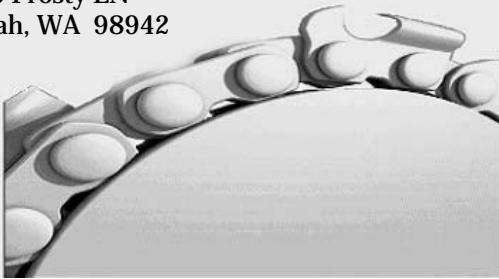


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The Cutting Edge

Since 1993

March - April 2009

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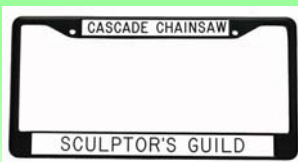
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*Elmer Hickey
of Joliet, IL is the
winner of the
CCSG Give Away*

drawing for the license plate holder!

Next Issue



CCSG will be giving away another license plate holder to another CCSG paid member!

No officers or directors are eligible. To be eligible you must be a current paid member of the CCSG.



Carving by Roland Karl 'Motorradfahrer', carved at the 1st European Open in 2007.
Picture by Dik van Oers

Letter from the Editor

by Amy McEntire

Things are looking good for the guild as we enter another summer season. We have had many members renewing their paid dues and a few new members signing up this year as paid members, as well as numerous free online subscribers. We also have a couple of new advertisers now and their ads help in our efforts to keep the newsletter going out.

The guild is looking forward to opening a new online store soon. We are planning on selling past printed copies of newsletters, current Carve or Starve bumper stickers, as well as previous years stickers (as supplies last), t-shirts, license plate holders, some books pertaining to chainsaw carving, and perhaps donated chainsaw carvings from guild members. Keep your eye out for it later this year.

The guild will be holding another Mask Challenge starting next issue and continuing to run the bi-monthly drawing for various prizes to all paid up members.

I'm proud to report that the guilds fundraiser show in Sequim Washington raised \$594.50 for the guild. Another \$350 was raised to help benefit Jeanie Thomas and Boaz Backus in their time of need.

Susan Miller is resigning as treasurer and secretary of the guild. She is a huge part of the guilds history, we all wish her the best in all her endeavors and thank her for all the unselfish hours of dedication she has given to help this guild survive and become what it is today.

I look forward to attending a few more shows this summer and spending time with all of you whenever possible. Remember to send in your stories and pictures, poems, ideas, suggestions etc... for future issues of *The Cutting Edge*!

The Cutting Edge

240 Frosty LN

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ammy@charter.net

Amy McEntire - Editor

Jack McEntire - Coeditor

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild exists to foster support for the art and craft of chainsaw carving by encouraging communication between carvers through every means possible, including newsletters, websites, forums, meetings, demonstrations, mutual support and the preservation of our history.



Some carvings for the Sequim Auction. Picture by Amy McEntire

CCSG Officers

President/Treasurer/Board Member:

Mike McVay

mmcvay@whidbey.com

Vice President/Board Member:

Bruce Thor

thorcreations@springmail.com

Secretary/Board Member:

Jerry Heneger

henegerj@comcast.net

Board Members

Steve Backus:

bigshot@whidbey.com

Amy McEntire:

ammy@charter.net

Jack McEntire:

jacknamy@charter.net

Angie Polglaze:

angiechainsaw-chick@yahoo.com.au

Also, there has been a move toward invitational and away from open events. This seems like a smart business move. A limited number puts less strain on the budget because it requires less of everything—wood, cleanup, lodging, food, space and time. It also presents the organizer with choices that might not be available otherwise. Moving the carving event mindset onto the ledger makes it much more professional because you are staging a spectacle and, if anyone is going to get paid, a spectacle needs to generate income. The organizer is then able to quantify benefits such as increased revenue for the event in gate receipts, in carvers' sales (they don't find the market diluted with tons of hack-job bears), and with increased business for local merchants-- all of which will hopefully result in happy people eager to do it again next year.

