



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 06.2009

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 16th, 7:30 PM
Location: Woodcraft on Lehigh Street in Allentown

Topic:
ROUTER TABLE MAGIC featuring Bill Hylton

If you don't have a router table in your shop yet—you should! In this info-packed seminar, you'll be shown basic—and safe!—router table know-how that'll improve the quality and efficiency of your work. How to micro-adjust any fence. Using a starting pin. Making damage-free cuts. Dealing with dust. Maintaining safe control of the workpiece.

Last meeting highlights:

Double Header!

- **Freud Wainscot bit techniques with Jason Muchler!**
- **Table Saw Safety with Paul Anthony**

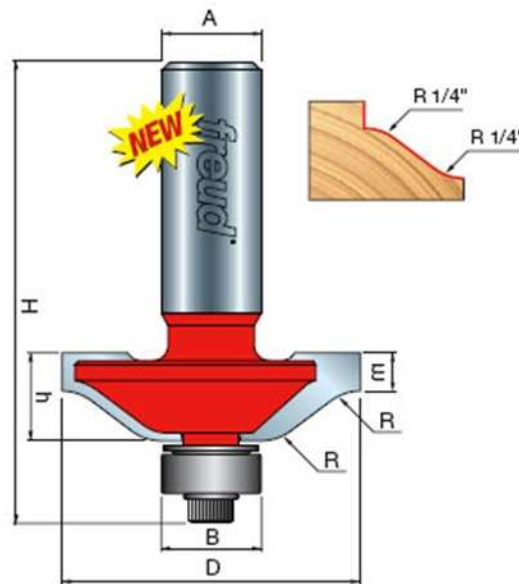
How many guilds can say that? Not many.

Freud Wainscot Bit Demo – by Jason Muchler



Hey! That ain't a bit – it is a dowling jig! I started to take a photo of Jason and then we decided an action shot may be better. The one I got was too blurry!! This is from our Nov 08 meeting. IOU one, Jason!

Jason put together another nice demo of a Freud product. Freud – I joked about the name because it is actually an Italian based company with a German name – is now owned by Bosch. I was actually somewhat of a seer, eh? No? OK, it was bought by Bosch and, thus far, not much has changed in the Freud product line. Bits and blades are made in Italy and machines in Barcelona, Spain. "Ah, I remember the scented breezes of Barcelona." Actually I have never been there but I have heard that in a half dozen movies. I must go one day..



Specs on the bit from Freud's web site.
Bit # 99-470

Overall Dia.(D)	Bearing Dia. (B)	Carbide Height(h)	Large Radius(R)
1-1/2"	1/2"	7/16"	1/4"

Minor Height(m)	Shank Dia.(A)	Overall Length(H)
3/16"	1/2"	2-1/4"

(HOW DOES HE DO THAT?)

So the wainscot bit. This is not your typical wainscot as in the tongue and groove looking butterfly stuff. This is more the panel kind. Rail and stile. Jason cut some short pieces as a demo and it went super easy. The panel type of wainscot is really very nice, and this bit makes it pretty easy. Many Freud bits use the Quadra Cutter technology because, with extra cutters that sort

of cleanup or back cut, it makes a smooth end grain cut, but since there is no exposed end grain for this application, the bit was made without it to keep costs low. No point in making it expensive for no practical reason. The reason why this bit works well is that the curved portions of the cut have the same 1/4" radius so you can flip the work and make it fit. There are a series of steps you used in doing this and key to it all is to properly mark your pieces so as not to mess up a cut.



This was a nice display of what this bit will do.



A close up of the sample. Jason would make one like it in minutes.

Some data from what Jason had on the white board:

Application: For milling matching joints in wainscoting

- Works with stock from 1/2" to 5/8" thick, and mills matching frame joints with remarkable ease and precision.
- Bit height is set one time for male and female joints without requiring fence or height adjustments. Just rout stiles face down and rails face up for a perfect fit.
- Versatile design—after routing the matching profiles, rout a rabbet on the back to accept the tongue of a raised panel in 3/4" stock.

