



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ U.S. Naval Cutlass
- ✓ Navy Knife of Old
- ✓ Cutting Competition Knife
- ✓ Goddard Spyderco Clipits
- ✓ A Kids Marbles Knife
- ✓ Hilsen Fra Norge
- ✓ Application Forms
- ✓ Mini Show

Our *international* membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

November 2009

U.S. Naval Enlisted Men's Cutlasses of the American Civil War Rick Wagner

At the start of the Civil War the small United States Navy underwent a very rapid expansion. Not only were ships quickly being built, but many civilian vessels were bought and converted for military missions including blockade and harbor duty. Needless to say, in outfitting these ships the Navy experienced shortages of almost every type of equipment. The main battle cutlass at the time was the Model 1841 Cutlass which took its basic design from the U.S. Model 1832 Foot Artillery Sword but with a hand guard added. The Navy had ordered a total 6,600 of these cutlasses from the N. P. Ames Company of Cabotville, Massachusetts. Deliveries began in 1841 with the last batch of 800 delivered in September, 1846. Since these cutlasses served in the fleet through the Mexican War as well as expeditions, the number remaining at the dawn of the Civil War may have been well reduced.



Fig.1 M1841 Cutlass with a scabbard manufactured during the Civil War. The back of the scabbard is inspected and stamped with "New York Navy Yard" and "1861."

With this insufficient number of cutlasses the Navy searched for a quick fix. The Army came to the rescue since they had over 19,000 Model 1832 Foot Artillery swords and a decreasing need for them. A



Fig. 2 Typical Model 1832 Foot Artillery Sword/Naval Cutlass

large number of these swords were transferred to the Navy where they saw immediate service, especially in the gunboats that were rapidly coming out of the shipyards. In a classic case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing, the Army let a contract for another 1,000 of these foot artillery swords in 1861 but canceled the contract in 1862 after 300 had been delivered. This batch was also quickly turned over to the Navy where they were of use. These cutlass/foot artillery swords remained in service throughout the war, and as late as March 1865, the new gunboats, Colossus, Gamage, and Oriole were each issued 40. After the war, a December 1866, inventory of Navy Ordnance Stores still listed 1,399 of these swords on hand.

With the obvious need of a new cutlass the Navy settled on a design derived from the excellent French Model 1833 Cutlass. The main difference, other than purely cosmetic, was that in the American cutlass the metal used in the hilt was brass instead of iron; and the blade was slightly lighter. This French/American combination resulted in what is arguably the most visually pleasing and well balanced battle cutlass ever produced.

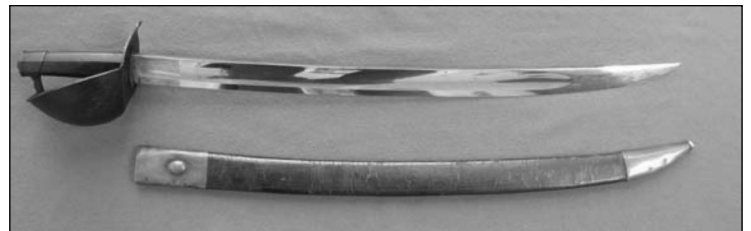


Fig.3 French Model 1833 Boarding Cutlass. This example was manufactured at the French Arsenal at Châtellerault in 1841.

The Bureau of Naval Ordnance let a series of contracts to the Ames Company, which by this time had moved to Chicopee, Massachusetts. 3,600 cutlasses were delivered in 1861, 16,400 in 1862, and 2,000 in 1864 for a total of 22,000. The Model 1861 Cutlass has the distinction of being the only United States cutlass to have been serial numbered. An afterthought, the order to stamp serial numbers went out after 600 cutlasses were delivered. As a result the serial numbers start at 601. The thousand figure is indicated by an "M." Serial number 1,222 was stamped 1M over 222, serial number 17,666 stamped 17M over 666 and so on. (See Fig. 4A for serial number 19,725) These cutlasses originally had wire wrapped leather grips, but some time after the Civil War most grips were "jacked" (the wire removed and the grip coated with a tar solution). A long-lived cutlass, many were found aboard Navy ships and at Naval training bases as World War II began.

Continued on page 4.

A New Navy Knife of Old Mike Silvey

I collect United States military pocketknives; and my favorites are the old ones, particularly the old U.S. Navy rope knives. Any time I come across information that makes me think there is a knife out there I haven't seen, I write it down and put it on my "search for" list; and these I hope to find one day. When I do, I am always happy but not surprised. What does surprise me is to find an unexpected knife: a U.S. Navy folder, one that I've never heard of before. For me this is like finding a gold nugget in the bottom of the pan, a great and exciting discovery that adds new information for me and other collectors. Not long ago I came across one of these nuggets.

A while back a friend emailed and told me he picked up some knives and stuff at an estate sale, old square pointed rope knives. There was one that got my attention. A stag handled rope knife with "U.S. Navy" stamped down the blade center and a tang stamp that read "SMITH/BROTHERS" on the obverse side and "ENGLAND" on the reverse. This was a new one for me, and we quickly worked out a swap.

When the knife arrived, it came with a button, like a campaign button, only bigger. This button was nearly nine inches across. My friend explained that the people who had the estate sale told him their relative who had collected the knives bagged everything. That is, whenever he bought something for his collection, it went into a bag with whatever came with it. In this case it was the button, a button with a great graphic, a patriotic background and a picture of the sailor who owned the knife. The back of the button is inscribed, "Joe H. Kane for mother". Despite the fact that the button displays armaments of mixed eras, the knife and the button would appear to be about the same age, around 1900, perhaps World War I. The knife, bearing the country of origin stamp, would likely have been made after 1890. Goins in his *Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings* lists Smith Brothers of Boston, (made in England), as existing from 1895 to 1910. This would be consistent with the age of the button.

