

THE TOOL TABLE

The Newsletter of the Richmond Antique Tool Society

VOLUME 12, No. 2

APRIL 2006

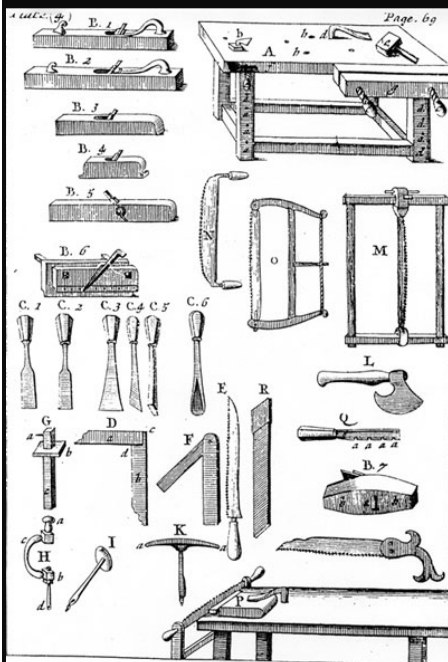
Next meeting Friday April 21 Agenda

6:00–7:15 p.m. Tool talk & sales

7:15–7:30 p.m. General meeting

7:30–8:30 p.m. LEVELS

8:30–10:00 p.m. Table sales and
tool talking



Moxon, Joseph. (1989, reprinted from the 1703 edition). *Mechanick Exercises or the The Doctrine of Handy-Works*. Morristown, New Jersey: The Astragal Press.

THE TOOL TABLE is the official publication of the Richmond Antique Tool Society and is published bi-monthly, in January, March, May, June, August and November of each year.

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The President's Plane Talk

“PLANE CRAZY or LEVEL HEADED” is printed on the back of RATS t-shirts. I started to think – we have had planes for a meeting theme several times, but never LEVELS. So, our next meeting, Friday night, April 21st, the theme will be LEVELS and we can sneak in PLUMB BOBS, too. I will bring in several examples of each and I hope you will too. Please share a story, your favorite level or display some levels or bobs and let's enjoy a night of balance – the level. Fine food and drinks provided – please don't tip the wait staff. Bring a tool friend and tools to sell or money to buy. We will see you there on April 21st.

Our last meeting, February 17th, was quite boring. For those many in attendance, I'm sure you were “bored to death”. Just kidding of course. It was a great night and the displays of boring tools were incredible and numerous. A special “thanks” to Henry Scott for bringing his mint collection of boring and drilling tools to display and share with us.

The PATINA Tool Show and Auction on March 11th in Maryland was HOT. By nine o'clock, I was in my shorts and sweating to 80-degree temps – unreal for that time of year. The tailgating was better than inside selling for me. Tons of dealers jammed the parking lot. Guys with flashlights were buzzing around spending money. By the time they got inside, their wallets were lighter, but the auction at two o'clock had lots of great tools and the prices were strong for these items. I saw numerous RATS and I went up with Jim Hollins, Jonathan Jennings and my son, Ryan. Ryan, sporting a cast on his broken foot, sold tools outside and I went inside – the tool tag team. Ryan ended up getting sunburned while selling tools. I gave him a strong commission and a free lunch and dinner!!!

Well, I finally delegated some of the newsletter to a very capable individual – Bill Taggart. I will continue to write the President's Talk and Bill's responsibility will be for the rest of the newsletter. All pictures and news articles should be emailed to Bill. Rob Black will send out the .pdf email of the newsletter and I will mail hard copies to the rest of the membership. For those receiving the email, it will be in color and you can print a copy. These changes will be in place for the next newsletter. The emailed newsletter will contain additional pictures of our club's activities and be an expanded edition. So, you should signup for the email with Rob Black.

Plane and Simple,
Rick Long

The Richmond Antique Tool Society (RATS) is a non-profit organization serving to promote knowledge of and interest in collecting, making and using antique tools. RATS provides a gathering place where members and guests can gain knowledge and understanding about tools and trades from the past and also buy, sell and trade old tools. Regular meetings are held in February, April, June, September, November and December. Memberships are available for \$10.00 annually by mailing to:

Richmond Antique Tool Society
 c/o Mike Larkin
 9487 Williamsville Road
 Mechanicsville, VA 23116

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To receive THE TOOL TABLE
 and RATS announcements
 via e-mail, contact:

