

Pat Taylor President/Editor 481-3167
Pat Lester..Vice President 479-9348
Gene George..Treasurer 499-7281
Fred Olds Secretary-volunteer
Ed Bunker Webmaster 463-9196
Mail: 1793 Templeton Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23454
Dues: \$15 yr- To: TWW W Guild
pctaylor55@cox.net

Tidewater Woodworkers

Guild

www.twwwg.com



Meeting Host
WOODCRAFT STORE
JANAF Shopping Ctr
5802 E. Virginia Beach Blvd
Norfolk, Virginia 23502
(757) 466-1166

Monthly Meetings
4th Monday/month- 7 PM

As the Ides of April fades...rushing to the mailbox to get those tax returns in on time, and 40 knot winds gust with matching temperatures...I welcome you to Springtime in Tidewater!

So much for poetic license... this gram is to alert and confirm to our mailing list...now some 200 plus - that we plan to meet - same time, same place (see the masthead) on the Fourth Monday - April 25th. Our guest for the evening is a gent many of you met some years back...Ray Journigan. Ray is only a few years away from his retirement as a fireman...but still plies his time in his woodworking shop as *The Colonial Craftsman*. Ray last took us through some of the handcraft methods he used in building a period "4-Poster" bed, cutting flutes and beads the old fashioned way...drawing a custom knife edge to achieve the coves in lieu of a router or indexed lathe setup. "Why would anyone spend several months building a piece of furniture "the old fashioned way" instead of taking advantage of all the power woodworking machinery available to us today?", asked Ray- some ten years ago. I think he said something to the effect that the pleasure, for him, was in the craft- hands on the wood. Ray will give us a little insight in a piece he must get calls for - a pie table with a hand carved crust... When I asked if he turns the 32-inch top on a lathe, he replied no- that size would most likely bounce his lathe across the shop floor...So we'll have to see his approach to such a piece. He also indicated that he would entertain a return engagement with us- to talk hand tools and methods-an area that many in our group has expressed keen interested in...(so be kind to him!)...

For those of you that didn't make our March meeting- basically an evening of Show and Tell- you missed some great stuff! I tried to

capture some of that meeting from Fred Old's great note taking that night...I hope you will soon be able to "get the drift" from those minutes as they are posted on our club web site at www.twwwg.com. Again- thanks to all of you who made the evening worthwhile- we couldn't help but be impressed with the craftsmanship of the pieces you displayed.

We have finally achieved the goal to get our new club workbench mobile. It took a little hardware and some considerable thought to figure out how to mount the casters on heavy hinges, allowing the bench to be moved and once in place, set down again on its 3-1/2 inch square maple legs. The center drawer units are in both the design and construction phases at this time- The two flanking cabinet units under the bench are now complete, with drawers on one side and locked cabinets on the other side of the bench. We will make the key- common to both cabinet units, available to club members by asking the management at the Woodcraft Store if they will maintain that key at the counter.

I placed an envelope marked for our Treasurer, Gene George, in one of the cabinets just today; containing the March bank statements for both the club's savings and checking accounts, a stack of 2005 membership cards to distro to those members who recently paid their dues...(and for those who might come forth) a copy of the most recent membership list, and our "monthly bill" for the workbench hardware bought to go mobile with our workbench.

Speaking of the workbench in progress, much of it constructed in Bob Fred's shop, a lot of valuable woodworking techniques were brought home to me- maybe some worth sharing. For many of you who are in the shop more than the "average bear," good woodworking practices come as second nature. Over and over again working side-by-side with Bob, the adage of "measure twice- cut once" came into play..

From measuring and matching stock thicknesses to depths of mortises, everytime a piece of wood was machined- whether on the table saw or hand plane...accuracy was stressed, "so you won't be ashamed of your joint." Often we would take a third or fourth measurement as we would "sneak up" on the approach to a joint. The value of good "quality" measuring tools, engineer's squares, depth and thickness gauges, steel rules and the likes were evident and came into play. The "measure twice" factor even showed up when he would carefully measure the distance from the fence to closest saw tooth on the table saw to refine the fence setting from the saw's built-in rule. When accuracy counts- beyond building a bird house or mailbox, a marking knife, or at least a fine .05 mm drawing pencil is called for before picking up a chisel or starting a drilled hole.

