



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Is this your last Knewsletter????
- ✓ See the mailing label - Look now
- ✓ Evolution of Stabilization
- ✓ Bowie Knife Challenge
- ✓ Buoy knives - History
- ✓ Mystery Sculpture

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

January 2014

The Evolution of Stabilization

Dan Westlind

In my opinion few things have had the impact on knifemaking more than that of the stabilization process. Look at the vast variety of handle materials and dyed wood on the market today. I've seen everything from pressed sunflower seeds and corn cob to cactus and pine cones, all due to stabilization.

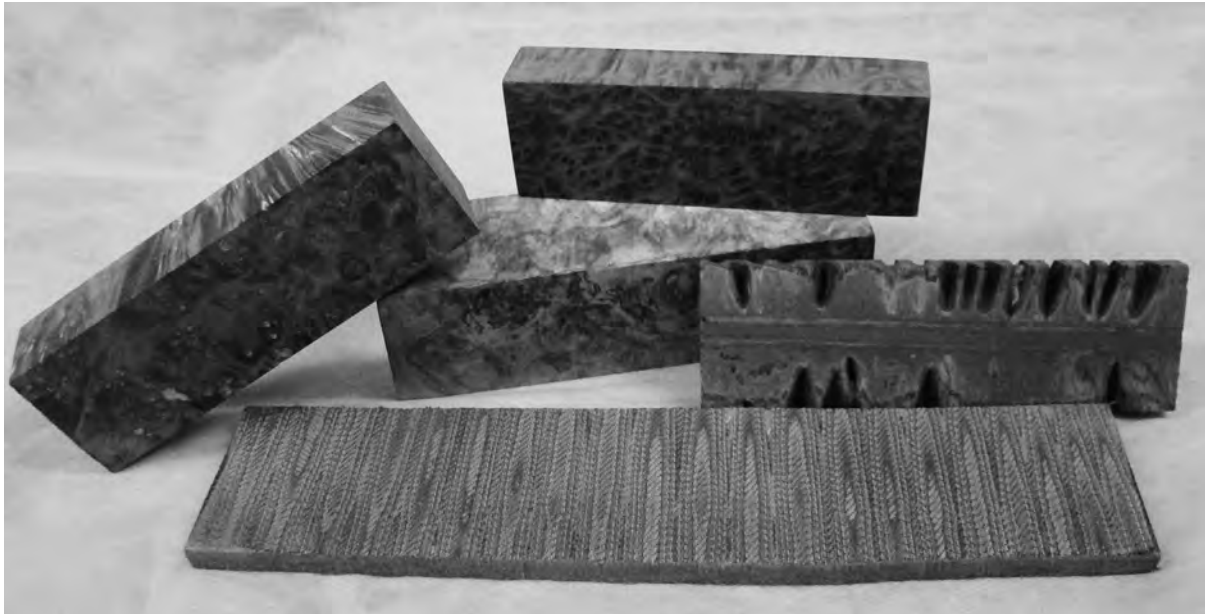
The first stabilized wood I remember using was some I received from the late Dick Lorditch from Pennsylvania. I don't know what resin he used, but the wood was cured in the reactor at a nearby nuclear power plant. The wood was very hard and had a glass-like look to it. It cost \$300.00 per cubic foot to have it cured in the reactor, which was quite a sum back then (30+ years ago), considering it didn't even glow in the dark!

Polyethylene Glycol was one of the first stabilizing compounds around, but it was mainly used for wet woods. It is still used today as a wood preservative, especially in treating wood from ancient boats and ships for museum preparation, keeping the wood from shrinking and disintegrating. Polyethylene Glycol is widely used in the medical field mainly in laxatives.

It is my understanding that the more modern techniques of wood stabilization evolved from rock and gem stabilizing - mainly turquoise. Since only 5-10 percent of turquoise is usable for jewelry without being treated, there was a lot of research that went into treating turquoise. Sodium Silicate was the main compound used in treating Turquoise. Sodium Silicate (AKA water glass and silica gel) is the stuff you see in the small packets used to absorb moisture in just about everything

from jerky to cameras. Vaporized Silica is still used to stabilize Turquoise.

