



The Whittler

From the Prez!

- We had a “beary” good time in our August meeting with 29 people in attendance and 16 participating in the monthly carving demonstration taught by JR.
- Lillie won the table drawing and Charles won the 50/50. Rick won the free instructor class drawing and now is a contestant for the big drawing to be held in September.
- Claudette is working on an opportunity for us as a club to carve at the Sevierville library. More information will be coming. If any of you have a place that will allow us to come in and carve in public let me know so we can discuss it. If locals see us carve we may attract recruits for our club or the very least get them to come to our show.
- Thanks to Glenda for bringing her famous banana nut bread for us to enjoy.
- Dick sold some of Jeff Pryor’s knives out in the parking lot. I am not sure if there will be any more but we will let you know.
- Still looking for someone to come forward and take Dean’s place as the newsletter editor. Talk to Dean and he can help get you set up. We need this position.
- Until then, keep making chips.



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Treasurer's Report for July 2025

2025 Show Update

- We have six finalists for the FREE carving class. The last finalist will be picked at the September meeting and then we will pick the winner of a free class at the meeting.
- Great job on sign-up sheets, we look in good shape for most of the activities. We will need some manning of table to help visitors and people's choice voting but I am sure we will have plenty to step up on that. The other task is our carving table for the general public. Every activity gets you an additional raffle ticket for the coveted Helvie knife. I will have the updated sheet for the raffle at the next meeting. Remember entering a carving in the show, coming to the show and or renting a table gets you more raffle tickets.
- Please look at all the training. You can take a class regardless of your skill level. I did when I started out! You learn a lot and, in the end, you have great project. Here are the classes:
 - Gary Falin caricatures: Oct 1--3, \$150 plus roughout. Full
 - Ed Lampert: Mr Santa Claus! \$60,100 includes cutout 1 or 2 days, Oct 2,3;
 - Richard Houlden, unique faces, Oct 2,3 \$100
 - Rich Wetherbee: Clay sculpting October 6,7 \$85 per day. 2 spots left
 - Rich Wetherbee Bark or roughout October 8,9 \$85 per day, 1 spot left
- Brochures will be available next week on the website: <https://smkywca.club>
- We have a Facebook page for the Show: Smoky Mountain Wood Carvers Annual Show. Let's get some activity on there to stir up some interest. Send Richard or Gary Smith pics and they will post of FB page. We need to generate some interest.