Rob Black.... rob.black@cbre.com

The Pack Rat

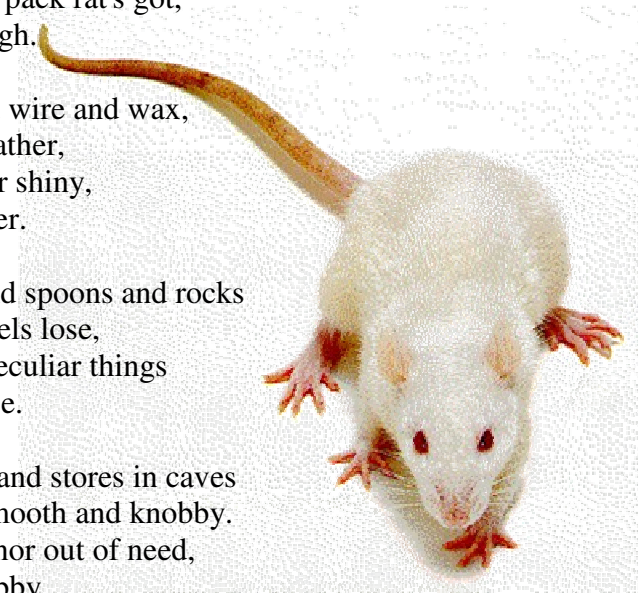
By Jack Prelutsky

The pack rat's day is spent at play
 collecting useless stuff.
 No matter what the pack rat's got,
 he's never got enough.

Nails and tacks and wire and wax,
 a knife, a fork, a feather,
 large or tiny, dull or shiny,
 tin or bone or leather.

Sticks and socks and spoons and rocks
 and nuts that squirrels lose,
 rings and strings, peculiar things
 a rat could never use.

The pack rat saves and stores in caves
 strange treasures smooth and knobby.
 it's not from greed nor out of need,
 he does it as his hobby.



Originally published in *The Pack Rat's Day and Other Poems*
 by Jack Prelutsky © 1974
 Published in *Zoo Doings* by Jack Prelutsky © 1983

THE TOOL TABLE needs articles!

Tell your favorite tool acquisition story! Teach other RATS members a new skill! Share your favorite bit of historical knowledge! Email your article to Bill Taggart at wtaggart@comcast.net. Articles may be edited for style and length.

Items wanted or for sale

Post your items or needs here!
 Email Bill Taggart at wtaggart@comcast.net or call him at 262-1222.

RATS Calendar 2006

Friday April 21	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School
Friday June 9	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School
July 22	M-WTCA Sale/Auction	Ed Hobb's Farm, Raleigh, NC
September date TBD	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School
November date TBD	RATS Meeting	Pocahontas Middle School
December date TBD	RATS Gathering	

My First PATINA Extravaganza

By Tim Blackburn

March, 2004: Wanting to avoid the Rick Long Red Eye Express, I went up to Maryland the night before. Somewhat anxious, I found my hotel - I had booked it on Priceline.com, sight unseen. I was pleasantly surprised - very nice for 38 bucks and a good start to a great tooling experience.

So I wouldn't waste time the next day and could sleep in as long as possible, that night I drove over and found where the sale would be held the next day. I planned an early arrival so I could do a little tailgating myself. Thinking I would get a good spot, I arrived at just before 6:00 AM; the lot was nearly filled! There were a couple of dozen tailgaters, and I found the last somewhat decent spot (albeit at the end of the row.) But no one warned me about the tail gaters. Before I could barely open my door, about a half-dozen gaters attacked me, shining their flashlights in my car and barely giving me room to bring out my sad fare. "Whatcha got? Gotanyathis? Gotanyathat?" But I got them back - I just mostly had junk which disappointed them to no end. I later sold a couple of items to less aggressive gaters, whose money I promptly spent. I sold a 1950's original hardware store rule box with one mint folding rule in it and the inspection paper for 30 bucks. He bought it so fast, I wonder if I gave away the store. I picked up a few items outside, which I'm sure you'll see again.

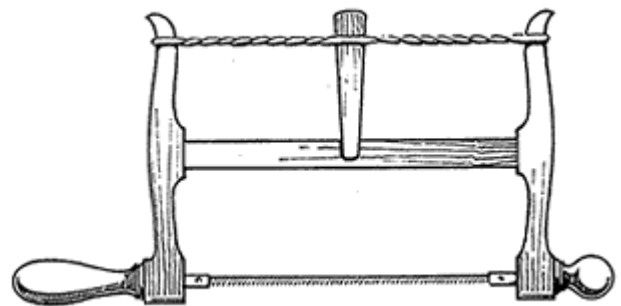
At 8:00 AM, the diehards could pay for an early preview inside. As it is well known, I am too cheap - uh, I mean frugal - and waited until 9:00 when it was free. I went in...and was overwhelmed. Wow! I have never seen so many tools in one place (at least not the type I'm interested in.). Tools for collectors, users, losers, and boozers (O.K., so that's a bad country song.). Tools for high rollers and dreamers - tools, tools, tools! Table after table; row after row. Nearly all old stuff, but some new.

