President – Jeff Hancock
Vice-President – Erv Leidolf
Treasurer – Doug Egerton
Secretary – Robin Meyer
Facebook page – Tri-state Woodcarvers Club

Club Web page: https://www.tristatecarvers.com
2026 Club Web Master – Neil Ward
2026 Club Show Chair – .
2026 Club Librarian – Ben Meyer
2026 Club Historian – *

1985–2026
41 Years of Woodcarving

OCTOBER 13, 2026 MEETING:

Our October 13th Meeting will be in the 4H Fair Grounds Banquet Hall. We will have open carving and visiting, "Happy Hour" starting at 3:30 pm. The business meeting will start at 6:00 pm. Our mini seminar will take place after the business meeting. Thank you to Frank for teaching us how to carve a Moravian star.

MEETING MINUTES:

The 2026 September Meeting Minutes are posted on the Club web site. Please take the time to read and review these minutes before the October meeting. Thank you to Robin for recording the minutes and to Neil for posting them.

ORNAMENTS:

Time to finish up all that work on those Christmas Tree ornaments for use as 2026 Show door prizes.

Library:

Please check out the Club library in 2026. There are a lot of resources available for your use.

Random Thoughts:

Last month's mini seminar intrigued me and I had to dig deeper. There is an article on carving the Moravian Star in a past issue of Woodcarving Illustrated -- issue 61, Holliday, 2012. If you are still intrigued, I have added a little more information on the Moravian Star at the end of this document.

The Club members continue to carve personal angels for Chemo Buddies. Please continue to support this effort by carving as many angels as you find time for. Frank has upped the ante by offering a chance to win one of his custom-made knives. Everyone that turns in 5 finished angels will be entered into a drawing for this knife.

Please, see previous Club minutes for other items we discussed.

President's Corner

Well, the countdown is on! We are just a few weeks away from our Wonders in Wood Show, October 24 and 25. It will be here before we know it!

One of the best ways we can help make the show a success is by getting our show signs out. Those signs are one of our most effective ways of advertising the show, so please take a few minutes to put them up in high-traffic areas around your community. The more people who see them, the more people who will know about Wonders in Wood!

Don't forget about the President's Challenge. You have just a couple of weeks left to finish your project and get it ready for the show.

Remember the theme:
Something New! New! New!

The challenge is simple: carve something you have never carved before. It can be something completely different from what you normally carve, but it must be something you have never carved before.

So, if you haven't started yet, now is the time! Pick something new, give it a try, and let's see what everyone comes up with.

November Round Table

Looking ahead, our November Round Table is another important event for the club. This will be a little different from our normal meeting, and everyone will need to do their part to make it a success.

We will have several stations where visitors can see demonstrations, ask questions, and get a chance to see what our club is all about. This is a great opportunity to introduce people to woodcarving and, more importantly, to introduce them to the Tri-State Woodcarvers Club.

A successful evening could mean several new members joining our club. That would be a great result and would help keep our club growing and active for years to come.

So please plan to participate, help where you can, and make our guests feel welcome. This is an important event for our club, and its success depends on all of us.

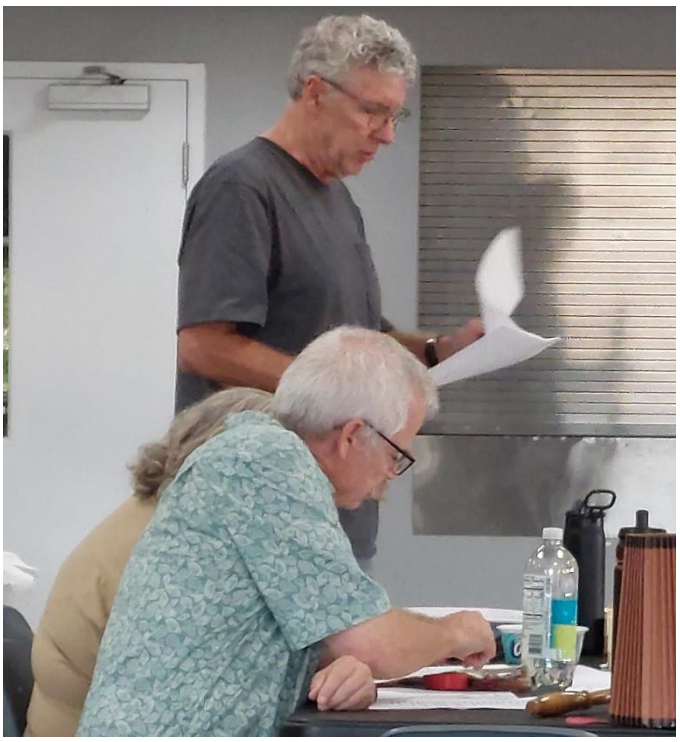
The show will be here before we know it. Let's get those signs out, finish those President's Challenge projects, and then come together to make the November Round Table a success!

See you at the show!
JEFF

PICTURES FROM LAST MONTH'S SHOW AND TELL:

PICTURES FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

BEST.



