

# THE CUTTING EDGE

Since 1993

## IN THIS ISSUE:

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 White Pass

OOPS! Last month I didn't credit John Birch, of Tallahassee, FL, for his photo of a large stump carving of a train. Sorry, John.

## Thanks for Support

New and Renewing Members  
 Chain Bar Repairing  
 Baileys  
 GB Bars  
 Timbercrafts  
 City of Reedsport

VOLUME VIII ISSUE 2

APRIL 2001

**??? RENO ???**  
 Feather says his contest depends on whether he can get wood to Reno  
**Call him at 707 464-2250**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 2001

Listings in this calendar are free and offered for your information. Listings on this page do not imply endorsement of Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild. To list an event, contact [susanm@huppi.com](mailto:susanm@huppi.com) or (503) 755-2508. Or write Susan Miller, 71233 Hwy 47, Mist, OR 97016 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### May 12, Sequim, WA.

Exhibition/Competition  
 Steve Backus at (360) 579-3574  
 4524 Glendale Rd. Clinton WA 98236

### May 10-13, Reno, Nev.

Carving for Kids  
 Call Feather at (707) 464-2250  
 840 Hwy 101 S., Crescent City, CA 95531

### May 25-28, Ocean City, WA

Carving Event and Auction  
 Call Boaz Backus at (360) 289-3273  
 PO Box 271, Copalis, WA 98535

### May 26-27 Ocean Shores, WA

Sand sculpture Competition  
 Call Bert Adams at (360) 574-2378

### June 15-17, Reedsport, OR

Tidewaters and Time, Competition  
 Call Bob King at (253) 845-2115  
 THIS CONTEST DONATED \$1170.00 TO THE CUTTING EDGE LAST YEAR.

### June 9, Ocean Shores, WA

Carving get together and picnic  
 Call Don Etue at 360 537-6850  
 737 SR 108, Ocean Shores, WA

### June 22-24 Ocean Shores, WA

Story/Totem Pole Competition  
 Call Steve Backus at (360) 579-3574

### June 1-3, Kalispel, MT

Contest, Mystical Theme  
 Call Rick Boswell at (406) 295-9139  
[Boswell@fjby.com](mailto:Boswell@fjby.com)

**CANCELLED**

### July 2-5, Sedro Woolley, WA

Loggerdeo, limited spaces available  
 Call Rocky MacArthur at (360) 856-1476

### July 4-7, Ocean City WA

Carving event and Auction  
 Call Boaz Backus at (360) 289-3273

### July 6-7, Iisalmi, Finland

Chainsaw Carving  
 Hart Leinola, Iisalmi Stadsfestsburo  
 Kauppakatu 22, Finland

### July 7, Castle Rock, WA

Mountain Maria Days  
 Call Kerry Hargand (360) 425-5924  
 1413 S. 4<sup>th</sup>, Kelso, WA 98626

### Aug. 2-5, Westport, WA

12<sup>th</sup> Annual International  
 Chainsaw Carving Contest,  
 THE BIG ONE!  
 Call Steve Backus at (360) 579-3574  
 THIS CONTEST DONATED \$1000.00 TO THE CUTTING EDGE LAST YEAR.

### Oct. 11-14, Crescent City, CA

Carving for Kids  
 Call Feather at (707) 464-2250

### Oct. 12-13, Clarksville, Tx

Octoberfest Contest  
 Call Robert Gwinn, 1-800-814-4591  
 300 E. College Ave., Clarksville, TX 75402

### Oct. 18-21, Ft. Bragg, CA

Northern California Chainsaw Sculpture  
 Championship Competition  
 Call Nyal Thomas at 541-997-9295

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you can see by looking at the calendar, there is a lot going on this summer for carvers. Contests can be great fun, with opportunities to really push yourself to excel, and to make some good contacts.

Talk to anyone who puts on an event, and you'll hear that it's a huge amount of work. Getting good wood, working with city governments and all their rules, finding qualified judges, and trying to do right by the carvers, are just a few of the things that have to be taken care of.

In this issue, one judge tells of his experience judging a contest. Looks like that isn't as easy as it could be either.

