

the Cutting Edge

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS WOODCARVERS ASSOCIATION

CTWA STAFF 2002

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David Loeffler.....	335-7354
e-mail: loeffler@onr.com	
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July's Show & Tell Table

A Word from the Editor

by David Loeffler



The dog days of August are here. We had a great meeting last month. By now all the Christmas ornaments are in Fredricksberg. Thanks to all that contributed! The **Chapots** attended with their son. Good to see **Chas** again and he is very proud of his son who is going to the Air Force Academy.

This month has another *Reese's Piece* and a nice article from **Gary Sehne** about wood carving and ham radio in the South Pacific. If you download the newsletter from the website you will be able to see the unusual grain in the carving he purchased. Gary will be bring the carving to show & tell this month.

The blank of the month looks like one of **Tom's** early girl friends. A nice switch after animals and Christmas decorations. **John Thompson** doesn't miss much in his note taking.

If you know of any upcoming carving events please sent the information to me so I can publish it. I will kept it in the newsletter until the event is over. **For Sale** ads are free to members. If you have something to sell, let me know. Even better if you have some pictures.

If you wonder what software I use to write the newsletter. Well, the main one is AppleWorks - the draw module. I also use GraphicConverter to remove background from the blank of the month. Then there is Acrobat for the final PDF document.



The electronic color version of this newsletter is available at:

<http://www.onr.com/ctwa/newsletters>

Directory Pictures



Look on the club website <http://www.onr.com/ctwa> for pictures of members. This is the start of our new membership directory with photos. This is the final set of pictures. I am in the process of trying to find the best price on printing

this in color. A big thanks to **Jo Comer** for taking all the pictures!



July's Show & Tell Table (the other end)

REESE's PIECES for the NOVICE

By Bob Reese



After you have completed the painting of your Cowboy or Animal carving, Mix 1/2 capful of oil paint...Burnt Sierra or Burnt Umber with a pint of Boiled Linseed oil. Saturate copiously the entire carving and wait about 30 minutes and wipe off. I do this 2-3 times for each carving. It fills in the dry wood and gives a waxed glow to the carving and makes it look more professional. **Watch out for your soaked oil rags. They are combustible.** I get my wife to wash them when I am through.

August Blank of the Month

Tom Sarff



Woodcarving in the Pacific?

by Gary Sehne



Where can two diverse hobbies, such as woodcarving and ham radio, coexist in harmony? Why in the South Pacific, of course, as relayed a recent visit to Austin by none other than Tom Christian, a direct descendant of Fletcher Christian, of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame.

Tom Christian visited Austin on June 19th. He received proclamations from Governor Perry and Mayor Gus Garcia. I had the pleasure of listening to Tom's captivating talk about life on Pitcairn Island at the 3M Corporation Auditorium. The visit was aired during the evening news, by K-EYE. Pitcairn Island has quite a few radio amateurs among its few inhabitants. This is mainly because until a few years ago, amateur radio was the only real-time form of communication with the island. Tom, call sign VP6TC, is one of the most active radio amateurs on the island. He teaches the residents Morse Code, theory and administers the exams. Many of his ham friends earn a little cash by selling woodcarvings that they make when they're not *on the air*. It was at his talk that I first became aware of the woodcarvings. Here's a little background to get an appreciation of the carving.

Pitcairn Island is part of the Pitcairn group, which includes some other *nearby* islands namely, Henderson Island (25 miles away) and Ducie Island (294 miles). Pitcairn, the main island, is only about 2 miles square in size, very rocky with little land to farm. Its meager offerings contributed to the reclusive nature of the island even back in the 1790s (probably why Fletcher Christian and his men settled there).

There are no natural resources; all the oil is shipped in 50-gallon drums. Other than that, the nearest big neighbor is New Zealand, 3,000 miles to west. Everything is brought in, foodstuff, lumber, you name it. Water comes from rainwater cisterns. The 38 families that live there have to live off their own financial means, or eek out a living from other enterprises. The six hours of electricity per day comes from the island's central generator, three hours in the morning, three in the evening to approximately three dozen homes, unless they own and run their own generator. Among the sources of cash income, you guessed it, woodcarving. But even that isn't without hardship.

There is no appreciable natural wood to carve from Pitcairn, so the carvers organize a yearly boat ride to Henderson Island, 25 miles away to cut down wood. In the past, they used a rowboat to get to Henderson's shore, to avoid the shallow tidal lagoons. Then they

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Blank of Month

- August..... Tom Sarff
- September..... Diann Small
- October..... Ed Jones
- November..... Jim Brinkman
- December..... Bob Hrehor

Secretary's Notes

by John Thompson



The July 9th meeting was called to somewhat order by our president **Jim Roby** around 7:00 pm. There were no visitors but **Chas Chapot** was back with us after his operation. He looked great but was walking a little slower than

usual. His son was also there and has been accepted to the Air Force Academy. Only a few slots were available for enlisted personnel to apply and he got one of those slots. He will report to the Academy after he has surgery on his shoulder. We all wish him the best.

Treasurers Report

Gail told us that we have approximately \$1,500 in our account.

Old Business

Rita Ryser will send the Christmas ornaments carved by club members off to be placed on the tree around the first of August.

New Business

Jim Roby informed us of an elderly gentleman named Bill Clark at Buckner Villa, a nursing home located on Breaker Lane east of I35, who is in need of a carving partner. Mr. Clark is confined to a wheel chair but has good use of his hands and loves to carve. If you have some time during the afternoon give the Villa a call at 491-5447 and arrange a time to go by and carve with Bill. It will make his day.