Next to come into widespread use in wood stabilization was Methyl Methacrylate (MMA). MMA is used to make Lucite and Plexiglass, and is used in many glues and adhesives. MMA is also used in the medical research world to stabilize organ and tissue samples. Benzoyl Peroxide is the catalyst for MMA.



Benzoyl Peroxide is also the main ingredient in acne medicines. MMA, when mixed with the catalyst, is highly unstable and must be kept refrigerated; but even then it can be unstable.

One of the latest chemicals, Loctite Resinol 90C, used for stabilizing wood, is manufactured by the Henkel Corporation. The 90C is actually the recommended temperature used to cure the compound at 90 degrees centigrade. Resinol 90C is widely used in the automotive industry to seal cast engine parts and transmission housings to keep them from seeping fluids. Resinol 90C is not readily available to the public.

I know there are other compounds out there being used for stabilization, but I just covered some of the more common ones. The next time you see a bunch of dyed and stabilized wood, you may have a better understanding of how it evolved to where it is today. 🐿️

OKCA BOWIE KNIFE CHALLENGE 2014

B.K. Brooks

Yep, it is coming up fast. Are you ready? Are you a booster of OKCA, or are you going to get caught with your pants down and stared at by the other Club members? All you have to do is rummage around, pick out your best Bowie and contact the Club. But first some more Bowie talk, and this time we center on the custom makers.

Custom Bowie Knifemakers

I started this article by contacting those in the know about custom makers; and, by the time I was done, I had an article too large for the *OKCA Knewslettter*. I learned that about 25 years ago there started a big boom in custom knifemaking with Bowie Knives being one of the dominant themes. It is thought that the publication of *The Antique Bowie Knife Book* by Bill Adams in 1990 and the Berryman/Schreiner Bowie Auction in 1992 gave new fuel to the Bowie blacksmiths fire that had been smoldering in the banked coals of history.

But prior to this boom time, there were men who kept the Bowie Knife tradition burning and laid the foundation for this boom. I will not be able to mention them all or even the ones I had originally highlighted.

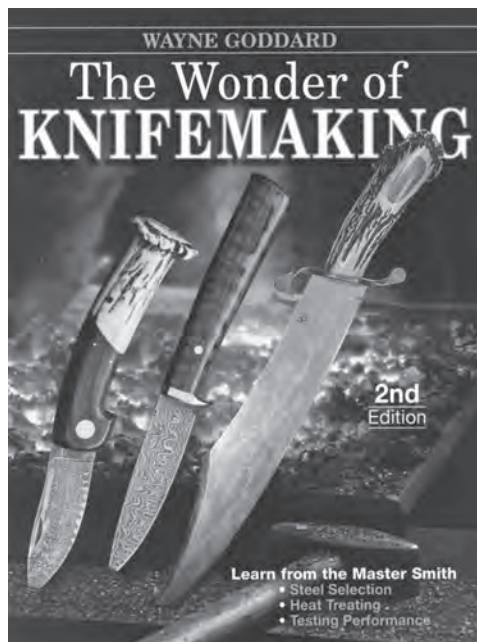
On the tip of many tongues was D. E. Henry. In *Knife World* Editor's Mark Zalesky's opinion, from 1950-1990 there is almost only



one name you needed to know: D. E. Henry. According to Mark: "D. E. Henry went back to the Bowie's roots and put authentic features back in the knives; and his craftsmanship elevated them to an art form. There were others making "bowies," including some scattered his-

torically inspired knives such as Buster Warenski who did California knives really well -- but D. E. Henry was THE MAN. His knives from the early '60s onward still hold up today, which is pretty amazing if you think about it."

Knifemaker James Baston stoked the Bowie fires not only with his outstanding knives but by writing: *James Bowie & the Sandbar Fight Birth of the James Bowie Legend & Bowie Knife* (1992) and *James Black: blacksmith, cutler, or knifemaker* (1993) who helped fan the fires of budding bowie knifemakers.



