

the Cutting Edge

April 2009

Volume 21
Issue 4

Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodcarvers Association

CTWA Officers 2009

President	
Gail Lynn.....	835-6643
Vice President	
Clarence Born.....	255-4373
Secretary	
Shirley Newman	259-2325
Treasurer	
Jim Roby.....	258-5317
Blank Master	
Diann Small	259-0784
Librarian/Tape Master	
Richard Pritchett	836-2361
Raffle Master	
Tom Sarff	282-4100
Sharpening Master	
Jake Heugel.....	251-2379
Photographer	
Sue Sweeney	454-0520
Newsletter	
Dan Gillen.....	258-5931

Advisory Board

Joe Hill	'08
Clarence Born	'07
Bill Buckler	'06
Marvin Joseph	'05

By
Gail Lynn



Next meeting
Thursday, May 14
Austin Woodcraft Store
7:00 PM

Monthly Meeting Notes

Gail Lynn, President, called the CTWA Monthly Meeting to order on April 9, 2009.

Gail welcomed Emilie Houssart who is visiting for a month before returning to the UK for a year. She plans to return here after a year and we will look forward to her joining us at that time.

Jim Roby, Treasurer, reported a balance in our club account of \$1,564.10.

Woodcraft has requested that club members attending either the Wednesday, Thursday, or Monthly evening meeting not park in the front of the store. Adequate parking is available to the rear of the store, leaving front parking spaces accessible to customers.

Clarence Born provided the polar bear blanks as the blank of the month and tips on how to complete the carving. He also provided each carver with a copy of a step-by-step guide to carving a polar bear by Peter Benson which included special tips and techniques on carving our four legged friends.

Many of our carvers will be attending the 2009 Texas Woodcarvers Guild Spring Round-Up which will take place April 27 - May 2, 2009. This will be held at the Inn of the Hills Convention Center in Kerrville. We look forward to some interesting carvings at our May meeting resulting from classes our club members attended.

Editor's Note: I would like to start documenting biographies of club members. We may know some members very well but not a lot about others. This an attempt to get to know each other better. This month I have included biographies of Gail Lynn and Jim Roby. I would like you other members to send me your biographies. This can be very informal. I suggest you include some or all of the following information in your biography. Your birth place, family history, youth activities and influences, education and work careers, marriage if applicable and

family, how you started wood carving, wood carving interests, other hobbies and interests. and anything else you would like to share. This is not a contest to see who has the most interesting, or varied past. It is an attempt to share information about member backgrounds and interests.

We have a wide range of backgrounds and a diverse set of interests. The more we learn about each other the better relationship we can build. Please share your background, knowledge, and skills. If you do not feel comfortable in writing your biography please let me know and we may be able to work something out. This month we have room for biographies in the newsletter. If we don't have room in the newsletter future editions we will find other ways to distribute biographical information.

Gail Lynn Biography

I was born in Arvada, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, where I lived with my parents, 2 sisters, and brother until the last 2 months of my junior year in High School. My father got a transfer to a very small town in the NE corner of Colorado called Brush. This was not a favorite move for a teenager, so I immediately joined the Navy upon graduating from High School in 1972 as a means of getting out of what I thought was nowhere.



I spent 4 years in the service; one year in Florida in Boot Camp and Communications School; two years on Guam and one year in Adak, Alaska. Talk about being nowhere! As a shy and very obedient child, to say the least, the Navy was an eye opening and life changing experience for me.

At the time of my discharge my parents were moving to Temple, Texas for my father's health, and I elected to move here with them. Fortunately for me I did, because that's where I met Richard Lynn, my husband of 30 marvelous years.

I had already started college courses at A&M, but after our wedding in June of 1978, I transferred to UT here in Austin. I obtained a BA in Accounting, received my CPA license, and worked for about ten years as an auditor for a local CPA firm. Then I became the Controller for a local publisher and worked there for 14 years.

I tried to retire in 2000, but my old college friend talked me into coming to work for her CPA firm part time, where I did more audit work for 4 years. Then I retired for the second time.

I started carving in 1990 when I saw a fellow carving on TV. He made it look so easy I grabbed a bar of Ivory soap and carved a soap cardinal. I was so pleased it actually was recognizable as a bird. Then I went to the hardware store and bought a pocket knife, some balsa wood, and a carving book. By the time I had finished my first carving of a trapper and his dog with that pocket knife, my hands were crippled with arthritis, and I was hooked on carving. The doctor told me to quite carving, I told her I needed another option.



Fortunately Richard saw that a carving class was being offered under the Adult Further Education program at Murchison Middle School. He signed me up and I met Rod Johnson and Tom Sarff. I found out I had all the wrong tools and wood, and how much more I loved carving with the right ones. For about 2 years I carved day and night and everywhere. Then real life got a hold of me and I slowed down carving a little bit.

