

Pike's Peak Whittlers



April 2026

President: Chris Gibson (719) 964-4420

Vice President: Alice Geyer (239) 338-8940

Secretary: Susan Reynolds (719) 649-2468

Treasurer: Kiersten Lehmkuhl (719) 433-4829

Librarian: Gerry Canavan (719) 650-2353

Woodbin Editor: Jim "Doc" Benjamin (719) 648-9068

Meeting Dates

11 Apr 2026

9 May 2026

13 Jun 2026

11 Jul 2026

8 Aug 2026 Annual Picnic

19 Sep 2026 **(Please take note of DATE)**

Reminder

Please remember to bring in those club projects and projects for show and tell.

If you have ideas for articles or would like to write an article, please contact Doc Benjamin.

I carve things of wood because things made by effort are more real than things made by wishing.

Katherine Arden (The Girl in the Tower (The Winternight Trilogy, #2))



From the Pres...

Hello fellow carvers,

As our sleepy winter comes to an end and the excitement of new opportunities that comes with Spring, opens its door to us. We are one year older and have one year more carving experience. New opportunities, New Ideas and new carving projects come to mind. This brings a figurative question to my mind.... What do you do with your new ideas? Today I would like to discuss what you do with those ideas and how you take them from an idea to a complete project.

Often, once I have an idea, I will inadvertently have several at the same time. My first step is to have a list that I keep of ideas that really piqued my interest or even something I have seen that I liked and wanted to try. Keep that list. You may find inspiration later.

Next, I draw. I know this is somewhat controversial. I've met many who say they cannot draw. There is an old saying that those who draw can draw

and those who do not draw cannot. Meaning if you want to draw then you have to draw. Draw, draw, draw and eventually you will get better. I didn't say great! But you will get better. Start with shapes and build upon those shapes. Even if it is only one view it will help you take your idea to realization. I keep one smaller book as well as one that is quite large for full size projects. I am by no means a great artist... LOL but it does help me see shapes, concerns, complications before I start cutting on wood. Trust me the paper is less expensive than the wood! I've found that out the hard way...

Next, I know many do this, but I have not yet.... Make your idea into a 3D clay model. I have used three dimensional models, "carving go-byes", before and I can attest to the help they give in seeing what you are intending to carve.

This is where I will often stop and reflect. Reflect on all the difficulties, challenges, etc.... I may at this time discuss those issues with someone else I can throw my ideas off and see if they have any suggestions on those difficulties. Sometimes, it's just a matter of taking a break and letting myself wrap my head around the project and those answers will often become obvious, as to where I could not see them before.

Next, I will make a cut out pattern. Keep this somewhere. Even with all the pre-work ,

From the Pres (cont')

you may want to carve this project again... Typically most carvers can carve the same project better if done multiple times. I will look at this as a possibility unless the project is not cost effective to do multiple times.

Finally, I can say. Carve, Carve, Carve my friends. Have fun! I can't wait to see what you come up with this year!

Humbly,

Chris Gibson

May you all be blessed till I see you next!



LORD, THANK YOU FOR THIS WORKSHOP
AND THE GIFT OF WORKING WITH MY
HANDS. GUIDE MY EYES TO SEE WHAT'S
TRUE, MY MIND TO PLAN WHAT'S RIGHT,
AND MY HANDS TO DO CAREFUL WORK.
KEEP ME PATIENT WHEN MISTAKES
HAPPEN, HUMBLE WHEN THINGS GO
WELL, AND SAFE WITH EVERY TOOL I
TOUCH. BLESS THIS WOOD AND LET
WHAT I MAKE BE USEFUL, HONEST, AND
A BLESSING TO OTHERS. AMEN.

Minutes of Pikes Peak Whittlers

Meeting, March 14, 2025

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Reynolds

Meeting was called to order by Chris Gibson, President. Del Cox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members were reminded to either wear their name tags at meetings or put \$.50 in the pig bank.

There was a new member/visitor, Kelly Fox, who has a shop in Old Colorado.

Chris reminded people to bring items for the show and tell table. Members should look at the Easter and St. Patrick's Day carvings on the table as well as the other items.

The minutes of the February 14, 2026 meeting were presented. Susan, the Secretary, reported there was an error. In the discussion about our annual show, it was reported that Jessica would check on grants once we were registered as a non-profit. The name "Jessica" was incorrect and should have been "Jennifer". With that correction to be made, the minutes were accepted as provided in the newsletter.

Gerry Canavan, Librarian, brought some books and magazines for members' review.

Minutes (Cont')

. If there is a specific book in the library you want, let him know and he will bring it to the next meeting. Also, if there is a book you think should be in our library, let Gerry know and he will try and get it.

The Treasurer, Kiersten, was not able to be present.

Chris pointed out that since we were running a little short on money, the club would not be able to help pay for classes. One way to increase income was to raise the price of dues. He would rather not do that and asked that members think about other ways to get extra income. Raising the price of tables at the annual show is a possibility. Club tee shirts could also be sold.

