



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 04.2008

Next Meeting: April 15th, 2008 (3rd Tuesday!)

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Speakers and topics: **BILL HYLTON!**

- **Sharpening machines for the MODERN MAN!**
- **BRING CHISELS AND FLAT IRONS TO TRY!**

With fond memories:

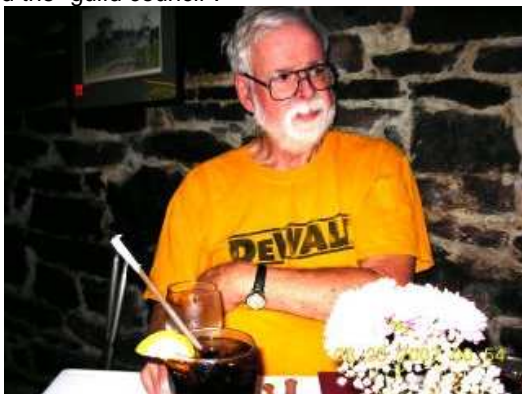
Bob Tinsman

A friend, gentleman, and special person is gone.



This is a photo of Bob and Ellis Walentine from about 10 years ago at Fort Washington American Woodworker show, a big annual event where members got in for free in exchange for a few hours of help. Bob worked out all of the arrangements, found out what was needed from American Woodworker arranged to place volunteers where needed. A lot of work he did every year.

Got this very sad news from Art Silva via an e-mail and message on WOODCENTRAL. I must say, I was shaken by it. I believe all of us met Bob via the Guild. He was a graduate of Lafayette, a long time retired member of AT&T Allentown works. I first met Bob at the kickoff meeting of the guild in December of 1995. Dave Dreher formed the guild at that time, and some time later, in effort to support Dave, we formed the "guild council".

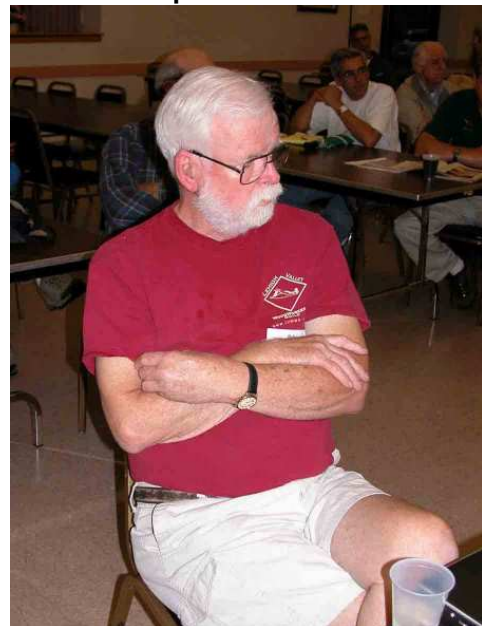


Bob at one of his favorite eateries in Bethlehem – photo by Art Silva.

Bob volunteered his dining room area (actually, in his great Victorian, he had 2 dining rooms!) and always had the coffee on. We met there for many years planning guild activities. Ron Snayberger, me, Dan Elwood, Andy Anderson, and Bill Grumbine. Angleo Triandafilou joined, Art Silva, Helen and Quentin Patterson. Folks came and went. Bob was there. He is a part of that history but I am sure his true history was his wife Barbara, 4 children and grandchildren. Such a good man.

Bob showed up at the September meeting where I got this photo and put in the caption at that time. Last newsletter photo I have of Bob and it is perhaps fitting to rerun it here.

**** From September Newsletter ****



By the way, Bob Tinsman is moving to Colorado. I know he has children who live there and it will be nice for him and his wife to be closer to them. They are looking forward to the life change. They are having a home built out there and I hear a shop also. Bob is an original December 1995 member of the guild at the kickoff meeting. He hosted Guild Council meetings in his huge dining room for many years and always had the coffee ready and the table cleared off. We do not know when he will be leaving, but it will be soon. Bob, we wish you well and I thank you for your contributions to this guild. Letting us rowdy folks into your home every month for many years, putting together the volunteers for the old American Woodworker shows, sticking stamps on all those newsletters and getting them in the mail for so long.. Thanks. I hope you both enjoy this next chapter in your life in good health and for many years to come.