Now, if I could only read the name of the ship on Kane's hatband. Even a good magnifying glass failed to help. Oh well, you can't win them all; but I am content with this nugget and to be able to add another name to our list of U.S. military folders.



Tongue Twisters with an Edge

Six sharp smart sharks.

Six shimmering sharks sharply striking shins.

Say this sharply, say this sweetly,
Say this shortly, say this softly.
Say this sixteen times in succession.

Give Mr. Snipa's wife's knife a swipe.

A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk,
but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Knife and a fork bottle and a cork
that is the way you spell New York.
Chicken in the car and the car can go,
that is the way you spell Chicago.

I'm a sock cutter and I cut socks.
I'm a sock cutter and I cut socks.
I'm a sock cutter and I cut socks.

Mrs Hunt had a country cut front
in the front of her country cut petty coat.

OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

The Mini Show....

We are shy of our goal of tables to fill the December 12 Mini Show. I suspect we will have a last minute rush of requests for tables. At this time we are about 50 tables strong or weak depending on your perspective. This is a goodly amount of tables for a decent show, but the finances nag at us as to its worth. So please support our event by being there and considering a table.

Toys for Tots.....

Our organizer for the **Toys for Tots** will be **Bryan Christensen**. Bryan has organized this event for several years now; and this year more than most suggests we as an organization should support this worthwhile event. The economy has devastated many families with youngsters, and our efforts will have a big impact on this holiday season. Soooo... to refresh your memories.... bring a toy or several that are **new and unwrapped** to the Mini Show on December 12 and place it on the table as you come in to the show. Bryan will contact a military group that will pick these items up at our show on this Saturday. Let's support this bigger than we have ever done before. It is a great cause.

Club Knives

We have finally decided on a Club knife for 2010. The final details on its enhancements will hopefully be available in our December issue. The knife will be a Lone Wolf Paul knife and will be in their new Defender series. We have had Paul design knives in past years, and they have always been a sold-out knife. We have a regular Defender knife as a sample, and everyone that has touched it is impressed with its design and function. This year's knife selection was a chore, but the wait for this knife seems to have made it all worthwhile.

Social events

Elayne pulled a rabbit out of the hat concerning the Thursday Nite Social held at the Valley River Inn. The Thursday Nite event has been a huge success as a social gathering but has clobbered us financially. In the past we have received donations from the membership to help offset costs (but do welcome more); so, with rabbit in hand, Elayne bargained for a greatly reduced rate for this event. So the Thursday Nite Social is alive and well at this time. We still need your donations so please help if you are a participant of this event.

November Dinner meeting

I for one look forward to our monthly dinner meetings at the Sizzler restaurant. The meeting this month will be the third Wednesday as usual and that date is November 18. Make sure you mark the date and prepare to have good food, meet good friends and share an evening of warmth, education and fun. Bring something sharp for Show-N-Tell.

Articles Pleeeze

The *Knewsletter* is the heartbeat of the Oregon Knife Collectors. Please help us and send your articles for publication in our *Knewsletter*. We only ask it be original to yourself, and we will help all we can with the writing end of things. Thank you to **Mike Silvey, Merle Spencer, and Rick Wagner** for their help in this *Knewsletter*.

The Shirt on your Back....

In years past we have given out T-Shirts with the Oregon logo and the year of the Show. Giving out is tough right now so we struck a deal to get T-Shirts for the membership at a great price. I have seen our shirts worn by members on a regular basis, so I know they are appreciated and are great quality. In the next few months we will offer these shirts at a great price if ordered ahead of time for pick up at the April Show. You can still get the shirts at the Show, but our special price is only good if you order and pay in advance. How does \$8.00 sound? Application to follow later.

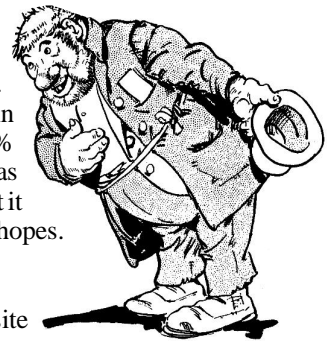
Free ads

For some reason the submittals for a free ad have been very inactive. This is a nice feature of being a Club member. Not to forget that this space is for you.

Mini Show

The Mini Show in December has been free to the table-holders for all these many years. The rates on the rental of the building have increased by a factor of four (a factor of 400% when you calculate the rooms were free in the early days); so we suggested at the last December show that we would consider stopping this event. The shouts "not to do that" were overwhelming. So it was decided to charge a modest amount for tables to defray some of the expenses but also to gauge whether the December 2009 show will be the last. It is all about participation. Please read the article on the Mini Show. Please remember to forward your application (one in this

Knewsletter) with payment to reserve your table. Still the best deal in shows. We are 50% of room capacity as of this writing. But it is early and I have hopes.



Did U Know....

That our web site posts the next ten years of dates for the Oregon Knife Collectors annual Shows? Did you also know that our web site is in constant update mode showing knives, articles, a knife show calendar and answering questions about our organization and the "world of cut?" Did U know that the deadline for first right of refusal on tables at our Show is December 15, 2009; and it is not too early to mail that reservation. Information and applications are in this *Knewsletter* and on our web site.

Smile Knife for November....