- Cuts all composition materials, plywoods, hardwoods and softwoods.
- Use on hand-held and table-mounted portable routers.
- This bit is \$39. \$39!

THE STEPS:

1. Cut the end grain. This piece will go up against the upper rail and the other end against the lower one.



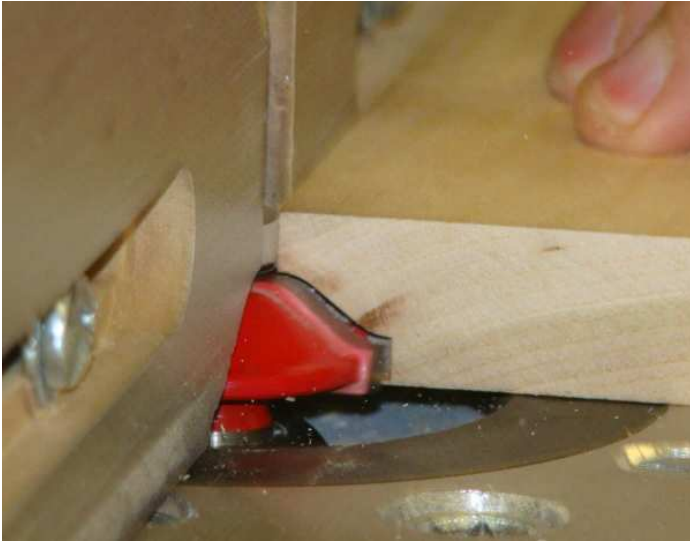
Clean as a whistle in one pass. The end grain cut.

2. Adjust the bit to the lower edge of the piece you just cut.



Here the end piece is turned over and the top edge of the bit, where the radius starts, is aligned with the edge of the work. The really neat micro adjust knob makes it easy on this mini table Jason used a couple of times at our guild.

3. Run your rails.



Running the rails.

4. Flip the stile where you cut your end grain and run the long edges.

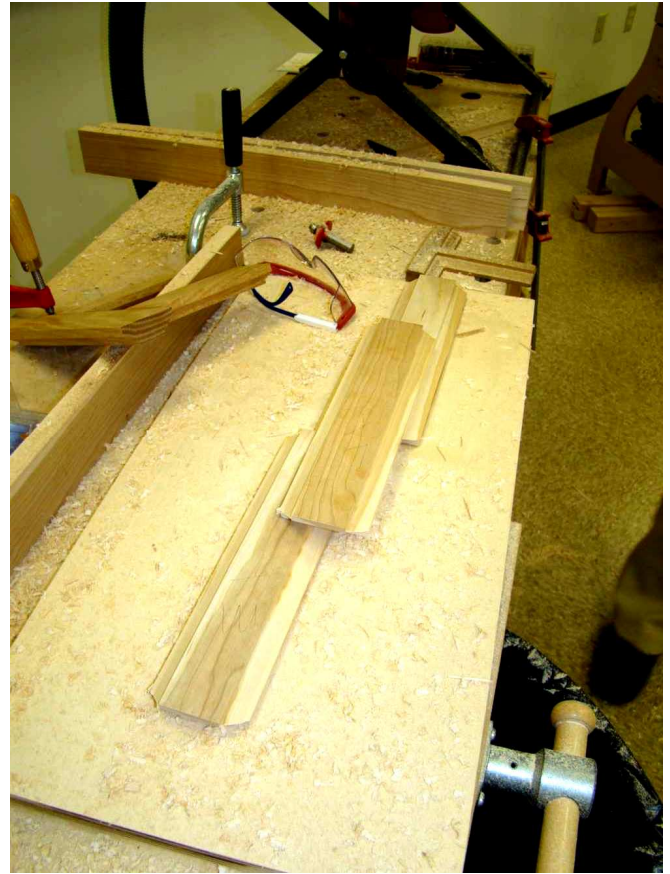


Running one side of a stile. The end cut made before is on the other end of this piece.