Old Business:

Annual Show

The auction has not made any money in the last 3 years. It does, however, break even. We need to start thinking about what we can sell at our show auction (totems, magnets, etc.).

Members willing to be on the show committee need to let Alice know at the next meeting.

Marianne has leftover toy cars that can be sold but need painting and possibly a little carving. She will bring them to the next meeting.

It was suggested that pieces for the totems could be a variety of sizes depending on what the person wanted to carve.

Alice felt it would be good to have things that could be sold at the Denver show.

Members should bring suggestions to the next meeting and we will vote on them.

Officer Elections

Chris reminded the members that the offices of President and Secretary need to be filled for the next term. Anyone interested should speak to Chris.

Aspen Cutting

Gerry will be checking on aspen cutting. Last year we were not able to cut any.

New Business:

Marianne reported on the Creede carving show and some of the classes available. New this year will be 2 different power carving classes, one of which will provide necessary equipment. Registration for all classes is now open. She also suggested several areas where attendees can stay.

Gerry advised that Carving in the Rockies will again be in Denver on Father's Day

Minutes (Cont')

weekend. No classes will be scheduled for Sunday. The prices for classes are very good.

Jennifer announced that Alice had arranged for us to use a room at the Senior Center on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11. The price will be \$2.00/person. Attendees can work on whatever they want – carving, wood burning, painting, etc. We can use the room as an open-to-anyone group and have it listed on the Senior Center calendar or use it as a private group. By having it on the calendar we might attract new members but there is a limit on how many people can attend.

Joke of the Month: Gary told the dad joke of the month.

Project: Chris gave instructions and a demonstration on how to carve a feather.

A motion was made and accepted to close the meeting.

The monthly raffle was conducted by Del.

April Project

This month's project is carving a gnome from a 2 X 2 block of basswood. Jerry Branesky will be the instructor. Unfortunately we did not have a picture of the project to show prior to publishing. Everybody lives a gnome so join in the fun this Saturday.

Please be sure and check out the PPW website and follow PPW on Facebook and Instagram. Steve Brown is now making sure all the sites are updated. Steve has been doing a great job making some great changes. Be sure to "like" and visit frequently. Spread the word that our website is updated regularly. Check it out!!!! Thanks Steve!!!

Top Ten Senior Pickup Lines

10. Come here often? If so, could you tell me where I am?
9. Do you have an oxygen tank? Because you took my breath away.
8. Like to come by and see my medicine cabinet?
7. Make like a compression sock and give me a squeeze!
6. Ever had a lap dance in a wheel chair before?
5. Do you play bingo, because I swear I've seen you B4.
4. Hey, baby. Wanna help me test my new hip replacement?
3. That pretty smile of yours would sure look good in a glass on my nightstand!
2. You're not dead yet either? We have so much in common!
1. Your heating pad or mine?



PPW Meeting Agenda— April 2026

Call to Order

Name Tags Reminder: \$.50

New Member Introductions

Review/Accept Secretary's meeting minutes from last meeting (Susan Reynolds)

Librarian's Report (Gerry Canavan)

Treasurer's Report (Kiersten Lehmkuhl) Move to accept

Show & Tell Table (label your pieces with your name)

Old Business:

Discuss Club Money making opportunities

Verifying upcoming show give aways and items to sell for Club income.

New Show Committee sign up list

Please think about upcoming elections.

Reminder New weekly meeting at Senior Center

New Business:

NA

Tom's tips: Tom Melott

Gary Fenton's Dad Joke of the Month

Today's Class Project: Gnome 2x2 by Jerry Branesky

Raffle

Notes:



Creede

Woodcarvers Rendezvous

Colorado

July 11—15, 2026

Come to Creede, Colorado to learn to carve or improve your skills where the mountains are high, the sky is clear and cold rivers are full of fish.

The length of the Rendezvous has been reduced to 5 days from seven days.

Woodcarving classes are held around the Community Center next to the Underground Mining Museum.

Talented instructors

Variety of beginner to advanced classes

Tool and wood vendors

Artist displays and sales

Activities include a Raffle and banquet.

Noncarving classes are available.

Register online at website:

www.creedewoodcarvers.com

CWRC always starts on the second Saturday in July.

Registration open NOW!!

35th Anniversary of Creede

Woodcarver's Rendezvous

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Supplies**

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www.mountainwoodcarvers.com







Bob Zettler

Want to learn how to draw, paint or carve?
or need in need of a sign - routed - engraved or vinyl.
I offer these services here in Perry Park.
email your needs to bobcatcarving@gmail.com

Dan Noble teaches woodcarving and pyrography classes at the Colorado Springs Senior Center. You can check his schedule on the Senior Center website:

<http://www.csseniorcenter.com>

His classes are usually on Mondays. The rates for his classes are very good for someone with his experience.

Mailing address for the club:

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Colorado Springs, CO

80918

Social Media Sites

PikesPeakWhittlers.com

Facebook: [Pikes Peak Whittlers](#)

Instagram: [@pikespeakwhittlers](#)