On Woodcentral – Art put in the following post:

A heavy heart brings me to you today to report that yesterday my good friend Robert Tinsman, and the

good friend of many of you who visit this site answered the call of his Father in Heaven to report for duty at his right hand. He is survived by his lovely wife Barbara, a daughter, three sons and a flock of grand kids.

Bob was one of the founding members of the Lehigh Valley Woodworkers Guild, and a stalwart leader on the executive committee for many years.

During the years that Guild members were the willing unpaid slaves who helped to run the American Woodworker Magazine Shows in Fort Washington, Pa., Bob was the "TAKE CHARGE" guy that kept everyone going in the right direction.

Memories abound of road trips to obscure piles of wood in obscure places, wood shows, tool tests for different magazines and DeWalt at Ellis' shop. Good food and friends at Bill's Five Barns picnics. Taking the train to New York City with Angelo T. to visit Garrett-Wade. Taking the "Masters Class" with Wayne Barton at Helen Patterson's shop. Helping Bob with woodwork on his 1871 Victorian in Bethlehem Pa. Breakfasts at Perkins and many lunches at Bob's favorite Main St. Depot in Bethlehem where I took this picture.

Angelo and Helen await your arrival Bob. There is a Carpenter they want you to meet

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Apparently Bob had been silently suffering with pancreatic cancer since last November. Ironically, it first showed itself while he was out in Colorado making preparations for his and Barbara's move there.

I do not know what else to write here. While Bob was far from a kid, it is almost surreal writing of him in this respect. I wish the last line in my September caption had come to fruition. A good man. A good friend. A gentleman. A volunteer. A husband – father – grandfather.

March meeting Highlights

Robert Taylor on the new Porter Cable Omnijig- Arranged by Ray Winkler and our friends from Woodcraft.

I had started this with a little humor but removed it in light of my late addition to this issue you have just read. Porter Cable / Delta / DeWalt's Robert Taylor knows how to wow a crowd in an excellent presentation and demo of Porter Cable's behemoth new Omnijig. This presentation was done under some duress – Robert had just done a weekend of trade shows and was clearly straining his voice to speak clearly, but he did very well and did not shirk questions at the end of the presentation, and there were many.

OK, this baby weights in at 63 pounds. The original Omnijig (circa 197? – 2002) was known as a boat anchor. This is a BIG boat anchor. That should mean typical Porter Cable engineering for use and abuse. Also, it is heavy enough to stay pretty still, although the well thought out structure has ample edges for

clamping to a bench. It used many of the features of a Leigh look alike, the Porter Cable 4200 series, which is lighter in weight and less flexible but a capable performer, so much so that it remains in production for those needing a less robust, less flexible but reliable dovetail platform.



Ray Winkler of our local Woodcraft store who arranged for the REAL Robert Taylor to give a super presentation on an amazing piece of machinery. Robert did a great job, especially in light of the fact that he was both tired and hoarse after a weekend of woodworking shows. We appreciated it.



Can you say WOW, boys and girls? 63 pounds of machinery here with all the bells and whistles you could want.

Porter Cable did their homework. This puppy was in R&D for over 5 years and a total of 8 years in overall development before introduction. It was prototyped IN the USA and Europe as well.

The finger template is standard as is the easier to use fixed template. The depth gauge for dovetail bits is standard. The heavy duty router rest, which also had been cunningly designed to deflect sawdust downward and it WORKS, is standard. All the do dads are

standard except for the fixed template and 4" dust collection port which goes on the front and does NOT interfere with operation. That only costs \$40 or so. It was shown in the 24" width, but a 16" unit (which does NOT include the variable finger template as standard) is also available. The 24" size is not offered for 24" wide stock, but you can batch your work and do several pieces in one setup pass, a real boon to production. Full through dovetails require 2 passes as usual, half blind are done in one. It handles 1/4" through 1 1/2" stock.

This thing is also a walking, color coded instruction manual. It is almost idiot proof (meaning I may be able to use it.). Many adjustments and stops ensure that you will get accurate and repeatable setups for all but the most complicated arrangements. One set (red) of setups are used for through dovetails, another (yellow) is for variable half blind, and the third (blue) is for set half blind or Box joints and probably something else I missed. There is also the fixed template accessory that has a sliding dovetail feature that imparts a taper to the sliding dovetail. It sets up using the same stops as the adjustable template.



