

# THE TOOL TABLE

The Newsletter of the Richmond Antique Tool Society

VOLUME 17, No. 1

WWW.RICHMONDANTIQUETOOLS.COM

FEBRUARY 2011

## Next Meeting Friday February 11th Agenda

**6:00–7:00 p.m. Tool talk & sales**

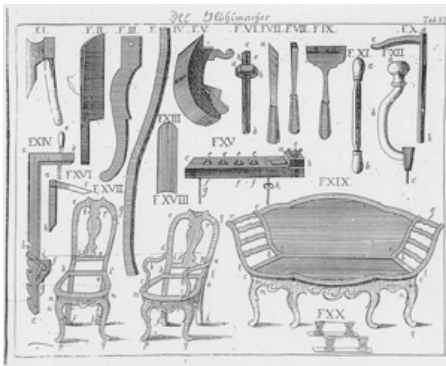
**7:00–7:15 p.m. General meeting**

**7:15–8:00 p.m. Kaare Loftheim  
demonstration**

**8:00–8:10 p.m. Break**

**8:10–9:00 p.m. Tool Auction**

**9:00–10:00 p.m. Tool talk &  
sales; wrap up**



**THE TOOL TABLE is the official publication of the Richmond Antique Tool Society and is published bi-monthly, in February, April, June, September and November of each year.**

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## The President's Plane Talk

Our next meeting, Friday night, February 11th will feature Kaare Loftheim, journeyman cabinetmaker from Colonial Williamsburg. On very short notice, Bill Taggart managed to get Kaare to come and present! Details about this very talented guest speaker are in this newsletter. We will postpone our original topic, "Photography of Tools", to a later meeting. We should fill the library as Kaare shows us his talents demonstrating the carving of a ball-and-claw foot. Please plan to attend! As usual, there will be tools for sale and an auction, as well as fine food and beverages!

Sadly, in December we lost an original member of my adult education class "Making, Using and Restoring Antique Tools". In 1995, Tommy Stone of Varina attend this class. Tommy became a class favorite. He and his wife Mary loved tools, selling at flea markets and collecting old items. When the class ended 12 weeks later, it was Tommy who wanted to keep things going. RATS originated because of TOMMY STONE. After the guys in the class agreed to continue meeting as a club, they appointed me club president for life – and that is how RATS started. Tommy, RATS and I will miss you, but your friendship and passion for the club and your family will not be forgotten. Thank you for being a dear friend and a man I looked up to. Until his health declined in the past year or two, Tommy (along with Mary) was a continuously active member of the club. To honor this very special founding member and faithful member of our club, we will pass the hat and all proceeds will go to his great granddaughter in the form of a savings bond. We also extend our condolences to the family of RATS member Harold Williams (brother in law of KT Burchett), who passed away in January.

2011 began for me with a trip to the tool "big leagues". I finally made it to York, Pennsylvania for a large regional tool meeting and auction of Mid-WestTCA. John Davis (a RAT from NOVA) and I drove up and sold at the dealer sale from 7-12 on Saturday morning, January 22nd. I did well and sold some top-shelf items. We then attended the large Brown Tool Auction and the average hammer price was about \$200-300 per tool. A little different than our "Gathering" auction which averages \$5-15 per tool! Yes, I stepped into the "big leagues" and really liked it. I want to thank John for the invite, friendship, and the tool knowledge that I gained from participating in the event.

The PATINA dealer sale and auction (Damascus, Maryland) has a new date: March 19th.

So, as Friday night approaches, please plan on attending our presentation, bring some tools to auction or sell as well as money to spend. I look forward to seeing you on February 11th.

Plane and Simple,

Rick Long

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Richmond Antique Tool Society  
 c/o Dick Levy  
 556 Pantela Dr.  
 Richmond, VA 23235

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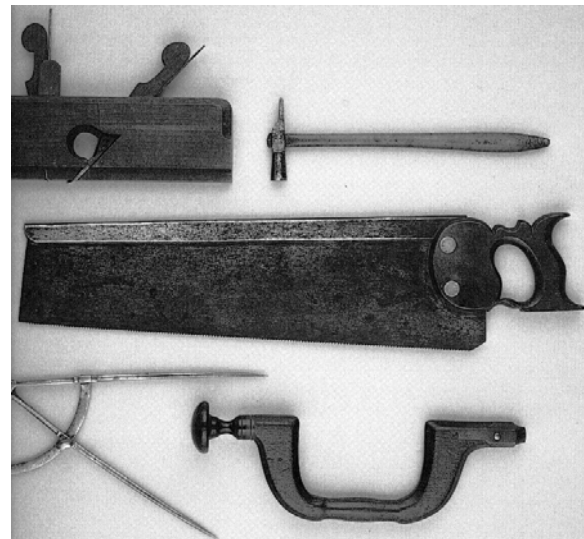
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 w.taggart@verizon.net

