



## Tom Ceriani- *Chainsaw Carving Tools and Technology- Update*

## Dawna Ceriani- *Production Carving & “the Quick Carve”*



Dawna and Tom Ceriani, Boot Jack, Mtn, PA are one of the few husband and wife chainsaw carving teams in our country. Tom had been intrigued with the art for year. He recalls stopping to watch carvers at fairs with his family each summer. Then in 2000, Tom attended the Ridgway Rendezvous and started to deepen his interest in this trade. He invested into more tools and took advantage of any free moment given to put a saw in some wood. After a few months of Dawna watching Tom develop his skill, she craved to learn this unique art form too. Tom had such a passion for chainsaw carving and Dawna wanted to share that excitement alongside of her husband. She began to learn how to handle a saw and test her artistic skills in the wood. After a lot of determination and hours behind their saws, they realized they wanted to create a business with their combined talents. They have been growing in the industry ever since with their business T & D Carvings. They enjoy developing their talent together while raising a family in a small Pennsylvania town just outside Ridgway, PA. <http://www.tanddcarvings.net/> 814-265-1645; 814-590-1671

# Trends in Gasoline Power Heads:

- Power to weight
- Environmental compliance (emissions) (carb jet screw turning limits, effect on power and leanness, etc.)
- ethanol fuel and its effects- use AvGas or treat it or?
- Rear handle vs top handle saws- control
- Buy “land owner” or “professional” saws- is the value there?
- Easy start technologies
- handle warmers (Husky, other)
- future electric start?
- other

# Trends in Carving Bars.....

Carving Bars... It's in the nose:

- Shape: Toonie, quarter or dime tip
- Hard nose or sprocket tooth

Bar gauges: width of the groove on the 0.043

Chain pitch: spacing of the drive links

Need drive sprocket that matches chain; also chains must match roller nose

Spur Sprocket (teeth fixed to the clutch bell); rim drive (splined)



# Chain & Bar Gauge Must Match; Chain, Driver Sprocket and Roller Tip must Match

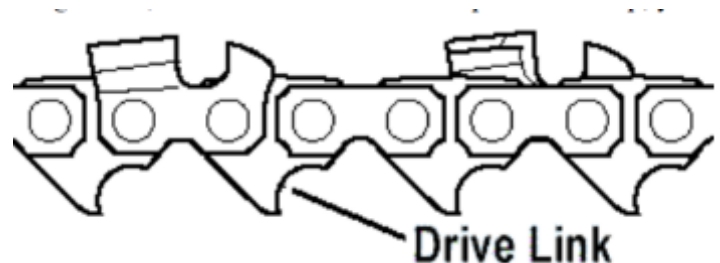
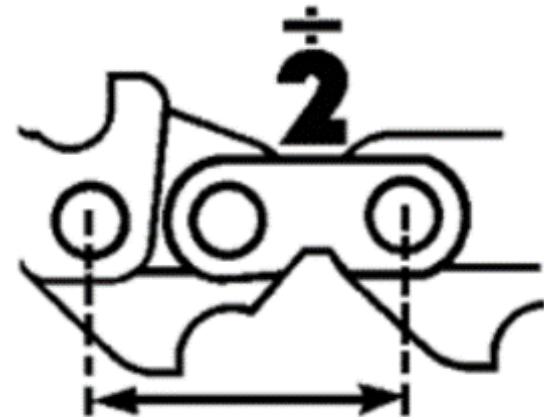
## What is Chain & Bar Gauge?

Gauge is the Drive Link's thickness where it fits into the bar groove. The gauge of the chain and the gauge of the bar must match.

Common gauges are: .043", .050", .058" and .063".

**What is Chain Pitch?** ...the distance between any three consecutive rivets divided by two (usually a number stamped on the drive link)

Common pitches are: 1/4" (many carving chains); 3/8" (most common in the market); and 3/4" (larger and harvesting saws)



# 0.043 Gauge as the Rage..... Explained

Gauge is the width of the slot in your bar  
(just slightly bigger than the drive tooth on  
your chain)

A common width is 0.050"

0.043 gauge is 0.007" smaller or 14% less

It follows your cutter is also 14% less wide.

