

THE CUTTING EDGE

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Ivan Neaigus of Whidbey Island, Wa completes a sculpture made of forest clear cut wedges.

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Information and application form.



Mother and Child by Sasha Stefanov. This carving was unveiled at the Sequim contest. Details, pages 6-7.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another newsletter, hooray for us! I hope the wind is to your back and your coat is long enough to cover your butt. Nice weather out here in the great state of Washington, just great, an early spring helps the soul.

As of late, I've been asked what motivates me to be involved in contests. I've got something like 93 under my belt, or notches on my chainsaw, if you prefer. First, let me say that any carver who lives in the stark black and white humorless world of strict financial gain, stop now! Read no further, it won't help you to understand. As for the rest of the guys and gals, I'll tell ya, by 1990 when our Guild was much smaller I had carved in over 30 contests. To go through all the BS to get there, just so you could sleep in your truck, be at it early, carve like a madman all day, sleep in your truck again, carve all day again, not sell anything, lose, and go home broke, well "duh" something had to give. Carvers had to get something, I mean "heck", we were the show. So, when I ran into Jim McBroom at the Coho motel in Westport, WA on that fateful July Day in 1990 and he asked what it would take to have a contest, I said "wood, carvers and prize money".

We had seven carvers, nice wood and we split the prize money evenly. (In fact we split the prize money evenly between all carvers for the first three years)

I was the spearhead for sure (or lightning rod would be more appropriate). But I had a chance to do it right and by golly do it right and proper from the get go!! And as they say, "opportunity meeting preparation equals good luck". I had sat around a campfire or truck hood with carvers enough times and listened to the pissing and moaning and crying and did my fair share, too, I might add. Westport got rolling and I did everything within my power to make it happen. I'll tell you, I didn't quit high school to organize very large international sculpture contests, but it happened along the way!

Our club and the newsletter put the word out to the world of carvers, and the town of Westport has come through year after year. It is the perfect location for this show. Many contests have started and died here in the Northwest and in other parts of the country, it seems three years are the life cycle's. If they make it past that mark, there is a good chance they will survive.

As for my motivation, I figured that if you did the best you could and didn't give in to the cynics, well there you go, don't give up. A good contest is not just show up, carve, then leave. If done properly it is a chance to expand your carving world, to network, to sell your work, to make something real cool and push your limits, to learn how to utilize your saw as efficiently as is possible and give of yourself, to make something happen. The pay back will always be good, financially, spiritually, and morally. So, get off your butt and do a contest! If for no other reason then you did it instead of talking about it. Anyone can flap their jaws! Bye Bye.

Steve Backus

LETTERS

RENEWALS

Hope everyone is doing fine. Keep up the good work. My elbows have been giving out! Hope they hold up or at 15 years of carving, that may be it.

John Peralta
Olaia, WA

EDITORS NOTE:

Tendinitis? Sore elbows? Try extra supplements of vitamin B complex. Some have had great success, after just a few day the pain goes away or is greatly reduced.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

I entered my first competition, September 1997, Michigans 1st chainsaw carving competition. After 3 month experience, I placed 6th, half of a point off 5th place, out of 19 carvers, 100% chainsaw work. This year I'll be entering 3 Michigan competitions and aiming for 1st place.

Joel Ostrander
Oscada, MI

EDITORS NOTE:

Joel, congratulations on such a fine performance, for your first contest.

This is the first I've heard of the Michigan contest, if anyone has any photos and information, please send it in. Also, I would like the dates and information of the three other Michigan competitions, if anyone has them.

NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Chris Westwood | Tukwila, Washington |
| Joel Ostrander | Oscada, Michigan |
| Robert Pierce | Crescent City, California |
| Phillip Finton | Belfair Washington |

The Cutting Edge is published bimonthly by the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, a Washington State, independent nonprofit organization devoted to the advance of chainsaw and power sculpture. Activities of the CCSG include sculpture contests and shows, *The Cutting Edge* newsletter, and various other member services. Membership is \$20.00 a year and open to all.

The Cutting Edge
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email groesch@whidbey.com

Crucifix

Ivan Neaigus
Langley, WA



Wood assemblage, Height 108",
Width 53", Depth 12".