So please, for anyone who has organized, worked at or taken part in carving events, we would like to invite you to share your experiences, anecdotes, tips, rules, hints, suggestions and good advice with us. Send your comments via snail mail or email or post them on the 54 forum. We'll publish some in the newsletter and include some in the guide which will be made available on our website, where it will join our judging criteria and historical archives available to everyone.

I hope we'll hear from you.
 Sincerely, Mike McVay

Carving a Fantasy by Butch Elrod

What might be your fantasy carving scenario? Celebrity clients, something monumental in proportion, or perhaps total creative control? Or all of the above...

With more than forty years experience as a chainsaw carver and instructor, it's no surprise when Paul Jones of West Richland, WA lands one of these fantastic wood carving projects. This one started with a phone call asking if he'd be willing to meet with Lexie Brockway Potamkin [*former Miss World USA*] and her sister Lana to discuss creating a large carving at her summer home. Naturally, Paul accepted.

Lexie explained they were removing a tree at her summer home, located on the Columbia River near Paul's studio, and that she wanted the stump to be carved into something fun and light for her children to enjoy. It was no short stump though. On inspecting this 26 foot tall stump, Paul fell upon the idea of "A fantasy character story pole designed for the eye of a child." His client loved the idea and gave Paul a free reign to design and carve the pole as he imagined it. The scaffolding was soon brought in!

Starting from the bottom, the fantasy pole's design includes a Hobbit House on the opposite side from the Frog Prince. Ivy spirals up the pole where relief carved doorways reveal each of the seven dwarves working in their underground mine. Higher up the man in the moon wishes on a star while a unicorn, the most magical of creatures, proudly surveys the neighborhood with a fairy flying over his head. Crowning this fantastic carving is the ugly duckling transformed into a beautiful white swan. Nearby, a few smaller trees had been removed as well. Their short stumps were carved into mushroom people and wood spirits to extend a fantasy feeling throughout the garden.

The Fantasy Pole was completed late in July 2007 after 14 days of scrambling around scaffolds perched on a steep hillside. The Swan, unicorn's horn, moon and star are painted with pickling white. A cedar deck stain was applied to the rest before sealing with marine spar varnish.

Needless to say, Lexie and her sister were extremely happy with the results! But they weren't the only ones... Word of Paul's creation found its way to the City of Richland Parks and Recreation department. The department's representatives were so impressed with Paul's creation that he was asked to carve trees in Richland's Howard Amon Park just one mile downstream from his fantasy pole creation.

His next story pole carving will be 30 feet tall and tell the history of Richland Washington. This new stump stands within view of the Columbia River, next to the park's newest children's playground and community center.

Photos of this and Paul Jones' other creations are regularly posted at www.SpiritBrothers.com.



Fantasy Totem Pole carved by Paul Jones Picture by Butch Elrod



Paul Jones carving in Kennewick
Picture by Butch Elrod



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Carving Safety by Jack McEntire

When I started writing my article on safety for the Nov-Dec issue I soon realized there was too much information for just one issue. Here's the second part.

Before I go out to carve I take a couple of supplements. First, I take an 81mg aspirin, not for pain, but to help prevent inflammation. Much of the damage vibrations cause to our bodies is caused by the inflammation reaction, and the aspirin helps prevent this. Use the aspirin only if you're not allergic and talk to your Doctor. Secondly, I use a glucosamine/chondroitin supplement to help keep my joints flexible and it's our joints that suffer the most from vibrations.

Keep a bottle of hydrogen peroxide in your vehicle and another bottle at your carving site. As carvers we are constantly getting small splinters and cuts, the peroxide kills most of the microorganisms capable of causing infection and is almost painless. In addition, have a basic medical kit handy. One thing you might want to add to the basic kit is a tourniquet. You can always cut off your starter cord, but in an emergency seconds count and you may not be too clear headed. Use only when major bleeding occurs and use of a pressure point doesn't work, or can't be used, if for example you are alone and must drive yourself to the E.R.. Don't forget to have a phone handy, not only to call 911, but also so you don't have to hurriedly put your tool down and run to answer a phone call.

