



My Fellow Woodcarvers,

Whenever I'm out, I ask people about their comfort level relative to Covid. Even people venturing out for the first time are feeling increasing confidence. Most have their shots and wear masks indoors in public places.

Since this thing is likely to be with us for a long time, it seems to come down to thoughtfully taking measured risks. After all, there are even mental health risks to never leaving your home!

If you are okay with turning out to a CWCA meeting this fall, I hope to see you there.

Best . . . Mike Schulde

Calendar:

White Memorial Annual Family Nature Day – Sept. 25 from 11 to 4 pm carve, show, demonstrate or sell

CWCA Regular Club Meeting - October 3, 2021- New England Carousel Museum-95 Riverside Ave, Bristol, CT- 10am-2pm. First meeting since Covid19!!

New England Wood Carvers Spirit of Wood show – October 24, Bow New Hampshire. <http://www.newc.org/> for more information.

CWCA Club Meetings – November 7, 2021- CFPA, 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06 16 Meriden Road Rockfall, CT 06481481- 10am-2pm. Just like old times, but with Covid precautions!! And there is a place to carve outside if you prefer.

BazarrBazarr -November 13 - New England Carousel Museum-95 Riverside Ave, Bristol, CT. Details later,

CWCA Club Meetings – December 5, 2021- CFPA, - 10am-2pm.

Currently Serving CWCA Officers:					
President	Leo Hein	860-675-5473	Secretary	Dan Holiday	860-620-2255
V. President	Michael Audette	860-388-7874	Treasurer	Bob McVety	203-288-3161
Membership	Mark Austin	860-283-2177			
Newsletter	Mike Schulde	860-379-5805	mikeschu62@gmail.com		

TIME TO 'RE-UP'! Please send \$15.00 to Mark Austin to renew your membership For 2021. checks should be made to CWCA and mailed with following form to: **CWCA Membership, 258 Campville Road, Northfield, CT 06778**

Name _____ New Member? Yes

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Stop Sharpening and Start Stropping

It's said that faithful stropping eliminates the need to re-sharpen a tool. Unless you want to change the angle of the bevel, there will never be a need to grind away at the edge. Just polish a few microns off with a stropp, and you will have an easier time making maximum chips. I've collected a few tidbits from carvers and straight razor shavers in the article below which highlight stropping techniques and newer stropping compounds.

Most carvers like working compound from a wax bar into leather leather – it's economical and practical. Green Honing Compound (chromium oxide) seems to be the most popular of all honing compounds. It is fast and effective for polishing to a mirror finish. It pays to check the specs on the compound you use – whether green, or red, white, black (aluminum, copper, and iron oxides), because these bars may be a blend of oxides and can range from 6 to .5 microns. If you're stropping compound is a blend of different sizes of grit, the edge you achieve will be limited by the largest particles in the blend. Blends with consistent particle size can cost more, but they allow you to step thru the grits as you do when sanding wood to the desired finish.

A compound with particles in the range of 6 microns will give you an edge equivalent to an 8000 grit stone. Certainly not bad, but you can carve with less effort if you stropp with smaller grits. Paste and spray compounds are easier to use than wax-based compounds. Pastes are softer, spreadable honing compounds that work into leather easier, or lay on top of other media – such as wood (including an end grain block), MDF, denim, linen, and a variety of plastic surfaces that gradually dispense the compound as you stropp. Pastes and sprays can also be cleaned much more easily from your stropping medium than a wax compound, once it is full of metal dust.

If you don't know the composition of the alloy in a particular tool, you have the option of using a carbide or diamond paste which will more effectively remove metal from ZDP-189, CM110V, D3, and other very tough alloys. There is increasing interest in diamond sprays, which cut fast as you sharpen tools thru successive grits - you might go from an 8000 grit stone to a 4 mic diamond paste or spray. Then to 2 mics, and then to 1 and .5 mics. If you stropp frequently, you would just go back to the finest grit you used. You can go down to 0.10 Micron – which is 160,000 Grit - then you can shave and carve with the same blade! In fact, some sharpeners only use leather by itself – like a barber would stropp a straight razor.

Recent gathering of carvers and turners in Bristol . . .



Message from the Pres,

With this restart, let's go to new heights! You have the talent and will to create new and interesting things! Let's bring out what is your vision or dream in wood. Just let the chips fly and fall where they may. Clean up? That can wait as the carving takes form, A change here and there, then look at what you just created!

New meeting rules: Wear a mask. Clean up when done (including butts outside)

So it's time to carve. Covid19 brought more time for carving to some, and less time to others. No matter the time, just trying to make time was or still is a problem. With relaxing of Covid19 rules, it may be your best time to sharpen the tools and make chips together. Bring along what you have been working on to display or for "show and tell." And remember...keep your tools sharp and your cuts clean.

Leo

M. Schulte, 126 Goose Green Rd., Barkhamsted, CT 06063

