

Metro Carvers of Michigan

Volume 31 Number 02

John Sabina, President

February, 2009



NEXT MEETING

Club meeting Tuesday February 10th 2009:

Next meetings are: Mar 10th, Apr 14th, May 5th, Jun 16nd.
The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for social time, libraries and supply purchases. The Business meeting starts at 7:15 p.m.

TREASURERS REPORT: By Doug Evans

New & Reinstated Club Members (Pic on last page)

Myroslava Stefaniuk – 30054 Ohmer Dr., Warren, Mi. 48092
Stephen Russo – 23244 Westbury, St Clair Shores, Mi. 48080

Reinstated – John Bell, Jim Cola, Alexis Maes, Richard Maes, Richard Miller, James Milne, Edgar Potestades, Tom Samanen, Jim Shannon.

In our Memory

Ernie Ashley, a Metro Carvers member since 1984, passed away on December 24, 2008. Although Ernie was not able to attend meetings for some time, he always spoke of the time when he would be able to get back to the group. He missed carving and the camaraderie that the group offered. Best regards from his daughter, B Ashley Anderson

Frank Claeys, a Metro Carvers member since 1983 passed away unexpectedly on January 21, 2009.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: By John Sabina

Power carving remains an enigma to me. I really prefer to carve manually with knives and gouges. I recognize that there is a need for power carving, especially as I watch some of the folks at CarveFest who are seeing the effects of arthritis in their hands. I have tried power carving on several occasions using a number of different approaches.



I have two Dremels. The first is a corded, variable speed model. The second is a low voltage battery-powered model. Most of my problems with these stem from the fact that I am left-handed. Dremel rotary tools all rotate counter-clockwise when looking into the collet from the cutter and are not reversible. This direction works well for right-handed folks but is backwards for left-handers. The rotation causes the cutter to “climb cut.” This means simply that the cutter tries to move the tool in the same direction that you are trying to cut. On very small cutters with very fine teeth, this tendency to grab the wood is controllable. However, larger and more aggressive cutters can be hard to control.

Flexible-shaft power carvers like the Freedom or Wecheer have a forward and reverse switch to change the direction of rotation. This should allow me to carve without the tendency to lose control. However, despite the efforts of John Marovich and others, I remain less than excited about power carving. Taking a corner off of a big block with a knife just seems so much more efficient than trying to remove the corner as sawdust.

I saw yet another approach in a recent wood show in Novi. A gentleman from Provo, UT was selling an air turbine power-carving tool called Powercrafter. The Powercrafter is an air driven rotary tool that operates at either 400,000 or 500,000 rpm. The tools discussed above operate in the 20,000 to 30,000 rpm range. This air turbine tool is only about ½ inch in diameter and six inches long. This tool uses small 1/16-inch diameter shaft cutters. The only connection to the compressor is a piece of thin, soft hose. The tool is held like a pencil. Being naturally skeptical, I asked to carve with the tool. To my surprise, this tool was very easy to control. It had no tendency to pull or any reaction to my hand at all. The combination of very high speed and very small cutters with a flexible hose connection makes control quite easy.

Air turbine tools are really intended for detail carving and not for heavy wood removal. One application that was demonstrated was shallow relief carving of outdoor scenes on walnut gunstocks. While I have no first-hand experience, I suspect that an air turbine tool would be ideal for detailing feathers or fur.

Are there any Metro members who have experience with high-speed air-turbine carvers? Our recent speakers at

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monthly club meetings have been very well received. I would love to have a club member share air-turbine carving with our club. This is information that could be of benefit to many of our members. If you have experience with high-speed detail tools, please contact either the writer or Paul Blanchard to see what we can work out.

Theme carving for this season:		Feb	Birds
Mar	Bark Carving	Apr	Relief Carving
May	Flowers	June	Patriotism

Feb Guest Speaker - Gary Bityk - By Paul Blanchard

I've been carving for approx 7 years. Took classes with Bill Wolfe & Mike LePage, locally. Took classes with various instructors in Cadillac, Midland, Ewart & Washington, carving birds, fish, etc. I got started carving bark about 4 years ago. Took a class with Tony Erickson in Cadillac and got hooked. In the following years I took more classes and developed my own style for bark. Last year I helped Tom Hower instruct at Midland and was asked to instruct this year at the MWCA Learning Seminar in May. I've held classes at Woodcraft, at Pat & Arlene Murphy's and will be at the Windsor Woodcarving Museum this March. I enjoy bark carving for the fact that it lets me explore my imagination and creativity and besides that it's fun. In turn I feel that it helps me create better carvings of other subjects.



Carver of the Month Bob Galanek: By Dick Jacobs

Bob Galanek prefers carving in the hardwoods like walnut, oak & purple heart. He probably picked this up from his brother Jerry who introduced him to carving when he was 18 & was started on carving pipes. (Maybe basswood was a little soft for burning tobacco in?) With an artistic background he enjoys producing dragon figures of his own design on pipes, canes & separately, for his more intricate designs he will sometimes carve models from Styrofoam or plaster of paris. With plaster of paris he pours it into milk cartons (milk removed first) to get the block he needs & says it carves quite nicely (no grain!) He has tried carving bows (the kind that shoots arrows) & even made a Chinese repeating cross bow; ask him about it. Mostly he enjoys carving animals, but also does faces on occasion. Watch for his stuff at the February meeting.