Over the years I have tried almost every type of carving; caricatures, animals, realistic busts, chip carving, power carving, whittling, and realistic birds. I enjoy it all, but what I really love doing is realistic people. I have no luck at all with relief carving; my mind just cannot get wrapped around it for some reason.



I have taken nearly all the classes offered at Fredericksburg and other carving classes here in town. And I have been active in CTWA for all this time. I can't remember how many years I have served as Treasurer, last year I was the Vice President, and now I'm the President. Woodcarving has been a rewarding

experience in so many ways. I have discovered my inner artist, become more confident in my own skills, and made lots of great friends.

Gail maintains a personal web site. You can view it at <http://www.freewebs.com/castlelynn/> .

Jim Roby Biography

Jim was born in Nocona Texas in 1927. He is the second oldest of 4 children. His father died when Jim was 8. His Mother was a teacher. Jim wanted to fly airplanes for as long as he can remember. He volunteered for the Army Special Training Reserve Program at 17 years old. He was sent to college in Las Cruces, NM because reservists needed two years of college to be pilots. However, Germany surrendered in May of 1945. There was no longer a great need for pilots so he was sent to Guam as replacement for troops returning from the war. He left the service since he could not fly.



He entered Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, TX where he met Jaenette, his future wife. The Berlin airlift was generating a need for more pilots. Jim thought it might be an opportunity for him to get back in the cockpit however, being married he was barred from entering pilot training as a cadet. He completed 66 college credit hours, reenlisted, obtained board approval to qualify for Officer Candidate School at Lackland Air Base in San Antonio. He finished flight training school in the top of the his class and was assigned to fighters, the ultimate for fliers. After a tour in Korea, he was assigned to Williams Air Base in Phoenix AZ. While there from 1956-8 he finished his degree at Arizona State University taking advantage of the Air Force program Operation Bootstrap which provided for on campus classes.

He went to Canada as an exchange officer to instruct Canadian students (I think you could press Jim for some good stories about this duty). Then was assigned to the Titan missile program. He "fought" to get back in the cockpit (see Jim for interesting details). Was assigned to F105 fighters. He finished his F105 checkout during the Cuban missile crisis and was sent to Yokota, Japan where he flew combat missions over Southeast Asia. He served as wing weapons officer and cycled to Osan, Korea to stand on nuclear alert every 3 weeks. He then transferred to PACAF (Pacific Air Forces) at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. During 27 months of this duty he only had 5 days off (not a lot of surfing on the beach evidently).

He returned to the U.S. but 3 months later the Pueblo incident occurred and he was sent back to Korea for 6 months (See Jim for details). Then home for 9 months

and back to SE Asia. There on Cricket Orbit they controlled all air strikes on North Vietnam. After that tour, based on his recognized excellence Jim was up for promotion again and was to be assigned to the pentagon in a non flying position. Not being interested in non flying positions he resigned after 29 years in the military.

He worked in the construction business for a couple years then went to work for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Division of Emergency Management. His group developed emergency response plans for any possible emergency situation. This is an amazingly complex planning process involving evacuation, communication, utilities, fire, police, etc. See Jim for more than you ever wanted to know about what all this entails. Jim spent 1974 - 1990 with the DPS until he retired to the leisurely life of a wood carver.

As many of you know Jim's wife Jaenette passed away in 2006. He has 1 son and 2 daughters, all living in the central Texas area. He has 4 grand children and 5 great grandchildren. Jim has 2 brothers who also served as pilots in the military. He lost his youngest brother in Vietnam.

Jim's other hobbies include hunting, fishing, and gardening. He maintains a huge garden, by most standards, though smaller than in past years.

In 1999 Jim was checking out a Satterwhite log house in Longview TX with his brother. Their host was a woodcarver. He had a couple carved cowboys that Jim admired and expressed interest in trying his hand at carving. The host said there was probably a carving club in Austin and told Jim to call Woodcraft. Jim called and was told yes there is woodcarving club and since it was Wednesday there happened to several of them carving right now in the back of the store. Jim hopped in his car and went to Woodcraft. Jake Huegel was there. Jim said he was interested in carving. Jake reached in his bag and pulled out a boot roughout and told Jim to sit down and start carving. The Fredericksburg roundup was about 3 weeks later. Jim went and took a class from Pete LeClair. He has been carving ever since.

Jim prefers carving in the round. He typically carves animals, caricatures, and realistic figures. A couple of impressive pieces Jim has in progress are pictured in this issue.

Bust
By Gail Lynn



Approx. 18" Tall

Work in progress
By Jim Roby





Indian
Work in progress
By Jim Roby

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Central Texas Woodcarvers Association

Annual membership is \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for young people under 18 years of age. This membership includes a monthly e-mail newsletter. An additional \$12.00 per year is collected if you desire a hardcopy of the monthly newsletter mailed to you. During the year, new adult members dues are prorated at \$1.00 per month.

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street _____ City _____, TX Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Mail to Jim Roby, 12300 West Cow Path, Austin, TX 78727
jroby1@austin.rr.com