Hank Hansen from Indiana sent in this month's Smile Knife. The more I looked at the picture the more I scratched my head and smiled. The first smile was for the etching on the blade "Price 40 Cents." My guess is that this knife is pre WW I. The tang marking is another smile which also suggests a dating for this knife. "U.S. Knife Co." More of a crafty smile develops when it is seen that when the master blade is open all you see is "U.S. Knife Co"; but when the pen blade unfolds, there lies the country of origin "Germany".



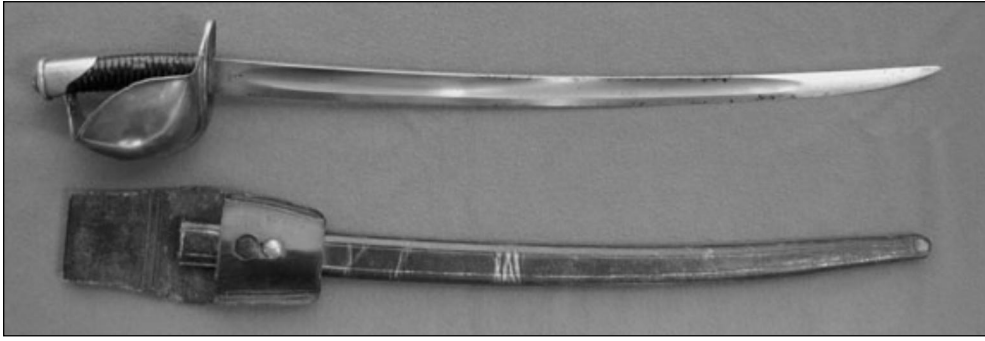


Fig.4 Typical Model 1861 Cutlass

Other variations exist that are beyond the scope of this article. There is a Civil War Officer's Cutlass that has a swirled decoration on the bowl shaped hand guard. The letters USN are cut out of the bowl shaped hand guard or in some extremely rare cases the letters USR (for the Revenue Marine Cutter Service). Unfortunately some good fakes exist of the Navy Officer's Cutlass, possibly using original spare hilt parts. Surprisingly, the U.S. Army contracted for 300 enlisted

cutlasses on January 18, 1864, receiving them that February. Blades are marked U.S./A.D.K./1864.

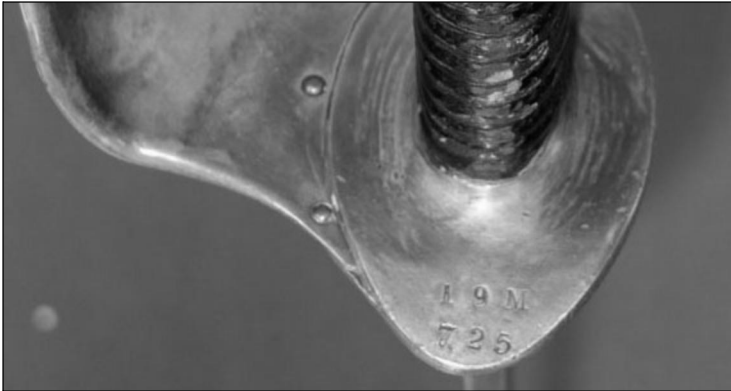


Fig.4A Serial number 19,725

Another style of Officer's Cutlass has a floral decoration on the bowl with a cut out USN. These were likely made up by the Bannerman Company of New York for private purchase after the Civil War.

A rather curious case involves Model 1861 cutlasses found with "NIAGARA" etched on the blade. The USN Niagara was a distillery and supply ship that served during the Spanish/American War for all of six months in 1898 and was then sold for scrap in 1899. The ship was outfitted by private funds with prominent members of New York society leading the effort in a highly publicized patriotic campaign. As a result the Niagara was fitted out in a luxurious manner that likely no other U.S. Navy ship has enjoyed before or since. Weapons and much equipment were special ordered by this group and etched or engraved with the ship's name.

Variations of this model of cutlass exist, of which the cutlass below is an example. The cutlass pictured below is of a standard form in every way except that the blade is tinned and the end rivet of the scabbard has a simple aster or flower shaped decoration. The markings on the obverse side of the blades ricasso (part of the blade next to the hilt) on a standard issue cutlass consist of an anchor, a capital P, U.S.N, an inspector stamp, and a date. This variant only has an anchor and the date of 1862 with no Navy property marks. It is, however, serial numbered within the Federal Contract numbers. The why, when, and where of these cutlasses remain a mystery. Notice that the grip still has the original wire wrapped grip.

Last, there are enlisted cutlasses with most of the bowl cut away. Photographs seen so far indicate that the cutlasses were altered during the first half of the 1900s and were used at training bases. Why the Navy felt the need to modify them is unknown, possibly the bowl parts were damaged in rough handling at these bases. The only example I've held in my hands does show evidence of hard use.

