

The Cutting Edge

Volume III Issue VI

March 1996

Inside this Issue:...

Get off the Dime

Best Shop Contest

You know you're a hacker



COVER PHOTO

Jessie Groeschen
working on a sea turtle
Camphor Wood

THE CUTTING EDGE

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Clinton, WA 98236
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Letters to the Editor

RESPONSE FROM NEW MEMBERS

I'll gladly send my dues to receive the magazine.

Thanks to Jessie and Pat for all the helpful and patient info. Looking forward to seeing you guys soon. Enclosed is a photo of your gorgeous turtle. Your work truly inspires me.

*Thomas M. Davis
West Palm Beach, Florida*

I started carving in October of 1995 after watching a local carver named James Taylor at a craft fair. I watched him carve an eagle but did not have the money to buy it. I thought I

could whittle an eagle if I put my mind to it so about three weeks later on a Sunday afternoon I got the old saw out and gave it a try. I thought I would have a pile of firewood before I got it to look like the one I had seen at the craft fair but to my own surprise it looked pretty good when I finished. Just as I had wanted to do with the eagle at the craft fair, I perched the eagle that I carved upon top of the 30 foot tall light pole in our back yard.

I did not stop with that one eagle, I kept carving, squirrels, ducks, bears, owls, deer and many other things including a one hand salute for one of my co-workers. The more I carved the more I wanted to carve.

I had tried to contact James Taylor to let him know that he had started a fire in me and wanted to show him some of the things I had carved. I talked to many people that knew of him but still have not been able to contact him.

One night I was at Radio Shack getting some TV equipment and the guy waiting on me saw the bear I had on the back of my truck. He told me of another guy that carved by the name of Paul Keisel. I had seen Paul's work and was anxious to meet him. I went back out to my and my wife then told me about this truck that had just passed with a big eagle in the back of it. It was the same guy that the Radio Shack man had just given me the number of. I waited by his truck until he came out and struck up a conversation with him. Since then Paul and I have gotten together quite a few times, we watch each other carve and improve by working together (mainly me on the improving). I consider myself very lucky to have met Paul, he's a good carver that a "hacker" like myself can learn much from, besides being a good friend which is hard to find these days!

Paul has encouraged me to subscribe to the Cutting Edge and that is what prompted this letter. He recently gave me his copy to look at and I was really impressed with the talented carvers there are throughout the nation.

In regard to the article that talked about "Hackers" which was in the first publication that I read. I would just like to comment on the term "Hacker". Paul made a statement; "We, to many people are hackers." I would just like to remind everyone of the old sayings; "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." "You gotta start somewhere" and "There will always be someone better." Focus on the good things and not the bad, and credit anyone who gives this art a try.

If any other carvers get down around my neck of the woods, give me a shout. I would enjoy talking to others that share this hobby. My phone number is 812/ 925-3359 but don't call collect, my wife won't accept the charges.

I would also like any information available on tricks to keep wood from cracking and the best types of woods to use that have the least tendency to crack. Thanks and everybody keep cutting!

*Kath Horrobruck
Boonville, Indiana*

My name is Grace and I recently subscribed to your newsletter. I've always admired woodcarvings and wanted to try it myself. I'm sure my neighbors think I'm nuts...but I finally tried it and am having a great time learning as I go. I've been carving on and off for about a year now. You have no idea of the obstacles overcome.

With lots of help from God and family, too. My Kids and I are doing ok. I've always loved art and animals and now I can put them together and make money too! God has given me the courage and I think some talent as well. I just need to keep plugging away at it. I've read everything I could find in our little library about woodworking but I think that just "jumping in" and doing it has taught me the most!

My next goal is to visit Washington State and those great competitions there. Maybe I can learn to do this the right way, hopefully. Someday I could even compete as well. In the meantime, I bought me a video (for Christmas) on how to chainsaw carve. Maybe one of your reader/ carvers would like a pen pal. Please write to Grace Hamilton, 11392 Hawthorne Ave., Hesperia, CA 92345 (Are there any other chain saw carvers in the high desert?)

