

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

September 2025

Newsletter

Guild Officers

President: Cathy Carson

Vice President: Phil Kelly

Treasurer: Nate Meeks

Secretary: Nate Meeks acting

Trustees:

- Jairus Taylor

- Issac Bradfield

- John Greener

Newsletter:

- Jerry Robertson

IAW Reps:

- John Greener

- Issac Bradfield

Websites:

- Eric Owens

- Michael Chamberlain



MEETINGS

Our regular meetings are on summer break and will start back up in October. But don't let that stop your creative momentum! Carving sessions continue at Woodcraft every Thursday evening and the Meridian Senior Center every Tuesday afternoon—perfect opportunities to hone your skills and stay inspired.

Join Us for the IWG annual picnic!

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Hillview United Methodist Church 8525 W Ustick Rd, Boise
(next to the fire station between Milwaukee & Maple Grove) Doors open at **5 PM** | Dinner served at **6 PM**

Come enjoy an evening of good food and great company! Weather permitting, we'll picnic outdoors—otherwise, we'll have the comfort of indoor space. The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the necessary cutlery. You're invited to bring a **side dish or dessert** to share.

We'll have full kitchen access to help keep your contributions warm or chilled.





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

September is the month for membership renewal. If you joined the guild anytime during calendar year 2025, your membership is good until September 2026 and you do not need to renew now. If you joined before this year and wish to

continue your membership, you will need to let us know and pay your annual dues to Treasurer Nate Meeks. Those who do not renew by October 31 will be removed from active membership in the guild. To facilitate renewal, a membership form is attached to this message. Please send or deliver it to the guild treasurer, Nate Meeks, along with your dues payment. If there are no changes to your contact information, you can just put your name on it without completing the other blanks.

Join THE IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

Membership benefits:

- Free carving instruction and projects at club meetings
- Information on tools, supplies, carving woods
- Access to the IWG Library of carving instruction books
- Information on carving classes, competitions and shows
- Association with other carvers of all skill levels
- Weekly open carving at Woodcraft and Meridian Senior Center

Monthly Meetings: Time and locations appear in this newsletter

Cost: Annual dues: \$20

For more information, go to: <http://idahowoodcarversguild.org> or contact Cathy Carson, Tel. 208 484-5185, carsoncj@hotmail.com or Phil Kelly, Tel 208 860-7567, pkelly@boisestate.edu.

Sign up:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail this form with your check for \$20 to IWG Treasurer, Nate Meeks, 4183 Buckstone Pl, Meridian, ID 83646

MONTHLY PROJECTS

The Guild is dedicated to fostering and promoting the art of woodcarving, pyrography (wood-burning), and other wood artistry forms. Our weekly open carving sessions are an excellent opportunity for beginners to learn about tools, safety, basic techniques, and the types of wood used.

Guild leaders are available to provide an introduction to woodcarving. Our open carving sessions are held weekly at the following times and locations:

1. **Thursday Evenings:** 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Woodcraft. This session is ideal for those who work during the day or live in the eastern part of the valley.
2. **Tuesday Afternoons:** 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center at Kleiner Park, 1920 Records Way, Meridian. The Senior Center requests a donation of \$2 for members and \$5 for non-members per session to help cover costs. This session is perfect for those who prefer daytime gatherings or live west of downtown Boise.

Each month, we plan a project to help novice carvers try new techniques and improve their skills. An experienced member will lead the project and provide one-on-one assistance as needed. Loaner tools are available, and materials will be provided whenever possible.

We look forward to seeing you at our sessions and helping you develop your woodcarving skills!

FESTIVAL OF TREES

For 41 years now the Saint Alphonsus Festival of Trees has kicked off the holiday season in the Treasure Valley. This year the Guild is participating in the festival. We will be contributing a tabletop tree, and we need your creativity to make it shine.

We encourage all members to craft hand-carved ornaments, each within a 3–4-inch size limit. There's no designated theme, so let your imagination run wild and create designs that truly inspire you.

Cathy Carson so far has collected more than half of the 100 ornaments that are needed. You still have time to submit your completed ornaments to Cathy or Jairus Taylor before November 1st. The Guild will provide the wood for your creations. Eric will provide cutouts for the Thursday group. Larry Crist will provide cutouts for those attending sessions at the senior center.

Thank you for your creativity and support in making this event a success!



Here are some ideas that Larry brought back from the NWCA. He has cutouts for these.

Another Successful Year at the Western Idaho Fair

The 2025 Western Idaho Fair has wrapped up, and once again our Guild made a strong showing in the craft area. More than a dozen dedicated members volunteered their time to staff our booth throughout the fair, engaging with curious visitors and showcasing the art of wood carving.