Additional facts and/or corrections are always welcomed.

wagner_r@pacinfo.com

Ref:

Abstract, Review, and Notes Regarding Principal Sword Contractors During the American Civil War...Leonard Garigliano
Boarders Away With Steel - Edged Weapons & Polearms...William Gilkerson
Civil War Small Arms of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps...John D. McAulay
Collectors Guide to Ames U.S. Contract Military Edged Weapons: 1832-1906...Ron G. Hickox
Le Sabre D'Abordage...Michel Petard
Small Arms of the Sea Services...Colonel Robert H. Rankin
The American Sword 1775-1945...Harold L. Peterson
The Ames Sword Company 1829-1935...John D. Hamilton
The U.S.N. Niagara: America's Emerging Naval Pride...Mike Parker (Article in Bulletin 69, The American Society of Arms Collectors)
U.S. Naval Officers - Their Swords and Dirks...Peter Tuite

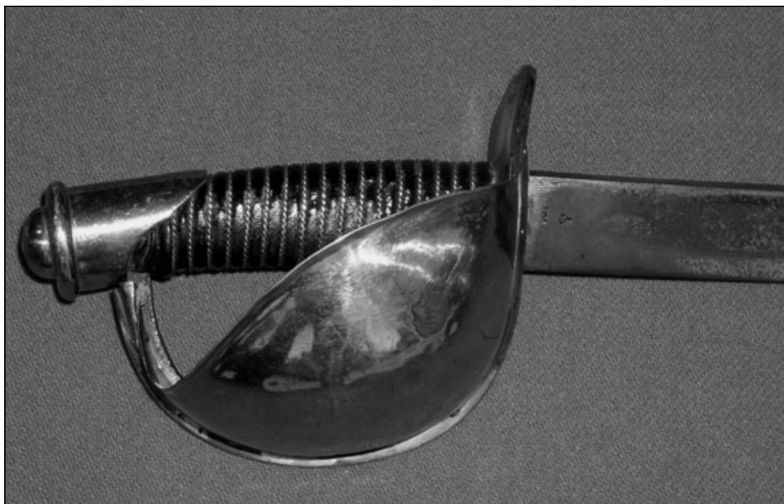


Fig. 5 Original wire wrapped grip on variant cutlass.



Goddard/Spyderco Clipit History Wayne Goddard

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Wayne's handmade prototype of the C16 was delivered to Sal Glesser in April, 1990. First production models delivered November, 1991. Black Micarta handles, full serrated or partially serrated. The full serrated was discontinued in 1996.

The C18 "Junior" Goddard prototype was delivered to Spyderco in April, 1992. The first production models of the "Junior" Goddard Clipit were made in November, 1992. It was available in full serrated or 50-50 edge. The full serrated was discontinued in 1996.

In June, 1993 Phyllis Goddard purchased a limited edition of five hundred plain edge Junior Goddard Clipits from Spyderco. These were received in November, 1993.

The "Baby" Goddard (C20), key chain size folder pattern was sent to Spyderco in November, 1992. Spyderco shipped the first "Baby" Goddard Spyderco's in June, 1993. It was made only with the 50-50 edge; and, being a key-chain-sized knife, it does not have the Clipit clip. The last Micarta handled Goddard in production was the Baby, C20PS. It was discontinued in November, 2001. (In November 2009 a Baby Goddard was made available on a sprint run.)

We received the prototype of the GRN (Zytel type material, Black) handled C16 on January 17, 1997. It was a good looking knife with the cast handle and the new, right/left changeable clip. It also had the new steel, ATS-55. The Lightweight Goddard was the first Spyderco Clipit to feature ATS-55 and the

changeable Clipit clip. We received the first production Lightweight Goddard's in May, 1997, these were partially serrated. The first Lightweight Goddard's with plain edge were delivered in May, 1999. The Lightweight was well received and sales were very good.

Spyderco did a sprint run of 1,200 Lightweight Goddard's with a gray handle in early 2004. We received the first shipment May 21, 2004. It was available in both partially serrated and plain edge.

In May, 2006 Spyderco did another sprint of 600 knives on the Lightweight Goddard with a burgundy handle. C16PSBRG. Only partially serrated were made, no plain edged like with the Black and Gray Lightweight Goddard. Approximately 60 of these were numbered for the Spyderco collectors.

See <http://oregonknifeclub.org/Newsletter%200609.pdf> for some additional information and photo's.

We received the first shipment of the Junior Goddard Clipit with white Micarta handles and partial serrated blade in May, 2008. This is a sprint run of 1,200 knives.

In stock at present are the lightweight in Burgundy for \$75.00, the Junior with white Micarta at \$135.00, and the October, 2009 Sprint run of Baby Goddard's for \$65. Plus shipping.



Wayne Goddard Spyderco Clipits

	MODEL	YEAR	HANDLE	STEEL	Notes	Produced
1	C16PS	1991	Black Micarta	G2	No plain edges made in this model	?
2	C16S	1991	"	G2	Micarta handle full serration	?
3	C18PS	1992	"	G2	Junior 50/50 edge	?
4	C18S	1992	"	G2	Junior full serration	?
5	C18P	1993	"	G2	Limited edition Junior - plain edge	600
6	C20PS	1993	Black Micarta	G2	"Baby" Goddard 50/50 edge	?
7	C16PS	1998	Custom	G2	OKCA Club Knife	60
8	C16PSBK	1997	Black GRN	ATS55	60/40 serration	?
9	C16PBK	1999	"	ATS55	Plain edge	?
10	C16PSGY	2004	Gray GRN	VG10	60/40 serration	600
11	C16PGY	2004	"	VG10	Plain edge	600
12	C16PSBRG	2006	Burgundy	VG10	60/40 serration	600
13	C18PWMP	2008	White Micarta	VG10	60/40 serration	1200
14	C20BGMP	2009	Burgundy/Brown	VG10	60/40 serration	600
			PS = Partial serration edge		Baby - 2.750" - 4.625"	C20
			P = Plain edge		Junior - 4.250" - 7.000"	C18
			S = Full serration edge		Papa - 5.500" - 9.000"	C16



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Eve (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Date _____

Collector Knifemaker Dealer Mfr./Distrib. Other _____ Email _____

OKCA membership includes knewsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows.

