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November 2026
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# TWA Newsletter

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 17, 7pm

**Location:** Cary Arts Center, or Zoom via the link below:

*https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87608219338?pwd=DKHwbIjEtpGwvbS4n8fCaojkkbxYND.1*

Meeting ID: 876 0821 9338

Passcode: 448111

**Topic:** Veneering and Wood Magazine

**Speaker:** Jim Heavey

The November meeting will feature Jim Heavey of WOOD Magazine, who will demonstrate veneering techniques. He will discuss both vacuum bagging and caul clamping methods and offer practical guidance on when to use each approach.

Jim will also provide a behind-the-scenes look at how WOOD Magazine articles are developed and produced.

The meeting will be held in the Cary Arts Center located at 101 Dry Ave. in downtown Cary. We will be in the Principals Hall which is immediately to your left as you enter the main doors of the facility. Some parking is available on the street. Two lots are open for parking at Cary Elementary and a public parking deck is attached to the Cary Regional Library.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

*Host: Kerry Schoolfield*

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# TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*(meeting minutes: James Sapp)*

The October 20th meeting was held at the North Wake Fire Department Station 1, with a virtual option available via Zoom. Twenty-two people attended in person, and two joined online. Guest Bob Petulla became a new member, and Bill Watkins won the raffle. The meeting was recorded and will be available on the TWA website. Roy Brookhart provided the snacks.

To start the meeting, George Mills shared some background on the fire station and gave a brief show-and-tell presentation about the bookshelf he built as his first shop-class project.

The meeting continued with several announcements and updates. Five TWA members attended and supported the Hardwood Store's 30th-anniversary celebration, where five people joined TWA as new members.

Roy reminded everyone that Klingspor's annual Extravaganza was being held October 23–24 in Hickory, North Carolina. Rockler will also host a special event on December 12 and has invited TWA to participate at the store. Roy will provide additional details in a future communication.

Jack Kite and Ray Essington have exchanged positions on the TWA Board. Ray is now the club treasurer, and Jack will serve as a member at-large. Many thanks go to Jack for his outstanding service to the club and Board during his many years as treasurer.

Dick Raup will provide snacks for the November meeting. Jim Heavey of WOOD Magazine will be the featured speaker at the meeting. He will discuss veneering techniques and offer a behind-the-scenes look at how WOOD Magazine articles are developed and produced.

Joe Sabo announced that toy deliveries to the Marines for Toys for Tots will begin November 2. This year's collection point is at Crossroads Mall. Joe will send directions and delivery times to the workshop leaders. He asks that those making deliveries call 20–30 minutes before arriving so someone will be available to help unload the toys. Joe also announced that the South Garner High School shop class will make toys for the program.

The annual Christmas celebration will be held December 8 at the Templeton senior living center in Cary. The event will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will include a cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. The cost is $5 per person. Those planning to attend should sign up by November 22. Joe will provide additional details, including payment information.

The evening's featured speaker was Ron Dowdy, current president of the North Carolina Woodcarving Association. Ron shared the story of his woodworking journey and how he eventually discovered caricature carving. His career began in furniture-making, particularly custom furniture, while working at Appalachian Furniture in North Carolina. His work sometimes incorporated carved details, including ball-and-claw feet and other relief carvings.

Ron's path changed after a chance meeting with carver Tom Wolfe. Their conversation inspired Ron to take one of Tom's carving courses, setting him on the path to becoming a caricature carver. Ron showed the group his first caricature, which he carved during that initial class around 1990.

Ron explained that people become interested in carving for many different reasons. His own interest was sparked by Tom Wolfe and strengthened through his interactions with other carvers and participation in carving shows. Beginners often start by reproducing figures created by other artists, which is a useful way to develop the techniques and tool control required to produce quality carvings. With time, experience, and feedback from fellow carvers, creativity begins to emerge, leading to original works of art. Ron emphasized that the carving community offers many opportunities to meet people who can provide instruction, encouragement, and constructive feedback.

Ron is also a member of the Caricature Carvers of America.

# TWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*(meeting minutes: James Sapp)*

During the presentation, he displayed numerous examples of his work, demonstrating how his technical skills and artistic style have evolved through years of practice. His favorite subjects include Civil War characters, Santas, and Christmas ornaments.

Ron does most of his carving in his home's sunroom, where he can sit and work in a comfortable, relaxing environment. He also has a small shop attached to the house for preparing materials and for larger projects that require a chisel and mallet.

Ron primarily uses small carving tools, especially knives and palm chisels. Although many carvers wear protective Kevlar gloves, he prefers to use a thumb guard. Basswood is his preferred wood for caricature carving. He paints his figures with craft paint purchased from Walmart, thinning it with water as needed. To protect the finished pieces, he applies spray lacquer, usually with a matte finish.

For those interested in learning the craft, Ron recommended books by Marv Kaisersatt, as well as carving courses offered by local woodworking retailers. The North Carolina Woodcarving Association meets at Woodcraft in Raleigh.









*Photos of Ron and his carvings (Photos: Roy Brookhart)*

## TREASURER'S REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

| | |
|---|---|
| Beginning Balance: | $18,769.62 |
| Income: | $773.75 |
| Expense: | $350.10 |
| Ending Balance: | $19,193.27 |

Includes $86.00 formerly in petty cash.