To be crucified is one of the most painful means of execution created by the human race. It is also a symbol of hope in that suffering can give us the insight to compassion, and extend to each other acceptance, tolerance, and understanding. The Crucifix can be a symbol of truth in that war, starvation, and suffering will no longer be tolerated by the human race. Perhaps, it is unrealistic to consider such ideals, and that such changes are possible. I hope that this work can reach out and help others understand that the CRUCIFIX is a symbol of hope, optimism, peace, and a more loving world.

UPDATE: The work was purchased by donations of the congregation of the Lutheran Church in Freeland, WA. With the help of the owner of the property, Debra Waterman, seedlings were planted, and the land is recovering. The schools are presently the custodians of the land, and I am happy to report that the land is looking good and is receiving much tender loving care (TLC).

The symbol of the crucifix appeared to me during the time I was making a series of sculptures made of wedges that are chain sawed when trees are felled. After always having lived in big cities, I had moved to Whidbey Island, WA in 1984 to a property that was surrounded by trees. When I first moved to the island, each morning, I would thank the trees for their relationship I felt with my environment. I heard the sound of chain sawing. Upon my enquiry I found that 40 acres was in the process of being clearcut. Needless to say I felt invaded and helpless to change the damage and hurt that was done to the trees and surrounding nature. After the dust had settled I gathered in the wedges and began a series of five sculptures, one being the CRUCIFIX.

The Crucifix to me is a symbol of suffering.

Saw Dust & Sand at Ocean Shores, June 27 & 28

Ready for a little Carving Cross Pollination? Ocean Shores has added Chainsaw Carving to their Sand Sculpture Contest weekend. Ocean Shores will be having a first time chainsaw carving exhibition at the Ocean Shores convention center. Artists may bring finished work for sale and may sell or keep all work done at the exhibition. A carvers auction will be held.

Ocean Shores is the host of the North West Sand Sculpture Open, featuring the winners of the Cannon Beach, Longbeach, Portland and Wenatchee Contest. Chainsaw carving seemed a natural compliment to the sand sculpture contest. I figured that folks that like sand sculpture will also like chainsaw carving as well.

Ocean Shores will provide some wood, hotel rooms (Fri. & Sat night) and show up \$\$ provided, but these are limited. (Think Westport in it's first year). If you'd like to attend please call to reserve you space. If you'd like to try your hand at the sand sculpture competition, it starts at 8 AM on Saturday, with a \$1000 prize for 1st place.

Interested artists please contact:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Bert Adams | 360/574-2378 | SandSculpt@transport.com |
| Pat McVay | 360/ 579-7811 | |
| Steve Backus | 360/579-3574 | |



Sand Sculpture

Stihls' Australian National Chainsaw Carving Competition

*Kevin Gilders
North Clayton, Victoria, Australia*

Our 4th competition produced a rising standard and good variety of work by 9 carvers from across Australia. Once again the chainsaw carving was a huge attraction at the Alternative Farming Expo and sponsor satisfaction would seem to indicate long term continued involvement.

The masterpiece 9 hour carving was won by portrait specialist John Brady (his 4th title) with a lifelike carving of Australian cricket great, Sir Don Bradman.

Second place Kevin Gilders decided against going "head to head" with John by hiding his subjects face behind a pile of boxes.

Rob Sheehan placed third with a wildlife scene of fur and feathers.

Best Novice carver was won by Norberto Sacramento, an Ice Carver at his first attempt at this new medium of timber. His eagle carving showed a bold dramatic style and he is certain to improve his standing with experience.

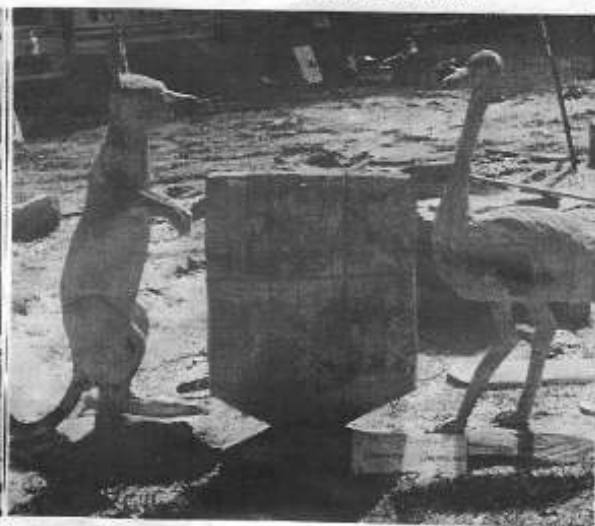
Other subjects carved were the Australian coat of arms by BJ Gentry, a John Deere tractor by John Mangan, a love Seat by Professor David Hay and 2 of the 3 wise monkeys by our lady carver Angela Palglaze.



