

THE CUTTING EDGE



Winners of the Winter Carnival Snow Sculpture event held at White Pass, Washington. The shark was radio station, K105.7 Yakima's, entry. Radio personality, Scott Nicolino, his wife, Angela and friend were assisted by CCSG members Kerry Hargand and Pat McVay.

From Korea 3

So, what exactly is going on over there?

A Member 5

Meet Rand E. Oertle from Utah

Down Under 4

Kevin Gilders reports with information and photos from a February contest.

Classifieds 8

Resource information, suppliers of tools and calendar of events.

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Steve Backus
Whidbey Island, WA

Howdy gang! Brand New Year! I say bring it on. Lot's to do, aye? Why don't you sit down right now and write us a funny story about this art we promote or a poem or something. Even though we are primarily a small regional club there are a lot of folks around the country and a few in other countries, too, who get this newsletter. I really like reading about their antics. It would have been fun to watch Kevin Gilders spider dance, hey Kev, how's it going down there? I look forward to meeting you, why don't you come to Westport, the Guild will pay for your room. You write good letters. Why, we will pick you up at the airport too. What the hell, bring a carving buddy. Let Jessie know. It would be fun. Some folks really like the technical articles, as do I, but don't be afraid to try anything at all to learn even if you screw it up. You will sure know how not to do something. Then you can write it down and tell us. Remember, in order to carve you have to start the saw.

Carve hard and remember the warning sign on a carvers highway is, if you hear a buzz, you're about to be stung.

NEW MEMBER

KEVIN SEVITS
GREENTOP, MISSOURI

LETTERS

RENEWALS

Greetings, what a life! Looking forward to more good stuff in your newsletter.

*Rick & Randy Boni
Ridgeway, Pennsylvania*

The Cutting Edge is getting better keep up the good work.

*Al Heron
Windsor, Ontario*

I'm looking forward to hearing about and seeing other carvers work in *The Cutting Edge* for 1999!

*John Ketonen
Barre, MA*

Need a bigger and better newsletter. Keep up the good work.

*Thomas Iskrzycki
Howell New Jersey*

NEW MEMBER

I really enjoy your magazine. It's very informative and I get to see what others are doing. I'm looking forward to the next issue.

*Kevin Sevits
Greentop, Missouri*

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 is edited by Jessie Groeschen, asst. editor, Pat McVay
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email groesch@whidbey.com

KOREAN MICHELANGELO

From the *Wall Street Journal*

JUST ONE PART OF DAVID WILL DO

Samchok, South Korea
Chainsaws were revved up, chisels were ready, sandpaper was piled high. Serious art was about to take place and serious art can be shocking.

The annual Male Root Carving Competition kicked off last month in this usually conservative port city with 20 teams of sculptors each attacking a pine tree log. The object: to create a 3.6 meter long rendition of the male sex organ. "I'm trying to concentrate on the curves and the blood veins," said Yoo Soong Il as his partner, Um Man Sub, chiseled at the tip.

The competition is part of a festival revolving around the first full moon of the Lunar New Year.

According to legend, it all began with the death of a young virgin perhaps 400 years ago. She drowned at sea after a storm hit the small rock island nearby where she was waiting for the man she loved to return from a fishing trip. Soon, like a curse the village fisherman found it impossible to catch any fish and began dying at sea.

To end the disaster, a village man carved a "male root," hung it from a tree, and conducted a ceremony to soothe the virgins soul. Since then, the village, which is near Samchok, has prospered and the ritual has been conducted every year at this time.

The artists get three days to shave their logs. "Do your best with the tools you have prepared," the head of the judging committee, Kim Won Joong, told the contestants. "We will look for how healthy and artistically they are done. The most manly one will win."



STIHL'S AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAINSAW SCULPTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kevin Gilders

North Clayton, Victoria, Australia

February 20 - 21, in Seymour, Victoria saw the 5th Stihl National Chainsaw Competition. The late withdrawal of four carvers left a field of seven to compete over the two days in a nine hour masterpiece and two one hour quick carves.

Conditions were close to ideal and the standard of work produced continues to reflect the quality of chainsaw carving in this country.

The large appreciative crowd, sponsors and carvers enjoyed a spectacular noisy weekend.

Results were: 1st prize, Kevin Gilders - "Unicyclist". 2nd Prize, Angela Polglaze, "Lion", 3rd Prize,



2nd Place, Angela Polglaze



1st Place finisher, Kevin Gilders

Rob Sheehan, "Motorcyclist".

Other prominent works were John Bradys portrait of boxer, Lionel Rose and Glenn Smiths, Chinese Phoenix.

Enquiries about organizing two further contest show that people are beginning to realize the entertainment value of the chainsaw in creative hands.



more photos



TOP LEFT: Glenn Smith and his entry, The Chinese Phoenix, TOP RIGHT: John Bradys portrait of boxer, Lionel Rose. LEFT, 3rd place finisher, Rob Sheehan

MEET RAND E. OERTLE

In mid 1979 television news anchorman Rand E. Oertle made a career change. He left his Northern California television news job and began fulltime wood sculpting. More than 40 years ago Oertle picked up a pocket knife to whittle. Whittling led to chisels, chainsaw and finally a combination of chainsaw for the rough out and dremels and die grinders for the detail.



