

## Interview with David Barbrey

Carver: How long have you been carving? David: Since 1989, or about 18 years. I saw some of Eddie Howard's carvings and wanted to check into them. When the club has its first show at Simpsonville, I heard about it but then forgot about it. I was getting ready to close and someone stopped at my place and asked for directions to the show. So, I went. I was amazed at what I saw. I talked to Eddie at the show. He brought me a block of wood, a book, and a knife. I still have my first carving. It is relaxing and enjoyable.

Carver: How much time do you usually spend carving? David: Very little any more. I usually carve on Wednesday nights with the group that meets at my place. I carve some in the winter and bad weather. I don't spend as much time carving as I'd like. I tried my first bark carving with a class with Tom Gow. I enjoyed that.

Carver: Do you have a special carving room, area, separate? David: Well, my shop and the basement. In the winter time it might just be the easy chair and an apron in front of the TV.

Carver: What sort of things do you carve? David: I like to carve walking sticks and caricatures. I started carving walking sticks around 1990 and have been carving them ever since.

Carver: Do you have a favorite tool or tools? David: Knives. Preacher Bledsoe knives. I also like the Ramelson palm gouges.

Carver: What is your favorite brand of tools and why? David: I love the Flexcuts. They're sharp when you get them and they are easy to keep sharp. I have the Flexcuts in the popular sizes. I like the Flexcuts with the handles and bits. It only takes a minute to change the bit and they are less expensive

Carver: Do you wish that you had others, same brand or different? David: I've been thinking about buying some of the Denny's brand. I like the Denny v-tool.

Carver: What plays the biggest roll for you in buying a tool? Cost? Past use? Recommendation? David: I think that my particular need is the most important. I do listen to recommendations from others. I think that when I started carving, I made the same mistake as everyone else. I bought all kinds of tools then traded them away or gave them away. Today, I use a lot less tools. My advice to a beginner would be to get three good knives, a v-tool, and a u-tool and don't look at the tools that others have.

Carver: How do you sharpen your tools? David: Well, I use a good stone, a buffing wheel and green compound. I use the stone if the tool needs it. I use the buffing wheel after the stone. Once the tool is sharp, I just use the buffing wheel often. The buffing wheel is the kind that from the side looks like the ends of rags. It is high speed, not a slow one.

Carver: Are you satisfied with how sharp your tools are? David: Yes, I am. From the time I was a little boy, I learned how to sharpen knives. I always had a knife with me.

Carver: What carver(s) have had the most influence on how you carve and how you want to carve? David: No question—Eddie Howard. Eddie has made a big impression on all of our carvers. He has converted a lot of bird carvers over to caricatures.

Carver: What carving classes have you taken? David: Claude Bolden and Pete LeClair.

Carver: Who is your favorite carver? David: Pete LeClair.

Carver: Do you know of any carving instructors that you wish our club would bring in for a workshop? David: Pete LeClair.



## Interview with Buddy Amos

Carver: How long have you been carving? Buddy: Since 1998. In 1996 I had an accident on a table saw and almost lost my right hand. For Christmas of 1997 my wife gave me some chisels. I asked her what I was going to do with them. She told me that the chisels were half of my gift. The other half was to go to John C. Campbell folk school to see if I could carve. I took a class from Marion Red Rainey. He showed me how to carve and I developed an interest.

Carver: How much time do you usually spend carving? Buddy: I try to carve two hours a day. I haven't been doing that lately. If I can get back into it, I will do more.

Carver: Do you have a special carving room or separate area? Buddy: I have a shop in my garage. I do it all there.

Carver: What sort of things do you carve? Buddy: I mainly do chip carving. When I went to John C. Campbell I carved in the round, in relief, and chip carving. Marion told me that I had more of a knack for chip carving and it was easier for me to do with the condition of my hand.

Carver: Do you have a favorite tool or tools? Buddy: Well, they are chip carving knives.

Carver: What is your favorite brand(s) of tools? Buddy: Actually, there are two brands: Ron Noto and Ralph Long, chip carving or otherwise. If I am doing relief carving I use Flexcut tools.

Carver: Why do you like those more than the others? Buddy: (Noto—Long) I think that the handles are comfortable and they seem to keep an edge. Usually a few licks on the strop and they are ready to go again.

Carver: What brands do you own and are you happy with them. Buddy: I have Flexcut, Helvie, Noto and Long. I like all of them. For me, the most important part is that they have a comfortable handle and they keep sharp. I made some chisel handles that were patterned after the Flexcut handles. I have heard a lot of good things about the Denny tools. And, I would like to try some of the German or European tools like Pfiel or Swissmade. I think that the Flexcut is closer to the European tools than the rest.

Carver: What plays the biggest role for you in buying a tool? Buddy: I would say need and past use. When you find a good tool, you usually stick with that brand. Service counts too. If you get a bad knife and the maker doesn't back it up, it's a waste.

Carver: How do you sharpen your tools? Buddy: Well, I don't use a system. I use a diamond stone and ceramic. For a strop, I use pig skin because it doesn't compress like leather does which can cause the blade to round off. I use the yellow stropping compound from Flexcut. I sharpen my knives on the diamond stone. I really haven't done much on the chisels and gouges.

Carver: Are you satisfied with how sharp your tools are? Buddy: No. It seems like I have tried everything and I'm still not happy. I am seriously considering buying the Jool system to see if I can get better.

Carver: What carver has had the most influence on how you carve and how you want to carve? Buddy: Locally, Dick Teter. Nationally, Barry McKenzie. He puts out a Chip Carver Quarterly. It is a very informative newsletter of 29 pages.

Carver: What carving classes have you taken? Buddy: Helen Gibson three times. Wayne Shinlever.

Carver: Who is your favorite carver? Buddy: Dick Teter locally. He's the best. Wayne Barton, chip carver. I think he is a great chip carver. But, I think that McKenzie is a better teacher.

Carver: Do you know of any carving instructors that you wish our club would bring in for a Workshop? Buddy: Yes, Barry McKenzie. I will check on his availability and cost.

