



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS

Web: www.NorthernVirginiaCarvers.org

APRIL 2025

Issue 2025- 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOYCE SPIELER

President's Letter

Happy Spring! This is the time for renewal and reviving. This spring I will be evaluating the supplies we have at Colvin Run Mill and the Packard Center.

As Colvin Run Mill staff renewal goes forward, it is necessary for the Northern Virginia Carvers (NVC) to clean, clear and reduce what we store at the barn. There were 3 boxes I had not realized belongs to the club. There were table covers, woodworking aprons and leftover paints that had been there for probably over twenty years. I really do not remember when I joined the club ever so long ago. I will be bringing the go-byes to the next "SHED" meeting and we can go through them. Start thinking about what you think are good beginning projects that can be completed in a three-hour session. Also, consider volunteering for cutting out a few blanks.

The Packard Center is now an established Monday meeting place for evening meetings. From 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We would love to continue the revival with a variety of carving talent. There is the 4th Monday at the Packard Center for beginning carving class that our club members would enhance quite well. Our project for the Packard Center

We will have our last Parktakes Class at Colvin Run Mill April 6, 2025. Then we will start having open to the public days on the Sundays. Dates were posted in previous newsletters. April 20, 2025 is the start. From 12 noon to 3 pm. Come join and carve.

As far as reviving our club. I will be holding a hook knife protector class. There are multiple ways of going about this project. So, If you would like to join me in developing this class let me know ASAP. I would like to hear from anyone or all of you! The date I am considering is June 4th a Wednesday evening. I will be looking at a library room to reserve for the evening. But the reservation slots will be available at a later date.

Woodcraft afternoon meetings will be published on Eventbrite web site. It was tried last meeting with no success. Thank you to the members who stayed waiting for those persons who had signed up to come to the club meeting. I will continue to publish the meetings but with a shorter time- frame. More like 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. That way no one has to stay outside of the comfort zone. Let me know what you think about other ideas to promote Woodcraft.

By the way – Northern Virginia Carvers has the go ahead on the Oct 10, 2025 Competition / Show date. This gives you plenty of time to have a carving or two prepared. Remember that there will be a demonstration table for sharing your work in case you prefer not to be judged. This worked very well last show. Please feel free to add ideas for other club events. I find it easier to take constructive suggestions.

Thank you,
Joyce Spieler
President
Northern Virginia Carvers

Basset Hound Carving

By Richard S.

Here are the photos of my basset hound carving along with the tutorial link and pictures attached. It's a very manageable little project though the eyes and cheek cuts do bring a moment of truth (and occasional panic).

By day, I'm a business analyst, which means I spend my time identifying where things go sideways in processes so naturally, I've taken the same approach to carving. I now watch videos with an eye for "trouble spots," then practice those tricky bits in isolation before attempting the full piece. It's a bit like stress-testing the carving before investing emotional energy in it.

This week I also discovered a very enthusiastic gentleman (through another group) who does chess set carving tutorials. I've been working on his rook design essentially a couple of rocky towers which turned out to be a great exercise in repetition and restraint. I've learned not to cut too deep, and I've become oddly fond of popping little triangles off repeatedly. It's the kind of "mindless carve" that I sometimes need a reminder that this hobby isn't about becoming a master carver, but about finding a bit of peace in the process.

Here are the links:

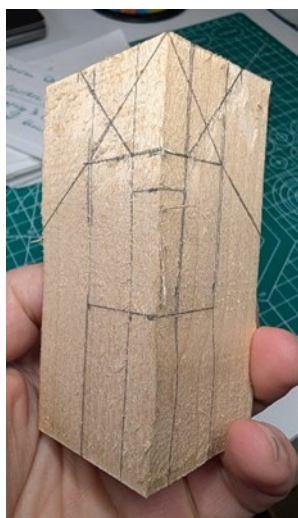
Basset Hound – ddalo: <https://youtu.be/amsdTcLvJBM?si=DjKwc0JwsJxJJOMA>

Rook – Jonny Layton: <https://youtu.be/kxA2ZJasimU?si=DoPOdsjo05wKGHyl>

Happy carving,

Richard S.

Photos- Measure, Easy Start, Almost, Oiled Hound. Bottom Photo – Rook Pile



The Shed 2025 Meeting

Northern Virginia Carvers will be meeting at Ed's shed.

Third Monday of the Month.