If you compete in contests this year and bring home some money or trophies, congratulations. If you don't, I hope you come home a winner anyway, with new friends, new knowledge and ideas, and renewed enthusiasm for the art of chainsaw sculpture.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Donald Beckett,	Gary Elzerman
Billy Reynolds	Paul O. Carlson
Bill's Cabinetry	Todd Schory
Travis Van Leuvan,	Tom Taubel
Merle Porter,	Daniel Weatherhead
Chuck Reynolds,	Scott Brady
John Martinez,	Kelly & Gina Piper
Ronald Jager,	Don Etue
Daniel York,	Roger Carlson

## FROM A JUDGE'S POINT OF VIEW

Liz hands me an invitation to be on the judge's panel for the First Annual Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Sculpting Championships, in Reedsport, Oregon, and I accept.

As the event draws near, I read about the judged competition more closely. The prize money is substantial, and there are professional and novice classes. I sense that there may be more to this judging thing than I originally thought!

There's the judging criteria: No restriction on whether the piece is realistic, stylized, or abstract. Judging shall be based on theme, degree of difficulty, craftsmanship, design, and stage of completion. I read that judges must choose their favorite sculptures from 1 through 10 in Professional Class and 1 through 5 in Novice.

I learn that we will be available to discuss our decisions with contestants and that our choices will be posted for all to view. Enter that hollow feeling in mid-stomach: who am I to judge? What if someone is unhappy? Maybe I better fill the truck's gas tank and keep it idling nearby so I can make a fast getaway!

On the day of reckoning, I arrive an hour early for the orientation with an experienced chainsaw art judge- and hear what sounds like a zillion bees at work in a field of wild flowers. By noon, I'm off and running, clipboard in hand, plugs in ears, and a positive, "go get 'em attitude. 27 contestants to judge in two hours. "Piece of Cake," I think.

I climb over the pink safety ribbon like a matador entering the bull ring. Then I see the gaze of the crowd's collective eye shift from watching the carvers to scrutinizing me, and my already diminutive 5'7" frame shrinks just a little in stature.

Minutes into the first evaluation, without warning, a horn blasts. It is time for the quick carve event. Cedar chips fly, dust fills my nostrils, and my earplugs are useless. Adding to the pressure are the notes tacked to some of the works in which carvers explain why certain aspects of the criteria weren't met; e.g. "I purposely didn't finish this part because I wanted to leave something to the viewer's imagination." How am I supposed to incorporate these caveats into the mix?

Moving briskly, I look for that special something that separates the winning wheat from the chaff. Some of the carvers, chainsaws in hand, running at maximum RPMs, break to ask if I have questions about their work. "NO! NO QUESTIONS! GREAT WORK! NICE PIECE!" I holler, and hightail it on to the next one.

Suddenly, it seems, the clock strikes two, and blessed silence. It's over. I locate my fellow judges, and we ask each other how it went: "Hey, that was a lot more difficult than I thought." "Yeah, I must have gone around 20 times."

Even one experienced judge agrees: "I've been carving for 17 years, and that's the hardest thing I've ever had to do."

We turn in our score sheets, the numbers are tallied, and the award presentation begins. I feel good that I did the best judging of my life- the only judging.

On my way out, I pass the area of an out-of-town carver who had continued working long after the 17-hour time limit. I remember having seen her two days earlier, at Friday's opening of the event, carving the outline of an animal that was not yet recognizable. When I asked her what it was going to be, she had answered, "A beaver. I've never seen a real one, but I think I can do it."

I check it out, and lo and behold, it was indeed a beautiful beaver, with a brown marble for one eye, the other half-closed in a wink. This carver may not have made it to the awards stage, but in my judgement she wins my vote for perseverance.

Howard Keiffer, Reedsport, Oregon

(This article appeared in the Umpqua Post on June 28, 2000. Thanks to the Umpqua Post and the author for letting us share it with you. On the right are two carvings done at the Reedsport contest. You can see why judging wasn't easy.)



Dale Lloyd's Huge Crab



Pat McVays Woman in a Mirror

### SHARP TIPS

### BE SAFE

Forget your safety glasses? Put them on the nose of that bear you're carving when you take a break. You'll surely remember them when you start to carve again.