OKCA's own Wayne Goddard has played a big part in keeping the custom Bowie Knife craft alive, producing knives since the 1960s. Many budding knifemakers have read and re-read Wayne's books - *The Wonder of Knifemaking* and Wayne Goddard's *Fifty Dollar Knife Shop*.

Then of course there is the William F. Moran School of Bladesmithing that bears his name. Bill Moran was a *Blade Magazine* Hall of Fame Member and a President of the Knifemakers' Guild. His knives are displayed in museums including the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.

Yep, I have only scratched the surface and 3/4 of my article; and scores of names lay on the editing room floor. I will leave it to you to pick up the torch and promote your favorite custom maker's knife or knives at the Bowie Knife Challenge

and tell the story of their history. Please bring examples of your favorite Bowie maker and help your Club!

OKCA BOWIE KNIFE CHALLENGE

So have you been rummaging around your safe for that special Bowie, or putting the last touches on a prize winning custom work? Time is getting short. From talking to IB interest is rising, and you don't want to be left out. Remember it is your participation that makes the Club what it is.

Once more, please note you don't have to have a big display worked up; but yes that would be great. But even if you commit to bringing a few of your examples to show at your dealer table that would be fine too and would still be eligible for an award. For a large display I would need to know the highlights of what you plan to show. If you plan a small display or a special Bowie knife at your table, we would need to know exactly what you plan to bring and your table number. A special non-table-holder display area is being considered, contact the Club.

If you want to be properly listed in the April 2014 *Knewslettter* so people can come over and visit your table specifically, you need to act NOW! Contact the OKCA and let us know what you are showing. Your participation is what makes our Club great! 🗡️



The Pre Winter December Snow Show..

Who would have thought that the December Show would have been met with 7" of snow and 6 degree weather. Now if this was Minnesota, then it would have been a heat wave. But Eugene, Oregon? Thirty five tables were full of knives, and 50 tables beckoned to knives which never came. It was warm in the building, and spirits and attitudes were fantastic. We closed two hours early to give the far away travelers a chance to make progress on the road before night fall. See pictures and Elayne's write-up on this event.



The Mystery Picture from December.....

We have a winner. **Chuck Morgan** from Horseshoe Bend, Idaho named the picture of the "Knife Grinder" statue and its location at the Uffizi gallery in Florence, Italy. The statue is dated to the 1st century BC. They even had knives back then. Do a Google search on "Arrotino" for more information on this statue. Very fascinating. Chuck received a full year's membership to the OKCA for his participation in this quiz. The runner up was **Merle Spencer** who submitted the title of "**I roamed under it, a tired nude Maori.**" When I suggested to Merle it was not a Maori, I blushed when he said this was a palindrome and not an entry to the mystery statue.

How to remember the April Show

Use these four numbers - 11 - 12 -13 -14. Friday is the 11. And 14 is the year. Four numbers stand for April. Got it? See you there.



Membership and tables...

Did you mean to, but forgot? December 15 was the deadline for table reservations for the April Show. Also December 32, 2013 could mean your membership will lapse if your mailing label has a 2013 code on it. Our mail attendees are standing by. We also, at this time, have a few table spots open. When all the reservations were tabulated, I was pleasantly surprised at the response to the April Show. Looking good.

Donations

We are beginning to receive donations for the upcoming April Show. These items are for the silent auction which is a fund raising event for our organization. Thus far we have received items from **Ed Schempp** and **Mike Silvey**. If you plan to send packages in the form of donations or the display award knives, please send them to our West 11 mailbox. The West 11 Postal Stop accepts all carriers (UPS - Fed X - Carrier Pigeon and 18 Wheelers), and a signature secures the package. The Postal Stop also notifies us that a package has arrived.

Display award knives...