**OUR GUEST SPEAKER  
 Kaare Loftheim**



Kaare Loftheim has worked in the Cabinetmaker's Shop in Colonial Williamsburg since 1980. His initial education was a major in biology and minor in chemistry. He served several years in the early 70's with the U.S. Army in Germany, and then returned to his alma mater in Missouri where he earned a B.S. in industrial technology and art. In 1979 Kaare returned to Virginia where he was raised. During his years with Colonial Williamsburg he has participated in most of the annual woodworking symposiums and been a guest with Roy Underhill and Bob Vila. He occasionally teaches privately and especially enjoys hands-on instruction with small groups.



**RATS Calendar 2011**

February 11	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.
March 19	PATINA Tool Show & Auction	Damascus, MD
April 8	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.
June 10	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School, 12000 Three Chopt Rd.

# A RARE TUELL'S PATENT SPOKESHAVE

By Bill Taggart

Whenever we visit my wife's parents in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, I always also visit a certain large antique mall in Hershey, about 10 minutes up the road from their house. It's always worth the short trip, because I always find something there worth buying.

In July, 2007, I came across this unusual spokeshave. I could tell right away it was old assumed it was rare. I certainly had never seen one. Although I knew nothing about it, the price was cheap enough even for me!



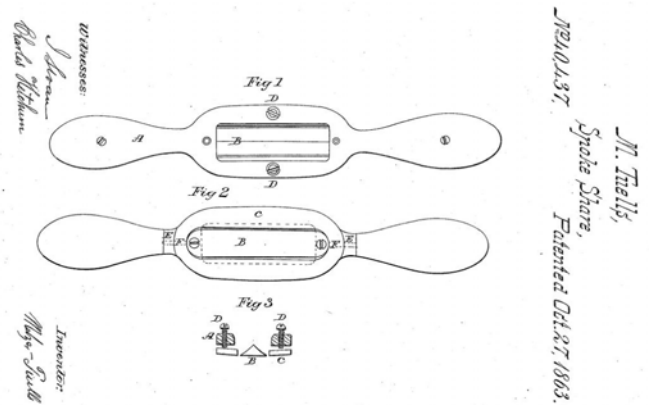
After I got it home and inspected it more closely, I discovered that it had a patent marking on the bottom.



The marking says "TUELES PAT". The date is a bit hard to make out, but it looks like OCT and 27.

After a little research, I found the patent online. Great thing, the Internet!

The patent holder's name was Melzer Tuell, of Penn Yan, New York. The patent was issued Oct. 27, 1863, and relates to the tilting sole plate. To adjust the depth of cut, the user turns the screws on either side of the frame, which adjust the tilting sole plate, opening or closing the throat. The blade is triangular in cross-section and sharpened on both edges.



Mr. Tuell apparently owned a saw mill and also held a few other patents, including one for a planing machine.

It appears that few were produced, and the one I found is the earliest version, with Mr. Tuell's name oddly misspelled on the spokeshave itself. It looks exactly like the patent drawing. It seems likely that some were produced but did not survive. The tilting sole plate is quite thin and would be easily broken.

I looked for any other examples of a shave like this one and found only a couple others on the web, but none were exactly like it. This one came from Martin J. Donnelly's tool auction:



I believe this one is slightly later than the one I found, as it does not match the patent drawing as exactly as mine did, and according to the auction description, it was marked only "Pat."

Because I've decided I'm not really a tool "collector," and it just sat on my desk for three years, I recently sold my Tuell's patent spokeshave to a fellow old tool nut in Australia.

Next time I'll tell you about the Bedrock No. 605 jack plane I found at that antique mall just this past Christmas. Or maybe the crispy clean Stanley No. 2 smoothing plane I bought there a few years ago...



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## RATS Calendar 2011

- |         |                               |                          |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Mar. 19 | PATINA Tool Show<br>& Auction | Damascus, MD             |
| April 8 | Regular Meeting               | Pocahontas Middle School |
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