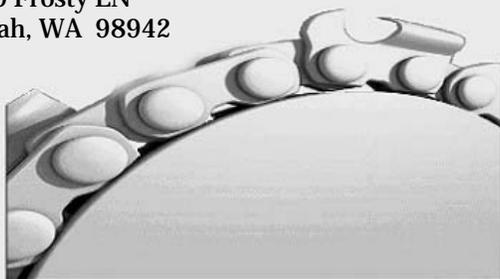


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The Cutting Edge

Since 1993

January - February 2009

Ridgway

by Jack McEntire

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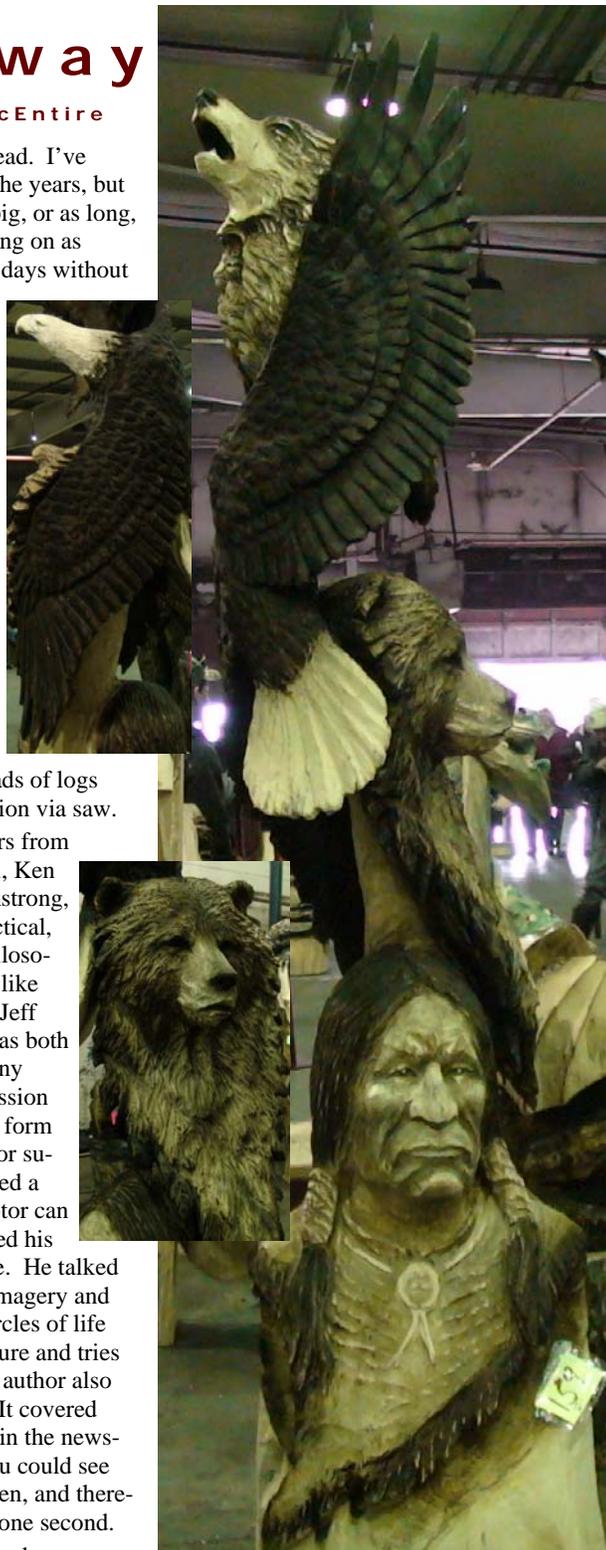
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Wow, I gotta clear my head. I've been to many shows over the years, but I've never been to one as big, or as long, or with so many things going on as Ridgway: 173 carvers, 10 days without counting traveling days.