## MEMBER NEWS AND LETTERS

*Letters from Corfu, NY***JUDY PRATT'S PERSPECTIVE:**

My name is Judy Pratt, wife of Rick Pratt. This was the second Mid-Winter Chainsaw Carving Rendezvous in Ridgeway, PA. Last year I watched; this year I participated. 59 carvers came to that small town on an icy cold weekend to benefit the children of the "Make A Wish" Foundation and the local YMCA.

Each carver arrived on Friday and carved ice in the Town Square to promote the next days event. I was able to carve ice for the first time and it was absolutely incredible! I carved a small chunk about 2 feet tall into an "Angel Bear."

Saturday we carved wood. We selected a pine log and started our saws. I had only six hours, not long for a beginner. Since my angel bear was fresh in my head, I decided to do the same piece. I hadn't counted on the freezing cold temperature, howling wind, and carvers on each side throwing up wood chips. My left eye filled with sawdust and stayed that way. From time to time I would look up and see Rick on one side of me, and my good friend Shelly Upole on the other side. I was one of three women carving this year. It was warm enough as long as I was carving, and the day seemed to fly by. Before I knew it there was 1/2 hour left to carve. At the end of the day all pieces were put into an auction for the public.

When time came for the carvers picture, I was amazed to see how many carvers that group held. It was supposed to be around 59, but from my angle it looked like 100.

Sunday morning in the firehall we had brunch together, and shared albums and stories. Randy and Rick announced this year's winners and gave all the carvers t-shirts with all our names on the back. I was glad to have completed my piece which raised \$150.00. I brought back home with me the "burn" to get better.

I love this art form. I can achieve beautiful sculpture and it's rewarding in itself. I hear many praises from my husband, my children, and my carving friends. That's all I need or want.

**RICK PRATT'S PERSPECTIVE:**

Proceeds to "Make A Wish." A drop of water would have frozen solid in three seconds on that day. There I stood staring into the wind, listening to the roar of a mighty stream. All around me a group of men and women willing to battle themselves and the elements to carve a dream. They could have chosen to stay in bed. They could have played it safe. Instead, they were giving their all. I heard the voice that day, like the sound of a thousand winds, the sound of 59 chainsaw carvers when driven from within.

They say you can tell what kind of a person you are from the books you read and the friends you have. I feel privileged to have all of you as my friends. Thanks to all the small drops of water who came together to make the voice of a mighty stream.

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MIN012	Carbide Tipped Blade	ea. \$36 <sup>95</sup>

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## RENDEZVOUS REVIEW *by Joe King*

In February of 2000 Rick and Randy Bori hosted a "Mid-Winter Chainsaw Carving Rendezvous" in their hometown of Ridgeway Pennsylvania. The main focus of the event was an auction to benefit the "Make A Wish" foundation, and the Ridgeway YMCA. Twenty-nine carvers converged on the small community for three days of fun, and ended up with almost \$9,000 raised for the combined charities. Most of us had never been to anything like this before, and all felt that we were not only part a real special event, but also the beginning page of a new chapter in chainsaw carving.

This year I am happy now to be reporting on the outcome of the second annual "Mid-Winter Rendezvous". 61 carvers had registered, but only 52 were able to make it. (Only 52) Six different countries were represented this time, France, England, Germany, Scotland, Canada, and of course the US. A good many of the carvers had brought their families along as well, and some had traveled a great distance to be there. The camaraderie was the same as I remember from last year, instantaneous.

The 3-day event started out once again with ice carving on the courthouse lawns, with the centerpiece being a 12-foot square "wishing well pond", complete with live fish. Later in the day everyone gathered at a local restaurant/tavern for an evening of socializing, and music. Rick Bori had put the word out beforehand for anyone to bring along his or her musical instruments for a big jam session. There was a great turnout for this, and my only complaint was how early it broke up, around 1:00 AM.