One of the distinctions of the Oregon Knife Organization is the diversity of the "cut." We have collectors and makers. The support for each is evident when the collectors display their museum class collections at our April Show, and the makers handcraft knives that will be used as awards for the displays. Each year a blade blank is selected and given to those who want to contribute to this cause. This year the blank is a 6-1/2" clip point with a stick tang in O-1. Could be a Bowie knife theme here. We have told the makers that their donation will be judged so there is a degree of competition here. **Gene Martin** is the

coordinator for this event; and the participants are: **Bill Amoureux, Don Bell, John "Slim" Coleman, Wayne Goddard, Gary Griffin, Greg**



Haile, Cameron House, David Kurt, Gene Martin, Brett Matthews, Lynn Moore, Dietrich Podmajersky, Peter Pruyn and Sterling Radda.

Articles herein....

I want to thank **B.K. Brooks, Bernard Levine, and Dan Westlind** for their words in this issue. More words are needed, and I know that they are out there. A special thank you to *Knife World Publications* and **Bernard Levine** for the tongue in cheek thesis in this issue.

Please share your knowledge, as this *Knewsletter* is a perfect medium for contributions from our membership. The *Knewsletter* is what floats the boat, so to speak, and marks where the buoys are.


The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month which makes it January 15, 2014. I always look forward to this gathering so mark your calendar and come be with us. Oh yes, and we have the election of officers for this meeting too.

Free ads....

As a member you can have an ad placed in our *Knewsletter* for free. Reports over the years have suggested that these ads seem to get results. Email or snail mail, and we will add your ad to the *Knewsletter*.

It ain't too early to...

Make lodging reservations for the April Show. The Valley River Inn, which is our partner in lodging for the Show, had a complete remodel; and, from the reports heard, it is one awesome place to stay. Get your reservations in early. Mention the Show when you register, as we are offered a special rate for the Oregon Knife Collectors. (541)687-0123. 

WHUT IZZIT?

by Bernard Levine
www.knife-expert.com

Mr. Eufemio Zapata of Morales, Old Mexico, writes, "On the internet I have found many different stories, all claiming to be the true account of the Original Buoy Knife. I don't know which ones to believe. Could you tell me please, what is the genuine, true, certifiably authentic, and axiomatically correct story of the actual and historical Original Buoy Knife?"

Okay.

I can understand your confusion. I have read, and even believed, some of those fantastical but fallacious stories, myself. To name just a few:

•The legend of Jim Buoy at the Alhambra drive-by knifing.

•The tale of itinerant soap peddler, Leif Buoy, cutting through the rope ring around his collar, and escaping to join the Resistance (in some versions he joins the Capacitance, and in one, the Impedance — however there is no evidence he ever joined RiverDance).

•The account of French outlaw distiller, Dram Buoy, who marinated all the cattle he rustled in brandy, making them very happy, and very tasty.

*

Some people say the Original Buoy Knife was military in origin. This is not true.



Some other people say the Buoy Knife was part of our great Western Cowboy heritage of Cub Scout crafts projects. This too is not true, or at least not too true.



A few people even have claimed that the Original Bowie Knife dated back to Colonial times...



...or at the very least to the Age of Revolution.



But no, as enchanting as these tales might be, not one of them is true. For you see, the True Original Buoy Knife is of maritime origin.



In fact, it was invented by Captain Ahab himself, while he was still Midshipman Ahab.

Ahab's father, Mohab, was a Village Blacksmith in Tusk Aurora, Saskatchewan. Mohab made knives from files, wagon springs, dingbats, teapots, and other useless scrap, and he taught young Ahab this ancient and honorable trade.



Continued on page 8

OKCA 2014 Club Knives

Roy Humenick has done a fantastic job of selecting and arranging for the 2014 Club knives. He selected a set of two knives from Queen Cutlery listed as their patterns number #41 and #44. These will be sold as a set. The #41 is Copperhead and the #44 is the Folding Hunter. They respectively are 3-3/4" and 5-1/4" closed. These knives, although the standard patterns, will be enhanced with flat ground 154CM blades which have never been used on these patterns. The handles will be jigged bone. The knives will be serialized and only 52 will be made. They will be so marked as OKCA 2014 club knives.