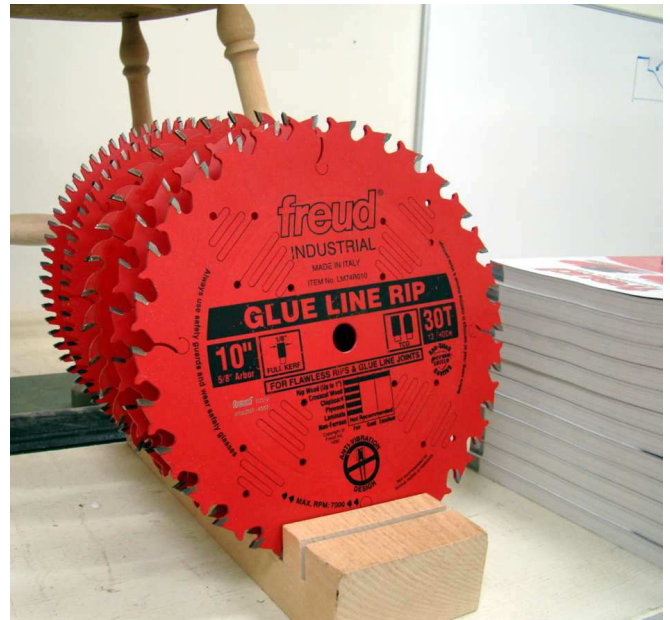
5. All done.



Made it look easy. It was easy. And accurate.



Pieces Jason cut before assembly.



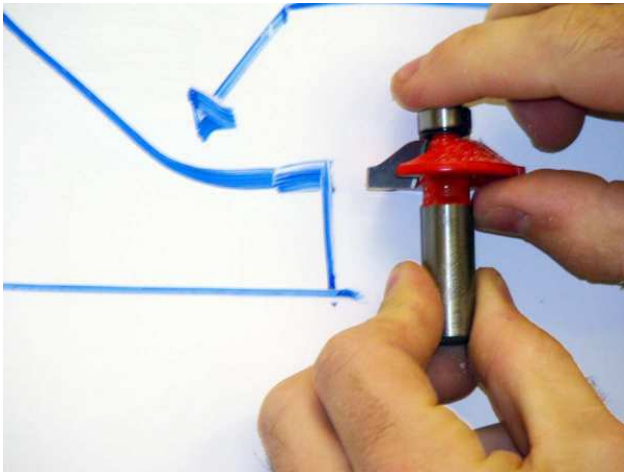
Lest we forget – Need a blade? Actually, I do need one! Going to get a good one for my PC Circular saw for a change. Freud give good value for the buck.

Jason again used the Freud 99-470 beast router. If I did not have so many routers, I would buy this one. Very powerful, nice features, great price point. Freud has always been a dark horse in the router market. I never heard anyone who owned one say anything but good things about them.



Here it is again! If I already did not have too many routers, this bad boy would be coming home with me. It seems to have a lot going for it for the money. While we think of DeWalt and Porter Cable and Festool and Triton, all good machines, Freud routers consistently test well while being very cost effective.

A member asked of you can cut MDF with this and Jason advised it works just fine for MDF. I hate the stuff myself cause it turns to powder when you work it, but it does cut nicely on a router.



Jason provided his own visual aids on our white board. This is actually how you would adjust the bit to line up with the top of the vertical.

At any rate, Jason again did a fine job with this demo and passed out huge Freud catalogs and a discount coupon good for 10% off. A good thing. We do hope to see him back again as he is a skilled presenter, knows how to field questions, and an all around nice person.

High praise coming from me cause I hate most people. Thanks to Jason and Freud.

Jason's contact information:

Jason Muchler
jmuchler@freudtools.com
 Office – 800-334-4107 x 1314

He is based out of Conshohocken, PA. If you can spell it, you an find it.