The chainsaw allows Oertle to carve on a large scale quickly. He has completed a massive 14 foot Indian woman at Lake Tahoe several years ago and has carved totem poles more than 25 feet in height. Most recently, the resort at Squaw Creek commissioned Oertle to carve 6 major carvings from eagles to golfers.

Today, Oertle has helped set the standard for chainsaw carving excellence and continues to add refinement and detail, making his sculptures even more life like. Oertle says, "wood is not only a natural material that provides for a variety of beautiful finishes, it has a quality of its own to contribute to each sculpture." Wood, unlike stone, is warm and invites the observer to touch and enjoy its warmth.

He estimates that he has created more than 3000 individual wood sculptures. His work can be found all over the United State. Collectors from as far away as Europe and the Asian Rim have also purchase an "Oertle." Some of his commercial carvings can be seen at the "Grand Canyon Buffet" at the Reno Hilton Hotel or the Resort at Squaw Creek in Squaw Valley, CA. Significant residential sculptures can be seen around Lake Tahoe, including many lake front estates.

Oertle was born and raised in Rosemead, California. He and his wife Carol, live in Springville, Utah where his studio is located along the Interstate-15. They are the parents of four girls and three boys.

Skier at resort in Squaw Creek, carved July 1998. Figure 7' tall. Overall height 16'.



Boris Bear, carved in 1998.



Rand E. Oertle, all set to go.

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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.

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

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MISC Industrial Supply Catalog 1-800-645-7270

GranQuartz Stone carving equipment and other carving tools, 1-800-458-6222

FULL COLOR POSTCARDS from Modern Postcards for \$95 for 500 copies, 1-800-959-8365.

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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Available to (painter/sculptors) artists working in mature career phase for 10+ years, whose needs are result of unforeseen, catastrophic incident. typical grant \$4000. For application: Gottlieb Foundation Inc. 380 West Broadway, NY, NY, 10012

PUBLICATIONS

Allied Arts of Whatcom County, Wash. 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/ 398-5931, email: editor@woodwest.com

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

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.

Woodcarving Illustrated, 1-800-457-9112. \$23.80 per year.

SOURCES FOR 1/4 PITCH SPROCKETS

Rick Barbero Distributing Wholesale 1/4 pitch sprockets, Eugene, Oregon 1-800-814-4591.

Hawkins Bros. Service Center Poulan, Homelite, Husqvarna, 573-588-4731, Days, 573-983-2441, Evenings

Bailey's Catalogue 1-800-3BAILEY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY May 7, 8, 9 Mothers Day weekend, 8th annual Irrigation Days Carving Contest. Contact Don Dykema, 137 Pierson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382, 360/ 683-1264.

JUNE Iisalmi, Finland, Chainsaw Carving Contest. 13th annual. Two Day event. Contact Harri Leinola, Iisalmi City Tourist Office, Kauppakatu 22, 74100 Iisalmi, Finland, Tel 358-17-8301-223, FAX, 358-17-826-860, email harri.leinola@iisalmi.fi

June 11-13 Woodcarvers rendezvous, Pasco, WA. Contact Dave Carlson, 509/ 946-8873.

June 19, 20 Ocean Shores, WA. Totem Pole Carving Contest. Contact Steve Backus, 360/ 579-3574.

June 25-27. Sand and Sawdust Festival, Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Bert Adams, Coordinator, 723 NW 96th St., Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-574-2378, sandsculpt@transport.com.

JULY July 10, 11, Tupper Lake, New York, contact Hal MacIntosh, 800/ 640-5871

July 24, Mountain Mania Days at Mt. St. Helens, WA, contact Kerry Hargand, 360/ 425-5924

AUGUST Aug. 5 -8, 10th Annual International Chain Saw Carving Contest, The Big One! at Westport, Washington. Theme: nautical. Contact Steve Backus 360/ 579-3574. \$6500 in prize money.

OCTOBER 2nd annual Northern California Chainsaw Sculpture Championship, Point Arena, California. Good prize money. Theme: Grapes, wine or nautical. For information write to: Nyal Thomas, PO Box 636, Point Arena, CA 95468.

Membership Application

Cascade Chainsaw 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 foster a collaboration of energy among members. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 (US Funds) Dues pay for the bimonthly newsletter The Cutting Edge, other mailings, and expense of the CCSG. Dues are collected in January for the current year. To join, please return this form and your dues to the Cascade Chainsaw Sculptors Guild, 8000 Scatchet Head Rd., Clinton, WA 98236.

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-Remarks/

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January/February 1999

WANTED

Volunteers for the Westport Committee. Help with the most exciting chainsaw carving contest in the world. There's a job just for you. Input, ideas, comments, welcomed, Meeting is April 24 at the Ramada in by the Tacoma Dome: 2611 East E Street. For more information contact Steve Backus, 360/ 579-3574.



5612 Osprey Lane
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