

# IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD



Next Meeting is at  
6:30 pm, Jan 14

January, 2016

## Newsletter

Greetings,

As we begin a new year (2016), I want to send out a big THANK YOU to all of you. Your help, advice, suggestions, and encouragement have helped me (and the rest of us) on a journey to be the best carver I can be. I can truly say that without your help along my path, I would be stuck way back where I started, making sharp sticks and toothpicks. Nothing wrong with sharp sticks and toothpicks (although being from Tennessee, I can use much larger



Our Guild meets the second Thursday of each month all year round at 6:30 P.M. at the Woodcraft located at the Overland Park Shopping Center at 7005 West Overland Road, Boise ID 83709 (208) 338-1190.

toothpicks than most of the rest of you), but I wanted to do so much more with my tools, and you have helped me so much. THANK YOU!

We are only a few weeks away from our big show, the Idaho Artistry in Wood Show, coming up February 27-28, at the Wyndham Garden Airport Hotel Boise (formerly the Boise Hotel and Conference Center). Remember at the January meeting and the February meeting, we will be glad to pre-register your entries. Also don't forget the 5-Section Challenge, brought to you by the Rogue Carvers (John and Carolyn Greener), if you can get one carving entered in each of the 5 sections (birds, animals, humans, miscellaneous and ethnic). Good luck! We will need a lot of help. We will need help setting up the displays on Friday, help with the judging, carvers to sit at the table and demonstrate carving, folks to staff the ticket table as well as the raffle table, help tearing down on Sunday, and runners for registration. There are other areas as well. See me, John or Carolyn for where we can best use your help. We are also looking for raffle items and auction pieces to help pay for all the expenses.

We are also barreling towards the Jamboree. I received the first registration form and fees for the event just yesterday (YAAYYY! They want to come back!), so we are on our way. Again we are looking for raffle items and drawings for helping pay for our Jamboree. This year we have a 2-day class, several one-day classes, several 3-hour classes (always looking for more), and excitement galore. We will discuss needs at our January meeting.

Well, I guess that's all for now. I am looking forward to a great 2016 and some great times with all of you. Stay tuned!

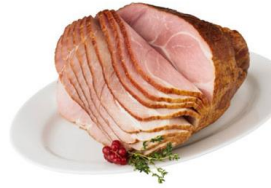
Eric Owens, IWG president

### Newsletter Contents

President's Message  
Christmas Party Photos  
Featured Carver  
Helpful Carving Tips  
Questionnaire  
Carving A Christmas House

**President:** Eric Owens  
**1st Vice President:** Ken Peterson  
**Secretary:** Tara Brigham  
**Treasurer:** Jane Eubanks  
**1st Trustee:** Beck Beus  
**2nd Trustee:** Dean Shaw  
**3rd Trustee:** Don Brigham  
**Past President:** Steve Moreno  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
David Sharp 208-890-7478  
Email: [dsharpcarver@hotmail.com](mailto:dsharpcarver@hotmail.com)  
**IWG Website:**  
[Idahowoodcarversguild.org](http://Idahowoodcarversguild.org)

# IWG Christmas party



A great Christmas party with some spirited gift exchange, and great food. We had plenty of ham for everyone, plenty of delicious dishes, and great fellowship to end our year. We look forward to spending 2016 with a great group of folks.



# 5-Section Challenge 2016

## Only 43 days to go



### 5-Section Challenge 2016

The Rogue Carver's Guild invites all interested individuals to participate in a "5-Section Challenge. To complete this challenge, participants must enter a minimum of five carvings in the IAIW Show in 2016. Participants must enter one carving in each of the five carving sections of the IWG prospectus. The prospectus can be found at the Idaho Artistry in Wood website, "[www.idahoartistryinwood.org](http://www.idahoartistryinwood.org)". Each entrant will receive a participation award .

#### Details:

- You must enter one piece into each of the sections as defined in the IWG 2016 show prospectus.
  - You may enter as many pieces in each section as allowed by the IWG 2016 show prospectus.
  - Points are awarded for each ribbon won in the show competition. 1st place =4 Pts, 2nd place=3Pts, 3rd place=2Pts and HM=1pt.
  - Those who enter a piece in all 5 sections will receive a participation patch.
  - Participant that accrues the highest point total will receive the grand prize.
- The photo shows the prize for 2014.

**Fellow Carvers Sharing.** Please send in the questionnaires to me and we'll have a neat feature for future Newsletters. Lets share our journeys in carving. Questionnaire at the back of this newsletter

## **Featured Carver Steve Moreno**

### **When did you start carving?**

About 2006 with Cleve Taylor.