Six hours later we were all gathering in the fairgrounds to kick off the big day. First however, we had to put up all the tents that had blown over during a big storm in the middle of the night. And man was it cold, 10 degrees with a hard driving wind that never let up once all day. Two big "fun-warming Bori bonfires" helped out a lot, and it actually turned out to be a sunny day. The cold temperatures no doubt scared some people away, but never even put a dent in the overall enthusiasm.

The excitement of having this much creative energy gathered together in one spot was almost palpable. Most carvers had brought along some of their work for display and it was awesome to see all the different styles and techniques together in one place. Another thing I noticed was carvers on all different levels of skill and ability coming together. For example, a novice carver who may have been shy about the whole thing just melted right in. Even some of the real masters picked up a few tips. Almost everyone learned some new ideas, and came away inspired, and anxious to go home and try it out.

Saturday just flew by, and by the middle of the afternoon we had all completed a sculpture for the 3:00 auction. This year almost \$12,000 was raised, and that was incredible for what was to my knowledge the coldest day of this winter. A few novelty items were also

donate it back again next year, so it can become an annual tradition. There was also a special children's auction, (for under 16), another new tradition.

Saturday night included another gathering at the local restaurant/tavern, and a big dinner hosted by the Bori family. It was a wonderful meal, and the place was still "buzzing" with excitement. Smiles and stories poured out through chapped lips, and wind burnt faces. It was a happy time for all, and later in the evening there was even a band for live music, dancing, and boy did we dance! This night broke up kind of early also, around 2:00 AM!

Six hours later we were all gathering once again to close out the weekend, and say our goodbyes. Once again the Bori family hosted a nice breakfast for all, and presented some awards for the top carvings at the auction. Everyone was also given Rendezvous T shirts, and a nice Elk County sweatshirt. (We will wear them with pride.) Randy and Rick had some closing remarks, and then opened up the floor for anyone who wanted to announce another event. The Bori's then closed it with their humble thanks to everyone for coming, and donating their time, (and expenses) to help making the Rendezvous another success.

And so it's my turn now for some humble thanks. I speak for, and in behalf of all my fellow carvers when I extend a warm heart-felt THANK-YOU to Randy & Wendy, and to Rick & Liz. Thanks for letting us hang out with you.



**DEMO BY RICK PRATT, OF NEW YORK**

There is a video, and separate picture book available from the rendezvous. please contact Joe at 724-863-0111,  
or Box 111,  
Ardara Pa, 15615,  
or [carvingdude@aol.com](mailto:carvingdude@aol.com)

PHOTOS ON PAGES 4, 5, AND THE COVER WERE SENT BY JOE KING, ALONG WITH THE ABOVE STORY. THANKS, JOE



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### A "NEWBE'S" VIEW by Dick Mason

It started with an article by Joe King, in *Chip-Chats*, about the Ridgeway Rendezvous. I e-mailed Randi Boni, who returned my e-mail with something like, "Don't just come and watch; come and carve!"

Now, for a guy who has made 4 or 5 chainsaw works in his life, I was surprised at myself for getting excited, but I did. Randy's enthusiasm for the event and genuine love for the art was contagious.

It was with a bit of pure fear that I began preparing, cleaned up my saw and put on a new bar, practiced a little, gathered up all the tools I could think of...I wanted to be prepared. I chose as my idea to carve the Youngstown State University Mascot. (More later on that mistake!)

Anyway, my wife and I decided to make this a getaway weekend, and when we made reservations, to my surprise, since I was a carver, the motel gave us a discounted rate. That was just the beginning of the special treatment that carvers at Ridgeway experienced from the time we arrived until we had to leave. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of cooperation and effort to pull something like this off. There were many volunteers, helping set up, doing cooking, cleaning up, moving logs, seeing to all the needs of carvers.

We only watched on Friday as highly skilled and soaked ice carvers created a magnificent sculpture on the square downtown.

I'd never been timed doing a carving in my life, and my greatest fear was not being able to finish and having my piece sold as another piece of firewood. At breakfast there were other carvers there and we got acquainted and shared some stories and laughs.

The carving grounds were a huge U-shaped area filled with canopies, flies, and trailers. For safety, spectators were kept at a distance. The weather was clear and cold: I like to freeze!