Kevin Gilders helps out a buddy.



John Brady with cricket great, Don Bradman.



Coat of arms by B.J. Gentry.

Organizing Yourself

Grace Dowling
Hesperia, CA

Hello fellow carvers! I thought I'd write on the subject of making money. I don't know about you guys, but I often struggle with paying the bills, especially from January to about now. Maybe I'm still too amateur, but a few kindly carvers have shared some of their secrets of success with me along the way...

Hal MacIntosh of upstate New York, "get a FAX machine, they're invaluable." Well, I finally got one, and its paid for itself several times over in the first few months. I also use it for making copies of sketches I've done for customers. I can take the copies outside and tack them up to view for reference. From R.L. Blair in California, "just keep plugging away and your carvings will improve, it also helps to learn to draw well." From A.J. Lutter, "aim high, put all that you've got into it, (and don't be afraid to hit a wall)." A little side note here, A.J. is now the proud owner of what was formerly Larry Jensen's shop up in Brainerd, Minn. We all wish you great success!

I learned about carving palm wood from a fellow carver down in the Palm Springs area, who also shared this tid bit about carver, Steve Blanchard, Steve can write! He co-authored a song with David and Khal Keeler and is now working on a motion picture screen play that involves a carver in the story, and may possibly be produced by Disney pictures. Alright Steve! Hey Blanchard, how about sharing some pointers for us newsletter fans?

Jerry & Harriet Muir, thanks for the encouragement and spiritual counseling. I think its really special that Jesus worked with and carved wood too. God doesn't close one door without opening another, you just have to look for it.

As for some more helps; soon after buying my truck, I'd gotten a couple of vinyl magnetic signs for the doors. People have called me that saw me doing carvings in front of cabins and going down the freeway, plus it gives you a more professional appearance. Don't skimp on important things like having a phone, answering machine and business cards. I've also been learning not to price things too low (people will think there's something wrong with your carvings). Take a little care with your personal appearance as well as your setting. Smile and be jovial. You will find that people buy from you because... 1. They like the carvings. 2. They like the carver. 3. You have confidence in your talent, so they do too. (You're selling the artist as well as the art.)

It happened that a business owner up at Lake Arrowhead said to me to hurry up and catch this lady customer because she'd said that she wanted something carved for one of her houses. She and I chatted in the parking lot for 15-20 minutes. She looked familiar but I never asked her about it. Well, in the course of conversation she mentioned what she really wanted was some sort of sign with the family name on it. I didn't think that I was capable, so, I referred her to another carver. Later, I went back into the store and the owner asked me how I did. I told him that I referred her to another carver/sign maker. He looked at me like I was nuts, "you told Lisa Marie Presley to go to someone else!?" Oh, I guess I don't watch enough TV. Anyhow, the moral of this sad, but true story is to be confident in your abilities. You can always enlist help later, if needed. I should've said "Sure, I can do that!" And so should you. Well I hope this helped somebody. God bless you all, your friend Grace,
PS. Are there any good carvers in Utah? Please contact me about some work there, Call Woodlot Whimsey, 760/ 244-0147.



Grace carving the top figure of her contest piece at Westport, 1997.

Results from the 6th Annual Mothers Day Contest held in Sequim, WA

Over twelve carvers participated in the Sequim annual event held in conjunction with the Irrigation Festival.

This years winner, Sasha Safanov for his hand with a baby. 2nd went to Clint Whitbeck of Poulsbo, WA for his seals. 3rd, John Peralta, Olalla, WA, bunny rabbits, 4th, David Whitbeck, Poulsbo, WA, bears.

The contest was held in the Safeway parking lot. Next year the contest will be held with the two day logging show. Sponsorship was by local businesses. Also there might be another Sequim contest held later in the summer, 1999. See ya next year!