There was everything from the Bonis' shop with stone lithography printing, traditional painting with water color, acrylic, and oils, spray can art, ceramics, photography with a full dark room, and silver-smithing, to the grounds with still photographers using a 20' light boom, 3 separate video groups (an Australian, a video professor from CA, and the Wolf Pack), drumming, singing, bands playing, ice sculpture, and truck loads of logs receiving their transformation via saw.

Additionally, the seminars from Rick Boni, Jeff Samudoski, Ken Tynan, and J. Chester Armstrong, ran the range from the practical, to the tactical, even the philosophical. Watching an artist like Rick blast out an eagle, or Jeff carve a compelling wolf was both enthralling and offered many practical tips. Ken's discussion on how to twist the human form when making a caricature or superhero like his Hulk offered a basic framework any sculptor can use. Skip's seminar covered his basic approach to sculpture. He talked about the use of multiple imagery and emphasized the moving circles of life force energy he sees in nature and tries to express in his art. Your author also gave a seminar on safety. It covered much of what I've written in the newsletter. If you were there you could see what a saw does to a chicken, and therefore our flesh, in less than one second.

The carvings that were made ran a

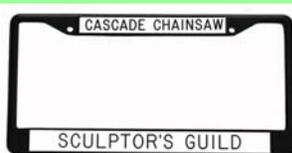


Carving by Jeff Samudoski, Carved at Ridgway Pictures by Jack McEntire

*Fred Avila
of New York is the
winner of the
CCSG Give Away*

drawing for the *Art of Chainsaw Carving*
by Jessie Groeschel!

Next Issue



CCSG will be giving away this license plate holder to another CCSG paid member!

No officers or directors are eligible. To be eligible you must be a current paid member of the CCSG.

(Continued on page 4)

Message from the Editor

by Jack McEntire

In January we had a get together called 'Burning Bear' where we had two teams make a pile of wood into bonfire bears. The Wolf Packs' 15 foot bear was decided to have beaten the Cunning Rogues' by acclimation. The show was both a fund raiser for the guild, bringing in \$175, and another \$1680 was raised for a local woman, Nikki Robinson, who has recently lost her husband in a car accident. This is an open letter she sent to all the carvers who were there:

My wonderful Carvers~

Most of you all know me well and have known me all my life or close to. I grew up with the chainsaw carvers and love every one of you crazy people. I look at all of you as another part of my family. When I was younger I used to live to go to the Westport contests, or to any event, or party that involved the carvers. You guys and ladies are probably some of the most entertaining people I have ever met.

With the money that was raised I got me and my kids into what I think is a great house, much better than the motel trust me. I love my house, and I love it more knowing some wonderful people raised me the money to make it into this house. I really don't know what I would have done without the help of all the carvers.

To the carvers that I hold dear to my heart, you know who you are, thank you so very much for everything. I really appreciate everything. You guys and gals are wonderful people and have wonderful hearts! You have helped a family in need very very much. I will forever be grateful to each and everyone of you .

Hold the ones that you love close.... I of all people know you never know how long you will have. Thank you all for letting me ramble, I love you guys AND gals!

Nikki & Nikolas & Payton

If anyone has anything to submit for the newsletter send it to: Jack N Amy 240 Frosty LN, Selah, WA 98942 or email to jacknamy@charter.net. Thanks!

The Cutting Edge

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Amy McEntire - Editor

Jack McEntire - Coeditor

The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild exists to foster support for the art and craft of chainsaw carving by encouraging communication between carvers through every means possible, including newsletters, websites, forums, meetings, demonstrations, mutual support and the preservation of our history.



Burning Bear 09' Bear Height 15'. Picture taken from a Burning Bear Video by David Tremko

Letter from the President by Mike McVay

The economy is a mess these days, but that doesn't affect me since I don't have any money anyhow.

Things in the woodcarving world are still moving on. Steve Backus came up with the first "Burning Bear Celebration" way out on the Pacific coast. It's a wonderful celebration of the Winter Solstice with antecedents that go back to the Stone Age. It was well received, even by the weather gods which blessed the event with a day of sunshine.