BIG THANKS TO ED DONNEN!

6518 Spring Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22312 –

3.4 miles from Woodcraft, Springfield.

703-750-0947 Ed Donnen



CARVINGS WANTED Woodcraft display window



Northern Virginia Carvers (NVC) is working with Woodcraft Springfield to present woodcarving opportunities.

We want carvings to display in the display window. I am sure there are some beautiful carvings laying around the house. Help NVC populate the window to attract would be carvers. Contact Joyce.

Packard Center News

Packard center has grown. We are looking for more vibrant and / or friendly carvers to embellish this group. Join us on 1,2 and 4th Mondays of the month.

Wood/plant giveaway. Possibly a very large]” Good Luck” branch. It is looking for a good home for a possible carving project. Five feet tall and 1 ½ inch in diameter. Very sturdy.

Wendy N. contact Joyce if interested in the staff.



Show and Tell Club project – lead by
Mike C. (carvers Wendy N –top and Elizabeth B. –
bottom)



Wendy N—
Gnome

Member Show and Tell

2025 Lancaster Wonders in Woods -Michael W. photos



Les T



These are pictures of my (Wayne S.) whimsical houses made out of Cottonwood bark. And a picture of my chainsaw carved pony out of a stump in my yard.



Mike C

Membership in the Northern Virginia Carvers runs from January to December. Please mail your dues, which are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$5.00 for each additional family member along with the filled out renewal form, to Robert Simoniz, Membership Chairman, 6819 Rock Creek Court, Alexandria, VA 22306. Make check payable to NVC.

If you have changed your email, please let us know. If you used to get the newsletter by email, but recently have received mailed copies, then something is wrong with the email address we have on file for you, and your email copy bounced back. Please contact Bob Simoniz at rsm2193@verizon.net, so he can correct the database.

CARVERS CALENDAR

April—May 2025

*(For corrections or additions please notify
Mike Connors)*

April 25-27: 50th Annual Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition. Ocean City, MD
www.wardmuseum.org.

April 25-27: James River Woodcarvers Spring Retreat. Americamp RV Resort 11322 Air Park Road Ashland, VA 23005.
Jrcarvers.com

May 3: Havre De Gracy/ Potomac Decoy Collectors Association Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival.
www.decoymuseum.com.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS RENEWAL FOR JAN-DEC 2025

Name _____

Address:

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Receive Newsletter by E-Mail?

Yes _____ No _____

E-Mail _____

Membership Fees Per Year:

Single \$25.00

Family: \$25.00 + \$5.00
each additional member

Additional members names:

Suggestions for Programs or Classes

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NVC
AND MAIL TO:**

**Robert Simoniz, Membership
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CARVERS
6819 Rock Creek Court
Alexandria, VA 22306**

DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: TUESDAY APRIL 29

MEETING LOCATIONS

Woodcraft Supply — Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5248 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151. 703-912-6727.

American Legion Post 176 -- 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

Packard Center — 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003.

Richard Byrd Library – 7250 Commerce St, Springfield, VA 22150

Kings Park Library, -- 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke, VA 22015

Colvin Run Mill,-- 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066-1834

NVC Contacts

President	Joyce Spieler	Chairs General Meetings and Board Meetings	Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com	703-915-3239
Vice-President	Mark Tranchemontagne	Vice Chair of General Meetings and Board Meetings	mgtranch@yahoo.com	703-531-9912
Treasurer	Bob Simoniz	Manages Finances	rsim2193@vizon.net	703-850-9192
Secretary		Keeps Minutes and Maintains NVC Archives		
Past President	Phillip Simpson		eightb1045@aol.com	703-360-9575
Colvin Mill Coordinator	Joyce Spieler	Coordinates Carving Instruction Program at Colvin Mill Park	Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com	703-915-3239
Show Coordinator		Coordinates the Annual Show & Competition		
Membership Chairman and Newsletter Editor	Bob Simoniz	Maintains membership database and collects dues Edits and publishes NVC Newsletter	rsim2193@verizon.net	703-768-1087
Program Chairman		Develops New Programs for the Club		
NVC Web Site	Joyce Spieler	www.northernvirginiacarvers.org	Moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com	703-915-3239
Member-at-Large	B J France		bjinarl@aol.com	703-538-4143
Member-at-Large	Jerry Donahoe		jrdsridding@aol.com	703-327-4022
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