



Chips & Tips

June 2026

Covers April-May

Woodcarving Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Carvers, Chapter #1 of the California Carvers Guild



Established in 1967, the Santa Clara Valley Carvers (SCVC) is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting the art of woodcarving. We're a chapter of the California Carvers Guild, a 501(c)(3) entity. Our club is run by volunteers. Our mission is to learn and share our passion for woodcarving with others. We publish our woodcarving newsletter every two months. Best to read online at <https://santaclaravalleycarvers.org/newsletter-2026-06/>.

We meet weekly in the South Bay Area. Everyone 11 years old or older is welcome to join us. No prior carving experience is required to participate. We mentor beginners.

Membership dues: starting at **\$6 per year**. Extra fees may apply depending on location. See page 3 for details.

Meeting Times and Locations

Monday Meeting 10 am to 2 pm	Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center , Room 206. Members 55+ 208 E. Main St., Los Gatos, CA 95030
Thursday Meeting 7 pm to 9 pm	Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of Scouting America 1900 The Alameda, #100, San Jose, CA 95126 Note: Adults and children over 10 years with parents are welcome
Other Opportunities	Zoom meeting on Mondays, 7-8 pm, with Tri-Valley Carvers . Contact us if interested.
Please check the latest updates to our meeting times and locations on our website . Find other clubs in the area .	

2026 Chapter Leadership

President: Roman Chernikov

Vice President: Jim Phipps

Secretary: Dan Brady

Treasurer and membership: Gary Paulson

SCVC Adviser: Dave Osterlund

CCG Adviser: Roman Chernikov

Contact us by email: contact@santaclaravalleycarvers.org



President's Message

We demonstrated woodcarving at Scout-O-Rama last month, one of the West's premier scouting events organized by the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of Scouting America. It was a fantastic experience to share the art of woodcarving with scouts and community members. We will also be teaching local scouts in September to help them earn their Woodcarving Merit Badge. Registration for the **scouting workshop** is now open; please note that space is limited to 10 participants, so be sure to [sign up](#) early!



Sadly, the Saratoga Blossom Festival, planned for June 13, was abruptly canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. It was always our favorite summer event, and we hope it will resume next year.

The [heart-whittling](#), [chain-carving](#), and leather-strop-making workshops held earlier this year were both educational and well attended. Coming up, we will be carving Halloween ghosts and winter ornaments throughout the summer. We are currently seeking ideas for new group projects for the fall and winter seasons; please feel free to submit your suggestions.

I am continuing to lead the improvement efforts for the [California Carvers Guild](#) (CCG) website. Our primary goal is to train a team of volunteers in WordPress, and I'm pleased to report that several members are picking up the system quickly. We are currently focusing on updating the details for all carving clubs across California. I will keep you updated as we move forward.

Speaking of woodcarving clubs in the state, I want to highlight the CCG Chapter Quilt, a collaborative project featuring contributions from clubs across the state. The "quilt" is made up of 1 x 6 x 6-inch tiles, each uniquely carved by a different chapter. The Tri-Valley Carvers currently host it, and it will be on display at the **Tri-Valley Carvers Show** in Pleasanton, CA, on **September 12-13**, 2026. I encourage you to visit the show and see this impressive quilt in person.



Carving tip: Expand your toolbox with these three little tools: an awl, a magnifying glass, and a small flashlight. They will not take up much space, and you may find them quite handy in many cases: inspecting small

details, picking out splinters, finding a dropped item in a dark parking lot, etc.



Happy carving,
Roman Chernikov, President of [Santa Clara Valley Carvers](#)

Upcoming Events

June 13, 2026: Saratoga Blossom Festival has been canceled. Read about [our participation in 2025](#).

June - August 2026: We will make winter ornaments for our December holiday gift exchange. It will include carving Santas, snowmen, and other ornaments.

August 6 & 10, 2026: Group project to carve ghost ornaments for Halloween during regular meeting hours. If you have a nice design in mind, please let us know!

August 21-22, 2026: Woodcarving at Santa Clara County Fair. Our club will demonstrate woodcarving between 2 pm and 6 pm on Friday and Saturday.