1st Place: Sasha Safanov



4th Place, David Whitbeck



2nd Place, Clint Whitbeck



3rd place finisher, John Peralta shows us humor and some cutiness with his acrobatic rabbits.



Dennis Chastain of Forks resting his hand on his graceful entry.



David Westburg of Kirkland, Washington puts the finishing touches on his intertwining whales.

The Cutting Edge

A stylized graphic of a chain bar with a circular end on the left and a circular end on the right. The text "CHAIN BAR REPAIRING" is written in a bold, sans-serif font across the center of the bar.

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INTERNATIONAL WOOD SCULPTURE COMPETITION

WESTPORT 98

The BIGGEST and most PRESTIGIOUS carving contest in the world!!!



The 9th annual International Wood Sculpture Competition at Westport, Wa, will happen on July 30, 31, Aug. 1,2...

TIME: The carvers will have 20 hours spread over 4 days to carve wood that can be up to 3 feet in diameter and 7 feet long. But it's your choice on the size you want. Bite off as much as you can chew ... with your tools that is! All types of tools accepted. The theme is nautical. The sculpture is yours to keep at the end of the contest!

WOOD: Sitka Spruce **ENTRY FEE:** The 45 minute quick carve contest held each day. Or donate a small carving to the auction each day or pay \$50 each day. The donated carving cannot be counted towards the quick carve prizes.

PRIZE MONEY: Judges Vote: 1st: \$2500 and Stihl chainsaw, 2nd: \$1000, 3rd: \$600, 4th: \$500, 5TH: \$350, 6th: \$300, 7th: \$250, 8th: \$200, 9th: \$150, 10th: \$100. **Peoples Choice:** 1st: \$300, **Novice Division,** \$200 plus a Stihl chainsaw. **Quick Carve** contest each day. 1st Place, \$250 plus a chainsaw, 2nd place \$100, 3rd \$75. The quick carve contest on Saturday, the 1st prize will be \$500 sponsored by Cowboy Bob's Restaurant.

SIGNING UP and MORE INFO: Please contact Steve Backus, 360/ 579-3574, to let him know you are coming or send in your entry form. If you would like to be in the Program please send in your entry form and bio with a photograph by July 1 1998. Also tool companies, wood product sellers, galleries owners, etc, The program book is a good time to advertise. Ad Prices, Full page, \$100, 1/2 page, \$50, 1/4 page, \$30, Business Card, \$20, Contact Pat Mcvay if you would like to put an ad in, 360/ 579-7811. Deadline July 1, 1998.

NEW: FOR THE 1ST TIME!!!! This year there will be a Womans Division: Please contact Judy McVay for more info. 360/ 289-0908.

Mail entry forms to: CCSG, 8110 Scatchet Head Road, Clinton, WA 98236. Deadline for program is July 1, 1998.

NAME: _____ DIVISION, PRO _____ NOVICE _____ WOMANS _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # _____

DO YOU WANT YOUR ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE # TO BE LISTED IN THE PROGRAM: YES: _____ NO: _____

WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW WHAT YOU WANT TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM (ABOUT YOURSELF and YOUR WORK). PLEASE SEND PHOTO AS WELL. ATTACH ANOTHER SHEET IF NECESSARY.

Blank space for writing a bio and attaching a photo.

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<http://www.buyused.com> catalogs more than 50,000 items for sale by dealers of used machinery and equipment. There's also information on more than 5,000 "secondary market" dealers.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: If a woman artist has had one solo exhibition she is qualified to be included in the NMWA Library and Research Center's Archives on Women Artists. It is used by art historians, artists, students and museum staff. A \$10 fee is required to establish a file. Call 202/ 783-5000.

Air Powered Stone Carving Sets: Everything you need to get started at a special kit price of \$375. Trow and Holden Co. 800/ 451-4349.

Sculpture Northwest: is published bimonthly by the Northwest Stone Sculptors Association, a Washington State nonprofit professional organization. Membership is \$40/yr. Newsletter subscriptions only \$20 425/ 778-6162.