If it's sunny put on some sunscreen and wear a hat. We get way more sun than our skin needs and a hat not only keeps some sawdust out of your hair but keeps some of the U.V. rays out of your eyes. When you're done take a shower. Many of the hazardous chemicals in woodworking can be absorbed right through the skin. Limit this exposure by washing off the dust.

Now what about your feet? At a show in Missouri I started to feel a lot of pain in my left foot (for a right handed person the left foot is the one that gets the most bar and chain oil on it). All this bar and chain oil ruins your shoes. I used to keep my shoes until they were completely falling apart. When your shoes fall apart their ability to provide arch support is eliminated. I now replace my shoes more often and use gel filled insoles with arch support. If you pay attention you'll be surprised by how often you get on tip toe, with one or another foot, when you carve - try to do this as little as possible. It's also wise to use shoes with steel toes, not so much for protection from the saw, but to keep your toes from being crushed. I've had large chunks of wood, and even whole logs, fall on my toes. There's a moment of fear followed by relief. Some people say steel toes will cut your toes off. This isn't a relevant

fear. The amount of force required to bend in the steel would actually completely crush the toes even before the steel bends in.

If you go out and get your own wood you need to take this activity seriously. It's best to go with someone else, but if you must go alone, make sure to let someone know where you're going. If you're going to an area that gets reception take your cell. I used to move all my logs by hand. I'd flip logs up to 2'x8' through the forest; I'd use a weight belt but was lucky I didn't hurt my back. I now use a slab of wood and a winch mounted up high in the back of my truck. Around the shop, or at a show, I use a hand truck to move the wood from my log deck to the carving area. Every time you bend down you're putting wear and tear on your back, so in addition to the aspects of the layout of your carving area



Jack McEntire in his safety gear. Picture by Amy McEntire

I mentioned in the previous article, I recommend placing your saws on a raised area like a flattened log. I also recommend using a 'saw tree'. Take a large diameter heavy log round and attach a 4' tall small diameter log to it. Then plunge cut through it at 4 or 5 places. Make the cuts perpendicular to each other and wide enough to easily put your chainsaws' bar in the holes. This will hold the saws off the ground so you don't need to bend down to get them.

When you're carving it's important to keep your work from moving around. I've had times when a small carving would be shot into me, an obvious danger. I've also had times when a taller carving would be pushed back. Dangerous because then I'd try to quickly catch it before it fell and was broken. Doing this while holding a running saw is problematic. My recommendation is to use screws to hold down small carvings and large duplex nails to hold larger carvings to the carving block. When carving very tall pieces that are mostly up and out of my carving pit, I use 2 long 2x4s attached to the carving with one long duplex nail, allowing the other ends of the 2x4s to hang down to the ground, at perpendicular angles to each other.

My last recommendation is to limit how long you carve on any given day. I believe in using the power tools for only 4-6 hours per day. Extended carving, like during Christmas rush or at public shows is pretty much part of the game, but don't let your enthusiasm for a project or excessive ambition lead you to overdo it on a consistent basis. If exposed to vibrations for an extended time your body will start dangerous inflammation reactions and won't have time to restore normal tissue conditions and heal itself.

When I first started carving I did so because I loved it. I still do. These 2 articles have focused on preventative measures. In the future, I'll do an article on curative methods for afflictions common to chainsaw carvers. I started using the safety gear/techniques because I want to carve for a long time. I hope we all get to carve for many years to come.

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Moving Along by Susan Miller

The CCSG has been part of my life for a long time. In the early days I was so unsure of myself around all those experienced carvers, and so shy, that actually talking was just about out of the question. But carvers are a supportive group, and more entertaining and generous than just about any other people in my world, so I've been involved in the guild as a member, as treasurer and secretary, as president, and as newsletter editor. Chainsaws and logs have been a beneficial, if unlikely, piece of my entire adult experience.

A favorite relative provided my motto: "Take hold. Then let go."