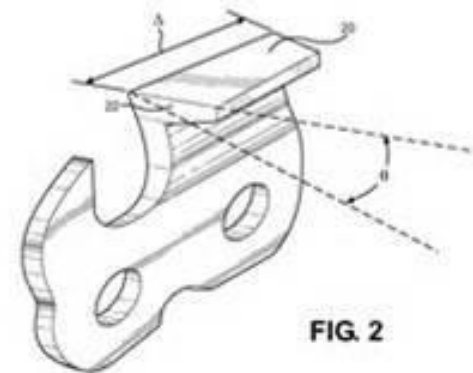
That's 14% less contact with the wood, or  
14% less force needed to pull the tooth thru  
the wood.

***So you can (more or less):***

- cut faster with same power head, or***
- use a smaller saw at original speed***

0.043 vs 0.050

14% narrower



# What About Electric Chainsaws?



Electric power has numerous advantages.

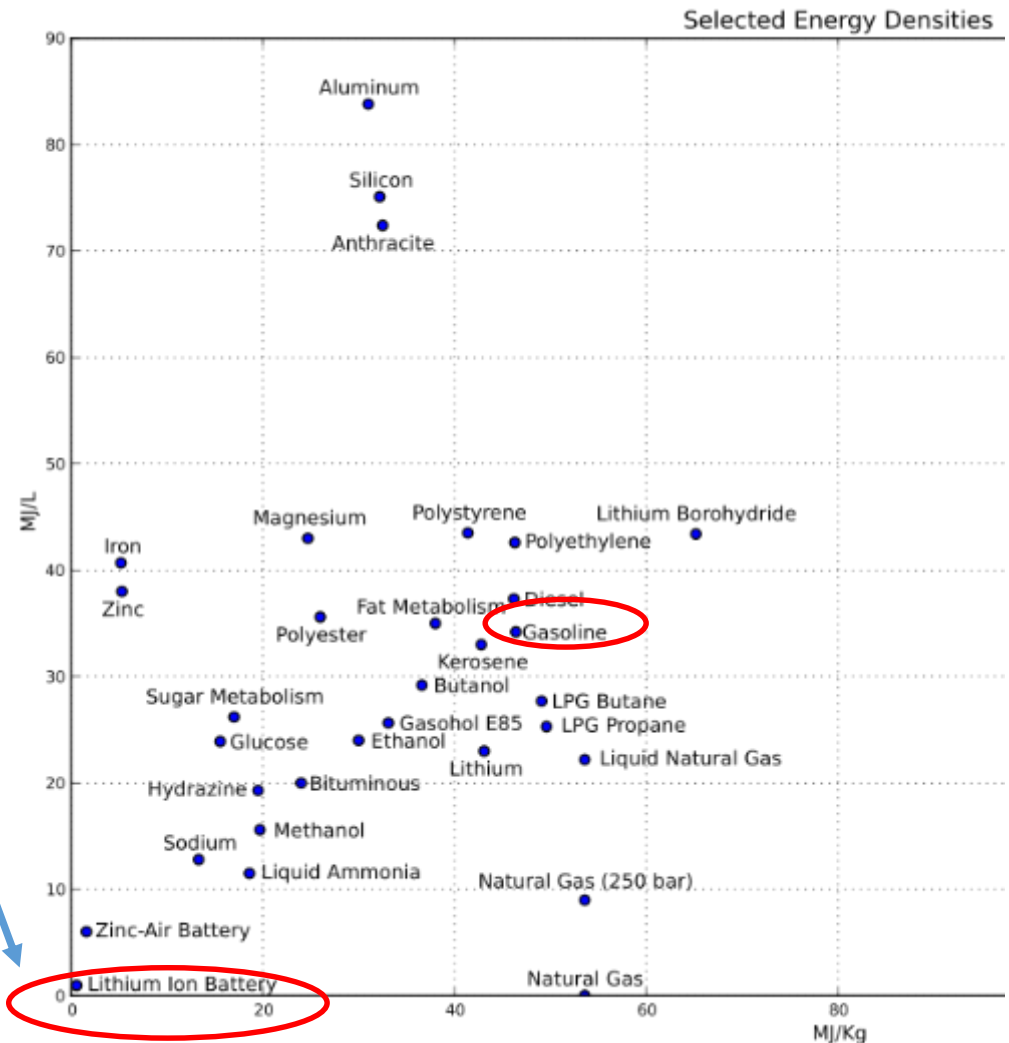
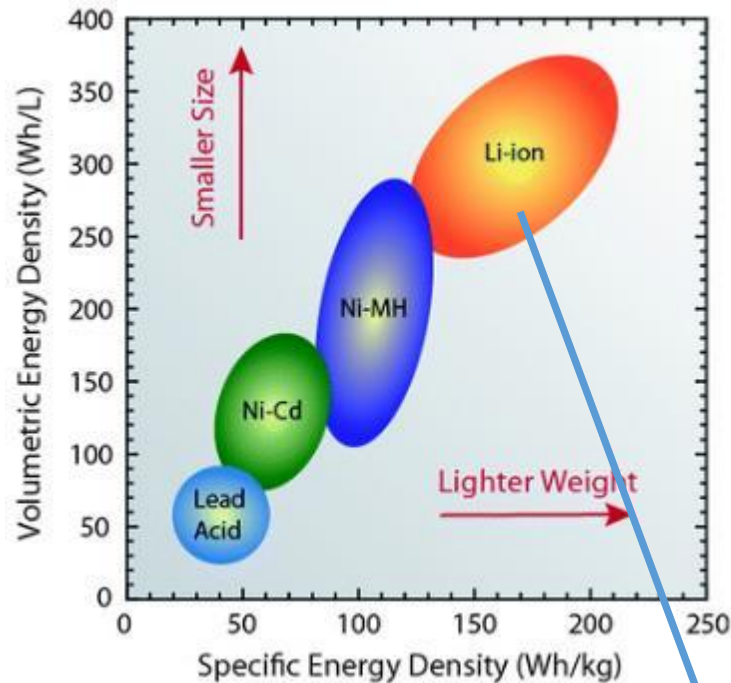
# Electric Chainsaws (with power cord)