Standard Abrasives All kinds of sanding stuff, including sanding cones, 1-818-718-7070

OPPORTUNITIES

ON-LINE link to art collectors worldwide. For more information call Artspeaks at 1-800-222-0402.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: The Seattle Arts Commission is seeking artist for four new public art projects. The projects include a commissioned artwork at the City's new Water Quality Lab; a commissioned work at the park at 59th and Phinney and more. All have various budgets, deadlines, and eligibility. For prospectus call Seattle Arts Commission at 206/ 684-7171.

BETTY BOWEN AWARDS: Jury awards for emerging 2 & 3-D artist in WA, OR, ID. Send slides of 6 pieces, mask background to Vicki H., SAM, POB 22000, Seattle, WA 98122. Deadline, Unclear.

PUBLICATIONS

Allied Arts of Whatcom County Newsletter 360/ 676-8548

Arts Council of Snohomish County's, Washington State, *Opportunities for Artists*, 206/ 259-0380

Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council's *Art News* 206/ 842-0365, Washington State.

WoodWorker West, A bi-monthly publication to promote craftsmanship in woodworking throughout the Western U.S. 310/ 398-5831, email: editor@woodwest.com

Chip chats, National Woodcarvers magazine \$11 a year. PO Box 43218, Cincinnati, OH 45243.

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Stihl Chainsaws 7-800-43 STIHL

King Arthur's Tools Chainsaw carving tools, attachments for grinders 1-800-942-1300

Lab Safety & Supply Safety Equipment 1-800-356-0783

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Van Dyke's Taxidermy supplies, eyes, etc. 1-800-843-3320

MISC Industrial Supply Catalog 1-800-845-7270

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Robert Guinn manufactures custo

Hawkins Bros. Service Center Poulan, Homelite, Husqvarna, 573-588-4731, Days, 573-963-2441, Evenings

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE USE OF COMPUTER: Seattle, Artist Trust offers artists free use of their new Mac computer and printer. Call Christina for an appointment at 206/ 467-8734.

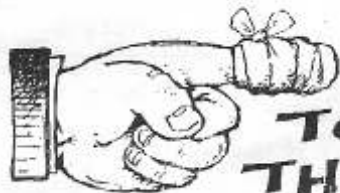
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**JUNE**

June 6, Carving festival at Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Don or April Etue, 360/ 537-6850.

Iisalmi, Finland Chainsaw Carving contest. 12th Annual. Two Day event. Contact Harri Leinola, Iisalmi City Tourist Office, Kauppakatu 22, 74100 Iisalmi, Finland, Tel 358-17-8301-223, FAX, 358-17-826-760, email harri.leinola@iisalmi.fi

JULY/AUGUST

July 30, 31, Aug. 1&2 The 9th International WoodCarving Contest, The Big One! at Westport, Washington. Contact Steve Backus 360/ 579-3574. \$6500 in prize money.

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New Member ___ Renewal ___ Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____
City, State, Zip _____

To get to know you please complete the following:

Years sculpting with a saw? _____ Type of wood and size: _____

My best types of work are: _____

You are: Full time carver _____ Part time carver _____ Novice _____ Fan of the artform _____

Remarks/Comments _____

Sawdust in my eyes... An observation

Recently, I had the pleasure of sharing a booth at the Portland Log Home show with guild members Pat McVay, Susan Miller and Kerry Hargand (Great show guys!)

There were several carvers at the show, some carving, some displaying and selling. While walking thru the displays, I approached one booth and introduced myself and had a brief conversation with a carvers wife. At the end of the conversation she said something that astounded me. Her husband was the only talented carver there and all the others were just hackers. At this I turned and said "have a nice day" and left.

I thought about her statement for a while and it occurred to me that the beauty of carving was in the enjoyment it would bring, whether the enjoyment was the carver doing the piece, the observer watching it be created, or the person purchasing that piece. (Not to mention the carvers joy at selling it)

To that end I say "Carve on Dudes", and enjoy yourselves. Hopefully, that woman, will look at others work with a new perspective.

Bill Davenport
Chain Bar Repairing
Portland, Oregon



Kerry Hargand, Mt. St. Helens, WA, one of the participants in the World of Log Homes show held in Portland, OR.

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New Member, RE Pierce of Crescent City, CA, sent us this photo of one of his sculptures.

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Next issue, June
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Patrick McVay 360/ 579-7811.