

Island Carvers II starts Jan. 12 in Ketchikan

KETCHIKAN — The sound of adzes and knives on wood will be heard Jan. 12 through 21 as carvers throughout Southeast Alaska gather for Island Carvers II, Totem Heritage Center's second advanced carving workshop in Ketchikan.

Jack Hudson, renowned Tsimshian carver, will open the workshop with a weekend session on halibut hooks, followed by two seven-day sessions led by noted Northwest Coast carvers from Seattle.

Bill Holm, one of the Northwest coast's most highly respected artists, will be teaching the carving of raven rattles. Steven Brown, former student of Holm and now a master carver himself, will lead students in the carving of a 16-foot canoe.

While Northwest Coast carvers have been able to study their craft through apprenticeships or courses at cultural centers such as the Totem Heritage Center, an intensive workshop of this nature is rare.

Carvers at the heritage center's Island Carvers Workshop eight years ago appreciated the opportunity to gather and work together, exchanging ideas and garnering inspiration from each other. Thanks to a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaskan carvers will share experiences and techniques once again on selected evenings during the workshop.