Table Saw Safety – Paul Anthony

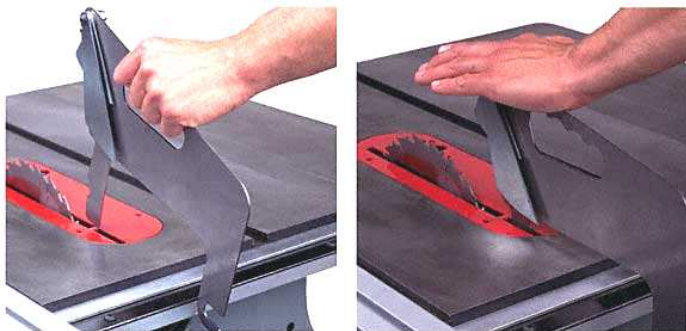
Paul is back with a demo focused on table saw safety. The older I get the more I get apprehensive working around stationary tools. Paul did a very comprehensive presentation of table saw jigs that will make work safer and easier a few months ago. In fact, both the safety factors and information about the jigs are now available in a very nice book by Taunton. I bought one and read it casually already and I can say it is well worth the money. This presentation was another winner by Paul.



Archive photo of Paul with a push stick device he LIKES!

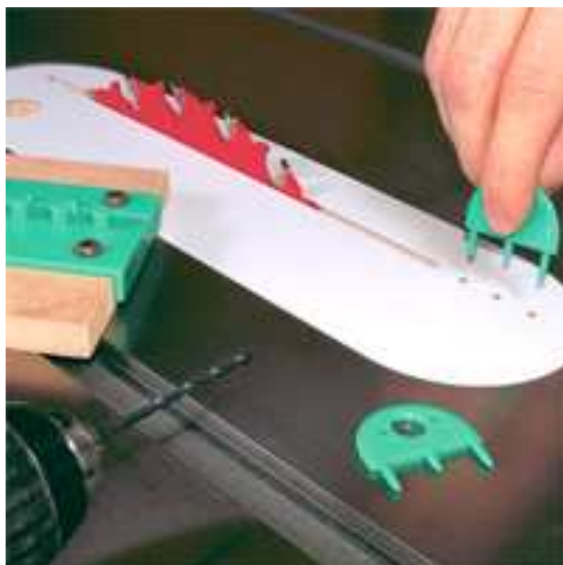
Paul had a series of photos on an intentional kickback. These photos were graphic and brought back memories. Paul wisely did some of these shots in Craig Bentzley's shop in case anything got broken. Kickback is most common when you have a rotational force applied to the wood that drives the board you are cutting into the rear teeth of the table saw. The rear teeth come up and forward as the blade rotates, so the grab the wood and propel it back at the cutter (That's be us). The rotating blade does not stop there – as the wood is picked up the rotating blades then grab the bottom of the board. The board will fly back and across the room at High speed in fraction of seconds. How do I know? I can show you what a piece of 1/4" oak plywood did to my left forearm. Which brings up another topic – NEVER stand in line with the blade. That is a danger zone.

How was the kickback induced? By pushing forward on the right most corner near the fence of a piece being ripped with no splitter in use, pushes the left rear of the work into the rear of the blade. Did I say SPLITTER? Yes. This is the best weapon against kickback. A splitter prevents the wood from being driven into the rear blade teeth. Most of us are familiar with the splitters that come with the contractors' saw. Big awkward things hard to remove and replace when crosscutting. Anti kickback pawns that grab wood and create dangers of their own. Paul discussed some nice solutions to this. Steel City table saws have a nicely engineered arrangement where the splitter more or less snaps into place. Easy on and easy off. The Merlin aftermarket splitter is pretty effective and a good sized device that sits on a rear pivot with a front tab that snaps in. Goes for about \$110.