This is an organizational funding project and allows members to support the organization and get a great return on their investment. The standard patterns we received to show our membership are absolute excellent quality and execution of Queen Cutlery knives. Color pictures and an application form can be found on our website at www.oregonknifeclub.org

2014 OKCA Club Knife Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



2013 OKCA Knife Number If Applicable: _____

OKCA - Queen folding knife set \$190.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Shipping, if needed, please add \$15.00 Total: \$ _____

\$ _____

Payment in full must accompany your order to reserve your knives.

Delivery on April 12, 2014 at the April Show



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

____ Start/ ____ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$25 family) \$ _____

The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne



And it snowed and snowed. On Friday, December 6, the snow was still falling when I left for the Lane Events Center to set up for the December 7 Show. It did not stop while the helpers, **Dave Anderson, Bob Cassidy, Larry Criteser, Craig Morgan, and John Priest** unloaded the van and put the table numbers on the tables. Before I left, **Barbara and Michael Kyle** arrived to help. When I arrived home, I started receiving the

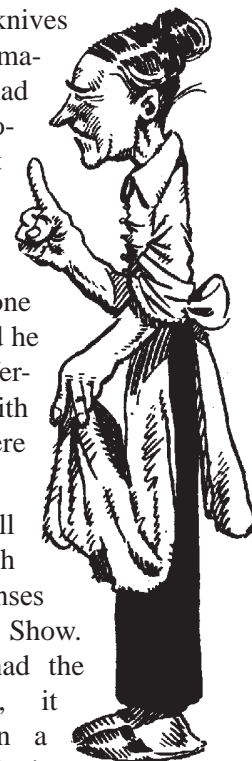
calls: Will there be a Show? (Of course. We paid our money; even if Dennis and I are the only ones there, it will go on.) Sorry, I cannot make it. The I-5 is closed except for chains south of Salem. I'm snowed in. No way can I make it. The calls continued to come.

Saturday AM Dennis and I trekked to the Lane Events in the snow and cold. Our buddies at the Lane Events had kept the heat running at the top number; and the building was warm, even the restrooms. (One of the pipes had broken on Tuesday before set up for our event. They did not want another incident like the one several years ago when we had over a foot of water on the showroom floor.) The table-holders started to dribble in, and we were a go. Thank you, **Michael Kyle** for your very much appreciated help with the door. He opened and closed the door as each table-holder entered. (We did not want to lose any of our precious heat.) **Thank you all who came to support our organization and event.** We had

35 tables with knives or knife-related materials. We all had fun. I will apologize that I did not have pots of warm coffee for the visitors. Usually it is not an issue. But one person commented he had tried three different Starbucks with no luck. None were open.

Thank you to all who donated cash to offset the expenses for the December Show. If we had not had the additional funds, it would have been a financial disaster. As it was we were right at the line.

We had a sample of the 2014 Club knife





on display and had membership cards ready for pick up for the members who had renewed. Business was down at the Club table. Only sold 34 memberships (16-single and 18-family) and 17-2014 tables. Numbers were down. Usually we had 80 memberships and 37 tables. However, when I visited the Post Office on Monday, I removed 28 envelopes. The box was stuffed. Members wanted 2014 tables and memberships. Thank you to all who donated money for our December event. It means that the membership wants to continue the organization and the Show.



The dinner meeting December 18 was well attended. All had stories about the weather. We discussed the April Show and the Bowie Challenge. Please advise the OKCA if you are interested to participate. Call or email.

Remember to pay your dues for 2014. Your last *Knewsletter* will be January, 2014. If the date on your label reads 2013, you need to forward payment. The membership cards and table confirmations will be mailed this first part of January, 2014.

We have a need for articles for our monthly *Knewsletter*. Help us to continue to provide an excellent example of the quality of our organization and events.

We rented a special mailbox for *parcels* shipped to the OKCA (USPS, UPS, FEDEX). The address is OKCA - 3003 W 11 AVENUE - PMB 172 - EUGENE OR 97402. The mailing address for letters is still P O BOX 2091 EUGENE OR 97402. We have also



made arrangements with **Barons Den** for shipment of your merchandise to the April Show.