Tethered to a cord; put unlimited electrical power  
Cheap (throwaway) to expensive





# Batteries Compared to Gas- *They are getting better and better in energy density, but keep your expectations in check*





# Electric Chainsaws (cordless, battery operated)

Cordless! Freedom of movement

More costly; batteries make a difference

Chain lubrication.....



## Video Links:

Dawna Carving a Bear with an Electric Chainsaw

finishing, too

see: <https://youtu.be/SelrE-kk1ug>

# T & D Carvings.... Start Up Years

Our first tools were challenging:

- low end, home owner saws, sanders, etc..
- a lot of frustration and equipment maintenance
- ... resulted in slow production



We didn't have the teaching tools readily available as we do now

- we learned through books and magazines about hand carving
- we learned from others at carving functions

We didn't know how to outreach and inform potential customers about our products

We didn't know how to answer the variety of customer questions (e.g. pertaining to caring for and preserving carvings)

We didn't realize the shock of expenses once we established as a legal business

- insurances; liabilities; inspections
- business utilities costs

# T & D Carvings.... Today

Invested in professional tools

Invested in more OF them

- they're reliable
- we understand how to maintain & keep them running efficiently

Shop has broader public awareness because we've been established

There are better learning tools:

- Internet-social media
- YouTube videos
- TV shows
- Participation at carver events – such as The Vows!
- Smart phones, easy access to contact an admired artist



# Learning Customer Relations

Answering crazy questions:

- Did you carve this?
- Are you the finishing girl?
- When's the carver going to be here? [As i just shut my saw off from carving]
- Is this all you do?
- Do you make any money at this?
- How long did it take?, and
- Is that wood you're carving? [Seriously??? You did not just ask this question!]