*Grace Hamilton
Hesperia, California*

RENEWALS

Howdy Y'all, Well, I've enjoyed a lot of success in the 2 years that I've been carving, Buck's County '95, *Master's of the Chainsaw* bookings, lots of sales. I got a lot of inspiration from the "Cutting Edge". Here's my \$20. See ya in Lexington, Kentucky.

*Ben King
Grimsley, Tennessee*

Enclosed is 1 more year of dues. It's been wonderful to watch the "Cutting Edge" newsletter grow and prosper. We're sure glad Jessie Groeschel and Pat McVay had foresight and initiative to get things going!. Great job to all involved!

I reread the issues over and over in my spare time, so I don't miss anything. January's issue was missing something! Our state competition statics points, for 1995.

Once again I must say great job! We enjoy receiving the "Cutting Edge" A Happy Reader

*April Euse
Ocean Shores, WA*

PS. We're going to have a competition out here again this year. Approximately June 7, 8, 9. Contact April Euse, 360/ 289-0618.

NON SUPPORTING MEMBERS

I just noticed that my friends Jeff & Sheila Prust became members (went over the edge). Sorta disappointed. Must be cabin fever or something. Too bad they were a good carving team.

If you can't beat 'em, I guess I might try writing, too. If you're gonna be a big mag some day, let me ask ya sometin. Might be a name for my column, "Cutting Corners". Or how about "Hackers Corner"? With the cartoon characters Slash and Hack. I'd like to do cartoons. Drawing or writing would be lots easier than carving. I'm real tired of stinkin' gas saws. What's out there? No developments yet in electric pneumatic or hydraulic or whatever?

How about an article on new developments and techniques? The "Edge" is most entertaining but more info. might be nice.

I should be writing my Mom or whoever cares. However, as a non supporting member, I felt obliged to put my 2 cents in. Hey you guys know I ain't cheap, but for \$20 bucks ya can get a couple decent magazines you can even learn something from. Besides ya can borrow the "Edge" from some other carver.

What do I need to know to be a chainsaw carver? Just copy what the other guy's doing. Heck ya don't need a high school degree. I barley got one. So you can fix some of my spellin an



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You know you're a Hacker if:

By: R.L. Blair

- ...Your tool box contains a spy camera .
- ...Having your chain on backwards has no effect on quality
- ...You select wood that resembles something already
- ...The forest service has your place under surveillance
- ...You believe you can push start a saw
- ...You never sign your legal name to anything
- ...Have alot of success in consignments to pubs
- ...Switch to light beer because of a pulled muscle
- ...Let other people identify your work, then you agree with them
- ...Your business cards mention cord wood
- ...You never give out your actual address, you only mention the state
- ...Your work involves no curved surfaces
- ...Everything you create has "your" nose
- ...You think a torch and wire brush are for "detail" work
- ...The only thing you're sure of when you tackle a log is that it will be smaller
- ...Your top sales involve food stamps
- ...Even dogs never pee on your carvings
- ...You are almost finished with a carving before you decide what to make
- ... Saw companies sue to have their name removed from your equipment
- ...Several of your better pieces have sprouted leaves
- ...You're related to your only fans
- ...You lobby for your mother as a judge in contests
- ...Someone mentioned "carving bar" and you thought it was a popular night club
- ...You complain if anyone else shows up at a contest
- ...You insist your customers sign a disclaimer
- ...You interpret descriptive phrases such as "That's unique" or "That's unusual" as "that's good"
- ...Your photo album has more pictures of other carvers stuff than your own
- ...Most of your customers are into heavy metal music and say "hey dude is that made out of wood?"
- ...Your favorite coversation, involve scars and stitches
- ...You never need to secure your carvings from theft
- ...When you're out of black marbles and you have to quit.

Don't forget the hackers motto: "Cash the check and get out of town before the carving cracks".