Speaking of drilling- after marking a center point, Bob always used a center punch to dimple the spot to start the Forstner or brad point drill bit. Just one more step to insure an accurate joint...and for deep holes and when using large diameter boring bits, make sure to clear the hole often by withdrawing the drill bit over and over again...prevents both burning the wood, the tool itself, and reduces the tendency of the bit to wander in the hole, following grain instead of the desired centerline. We were mindful of the cost of good hardwood during several trips to the store- and therefore before cutting into a four foot length of 2 inch hard maple, we made test cuts in scrap stock machined to the same width and thickness to insure the machine set up was exact. Since spending the month in Bob's shop (his wife called out daily when lunch was ready) -I've picked up a couple of new tools for myself...and who doesn't need more tools?! In cases where it wasn't convenient to drill a 6 inch deep hole in the end-grain of that 4-foot maple stretcher, we used a portable drill guide, which allows you to mount any 3/8" or 1/2" hand drill - and get accurate, perpendicular (or angled) holes, as it acts as a mini-portable drill press. The other tool I was fascinated with was a small wood chamfer plane that bevels both sides of an edge at 45 degrees on each pass. By coincidence, the plans for building this little plane happened to be offered in this most recent issue of Wood magazine...I'm in the process of making one for myself.

But back to drilling holes just for a sec- a pointer to remember when you must countersink a recess, as for recessing the head of a lag screw or bench-bolt: it's intuitive to drill the larger countersink hole first, say- using a Forstner bit, then follow up with a brad point bit set into the dimple to bore the hole for the hardware. It's not necessary to stay with the large-bit-first rule when using common twist bits. Using the opposite sequence, the large twist/machinest bit will self-center in the smaller hole when drilled first. Just remember to back up your stock with a piece of scrap to reduce the possibility of tear out when a drill bit exits its hole.

Oh- and one more thing- and everyone who ever installed hinges and hardware on cabinets knows...the self-centering "Vix" bits are a must to insure that drill holes are centered in the proper place. We used those even when mounting the heavy bench vise on the workbench. And most woodworkers know the trick of wrapping a drill bit with a "flag" of masking tape to indicate the exact depth desired in a drill hole

When the 'flag' sweeps the sawdust off the surface, you know you are at the correct depth. And speaking of "tear-out" ... and again - these tips are for the novice woodworkers who don't have years of learning "the hard way"- -when it came to sheet goods (expensive hardwood faced plywoods-), we took the trouble to either apply a strip of masking tape on the underside of a line of cut ...and/or used a knife to scored the underside of that line - before taking it to the table saw.

Other steps to help produce clean edges on your sheet goods cuts: keep your saw blades clean-free of pitch; and use a zero clearance table saw insert to provide the support where an open underside will invite tearout to occur...(on large panels, I prefer using a cross cut sled for cutting/trimming plywood, as it also provides a "solid bottom" where the blade exits the stock.; if the kerf is too wide, place a sheet of hardboard on the cutoff table surface to give more support.) The "books" recommend using a cross cut or combination blade with ATB (alternate set teeth) if you don't have a special 80-100 tooth plywood blade for cutting furniture grade plywoods.

One more tip on clean cuts...on solid stock or plywoods...avoid thin "trim cuts" when possible; you'll get a cleaner cut where there is solid material on both sides of a saw blade to support the fibers the full width of the kerf. And then- one tip that "sorta" defies the safety rule of thumb when it comes to minimizing the exposed blade height on the saw table. If you are careful- mindful of that blade being as much as a full 1 inch above the height of stock - you will get a much cleaner cut from your blade.

Clamp your stock to fence extensions and cross cut sleds, use the proper push sticks, hold downs, and let those inert shop board “fingers” do their thing to keep stock flush on the fence and table surface.

Little things came to mind when making up the mahogany drawer fronts for the workbench.

That’s when Gene George pointed out a technique to stay with the general rule to cut across the grain first, followed up with cuts made with the grain. Where finished edges are important (such as on drawer fronts and cabinet doors) - your “good“ -or “best face” of the stock is placed UP on the table saw (and down on the radial arm saw), and then you want to rotate, don’t flip, the drawer face when cutting the other end of the stock on the miter gauge.

“Obvious!” you say??? But if you’re in a hurry- you’ll end up “flipping” and cross cutting the other end of that drawer front with it’s good face down and nasty!. Table legs too...take the time to orient your stock on the table saw or miter saw, so the outside faces of the leg make contact with the saw blade first.

Anyhooooo...these are just some of the lessons learned, some relearned- working on one project over the past month with Bob Fred as mentor- just asking me to double check his measurements was a subtle approach to teaching an old dog woodworking.

I’ll be in the Florida Keys this next week- I’ll worry ‘bout cutting the grass when I get back- but back I’ll be -“ mebe’ with a tan -for Monday Night at the Meeting. KIWTG/ Pat (Keep It With The Grain)...not copyrighted...but our own...

PS... That Portable Drill Guide referred to...one is made by General Tools, and retails in most stores at \$36- \$37....will accept any 1/4 to 1/2 inch portable (electric or cordless) drill. - don’t know how I got away all these years without one ...a lot of holes out there not perpendicular...for sure!

Tidewater Woodworkers
1793 Templeton Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23454



~ ***Shop at our Friends*** ~
The Woodcraft Store-Norfolk
Plastic and Plastic Norfolk

