

The Tidewater Woodworkers Guild
22 January 2007 Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Regular January 2007 Meeting of the Tidewater Woodworkers Guild was held in the woodworking classroom of the WoodCraft Store in the JANAF Shopping Center, Norfolk, VA on the evening of Monday 22 January 2007. Called to Order by Guild President Andy Steinberg at 7:05 P.M. EST, the first Order of Business was the introduction of Program Presenter Rick Bush, the Factory Representative of *Festool*, a German manufacturer of a versatile line of power tools.

After a few informative biographical comments about himself and his interest in woodworking, Rick opened his presentation of the *Festool* line of tools. Beginning with the question, "What is *Festool*?" he gave the answer in his demonstration of some of the *Festool* items. In sum, it could be stated that *Festool* is an assemblage of high-quality, versatile, precision woodworking tools. Demonstrated most fully were the circular saw, saw-guide, work-bench, clamps, router, vacuum dust-collector and containers; all of which were developed into an integrated and portable system characterized by stability, strength, light weight, unusually low noise level and durability as well as a desirable warranty.

Although the largest portion of the program was devoted to using the circular saw, it was this that revealed the simplicity of such seemingly minor qualities as ease of adjustment, dependability of settings, stability of direction and smoothness of cut; and, in addition, demonstrated the effectiveness of a "self-clamping" feature that enables work to be held in place without use of mechanical clamps. Location of hinges that making possible bevel cuts without re-adjusting settings, ease of compound-angle cuts and easy removal of guides when desired were also an interesting and attractive feature of the *Festool*.

Necessary to any woodworking operation is the bench, and the *Festool* workbench is light, sturdy, compact and possessed of several handy attributes, such as holes for clamping, a metal frame that reinforces strength and fittings for attaching extension guides.

All *Festool* products are equipped for optimal dust control. Central to this aspect of the system is the *Festool* vacuum system. Light in weight, equipped with a variety of safety features and well-designed attributes, it is easily rolled about the work area, contains three filtration devices, allows simple and inexpensive replacement of the collection bag, low noise level, and can be readily and firmly attached to all *Festool* accessories. It also offers a seat for one person and a base for accessory containers.

Rick demonstrated the router, an effective tool with a number of novel qualities, *e.g.*, adjustment methods and locations, handholds and bit installation, as well a solid method for guiding the router when cutting dadoes.

Finally a new item being added to the line but not yet available in the U.S.A., the *Domino*, similar to a biscuit cutter but enabling mortising for the installation of wedges and with accessories for guiding the tool when cutting extended mortises.

The thoroughness of Rick's presentation and the interest of the Guild is attested by the fact that it was not concluded until 8:45 P.M. and the applause of the members.

Following the program President Steinberg thanked Rick for being with us and suggested that some might be interested in becoming winners of the Virginia Lottery in order to place orders for the tools demonstrated.

Moving then to New Business, Andy once again showed his patience as he reported that he hoped he would be able to re-occupy his house on 26 January 2007 and thanked the members of the Guild who had been of significant help in restoring his dwelling to its proper condition.

Andy advised us that, returning to his home, he would soon be able to record video tapes to DVDs and they should then soon be available to members.

It being time to renew or cancel the contract on our Webpage, motion was made and duly second to direct the Treasurer to disburse not more than \$413.00 for a one year renewal of our contract. Motion carried without dissent.

New Member Bill Cary introduced himself, stating that he had come to the Guild, thanks to Lee Jones.

Pat Taylor informed us that deceased member Welford Newton who had earlier moved to Dolphin, VA had left a quantity of walnut, now for sale and details have been posted on our web sight. He also reported that Randy Lassiter had moved to a condominium and is liquidating his entire shop. Details relating to this are also available on our Web Sight.

Andy suggested that, for those interested, *The New Yankee Workshop* with Norm Abram is available for viewing on Saturdays at 3:30 P.M. on Cox Channel 6 – this in addition to and a different program from, the program on Channel 15 on Saturday morning at 7:30 A.M. Further, *The Woodwright's Shop* with Roy Underhill is available at 4:00 P.M. Saturdays on Cox Channel 6.

Another member announced the availability of some tools from the shop of another deceased woodworker.

Andy then thanked Ed Bunker for his prompt and efficient handling of membership cards, just about all of which had been prepared and distributed at this meeting.

Finally, Andy stated that any member having information of interest to the Guild is invited to so advise him and he will see that it is acted on appropriately. He then declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hoffman, Secretary