As always, if you have any questions on show, reach out to JR @ 309-620-1197

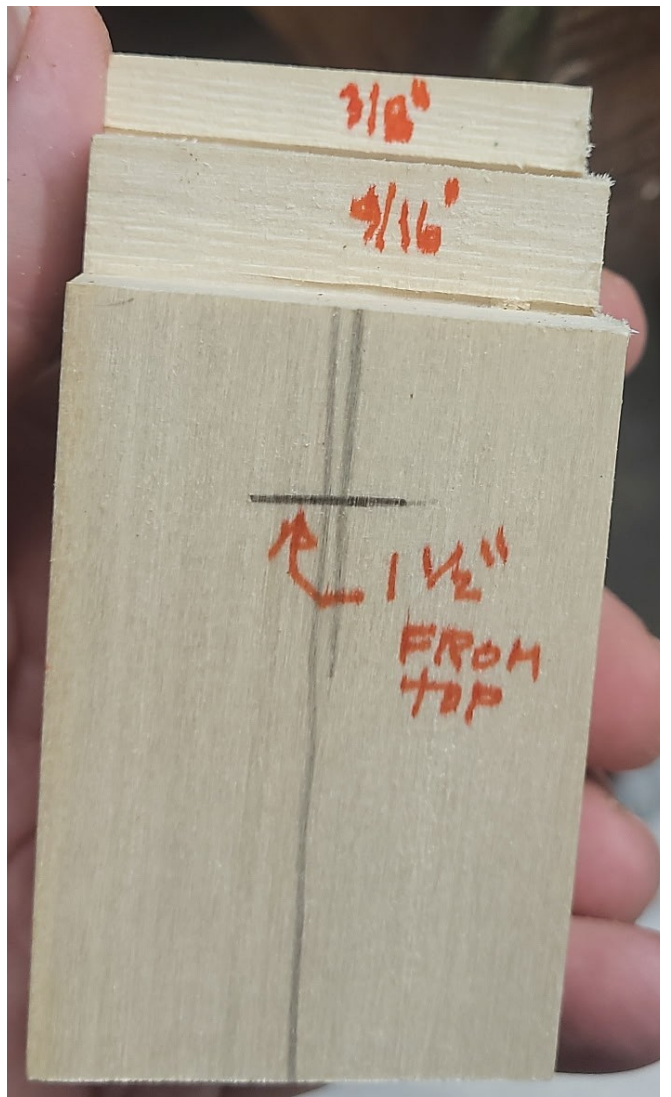
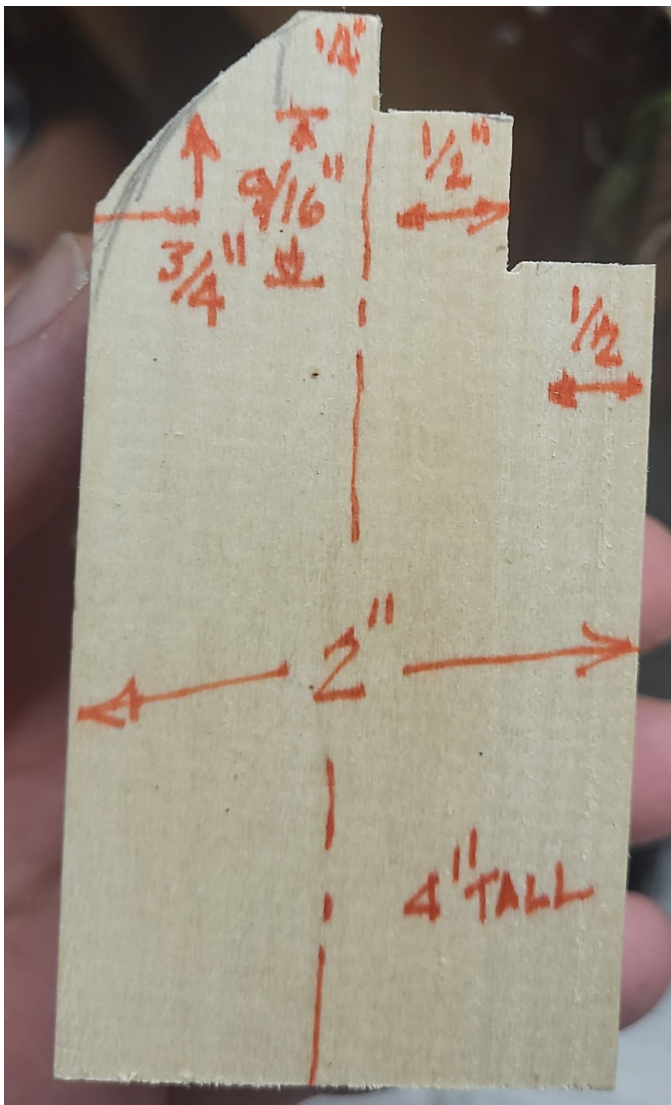
Club Demonstrations

Hey, we got the “Bear in a stump” done; well done all. The bear head is too big for the stump and that’s why I suggested to reduce the size. However, you can make it work. I did not have the go-by painted but it is now, take a look at the pic. Plus, two pics on other ideas instead of putting the bear in the stump. Most likely, you could still do that with your project.



Our demonstrations are here for fun and help you improve. Please help us by providing feedback on where WE can improve. For example, if you prefer other genres instead of caricatures, let me know and I will look into finding resources to help us. We can have, and have had, several types of carving going at the same time. I am not suggesting we end caricatures, just open to other ideas. And if you are a club member and want to lead a group, well that's even better!

On the next page you'll find a couple of pattern pictures for the “Bear in a stump” or that you can use to carve one of the other two bears show above. ENJOY!



Demonstrations (cont)

- ♦ Now for rest of the year. One of the raffles at the show is the demonstration raffle. For every demonstration project that you bring in from last October thru August 2025, you will get a raffle ticket for a carving from me...or if you want wood, I will provide wood. These carvings will be displayed on a table to show what folks can accomplish at our meeting. For that reason, the September meeting will be primarily used to finish up any demonstration carvings, to include painting. We can stay a bit longer as needed but the goal is to finish your projects! I will have the paints. If you are completely done with all the demonstration projects (like Lillie), wood will be provided for another project. The main focus is to complete projects.
- ♦ To help you out, here's a list of Demonstration projects:
 - ♦ Oct 24: Denny's spoon
 - ♦ Nov 24: JR's Toothpick holder
 - ♦ Jan 25: Chet's Praying mouse
 - ♦ Feb 25:
 - ♦ Mar 25: JR's Duck & Chet's Bunny Pin
 - ♦ Apr 25: Dean's Ankeny Gnome
 - ♦ May 25: Chet's Linker Bunny
 - ♦ Jun 25: Blake Lunsford's Pig
 - ♦ Jul 25 : Chet/Dean, Simple Hillbilly fridge magnet
 - ♦ Aug 25: JR's Bear in a stump
 - ♦ Sep 25: Finish up all projects
- ♦ Here's what's coming up"
 - ♦ October Halloween project (not identified yet....most likely pumpkins)
 - ♦ November Christmas project
 - ♦ December It's the party meeting

Please let JR know of project ideas!