I did take hold, and now am letting go of connections with the guild. Carving has brought unimaginable opportunities for travel, friendship, and artistic growth, and for a long time, I threw myself into that world 100%. Now it's time to follow different dreams. I'm still carving, but also returning to other forms of expression and seeking new skills and ideas. I look forward to keeping the friends that carving has brought my way.

Last January, I resigned as a board member of the CCSG, but remained as secretary, treasurer, and forum owner. In May, Jerry Henagar took over as secretary, and I signed the forums over to the CCSG president, Mike McVay. At the end of this month, I will remove my name from the Guild bank account and it will be overseen by Mike, who is the other person authorized to sign checks at this time. When a new treasurer is chosen, that person will be authorized to conduct Guild business.

The most recent bank statement and treasurer's report follow. As reported in past meeting minutes, the 2009 budget is adequate for six 2009 newsletters, T-shirts, bumper stickers for members, copying of historical material, and a nice informative publication for doing events. As always, there is a need for members to step up and do some of the day to day jobs that are part of a successful organization, but at this time, the guild treasury is in good shape and fulfilling obligations to members should be possible.

Treasurers Report: From: 02/03/09 Through: 05/22/09
 Starting Balance: \$921.66
 -6 Withdrawals: -\$930.93
 +13 Deposits: \$2,172.50
 Ending Balance: \$2,163.23

Thanks, Susan Miller

Good Luck Susan in Whatever You Do!

Upcoming Events

Events listed here are not endorsed by the CCSG. To list an event send info to ammy@charter.net

May 29th-June 1st

Mulda, Sachsen, Germany

VI Husky Cup Contact Steffi & Andreas Martin
sauensaeger@aol.com
www.blockhausen.de
 Event Info: www.huskycup.de

May 30th-31st Toei, Japan

Chainsaw Art Competition in Toei 2009
 Contact: chainsawartclub@hotmail.co.jp
 Brian Ruth: jen@chainsaw.net
 Registration:
anton.workarea.jp/cgi-bin/cs_art/regist.html

June 11th-14th Chetwynd, BC Canada

Chetwynd Chainsaw Champ. Invitational
 Contact: Helene A. Weightman, Manager
 250-788-3345
manager@chetwyndchamber.ca

June 13th-14th Deming, WA

Deming Log Show Carve and Sell
 Invitational
 Contact: Gary VanDyke
 360-592-2011

June 18th-20th Addison, PA

Echo Sponsored Event
 6th Annual National Road Chainsaw
 Carving Festival
 Contact: Tom Briar 814-395-3469
 Or Don Winner
secretary@confluencelions.org
 Details at: carvingfest.confluencelions.org

June 18th-21st Reedsport, OR

Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Sculpture Championships
 Contact: Reedsport/Winchester Bay
 Chamber of Commerce
 800-247-2155 or 541-271-3495
www.reedsportcc.org
www.odcsc.com

June 26th-28th Ocean Shores

Contact: Boaz Backus
 360-500-9358
boazbackus@hotmail.com
 Sign-up Info to: Pam Strub
dustycrawler@centurytel.net

July 11th-12th Deming, WA

From Hills to Mills
 Contact: Frank Cain
 360-599-2408

July 18th-19th

Milton-Freewater, OR

Logs to Frogs Competition
 Contact: Mike Watkins 541-938-8236
mike.watkins@milton-freewater-or.gov
 Or Gina Hartzheim at 541-938-8234
gina.hartzheim@milton-freewater-or.gov

*Detailed version of events
 online at:*

www.theccsg.com/Events.htm

Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild

2009 Subscription Form

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The CCSG's Forum is at:

www.network54.com/Forum/249381

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information.



Mask by Jeb Gloor

***The 'Cutting Edge' Mask Making Challenge
Winner is... the Wolf Mask by David Tremko of Sequim WA!***



**To see all masks entered go to:
<http://www.theccsg.com/mask.htm>**

The guild will be having another mask challenge starting next issue!
Be sure to enter for your chance to win \$100!