September 12-13, 2026: Tri-Valley Carvers Annual Woodcarving Show is the biggest annual woodcarving show in Northern California. Find us there.

September 12, 2026: Woodcarving at Cars in the Park. The event is the largest annual antique & classic auto show in the West. Held at the History Park, San Jose.

September 19-20, 2026: The 46th annual Woodcarvers show in Cambria, CA. The show is organized by [Central Coast Woodcarvers](#), CCG Chapter 7.

Find a full list of scheduled events & workshops online: <https://santaclaravalleycarvers.org/calendar/>.

Membership

Membership: The SCVC membership cost is **\$6 per year**. However, an additional annual fee of \$45 is required for those 55 and older who wish to attend the Monday meetings at the Adult Recreation Center in Los Gatos. The center membership allows you to use the facility and enjoy all its classes.

[California Carving Guild](#) annual dues are \$25. CCG membership is optional, but recommended as CCG supports our club and carvers in California.

If you want to be involved in our woodcarving community, even if you are remote, you can join our club online by filling in the [“New Membership Application”](#) and [paying the dues online](#).

Follow Us on Social Media

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#).



Our Recent Activities and Publications

Woodcarving at Scout-O-Rama San Jose, May 2026

We demonstrated [woodcarving at Scout-O-Rama San Jose](#) on May 9, 2026. This recap highlights the creativity shared among the Bay Area scouting community at History Park in San Jose, CA.



Chain Carving Workshop, A Day of Links, March, 2026

We hosted a [workshop focused on chain carving](#). Under the guidance of **David Osterlund**, our members carved wooden chains, and beginners learned how to use a drill and a scroll saw.



Read [our article about the workshop](#) that includes photos, a lesson on persistence, and a carving tip.

BAWA Woodworking Show at Woodcraft, May 2026

Explore photos of handcrafted furniture, toys, and turnings at the [2026 BAWA Woodworking Show](#), organized by the Bay Area Woodworkers Association (BAWA) at Woodcraft in San Carlos.



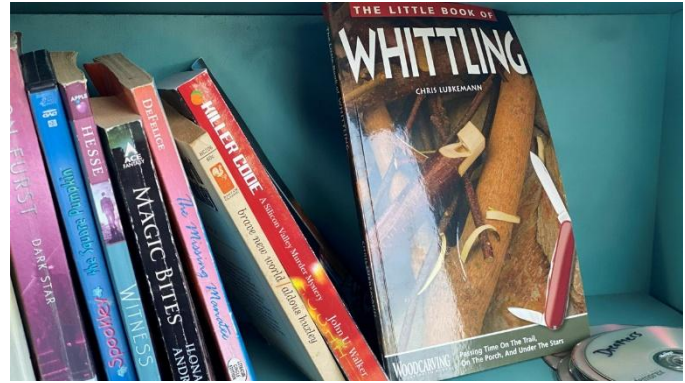
SCVC Woodcarving Library Update: 340+ books

Use [this link](#) to see the 11 new books added to our club's library. Borrowing a book is easy: [browse or search the online catalog](#), click the **Reserve** button, and pick up your title at the next meeting.



Woodcarving with The Little Free Library

Our club has begun donating extra copies of our woodcarving books to local Little Free Libraries. We've tucked a flyer inside each book so interested readers can find out more about woodcarving in the area. In these little photos below, you may see a copy of "The Little Book of Whittling" in the Little Free Library at [Maker Nexus](https://www.makernexus.com/), Sunnyvale, CA.



SCVC Woodcarving Club Flyer



When we demonstrate woodcarving at public events, we always have a stack of woodcarving flyers at our table. The flyers highlight our work and provide details for people interested in woodcarving, including [our website link](https://santacларavalleycarvers.org) and meeting details.

If you are interested, you may [learn more about our flyers here](https://santacларavalleycarvers.org). You may also help us by printing and distributing them to your friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

Woodcarving Workshops

Making Leather Strops for Carving Knives Workshop, May 2026

In May, we hosted a DIY leather strop-making workshop led by **Roman Chernikov**, who guided members through decorating their own strops. Special thanks go to **Dan Brady** for donating the leather and to the SCVC club for providing the quarter-sawn blanks. Roman shared three chip carving patterns specifically for decorating strops, which you can download on his website, [READ N TRY](https://readntry.com/).