Giver's and Taker's

BY: Ben Took

Giver's and taker's
Mover's and shaker's

To give is good and right and just
If you're giver, you'll feel you must

But if you feel that you must fake,
odds are good that you will take

Little or big, great or small
a taker usually takes it all

They can't help the way they are
they can't see themselves from afar

Grab the pennies. Leave the dimes
A taker will rush any ol time

A giver will wait until its too late
A taker will take every cookie on the plate

They will grab and chortle, gobble and stuff
the plate always empty, never enough

A giver will give without a care
to them, its now, you do it, you just share

"If I got it, you got it" is often their motto
Optimists all with half filled bottle

Givers don't like to be used
it leaves them confused

And oh how they howl
when they dance jowel to jowel
with grabbers and takers and mad king makers

"I've got it it's mine", taker's babble and yelp
"What's in it for me and I'll give you some help"

It's a shield, not a sword that they hold
when their actions show they're not so bold

But what we need is more givers, I say
folk's who see rain as a great day

"Upward's and onward's", they cheer and they shout
Life's steady beat is what it's about

The uncontrolled laughter and the stories you'll hear
when giver's and doer's have'm a beer

Within every heart there's a little of both
fighting to try and do the most

But the trouble, you see, between you and me
is people believe in the tales's they weave

"It won't work, it can't fly" can be a common cry

It is far to easy to do,
just sit back and boo hoo

But to get off the ground
after being knocked down

And charging back into the fray to a takers dismay

A giver will go I tell you, it's so
If you stay on your feet
when it looks like defeat

Because the world don't change to the cry of the
"cant's"

nothing goes forward if beckend with "shant's"

Other Sources for 1/4 pitch sprockets:

1. Hal Macintosh of Lanesville, NY
*Stihl, Pioneer, Jonsered,
Partner, Poulan*
Phone 914/ 688-7875
FAX 914/ 688-5873
2. Rick Barbero Distributing
1-503-342*5061
3. Robert Guinn of Clarksville, Texas
*He is interested in manufacturing
custom 1/4 pitch sprockets*
1-800-814-4591
4. Bailey's Catalogue 1-800-Baileys

Best Shop Contest

Over the years, many chainsaw carvers from around the world have been mailing me photos of their works and their shops for various reasons. I have been contemplating a shop contest for over five years and a photo from Ken Schels finally kicked me in gear.

You might be wondering, why have such a contest? This is not a contest for the best carver. This contest is to provide answers to questions many carvers ask themselves and others, as they attempt to advance themselves.

Perhaps, we could shed some light on a few of the hidden marketing mysteries. Such as, why are some carvers of equal talent successful and some not. What we do know is that success happens when opportunity meets preparation.

Some business people still believe that success is "location, location, location". From this theory, they came up with the misguided idea that the location should be across from a Holiday Inn.

One thing we do know for sure, is that pin point targeted marketing does not work well, regardless of research and experience. We also know, that being on four major TV networks and in four major newspapers in the same month, might not add to your income. As a matter of fact, a super scam-artist might seek you out and cost you thirty thousand. If I ever get over the embarrassment, I will write about this incident and title it 1-800 April Fools.

We know that better work sells faster and for more money, in the same market place. We also know that extremely poor work, sells for big money where people have never seen good work.

TRIVIA FROM HAL

The appearance of Bob Draper, on the old TV show, That's Incredible, was probably the most viewed TV appearance ever made by a chain saw carver.

Ray Murphy's appearance, next to then president Ronald Reagan, in the widely syndicated "Ripley's Believe it or Not", probably was the most widely read accomplishment of a chainsaw carver.

To the best of my knowledge, Dennis Roghair holds two records for 100% pure chain saw carvings. A small 45 minute walnut bear sold for \$1000 as soon as his saw shut off. One of his large carvings came to \$22,500

The best that I have ever done was \$5000 plus expenses and perks, for a four day carving.

As far as I can tell, from all the information I have, Don Etue of Ocean Shores, WA has won the most chain saw carving contest in the country. Dennis Beach has won the most contest in the North East.

Hal MacIntosh has included a weather report in More chainsaw carving articles than anyone in the world.

A few things we will never know is, who created the most worthwhile carving in a given year. Or who earned the most money.

Now lets concentrate on what we do know and what we're going to know from the Chainsaw Carvers Best Shop contest.