August Table Display



Lillie, Maria, Ellen & JR teamed up on a great piece for the friendship cane to be auctioned at the Show.

Another 'team' effort by Steve Baker & Jim McCutcheon on the boots. Steve started, had hand surgery, Jim finished Nice job guys.

Maria brought in a cut chicken 'n egg carving.





Charlie Roeser brought in his bird, Lillie Wece a man in overalls and last month's demonstration project, a Simple Hillbilly magnet.

And, as always, JR brought in some of the carvings he finished up, to include Blake Lundsford's Pig from the June demonstration.





Anyone guess who carved these? Of course, Ed Lampet. His style is so distinctive and recognizable. Well done Ed.





Richard brought in a nice display of chain pullers and a barefoot hillbilly. And Dick Barnett had a really nice relief carving



August Meeting

Richard and Glenda stop by the club's "Stammtisch" table with Steve Baker & Jim McCutcheon



Irene & Charlie Gomez make coffee for us every month. Thank you!!

And left to right:
Ed Lampert's wife Jan, Larry Eubank's wife Sherry and Paul Reynold's wife.





Left to right: Dave Richardson, Gary Smith, Carol Burditt, Lillie Wece & Maira D'Elío all hard at work on the “bear in stump” project.



Left to right: Calving & Mary Pikay, Chet Blay, Ed Lampert and Canice Bartlett hard at work on their project.



Charlie Roesser (above) and Bob Ulrich (right) busy with their projects.

JR & Helen in an intense conversation while Rick Leihgeber concentrates on carving.





Wide-angle shot of the carving tables. Not shown, but off to the left, is the table with three wives and to the right is the “Stammstich” table. Behind is the table display with all the carvings.

THIS IS HOW I DO IT!

Painting is a necessary challenge. We all love carving, then we have to paint, UGH! But in reality, one of my mentors told me that painting improves my carving by 20% at least. Sure enough, I have carvings painted sitting next to unpainted ones and every time folks are very complimentary of the painted carvings. So, start painting them! I suggest, as Ed Lampert told me, paint 1-3 carvings at a time. You will do a better job, and it won't seem like work compared to painting a box full that would make anyone dread.

A couple quick tips that are important to me. All the flesh color you buy in the stores makes your carving look sick, pale and ready to die. I buy an extra empty bottle (at Hobby Lobby) fill it half full of flesh color, then about 1/8" of terra cotta and then shake. Dilute it and try it on a carved scrap and see how you like it. Adjust with terra cotta or more medium flesh. Then test again, fill the bottle with water. You are good to go. (Another Ed Lampert trick!)

Painting bark is tough because of the multi-colors of the bark in the woods. Use Paynes Grey and burnt umber (mix 3 to 2 then) to get an interesting color. In WCI, Issue 79, you will see the technique. Use yellow ochre for internal pieces of wood, then you dry brush white/yellow ochre after applying the dark bark color. Check out the bark on my demonstration bear project. Unfortunately, I can only find Paynes grey in JoSonja paints...a bit pricey but worth it.

Last, dilution is the solution. It allows you to see the wood grain. If you need it darker, apply more coats. I always have a carved scrap to test dilution. Use a different paint brush from the paint brush you mixed with to get the effect of the dilution. Testing it first is very important.

This is how Ed Lampert and I do it.

LOCAL CARVING OPPORTUNITIES

Monday

East Tennessee Carving Guild, 6-9pm, Edgewood Primitive Baptist Church, 807 McCammon Ave, Maryville. Any questions, give JR or Dean a call.

Tuesday

1– 5pm, **Woodcraft** store, 8023 Kingston Pike, Knoxville

9am - Noon, **Senior Citizens Center**, 1611 Depot St, New Market

Wednesday

9am - Noon, **Senior Center**, 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge

9am - Noon, **My People Senior Activity Center**, 1220 W Main St (Chapman Hwy), Sevierville

Thursday

9am - Noon, **Senior Citizens Center**, 807 W Jefferson St, Jefferson City

Friday

9am - Noon, **My People Senior Activity Center**, 1220 W Main St, Sevierville

10am - Noon, **John T O'Connor Senior Center**, 5th & Winona, Knoxville