

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

October 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



Founded in 1980 as an Idaho nonprofit corporation, the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild, Inc. is dedicated to fostering and advancing the craft of woodcarving, along with complementary artistic techniques such as pyrography and other wood-based art forms.

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Regular meetings are back on schedule after taking a break for the summer. The next monthly meeting will be Thursday, October 9, at 6:00 pm at Woodcraft in Boise. The meeting for the Meridian group will be the following Tuesday, October 14, at 12:30 pm at the Meridian Senior Center.

Pacific Northwest Woodworking and Maker Expo

Woodcraft is sponsoring the Pacific Northwest Woodworking and Maker Expo on October 4 and 5 at the fairgrounds. This should be a very interesting event, with vendors and artisans from all over the Pacific Northwest coming together to learn the latest about all things related to woodworking and carving. Woodcraft has generously set aside an approximately 10'x20' space for us to demonstrate our skills and carvings. They have also asked that, if possible, we have small give away items to generate interest.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the cutting edge (pun intended!) of wood crafts in the Pacific Northwest!



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 below. Please send or deliver it to the guild treasurer, Nate Meeks, along with your \$20 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

Understanding and Preventing Woodcarving Injuries

Woodcarving presents inherent risks that every practitioner should understand. Manual wood carving—distinct from powered carving techniques—most commonly results in lacerations and cuts. While many of these injuries are minor and require only basic first aid, some cases necessitate medical intervention including stitches or surgical repair of damaged tendons and ligaments.

Serious complications, though rare, remain possible. Arterial bleeding or organ damage can occur and may become life-threatening situations. Additionally, infection poses a significant concern even with seemingly minor wounds. Surface infections may cause temporary discomfort, but deeper infections can penetrate the tendon sheaths within the hand, potentially leading to permanent disability.

Effective Risk Reduction Strategies

The fundamental principle of carving safety centers on keeping all body parts out of the cutting path—commonly referred to as the "line of fire."

Essential Safety Practices:

- Direct all cutting motions away from the body
- Position both hands behind the blade's cutting edge at all times
- For larger projects, secure workpieces before carving using appropriate methods such as clamps, double-sided tape, hot glue, screws, or other suitable fasteners
- Consider wearing cut-resistant gloves and applying protective tape to vulnerable areas
- Store carving tools in rolls equipped with protective flaps that cover sharp edges, as injuries can occur simply when reaching for exposed tools

These preventive measures significantly reduce the likelihood of carving-related injuries and help ensure safer woodcarving practices.

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 has collected a sufficient number of ornaments for the project. But you can still submit more ornaments to Cathy or Jairus Taylor before November 1st. The more the better. 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.



Attendees at the Tuesday, September 23, carving session at the Meridian Senior Center were delighted to celebrate Larry Crist's birthday with him.

In the absence of any photo contributions this month, I'm going to share a couple of my own recent projects.

Jerry Robertson





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



- Keep your tools sharp. Nothing takes the fun out of carving faster than dull tools. ~ Dale Green
- Experiment with different styles of carving (realistic, chip, relief, etc.) to see how they can be used to enhance your caricature carving. ~ Ron Dowdy



What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.

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/>