Decorative Gun Stock Carving class with Jack Brooks

This five day class will be a study of traditional decorative carving as found on 18th century American flintlock rifles. Students will learn to carve both incise and relief designs in the manner of old masters from Christian's Spring, Lancaster, and Allentown, Pennsylvania. Jack will furnish practice butt stock pieces that each student will carve and be able to take home as future reference. Students will need their own set of carving tools which will be listed below.

Jack Brooks was born in Colorado, graduated from Englewood High School in 1966, and attended University of Northern Colorado where he majored in chemistry (BA 1970 and MA 1972). He built his first flintlock rifle in 1971. After working four years as a chemist he began making flintlock rifles full time in 1976. Besides making new rifles, pistols, and fowlers; he began collecting and restoring antique Kentucky rifles. This gave Jack the opportunity to study firsthand the finest examples of 18th and 19th century American longrifles. His interest in Kentucky rifles began when a child with Walt Disney's Davy Crockett TV series and John Wayne's movie “The Alamo”. Many years later Jack, along with friends Bob Lienemann and Mike Branson, were asked to make 14 guns for the 2004 remake of “The Alamo” movie. Jack's work has been displayed at The Smithsonian Institute, the NRA Museum, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. His guns have also been featured in several magazines and books. Jack has authored many magazine articles and has taught several years at the annual Gunsmith Seminar of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association.

Jack Brooks

Carving Tool list

Wood carving gouges (Swiss Made from Woodcraft recommended):
- 2mm No. 7
- 4mm No. 7
- 6mm No. 7
- 10mm No. 7
- 18mm No. 7
- 20mm No. 5
- 12mm No. 3
- 2mm No. 9
- 2mm No. 1
5mm No. 1
8mm No.1
cabinet scraper
steel hand burnisher
raw hide or wooden mallet
three bench stones for sharpening (coarse, medium, and hard)
leather strop (3” by 12” piece of saddle leather will work)
desk lamp or work light
pencil and paper