are. On the other hand, not rejoicing in your achievements can be very demoralizing.

Carving - even to a good standard - is not easy.

We have to 'enjoy the journey'. If we don't, we are wasting an opportunity - we can't help but make it, after all!

There's a balance to be struck between the two.

I expect to die knowing there's more I would have done had I lived longer.

And I try to live rejoicing in what I've achieved so far.

That sense of wanting to achieve more never goes away - even for 'experts'. Perhaps, especially for 'experts'. It's something to do with being passionate.

You need to be judged by your peers to get a fair assessment of where you are with your carving; or, preferably, someone better. Family and friends usually know little about carving skills, sculpture and 3D form, design and so on, and are mostly biased towards saying nice things.

I'm not a fan of carving competitions, but carving clubs are a great place for getting feedback: sharing opinions, discussing ideas, making suggestions.

So find other honest carvers. Respect most the opinions of those whose work and carving attitude you most respect.

Among other things, progress in any skill comes with: reflecting on what you are doing;

- comparing with standards - what other carvers are doing;
- setting yourself progressively more challenging work;

and, most important of all,

- practicing skills until you get them right.

If you haven't looked at them, there are 3 free ebooks on the website which have a lot more thoughts to mull over: *Learning to Carve*, *Fundamentals of Carving*, and *Mistakes & Carving*

Secretary's Notes

by Shirley Newman
January 14, 2003



What a wonderful way to begin the new year with our annual Holiday party held at St. Barnabas Church on our first meeting night of 2003! Was there a crowd? ... well I should say so, as some 60 folks shared the

fun, enjoyed a variety of food dishes brought by those attending, and kept conversations flowing around the tables.

Of course, no evening would be complete for a room full of woodcarvers without time for "Show and Tell". **Jim Roby**, a retired fighter pilot himself, brought a one-of-a-kind carving of a fighter pilot, and also shared two Indian busts complete with carved feathers. **Tom Sarff** brought a couple of mean lookin' carved snakes, a cowboy carved from butternut, a blockhead boxer who left one wondering what the other poor boxer looked like, and a short Texan. **Bill Buckler** brought a lady in yellow which he carved from a Ronnie Reed blank, **Chaz Chapot** had an interesting wooden napkin holder, **Buddy Streetman** shared the ram he had carved which took second place in Fredericksburg I believe last fall, a stained Indian bust, and a brightly painted rodeo clown. **John Thompson** had carved a very interesting fireman, **Shirley Newman** shared the Old World Santa she carved in Fredericksburg last fall and also a small painted Santa. Then, not to be outdone, our youngest carver, **Jeremy Cuba**, brought his school project which was a stately carving of the Washington Monument, surrounded by tiny American Flags. He had also carved a "purple" pepper ... wonder if they are hotter than the red ones? Adding to this part of the evening, **Rita Ryser** shared a beautiful relief carving she had completed from a drawing her brother had made years ago.

We sang a hearty, if not too tuneful, rendition of "Happy Birthday" to **Jo Comer** as this was her very special day.

Our new President, **Buddy Streetman**, noted the absence of a very special person from our group, **Tom Small**, who

passed away just a few short weeks ago. Our sympathies were warmly extended to his wife, and our fellow carver, **Diann**, who had joined us for the evening.

Last, but certainly not least, why was the evening such a success you may ask? Well, once again this year it is HATS OFF to **Jo Cage** who coordinated this terrific event, was there early setting up tables assisted by several welcomed volunteers, making coffee, setting out napkins, well you know the routine, all the things that made it a very special evening for all of us. Thanks Jo, you're the greatest!!!

Sharpen those knives ... our February meeting is just around the corner!

REESE's PIECES for the NOVICE

By Bob Reese



When painting the eyes on your projects (usually last) I like to have a blow drier handy so I can dry quickly in order to finish faster. Use the Phil Bishop technique in painting the eye. It really works and looks nice.



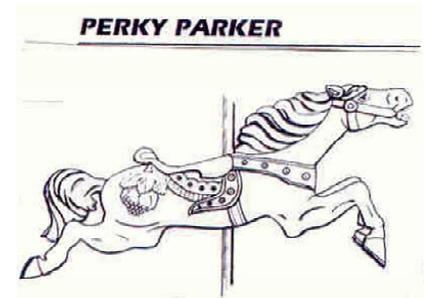
January's Show & Tell Table

2003 Blank of the Month Contributors

March..... Chas Chapot
April..... John Thompson
May..... Jere Elliott
June..... Gail Lynn
July..... Ed Roberts
August..... Marvin Joseph
September..... Diann Small
October..... Ed Jones
November..... Bob Reese
December Tom Sarff

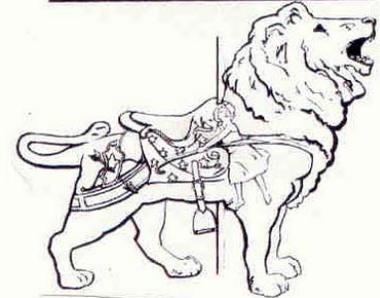
For Sale

Two carousel carving kits.



Parker Jumper on carving stand on rollers. Original cost \$960. Approx. 48" tall x 60" length. Will take \$750

DENTZEL LION



Dentzel Lion has been roughed out but lots of carving left to do. Original cost \$1095. Approx. 36" tall x 45" long. Will take \$750

Ed Jones (512)244.9300
Milton@austin.rr.com



16" Scroll Saw made by American Machine & Tool. Uses pin and non-pin blades. Dust blower and hold down arm are missing. Price: \$75.00
Jere Elliott (512)345-2369
jereelliott@netzero.net

Sears, 4 1/8th inch Joiner/Planer - w/metal stand and pushers Excellent condition - little use. \$75.00
Wiley W. Bell (512)258-6399

State Carving Events

Feb 14–15. Chip-O-Tex Wood Carvers Show, HARLINGEN, TEXAS (Casa de Amistad Fair Park Blvd.) 9am-5pm. Contact fulltimer@aol.com (860) 456–2009.

Feb 17–20. Tree City Woodcarvers 2003 Seminar, UVALDE, TEXAS. Contact: Paul McLeod (830) 278–9571, email uaacoffice@swtjc.cc.tx.us or visit <http://www.uvaldeaac.org>.

March 1 & 2. 29th Annual North Texas Woodcarvers Guild Show and Sale GRAPEVINE, TEXAS Grapevine Convention Center Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Sunday noon until 5:00 p.m. Contact: Ray North 7475 Skillman Ave. Suite 101-A Dallas, Texas 75231 Telephone: 214-691-8478 Fax: 214-691-8479 north7821@earthlink.net

Apr 22 – May 3. TWG Spring Roundup 2003 FREDERICKSBURG, TX Gillispie County Fair Ground Contact Robert Miles 7881 E. Goldenrod Gardendal, TX 76093

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Central Texas Woodcarvers Association

Annual Membership is \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for young people under 18 years of age. During the year, new adult members dues are prorated at \$1.00 per month.

Name _____ Spouse’s Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Mail to Gail Lynn, 11906 Rickem Cove, Austin, TX 78758
gaillynn@austin.rr.com

