

IDAHO WOODCARVERS GUILD

July 2026

Newsletter

Guild Officers

President: Issac Bradfield
Vice President: Eric Owens
Treasurer: Nate Meeks
Secretary: Nate Meeks acting

Trustees:

- Jairus Taylor
- Sheryl Tolliver
- John Greener

Newsletter:

- Jerry Robertson

IAW Reps:

- Jairus Taylor
- Nate Meeks

Websites:

- Michael Chamberlain
- Eric Owens



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.

MEETINGS

Summer Break Notice With many of our members traveling and away for the season, we're taking a break from regular business meetings until September. But the carving doesn't stop! Open carving sessions continue all summer, so come join us at Woodcraft on Thursday evenings or the Meridian Senior Center on Tuesday afternoons to keep those chips flying.

Enjoy your summer, and happy carving!

July is National Parks and Recreation Month, making it a great time to celebrate carving inspired by America's scenic landscapes, wildlife, and outdoor adventures. It is also National Ice Cream Month and National Picnic Month. Major observances include Independence Day on July 4, a day filled with patriotic celebrations, parades, and fireworks. Other notable dates include National Moon Day on July 20, commemorating the first Moon landing, and National Parents' Day on July 26. Food holidays this month feature Fried Chicken Day, Hot Dog Day, and Cheesecake Day—perfect summertime favorites. With warm weather in full swing, July offers plenty of inspiration to carve patriotic figures, eagles, historic scenes, camping and fishing themes, park wildlife, or even a favorite summer picnic treat.

Meet your Guild Vice-president



Many of you know Eric as a familiar and welcoming face at guild meetings, always ready with a kind word or a carving tip. This month we asked him to share a little about himself — his journey, his craft, and his vision for his new role as vice-president of the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild.

Teaching has always been at the heart of who I am. Over more than 20 years, I've taught in one form or another — beginning with the U.S. Air Force, then through public schools, coaching, and Scouting. Now, as a retiree, I have more time than ever to share what I know. I currently teach through the Boise School District Community Education program, at Woodcraft, and I'm excited to be starting soon at the Catalyst Arts Collaborative.

I've been carving for more than 30 years, specializing in caricatures — Santas, gnomes, ornaments, and cowboys. It's a craft I love and teaching it gives me as much joy as doing it.

I've been a member of the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild for over 25 years, and over that time I've been fortunate to learn from so many talented members. Giving back feels like the natural next step. I look forward to serving as vice-president and supporting our president, Issac Bradfield, in everything ahead.

— Eric Owens



Ted Smith | 1938–2026

Ted Smith passed away on Friday, May 29, 2026. Ted spent more than three decades transforming wood into life. A proud member of the Idaho Woodcarvers Guild and an inductee of its Hall of Fame, he was widely regarded as one of the finest bird carvers of his generation — an artist whose patience and precision elevated the craft to fine art.

A celebration of life will be held on Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30pm at the World Center for Birds of Prey, 5668 W. Flying Hawk Way in Boise, ID. Light refreshments will be offered.



Share Your PHOTOS

Your work deserves to be seen. Every month, this newsletter showcases what IWG members are making — and we'd love to feature yours. When you send photos to the Newsletter Editor, just include a few lines about what you made: the wood species, dimensions, finish or coloring, and anything interesting about how you built it. Don't worry about being exhaustive — even a sentence or two brings the piece to life for fellow members.

A few quick tips for great photos:

Getting a good shot is easier than you think. Set your camera level with the piece, use natural light if you can, and choose a solid high-contrast background so your work really pops. Light from the side will reveal the grain and texture beautifully — and make sure the only shadows in the frame are in the wood itself, not cast by you.

Send your photos to Jerry Robertson at glrobertson@yahoo.com. If you are prompted to reduce the file size, please send a large file.



IWG Calendar

Save these dates

Date	Event
Aug 21–30	Western Idaho Fair (Carnival Theme)
Sept 19	Fall Picnic
Oct 3–4	Woodcraft Makers Expo
Dec 12	Christmas Party

A decorative banner with a wood-grain texture and a ribbon-like border. The text "Regional Workshops / Shows" is centered in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Regional Workshops / Shows

July

[Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous](#) in Creede, Colorado

July 11-15, cost varies based on courses taken

[Northwest Carving Academy](#) in Ellensburg, Washington.

July 13 - 18, cost varies based on courses taken, \$75 - \$490

[Clark Fork Carving Stampede](#) - Sanders County Fairgrounds, Plains, MT

August

[Western Idaho Fair](#) in Boise, Idaho

August 21-30, woodcarving entries fall under the **Open Class → Hobby Craft Department**. The official handbook lists 10 **classes (categories)** you can enter your carvings into.

September

[Spokane Carvers' Association Show](#) - The HIVE in Spokane, WA

[Arts of the Terrace Juried Art Show](#) - Mountlake Terrace, WA

[Clash of the Carvers](#) - Libby, MT

October

[Northwest Carvers Association's Artistry in Wood 45th Annual Show](#)

Waller Road Grange, Tacoma, WA

October 10-11, 2026

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. Join us Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Kleiner Park (1920 N Records Way, Meridian). Club leaders offer instruction for beginners, while experienced carvers are welcome to work on their own projects. A donation of \$2 for members or \$5 for non-members helps cover senior center expenses.

A brown ribbon banner with a black outline and decorative notched ends. The text "IWG Scholarship Program" is written in yellow, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the banner.

IWG Scholarship Program

The Idaho Woodcarvers Guild is pleased to offer educational scholarships to our members. The scholarship program is funded by proceeds from our successful shows and exhibitions.

Program Details:

Current members in good standing may apply once per calendar year for reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible educational expenses. This includes classes, seminars, or workshops that enhance your carving, painting, or related artistic skills.

Eligibility and Limits:

- Must be current with club dues
- Reimbursement cannot exceed total dues paid since joining the Guild
- Recipients are encouraged to share what they learned at a future meeting

How to Apply:

Submit your application to the treasurer at any time during the year. The Executive Committee will review and approve requests on a rolling basis, with annual funding limits set to maintain the Guild's financial health.

This scholarship program reflects our commitment as a non-profit educational organization to support the continued growth and development of our members' woodcarving skills.

If you are reading this online you can [click here](#) to view or print the scholarship application.

Before You Go



Going with the grain in woodcarving means cutting parallel to the wood fibers (the direction they grow) to create smooth, clean cuts. Think of it as "petting the cat". Moving in the same direction as the grain avoids splitting, tearing, or splintering. This technique is essential for cleaner cuts, less effort, and easier, more controlled shaping.



John Breen, Houston Oilers coach: "We were tipping off our plays. Whenever we broke from the huddle, three backs were laughing and one was pale as a ghost."

Media

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

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

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

Newsletter Archive: <https://iwgresources.com/>