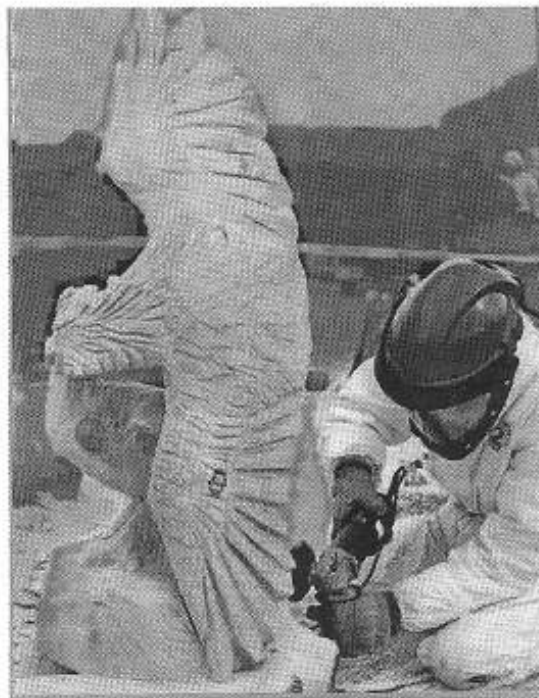
It wasn't long before the whole grounds sounded like a hive of 50cc bees swarming. And it is amazing the volume of sawdust that 59 chainsaw carvers can make in just a few hours.

At 3 pm an auctioneer came and the carvings were auctioned off for charity. I think the number I heard was \$12,000. What a good thing!

We got dinner, entertainment, and breakfast...all for the carvers...all at no charge. There was time for talk, and sharing photos, as carvers got to know each other. There were prizes from sponsors.

Bottom line is the whole experience for this greenhorn was both humbling and enlightening. Here's part of a list I made of "The things I learned during Rendezvous 2001"

1. If you're a male chainsaw carver, facial hair is "IN"
2. You can't dress too warm in Ridgeway in February.
3. If you carve ice, the chips still get in all your crevices, and melt!
4. You gotta have a picture album of your work
5. Chainsaw carvers are multitasking, sharing people.
6. Spray paint still works at minus 10 degrees
7. Buyers want bears, eagles, and mountain men
8. There aren't too many YSU alumni in Ridgeway.
9. Penguins don't bring high prices, even in winter.
10. If you carve and want to have a great time, plan to attend in 2002!



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## CARVERS SEEN AT WHITE PASS

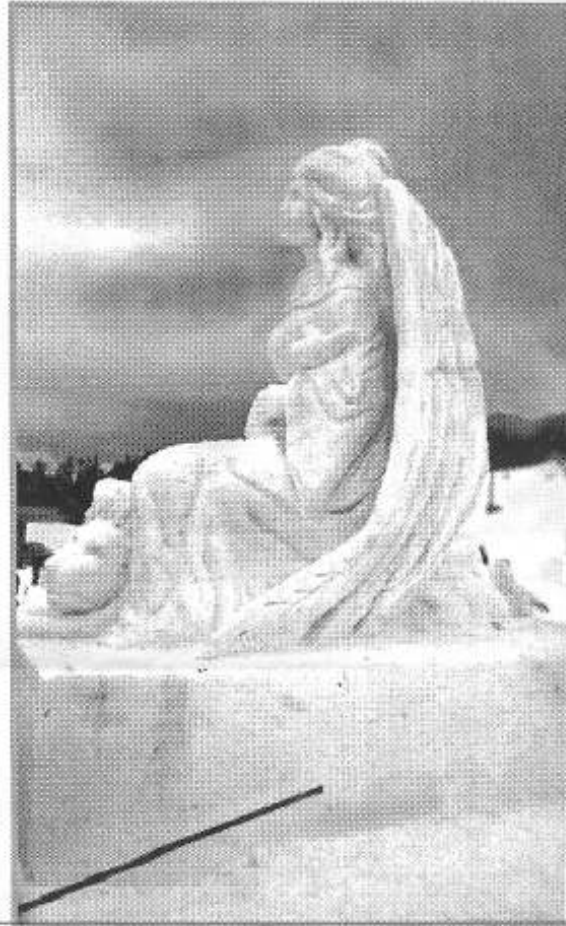
What do you get by combining chainsaw sculptors, teams of radio station d-jays, and snow?

