

Tidewater Wood Workers Guild
21 May 2007
Minutes

The Regular May 2007 Meeting of the Tidewater Wood Workers Guild was held in the *Woodcraft* Store, located in the JANAF Shopping Center, Norfolk, VA on Monday 21 May 2007; the meeting date having been changed from the usual 4th Monday due to the 28th being Memorial Day, a National Holiday.

President Andy Steinberg called the Meeting to order at 7:05 PM EDT, introducing himself and the other officers of the Guild, and then asking new members and visitors to introduce themselves. He then yielded the Chair to Bret Lancaster, the Vice President and Program Chairman. Bret introduced Bob Fred, a member of the Guild and an outstanding craftsman who was to provide much information and instruction in the fine art of making Wood Planes.

Using examples of his own work, each of which was an opus of artistic beauty as well as a fully functional woodworking tool, Bob distributed two (2) pages of information and showed several books relating to the history and methodology of wood plane construction, explaining and demonstrating each step of designing, shaping and assembling the tool. He made each detail clear, from the selection of material to the technique of planning and executing the project, including the importance of using ones own response to the tools "feel" as it is used by the craftsman. The importance of precision was stressed, as well as matching the individual attributes of the tool to those of the user.

The membership showed their enthusiastic response by their close attention and questions during the presentation, as well as by their admiration of the tools and the applause that greeted his conclusion.

The Program concluded, President Steinberg again assumed the chair.

The June Meeting will be on the 4th Monday Evening (25 June); however, although we have several options the nature of the program is unclear.

Several Members who have paid their dues for 2007 have not received their membership cards. Andy is holding them for the present.

Members were reminded that teams making Christmas Toys need to remember that there is need for early progress and completion.

Negotiations continue with the Group on the Eastern Shore of VA, with a location relatively near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel under consideration; however no firm dates or locations have been established.

The recent Open House at the *Woodcraft Store* was compromised by the existence of a number of other activities in the area, although those who visited were not unenthusiastic. However, Andy mentioned the possibility of one or more similar events in the near future.

Despite the continuing off-line state of Gene George's computer, information concerning the intended sale of his tabletop planer is on the Internet; and Gene stated that the only reason for it's sale is that he now has a larger unit and does not need two planers. The available unit is clean and in good condition.

Member Jerry Crick, Training Committee Chairman, and former employee of the Tidewater Builders Association spoke of his past experience and current interest in seeking to provide training in building skills to persons who have had problems with social adjustment. He suggested that some of our membership might be interested in the project and stated his willingness to keep us informed of progress in the effort.

Raffle tickets, available for \$1.00 each throughout the Meeting were drawn and the following prizes awarded:

A container of rust preventative; a \$10.00 *Woodcraft Store* gift certificate; a shop-built tenoning jig; a 3-legged milking stool made at an earlier Meeting; a drill sharpener; a container of Tool Rite; and a \$30.00 *Woodcraft Store* gift certificate. The raffle netted the Guild approximately \$100.00.

Announcement was made that the Kirk Lumber Company is closing, and that some sort of sale may be in the offing.

There being no further business, President Andy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hoffman, Secretary