____ Start/ ____ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$23 family) \$ _____

35TH ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 17-18, 2010 430 — 8'x30" TABLES

Exhibit Hall, Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.

For Information Contact Show Chairman: Dennis Ellingsen, (541) 484-5564

AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS: If you had a table at the 2009 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2010, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2009. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/09.

ALL TABLE HOLDERS AND VISITORS agree to abide by the OKCA show rules, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, loss, damage, theft, or injury.

ANY QUESTION OR DISPUTE arising during the show shall be resolved by the Show Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW. All tables must be 90% knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms made after 1898 may be sold or shown at this show.

ALL EXHIBITORS are required to keep their tables set up throughout the public hours of the Show: 8 AM Saturday to 3 PM Sunday. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO LEAVES OR COVERS THEIR TABLE BEFORE 3 PM SUNDAY FORFEITS HIS FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.

DISPLAY TABLES will be around the perimeter of the room. All displays are eligible for display awards, which are handmade knives donated by members and supporters of OKCA. Display judging will be by rules established by OKCA. Special category awards may also be offered. **NOTHING MAY BE SOLD FROM DISPLAY TABLES.**

SALE/TRADE TABLES Sharing of tables will not be allowed. Exhibitors must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Oregon has NO SALES TAX.

BADGES: Each table holder is entitled to one additional show badge. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

KNIFEMAKERS who are present and are table holders at this show may enter knives in the knifemaking award competition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on categories and judging criteria in the display and handmade knife competitions, contact the Show Chairman.

SHOW FACILITATORS will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane Events Center will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

- No Smoking within the Exhibit Hall at any time;
- No alcoholic beverages consumed within the Exhibit Hall during the public hours of the show;
- No loaded firearms worn or displayed at the show;
- No swords or knives brandished or displayed in a provocative manner.

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

NOTE ON SWITCHBLADES AND DAGGERS: In Oregon it is legal to make, sell, buy, or own switchblade knives. However, it is **ILLEGAL** to carry a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, a dagger, or a dirk concealed on one's person, or for a convicted felon to possess a switchblade or gravity knife. Most other states have banned switchblade knives. Under federal law, it is **ILLEGAL** to mail, carry, or ship a switchblade or gravity knife across state lines.

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 16, 2010.

10am - 7pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 17, 2010.

7am-8am set-up. 8am-5pm open to public.

Sunday, April 18, 2010.

8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to public.

Tables that are cancelled will revert back to the OKCA. Subcontracting tables is not permitted.

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT: PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2010. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!! MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.**

Type of knives on your tables _____

Name for second badge _____ (two badges per table holder)

Qty _____ **Club Dues (Total from above)**..... \$ _____ **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Qty _____ **Sale/Trade table(s) @ \$95 each (members only)** .. \$ _____

Qty _____ Collector Display table(s) **free with sale table:**

Qty _____ Saturday Nite Social @ \$5.00 ea..... \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (make check payable to O.K.C.A.) \$ _____

I have read and agree to abide by the OKCA show rules as set forth in this contract, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, damage, loss, theft, or injury. **Signature and date required.**

Signature _____ Date _____

*** PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!***

www.oregonknifeclub.org

Designing a Cutting Competition Knife. José Diaz.

Race cars that compete on the track are constantly pushing the edge of technology and design. Race tracks are proving grounds for ideas that improve performance. Like the racing cars on the track, cutting competition knives prove themselves in competition at cutting competitions sponsored by Blade Sports International.

Sometimes cutting competition knives, just like their vehicular brethren, are not necessarily appropriate for everyday use. These knives are designed for competition use. The things that we have learned on the cutting course do translate into things we do in the wilderness. By pushing the edge of design and technology, cutting competition knives can provide new innovations for performance.

Designing a cutting competition blade, or any other tool for that matter, requires a little planning. Sure, you can copy a design made by another maker. But if you do that, you need to get permission from the original maker or simply steal it. Borrowing from traditional working tools, you can also find inspiration for design. My preference is to complete an original tool, full of form and function.

Starting the design process from the edge makes the most sense to me. The edge is the functional part of the tool, and where the work gets done. There are several mechanics to cutting. Tools with linear edges are used to make flat cuts, are usually not made for penetration, but rather are made for slicing, chipping, or planing. Recurve edges are made for gathering the material and compressing the material into the edge. They're traditionally used to cut softer materials or materials that are rounded. Convex edges are made for slicing and penetrating cuts. Tools with convex edges are usually used to chop and slice.

In a cutting competition, you are required to cut a variety of materials. Wood, golf balls, rope, hardwood dowels, drinking straws, cardboard tubes, golf tees, gummy bears, cigarettes are all examples of materials that may present themselves in a cutting competition. This variety provides quite a challenge to the design process. Coming up with a compromise for each cut, yet seeking the performance that will get you through the course.

Recurve edges, cutting harder material, may bind as they compress material as they cut through them. Also recurve edges may not penetrate deeply enough to cut through a rolling golf ball on a flat surface. Flat edge profiles can cut deep and also have the ability to reach the bottom of the cut through a rolling sphere. Convex edge profiles cut deeply and also provide several other advantages.

Convex edge profiles are round. This provides an increase in strength. Convex edge profiles also provide a mechanical advantage to cutting, as they push mass away from the edge as they cut through the material. They also present more surface area in the same distance as a flat edge profile. This is especially helpful during the heavier cuts like the 2x4 chop, the most physically challenging and time-consuming cut.