**What was your first carving?** A fisherman with extended arms.



Steve Moreno

### **Have you taken lessons or instruction in carving? Explain**

I've taken classes from our local club members as well as classes from visiting experts .

### **What is your favorite type of carving?**

Caricature and bark carving are my favorites.

Do you have favorite, go to tools that you use for carving?

I prefer palm tools to my power tools.

What does "being creative" mean to you?

To me its producing something from the raw materials into a finished product. The medium could be clay, wood, glass, metal, etc. I don't like everything I see but I do appreciate the effort to make it.

### **What kind of creative patterns, routines or rituals do you have?**

When I see a craft item or pattern, I ask myself " who do I know that would like this or who might have an emotional tie to this object?." Generally I'm looking for something that could be a gift item for someone. Alternatively I'm looking for some object or a production process I'd like to learn.

## **Featured Carver Steve Moreno contd**

### **What's your favorite thing you've ever created?**

I built an intarsia eagle with a 48 inch wingspan and a dining room table..



### **If you could carve anything what would it be?**

This is a hard question because I don't have a specific thing I'd like to carve. Generally if I see something I think is clever or interesting I'm attracted to it.

### **How many crafts or other hobbies do you enjoy doing?**

In woodworking I do intarsia projects, scroll sawn bowls, turn pens and have done marquetry. Previously I've made furniture, pictures frames, wall clocks and toys. Recently, I've taken an interest in woodburning.

In the summer I enjoy sailing and camping. I play racquetball all year and have taken up pickleball.

### **Do you like classes to learn or do you like learning on your own?**

I prefer classes that minimize the mistakes it takes to learn a new process. An instructor that points out things to avoid as well as best practices is always appreciated.

### **What do you want from your Idaho Woodcarving Guild?**

I enjoy learning about techniques or processes that can be incorporated into a future project.. I'd like a class on relief carving, maybe non- house bark carvings, painting or other finishes. I wasn't able to stay for the video on bark houses but I think videos at the meetings are a worthwhile use of time.

**Helpful hints.** Please send to your Editor, things that might help your fellow carvers. The e-mail address is on the front page, bottom left, of this newsletter. Or give hand them to David Sharp at meetings.

### **Carving Aid from David Sharp**



This helpful carving holder allows you to do some carving with both hands. It's easy to build and can be made any size you want. The platform hooks onto the front of your desk and the back piece and non slip surface holds your work fairly steady as you carved. If you want your work higher just add a few pieces of wood under the aid. I marked off 11 inches across the front.

### **DON'T DO THIS ! from Steve Moreno**

I've been working on a relief carving for the past several months. It is a cross section of bass wood from a tree trunk or limb. All the carving is into end grain. The piece is almost finished and was ready to paint. I brought it to the sink and washed away the various pencil marks. Didn't give it much thought. Immediately upon washing, it began to creak from the differential stresses causes by the water. Portions of the piece are  $\frac{3}{4}$  "thick and others are far thinner. The various thicknesses absorbed the water at different rates causing the entire plane of the piece to become bowed. Now I'm waiting to see if the piece will crack and crumble. I don't know what would have happened if I had oiled the piece first. Perhaps the same thing.

Next time I attempt a relief, I won't carve it as an end grain piece <sup>6</sup>

Name:

**Questionnaire** for You to share your Carving story (please include photos if you will and be as lengthy as you want):

When did you start carving?

What was your first carving?

Have you taken lessons or instruction in carving? Explain:

What is your favorite type of carving?

Do you have favorite, goto tools that you use for carving?

What does “being creative” mean to you?

What kind of creative patterns, routines or rituals do you have?

What’s your favorite thing you’ve ever created?

If you could carve anything what would it be?

How many crafts or other hobbies do you enjoy doing?

Do you like classes to learn or do you like learning on your own?

What do you want from your Idaho Woodcarving Guild?

I'm in the Christmas spirit. I want carve a Christmas themed house. I see some possibilities in this piece of wood. Let's see what happens. **Photo 1.** I'll start with a roof line. My intention is end up with two story house with a porch in front and on each side. **Photo 2 and 3.** This piece of wood is narrow in front and widens toward the back of the house. I may or may not follow this shape. I am laying lines for the shape.as I take the wood back or remove wood, I must leave wood for the porch and roof above the porch. I don't worry so much about straight lines when I carve cottonwood bark. Time to stop typing and start cutting wood.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

**Photo 4 and 5.** This a great tool to use on this wood. The cuts are simple. Press straight in toward the center of the wood and slice the wood to make a stop cut. Follow that by carefully slicing toward the stop cut. I mention to take care with this cut because it's easy to go too far because of the brittle nature of the bark. It requires a controlled pressure. **Photo 6.** I still think the porch needs to be deeper so back to work



Photo 4



Photo 5

**Photo 7 - 9.** A minor setback. I chipped off the edge of the upper roof. I have three choices. Find the chip in all the wood chips on the floor or make a chip and repair it or let it go. This time I let it go.



