

The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

May, 1997

Volume 8 Number 8

**Next Meeting -- May 7
Brush Barn, Smithtown
7:30 PM**

The "IT" Saw

This month's meeting will be presented by Pat Leach and Pete Taran of the Independence Tool Co. Pat and Pete started this company only six months ago in order to manufacture high quality dovetail saws, better known to users as the IT saw. They will talk about all aspects of hand saws, such as sharpening, construction, history, use, etc. Please bring down any saws you might have a question about. They will also be offering their IT saw for sale the night of the meeting.

Here's an excerpt from The Windsor Chronicles put out by Michael Dunbar of Windsor chairmaking fame about our guest speakers. "At last a new saw comparable to ours is available. It is a joint effort between Patrick Leach and Peter Taran, two young men with a passion for old tools. They are both active on the Old Tools list on the Internet. If you subscribe, you will soon find yourself talking to them. In fact the two met through their computer. Because of their interest in old tools, they struck up a friendship and formed Independence Tool. Their first product is this ca. 1830 English dovetail saw. At first, they sold their saws to other

enthusiasts on the Internet. However, they have recently started a marketing program that they hope will reach the woodworking mainstream. Their saw is currently produced in small runs with extreme attention to detail. Each handle requires multiple steps to achieve the intricate shape common in the early 19th century. The blades are made from .020" Swedish steel hardened to Rockwell 50. Each is made from scratch. This means punching, setting, and filing the 16 teeth per inch. The solid brass back is milled precisely to accept the blade. Peter and Patrick claim this makes their saw superior to the originals, as on old examples the back was merely crimped. You can see the saw on line at www.intool.com, or you can contact Pat by e-mail. His address is leach@intool.com."

Pat Leach was the host of the video "Stanley Planes by the Numbers." Copies of the video will be available at the meeting, and Pat will be glad to autograph them.

--Bill Hermanek

Secretary's Report

Our April meeting was held at the Commack HOME DEPOT store. Upon arriving, members were greeted by store managers, John Werthessen and Howie Kohler. The DeWalt Industrial Tool

Company's representatives were on hand, led by Emily Bruning. Orange and yellow were definitely the dominant colors of the evening, as there were orange aprons and yellow shirts to be seen everywhere. The meeting was opened by Bill Hermanek at 7:30 PM with over 230 members, guests, and DeWalt and Home Depot representatives on hand.

Joe Pascucci advised that we now have 207 members and \$3582.00 in the treasury. As a result of the recent Board of Directors' meeting, we need some help in the following areas:

1. a committee to handle the TOYS FOR TOTS program for the December meeting. Those interested should contact Joe Pascucci.

2. a camcorder to video our meetings. Please contact Bill Hermanek.

3. club T-shirts, caps, jackets, shirts, etc. We need a volunteer to take charge of this. Contact Joe Pascucci.

Howard Whitman reminded everyone not to forget our upcoming meetings:
MAY - Independence Tool Co. demonstration on their IT dovetail saw and advice on saws in general, plus tips on sharpening, etc.

JUNE- Our annual picnic and woodworking contest. Fr. Long and his Chaminade H.S. crew have once again volunteered to do the barbecue. We are indeed fortunate.

Brian Hayward commented on the March 22 Ian Kirby seminar. It seems that all who attended really enjoyed it. Ian Kirby expressed an interest in becoming more involved with our club in the future to set up workshops, etc.

The meeting was turned over to Emily Bruning, who introduced John

Werthessen, Store Manager. John welcomed the membership and promised to host the meeting again next year. Emily and her staff made the same commitment.

The DeWalt representatives then presented four of their latest woodworking machines and explained their features. We are fortunate to be among the first woodworkers in the U.S. to see these new products.

DW-788 20" Scroll Saw with optional stand

DW-744 10" portable table saw (62 lbs.) with sliding rip fence

DW-733 12 1/2" surface planer

DW-708 12" double bevel compound miter saw

Emily Bruning and Bill Hermanek held a raffle on two nice DeWalt jackets. The winners were Shirley Leonard and Gabe Jaen.

We then proceeded to the "hands on" area where the complete DeWalt line, including the new machines, were there for us to touch and try.

Let's not forget the promotional purchase packages presented in a combined effort by both DeWalt and the Home Depot.

This was the largest meeting ever held by the club and certainly the best of 1997. Our thanks to all involved.

Don't forget to plan for the second annual LIWC Exhibition on October 21, 1997.

-- Bob Hall

Ian Kirby's Workshop

I, with forty-six other club members, attended the March 22nd workshop expecting to get instruction on various aspects of intermediate/advanced woodworking. Instead, we got seven hours of basic woodworking. What a stimulating seven hours that turned out to be! Ian is a dynamic speaker - witty, entertaining and has a wealth of information. Usually, we buy a tool, bring it home, plug it in, and start working. At other times, we reluctantly buy a hand tool and start using that immediately, not knowing that it's not in an adequate working condition. Our experience of failure, or - at the best - marginal success, puts further deterrents in the way of our using hand tools. Not anymore.

One of the delights of this workshop was not merely being instructed on how to use a tool but being told the reasons behind using it in a certain way. Do you know that using a slowed-down bench grinder with a proper wheel and a cheap homemade jig you can grind an edge on a plane iron or chisel that requires only about sixty seconds of finishing on a stone? With a proper stance and use of the plane, you can get a shaving as thin as .002 thousands and a surface smooth enough to finish. We learned about the 45 degree direction of pressure from a clamp and how to clamp a mortise and tenon without causing a twist. Ian showed how to cut a mortise by hand. The process took minutes and left shoulders perfectly smooth.

I am sure that if I had known that the day was to be spent on basic woodworking, I probably wouldn't have

attended. Who cares about a face edge and face side and marking tools! I now realize that advanced woodworking is merely progressing from basics and knowing theory for what we are doing (Do you know that a tree grows spirally?). After such an exhilarating day, I'm ready for more basic woodworking.

-- Brian Hayward

Market Place

Wanted. Any antique woodworking tools or machinery. For Sale: Stanley Plane Videos and Stanley Tool Price Guide Books. \$30.00 each. Call Bill Hermanek, 360-1216.

Wanted. Back issues of *Fine Woodworking* magazine, issues 10-16. Call Steve Abatzidis, 421-0657.

For Sale: Craftsman 10" Bandsaw, 3 Wheel with stand -- \$85.00.

Craftsman 10" Radial Arm Saw with stand and casters -- \$235.00.

Shopsmith 4" Jointer with stand, casters, motor and dust port -- \$300.00.

Bench Planes -- Stanley, Sargent, etc. Antique, collectible or excellent user quality, Block, Smooth, Fore, Jack, and Jointer. Some wood bottoms available. -- Reasonable. Call Bob Hall. 265-5345.

For Sale: Stanley #5 plane, #4 plane, #4 smooth plane, #20 square. Two wooden planes. Magicut 12" flat file, 12" half round file (for Formica). Black and Decker 6 1/2" Portable Circular Saw with extra blades and case. Call Bill Weiss, 433-7835.

Shopsmith Mark 5 System for Sale. Includes every available accessory! A lot

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Contact Roger Schroeder, 691-2095.

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six titles, FWW, FHB, and videos. sand
\$200.00 takes all. Call Don Breinlinger, 473-030
669-9432.

nd Shaper on stand with cutters. Craftsman
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an 10" Radial Arm Saw. 16" Bandsaw. \$2.
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Woodworkers' Club

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