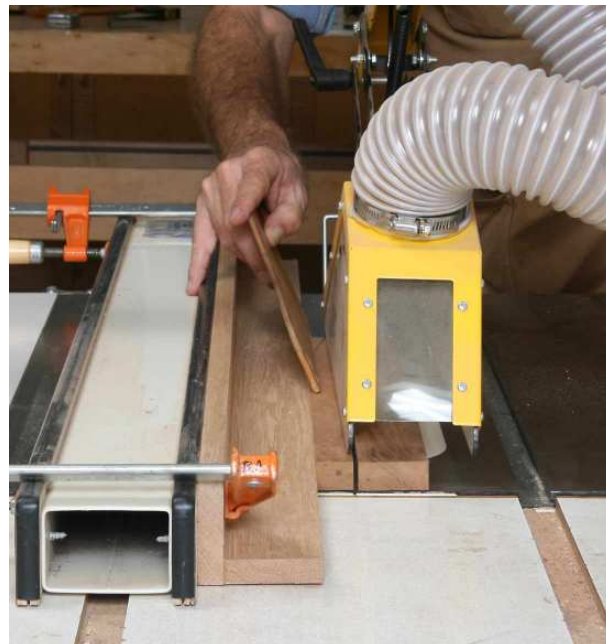
The Merlin, Lifted from the web.

Biesmeyer also makes a nice one that looks like a riving knife, but is 1/8" thick so thin kerf blades are going to be a problem. What is a riving knife? It is essentially a splitter that is curved to the same shape of a blade and rises and falls and tilts with the blade. Sort of an always on splitter. These are required on all saws sold after about 2010 and is already showing up as standard on some.



The Microjig splitter. Photo from the web.

MicroJig, makers of the GRIPPER push block, makes a pretty nice little one that fits into a home made wood plate with simple drilled holes/ Cheap but effective, but is only good for 90 degree cuts. You can also make home brew splitters of wood or aluminum and make them low profile so that they will allow for dados and grooves. Paul showed how in the meeting but it is also in the book. Also, think about this – every cut a piece of bowed wood on the saw using a fence? You are inviting kickback. Joint one edge first!! Delta makes a pretty good splitter that hides under the table saw plate when not in use. I have one on my Unisaw and it works OK. I believe it is included if you buy the Delta overarm saw blade guard.



An example of an overarm guard in action – Paul's Excalibur with dust collection.

Did he say Overarm Guards? Well, that old contractors saw splitter gizmo also had a blade guard that worked lousy. Most folks eventually took them off and never found them again. Guards DO prevent hand to blade interference (usually an EMS situation). Overarm guards are much less intrusive than the cheapies that come with a saw and allow better view of the blade and work being cut. Some, such as the Excalibur that Paul owns, have dust collection built in, a nice feature. Some are more easily removed than others. All will interfere with tall jigs in use so ease of removal is important. The Delta does not have dust collection but is also very cost effective, and my Unisaw does a good job at dust collection with the collector hooked up to the cabinet. There are a number of good overarm guards on the market that do not really interfere with saw operation and since using one I love mine.

“And now lets talk a little bit about shop safety. Always read and follow the safety instructions that come with your power tool, and always remember to wear these, safety glasses.” Norm Abrams! Yes! At least once per

show! Paul pointed out that he wears eyeglasses and with modern plastic lenses, they do a good job at protecting your eyes,. Very true. But I had a block of ash tossed back at me – I was standing in line with the blade to be sure it would not miss me – and it hit me RIGHT in the right lens of my glasses with such force the glasses were tossed off my face, the bridge of my nose was cut, and the frames were toast. YES – my eye would have been seriously injured. The glasses did their job. Paul did show, however, monster sized safety glasses that fit right over your regular ones and these are the ones to wear if you are an eyeglass wearer. I would wear them but I am always looking for an excuse to buy new eyeglasses....

Paul touched on hearing protection. I will go further. Why? Cause I have all of my high frequency hearing about gone. I wear pieces of plastic in each ear called digital hearing aids. They cost \$2,000 each. Hospitalization DOES NOT COVER them. I do not know why that is. Hearing loss is horrible. I sit in a room apart from the family and watch my TV with close caption cause I hated to keep on saying “what did they say?” I have a great Denon sound system and fantastic speakers that all sound about the same as the cheap radio in my garage because hearing aids do NOT do a very good job. AND they are not comfortable. I do not believe that body orifices, even ears, were meant to be plugged up with plastic all day long. Makes my ear canals feel like the inside of a sneaker on a hot day.