*Submitted by Ray Essington, Treasurer*

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In October, Paul Berry and Bob Petulla joined TWA. Please welcome them to the club when you meet them.

*Barton Meeks, Membership Committee*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank goodness that we have some great sponsors.

I hope you had the chance to attend Klingspor's Extravaganza in Hickory in October. It would have been nice to stay in Cary but I made the drive and replenished some of my supplies. Unfortunately, the update that I received while I was there is disappointing; there is no news yet on a new store near us. We did confirm that orders for shipment to your home should give you free freight.

It's in the planning stages yet but I suggest you highlight Saturday the 12th of December in your calendar. Rockler is working on the details of a program at their store in Cary. Rumor has it that there will be discounts for Triangle Woodworkers Association members. We'll send out more information on this event when we receive it.

I hope the wonderful fall weather has you out in the shop and making some great projects.

Regards,

Roy

## UPCOMING MEETING

**Date**: Tuesday, December 8, 2026
**Topic**: December Celebration
The December meeting, our annual celebration for everything we have accomplished in 2026, including Toys 4 Tots, will be on Tuesday, 08 December from 6:00-8:00 at Templeton Cary. Please mark your calendars. The address is 215 Brightmore Dr, Cary. This senior facility is across from Wake Med Cary. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and beer and wine will be available for purchase (credit card only). If you plan on attending, please email Joe Sabo at *sabojc12@gmail.com*. Guests are welcome. There will be a $5.00 per person charge and the monies should be sent to Joe via Venmo (Joe-Sabo-25) or Zelle (91962576580). Sign-up is now open and sign-up will close on 20 November. You may also reserve your spot(s) at the November TWA meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Joe Sabo, Toys for Tots Committee Chairman*

## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

TWA would like to thank members who provide donations to the club or the Toys for Tots fund. The following members made a generous donation to the club or the Toys for Tots fund within the club in the last month.

- Paul Berry
- Bob Petulla

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send newsletter content for future newsletters to Karin Pihel (karin.pihel@gmail.com). Contributions for each newsletter are due by the last day of the previous month.

# BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| POSITION | BOARD MEMBER |
|---|---|
| President | Roy Brookhart |
| Vice President | Kerry Schoolfield |
| Secretary | James Sapp |
| Treasurer | Ray Essington |
| At-Large Board Member | Chris Gebhardt |
| At Large Board Member | Jack Kite |
| At-Large Board Member | Joe Sabo |

| COMMITTEE | CHAIRPERSON / MEMBERS |
|---|---|
| Program Committee | **Kerry Schoolfield** / Roy Brookhart, Cecil Raynor, Alex Harp, Jeff Leimberger, Stephen Roth |
| Toys-for-Tots Committee | **Joe Sabo**<br>Material Procurement: Bob Andrews<br>Workshop Hosts: Joe Sabo, Roy Brookhart, Bob Andrews and Judy Sanwald, Jim Rhodes, Alex Knittel, Ray Essington, Tom Hegele, Bill Watkins, Alex Harp, Gary Brookhart, Don Klemp, Dick Raup |
| Newsletter Publications Committee | **Karin Pihel** |
| Publicity Committee | **Roy Brookhart** |
| Internet | **Paul Holzworth** |
| Membership Committee | **Barton Meeks** / Judy Sanwald, Paul Holzworth |
| Audio/Visual Committee | **Chris Gebhardt** |
| Photographer | **Roy Brookhart** |
| Social Media | **Chris Gebhardt** |
| Raffle Committee | **Dick Raup** |

# TWA SPONSORS

**Ashcroft Saws and Tools**
919-876-3223 | 12225 Capitol Blvd, Wake Forest, NC 27587
*25% off list on blades and 10% off on sharpening*

**Capitol City Lumber Co.**
919-832-6492 | 4216 Beryl Rd., Raleigh, NC
*www.capitolcitylumber.com*
*Special prices to TWA members*

**The Hardwood Store**
1-888-445-7335 | Gibsonville, NC
*www.hardwoodstore.com*
*Discount: 10 cents per board foot*

**Klingspor's Woodworking Shop**
Note: the Cary Klingspor's Store is temporarily closed and will re-open in a new location in the future.
*www.woodworkingshop.com*
*10% discount excluding lumber and power tools*

**Rockler Woodworking & Hardware**
919-208-2030 | Crossroads Plaza, 314 Crossroads Blvd, Cary, NC 27518
*www.rockler.com*
*10% discount*

**Tarheel Wood Treating Co.**
919-467-9176 | 10309 Chapel Hill Rd. (Highway 54), Morrisville, NC 27560
*www.tarheelwoodtreating.com*
*Contractor's prices on all wood products. TWA card required before order is written.*

**Woodcraft**
919-781-1911 | 4317 Pleasant Valley Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612
raleighwoodcraft@bellsouth.net
*http://www.woodcraft.com*
*$25 gift certificate at each TWA meeting for the raffle; 10% discount*

**Wurth Wood Group**
919-231-6620 | 4213 Poole Rd. (Exit 15 off I-440), Raleigh, NC 27610
*www.wurthwoodgroup.com*