Metro Show Update: By Mike LePage

Hi everybody. It's seven weeks until show time and we already have forty-five tables rented! There is still a lot of work to do and we need a lot more volunteers. Please contact John Sabina if you can help. I'll have pre-sale tickets for the March show at the February meeting. We are looking for someone to coordinate the distribution of the tickets. If this is something you are interested in

helping with, please see John. Again, this year, Abrasive Brokers has paid for the printing of the pre-sale tickets. We appreciate their support and perhaps we can support them by shopping at their table at the show or at their store. The store is located at 1695 Rochester Road in Troy. If you have never been to their store, you are in for a real treat...they have everything imaginable in abrasives plus some carving tools and bits.

I'll have more flyers at the February meeting. Now is the time to start passing them out. I've left flyers at Meijers, K-Mart, Michael's, 7-11, large and small stores, bars, schools, doctor's offices, gas stations, bars, and libraries.

We are still looking for some press coverage. If you have any ideas, please let us know. Also, we are in need of people to conduct mini classes on Saturday and Sunday at the show. If anyone is willing to share their talent via a mini class, please let me know.

This year we have some VIP's with a table...The Fan Carvers, Sally and David Nye. They have donated a fan carved bird for our special raffle. I am hoping they will be able to do some demos on fan carving. If you want to learn more about fan carving, you can go to their website at www.fancarversworld.com.

Again, by popular demand, we will have the silly hat contest on Sunday. It seems like a girl always wins...maybe that's because I have been the only guy who enters the contest. Come on guys, let's show Sandy we have talent, too! Remember it is a silly hat contest and there are cash prizes.

I've got more to say, but my brain just shut down, so I'll see you at the next meeting in February.

Around and About: By Rizal Baysa

Kiss 2008 goodbye. It was a good carving year. The woodcarvers at Washington and Shadbrush had a very rewarding year. We had a good attendance at the annual show in March. A few of us were able to take the Learning Seminar classes in Midland in May and many came up for a one-day visit, just to see what Learning Seminar was about. We had a fair attendance of our woodcarvers at Ewart in June and probably would have had more had not our fellow carver, Roger Bechtel passed away that weekend. We had a few soap carving classes for scouts. We had a good CarvFest IV at Washington with great classes and instructors. At Washington, we got a few new woodcarvers and we had some people that came in and "kicked the tires" and asked some questions but quickly lost interest.

If you are looking for a place to carve and learn more about woodcarving join us at Washington. We typically have about 15-20 on Tuesdays and 5-10 on Thursdays.

And at Shadbrush we have about 6-8 woodcarvers, but with a varied array of very serious expertise; bird carving, chip carving, animals, and caricatures.

I am looking forward to 2009 and the woodcarving opportunities it presents. Starting with the show in March, there is the chance to see the work of our fellow woodcarvers, to get some new ideas and new challenges to our art. If you are new to the Metro Woodcarvers or haven't participated in the show, then rent a table to present your carvings or volunteer to help with some task that needs to be done. We could use your help. It is your club. Get involved!

In May classes at the Midland Learning Seminar will take place. If you think you are not a good enough woodcarver to take a class, than that is exactly why you should take a class. Sign up!

Keep it Sharp! A dull tool gets you a dull carving.

Metro Carvers of Michigan Monthly Carving Competition



Theme: Rizal Baysa



Advanced: Phil Trupiano



Intermediate: Bob Galanek



Beginner: Rich Dugger

Monthly Carving Competition

Coordinated by Sandra Huffman - Judges were
Frank Summers, Sandy Huffman

Master

First: no entries

Second:

Third:

Advanced

First: Phil Trupiano, Relief

Second:

Third:

Intermediate

First: Bob Galanek, Pipe

Beginner

First: Rich Dugger, Bark carving

Second:

Third:

Theme – Stylized

First: Rizal Baysa, Birds

Metro Carvers of Michigan

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1597
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WWW Homepage
<http://www.geocities.com/metrocarvers/index.html>

E-Mail Address: metrocarvers@yahoo.com

Meeting Location: Helen Keller School
near 12 mile & I-75
1597 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI

Meeting Day: Second Tuesday of each month.
(No Meetings July & August)

Meeting Time: 7:15pm (doors open at 6:30)

President: John Sabina
Vice Pres.: Paul Blanchard
Treasurer: Doug Evans
Secretary: Richard Jacobs
Directors: Larry Lloyd Rizal Baysa
Directors: Dolores Lloyd Gerry Galanek
Directors: Gary Bityk
Newsletter: Terry Zobl
Show CoChair: Mike LePage & Mary Jo LePage
MWCA rep: Bill Phillips
Carving Events: Rizal Baysa & Dick Mann

Carving Groups Location and Times

Mon. 8:30am-11:30__Troy Sen.Ctr.
Mon. Noon-3pm __Sterling Heights Sen.Ctr.
Mon. 9am-Noon __Warren Stillwell Manor
Mon. 5pm-7pm __Woodcraft Store Van Dyke
Tue. 9am-Noon __Washington Twp. Sen.Ctr.
Tue. 9am-Noon __Woodcraft Store Van Dyke
Tue. Noon-3pm __St. Clair Shrs. Sen. Ctr.
Tue. 1pm-4pm __Chesterfield. Sen. Ctr.
Thur. 9am-Noon __Warren Stillwell Manor
Thur. 9am-Noon __Washington Twp. Sen.Ctr.
Thur. 6pm-9pm __St. Clair Shrs. Sen. Ctr.
Thur. 6pm-9pm __Shelby Shadbush Nature Ctr.
1st Sat. 9am-Noon __Woodcraft Store Van Dyke

New Member Pictures



Stephen Russo

Myroslava Stefaniuk

Francis Fredal



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