The other part of the design process is the handle. This is the interface between you and the blade. Gayle Bradley, one of our top cutters, once told me, "If you can feel the handle, rethink the design. In other words, if the handle is not comfortable or you feel edges, bumps, or shapes you don't like, it is distracting. A handle with the best shape is one you don't notice." Our hands are not square. Rounding all shapes on the handle will decrease hot spots.

Another legend in the cutting competition world, Ed Schempp, taught me that a 17-20% drop in the handle improves ergonomics. This allows for the knife wielder to cut more efficiently with less wrist movement. The wrist is the weakest joint in the arm. Leaving your wrist in a more natural position during strenuous or heavy chops improves performance and decreases wasted movement.

Lastly the handle's shape should aide in keeping the blade in your hand. Subtle flares and bulges make friction points that keep a knife in a closed hand. A death grip on a handle will keep a knife in your hand but will also fatigue your hand as well and will cause the inevitable disaster. A handle should give you a confident grip during heavy chops and light wrist flicking movements. The handle should almost grip you back.

All of this design translates into a better race knife. But it also translates into a great camp knife, a blade that gives you the confidence and performance that you can take on anything. We at Blade Sports International do the research and development in our competition blades and translate that into the knives we make for our customers.



Water bottle cut by José.



Damascus knife by José.



Bryan Wagner cutting the pumpkin.

Hilsen fra Norge ibdennis

Merle Spencer has an article in this issue that relates to his first encounter with a special knife that he made. This brought up my memories of two knives that I have had since childhood. How they have managed to stay with me all these years and a distance of 2000 miles is indeed a mystery.

My ancestry is Norwegian. My mother and father were both born in Norway and immigrated with their parents to Chicago, Illinois. I was made in USA. There was a large Norwegian community in Chicago, and I have memories of parades, picnics and times at the Sons of Norway gatherings. Everything from food, stories and meetings was Norwegian except I was never expected to learn the home country language. I had lutefisk, lefse, pickled herring, sardines, goat cheese, Krumcake, Norwegian pancakes and a very strong memory of cleaning the silverware after it was tarnished at a lutefisk meal.

In the late 1940s I was given two knives. These were Norwegian made knives. I wore them proudly at various events and used them on fishing trips with my father who lived and breathed to fish. The one knife with the wood handle was the carry everyday knife and was used with tender loving care. At least from a young man's perspective. Throwing this knife at trees to gain hunting prowess and stabbing at anything that was imagined proved great sport. I do not recall ever cutting myself although there were a few times they were confiscated temporarily until I again proved myself responsible. The stacked reindeer staghorn handled knife was worn for show. Best clothes demanded the carrying of the best knife. Today it is easy to see which knife was which by the blades.

I did not know the maker of the wood handle knife. There is etching, but the maker's name has been lost to scratching and scuffing. After an internet search, I determined it to be a Brusletto knife. The handle is stamped "Hilsen fra Norge" which translates to "Greetings from Norway." The reindeer staghorn handle knife is etched "S & S Helle" and "Norge." This knife has never ever been sharpened, but it does show signs of stabbing a few trolls as evidenced by



the tip. The leather work on the sheath is quite ornate and carries the inscription "Fjellkniven." This translates to "Mountain Knife." Both these knives are handsome knives and have very little historic or intrinsic value as this style knife can be purchased readily today. They certainly mean a lot to me as part of my memory box. The average length of these two knives is about 8" and are traditional styled knives which you might relate to as the Puukko knife of the Scandinavian tradition.

Puukko is the Finnish word for a Scandinavian style woodcraft belt knife that is used as a tool, not a weapon. It is a type of hunting knife that hangs from the belt; and while it is used in outdoor sports, it is also used in home and garden. Because this style knife has a long heritage going back a thousand years, they lend themselves to artistic endeavors and also traditional historic representation. The Norwegian knives are not referred to as Puukko knives, but they sure do look to be of the same family. I guess one might refer to Puukko as a Finnish knife and with that I will finish this article.

A Kid-Completed Smile Knife Merle Spencer

When I was about twelve years old, a house in our neighborhood burned down. While some of the men were standing around talking after the flames had died, the owner mentioned that there had been a hunting knife in the house. He said if someone would sort through the ashes in that part of the area, it could probably be found.

My brother and I found the knife and were allowed to keep it, as the handle was all burned off; and it was suspected that the temper was ruined.

Soon after that I decided to make a handle for this knife. I hadn't seen many hunting knives, but the few I had seen seemed to mostly have stacked leather handles. Living on a small farm as we did, there was plenty of old saddle and harness leather around.

Getting the brass end nut off was easy by using the big vise and a pair of pliers.

I took a piece of harness tug leather and began to cut oblong washers out. This was no easy task as all I had to cut with was a pocketknife. I always had a pocketknife since I was quite young.

There was no way for me to make round washers, so I just cut rectangles of more or less the same size and cut the corners off. I somehow managed to get holes in the pieces so I could slide them on the tang and screw on the nut. I had to leave the nut



exposed. That was probably the fastest handle I ever made.

I made a sheath out of two pieces of an old tug strap sewn together with copper wire salvaged from a junked car coil.

I was looking at that old knife a few years ago when an idea came to me. Why not take this knife to a show and tell a collector that I had a Marble's knife to show him?

You can imagine the expected, "What in the world is that?" response I enjoyed. Of course I hadn't meant to part with it.

I still smile at the first knife I ever embellished.



This is the barn on the place where we lived. The shop where the handle was made is just off picture on right in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The October meeting was held October 21 at The Sizzler Restaurant, Springfield OR. It was attended by 30 members.