Ridgway, with Liz Boni and her amazing family leading the way, celebrated all the love that's to be found in this noisy world of ours, by shoveling snow and making sawdust with more carvers than you could count. How do they do it? It's amazing.

At the same time Ridgway was going on, some of the gang were carving giant snow sculptures at White Pass. One team cranked out a huge and wondrous dragon attacking a giant castle, which was also amazing.

Elsewhere things weren't so good. Westport is dead and buried. Reedsport and Hackensack have had some roll-over in the way things are done, alas, and Echo apparently won't be sponsoring a big national shoot-out anymore.

From the Guild's end, we plan to keep on keeping on. Amy and Jack McEntire, with the help of daughter Amber, work hard to put out a lively newsletter. The recording of carving history in the Newsletter and on the Website will continue to be a big part of our work. You can help with that—Everybody benefits from the photos and stories you share with us.

Jerry Heneger is checking out sites for an event I can't tell you about yet, and Thor has a project in the works that should be ready pretty soon. More on both of these later.

The development of judging guidelines is also a continuing effort. Susan Miller's thoughtful work on judging can be found on the website, as can most of the past issues of the Cutting Edge. They're full of hints and tips and some pretty good stories.

Still to come is a long-time work in progress offering help to towns and other organizations for setting up and running carving events. Now Angie Polglaze, with the help of the board, has taken it up. There's lots to be done, folks, lots to be done.

Unfortunately for the Guild, we won't have one of our wisest counselors to guide us much longer. Susan Miller has decided to resign her posts and move on to other interests. She is a fine artist with interests in painting, ceramics and metal

to go along with her competence with wood and a chainsaw. She's also an entertaining writer. But her greatest gifts which she shares with all who meet her, is her quiet determination and generosity. Woe to those who take her quiet dignity for a sign of weakness. As some have learned, they do so at their own peril. Susan, you are the heart and soul of the guild and we are all better for having been in your company. I offer you all the love you need to see you on your way. Have a good journey. We will miss you. Sigh.

Good night, everyone.
Mike McVay

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mmcvay@whidbey.com

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thorcreations@springmail.com

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Bruce Thor:

thorcreations@springmail.com

White Pass Winter Carnival by Pat McVay and Amy McEntire



Rampunzel & the Prince carved by Matt Cossalmans' Team. Picture by Pat McVay

This years' White Pass Winter Carnival, held on White Pass, S.E. of Mt. Rainier, on February 28th to March 1st, produced some extraordinary snow sculptures. This years' theme was "Fairy Tales" and did the teams of sculptors deliver! The castle was designed and built by Dennis Dow. A fire breathing dragon tearing into the snow castle took the Peoples Choice award. Susan O'Brien designed most of the dragon. The project was roughed out by Pat McVay and the beautiful detailing was done by Trace Britenfeldt, Tim Leonard was also a key member of the team.

Another team created a large Shrek. This team consisted of Kerry Hargand, Don Bond and son, 'Mel' and Derick. This was the 12th year that Kerry Hargand and Pat McVay have been a part of the Carnival.

The third team carved Rampunzel and the Prince. This was Matt Cossalmans' team from Idaho, which included his wife and helper, Thomas Tanner. Next year, Pat plans to do a dragon breaking out and escaping from the castle. A good time was had by all!



Dragon at Night by Pat McVays' team, photo by Tim Leonard



Shrek by Kerry Hargands' Team
Photo by Pat McVay

As the Chain Spins by Thor

Once again my fellow brothers and sisters in a log, I'm witness to some of the greatest unknown artists of our time. Once again you all amaze me with your talent, drive, passion, courage, integrity and friendship.

We are ten years into the new renaissance and the energy and creativity has only gotten stronger. As we find our voices and shout with a saw "here we are, come see what we saw"!

What a show it was! Meeting lifelong friends you didn't know, reuniting with comrades and seeing how they've grown, carving out a life they are proud to own.

