

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings All! Happy New Year to everyone. I hope this holiday season was safe and enjoyable. I am looking forward to a prosperous 2008 for the Guild.

First, I would like to personally thank everyone who participated in the Toys for Tots Program. It appears that much thought and effort went into the toys. The Marine Corp was ecstatic with our contribution. And, I have been told by a few of our members that they have already started planning for this year's toy making venture.

Second, the article regarding the Guild and our toy contributions was featured in the following regional sections of the Virginian-Pilot:

Norfolk, Portsmouth and Chesapeake. It was the editor's decision to alter the article and determine what infor-

mation was placed in the article and which cities were featured. I will have a few copies at the meeting for anyone who has not seen the article. Also, I am posting a link to the article in the Pilot's archives. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing the link.

<http://epilot2.hamptonroads.com/Default/Skins/VirginianPilotA/Client.asp?skin=VirginianPilotA&Enter=TRUE&AppName=2>

Finally, I would like to recognize the following Guild members who contributed their time and resources to brighten a child's Christmas:

- Cliff Atkinson
- Ed Bunker
- Jim Colby
- Gene George
- Don Hubbard
- Ralph Jones

- Raymond Kurtz
- Don Lancaster
- Adrian Marshall
- Phillip Moberg
- Frank Pogue
- Mal Powell
- Richard Royals
- Andy Steinberg
- Pat Taylor

If I have missed anyone, my sincerest apologies.

Wood Chips

There has been some discussion regarding spontaneous combustion and oil-soaked rags in people's shop. If you have any information, whether it is first hand or an article about this topic, please bring it to Monday's meeting. We hope to have an open discussion on prevention and safety.

January 2008

Next Meeting

**January 28, 2008
7:00PM**

Woodcraft of Norfolk
5802 E. Virginia Beach Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23502
(757) 466-1166

Monthly Meeting

4th Monday of Each
Month

Find Us On the Web

www.twwwg.com

Please note that parts of the site are password protected. The password is provided to those whose dues are current.

Club Dues

Dues are \$15.00 per year and are payable by check or cash.

Upcoming Meetings

Bret Lancaster will be coordinating presenters and demonstrators each month. If you know of someone that would be a good presenter or if you would like to demonstrate your talents, please contact Bret Lancaster.

January

Guest Presenter

Bret Lancaster

Table Saw Safety

February

Guest Presenter

Karl Bogott

The Ubiquitous Scroll Saw

The Executive Board

Andy Steinberg	President/Editor	624-9151
Bret Lancaster	Vice President	631-0634
Ken Craig	Secretary	498-7309
Fred Olds	Treasurer	486-3862
Pat Taylor	Past President	481-3167

Shop Tips—Static Electricity

Static electricity is just as it sounds; the electrons are not moving, but are stationary or "static". The electrical current flowing through the wires in your home is made up of electrons. In this case, the electrons are moving or "flowing". This is the only distinction between static electricity and flowing electricity. When static electricity suddenly moves, like in a spark, it is no longer static.

Insulators like glass, plastic, or PVC do not permit the movement of electrons, thus, charge placed on these materials (by rubbing with silk, etc) will remain in the same place where it was rubbed. One end of a glass rod will be charged while the other end, which you are holding will not be charged.

If there is a large enough voltage across an insulator, the insulation will breakdown, electrons will suddenly flow, and a spark will result. In our case, sparks are bad, as they also generate heat, and heat can ignite flammable materials. The voltage necessary for breakdown is dependent on both the material in question, and the thickness of the material. Furthermore, the longer the spark, typically, the hotter it gets. (Any mechanic will tell you this, with regard to the sparkplug gap setting.)

The primary point about dielectric breakdown, is that it takes far, far less voltage for a spark to jump through air, than it does to jump through PVC. This is the reason why it is absolutely pointless to wrap a ground wire around the outside of a PVC duct and expect protection against static buildup on the inside.

In short, if there is a spark in the air long enough, a charge can be dissipated to the outside of the PVC.