We have not had a landslide response to the request for tables for the December show. Not to worry; we are a group that many times wait until the time is now before we act. (Remember that if you do not pay before December 1, you will pay \$40 for the \$20 table. We must know you will be attending in order to have sufficient tables in place and pay for no more than used. Each table and chair is an additional expense to the Club.) If you want to pay membership at the same time no problem. One check is ok. We also will charge a fee for entry to non-members--so find those membership cards or email or call so I can forward you another. Remember to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys For Tots. We have donated every year since **Michael Kyle** proposed this activity. It has always been a success.



John Priest has graciously agreed to print the names on the membership cards for 2010. **Larry Criteser** has been volunteered (by me) to laminate. (The job these guys do is very much appreciated by dennis and me and the membership). These will be available for pickup by the paid members at the December 12 show. The remainder will be mailed at the same time that the table confirmations are mailed, end of December. Please note the mailing label on your *Knewsletter*. If you do not believe it to be correct, please contact me. I do make errors and rely on you to keep me on my toes.

If you want your 2009 table for 2010, you must forward your application and payment. We have a waiting list, and many of these people are anxious to know if they will have a table for 2010. I do not want to call the 2009 table-holders and ask, "Do you intend to purchase a table for the 2010 Show?" It is a very time consuming job and is not a win-win situation. Many feel very defensive and snap back, "NO!!" However there are others who say, "Thank you for calling. I forgot." Not sure if I have the energy to do it for 2010.

I met with the Valley River Inn and have been able to negotiate a reduced price for our Thursday Nite Social. Please help us offset our costs with a donation if you are planning to participate in this event.

The 2010 Grinding Competition knives will be the display awards for the 2010 Show. It is time to remind the individuals who agreed to complete a knife for the display awards that we are ready to accept the completed knives. Please forward them to us as soon as you can. I would appreciate a contact (email or phone) from these makers so I know when we can expect them. They will be photographed and presented in the *Knewsletter* and on the web site for all to see. A great advertisement for the maker who donates a completed knife.

See you at the November 18 meeting at The Sizzler Restaurant. Join us for fun.



The December Mini Show

The date for the Mini Show is December 12, 2009. This event has traditionally been a free-to-members Show however the drain on our treasury suggested cancelling this event. The shouts and screams and offers to pay outweighed the idea of cancellation. The Show is still a well attended affair, but it has been slowly going downward in table-holder attendance. At one point we had over 100 tables with sharing, and today it is about 60 tables and no sharing. With our 100 table show it was reasonable rates on the room, the tables and chairs but the cost has continued to increase as each year passed. (Originally the room, etal were no charge.)

So rather than scrub the whole event it was suggested by many to place a charge for tables. To charge the whole expense for a one day show would be too much so we opted to place a small affordable charge that would serve two purposes. The one is obvious, defer costs; but the second one will evaluate the enthusiasm, or lack thereof, to have this December Mini Show.

The Board has decided to charge \$20 per table if paid in advance before December 01, 2009 or \$40 per table after this date. We are trying to encourage advance reservations to evaluate how to plan for this event.

As always we will have a "get there first to claim a table" which starts at 7 am on Saturday morning. Doors open at 8am to the public, and we will have a small entry fee for the public so members wear your badges. The Show will be over at 4 pm.

The fate of the Mini Show is in all our hands so place your vote for this by participating and being there.

Name _____

Number of tables _____

Amount enclosed _____





OKCA Free Classified Ads

Free classified ads will run up to three issues and then be dropped. Available only to paid members. Write your ad on anything you have handy (except Jelly Beans) and email or snail mail to the **OKCA, PO Box 2091, Eugene OR 97402**. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted, or excepted, dependent on available space and the mood of the editors.

Wanted: Information regarding the 20th Anniversary OKCA knife created by Wendell Fox. Scrimshaw by Jerry Whitmore. Who has it??? Contact Elayne OKCA (541)484-5564 email info@oregonknifeclub.org

FOR SALE - South Bend gear head lathe 9x32. Setup for line shaft operation. \$650. Call John Priest (541)689-6020

Wanted - Tableholders for the **December 12th Mini Show**.

USEFUL REFERENCE BOOKS ON BLADES- Collectible knives, custom knives and knife making, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. E-mail for a list. As our name implies, if we don't consider a book to be useful and a good value we will not sell it. **QUALITY BLADE BOOKS**, C/O Rick Wagner, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404 - (541) 688-6899 - wagner_r@pacinfo.com

Sheaths Available in 5 different sizes tooled. \$15.00 each 2 for 25. Untooled \$10.00 each 3 for \$25.00. See us at the December and April show. Custom orders always welcome. Good selection and good pricing on knives as well. Ray Simonson Wild Boar Blades. 360-601-1927 www.wildboarblades.com info@wildboarblades.com

Wanted - Knives made by Barr Brothers. ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org.

FOR SALE - Engnath Japanese style knife. 12" straight blade, not exactly a tanto. Nice temper line, handle and scabbard cut from one piece of lignum vitae. Absolutely beautiful. Call with offer -no one around here - Connecticut - knows a reasonable price. Bruce Fowler (203)457-1029

WWII ALLIED MILITARY FIGHTING & POCKET KNIVES 1941-1975. Buy/Sell/Trade. I'm well known in the collecting fraternity for dealing in high grade examples, and with an impeccable reputation for over 26 years now. I also do consignment sales on Ebay with a 100% Positive Feedback record for 10 years running. My eBay name is jsfischer1fs. Thank you! JOHN S. FISCHER P.O. Box 47 Van Nuys, CA 91408 email: jsfischer1@aol.com

WANTED: Clarence "Pete" Heath knife/knives. Articles, brochures, catalogs, letters and other Heath memorabilia also wanted. Jake Jakus S35 W33193 Honeysuckle Ct Dousman WI 53118 (414)331-1151

WANTED: 1962 U.S. Camillus MIL-K stainless steel utility knife. Rich Jones (503)956-5790 or rljshalom@verizon.net

Wanted - Table holders for the April 2010 Oregon Knife Collectors Knife Show.