Our booth drew steady crowds of fairgoers who were eager to learn about our craft and examine the beautiful pieces displayed on our table. The conversations were lively, and it was rewarding to see genuine interest from people of all ages discovering the intricacies of wood carving.

While we had excellent volunteer participation at the booth, we did notice that member submissions for the exhibit appeared lighter than in previous years. This presents an opportunity for next year – we'd love to see even more of our members' work represented in the display.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made our presence at the fair possible. Your enthusiasm and knowledge helped spread awareness of our Guild and the timeless art of wood carving throughout the community.

Pacific Northwest Woodworking and Maker Expo

Woodcraft is sponsoring the "[Pacific Northwest Woodworking and Maker Expo](#)" October 4-5 at Expo Idaho.

There will be vendors, a maker marketplace and seminars. Woodcraft has asked the local woodworking clubs to showcase their talents and interact with interested members of the public. We need volunteers from 10 - 5 Sat Oct 4 and 10 - 4 Sun Oct 5. Members who want to volunteer their time can speak to a member of the executive committee.



Here are some photos from the 2025 Western Idaho Fair. These were all exhibited by members of IWG. Apologies if I left anyone out. Michael Chamberlain's "Bovine Birthday" is on the next page.



Eric and Jerry were part of a dedicated team of 13 IWG members who staffed our booth, showcased our craft, and connected with fairgoers throughout the event.



"This summer I completed a rather large carving for the 2025 Western Idaho Fair theme 'Cake, Cattle, & Roll', titled "Bovine Birthday" (roller-skates for the 'roll' part, ha). It was just a fun carving to hopefully give folks a smile. It is an original design, all hand-carved in basswood. "

~ Michael Chamberlain

Best of Show
Professional

2025 Western
Idaho Fair



"I also finished a 12 in high carving titled '70's Style Nurse' for my Aunt Diane, at the request of her husband (my Uncle) - She has recently been diagnosed with 'Lewy Body' Dementia, which is a VERY fast-acting disease, and the same that took my mom within a year of being diagnosed. Aunt Diane was a career RN, so my uncle thought a nurse would be appropriate. There was a TON of emotion behind that one, making it tough to decide on a final design and get it done – I got it done finally and delivered it (in-person) just before her birthday this year. It is an original design, attempting to resemble what she may have looked like when she was a young nurse, starting her career, in the 70's. She is hiding a very large hypodermic needle behind her back, winking to the viewer, and holds a 'stats' clipboard, with the most important treatment, stating "One large shot of TLC!". The included booklet contains stats of the carving, pics of carving stages, and the statement: 'Save a Life, You are a Hero; Save 100 Lives, You are a Nurse!'. All hand-carved in basswood."





IWG Scholarship Program

Thanks largely to the proceeds from past Idaho Woodcarvers Guild and Idaho Artistry in Wood shows, the Guild has some surplus funds available that should be used in keeping with our status as a non-profit educational organization. With this in mind, the IWG provides a scholarship program that allows club members to apply for partial reimbursement of money spent on a class, seminar or workshop that helps them improve their carving, painting or other artistic skills used in producing wood carvings. Members who are up to date with their club dues may apply once each year for a scholarship to reimburse them for up to ½ the cost of a course they have completed. The amount approved cannot exceed the dues paid by the member since joining the Guild. Those who receive this support should plan to share what they learned with others at a future meeting. Scholarship applications may be submitted at any time during the calendar year to be reviewed by the Executive Committee for approval. The Board may limit scholarship funding each year to maintain sufficient reserves to keep the club in a healthy financial position.

Application for IWG Scholarship

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Course, class or program attended: _____

Provider: _____ Location: _____

Brief description of instruction received:

Amount paid: _____ Year: _____

For Board Use

Executive Committee action: Approved: _____ Not approved: _____ Date: _____

Date awarded: _____

Open Carving Opportunities

Boise

Open Carving at Woodcraft is held on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. with Eric Owens in charge. Bring your own project and enjoy the fellowship. We are working on making some carving projects available for those who are new to woodcarving.

Meridian

Open Carving at the Senior Center is held on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-3:30 p.m. in the center at Kleiner Park, 1920 N Records Way, Meridian. Club leaders provide instruction for new carvers. Experienced carvers can bring their own projects. The Senior Center asks participants to make a donation when they sign in of \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members to help cover their expenses.

Tips from the Experts



- Think about gouge cuts and triangle cuts as stop cuts and plan their placement when carving... especially when cutting with the direction of the grain. ~ *Mitch Cartledge*
- A well-placed end point will make a much-cleaner carving and also helps make the process go much quicker. ~ *Mitch Cartledge*



Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

Media

Website: <http://idahowoodcarversguild.org/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSYHBkob1WFSPgMaydZ7Yfw>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Idaho-Woodcarvers-Guild-254983304512338/>

Archive: <https://jerryrobertson.com/iwg/>