Six chainsaw carvers and their families and friends had a weekend of fun at White Pass Ski Lodge in Washington state. We got there to find snow already piled ten feet high for the annual Winter Festival snow sculpture contest.

The idea was for each chainsaw sculptor to help a team from a local radio station. Friday: no radio folks in sight yet, so we just went out in the snow and started. Kerry Hargand and his son Casey did a huge Sasquatch sledding downhill heading for the lodge. Bob King's Gorilla guarded a pile of bananas. Jack McIntire designed his green dragon to have a propane flame shooting from its mouth. Pat McVay, assisted by an army of children, made a snazzy thirties-era couch, complete with a lazy looking couch potato watching television. Barry Swires and Susan Miller combined efforts to make an angel kneeling with a lion and a lamb. For an entirely different mood, Conrad and Justine Sandoval worked with sand sculptors Russ and Pam Leno to create an exciting piece: Cowboys driving a freight wagon being attacked by a bunch of Indians. Lots of action, many horses, guns, bows and arrows, bodies. The Indians were winning last time I looked.

Once again, we thank carver Kerry Hargand of Kelso Washington and Kathleen Goyette from White Pass. We were treated very well, with food, lodging, and ski passes. And only a few of us suffered recreational injuries.

*Susan Miller, Mist, OR*



## ARTIST RESOURCES

### Emergency Assistance

Available to artists working in mature career phase for 10+ years

Gottlieb Foundation Inc.  
380 W. Broadway, NY<NY 10012

### Health Insurance Information

AHIRC <http://www.actorsfund.org>  
Information is on a state by state basis.  
1-800-798-8447

### Northwest Photo and Video

1-360-1188

Travel Agent Carrie Coogan  
1-800-337-8865

**MORE NEXT TIME**

**Don't forget** to check the forum to see what other carvers have to say:

<http://network54.com/Hide/Forum/94854>

**It's been awhile** since I've seen any carver's poems. Anyone writing poems out there?

**Quite often** I get questions about how to carve bears. If you are willing, send a few words of bear advice to the Cutting Edge.

**And** I'd love to include tool reviews in the Edge.

# DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

*FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND ON THE BEAUTIFUL OREGON COAST!*

**PRIZE PLACEMENTS**

- 1<sup>ST</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> -Professional
- 1<sup>ST</sup>-5<sup>TH</sup> -Novice
- 1<sup>ST</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup>-Quick carves,  
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18 hours  
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**Theme is "Tidewaters and Time." This could be anything pertaining to rivers, streams sea, or estuaries and the humans, ships, historic activities and creatures real or imagined. Extra consideration is given for the portrayal of water in the design.**

## CASCADE CHAINSAW SCULPTORS GUILD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Write and tell us a little about yourself, how long you've been carving, what kind of work you do.

To avoid confusion, send dues to our treasurer:

**Bill Clingan, CCSG  
P.O. Box 1239  
Westport, WA 98595**

**The CCSG**  
The Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild is a nonprofit organization devoted to the advance of chainsaw sculpture since 1984.

We exist to foster an exchange of Ideas and information among Chainsaw sculptors everywhere.

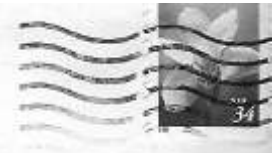
Membership is \$20.00 a year and includes a subscription to The Cutting Edge and The Wedge.

This newsletter is the voice of The Chainsaw Sculptor. We want your stories, photos, letters, and technical expertise. We even want your opinions!

Send it all to:

**Susan Miller**  
**71233 Hwy 47**  
**Mist, OR 97016**  
[susanm@huppi.com](mailto:susanm@huppi.com)

**Cutting Edge**  
Susan Miller  
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**Rick and Randy Boni at Ridgeway, PA . See Stories and photos on Pages 4 and 5**