# “The Do’s and Don’t of Shows”

Prepare as much as possible before you get there for demonstration shows

- keep a list of "must haves" to bring

1. Saws😊
2. Oil & gas premixed enough for you show
3. Safety protection - eyes, ear ,chaps
4. Sander, grinders , paints , burning tools , lighters, brush
5. Shovel & rake, tent , netting , zip ties, garbage bags , caution tape
6. Saw wrench, files, vice , air compressor  
Drill , screws, and of course Gorilla glue!
7. Certificate of insurance to carve on the premises - I usually fax or mail it in ahead of time and keep a copy with us.
8. Business cards



# “The Do’s and Don’t of Shows”

Being a vendor at a show, try to eliminate (basic) questions:

- having all carvings clearly priced
- mark high- you can always come down, but not up
- signage saying what type of payments you accept
- copy of you sales tax license in case of an on the spot inspection

Being a paid performer at a show:

- Have your contract in hand so there's no question of what is expected out of the you, the artists or the event promoter.

General:

- attach a "how to take care of" paper instruction to your carvings that are auctioned, raffled or otherwise sold

See: <http://www.tanddcarvings.net/Functional-Art.html>

# Key Elements of a Successful Shoppe

Preparation time varies- Gas up multiple saws you planning on for that day at the same time; check bars & chains

On a production day- I set up multiple logs at the same time.

Best sellers are usually: Bears, foxes, owls, raccoon, and faces

While working on a commission piece I set up a smaller log and carve a less overwhelming production piece beside it.....so inventory is still being made to present to passer "buyer"/travelers

I have the carvings all labeled and priced

Signage, signage, signage! ....posted throughout the shoppe

- thanking customers for stopping
- if they need help with a purchase to get my attention
- we accept the following forms of payment
- two phone numbers that assures contact if the shop is closed.
- "how to care for your carving instructions"

# Thoughts on Commission Pieces

## PRO's:

- helps me be challenged and see things differently
- it's cool to have something other than the normal "best sellers" at the shop
- a commission is a guaranteed pay check over carving something and waiting to get a paycheck for it

## CON's:

- I'm a worrier , so it bothers me until I finish it no matter if there's a time schedule or not
- Will they like it?
- It's hard to price if you are basing it on time
- Working around when "it's convenient" for them to pick it up [which usually means when I'm not able to be there]

# A Commission Story: *The Anatomically Correct Monkey*



# “Production Carving”

Manage time to the best you can;  
Everyday brings new situations

Amount of customers that stop in, consuming time  
How to deal with "Time suckers"  
"Just smile and wave"

# “Enjoying the Quick Carve”

## Who's gets nervous about doing quick carves at events?

### **Have a carvable design**

Have cut plan- once you make those commitment cuts, it's hard to change up a design  
Carve just enough to get the point of your piece across  
Then, then if you have extra time, add more detail

### **Things will happen during quick carves- Face it!.**

- chains fall off
- bars smoke because your pushing too hard or chains are too tight
- gas & oil caps fly open & empty all over your cloths, worse
- an ear falls off your bear (carry super glue and accelerator as insurance)

### **Don't stress about it. Shake your head, throw your hands up and laugh**

Then grab another saw quickly or grab your neighbors saw- just kidding!

### **Interact quickly with the audience be playful**

They love when things happen

...but you can make it entertaining and pull off a cool carving before time up





## Extreme Log Makeover

(Performance name)

Extreme log make over are the words used to describe what Tom and Dawna do. Welcome to T & D Carvings! You are about to preview the wonderful world of chainsaw art. Every carving is hand crafted from start to finish. On this site you'll view some examples of sculptures they've created over the years. Learn about caring for your carving, how to place a custom order, how to buy speciality carving tools, and where you might see us this year. Thanks for looking!

## Seeing the beauty inside the log!



Tom & Dawna

About

Fun Things Going On

Gallery

Functional Art

Available for sale

Cannon Bars

Saburr Tooth Tools

Online Tool Store

Contact us