

TIDEWATER WOODWORKERS GUILD  
Monday 24 July 2006

Minutes

The Regular July 2006 Meeting of the Tidewater Woodworkers Guild was held in the Classroom of the WoodCraft Store, JANAF Shopping Center, Norfolk, VA at 7:00 PM on Tuesday 24 July 2006/

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Steinberg who then introduced the Officers of the Guild, the Committee Chairpersons and described the functions of the Committees. He then yielded the gavel to Bret Lancaster, Vice President and Program Chair, who introduced the program for the evening: Sharpening Edged Tools, presented by Member Jack Spillane.

Jack's presentation was an active demonstration of how he sharpens tool in his shops. Stating that there are a number of methods and pieces of equipment for achieving sharp edges, and that he recommends no one particular approach, nevertheless the method shown this evening is effective, efficient and inexpensive. Using a piece of plate glass approximately 12" X 24" X 1/2" on which he affixed 8 pieces of wet or dry sandpaper (each approximately 3" X 12", 4 on each sided of the plate glass, secured by a spray adhesive) the sandpaper ranged in grit from 180 to 1200, and each was noted by its grit number written adjacent to the paper by a magic marker on the glass and utilizing both sides of the glass.

*Note: Jack commented that some workers recommend Float Glass, but he has found standard plate glass to be quite satisfactory and significantly less expensive.. He also showed us a kit, obtainable in stores, in which grits were affixed to wood bases; and noted that granite blocks for sharpening bases are available. It is also recommended that if plate glass is to be used in this process, it is important to store it in a place and manner to prevent breakage of the glass.*

Step 1 was to clean/smooth/polish the back of the tool (a wood chisel) simply rubbing the flat back on the increasingly fine grits until a virtually mirror finish was obtained.

Step 2 was to mount the chisel in a honing guide (at this demonstration it was an Eclipse sharpening aid, available in the WoodCraft Store and costing approximate \$10.00), and setting the angle using a shop-built jig making possible the dependable duplication of several angles. Once set, there were no changes in the settings until the process was complete, and then only if a micro bevel was desired.

The face of the tool was then dragged along the abrasive in a push-pull manner until the entire face of the area was uniform; little pressure being required and most of the abrasive action achieved on the "pull" rather than the "push" in order to avoid tearing the abrasive paper.

Achieving the uniform polish to the face at a given grit, the tool was moved from each grit to the next finest grit until all grits had been used.

During the process, moving from grit to grit, a burr would be formed on the back of the tool, and this could be removed by pausing to re-polish the back.

One might wish to move on to finer grits if the wood to be worked was of a hardness requiring a sharper edge.

If a micro-bevel is desired, this can be achieved by (after the edge has been achieved) moving the tool a bit further back in the honing guide and repeating the process.

When the sharpening process is complete, the tool may be coated with a light layer of oil. Jack uses a rag, lightly dampened with Camellia Oil and kept in a plastic zip-lock bag for this purpose; and keeps his tools in sight, hanging on a display-board in his shop.

Sharpness of the tool may be checked by shaving a small piece from the end grain of the wood to be used. Jack also commented that he has found Japanese chisels to be fine tools.

The presentation lasted approximately 45 minutes, including the comments, questions and answers. Jack commented that this demonstrates that sharpening need not be a lengthy process. The program was well received and met with appreciable applause.

New members and guests were then introduced – 2 guest couples were present. President Andy also announced that annual membership dues are \$15.00, but that half of the year being past, new members would be charged only 8.00 for 2006.

Andy then introduced Jim Heffernan (sp?), the local Dewalt representative, who made a brief presentation concerning the Dewalt Demonstration truck that would be at Lowe's on Military Hwy. From 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM on 1 August 2006, Dewalt will have an open presentation to the general public; and a special presentation for pre-registered persons of the Guild at 6:30 PM on that date – Special Presentation will last 2 hours, or as long as interest is real.

Immediate Past President, Pat Taylor has arranged for Golf shirts in a variety of colors and sizes and bearing the Guild Logo for sale at \$18.00 each for S- XL sizes and \$20.00 for XXL; orders could be made at this meeting.

The WoodCraft Store will be having a Special 10% off Truck Load Sale for 12 hours on 27 July 2006. That is 10% off everything that you can load in your truck! A number of outstanding bargains will be offered.

The Heritage Craft Show, originally scheduled for 1 August at the Virginia Beach Pavilion has been moved to Mt. Trashmore

Announcement was made of an outing at the Little Creek Amphibious Base on 12 August 2006.

Show and Tell produced a number of items:

1. A shop-made jig for mass-producing knobs for Shaker Chairs;
2. A small box for carrying 4 AA dry cells in ones pocket;
3. A shop-made clamp for affixing wood clamps to power tools so that work could be held firmly in place for power operations.
4. A carved board for holding a wine bottle in a tilted position.
5. And end-table made from 2x4, featuring shaped legs and hand-made dovetailed joints.

Announcement was made that one of our guests (Juan Correa) had a slab of redwood burl that he was interested in selling.

President Andy announced that member David Ferebee has expired, and suggested that the Guild make an offering in the amount of \$50.00 to the Leukemia Foundation. On motion properly made and duly seconded, the motion carried without dissent, and the Treasurer was directed to disburse the funds.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Hoffman, Recording Secretary