Woodcarving Display Case: Unexpected Update

We used to display our woodcarving projects in a glass display case in the lobby of our carving place in Los Gatos, CA. Unfortunately, one of the visitors accidentally dropped a water bottle on the table, shattering the glass.



Luckily, no injuries occurred, and no damage was done to the carvings on display. To avoid future risks, we are exploring an alternative way to display our woodcarvings at the facility.

Huge thanks to **Dan Brady**, our club secretary, for handling the opportunity to increase our display space and for building the early shelving prototype.

Stay tuned for future updates as we fine-tune the design of our new display case. Our non-profit is run entirely by volunteers, and if you want to help us cover material costs, please use the **Donate** button. We appreciate your support!

Also, you may see photos of our previous display arrangements: [Woodcarving Display 2025](#), [2024](#), and [2023](#).

Woodcarvings Spotted by Nitin Varshney

The "Welcome Bear," featuring a removable greeting plate, was spotted at the KOA Campground office in Visalia, CA, where it was originally placed to greet arriving campers.



Another find is a 4-foot bear with a fish located at the Wuksachi Lodge in [Sequoia National Park](#). The lodge is a stunning stone-and-cedar retreat nestled among giant sequoias and Sierra peaks, a must-visit for the views alone.

Visit us on Thursday evenings

Visit us at the [Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council](#) of Scouting America.

Drop in on Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm at:

1900 The Alameda #100,
San Jose, CA 95126

We welcome anyone **aged 11 or older**. We always set aside time to mentor beginners, to present a carving topic, or to demo a new carving technique. Our membership fee is **only \$6 per year**.



Visit us on Monday mornings

We carve together at the [Adult Recreation Center](#) in Los Gatos. Room 206, 2nd floor.

Drop in Mondays from 10 am to 2 pm at:

208 E Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Age requirement: **55+ years old**. Membership of the Adult Recreation Center costs \$45 per year.



A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!



Bill Peekema

Bill has known about our carving club for a while; he actually visited one of our woodcarving shows over ten years ago! He's finally made it official and joined us. He's already picked up some tools and is tackling his first project: a basswood pumpkin.

Welcome aboard, Bill!



Larry Wade

We've got a new member joining us from across the border! Please welcome Larry, an experienced carver who enjoys teaching beginners how to master different carving styles. Although he's moved from the Bay Area to the [Oregon Carvers Guild](#), he's staying connected by joining our club remotely.

Thanks for being part of the community, Larry!

Oakhurst Woodcarvers Rendezvous, April 2026



The Oakhurst Woodcarvers Rendezvous is undoubtedly California's largest annual woodcarving event. Organized by the **Central Sierra Woodcarvers** with support from the [California Carvers Guild](#) and numerous sponsors, this week-long gathering showcased incredible talent. The event featured many woodcarving classes and opportunities to connect with local and visiting carvers from out of state. Here are a few highlights:

Kelly Hall carved a large flag in just a few days! Having done this a few times before, he carved the flag remarkably fast. Join the [Central Sierra Woodcarvers](#) Facebook group to see more of his work.



Vickie Hopson taught chip carving at the Rendezvous, sharing her lifetime of expertise with both beginners and experienced carvers. Her class was so popular that participants lined up to watch her demonstrations. The precision and consistency of her finished items amazed everyone.



Unfortunately, we couldn't feature all the notable carvers in this newsletter, but we plan to highlight more of their work in future issues!

What's on the Workbench?



Ashraf Amirabi

Ashraf is carving a unique utensil set from basswood: a spoon, fork, and knife. In the photo, you can see she has completed the spoon and fork, both featuring large round ornaments on their handles. Her goal was to make items that are functional but also decorative.



Bill Peekema & Terry Davis

Bill joined us last month and is mastering his carving knife quite fast. He is working on a driftwood piece, and we are eager to see the result soon.