Show and Tell

Shirley Newman brought an angel and tree Christmas ornament for the tree to be raffled off in Fredericksburg this fall.

Jeremy Cuba has been busy carving an armadillo, a dog, and a boot.

Bill Buckler had two more mice for the project he is doing.

Buddy Streetman had a standing ram he carved from a Debbe Edwards roughout.

Tom Farr brought a snowman and caricature head.

Sue Sweeney showed us a beautiful relief

carving and a Christmas ornament.

Jim Roby has also been busy with a horse head from Vicki Bishop class, a drunken cowboy from a Dave Stetson class and a cowboy sitting in a rocker.

Rita Ryser had a carving of a donkey in dire need of dental work, an angel, and ornaments for the raffle tree.

I had a country doctor I carved from a Gerald Sears roughout.

The Raffle

There were three big winners in the raffle this month.

Ed Jones won a cowboy blank

Buddy Streetman and **Jere Elliott** both won knives.

The meeting was adjourned and carving began on the Blank of the Month done by **Jake Heugel**, which was a turtle on a log.



Chas and Kase Chapot with their son, Charles, who has recently won an appointment to the US Air Force Academy. Charles joined in June of 1999

and became an Air Traffic Controller. He decided he'd rather fly planes than land them so he applied for and got one of 50 slots open for enlisted personnel. At only 4 years old, Charles told Kase he wanted to be a pilot. In June he starts the next leg of his quest. Best of luck! We are all very proud of you!

**Next Meeting is Tuesday,
August 13th at 7 PM at
St. Barnabas Church.**

Doors open at 6:30. If you need directions call one of the officers or visit the club website.

Continued from page 2

discovered that one person could just swim to the island, dragging a towrope. He'd then lash the logs together & tie the wood to the rope. They would then pull the wood back to the ship, sort of like fishing for logs (maybe that's why they carve fish out of the wood?). The wood is then carefully seasoned, carved and finished.

Pitcairn Island itself has no harbor, so very few visitors are able to shop for these carving treasures. They have an arrangement to take their carvings out to the three or four cruise ships that visit yearly; but which remain anchored far offshore. They set up space onboard the ships and sell their carvings, T-shirts and baseball-type caps. The carvings appealed the most to me.

The carving that is shown here was made by one of the island's residents, David Brown, VP6DB, a carver and radio enthusiast. It appealed to me because of the beauty of the grain, and the squirming twists in the carving of the marlin. The grain exhibits an opalescence that can be appreciated better when one handles the carving. It is accentuated by an *eyeball* which is inlaid. I'll leave it for the experts in our group to identify the type of wood, but it reminds me of Philippine mahogany, only a little lighter in color.



Although Tom Christian's talk dealt mainly with his ham radio expedition to tiny Ducie Island, I wish I would have known earlier about the woodcarving aspect of his talk. I'm sure you all would have enjoyed seeing some of the work shown afterwards. I am glad to be able to defray his travel costs by purchasing a carving, at a very reasonable price. I will be reminded of the captivating talk and beautiful slides of his part of the world each time I view this carving. I would be glad to tell all of you more of his visit at our meeting and show you the carving, but for now these few paragraphs and picture will have to suffice.

State & National Carving Events

2002

August 9–10, The South Plains Wood Carvers 3rd. Show and Sale. Lubbock, TX. Garden and Arts Center, 4215 University Ave. 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. each day. Contact Dan Rankin, 805 W. 4th. St., Post, TX. 806-495-3000

Sept 7-26 National Caricature Carving Competition and Exhibit - Sponsored by Silver Dollar City and the Caricature Carvers of America. For info call 417-338-8033 or on the web at <http://www.cca-carvers.org> or <http://www.silverdollarcity.com>

Sept 22–29, TWG Show and Sale, Texas Woodcarving Guild will hold its Fall Show and Sale from Sept. 23 to Sept 28 2002 at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds in Fredericksburg Tx. Preregistration 1pm - 1pm Sept 22. Classes Sept 23 - Sept 26 Show and Sale Sept 27 - Sept 28

Oct 25–26 Mustang Draw Woodcarvers 12th annual Show & Sale. Big Spring, TX. Dora Roberts Civic Center. For show applications and class registration, contact James Fryar 7805 Centerpoint Rd. Big Spring TX. Ph: 915-399-4510. jbfryar@rcrom.net. Dee Gipson will be the show judge and teach a 3 day seminar prior to the show on Oct 22-24. Prepayment required to reserve your space in show or seminar.

Oct 28 - Nov 4 Glen Rose, Texas Woodcarving Show, Sale and Rally at Oakdale Park, PO Box 548, Glen Rose, Texas

76043 254-897-2321. Scott May or Gail Fruehling, website: <http://www.oakdalepark.com>, e-mail: frueh@hcnews.com

Nov 2-3 Belleville Holzschnitzers 32nd Midwestern Woodcarvers Show at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville Illinois Website: <http://www.iidbs.com/holz>

Nov 7–9 East Texas Woodcarvers' 17th Annual Woodcarving Show Sale Competition. Rose Garden Center Tyler, TX. Classes, early setup and dinner on November 7. Contact: Charles & Kathy Brooks P.O.Box 1065, Whitehouse, TX 75791. Phone (903) 839-7042 Application & Brochure available in mid July. Cash awards and purchase awards. cbrooks@cox-internet.com

2003

March 3-7, 2003 Branson, Missouri
7th Annual Woodcarvers Seminar at Silver Dollar City. Inquire at Valley Road Woodcarvers Shop, call 800-695-1353 or e-mail: woodcarvers@silverdollarcity.com