WANTED: OKCA Club knives serial numbered "16." Need 1992 Gerber FS1—1989 Cripple Creek----1987 Al Mar Tanto—1983 Gerber Paul—1981 Gerber Gentleman Jack LST---will give \$100.00 for any 1980 Club Silver Knight. Fred Coleman (541)915-6241

Limited edition sprint run of Junior Clipits. White Micarta handles, partially serrated blade. This is variation #13 in the Spyderco/Goddard Clipits. \$135.00 each, free shipping if you mention *OKCA Newsletter*. Goddards, 473 Durham Ave. Eugene, OR, 97404 (541)689-8098 e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net

Wanted: 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 OKCA silver medallions. Heceta Lighthouse, Oregon

Beaver, Multnomah Falls and Mt. Hood. Call Jim (562)716-9857 or email:jpitt306@earthlink.net.

For Sale blade blanks, mosaic pins and lanyard tubes, stabilized wood. Gene and Sally Martin. bladesmith@customknife.com, www.customknife.com, (541)846-6755

Spyderco/Goddard Model C16PSBRG, \$65.00, free shipping when you mention OKCA. Goddards 473 Durham Ave Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098

WANTED: Knives by Angus Arbuckle (1924-1982) of South Africa. Marked "ARA: in a diamond (early mark) or "Handmade ARA" over a winged cat. Contact: Richard Schechner P.O. Box 181923 Coronado, CA 92178 (619)437-0564 rgs522@san.rr.com

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.com.

For Sale: Made in France. Ready to blue or polish. Heavy 1095 French drop forge patch knife blades- 5 assorted- 2-1/2 to 3-3/4 plus strong rod tang. Pre hand shaped. You just sharpen and handle with stag or branch wood. Then sharpen as you will (5 blades) including shipping \$33.00. Visa/M/C/AMX. Sorry no pictures. 100% satisfaction. Club member Elliott-Hiltary Diamond 6060 E Thomas Rd Scottsdale AZ 85251 (480)945-0700 Fax (480)945-3333 usgrc@cox.net

Wanted: SEGUINE Knives -Please call Jack at: A (805)431-2222 or (805)489-8702 -- email:jh5jh@aol.com

Randall Made Knives. Buy, Sell, Trade. Also a good selection of Case knives, and many custom knives for sale or trade. Jim Schick www.nifeboy.com (209)333-1155.

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OKCA Club

Whot-zits & Whos Zits

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Newsletter by elayne & dennis

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The Knewslettter
Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

Cutlery Events Calendar

November 2009

- Nov 20-22 - New York Custom Knife Show (KW-B-TK)
Nov 28-29 - Willamette Valley Arms Show - Eugene OR

December 2009

- Dec 05-06 - Klamath Falls Gun & Knife - www.jssainfo.org
Dec 12-12 - OKCA Mini Show - Eugene Oregon (KW-B)
Dec 10-12 - Parkers Greatest -Sevierville TN (KW)

January 2010

- Jan 15-17 - Las Vegas Knifemakers Show (B-TK-KI)
Jan 19-22 - SHOT Show -Las Vegas NV (B)
Jan 22-24 - Silver State Knife Expo -Reno NV (TK)
Jan 23-24 - Gateway Area Cutlery Fair - St. Louis MO (KW-B)
Jan 29-31 - Gator Cutlery Show -Lakeland FL (KW-B-TK)

February 2010

- Feb 06-07 - Wolverine Collectors Show - Novi MI (KW-B-TK)
Feb 19-21 - East Coast Custom -Manhattan NY (B-TK)
Feb 20-21 - Arkansas Custom -Little Rock (KW-B-TK-KI)

March 2010

- Mar 06-07 - Western Reserve Cutlery - Dover OH (KW-B)
Mar 12-14 - NW Georgia Show - Dalton GA (KW-B)
Mar 19-21 - Southern California Expo 2010 - Pasadena
Mar 20-21 - Bunker Hill Knife Show -Bethalto IL (KW)
Mar 26-28 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B-TK)
Mar 27-28 - Texas Knife Show - Round Rock TX (KW-B-TK)

April 2010

- Apr 02-04 - Shenandoah Valley -Harrisonburg VA (KW)
Apr 17-18 - Oregon Knife Collectors - Eugene OR

- Apr 24-24 - Solvang Custom CA (B)
Apr 30-02 - Greater Ohio Knife Show-Ft Mitchell KY (KW)
May 2010
May 01-02 - NCCA Annual Show -Mystic CT (KW)
June 2010
Jun 04-06 - Blade Show - Atlanta GA (KW)
Jun 10-12 - Parkers Greatest -Sevierville TN (KW)

DINNER MEETING

Wednesday Evening

November 18, 2009
Third Wednesday of the Month

Sizzler Restaurant
1010 Postal Way
Gateway Area
(Across from the Post Office)

6:00 PM Dinner
Followed by meeting

Come Knife with us!
Bring a Show-N-Tell knife!



Contact Dennis or Elayne (541) 484-5564 for additional information on OKCA events. For non-OKCA events, contact the sponsoring organization. Additional info = (B)lade Mag. -(KW) Knife World - (TK) Tactical Knives