Remember the January meeting is the annual election of officers. All of the current officers have agreed to another term, if that is the desire of the membership; however if anyone else is interested to run for office, please contact our President, Craig Morgan, or one of the other officers.

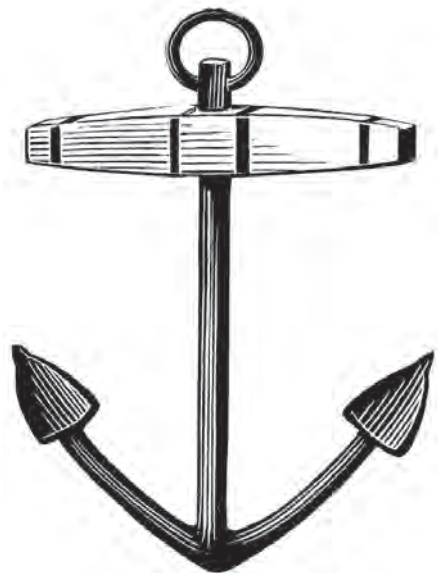
Hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you at the meeting January 15 at the Sizzler. See you in April. 🐦



Alas young Ahab was a poor student. On his first attempt at forging a knife from a horse-shoe (a five-blade Norfolk whittler), embers from his forge set the roof on fire. Soon both his father's smithy and the family home had burned to the ground. This is why Ahab had had to go to sea.



Despite being all at sea (he never did set foot on land again), Ahab still pursued his custom knifemaking dream. At first he attempted to forge blades from a rusty anchor.



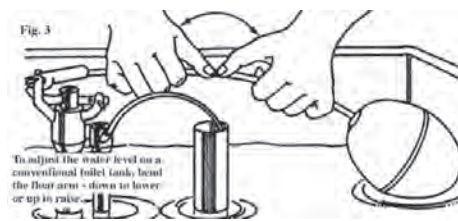
This was how his first ship, *HMS Puttysnark*, tragically burned to the waterline.



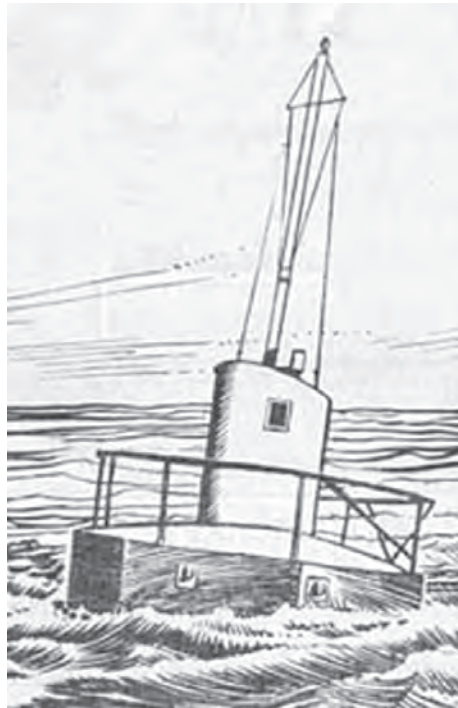
So Ahab decided to try another tack (sailors do that, you know). After failing to make a knife from the tack, he decided to try forging a knife from a buoy. He tried big buoys...



... and he tried small buoys, including a very small buoy that he found floating in the captain's loo.



Finally young Ahab found a medium buoy, adrift in the English Channel, and it was just right. This was how the Original Buoy Knife was born.



Alas Ahab's original Original Buoy Knife was long ago lost at sea, swallowed up in the belly of the Great White Whale, Moby Grippe — a few years too late for it to do Jonah any good in there.



Yet the Original Idea of the Original Buoy Knife has lived on. Countless versions of the buoy knife are still made today (information current as of March 1, 1972). Buoy knives float in salt water or in fresh water thanks to Captain Ahab's brilliant invention, the HOLLOW ground blade.

