

Carving, want to know more?

What is the “quick carve”?

The “quick carve” is a timed mini-contest. In lieu of an entry fee for the event, the artists are required to do a carving that will be auctioned off. The artists choose a block (or blocks) of wood, and have just 90 minutes to carve it. Finished sculptures are taken to the stage and will be on display until the auction. At the end of the day, these pieces are auctioned off to the highest bidder. The sculptures that bring in the highest bid are the winners for that day.

Why is the “quick carve” so popular?

The reason so many people come during this portion of the event is because there is a lot happening in a short period of time. The main event takes place over four days, versus just 90 minutes allotted for the “quick carves.” It’s fun watching a sculptor take a raw log and create a wonderful finished piece in such a short amount of time.

What species of wood is used?

Most of the really large white colored wood you see on display is Sitka Spruce. The darker colored red woods you see is most likely western red cedar. Several wood companies along the coast here have generously donated the woods for our event. Be sure to check out the sponsor pages in this program.

Are the big sculptures for sale?

The big sculptures are the property of the artists who created them. Most of the carvings are for sale. The prices vary, so it is best to talk directly with the sculptor about a piece that interests you. Everything that is carved in the quick carve events will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

I see other tools being used besides chainsaws; what are they, and what do they do?

The contest is what we call an “anything goes” contest. That means the carvers can use any tool they want to complete their sculpture. You will see die grinders, dremels, sanders, drills, etc. The artists must first block out their carving with a chainsaw, but the finish and detail work is accomplished with a variety of smaller hand tools.

I love this event and look forward to it every year. How can I get involved?

If you would like to be involved, contact the Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce. We will be glad to add you to a list of people we can count on when we need help. Putting on an event like this successfully takes a lot of time and effort . . . and the more volunteers we have, the better the event!