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

No expensive, time consuming traveling required. Mail in photos of the interior and exterior of your shop and a photo copy of a map to your location.

First place winner will receive...

\$1000 cash - a 12 inch dime tip carving bar - a 50 Gauge 1/4 pitch saw chain and sprocket from Timbercrafts. A Jonsered Pro 35 chain saw from Tilton Equipment Co. A 25 feet of 3/8" pitch magnachisel saw chain in your choice of 50, 58, or 63 gauge from Carlton saw chain co.

Other prizes will include, cash, saw chain, safety equipment and tools.

Winners will be notified, August 15, 1996.

Send your entries to Timbercrafts, RT 214, Lanesville, NY 12450, Phone 914/ 688-7875, FAX 914/ 688-5873. Watch for the: "Best Shop" photos in the "Cutting Edge"



This is a photo of Carl's Wood Art Museum located West of Eagle River, Wisconsin

Results of the Seymour Carving Contest in Victoria, Australia

By Kevin Gilders

Seymour '96 has come and gone and the two day chainsaw carving contest can be seen in hindsight as a learning experience for carvers and sponsors alike.

Seven carvers took part in competition for Stihl products, with a one hour speed carving contest and a nine hour masterpiece competition.

Most heartening was the interaction between competitors: the sharing of gear and the tips given by the experienced carvers to the novices.

The site, with a wide frontage and shaded by trees, ensured comfort and clear viewing for the large and constant crowd.

There is room for improvement in areas such as signage and some tabling, but sponsors were happy enough with the entertainment value and quality of the work, so consider making this an annual event.

Winner of the speed carving was John Brady with his cattle dog.

John also won the major contest with his carving of Australian country and western singer Slim Dusty. Second was Rod Sheehan and third Kevin Gilders.

We are already looking forward to an enlarged and improved competition for 1997.



1st Place John Brady



3rd Place Kevin Gilders

A PRICE TAG ON YOUR CARVINGSSS

By: Bill Plant

I have been very interested about what to charge for my chainsaw carvings, for good reasons.... (1) I would like to get paid for my work and my ability. (2) I like to hear people say, "You did a good job" "I love it" "I want to own it" So it comes to money and praise.

When I first started carving, (about 4 years ago), I figured I should get paid as much for carvings as I made for climbing trees and trimming or removing them. I made \$600 per day. I figured if I carved for one day I should make \$600...Right? No wrong! That didn't work because I wasn't good enough or fast enough at carving.

I talked to Hal Macintosh, you know, the guy who carves the ugly bear. Hal said "If you buy my book for \$50, you'll find out how much to charge. So I paid the \$50, read his book and now I should know how much to charge for my carvings... Right? No wrong! Hal has good ideas in his book like "If you have an eight foot log, you, can make two- four foot ugly bears, at let's say, \$200 per bear. Then you must get at least \$400 for whatever you carve from the log. The book actually may put the words and the prices different. I don't have the book anymore. I gave it to a carver in Florida.

Another carver may say to charge by the foot. If you have an eight foot log, whatever you charge should total \$800. If you charge \$100 per foot (or \$1200 if you charge \$150 per foot). Your carvings should cost more if they are stained, painted and finished beyond the chainsaw stage. How much more? It could be time and materials or you could just pick a price that you feel like charging. (Some carvers don't want to sell a carving because they put so much work into it, and it looks so good, etc, etc.) They put a high price on it, thinking no one will buy it. If the people who look at your carvings really want to own them and if they have enough money on them they will probably buy it. If you take mastercard or checks, it will get more carvings sold. But it may cost you more in the long run.

The price tag on your carvings will be up to you. It will depend on the area around you. Are there alot of other carvers in your area selling for a lot less money??? do you want a high turn over of your carvings???

Did I hit on the way you price? If you have better ways please write them to "The Cutting Edge" I'm still interested about what to charge for my chainsaw carvings..

