

Clackamas instructor 'Hot Saw' world champion

Christina Mueller
Co-Feature Editor

When Tom Monaghan is not teaching at the college or working as a production supervisor at Oregon Cutting Systems, he is preparing for his next Hot Saw competition.

"It's just like the big boys that run 300 mph in the quarter mile. It comes down to just seconds. With those guys, their times are whether they spin their tires or blow the engine. It's just whether I hit knots or not," said 27-year-old, part-time Machine Technology Instructor Monaghan.

"When I started to work at Oregon Cutting Systems, I heard about this racing team they had. They were basically just getting started. I got involved in there. I was doing the maintenance and set-up and working on the saw," said Monaghan.

For him, that was only the beginning. Soon he began competing in the Hot Saw event as well as in other local timber festivals.

Now, eight years later, Monaghan is the World Champion Hot Saw event competitor.

On Nov. 23 Monaghan participated in the Snowy Mountains Chain Saw Classic held in Cooma, Australia. There he won his title.

"This is probably the biggest win. There were people there from all over the world. In this class alone there were representatives

from six different nations," Monaghan said.

Monaghan just missed the world-record time of 2.20 seconds for cutting a 24-inch-diameter log. His time was 2.27.

"The only thing you don't have control over is the type of wood and the condition of the wood. If you hit knots going through, it's going to slow you down and have an effect on your time," Monaghan explained.

"Top Fuel Dragsters," as Monaghan refers to Hot Saws, are ten times more powerful than the average chain saw.

"A typical professional chain saw used in the woods every day cuts 15 to 20 square inches of wood per second. The Hot Saw cuts between 180 and 200 square inches of wood per second," explained Monaghan.

The saw, completely designed by Oregon Cutting Systems, is an 85-pound Husquvarna, ran by a 500 cc dirt bike engine with 75 horsepower and a 32-inch bar.



Contributed Photo

Machine Technology Instructor Tom Monaghan demonstrates his skills with his 85 pound Husquvarna.

"It's part of the game, controlling that saw. There's so much horsepower and that thing's bouncing all over the log. With 75 horsepower in your hands, it's somewhat hard to hold onto," explained Monaghan.

"With all the equipment we have at work, the computerized testing equipment, we're kind of like the big Chevrolet and Ford racing teams," Monaghan said.

Monaghan admits he does not deserve all the credit. Kent Huntington, a model maker at Oregon Cutting Systems, does much

of the behind the scenes work.

"Without him, I couldn't be where I'm at," Monaghan said.

"Basically, he designed the racing chain. He goes with me everywhere and helps. He has the last word on which chain we use, depending on the type of wood. He helps with setting up the saw.

safety features to hold the chain and wrap it up around the sprocket if it ever did come loose.

"We try to work with everybody we come across when we feel that their saw is unsafe. We offer a lot of suggestions," said Monaghan.

Monaghan also takes special safety precautions to protect himself.

"As far as safety gear for myself, I wear Kevlar chaps -- which is the material they make bullet proof vests out of -- leather boots, leather welding gloves, and eye and ear protection."

"We try to incorporate some of the things that we learn from our

“With 75 horsepower in your hands, it's somewhat hard to hold onto.”

racing chains into our production chains as long as it doesn't affect the safety aspects of the chain and cost is not prohibitive," explained Monaghan.

In the future Monaghan, Huntington and their sponsors Oregon Cutting Systems and Husquvarna (a Swedish chain saw manufacturer) plan to enter at least four regional contests and possibly two overseas.

Monaghan will have a second chance to beat the world record in Australia.

Sue Mach's 'Monograms' debuts off-off-Broadway

Karin Redston
Co-Feature Editor

Clackamas Instructor and Playwright Sue Mach's play "Monograms" opened in December at the New York off-off Broadway Theater for the New City and ran through Jan. 5.

The play portrays Hazel Hall, a woman from Portland, Ore., who worked as a seamstress while confined to a wheelchair. She was also a nationally known poet. The play captures the lyrical spirit of Hall and not her biographical background. The play's title comes from the poem "Monograms" written by Hall.

Mach was characterized by New York Times Writer D.J.R.

Bruckner as having "a distinctive theatrical voice."

"People seemed to like it," said Mach referring to the audiences.

Mach received grants to help produce the play "Monograms," which won the Drammy Award for best new play. Mach's book *Monograms* also won the Oregon Book Award.

"It was a good experience," Mach reflected. "I've been involved with the play so long I'm ready to let it go."

Mach has written another play entitled "Angle of View." She described the story line as being about a woman who goes to work for a television series like "COPS."

"It's a story about betrayal," said Mach. "A woman who inadvertently betrays a subject she is working with in order to get the job on the series."

Negotiations are in progress to produce her new play. Mach also has other works in progress and has received grants and awards to continue her work and to conduct workshops in playwriting.

Mach is currently teaching a playwriting class at Clackamas. She has taught at several colleges in the area but prefers Clackamas.

"The English Department is the best," said Mach.

She cited the strong support for writers at Clackamas.



photo by Lora Wahgren

Playwriting instructor Sue Mach is currently working on her next production "Angle of View."

What to do when the sky is not blue

Laney Fouse
Editor-in-Chief

With the possibility of icy roads or freezing rain in the forecast, students need to be aware of the college policy for winter weather. It goes like this:

The college will stay open if at all possible. If closure of the college becomes necessary due to inclement weather, the following radio stations will be informed in time to broadcast the information prior to 7 a.m. (for day classes) or 3 p.m. (for evening classes):

AM Radio Stations: KINK 620, KXL 750, KWJJ 1080, KEX 1190, KUPL 1330, KFX 1520
FM Radio Stations: KGON 92.3, KXL 95.5, KISN 97.1, KUPL 98.5, KWJJ 99.5, KKRZ 100.3,

KUFO 101.1, KINK 101.9, KKCW 103.3, KXYQ 105.1

Those who commute long distance can get up-to-the-minute information on college closure by calling (503) 657-6958 for the recorded message.

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Found
A Schnauzer was found in the campus parking lot last Friday. Please inquire at *The Print* office in Barlow 104 or call Karin Redston at ext. 2309.



Schickele to visit Clackamas

Jerry Meeks
Staff Writer

Clackamas will present Composer, Musician and Author Peter Schickele on April 17 in the Gregory Forum.

Schickele, probably best known for his rebirth of the imaginary member of the famous Bach family, P.D.Q. Bach, recently released a compilation of his songs. The topics range from having a bad day to a child's nightmares.

He has been commissioned by many of the world's most famous musical institutions, including The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and The National Symphony.

Schickele created the musical score for the film version of Maurice Sendak's children's classic "Where the Wild Things Are."

His music can also be heard each week at 11 p.m. on OPB radio.



Contributed Photo

Peter Schickele will be conducting a workshop in the Gregory Forum on April 17.