

# The Valley Carver



February 2010

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Central Fraser Valley Woodcarvers  
Box 8000-408  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 2M5  
Canada

[www.centralfraservalleywoodcarvers.com](http://www.centralfraservalleywoodcarvers.com)

### Club Stuff

#### Club T-Shirts

*Bob has mentioned that for anyone who has yet to get a club shirt – we have 1 only 2X left available and 2 only XL in size.*

If you are interested contact Bob.

### **Beginner Classes**

**Beginner classes** will resume March 17<sup>th</sup> – new subject material I hear.



## Executive

President & Showchair	<b>Roger Kovaltsenko</b> 604-853-4510
Treasurer	<b>Bonnie Sorenson</b> 604-858-2297
Librarian	<b>Joany Hughes-Games</b>
Vice Chair and Newsletter	<b>Larry Armour.</b> 604-756-0306
Secretary & Instructor	<b>Bob Young.</b> 604-853-8049

## Spotlight

## Wednesday Nights

### Workshops & Meetings

Wednesday Night Woodcarving and beginner classes **6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**. This regular Wednesday night meeting is held in **Yale High School** at the corner of McMillan and Old Yale Road in Abbotsford, BC; in the school woodwork shop. It gives us all a chance to carve and socialize and learn from each other.

**Reminder that in March, the school is closed the first 2 Wednesdays for spring break. We are back on the 17th**

## Calendar of Events \*

## Raffle Tickets & Club

Ken is loony – but I already knew that – more importantly he has donated first prize in our club raffle draw – a loon! For all the members who have agreed to help out – the Tradex is coming up fast and we have secured 2 dates to put in a table and sell tickets and our club to the public. We need volunteers and help on these dates.. we go to the Tradex as part of our showing our craft in the community and raise funds for the club and its activities – so please donate some time.

Tradex Centre dates

March 5, 6, & 7<sup>th</sup> BC Boat & Sportsman Show

March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> BC Log home show

Coordinate with Ken for parking reimbursement and times to man the tables. Ken Smorang 604-854-8232

### TRADEX

1190 Cornell Street  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6H5

[www.fvtradex.com](http://www.fvtradex.com)

## Recipes \*

## All those juicy tricks and tips !

### Cutting End Grain & Knots

50/50 Rubbing Alcohol & water – raises the grain for easier cutting & turning out rough areas. End grain is particularly hard to cut. Carry a spray bottle with a 50/50 solution and have it at the ready. A couple of squirts and you can slice easily through.

### Bending Wood

Use steam or . . . 50/50 regular kitchen Ammonia & water.

On a recent project I decided to try and bend a wing. It was about 1/8<sup>th</sup> to 3/32nds thick at the widest. I bought some regular inexpensive ammonia and put it in a bucket with equal amounts of water. (happened to be using basswood for this). I put the wing in and set the bottle on top to prevent floating and ensure even soaking. After 3 days I puled it out and was able to bend to the configuration I wanted around my wife's old unused 3" diameter candle. (Don't tell her!). A couple of paper towels around the lot to dry out with elastic bands to hold the shape until dry. Voila – success!



Here are some quips and tips from around the internet . .

## Some "A-Ha" moments of clarity !

1. One of my greatest "Ah Ha" moments came when I protested, "that's not carved from a single block of wood" and a fellow Carver (of many years and a higher skill level) responded with, "Now why would you want to do that?" My standard – because your supposed to seemed so – “weak” at that point and I opened my mind a little to other possibilities before me.
2. I realized how important practice was in learning..... and became unafraid to mess something up - knowing that I would learn from mistakes.

### Barnacle bumps on Whales and water ripples

I've read that if you add household ammonia to latex paints that they thicken and you can texture the paints as though it was icing sugar and make bumps and swirls etc. Try it out and let me know.

### Feather burning detailing

When carving birds I've found that just after sanding and before texturing the "hard" feathers (primaries, tail, and sometimes the secondaries) to put a thin coat of Deft mixture...Deft Clear Coat and Lacquer thinner 1:1...the burning is a lot finer, closer, more shallow and very light honey colored. As I seem to have a heavy hand when I burn this technique helps a lot

My personal favorite was one I adopted several years ago and use in my approach to carving today –

On the subject of creativity and your own style of carving - poke it with a stick and see what happens ! - Larry Armour

Good luck !

## PRODUCTS REVIEW

### Portability

There are those who enjoy toting all their tools around with them on large wheeled containers. The opposite is true of those who want a portable tool pouch and a destination. There has been great demand for information over the past few months for some folks who enjoy the portability of our hobby. With spring and summer approach8ing – the urge to get outdoors and carve is ever increasing. From campgrounds to retreats we all seem to enjoy getting out and carving.

Several suppliers cater to that aspect from the simple Warren sets to Cape forge and their delightful pocket tool rolls. I am a dedicated fan of these guys and they can tell you – I certainly have more tools than I can use in any one sitting. And simplest yet is a great pocket knife – but I'll leave that to Rick Weibe and next month's newsletter. I own a pocket Carving Jack from Flexcut – love it – swear by it! And the convenient pocket tool rolls from Cape Fore Tools – really like those little guys for detail work. So I was having one of those busy mind days wanting to experiment ant grabbed the Warren tool handle, an exacto blade tool handle and an older multi-screw driver handle and looked at the similarities and differences. Two have storage built in and they all appeared to have the same collet/chuck holding system. “One pocket and one tool simplicity.”