The spark that travels can either be between the negatively charged PVC and the positively charged air, or it can be from surface to surface on the PVC. Since the PVC does not conduct, it will not equalize the charge throughout the length or even diameter of the pipe. As a result, there is the potential for the spark to jump from one section of the PVC to another. Even an internal ground wire will not prevent this, as the wire only covers a small portion of the surface.

Some Reality Checks

Q: Why doesn't my shop vac explode?

A: Because the air velocity in a shop vac is high, the static buildup is also high, and sparks happen frequently inside the hose.

Q: Some publications have stated that I can wrap the outside of the PVC with a ground wire and be protected. Is this correct?

A: No! Wrapping the outside of the PVC will seem to be effective from the outside because the amount of static there is reduced. However, the danger is not on the outside of the pipe, it is on the inside of the pipe.

Q: I am going to run a wire through the inside of the pipe, but I have heard that I can use insulated wire, is this correct?

A: No! Using insulated wire will not help whatsoever. It must be bare wire.

Parts of this article are from an article posted by Rick Christopherson. The full article can be found at home.att.net/~waterfront-woods/

Wood'n You Like To Know

Each month we feature some information about a wood that you saw in the stores or heard about in conversation but maybe you never took the time to inquire about the wood.

Jarrah wood is part of the eucalyptus family. Due to its durability it has become popular for use in outdoor furniture. The jarrah tree is native to the arid Australian Savannahs forming forests throughout the western part of the savannah region. Being in a dry region, the Jarrah has an interesting adaptation called a lignotuber. The lignotuber is a large swelling underground. This swelling can store carbohydrates, and can make it possible for a young jarrah to grow back after a fire. Another adaptation the jarrah tree has made is its long roots. This makes it possible to pull up underground water during a drought. This drought resistance is helpful in its natural dry habitat.

The Jarrah trees range in size from 120 to 150 ft in height. Diameters range in the 8 to 9ft range above the bell. With the trunk usually being void of branches the lumber of this tree is opportune for many aspects of woodworking. Due to its slow growth, it is common to find trees that are over 200 years old. One tree in the region is dated 500 years old. Availability is declining as the Western Australia limits old-growth harvesting.

The heartwood of the Jarrah is a rich dark brownish red, sometimes marked by short, dark brown radial flicks on the end grain and boat shaped flecks on flat sawn surfaces. Exposure changes the red color of the wood to a rich-mahogany hue. The color variation between boards is reported to vary from moderate to high. The sapwood is a paler version of the heartwood color, which is a uniform pink to dark red, turning to rich brown with age.

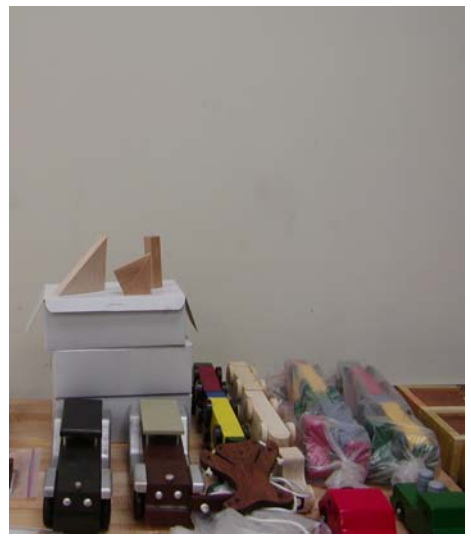
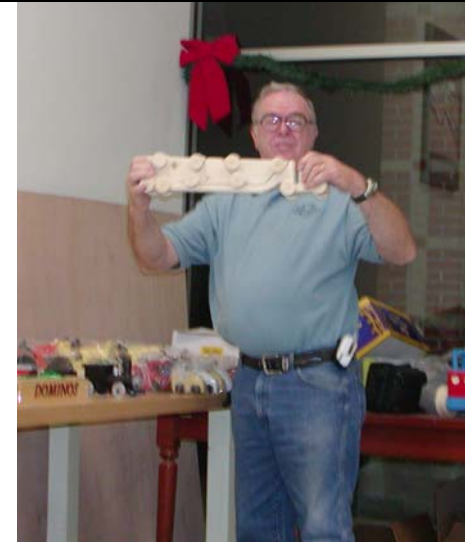
The grain is reported to be frequently interlocked or wavy. A fungus, *Fistulina hepatica*, is reported to cause dark brown radial flecks on end-grain and boat-shaped flecks on flat sawn surfaces. The markings are reported to enhance the appearance of the timber.

