

# Pike's Peak Whittlers



January 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

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

## Meeting Dates

11 January 2020

8 February 2020

14 March 2020

11 April 2020

9 May 2020

16-17 May 37th Annual Show

13 June 2020

## Reminder

A New Year and our annual membership dues are once again upon us. Please pay dues as soon as possible. Yearly dues have remained the same \$20 per family. It is also time to start considering getting your table for the annual show coming up in May

"Those who can laugh without cause have either found the true meaning of happiness or have gone stark raving mad." Norm Papernick



### **Mark's Musings**

Christmas has come and gone. I pray that you all had a wonderful time with family and friends, I'd add relaxing but somehow relaxing and holidays don't seem to go hand in hand.

Our Christmas party was a little different this year (a break buffet) and from what has been reported it was enjoyed by the over 40 attendees.

Our ornament exchange had 27 entries with various themes from Santa's to bark to burned to Halloween. Tom Mellott was presented the Carver of the Year award for his contributions to the club and carving community as a whole. We have reserved the Patty Jewett space for next year's party already.

At our final Wednesday carving of the year the employees of CO Lumber were presented with thank you cards, a pizza lunch and Christmas cookies made by our own Glenda. Everything was appreciated and enjoyed.

2020 will be another great year for the Pikes Peak Whittlers. We've got great club teachings scheduled, the club's 37th show is scheduled for May 16&17 with Chris Hammock judging and holding a class before the show. The annual picnic will be held with election of new officers on tap. I'm excited about the club's future and participation in our community and carving world!

Side note: I presented an informal questionnaire to members at the Christmas party with hopes of letting members get to know each other a bit better. In typical PPW fashion many of the responses were anything but genuine and serious but nonetheless humorous and helpful. Here are couple of "highlights" of the tips:

Don't take wooden nickels.

Don't cut yourself.

Carve in a warm room.

Enjoy yourself.

There you go my friends, enjoy yourself, don't cut yourself, keep warm and be cautious of carved wooden nickels!

**"The Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."**

**Benjamin Franklin**

## PPW Annual Holiday Party

by Karlene Kilmer

In December, the Pike's Peak Whittlers' (PPW) Annual Holiday Party was held in lieu of the regular monthly meeting. It was a brunch at the Patty Jewett Golf Course Clubhouse. In attendance were 43 people consisting of PPW Members and their guests. After brunch was served, there was an ornament exchange. Anyone in attendance could have made an ornament and participated. Participants brought their ornaments already wrapped, the wrapped presents were placed on a table, and each participant was given a number. When it was time for the exchange, a present was selected randomly and a number chosen. The ornament's maker and the person whose number was selected then came to the front to unwrap the ornament for all to see and to have their picture taken together. In all, 27 ornaments were exchanged. Everyone in attendance also had been given a raffle ticket when they arrived, and the party ended with a raffle of various items that had been donated. Items included roughouts from Jon Nelson and Rich Wetherbee, a holiday glass serving bowl, large tins filled with popcorn, and other items. It was a wonderful way to spend some time together, enjoy the season, and get to see some amazing carvings by our talented PPW members.



**A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.**



Carver/Member of the: Tom Mellot

By Doc Benjamin

Congratulations to Tom Mellot for his selection as Carver/Member of the year for 2019. Tom has been a member of the club for over 5 years and is a member of the First Lutheran Carving Club. Tom has been carving since he was a Cub Scout starting out with soap carving. As a Boy Scout he carved his own neckerchief slide. He has taught carving several of his comfort animals at the club's monthly meetings. Tom is also the author of two articles for Carving Illustrated. His experience with carving is greatly appreciated by all Pikes Peak Whittlers members. Again, congratulations for being our Carver/Member of the year.

**Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.**

## Jon Nelson's Annual Santa Carving & Painting Class

by Karlene Kilmer

Each December, Pike's Peak Whittlers (PPW) own Jon Nelson has a 3-day weekend class on Santa Carving & Painting. The class was attended by seven PPW members including myself and one additional wood carver from Denver. The class was held in Jon's home with his wife Donna providing some delicious baked goods and even a wonderful lunch on the third day.

The first two days were to complete the carving and the third to do the painting. Class began with the selection of roughouts. The majority of students chose one of Jon's various wonderful Santas, but there also was a cowboy and a Viking in the mix. Jon then guided students through the process, from carving individual facial features in the correct proportions to finalizing each piece with buttons, trim, accessories, and/or whatever rounded out each one. Day Two ended with everyone having a carving ready for paint. The day ended with each carving being dipped in Jon's pre-finish mixture of linseed oil and mineral spirits so that they all would be dry and ready to begin Day Three with paint.

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I thoroughly enjoyed the class and definitely added to my skill set. As an Intermediate carver still closer to Beginner than Advanced, I only had tried to paint one other carving prior to taking this class with mixed results at best. As usual, Jon was generous with sharing his knowledge and tricks, and I learned a lot. After completing the class, I painted three additional carvings the next weekend on my own with much better results. I would recommend Jon's class to anyone wanting to spend an enjoyable weekend learning a lot about carving and painting.

Jon sells his roughouts from his website: [jonnelsonwoodcarving.com](http://jonnelsonwoodcarving.com). Check out his website for more information.

**Pictures From Jon Nelson Santa Class**



Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.  
- George Bernard Shaw

## Sculpey Santa Bear Demo with Rich Wetherbee

by Karlene Kilmer

Twice in 2019, Caricature Carvers of America member Rich Wetherbee conducted a class for Pike's Peak Whittlers' (PPW) members. In May, he did a caricature carving class as part of the PPW Annual Show. During that class, an interest was expressed in having him teach a sculpture class using SuperSculpey polymer clay. The SuperSculpey class just happened in November and was a huge hit. During that class, Rich took a couple of minutes to quickly show us a small Santa Bear he often makes during the Christmas season. We loved it, and he responded by offering to come to one of our Wednesday morning carving get-togethers in December to show the entire group there how to make it with Premo Sculpey. Premo Sculpey comes in various colors so that you can make and bake a sculpture to its final state without needing to paint it. Of course, Rich's generous offer was readily accepted and he arrived at CO Lumber Specialties the Wednesday before Christmas to do a hands-on demonstration. Everyone at the gathering made either a brown or black bear under Rich's direction.

As usual, Rich was a great instructor and everyone had a fun time. While the final pieces were baking, members chatted with Rich and there even were some Christmas treats, giving the last Wednesday get-together of 2019 a nice send-off. Looking forward to seeing more of Rich at future PPW activities and classes!



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

**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 select-ed 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:

4310 San Miguel

Colorado Springs, CO 80915

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.