This is the Ridgway Rendezvous', the gathering of the chainsaw clan. A family reunion bar none, what a grand plan. Ten days plus of meet, greet, learn, work, cold, sweat and frustration, elation, celebration, oh what fun! Dancing 'til closing time with more than one.

It's my 4th year of coming home to our family, I couldn't have felt more welcomed, from Bob and Char who school bused us in the dark and snow, to young Lance who gave us power to go, from Steve, Jack, Jerry, Joe, Jamie, Jim and Jeff to Ricks, Rolli, Robin, Randys, Chad and Brett. So many names, you know who you are. You're all unsung heroes by far. My great friend Hillbilly John who is battling throat cancer and didn't want anyone to know, to Kate and Bruce who made us feel like rock stars. Jim, Christine, Brian, Joan and Scott who showed me it's ok to be who you are.

Every year you pick a crew, this year saw Snuffy, Rich, Brandy, Jeff, Brian and Dan to name a few, along with Mal, John, Edgard, Brooklyn, Capt. Dave and Brother Tim. There was Jeff and the dueling Kens and even chainsaw twins, Gina and Angela given it a spin.

Strength and beauty from within, it's where all creation begins. Thank you my sisters for all you give, Liz, Zoe, Tricia, Uschi, Sara, Michelle, Sharon, Mary, Cassie, and Jen, Dee Dee, Stephi, Sherri, Jules, Ragna, Brenda, Gracie, Casey, Molli, Korin and Susan. You are all precious gems shining in the sun.

As the Texas trio sawed and sang their way from here to everyone from over there. Will, Mick, Tim, Andy and Dan, to Sebastian, Gorge, Michael, Niels, Roland and Olaf, with pictures in hand. Kaz, Akio, Mieko and Sukanama came from Japan, along with all, to be immortalized by Sputnik, camera in hand from down under land. Some sweet shots were missed, like Michael and Ayas' morning kiss with little Freddy, such family bliss. These and more I'm honored to have witnessed.

Thanks to Jack and Dave and the whole wolf pack tie dye crew, we showed the world something new. For me a name "Spray Paint Dude".

All in all I'm sad to leave but happier than I could believe. I'm proud to know you all because we've met before and will meet again, as the chain spins. Thank you and keep smiling Thor.

(Continued from page 1) **Ridgway** by Jack McEntire

huge spectrum. For me, a couple of high lights were ‘Skip’ Armstrongs’ and Jeff Samudoskis’. ‘Skip’ made 3 otters twirling together in a bout of play fighting. The energy and motion were clear for any observer to see. It showed me how he really does focus on the flow, and not the detail of a carving. Jeffs’ carving was monumental in size and the people/animals were expertly executed. It’s no surprise it gained the highest bid at the auction.

The Wolf Pack did a thing called Musical Bears. We arranged a dozen 4’ logs in a circle and sent carvers in one at a time. Each carver had 3 minutes to do their part. Participants included : On saw - Dave Tremko, Michael Blaine, Jesse Strack, Marty ‘Smitty’ Smith, Tony ‘Tone’ Wrobel,



Wolf, Buffalo and Eagle
by Scott Kuefler of Cheswaterfield, MI
Photo by Jack McEntire



J. Chester ‘Skip’ Armstrong and his Playful Otters
Picture by Sputnik

outofthisworld.com.au



The Wolf Packs' Musical Bears Event
Photo by Doug Whitestone

Dawna Ceriani, Stephanie Huber, Jerry 'The One Legged Ninja' Heneger, Jim 'Wizard of Odd' Petrillo, Mal 'The Mal Hatter' McEwen, Jerry Schieffer, Thor 'Spray Paint Dude', and Jeb Glor, Pit crew – Tommy Winn, Sales and PR – Jeff Samudosky, and Sandor Lengyel, Cameraman – Jack 'Chainsaw Jack' McEntire. When the first carver finished rough blocking, the second carver stepped in, when they were done the third joined in, and so on until we had 13 carvers going at it all at once. It was truly a new concept and drew a crowd of hundreds. We'll be doing it again.