COLONIAL 853

Moravian star

Moravian star (German: *Herrnhuter Stern*) is an illuminated decoration used during the Christian liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany representing the Star of Bethlehem pointing towards the infant Jesus.[1] The Moravian Church teaches:[2]

Moravian stars in the Striezelmarkt in DresdenA Moravian star half assembledA completed Moravian star hanging by a church

> ...the star reminds us of God, who caused the light to shine out of darkness and of the light which is the life of humanity. It reminds us of the promise of Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars; we are reminded of the star that pointed to the "great and heavenly light from Bethlehem's manger shining bright." The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. This is the message of the Advent star, which also points to Jesus, who said, "I am the bright and Morning Star." It is the star of promise, the star of fulfillment, and the star of hope.[2]

The Moravian star is popular in places where there are Moravian Christian congregations worldwide. The stars take their English name from the Moravian Church, originating in Moravia. In Germany, they are known as Herrnhut stars, named after the Moravian Mother Community in Saxony, Germany, where they were first commercially produced. With the rise of ecumenism, the use of the Moravian star has spread beyond the Moravian Church to other Christian denominations, such as the Lutheran Church and Catholic Church, as well as the Methodist Church.

History

The first Moravian star is known to have originated in the 1830s at the Moravian Boys' School in Niesky, Germany, as a geometry lesson or project. The first mention is of a 110-point star for the 50th anniversary of the *Paedagogium* (classical school for boys) in Niesky. Around 1880, Peter Verbeek, an alumnus of the school, began making the stars and their instructions available for sale through his bookstore.[3][4] His son Harry went on to found the Herrnhut Star Factory, which was the main source of stars until World War I. Although heavily damaged at the end of World War II, the Star Factory resumed manufacturing them. Briefly taken over by the government of East Germany in the 1950s, the factory was returned to the Moravian Church-owned Abraham Dürninger Company, which continues to make the stars in Herrnhut.[*citation needed*] Other star-making companies and groups have sprung up since then. Some Moravian congregations have congregation members who build and sell the stars as fund raisers.

Cultural and religious importance

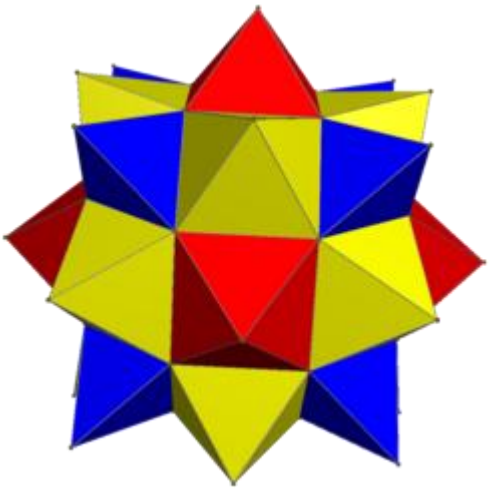
The star was soon adopted throughout the Moravian Church as an Advent symbol.

Moravian stars continue to be displayed during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany throughout the world, even in areas without a significant Moravian Church presence. Many Moravian households display their stars year-round. The stars are often seen in Moravian nativity and Christmas village displays as a representation of the Star of Bethlehem pointing towards the infant Jesus. They are properly displayed from the first Sunday in Advent (the fourth Sunday before Christmas) until the Festival of Epiphany (January 6). Large advent stars shine in the dome of the Frauenkirche in Dresden and over the altar of the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. A 9.5-meter or 31-foot Moravian star, one of the largest in the world, sits atop the North Tower of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The city of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which traces its origins to Salem with Moravian origins dating to 1766, uses the Moravian star as their official Christmas street decoration.[5] Another star sits under Wake Forest University's Wait Chapel during the Advent and Christmas seasons as well.

The use of the stars during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons is also a tradition in the West Indies, Greenland, Suriname, Labrador, Central America, South and East Africa, Ladakh in India, and in parts of Scandinavia, wherever the Moravian Church has sent missionaries.

In 2020, as the world descended into the Covid-19 pandemic, Moravians began to ring and rehang their stars as a sign of love, hope and peace during dark times. On March 27, 2020 Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist reinstalled their 31-foot star, atop the North Tower.

Types of stars



Kleetope of a rhombicuboctahedron (26 points)

The original Moravian star as manufactured in Herrnhut since 1897 exists only in a 26-point form, composed of eighteen square and eight triangular cone-shaped points.[6] The 26th point is missing and used for mounting. This shape is technically known as a Kleetope of a rhombicuboctahedron. Each face of the geometric solid in the middle, the rhombicuboctahedron, serves as the base for one of the pyramid augmentations or starburst points. This is the most commonly seen and most widely available form of Christmas star.

Other forms of Christmas star exist, which differ from the original Herrnhut Moravian star. No matter how many points a star has, it has a symmetrical shape based on polyhedra. There are other stars with 20, 32, 50, 62 and 110 points that are commonly hand-made. The variety comes from various ways of forming the polyhedron that provides a base for the points—using an octagonal face instead of a square face, for example. The common original Herrnhut Moravian star becomes a 50-point star when the squares and triangles that normally make up the faces of the polyhedron become octagons and hexagons. This leaves a 4-sided trapezoidal hole in the corners of the faces which is then filled with an irregular four sided point. These 4-sided points form a "starburst" in the midst of an otherwise regular 26-point star.

Froebel stars, which are paper decorations made from four folded strips of paper, are sometimes inaccurately also called Moravian stars, among many other names.[7]