Color coding (note this in subsequent photos) makes setup foolproof. Red = Through Dovetail, Yellow = Variable one pass half blind, Blue = fixed one pass half blind and also box joints.

There is an instruction manual with is 58 pages long and Robert says that you really do not need it because the setups are color coded and intuitive. Look at the included DVD and cut some dovetails. The video, by the way, is done by Norm Abram, and is viewable in the web site. Most setups are accomplished via use of the instruction stickers and colors coded stops on the machine itself, the bit depth device, and a "recipe card" that has all the data you need. Even the web site downplayed the need to reference the manual. I was always told by sales reps when I called with a problem that I needed to RTFM my toys and the answers would be revealed to me. When I asked what that was, I was told to Read The "expletive deleted" Manual. Words to live by. But maybe not with this device.

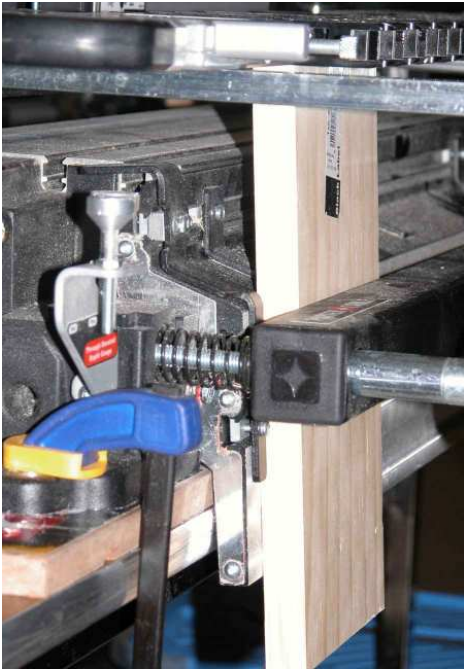


A couple of items of note here. Double cam lock handles clamp horizontal and vertical pieces – they worked with minimal effort. 2 offsets on setup stops in the circle allow automatic setup for tails and pins (when template is reversed, Note the red sticker on the stops – We are doing through dovetails in this setup. Got all that?



Close up of stop system as viewed from the back of the unit. They drop and lock into place, are color coded, and factory preset. Templates slide onto guide bars from the front. Note locknuts – user can adjust tightness of the dovetails to suit their preference or application. 2 turns of the screw adjusts 1/64"th.

This jig uses the standard 7 degree dovetail bit and a dovetail and straight bit are also included. The base is cast and the front support edge (which tilts for angled cuts) is textured and automatically offsets boards. On some jigs, coarse sandpaper is used to provide a non slip edge which then requires the work to be sanded. This edge does not cause damage to the wood surface other than any that would be the result of over clamping. Top and front clamps are double cam action single level, and seemed very easy to use and solid. All knobs are large and oversized.



This photo shows the work (at a slight angle as seen here) clamped to the unit and the textured front that secures the wood without marring it. It also shows that there is a router bit adjusting post to the left for both dovetail and straight bits. Since the sticker there is red, that means these settings are for through dovetails. If you get a Black and White printed copy, what can I say? Or get a friend to print you one from their computer.



A lot of data here. First – the red instruction placard. Second, a view of how the template slides onto the guidebars. Third, to the rear, the pin on the template that aligns with the setup stop. Fourth, on the lower left, the pin that aligns with the other stop when the template is reversed. Fifth, on the left, the holes in the template where you set up the depth of the bits for straight and dovetail, and last, the #2 Robertson screw adjusts.

The templates and virtually everything else is set up by the use of small stops (color coded) which slip on and off easily and ensure proper setup. They are factory adjusted and usable out of the box, but can be tweaked by the user. Two turns of a stop screw gives 1/64" adjustment. Bottom line, if you properly label your stock, and follow the instructions on the unit, you will cut perfect dovetails.

Most of the adjustments are made with a #2 Robertson square drive driver (included). The fingers on the adjustable template are actually wedged in place with the screw assist and can be loosened by pushing down while turning. When it comes to bits and collars used, Porter cable has laser etched codes on all dovetail system bits and collars, and these codes are references for most common applications. Not to worry – Porter cable is not in the router but business and other well known sellers (Freudian slip?) are apparently going to be offering laser etched coded sets for use with this device.



Typical rugged Porter Cable construction on the variable spaced fingers. Also if you look real close you may be able to see that these use #2 Robertson screws as adjust. The screw bit of choice for woodworkers who do not like to use profane language.