On the last night of the vous, Sarah Winter, Jim Petrillos' daughter had a fire destroy her trailer with all her equipment, tools, and some carvings. The family of carvers stepped in and set things right. They repaired her trailer and reequipped her for carving within 24 hours. As Liz Boni told me "No one can do things the way carvers do." Isn't that the Truth!

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To the left are carvings by Joe Rego photo by Jack McEntire and to the right is Aya Blaine carving her Angel, photo by Doug Whitestone

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Hearing loss is sneaky. You won't feel it. It won't hurt. It's one of those things that will happen over time as a result of exposure to high noise levels, such as those that you experience while carving. But, one thing is certain – once it happens, it is irreversible.

The *NoiseBuster* Active Noise Reduction Safety Earmuff was specifically developed for use in high-noise environments. It takes hearing protection to a whole new level by combining a high-performance passive earmuff with breakthrough electronic noise-canceling technology. The passive earmuff is rated a 26 NRR (noise reduction rating). That's great, but there's more. Turn on the active noise reduction electronics and get another 20dB (decibels) of low-frequency noise cancellation that will go right after the noise of your chainsaw. One effect of the frequency specific cancellation properties is that you retain the ability to hear voices even with the protection on. Reduce the

noise and you will experience greater comfort, less anxiety, and improved focus.

But, the hearing protection benefits of the *NoiseBuster* do not end there. You love to listen to music while carving; and, if you are wearing a conventional hearing protector, you will find yourself cranking up the music, as you normally do, in order to hear it over the noise of your chainsaw. But, plug your Mp3 music player into the *NoiseBuster* and you will be listening to music in the quietest, most comfortable environment you've experienced. Furthermore, because *NoiseBuster* electronics reduce low-frequency noise, you will experience a reduction of the 'masking effect' that low-frequency noise has on music and the intelligibility of the lyrics – another reason why you tend to crank up the music. Put on your *NoiseBuster* and play your favorite tunes at a comfortable listening level without over amplifying or distorting the music. You'll enjoy your music experience a whole lot more, improve your concentration while carving and do a whole lot more to safeguard your hearing for now and the future.

The best overall hearing protector for use in high-noise environments is the *NoiseBuster*. Try it for yourself. CCSG members get a 10% discount off the \$149 price. You only pay \$135 for the product. Additionally, your order will help fund your Guild -- \$15 will be contributed for each unit purchased.

You must call Irv directly at 203-210-7230 to place your order and to get your discount.

Upcoming Events

Events listed here are not endorsed by the CCSG. To list an event send info to ammy@charter.net

April 17th—18th Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Contact: David Blankenship 479-244-5010
sleepy@jpa.net www.carvingintheozarks.com

April 25th & 26th

Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany

Contact: Thomas & Anna Hartman
PH/FAX: 49 33763 21919
Thomas: 049 178 695 0656
Hartman_Veik@web.de
www.hoelzerner-see.de

April 26th Hancock, MI

1st Annual Big Fish Bonanza
Contact: Aaron Gagnon 906-281-0678
upadventure2009@yahoo.com

May 7th-8th Scandia, PA

Scandia Chainsaw Carve 09
Event Coordinator: Patty VanCise
814-757-8082 vancise95@verizon.net

May 8th - 9th Sequim, WA

CCSG Event Carve and Auction
Open to all CCSG paid members
Contact: Steve Backus 360-579-3574
bigshot@whidby.com

May 15th—16th Northampton, Mass

West Massachusetts Lions Chainsaw Carving
Contact: Greg Prentice 413-634-5009

May 29th-June 1st

Mulda, Sachsen, Germany

VI Husky Cup Contact Steffi & Andreas Martin
sauensaeger@aol.com
www.blockhausen.de
Event Info: www.huskycup.de