Photo 6

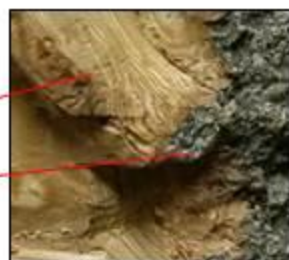


Photo 8

Photo 7



Photo 9

**Photo 10** - I've decided on a chimney on the side of the house so I leave some wood there. I think it will be rough rock as the wood dictates. **Photo 11** - I've put some detail on the chimney that will probably change some as the carving proceeds.

**Photo 12** - Started on the representation of the tree beside the fireplace. Random is the theme for these trees. Ultimately they will be refined, but at this stage I am roughing them out. Don't rush this and consider how you want the carving to look at the end knowing it's a work in progress. Use your imagination and have fun.



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

**Photo 13** - Here's another tool that is handy for really roughing out this wood. It's a very strong gouge that I understand was built for and designed by a man who has some notoriety in carving bark.



Photo 13

## Carving JandJ house by David Sharp Page 4

Photos 14-17 - I've removed a lot of wood and have begun to work on the background of foothills and saw tooth like mountains. This work does not have to be perfect. It is a rendering and will create shadows and ultimately appear to be hills and mountains. Some creative coloring with acrylic washes will help toward this end.

Detail in progress. Here just use you imagination which can be enhanced by research. Look at pics of cabins, search the Internet, use your memory and put the knife to the wood.



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17

## Carving JandJ house by David Sharp Page 5

**Photos 18-20** - Another all night carving session helped get near completing this bark house. The windows have been defined. I've done major work on the trees. For these, the cuts need to be random the end results is an illusion of foliage. I've also defined the tiles on the roof. It's good to be this close to finishing the carving



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20

Little things mean a lot.  
**Photo 21** - I have taken a very small pointed bit and pressed it carefully into the wood at the end of the wall boards to indicate nail holes.



Photo 21

**Photos 22 -23** - I have put a very watered down green wash on the roof to simulate moss and a more potent wash on the trees. The dark bark left on some of parts of the trees gives a contrast in their color. I'm trying for a night time look on this scene. The sky is black with some blue added. The moon is white with some added silver. The mountains and foothill have been treated with a white wash with some blue added. It's a work in progress and I may add some paint here and there.



Photo 22



Photo 23



Photo 24

**Photo 25** - So, the snow fell and it looks pretty good. I think it lacks some snap, so, I will add a tree and light it as well as a wreath and, maybe Santa going down the chimney and perhaps darken the door and window frames, but that will be done after sleeping. I have once again been up painting all night.

**Photo 26** - I'm attempting to carve a small, penny sized Christmas wreath. I'm using bass wood cause bark would probably not hold together.

**Photo 27** - Some say power carving should never be used in carving. The mess of things that have come to pass in my hands to make me better like numbness from neuropathy and arthritis that makes little things a challenge, have convinced me to use whatever I can to create what I can visualize in this mind of mine. So I am used one of the bits my good friend and fellow vet and carver, David Landry, gave to me to help me fashion this small wreath. It's inserted into my Dremel rotary hand tool.



Photo 25



Photo 26



Photo 27

**Photo 28** - I'm carving Christmas trees for the bark house. A good way to carve small things (these trees are about an inch long) is to carve two and leave the wood attached at the smallest place of the finished carving that will still allow you to carve details. By doing this you will have one end to hold while you carve the other. In this case it's the top of the tree. With tiny birds it might be the tail.

**Photo 29** - Once the detail is completed the two carvings can be separated and finished.

The tree, wreath and the snowman have been painted with acrylics and glued into place with Elmer's glue. This house is completed except for a few sprays of deft satin finish. Just in time.



Photo 28



Photo 30



Photo 29

## Carving JandJ house by David Sharp Page 9

The last spray of finish happened at 3 am Christmas Day. My son and his girlfriend love it. I have been working on it since Thanksgiving. One of my favorite carvings. The start, the process, the quandaries, the finishing and learning so much. All were fun.

