

# Pike's Peak Whittlers



AUGUST 2020

President: Mark Goodman (719) 930-5309

Vice President: Aaron Mayer (719) 380-9041

Secretary: Kristine Harris (719) 593-1524

Treasurer: Steve Gurnett (719) 339-5164

Librarian: Gerry Canavan (719) 650-2353

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

## Meeting Dates

12 Sept 2020 (on hold)

10 Oct 2020

14 Nov 2020

12 Dec 2020 Annual X-mas Breakfast (?)

9 Jan 2021

13 Feb 2021

13 Mar 2021

## Reminder

Due to the current pandemic, the Wednesday carving sessions remain on hold. When it becomes safe again to gather a notification will be sent out via email. We are also on hold for any meetings. At present the next meeting has not been determined

Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

- Mother Teresa Winter

## Board Meeting Notes 8-8-20

The board met on Saturday to determine the course of action we felt would be best for the club regarding meetings, the Christmas party and next year's show.

The Christmas party is still a "go". There may be some modifications to the room and such, but we'll address those when the time gets closer.

All money from show table reservations as been returned. The show for 2021 will be May 15 and 16.

Now for meeting information:

We have determined Zoom meetings wouldn't be the best choice for the PPW  
When we return to the church, we will meet in the gym area not the smaller room

You will be required to wear a mask

You will be asked to bring your own chair and will be sitting 6 feet from your neighbor

The first hour (9:00-10:00) will be the business meeting. You could skip this part if you wish.

The last 2 hours or so will be carving and maybe a demonstration. We might put club projects on hold since they normally have one on one instruction.

Before we finalize with the church, I need to know how many of you would feel comfortable attending a meeting. Please contact me, send me an e-mail, text call and leave a message and let me know if you would attend. If there are other safe guards you'd like us to consider, please let me know.

Wednesday carving at CO Lumber will remain on hold.

My contact information:

markyfish@comcast.net

719-930-5309

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. - Mark Twain



## **Mark's Musings**

I fully intended to write this while on vacation a few weeks ago and as you can tell that didn't happen. I brought a ton of projects to work on, not knowing what was going to be open or what we might not be able to do given the uncertainty of our times. Well, I finished one project and roughed out two more. My morning routine was the same as last year, coffee, wood chips and lots of birds signing. This year a family of turkeys made their way into the mix every morning by walking from their evening roosting spot to the day roosting spot. Curious animals.

My father-in-law asked me if I carried wood and a knife everywhere and I had to stop to answer. After reflection, I realized I normally do have something to carve with me. I've got a knife, glove and some 1x1 pieces in my office; a knife, glove and wood in my backpack that stays in my car; and my toolbox with project bag is always ready to go. What about you guys and gals? Are you a "have knife will travel" person? I think I'll reach out to a few of you to see your responses (look forward to that in a future newsletter).

Club news: I've been in contact with Sally regarding our club Christmas party and so far we're still on. We may need a bigger room if participation is as high as it was last year and to keep distance. I'm also talking with the church about meetings (it doesn't hurt that I work with the head of the church board). When we return to meeting, we'll probably move out into the gym area to spread out. It will also help with clean up.

That brings me to a big question: How many of you are open to meeting on a monthly basis if we can keep it within "state guidelines"? I understand we have an "at risk" population for much of the club, I also know that social get togethers would do us all so good. Please let me know how you feel about this. My number and email are in the newsletter. Call me, leave a message, sent me a text or e-mail.

Keep sending pictures of your carvings to Karlene so they can get posted. Keep reaching out to one another (if you haven't, start) and keep the chips flying safely. Hope to see you all in person soon.



## Our Annual Aspen Harvest

By Aaron Mayer

First of all, a big thank you to everybody that participated in our annual aspen harvest. It was good to finally have one of our annual events take place, despite COVID-19. There were 11 participants that joined us, and we all had a good time. This year was a little different because of the virus. We decided to limit it to the Pike's Peak Whittlers only and keep the number of participants to a minimum. Plus, we were not able to have Joe Murphy (the forester with the Academy) join us. For half of those participating, this was their first time. They enjoyed the beauty of the area and were surprised to see how plentiful and easy it was to gather the aspen poles. For those who are not familiar with the harvest, it takes place at Farish Recreation Area, a property owned by the Academy. In the past, they have worked on an aspen regeneration project by fencing off a grove of aspens to protect the new growth from deer and elk. As a result, the new trees have grown to create a very dense grove, so we go up to try to help with thinning. If you have not joined us before or it's been a while, plan on joining us next year. You'll be amazed at the amount of wood there is to be collected.