So I contacted Jim Wester at North Bay Forge just south of the border to us and Mike Komick at Preferred Edge knives to see what their thoughts were on adjusting what they do to fit a particular handle. Jim deals with primarily round stock so adjustments are required to fit into the ready sized 1/4” max collet. Mike's knives are from flat stock and quickly jumped into the handle. I must say that both gentlemen put out exceptional blades. Here are a few pictures of the concept and end result of a blade Mike custom made for me.



Mike's blade slide easily into the handle and locked in place. - and that allowed me to make up my very own dream set of portable tools -



all my favorite gouges and blades in one convenient holder and a couple of interchangeable handles – I'm in portable heaven. (And I don't need the furniture mover – just a small fanny pack. )

Now I realize that this isn't for everyone – however if you are thinking of toting your hobby around with you – think to check out North Bay Forge or Cape Forge . . . . better still-give Mike at Preferred Edge a call and he will custom make you a blade to fit your handle of choice – and those are darn exceptional blades. You will often run into Mike around town and certainly at our show being one of our sponsors. And we do like to support those who support us each year. Give him a call. Mike -1-888-811-5551

## SUPPLIERS

Chipping Away  
Dennis "Pop" Moore  
We make Carving Fun !  
[www.chippingaway.com](http://www.chippingaway.com)  
Order Desk ONLY - Toll Free:  
888-682-9801  
General Inquiries - Telephone:  
(519) 743-9008  
Fax: (519) 578-6074  
Email: [Cindy@chippingaway.com](mailto:Cindy@chippingaway.com)

604-795-3462

Razertip Industries  
Cam Merkle  
[www.razertip.com](http://www.razertip.com)  
Toll Free 1-877-729-3787  
Fax 1-306-242-6119  
Email: On-line form @ website  
Wood N' Wildcraft  
Rick Weibe  
#306 2477 Ingram Rd  
Westbank BC  
1-800-738-0518  
[www.woodcarvingbiz.com](http://www.woodcarvingbiz.com)

Island Woodcraft – Woodchips  
[www.islandwoodcraft.ca](http://www.islandwoodcraft.ca)  
Toll Free 1-800-663-1101  
Fax 1-604-525-1035  
Email: [info@woodcarvingsupplies.com](mailto:info@woodcarvingsupplies.com)

Christian J. Hummul Co  
Ray Zajac  
[www.hummul.com](http://www.hummul.com)  
Toll Free 1-800-762-0235  
Email: [mail@hummul.com](mailto:mail@hummul.com)

Preferred Edge Carving Knives & Supplies  
Mike Komick  
Toll Free: 1-888-811-5551  
Email: [mike@preferrededge.ca](mailto:mike@preferrededge.ca)

The Wooden Moose  
Bob Woofter  
[http://stores.shop.ebay.ca/The-Wooden-Moose-Carver\\_W0QQ\\_armrsZ1](http://stores.shop.ebay.ca/The-Wooden-Moose-Carver_W0QQ_armrsZ1)  
Ph:- 1-330-718-2338  
Email: [Woodmoosecarver@aol.com](mailto:Woodmoosecarver@aol.com)

Dux Dekes  
Jeff Duxbury

[www.duxdekes.com](http://www.duxdekes.com)  
Toll Free: 1-800-553-4725  
Email: [duxdekes@duxdekes.com](mailto:duxdekes@duxdekes.com)

Sugarpine Woodcarving Supplies  
[www.sugarpinewoodcarving.com](http://www.sugarpinewoodcarving.com)  
Toll Free: 1-800-452-2783  
Email:  
[greg@sugarpinewoodcarving.com](mailto:greg@sugarpinewoodcarving.com)

Smokey Mountain Woodcarvers  
[www.woodcarvers.com](http://www.woodcarvers.com)  
Toll Free: 1-800-541-5994  
Email: [sales@woodcarvers.com](mailto:sales@woodcarvers.com)

KV Woodcarving Supplies  
[www.kvwoodcarvingsupplies.com](http://www.kvwoodcarvingsupplies.com)  
1-506-847-3052  
Email: [kvwcs@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:kvwcs@nbnet.nb.ca)

Research Mannikin  
[www.rmi.com](http://www.rmi.com)  
Toll Free: 1-800-826-0654  
Email: On-line form@website

Chip Bin Wood Carving Studio  
Mike Sykes  
PO Box 256 Summerland BC  
1-250-836-4931  
Toll-free order line: 1-877-836-4922

Bitlady  
Terry  
5424 Monkey Tree Lane Sechelt BC  
1- 604-885-5854  
[www.bitlady.com/](http://www.bitlady.com/)

Carving Patterns – Lora Irish  
Most extensive site of patterns for download  
[www.carvingpatterns.com](http://www.carvingpatterns.com)

Greg Dorrance Co.  
1063 Oak Hill Avenue  
Atleboro MA 02703-7318  
1-508-222-6255  
[www.gregdorrance.com](http://www.gregdorrance.com)

Jennings Decoy Company  
601 Franklin Avenue NE  
St. Cloud, MN 56304  
Local: +1 (320) 253-2253  
Toll Free: +1 (800) 331-5613  
Fax: +1 (320) 253-9537

Jim Wester  
North Bay Forge  
1 North Bay Street  
Waldron Island, WA 98297  
(360) 317-8896

Will rescan patterns and have a couple next month.  
In the meantime – check out the internet!