Hearing protection. I wear the big old earmuff style. I have 4 pairs. I lose things I have 6 routers and many hammers and drills. You put them down and never know where you left them. I use the earmuffs for hammering as percussion sound is VERY bad. Power tools. Mowing lawns. Using a power washer or a weed whacker. I used to shoot trap Used to shoot maybe 400 – 600 rounds a weekend. I used these little foam things you sort of roll between your fingers and stick in your ear, where they expand. They do a good job. Cheap. All sporting good stores should have them. Please protect your hearing. Helen Keller was asked if she could have either sight or hearing back which would she take? She said hearing, because deafness made her more isolated from people than blindness. I have written this before. Because a lot of what I have could have been prevented.

Dust masks – we have heard it all before – the little rubber band ones are about useless. Minimally get a cartridge one. And, even better, use it with one of those overhead dust collectors for the shop – Steel City makes a nice, cost effective one, and Jet and Delta are in that market as well (I have been looking for one).

Push stick, anyone? The type like a shoe that holds stock down is best. The plain old push sticks do not do much. Lee Valley makes a good one (Lee Valley makes a lot of good stuff!). You can also fashion

sacrificial thin show style sticks for thing stock out of plywood. The GRIPPER is excellent and infinitely adjustable, but expensive. You should, however, have one in your shop because it allows you to use a push device safely in ways the nothing else does. Featherboards are also helpful devices and there are magnetic ones out there that make them easy on / easy off. Magswitch makes some pretty effective ones. Home made ones will work – usually one of the first things people do when they get a table saw is to make one. Grip Tight is another magnetic one. Board buddy rollers are ok for cutting sheet goods – these hook up the top of a track equipped fence.

Paul showed a home brew foot panic switch you can use to shut the table saw but it is also very practical for everyday use. Anyone can make one and it is not only a safety item but a good saw accessory.

The bottom line here is that we all take risk in almost anything we do. Minimizing that risk, no matter what we do, is essential. Paul's presentation focused on this aspect of our hobby / occupation. It was valuable and should be heeded.

Some of Paul's latest books from Taunton:

Taunton's Complete Illustrated Guide to Tablesaws
All the essential techniques with clear instructions and detailed illustrations

Working with Power Tools
Unlock your tools' power

Drag and Brag.



Pat Miles, a visitor, with some Excellent work!

We had an unexpected but interesting visit from a new person, Pat Miles. Pat's specialty is Intarsia, and she brought two fantastic pieces with her crafted of cedar, walnut, and maple, I believe. We asked if should would be good enough to speak for our guild and she agreed. Her work can be seen at www.lilthingsinwood.4t.com. I do not recall this guild having a presentation on this and it will be interesting. We will get with John

Schaeffer to set this up. The photos do not do justice to her fine work.



Bill Hylton, our June speaker, brought in this neat piece made with a CNC machine. He told us about it at the meeting. June will be Router Table Magic!

And the Woodcraft Winner is.....



Dave Bolash! Adolph can't believe it.

JULY PICNIC! ARRIVE HUNGRY!

