

Tidewater Woodworkers Guild



Notes from the Wood House

Greetings all! It looks as though Mother Nature has finally gotten the weather on track.

A belated Happy Mother's Day to our lady members. I hope your children treated you well.

I know we have sent out a plethora of reminders for this month's meeting being on **May 21st**. We normally meet on the fourth Monday of each month. However, since that Monday falls on Memorial Day, we are pushing the meeting date up one week. And, Woodcraft will be closed for the holiday.

This Saturday, May 19th, we are having an open house at the Woodcraft store. We hope to make more of the Woodcraft cli-

entele aware of our group and hopefully create some interest and gain some new members.

We are looking for any volunteers to come by between 10AM & 2PM for a while to show support for the guild as well as be able to answer questions about the guild. We will have a table set up with the TWWWG banner near the book selection and coffee pot.

Wood Chips

Due to some crossed signals let the May meeting slip by this past month. We are still working out the logistics for the Eastern Shore visit.

With Jerry Crick accepting the position of training co-

ordinator, we hope to revitalize the open shop idea. A number of members have offered to open their shop to the guild membership for a little hands on "how-to-do". If you are interested in being a host, please contact Jerry.

I would like to thank all those who participated in last month's meeting regarding shop jigs, gadget and widgets. From the comments I have received, the meeting was a huge success.

A list of all the jigs and gadgets are located in the meeting minutes from last month. Or, if there was a gadget or jig that you are interested in building, please feel free to contact the demonstrator.

May 2007

Next Meeting

**May 21, 2007
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.

May

Guest Presenter
Bob Fred

June

Guest Presenter
To be determined

Making a Wooden
Hand Plane

The Executive Board

Andy Steinberg	President/Editor	624-9151
Bret Lancaster	Vice President	631-0634
Bill Hoffman	Secretary	420-7087
Gene George	Treasurer	499-7281
Pat Taylor	Past President	481-3167

Tool Review: Ridgid R3120 Jigsaw

Submitted by Corey Larson

Technical wahoo:

Input: 6 Amps

No Load Speeds: 1,000-3,000 SPM

Stroke Length: 1 in.

Orbital Settings: 5

Tool Weight: 6.2 lbs

Price: \$140 (retail)

Identical to a Metabo STEB 135 PLUS, the Ridgid R3120 jigsaw has all of the features found on some of the more expensive jigsaws, but at a much lower price. The 6 amps of power and the 5 position orbital action allow this tool to chew through the dense hardwoods, and the variable speeds help finesse the blade through plastics, softwoods, and metals. The high visible orange plastic finish makes it easy to locate in my shop when I put the tool down, and the illuminated plug with the tool outline keeps the absent minded from unplugging the wrong tool when making a blade change.

Because I purchased an open box unit (at about half of retail), my unit was missing a few of the items shown in the picture (the plastic chip guard, vac attachment, and the three Ridgid blades...I later found a couple of packs of Bosch Progressor blades in the bottom of the case!). A robust case with plenty of room for extra blades and the manual help make this tool at home in the shop and in the back of the truck at a jobsite. Included on the 12 foot cord is a hook and loop wrap that helps keep the long cable wound neatly when not in use. When purchased Ridgid was offering a lifetime warranty on their tools for parts and labor.

There are plenty of pros to this tool, but only three cons that I have found so far.

First, the variable speed control is located in a lousy place for making changes while in a cut (an inconvenience that has been addressed in the latest version of this tool, the R3121 jigsaw).

Second, my unit had an issue with the footplate coming loose and going out of square after a brief period of use. This was remedied by unscrewing the set screws, removing some of the excess oil that I found on them, and driving them in tightly with a bit more torque.

Lastly, the blade release mechanism could be improved. I have found that the spring loaded release can be problematic when installing and removing blades, but does not effect the function of the tool.

I am a firm believer in the adage that one gets what they pay for, but in the case of this particular tool (and the other Metabo made Ridgid I own) that is not the case; you get MORE than you pay for. In the mid to moderately priced jigsaw category the R3120 and the newer model R3121, are worthy contenders.



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.

Recently, I saw an entertainment center made of a wood called Peroba. The wood is beautiful and the pieces had been arranged in a calico/butcher block layout on the front of the piece of furniture.

Peroba is a Brazilian hardwood. Due to its beauty and hardness, the tree has become heavily exploited so much that it has become scarce outside of South American parks and preserves.

The wood is an attractive wood that can be pinkish to a rosy red or a light brown. Most of the lumber is found to be variegated or streaked with purple, brown or pink. The color of the Peroba timbers in many instances is used to indicate the name. For example, Peroba miuda is red with darker patches, Peroba peca is a white wood, Peroba rajada is light red with lighter patches, almost golden, and Peroba reversa has a figure similar to that in bird's eye maple.

Peroba trees are found primarily in the rainforests of South America with average heights reaching 100 ft. With diameters averaging 2 -3 feet and having straight grain, the tree had been in great demand for general purpose lumber.

Being a hardwood, Peroba has been compared to red oak. It machines quite well.

Today, Peroba rosa is favored for fine furniture and cabinetry, decorative veneers, joinery and millwork, flooring, interior trim, sash and doors. It is also used for specialty items in turnery and carving.



Show and Tell From Our April 2007 Meeting



Above, **Frank Pogue** shows off a wooden caricature he created sometime ago of a dog being taken to the veterinarian by its owner. New member, **Geof Adams** (top right) displays one of his hand-carved signs to the Guild. Ignore that guy to the right! The stool displayed is the finished milking stool that Bob Waddell and Myron Curtis crafted at the March meeting. The stool along with a few other items will be raffled off at the May meeting.



Welcome Aboard Jerry!



Our new training coordinator, Jerry Crick, discusses future plans for training to the Guild.

Wooden Toys for the Holidays

At the March meeting, Corey Larson brought in a number of toy plans. I still have copies available to anyone who would like a set. The object, of course, would be to make toys this year for the holidays and donate them to a charitable group for the holidays. It was suggested that people work in teams to assist in the effort. To date, we have 3 teams committed.

We would like to set a goal of 10 teams with each team producing 10 toys. Most toys can be made utilizing scrap wood laying around the shop. And, there are a variety of web sites out there offering free plans to make toys. Please let Andy Steinberg know if you are interested as well as your team member.

Program Highlights from the April 2007 Meeting



Bob Waddell (above left) talks about his jig for cutting circles on a bandsaw. Martin Carter (above right) demonstrates his jig for sanding a fluted leg using a lathe. Bob Fred (below left) brought in an assortment of gadgets for demonstration. Pat Taylor (below right) reiterates the importance of labeling your jigs so you can remember their purpose. Just kidding. Pat demonstrates a table saw switch. (photos by Adrian Marshall)



Program Highlights from the April 2007 Meeting



John Moore (top left) talks about his jigs for cutting dovetails and fluted legs. Bob Malloy (above right) discusses the use of a jig he built for cutting fluted legs. Bob Fred and Martin Carter (below left) discuss which jig would look better in whose living room. Many thanks to all those who participated. There was an incredible amount of knowledge and talent present that night. (photos by Adrian Marshall)



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