A router bit (color coded!) depth adjust jig, heavy duty too. Yellow for variable spaced, blue for fixed, and white for user settings. The red ones are on the jig itself, as noted. This is a nice setup tool. Standard with the unit or available separately.

The device, as stated, comes with a router bit depth gauge that is very heavily made (as usual, PC!), and, for convenience, here are two built right into the unit at working level with the standard setups. Very cool. Take care to not drag the carbide bits across the surface when using these or they will develop a gully. What would you expect?



This is a photo of the built in depth adjustment in action for through dovetails. The dovetail bit is slid into the hole on the template and adjusted until it touches the factory present stop. Take care not to drag the carbide across the aluminum stop. Carbide wins every time and it may impact your bit adjustment accuracy over time.



The dual PC 890's. Obviously shut off because there is an auto shutoff switch when you set them down like this. Dual setup for demo with straight and dovetail bits.



As you can see in this photo, the router is fully supported by the front edge guide, a robust hunk of aluminum. Note on the lower right that the shape of this guide is horizontal, then at a 45, then down – guides dust and chips to the floor and works well.

Robert used a pair of PC 890 routers. I have seen these, but not in action and they seemed very quiet.

Had to check to make sure my hearing aids were on and they were. Being a PC 690 owner (isn't everyone?), I was angry when PC introduced the 890. Like a betrayal. It is a better designed unit. A neat feature is that the shutoff is a rod that extends to the top. When you turn the unit on, the rod sticks out of the top, so if you invert it and put it down on top, it shuts off automatically as a safety feature. This makes me mad as you can no longer do the fun "power on but change" tricks.

I talked a little bit about the front edge piece or guild. A very robust hunk of metal that also fully supports the router when the unit is in use. This is a very nice feature, and one we saw a couple of months ago in the Universal Jig that was demo'ed by its inventor. Fully supporting one to the other, just an observation. Fully supporting the router base is, to me, important for safety, accuracy, and ease of use. The angled front edge DOES deflect chips to the floor and Robert only had sawdust on him because he leaned into the guide. The \$40 dust collection device works very well even with collectors as low as 1 HP, and, in fact, you can just put a 5 gallon bucket under it and that can do a serviceable job in a pinch.



I wish I had a better photo of the duct collection hook in place on the unit. This photo gives a glimpse of it on the floor under the table. It does NOT need to be removed to use the unit. The other item of note in this photo is that the sawdust is in a uniform row under the device. The dust collection hood was NOT in place when these shavings were deposited here – these were put here as a function of the angled guide bar. It works. Robert got almost no sawdust on himself during the routing process.

Robert cut through dovetails and did the tails, then reversed the finger template for the pins. It was automatically right on the money due to the stop system. Robert pointed out some woodworking tips, like work the pins from right to left lightly to scribe the edge, then go back into the pins, working in sort of circular way to minimize the router jumping around in the work.



An option, the fixed template makes fast work of one pass half blind and box joints among other things. Hard to see in this photo is a tapered slot that is used for tapered sliding dovetails. Note the extensions on the ends – they work with the setup stops.

PC made the first run and, amazingly, sold them out in the first month. When I saw this monster tool, I said to myself that it has got to cost a fortune. Well, it ain't cheap. The 24" model with all the standard stuff I mentioned before (not the dust collector hood) goes for \$599. I have to say, looking at it, it looks more expensive. The 16" unit goes for \$429, but does not have the adjustable finger template as standard. Why is it so cost effective for such a large, well engineered tool? Well, someone asked so I will write that it is not made in good ole Jackson, Miss, but in Vietnam. Robert did not say North or South. I guess there is no North or South any more. I think some of us spent differing amounts of time there some 40 years ago (I just passed through..). Well, What is made here anymore anyway? Bottom line is that PC did not spend all the time and money in R&D and development and testing to delegate manufacture to an unfit vendor and we know it is quality control on the part of PC that will build the quality into the tool, so what the hell...



OUT WITH THE OLD? No way. Robert looks almost fondly at the old 4200 series unit and had good things to say about it. Basic, functional, cost effective. It will stay around for those who need straightforward functionality, and many features on the new Omnijig came from this workhorse.

On the Made in USA front, the new Unisaw is due to come out and is totally made in USA. It will also be

equipped with riving knives, which will be required after 2009 on new table saws.