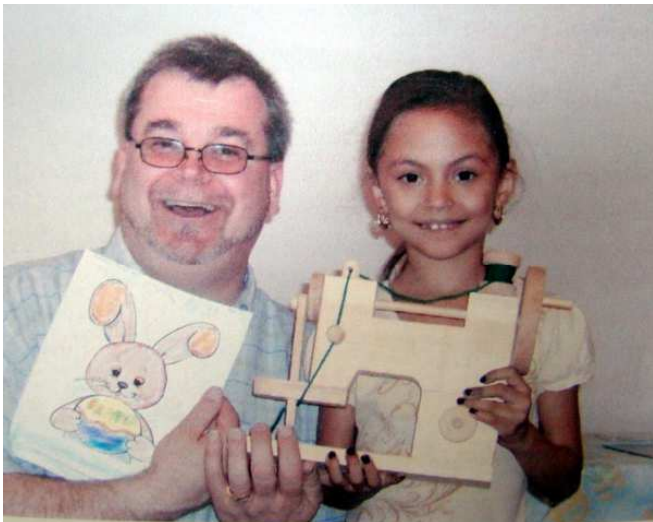
Judy Muth yelled at me again. She said that 3 years ago I forgot to mention the July picnic where they bring all kinds of good food. I think she is related to me ex wife. They could both do serious damage with a baseball bat or a knife. PLEASE arrive hungry. Also, the Christmas meeting fund bucket is a little sparse. It s a fun evening in December with good food and lots of gifts.

Judy Muth's Passion.

OK - do not get excited here. I am referring to the Moringa Community Center and the efforts of Jeffry Lohr and Abu (Abubaka Abdulai in pulling the village of Baako, Ghana up by its bootstraps. Judy was almost in tears when she related how she has always had enough food and shelter to be comfortable and has never seen anyone die of hunger or go without electricity or plumbing or proper sanitation. How she has never known anyone who has had to spend all their little money on food for energy because all their labor is manual. Where sending them a table saw to help not do any good because the power is insufficient to run it. She always asks for donations. Have asked her to give me a status write up on this. We were touched at the time Jeffry and Abu made their presentation. I think we still are.

These are pictures of pictures Judy and ken brought in. Ken had made some wooden toys and gave them to these kids as part of Dream Come True. Hard to look at these youngsters bearing a burden of illness. Judy and Ken's kindness hopefully lightened this burden. One youngster got a big wooden toy (Fire engine or a train..) but was too ill to come to the festivities to receive it so it was brought to him. Hard to put logic on such things for me. Ken and Judy continue to prove they are caring people.





**Next time you start feeling sorry for yourself, think.
And that sentiment starts with me.**

Unpaid political announcement.

In order to be a member or visitor or presenter to this guild, you do not need to be a member of, or you can be a member of, the ACLU, NRA, NOW, Young Democrats, Young Republicans, or you may have or may not have photos of Ronald Reagan or Bill Clinton in your office or hanging in your shop. I have pictures of my wife, my mother and father, and Groucho Marx in my office. I used to have and autographed one of Norm Abrams, but folks had a problem with the flannel shirt. Need a good one of my kid and his wife.

You need an interest in wood and woodworking and wood crafts, and an appreciation and respect for your fellow man - or woman. You can do chip carving or make sculptures from roots or build kitchen cabinets from plywood. You can like finishing better than table saw work, routing better than planing. If you really enjoy sanding, we may consider you a little offbeat but welcome you anyway. You do not need to be a member of an organized religion or you can be a member of several. I myself make donations to many

religions and political parties and claim all of them on my taxes. I can also be very irreverent, but I like you down deep. Well, except for maybe Allen.

American Nazi party or KKK? Go someplace else.

HELP!

On that note, we are ALWAYS looking for speakers. Writers! Articles! You hear of someone, let us know. Thanks!

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

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Refreshments and so many other things..	
Ken and Judy Muth	

2009 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
June 16th	Bill Hylton Returns – ROUTER TABLE MAGIC	The one and only.
July 21st	Hand Planes - AND A PICNIC!	CRAIG BENTZLEY!
August 18th	Fein Multi-master Wymysical Creations – CARVING	Frankie “the Hit Man “Vitucci Scott Michaels

Next Meeting: June 16th, 2009 (3rd Tuesday!) 7:30!! That’d be P.M.

Location: Woodcraft

Parkway Shopping Center

1543 Lehigh Street

Allentown, PA 18103

Phone: (610) 351-2966

Topic: ROUTER TABLE MAGIC! BILL HYLTON!