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. - Winston Churchill



## Geisler-Moroder Carving School

By Ken Schroer

I believe when most of us began to carve, we were under the impression there was only one “right” way to carve — especially when we are working on eyes, noses, ears and other facial features. We all very quickly find out, though, that no two instructors use or teach the same techniques, and I found that to be especially true when I had the opportunity over the past five years to take several two week classes at the Geisler-Moroder carving school nestled in the Bavarian Alps in the tiny village of Elbigenalp, Austria. I had been carving for about six years when I finally convinced myself that perhaps I could carve in that environment without embarrassing myself too much. Luckily, my instructor was very accustomed to having relatively new carvers from the states in his classes, and he speaks English fluently, so there is no language barrier to be concerned about. I will admit to being somewhat intimidated by the carving skills of the instructors at the school, though. They make a living through their carvings, when not instructing at the school, so they are

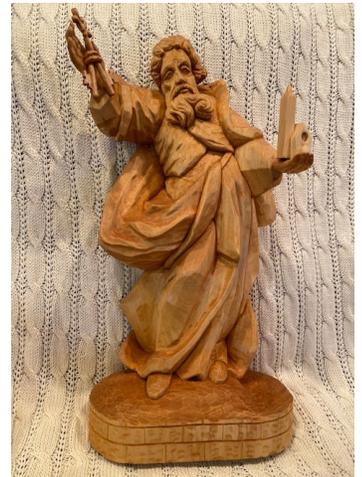
are extremely efficient and masterful at removing chips from a block of wood.

Before I digress too far, I should say that what Mark asked me to address in this article is to point out the differences between the European techniques and style of carving, compared to what we typically encounter here in the states. The obvious thing that I noticed first was that students are only provided large chisels and gouges — no palm tools, and not a knife in sight. Since the work is always done on a bench, with large tools and a mallet, there is also no need to wear a carving glove. My instructor’s tool of choice is a skew about an inch and a half wide, even if he is doing a small carving or doing intricate details on a large carving. We watched him carve a commission piece one evening of a female saint about 16 inches tall, starting from a block of wood, not a roughout, and within about two hours he had a nearly complete carving using only his skew. Speaking of rough outs, the carving instruction is never from a rough out — everyone uses either a carving provided by the school as a model (they have hundreds to choose from), or the student first creates a clay model to use as a go-by if he or she wants to do something a bit more unique.

### (Carving School cont')

One other notable difference between the European and US methods is in the way the instructors insist on approaching a new carving. Their cardinal rule is to never carve on the back of a carving until the front is nearly complete. Their rationale is that by carving from front to back, if you mess up the front (especially the face), you can recover by merely gluing another block of wood on the back of the carving block and proceeding on. Wood tends to be somewhat more expensive in Europe than we are used to here, so it is more economical to not waste the entire piece of wood if a mistake is made. I also found it interesting that European carvers, for the most part, don't carve caricatures (and I think I have only seen one Santa in the whole school). Instead, their carvings are mostly of realistic figures, with a fair amount of stylized and animal carvings also being common. One last interesting tradition that is unique, in my experience, occurs at the end of the day after everyone is finished carving and the chips are swept up. The class members and instructor gather together for a shot of schnapps and a toast to the end of an enjoyable day of carving.

What is not different is what, in my experience, is the universal congeniality of wood carvers, and the ready willingness of instructors and fellow carvers to help each other with suggestions regarding tools, carving techniques and finishing processes.



### Social Media Sites

Facebook: [Pikes Peak Whittlers](#)

Instagram: [@pikespeakwhittlers](#)

Andy and Aaron Mayer are available to teach classes on bark carving whimsical houses , small and large realistic bark churches and holiday basswood houses. Contact them via cell phone : (719) 641-0424.



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

Mailing address for the club:

Pike's Peak Whittlers

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Colorado Springs, CO

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## JON NELSON

### WOODCARVER/TEACHER

Jon Nelson teaches seminars across the U. S., and has won many awards for his woodcarvings at various woodcarving shows. But his greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the joy on peoples faces when they choose one of his carvings for their collections. In addition to the galleries carrying his work in Grand Lake, Colorado and Cody, Wyoming, you can see his work at selected wood carving shows and seminars across the U.S. His 25th anniversary of carving finds Jon more excited about it than ever and it's very rewarding to help budding carvers with the techniques they can use to create their own rewarding carving experience. Check out Jon's website for photos and more information. To request available dates and detailed information on teaching a seminar in your area or for information on acquiring some of Jon's carvings or roughouts you can contact him at:

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1-719-573-5986, jonndon@msn.com

<http://www.jonnelsonwoodcarving.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.