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Stihl <i>Chainsaws</i>	1-800 43 Sthil
Van Dyke's <i>Taxidermy supplies, eyes, etc.</i>	1-800 843-3320
MSC <i>Industrial Supply Co. Catalogue</i>	1-800-645-7270
Master of the Chainsaw <i>Talent Agency</i>	1-800-901-7467
Non 800 Numbers but still very useful	
Standard Abrasives <i>All kinds of sanding stuff, including sanding cones.</i>	1-818 718-7070

Class Available

"Sculpture With A Chainsaw"

Date: Oct. 8-12, five days 1996

Artist: Pat McVay

Medium: Wood and power tools

Skill: Novice to professional in good physical condition

Tuition: \$615 includes wood, use of some tools and lunch

Limit: 15 students

Course Description:

Students will view a slide and video show on the history of chainsaw woodcarving. Then they will participate in an energetic sculpture process. Two instructors insure plenty of personal attention, from selecting raw wood to the finished project.

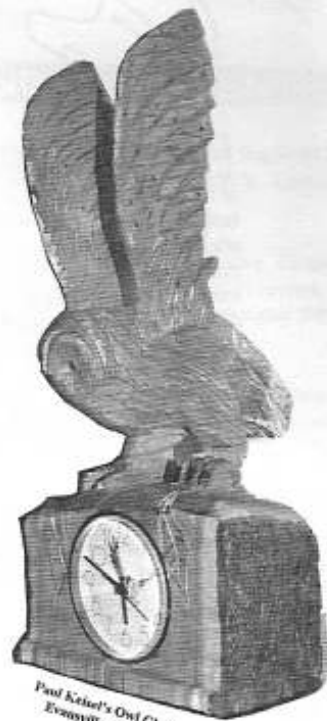
Tools will be available for purchase, or for use, at no extra cost. Instruction will be on safety, roughing out, detail and finishing techniques, repairs, milling lumber, carved furniture, bas relief, 3-dimensional and sign carving. Students will be able to complete two or three small projects during the class. They will also have the opportunity to experience working on a large group project from start to finish. There will be plenty of new experiences for everyone in this exciting class, whether you are a novice just starting out or a professional trying to learn valuable new techniques.

A supply list and "where to purchase" information will be provided for enrolling students.

To enroll Please contact: Joseph Art School, PO Box 106, Joseph, Oregon 97846, 1-800-459-3605



Michael's Thomas 2nd Carving
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Paul Kettel's Owl Clock
Evansville, Indiana



Pat McVay
moving his whale



Advice from Pat Jerownback

I can't help but wonder at the circumstances surrounding the gush of creativity that resulted in the name, "The Cutting Edge". It might have been at one of your guild meetings, perhaps during a Washington rain storm, after you had just finished brainstorming ways to keep wood there from cracking during the three week dry season. A late arrival to the meeting stumbles in, dripping wet and comments on a good place to get a haircut. All three of you spontaneously erupt with the name and it sticks!

I gave a moment of thought to having the subscribers write in with their ideas for names, but quickly gave up on that idea. All you have to do is look at the names of the competitions! Especially the five man "Washington Hacker" specials that seem to pop up like guild meetings. A craftily devised scheme for coming up with another idea for a \$20 bear. Each one of them named the "International" something. After you win three of them you automatically become the worlds best carver and eligible for free Poulan saws.

Speaking of worlds best carvers, I received a question from an struggling kindred spirit out there.

Dear Pat Jerownback,

I have been carving for about a year, and my bears keep coming out looking like pigs. Any suggestions?

*C. Butz
Cochon, Alabama*

Well, its not as though your problem is unusual by any means. Although I never had to deal with it, because I decided to go right into carving pigs first. Actually that's how alot of those carvers in Washington got started with that problem. It was years ago when I was carving a pig for a farm show up there somewhere when I was converged on by a group of cordwood dealers with cameras. The next thing you know there was all these carving stores up there with pigs that looked like bears. Of course none of the hackers wanted to admit that they couldn't do a pig so they started calling them bears. The next thing you know, the competitions started.