A really good turnout to see this demo, and it was a good one.

I have to say that every tool has its proponents. There are more cost and space effective ways to get excellent results on dovetails if you do not mind a little more time and planning. The PC 4200 series and the Universal Jointer we saw not long ago are examples. But if you are going to be doing a lot of dovetailing, or just have the money and space, this is the Rolls Royce of dovetailing jigs, in my humble opinion. It is a truly magnificent machine that was well demo'd by a truly knowledgeable and personable factory rep, Robert Taylor. He is based in Maryland and is the area rep.



Paul Anthony taking a close look at the new Omnijig.

Robert can be reached at robert.taylor@bdk.com. I was not going to give out his mail ID, but he advised that he is agreeable to taking questions about this or any other Porter Cable, Delta, or DeWalt device. Nice. And we will not abuse it. Ray Winkler said he has been very impressed with the knowledge and support he has received from Robert, who had a long drive home. He did a great job.

The web site is located at www.portercable.com. Impressive site. I looked at the video for product and it was excellent. This site is worth a trip.



A good crown stuck around quizzing Robert Taylor after his excellent presentation.



Our friends from the local Woodcraft who made this presentation possible. John and Ray insisted on getting into this photo. Sorry.

Drag and Brag



A miniature piece of furniture made by Ken Muth for some lucky kid.

Guess who? Will Schmidt. Guess what? Well, I would not have seen the seahorse in the raw piece, but Will did.



What lucky child will get this from Ken and Judy at Christmas? Made from scrap wood.

Will Schmidt had another interesting piece to consider. Great eye – finds form in things I toss in the burn barrel. Ken Muth as well showed not only skill but heart in taking scraps and time and making toys for some lucky kid.

Missing from this is a photo of the great Easter treats made by Judy Muth. In the hustle and bustle of the meeting, I neglected to photo her fine efforts. Let's face it, she puts a lot of thought and effort into each

month's treats, and each of us should make sure she knows that.



Here is Ken telling us about what he has created with scraps, and his intention to donate it to kids at Christmas. Nice guy, good people.

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Andy gave a treasurers report and we have money. Allen and the team discussed the block program and we will be providing more detailed data for you. Note that the thickness of the wood donated by Bally Block varies a little and that is fine – these are blocks, not CNC cut precision items. They MUST NOT be sharp, however – rounded.

Dan gave a newsletter report – nothing exciting. Judy and Ken gave a readout on refreshment funds and HEY! Get ready for Christmas fund donations!! Just is the chairperson again!

Russ is going to be the Taunton Book sale person and Dan had it temporarily – Dan needs to find out when the next sale is being held. Hope we did not miss the Spring sale, but we had very few takers last time.

Guest speakers – Dan reported that Bill Hylton sent a note advising that for a short time he has some wet grinders for a test and he'd be happy to demo them and discuss techniques and features. How cool is that? He is on in April. Paul Anthony in May on Table saw use. That is great. Lou and Russ are more or less the speaker committee, and, with Ray Winkler of Woodcraft, agreed to perhaps get Freud in for November and Festool in September. The contest is October, so we only have 3 months to fill up.

Q & A

What happened to this? We will be starting it again. Take ten, I used to call it. Ask questions, get answers.

VIRTUAL SHOP TOURS!

We had some excellent ones and are looking for more – if you have a shop you'd like to show, no matter how humble, take a few photos and bring them in!! See ANY steering committee member to arrange it!!

COME ON! STEP UP!

And the Woodcraft winner is...



Justin Roberts!

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call
Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempton, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa., 18103

Colin Powell
Lake Powell
Adam Clayton Powell
Boog Powell
William Powell

Web Site Administrator :

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2007- 2008 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
April 15	Wet grinders!!!	BILL HYLTON
May 20th	Table saw use – everything you wanted to know about setups!	The incomparable Paul Anthony.
June 17th		
July 15th		
August 19th		
September 16th	FESTOOL DEMO	FESTOOL – arranged by Woodcraft
October 21st	CONTEST TIME!	
November 18th	FREUD DEMO!	Freud tools –arranged by Woodcraft

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 15th, Starting at 7:30, sharp. Allow time to arrive and be seated before start time.

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center

- **Topics:**
 - **BILL HYLTON – Power Wet Grinders**
 - **Q&A**