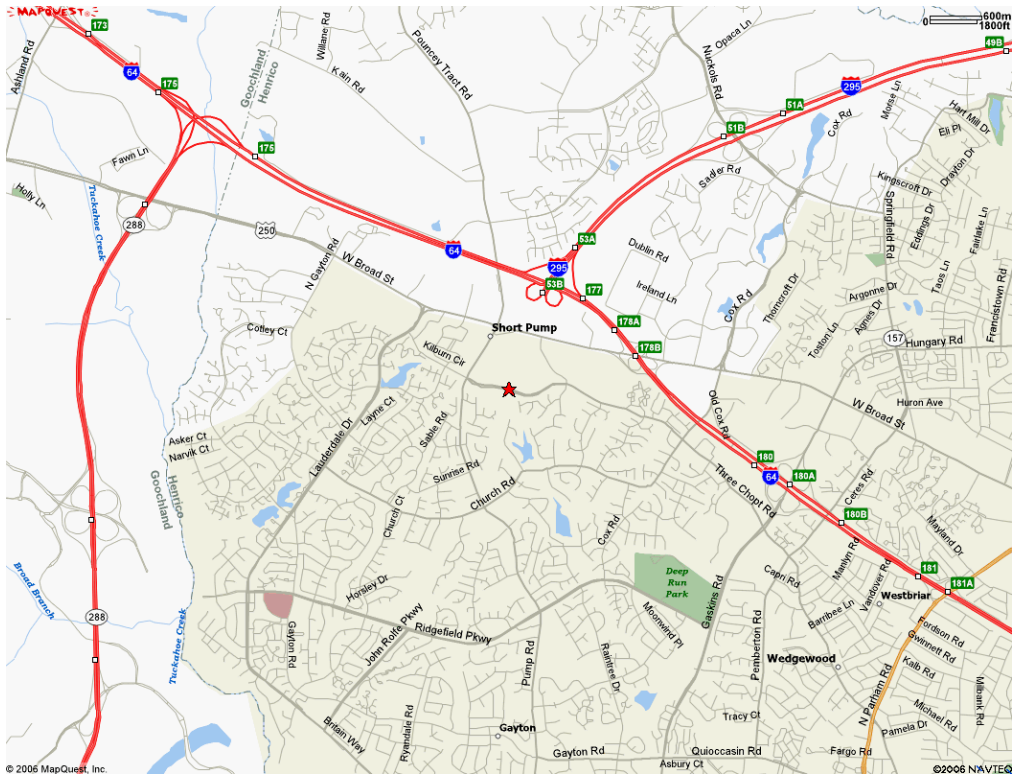
Jim Leamy was there - see <http://www.jimleamyplanes.com/custom-orders.htm> for his amazing plow planes and other customs. You'll want one, but you'll need a roll of hundreds before you can put it on the top shelf (or any shelf, for that matter). I saw at least 3 Stanley #1 planes, all over a grand each. I overheard a buyer asking a

vendor about a plane: "I'm asking \$6,800 for this one," he said, holding an early Victor. I was afraid to touch it. I bought a few items, at reasonable but not bargain prices (although there were a few goodies in \$2, \$3, \$5, etc. bins). My favorite purchase (and a goal for the trip) was a user-grade Stanley #10 bench rabbit plane for 50 bucks. It had the usual crack on one side of the body. In addition to the #10, I bought a few goodies for my boys, and for myself a user Stanley #40 scrub plane, a wooden rounding plane, Stanley #80 scraper and #71 router (as if I need another one of either), another wooden plane I don't know how to describe, and a few Stanley #45 blades (I'm almost there with a full set!).

The auction at the end of the day had several hundred items. I stayed for the auction, but only won a spoke shave that was mislabeled in the auction list. I thought I got a \$100 item for \$9 - actually, all I got was a \$15 spokeshave that was cracked and worth a couple of bucks as parts. I was amazed at how close to book value things sold for at the auction. Obviously, they had never been to a RATS donation auction. Too much for a cheap - uh, I mean frugal - guy like me.

I left before the auction was over (about 4:30 PM) and braved the DC traffic. Even I can have too much fun, especially when it costs me. Overall, I had a great time, and plan to go again. I recommend it!





Next meeting
Friday, April 21st
Pocahontas Middle School
6-10 p.m.

★ Pocahontas Middle School
12000 Three Chopt Road
Richmond, VA 23233



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Mechanicsville, VA 23116

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