Anyway back to your problem. By the way A.J. Lutter didn't give you lessons did he? OK, after a year, eh? I'm afraid if its gone on this long, it might be a little difficult to break the habit. At least you're concerned about it. That's a start...You might want to try drawing bears. Maybe go to a zoo and look at them. You know, it isn't the end of the world if you can't do bears. There is a guy in up state New York that had a novel approach to the problem. He opened up a store in an area where pigs sell really well and I understand that he is quite successful. I think he actually has a video out on how to do the \$20 pig! He's probably a member of the guild if you need to get in touch with him.

That was a pretty interesting article on the Westport Competition in "Chip Chats". Now there's a guy thats successful, Don Etue! I understand he showed up in a Limo to the competition. It must have been quite a blow to him, coming in third place.

I guess Pat McVay and Jessie Groeschel got invited to give lessons at some five day art class in Oregon. For Pay! I can see the future now, a whole new group of carvers show up at the five MAN HACKERS COMPETITION carving toasters and arguing about whether or not marbles are legal. All that rain there probably has an effect over a long period of time!

I wonder if they might be interested in donating some of their time to a twelve step program in case there are hackers looking for a way out!

A Note From Our New Secretary

President Steve and myself have brought back the year long point championships. It will be based on a point a dollar basis.

The amount of money won by a person shall be the amount of points the person receives. Also if there is a min carving contest/auction, the amount of money the piece goes for is the amount of points the person receives.

The carving competition must be advertise thru the Guild and the Cutting Edge. The coordinator of the show will send the \$25.00 contest fee to the Cutting Edge and a copy of the results of the main contest and mini contest if available, along with the address and zip of the carvers. Until the the contest fee is sent in, the points will not be posted.

This is a little different way of doing it compared to the last time. We hope and feel this will work and bring some excitement back into it. This will cover all shows being held everywhere. Good luck and have fun. We also still have to figure out what the top point winner gets. Send your suggestions to the "Cutting Edge".

Todd Foreman

Minutes from meeting of Nov. 11, 1995

Members present: Steve Backus, Dan Whited, Todd Whited, Jessie Groeschel, Pat McVay, Layton Kiblinger, Todd Foreman, Susan Miller

Elected new secretary, Todd Foreman, nominated by Steve Backus, seconded by Dan Whited and voted yes by everyone in attendance

Treasure's report from Susan Miller. The month to month balance is a \$3000 average. Susan says that a safe amount to have. Pat was wondering about the prize money from the Westport mini contests. Susan had a copy of expense report for 1995. Copy was available for all to read at meeting. Dan accepted treasure's report as read and seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve brings up issue of paying \$50 to everyone showing up at contest. Proposal, no guarantee to give \$50 to everyone for showing up at a contest. Seconded and accepted

Susan reports that the CCSG is a non profit non tax exempt corporation,

There was no minutes reported from last meeting.

Vote on elections annually at yearly meeting by the people who are present at meeting. Plan meeting yearly at the Puyallup wood carving show in November.

Future carving events sanctioned by the guild, \$25 goes to the guild.

Proposal to give Susan Miller \$25 a month for treasure's expenses.

Meeting ended at 5:00 due to the fact that carvers needed to get their stuff out of the fairgrounds

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Cascade Chain Saw Sculptors' Guild was founded in 1986 with the purpose of promoting public and private awareness of chainsaw work as an art form, provide trade information and to invite a collaboration of energy among members. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 (U.S. Funds). Dues money pays for the bi-monthly newsletter The Cutting Edge, other mailings, and expenses of the CCSG.

Dues are collected in January for the current year. To join, please return this form, \$20.00, check or money order, payable to the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild

NEW MEMBER RENEW

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

To help us get to know you please complete the following:

Date: _____

YEARS SCULPTING WITH SAW? _____

TYPE OF SCULPTURE USUALLY DONE? _____ LOG _____ USUAL LOG SIZE _____

MY BEST TYPES OF WORK ARE _____

YOU ARE: ___ FULL TIME CARVER ___ PART TIME CARVER ___ NOVICE ___ FAN of the ARTFORM

REMARKS/COMMENTS: _____

Please return to: The Cutting Edge, 7371 S. Holst Rd., Clinton, WA 98236



Buzz Brother BOB CONTEST AT
Discovery BAY, WA March 30-31