
Triad Woodcarvers News
Based in Winston Salem, NC
June, 2020 – Volume 10, Issue 6

No Meetings Planned for Now!

This situation is explained best by this report from Ray Branch:

"For sure, 2020 has been a different year for all of us and has impacted all of us. We hope that you and your families are safe, that all is going well for you, and that you are continuing to carve. Following are some items which might be of interest to you regarding status of meetings and other activities:

- Status of Meetings. We have talked with Miller Park representatives and it appears that that they will be opening at the start of Phase 3 of COVID. We talked to them about more than one session to accommodate our Club in the event there are attendance restrictions. We will communicate as we get further word on this. (Note that several members are coming together privately to carve. Jim Zimmer has invited Club members to bring chairs and carve out of doors at Miller Park on Monday afternoons/evenings. They are meeting in the pavilion across from the elementary school. (Some clubs – most notably, Charlotte, has begun this mode of carving.)
- Status of Activities. The Club had 28 events planned for 2020 after a record 19 in 2019. COVID has had a negative impact on our ability to participate in most of these events. Bethabara Apple Festival and Horne Creek Historical Farm festival are two major ones which have been cancelled. The Carolina Classic Fair – in which we demo carved for 10 days each of the past two years – is, in all probability going to be cancelled. On a positive note, Klingspor has agreed to let us begin demo carving and promoting the club in their store starting in July. We will get word out for this – on a voluntary basis. Biweekly for 2-4 hours. Forsyth Central Library has given us approval to display our carvings in the Carolina Room Display Case for all of November and December, 2020. If you have suggestions for participation in other events this year, let Ray Branch or Vince McHenry know.
- Triad Woodcarvers/ReadWS Art Show is on schedule for November 7, 2020. So far twenty-seven members are carving to display and sell at this event. This is a major fundraiser for the Club, a huge opportunity to market the Club, and a way to give to a worthy organization. (Plus carvers can sell their creations!) Tony Leonardi is chair of this event for the Club. Want to participate? Contact Ray at 704-577-8619 for details.
- STEM of the Triad. Will Crawford chairs the Triad Woodcarvers Instruction Team that is providing 13 sessions of woodcarving instruction for home-school high schoolers. This will be the second year of this program and the classes are already filled. Stewart Hodges is part of this team as well. Interested? Contact Will at 540-

661-9661 and volunteer. Triad Woodcarvers is the only club in the Carolinas – of some 17 – who are providing structured instruction for high schoolers.

- Ronald McDonald House. Triad Woodcarvers has partnered with RMH to provide 100 Angels of Hope and/or Comfort Birds to their residents. We donated 100 in 2019 and continued through February, 2020. NOTE: We now have roughouts of both Angels of Hope and Comfort Birds at Klingspor. Members are free to pick up a roughout, carve it and bring it back, and put it in back into the box at Klingspor. Please sign out your roughouts and sign back in what you have carved. These will later be picked up and delivered to RMH. (Ray Branch is donating a knife for raffle for all who participate in carving these from Klingspor – but you must sign in the booklet when you return one)
- COVID Carving Challenge. Charles Griffin has spear headed this to provide carving links for the membership. All participants' carvings will be judged and Charles has made arrangements for carvings to be left at Klingspor (refer to earlier communications by Charles) This is a great opportunity to win a carving knife.
- Non-profit Certification. Finally, Triad Woodcarvers is nearing approval as a 501c3 non-profit. Thanks to all the work of Will Crawford and Charles Griffin. All questions have been answered and we are waiting for the final approval. This will be key for our ability to obtain grant funding in the future.
- Triad Woodcarvers Library. Another 35-40 books/magazines has been donated to the Club by a 95 year old World War 2 Veteran. Giving seems to be a part of the DNA of this group of folks. Thanks to Art Heisler of the Charlotte Woodcarvers. Bonnie Sparrow has already cataloged these into our existing library. (Major membership benefit for us!)

"So, despite the handicaps the Club has experienced this year, the Club (some 89 members strong) continues to be the most active and fastest growing Club (through 2019) in the Carolinas. For those more recent members who have not completed our program of Free Woodcarving Instruction, we are looking forward to seeing you as soon as we get back. But feel free to contact any of the officers/board members with any questions you might have.

"The Charlotte Showcase of Woodcarvings scheduled for February, 2021, is still on schedule. The Triad Woodcarvers had 31 members enter 417 carvings in their 2020 Show and we won the Challenge 2020 Competition against Piedmont Woodcarvers of Mauldin, SC. We would like to exceed this for 2021 if possible. Contact Ray Branch for details (He is a Show Committee Member for Charlotte Woodcarvers) So, keep carving. Triad Woodcarvers has won Best of Novice for the past two years at Charlotte. Plus numerous other "Best ofs" and other ribbons!! (This challenge resulted in Charlotte having the largest carving competition in the history of their club!!)

"Jim Zimmer and Allie Hutchison have been key in trying to communicate with everyone. Please send pictures to them for sharing with the membership. And keep carving – and let's hear your suggestions for promoting the art of woodcarving and keeping the Club active during this time. Need wood? Let us know. Same with tools. Don't forget your 10% discount at Klingspor as Triad Woodcarver members."

Ray Branch

Chair, Public Relations & Membership
Triad Woodcarvers
Winston Salem, NC

A final word—please continue to practice caution regarding safety. If you choose to meet at an outdoor carving session diligently observe social distancing. By protecting yourself you are helping to keep the numerous Club members who have underlying health conditions safe, as well as your own circle of influence.

Allie Hutchison