May 30th-31st Toei, Japan

Chainsaw Art Competition in Toei 2009
Contact: chainsawartclub@hotmail.co.jp
Brian Ruth: jen@chainsaw.net
Registration:
anton.workarea.jp/cgi-bin/cs_art/regist.html

June 11th-14th Chetwynd, BC Canada

Echo Sponsored Event
Chetwynd Chainsaw Champ. Invitational
Contact: Helene A. Weightman, Manager
250-788-3345
manager@chetwyndchamber.ca

June 13th-14th Deming, WA

Deming Log Show Carve and Sell
Invitational
Contact: Gary VanDyke
360-592-2011

June 18th-20th Addison, PA

Echo Sponsored Event
6th Annual National Road Chainsaw
Carving Festival
Contact: Tom Briar 814-395-3469
Or Don Winner
secretary@confluencelions.org
Details at: carvingfest.confluencelions.org

June 18th-21st Reedsport, OR

Echo Sponsored Event
Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Sculpture Championships
Contact: Reedsport/Winchester Bay
Chamber of Commerce
800-247-2155 or 541-271-3495
www.reedsportcc.org
www.odcsc.com

June 26th-28th Ocean Shores

Contact: Boaz Backus
360-500-9358
boazbackus@hotmail.com
Sign-up Info to: Pam Strub
dustycrawler@centurytel.net

July 11th-12th Deming, WA

From Hills to Mills
Contact: Frank Cain
360-599-2408

July 18th-19th

Milton-Freewater, OR

Logs to Frogs Competition
Contact: Mike Watkins 541-938-8236
mike.watkins@milton-freewater-or.gov
Or Gina Hartzheim at 541-938-8234
gina.hartzheim@milton-freewater-or.gov

*Detailed version of events
online at:*

www.theccsg.com/Events.htm

Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild

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The CCSG's Forum is at:

www.network54.com/Forum/249381

Sign Up and/or Renew Your Dues at:

www.theccsg.com/join.htm

Inspirational Quote

Submitted by Jim Hasket

'This I believe; that the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for; the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against; any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual. This is what I am and what I am about. I can understand why a system built on a pattern must try to destroy the free mind, for this is the one thing which can by inspection destroy such a system. Surely, I can understand this, and I hate it and I will fight against it to preserve the one thing that separates us from the uncreative beasts.'

—John Steinbeck



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information.



Dragon castle carved at White Pass Winter Carnival 09' photo by Dennis Dow
This is a real picture! Talk about 'Wow' Factor!

The 'Cutting Edge' Mask Making Challenge

Masks have been created by human hands throughout the history of humankind. They serve many purposes ... for ceremony, for status, for fun ... or to convey feeling, to disguise, to mask ones self if you like. Whatever their role, masks have an undeniable presence in our world.

The CCSG is pleased to announce it's 1st annual 'Cutting Edge Carving Challenge' ... the Mask Making Challenge

Winner gets \$100!

- Entry is open to all.....The rules are as follows ...
 - Deadline is **Extended to April 1st 2009!**
 - Only current paid members of the CCSG will qualify for any prizes.
 - A chainsaw must be used in your masks creation, but all tools are allowed.
 - Bling is allowed, ie: feathers, leather, etc, but not too much. Carving must be visible.
 - Paint is allowed.
- We require 3 images ... 1 frontal image, 1 side image (or 2 side images if each side is uniquely different to the other), and one image of the mask concealing the face of an adult human being so as to allow for idea of scale.
 - Your mask can be of any scale of your choosing.
- CCSG Board Members and Officers do not qualify for any prizes but are free to enter.
 - Only one entry allowed per participant.
- The work submitted is to have been created by the individual making the submission.
 - The results will be published in the March/April issue of the 'Cutting Edge'.
- Please do not put pictures of your mask online until after publication of the 'Cutting Edge' as that will result in your mask being disqualified. Please send all entries and/or questions to jacknamy@charter.net by the deadline.

We look forward to seeing the results of all your mask creations ... Happy Carving all !!