Jarrah is difficult to work with hand and power tools and dulls tooling easily.

Usage of the Jarrah lumber has varied through the years. Before modern asphalt the streets of Berlin and London were paved with blocks of jarrah. It also has had a long history for construction elements such as docks and railroad ties. Recently, the lumber has been used for furniture, indoor and outdoor, as well as, utilized in the hardwood flooring market.



Show and Tell From Our November 2007 Meeting



Sergeant Joel D. Yoder and Sergeant Antonio P. Sullivan (above) of the USMC played Santa's helpers in the collection of the toys for the Toys for Tots.

Raymond Kurtz (top left) and Cliff Atkinson (bottom left) proudly display their contributions. Ed Bunker and Gene George (bottom right) show off their craftsmanship.

Don Lancaster (top right) shows off his truck puzzle.

With all the participation and pictures, we could not get all the toys in the newsletter. My apologies to anyone I missed.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated. I know we made many kids happy this holiday season,



Program Highlights From our November 2007 Meeting



Steve Houmis, above, enlightened all of us at the November meeting on the basics of inlay. For those of you that have had hesitation, Steve demonstrated that it is an art that can be mastered with practice, the right tools and patience.

Club Discounts Available

Over the years, certain businesses have offered a variety of discounts to our membership. Below is a current list of companies that offer some type of discount for products and services.

Woodcraft	10% off on meeting night Norfolk (757) 466-1166
Sure Set Saw	13% Discount Chesapeake (757) 420-7991
Cabinet Makers Hardware	Contractor's Price Virginia Beach (757) 490-1185
Plywood & Plastics	Norfolk (757) 858-3908
Scroll-it Service	Portsmouth (757) 237-6867
Sherwin Williams Paint	15% Discount All stores in Hampton Roads

News From the Membership Chair

Well, we have a great start for reaching our goal of 100 this year! We haven't even had our first meeting yet and we have 27 members in good standing! That is over 25% of the goal! To keep the dust flying, talk to at least a couple of friends and bring them along to the January 28th meeting. I think we are going to be featuring the care, feeding, and safety of the Table Saw. Might even have a movie! Yea ... Bill & Heather will have plenty of coffee, however you may have to bring your own pop corn if I cannot talk Andy into that!

Additionally, of that 27 members so far, eight are brand new members that have heard about us through your interest in woodworking, the TWWWG Web Site, news article on Toys-for-Tots, or by inquiring about area clubs at while shopping at WoodCraft Store at JANAF.

So reach out, grip, grin, and make welcome;

Norwood Bailey of Virginia Beach,

Eric Fadely of Virginia Beach,

Fran Foster of Virginia Beach,

Jim Francis of Newport News,

Dick Gilbert of Virginia Beach,

Benjamin Parran of Chesapeake,

Bud Statzer of Virginia Beach,

and Phillip Trapani of Norfolk.

Also, to reach or exceed our goal, I am sure we are going to need the help of many of you "old salts" in promoting the Tidewater Woodworkers Guild. So those of you that have the "gift of the gab", and would like to assist me in boosting the membership numbers, please let me know via E-mail at EBunker369@aol.com, or via phone at 757-567-1421. We'll get our heads together over a lunch and I'm sure we can make a difference in the membership numbers. We can do flyers, business cards, newspaper articles, and the like. Together we can make it happen, as "it is not too hard"!

Wishing you all the best, Ed Bunker

TWWWG Membership Chair & Web Services

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