Terry is working on a caricature of an elephant with large ears, aiming for a tall, emotional expression. The work is still in its early stages, but moving fast; we look forward to seeing the results soon!



Dan Brady

Dan, our club secretary, carved two intertwined hearts from a single piece of wood into a Mobius shape as a gift for a family member. He also crafted a large oak box for his grandchild, decorated with woodburning.



David Clarke



David has completed carving six bears and is currently carving dogs, with plans for even more. Repetition helped him refine the shapes; practice truly makes perfect!

If you want to give it a go, there are plenty of bear-carving tutorials available on YouTube.



David Osterlund



David carved a long chain ending in a ball-in-a-cage for the chain-carving workshop he led earlier this year. He also recently finished an 8-inch-tall gnome with a bulbous hat; this design is forgiving since the ears and eyes are concealed, leaving most of the face covered by hair and beard. Find the gnome pattern by [Miroslaw Czeladka](#) in the **Spring 2022 #98** issue of [Woodcarving Illustrated](#) magazine.

David also used patterns from [Viking Designs](#) by A.G. Smith to add shallow-relief Celtic knots to his leather strops during last month's DIY workshop.





Dee

Dee joined us last year and often carves with the group on Thursdays. She is currently working on a wooden chain using a blank she picked up at our [chain carving workshop](#) in March.

Gary Paulson



Gary, our club treasurer, has been working on some stunning maple stock featuring checkering and silver wire inlay. In the photos below, you can see how he combines these two techniques, including a shot of him using pliers to hammer in small silver nails precisely. To the right, he's created an elegant free-style floral design using silver ribbon. It's impressive to see the level of patience and precision required for such intricate work!



Jonathan Jackel

After completing two comfort birds, Jonathan decided to challenge himself by carving penguins, which require significantly more detail. He also participated in our leather-strop-making workshop and is currently decorating his DIY strop with a shallow-relief Celtic knot.



Nitin Varshney

Nitin carved a pin and a magnet for a family member. Using a [name badge generator from READ N TRY](#), he customized the messages on these pencil-shaped, simple yet much-appreciated pieces.



Pranay Agrawal

Pranay enjoys carving bowls and spoons for his family's kitchen use, challenging himself with harder woods like apricot and walnut. He notes that finding sound, freshly cut wood in our urban forest (free of termite holes or cracks) is a real challenge. He also carved a shrink pot from a small section of a log, plugging one end so the drying wood would wrap around it and seal the bottom.



Dana Chick and Debbie Mize

Two creative passions in one meeting! Dana is busy enhancing a jacket with custom pockets and patches, while Debbie puts the finishing touches on her basswood wooden chain.

We love seeing everyone chatting while focused on their projects, whether sewing or carving!

Connie Wilson



Connie is expanding her fairy-themed carvings! After creating dozens of [cute fairy doors](#) earlier this year, she has moved on to carving entire houses from basswood. She's currently refining her designs and has two early versions underway as she works out the best approach for these miniature homes.

Roman Chernikov



Roman visited Oakhurst Woodcarvers Rendezvous in April and took the chip carving class taught by Vickie Hopson. He learned how to chip carve layered chips and use them to decorate the corners of a square block.

Also, Roman has developed a helpful tool for fellow carvers: a [woodcarving pattern generator](#) specifically for pencil-shaped name badges and signs. This app allows us to create customized patterns tailored to


the length of any name. While a screenshot of the tool is provided below, the full generator is available for free on his website, [READ N TRY](#). He recommends making them at least 4 inches long.



Enter Text:

Font Style: Font Size:

Letter Spacing: Bold Outline



Amazon Affiliate Program



Our club joined the **Amazon Affiliate Program**, so we can recommend woodcarving tools and supplies and receive a modest commission on purchases made through our links. Check out our curated list of recommended woodcarving items here: [SCVC Woodcarving Shopping List](#).

Jordan Makower's Linoleum Block Prints

In this woodcarving newsletter section, Jordan shares photos of his latest linoleum block prints. These scenes are based on Jordan's memory. Review sketches, linoleum blocks, and final prints.

Family Radio Time



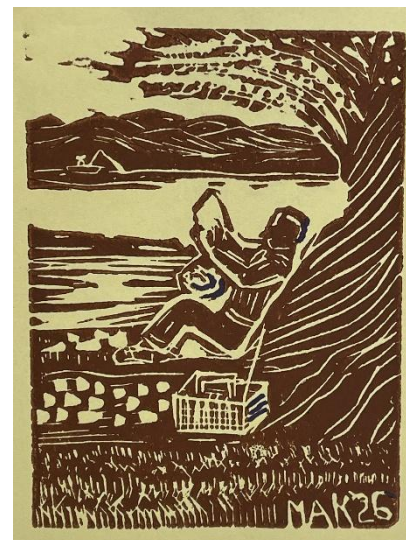
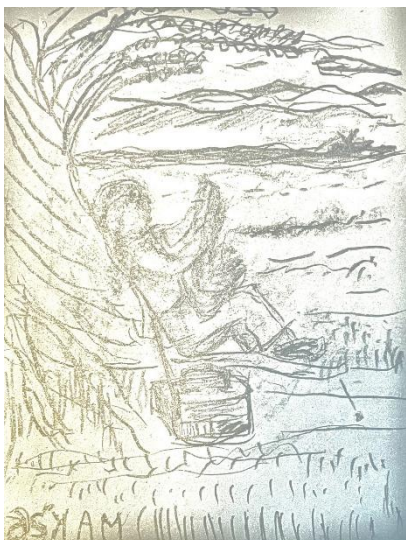
This linoleum print celebrates "Family Radio Time" and features a classic 1935 Philco radio. This 4"x5" piece reflects on the golden age of broadcasting, when families gathered to listen to adventure stories and comedies. Beyond the carving, Jordan has even restored an actual Philco radio to working condition, a project that comes with its own mystery!

This print is part of a series by Jordan that captures joyful memories through linocut impressions.



Summer

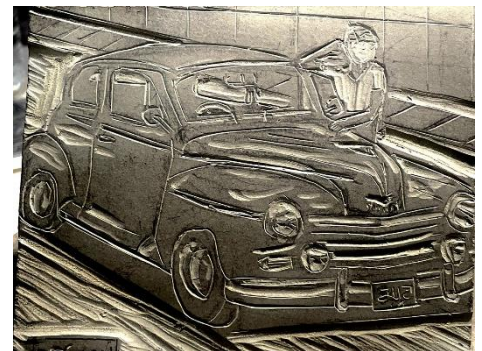
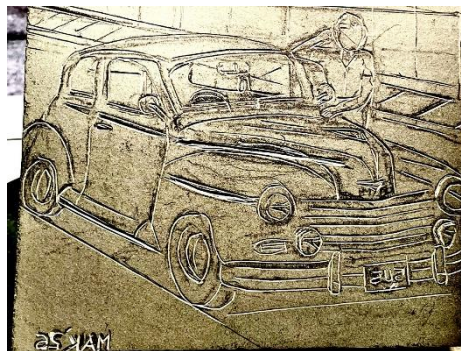
The warmth and relaxation of summer inspired this new 3x4" linoleum block. It captures a peaceful, pleasant summer scene of reading a good book and listening to favorite music.



First car: 1948 Plymouth Deluxe



Jordan's latest linoleum print features a black 1948 Plymouth Deluxe, a car that holds many memories from cheap gas and fabric seats to a snowy journey to the University of Massachusetts. In this 4x5" piece, Jordan used strategic carving to create reflections on the car's shiny metal surface. The accompanying photos show all stages of the linoleum block print process: the sketch, outline, carved block, and the final print, highlighting the transition from raw linoleum to finished impression.



Review more of [Jordan's work at his gallery](#).



The End Grain of our Woodcarving Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed this edition of our woodcarving newsletter. If you liked it, please spread the word and share the link with other carvers. Also, you can [subscribe here](#) and even [join our club](#) as a remote member to support us.

We recommend the carving tools on our [curated shopping list](#). If you donated to help rebuild our [recently damaged display case](#), we are grateful for your support!

Happy carving! What do you think? Let us know in the [comments](#) [➔](#)