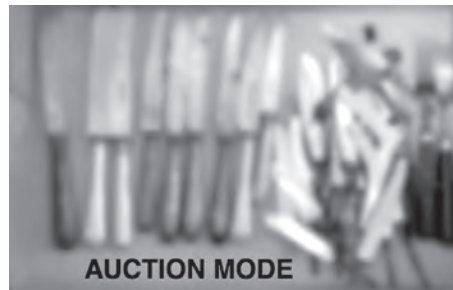


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Note on Knife Photography

I recently bought a new [Name Brand] digital camera. It takes wonderful, sharp, clear, colorful photos. Among its 743 automated features, this compact camera includes several dozen built-in 'modes' for taking pictures under unusual circumstances -- inside the microwave, in bat-infested caves, in airport restrooms, and so on. Flipping through these modes, I found one I'd never heard of before: Auction Mode.

Auction Mode makes tiny, blurred, badly lit photos, ready to go up on eBay without any additional manipulation. I tried it. The results were breathtaking. Now you, too, know the secret of all those successful eBay knife sellers.



AUCTION MODE





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 Twangular sequel knots) 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.

For Sale: Burr King electric motor.1.5HP, 115/230volt.13.4/6.7amps.3450RPM, 1PH.This motor is new with a new switch and will be at my table in April. Paid \$680, sell for \$300. Gary DeKorte, Sequim, WA. (360)808-9498.

For Sale: Buck knives. Large consignment. List available from Larry Oden. Typically have Buck standard production, limited edition, BCCI, Buck Custom and Yellowhorse models. Email loden@dka-online.com or call (765)244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

For Sale: OKCA Club knives 1997-2012, full price \$8,861.00. From now until end of April Show only \$6,500.00. Last chance to own a complete set which includes Corrado, Davis, Swauger, Vallotton. (No Oregon specials). Call Fred Coleman (541)915-6214.

For Sale - Set of NKCA knives 1975 thru 2009, 48 knives made by the best companies. And a president set - dedication set, and 16 anniversary and museum set. \$3600.00 call Fred (541)915-6241.

Wanted: I am interested to purchase Wayne Goddard hand-made knives. ibdennis@comcast.net

For Sale: *Randall Knives - A Reference Book.* 8-1/2x11 hardcover format. 22 chapters with 252 pages, 250 full color photos. \$54.95 including domestic shipping, payable to Blue Star Knives P O Box 841 Bigfork MT 59911.

Spyderco/Goddard Model C16POD \$85.00; free shipping when you mention OKCA. Goddards 473 Durham Ave Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098 email: wgoddard44@comcast.net.

For Sale: Duplicates of my old "WOOD HANDLE" Coke knives, \$100.00 each.. email: ronjoyceedwards@comcast.net

For Sale: older knives. Please visit Hhkknives at www.allaboutpocketknives.com. Thanks for looking.

Knife Sheaths: Many, many different sizes and styles. If we don't have what you want, we can make it for you. Ray Simonson Wild Boar Blades P.O. Box 328 Toutle WA 98649 (360)601-1927 www.wildboarleather.com - ray@wildboarleather.com

Mosaic pins and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at www.customknife.com, email at sally@customknife.com. Phone (541)846-6755.

Hot off the press - 2ND edition *The Wonder of Knifemaking* by Wayne Goddard, revised and in color! \$30. shipped by priority mail. Get your autographed copy now by calling Wayne at (541)689-8098.

Blades and knifemaker supplies. All blades are ground by Gene Martin. I also do custom grinding. See at www.customknife.com, contact Gene at bladesmith@customknife.com, or call (541)846-6755.

For Sale: Complete set of OKCA Club knives (minus Oregon special) \$6,900.00. Call Fred Coleman (541)915-6241.

Useful reference books on blades. Collectible knives, custom knives and knifemaking, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. E-mail for a list. Quality Blade Books C/O Rick Wagner P O Box 41854 Eugene OR 97404 (541) 688-6899. or wagner_r@pacinfo.com

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.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)295-5568.

Membership Information

This could be your last *Knewslettter*. If the label on this *Knewslettter* reads 2013, your dues expired on December 32, 2013. You want it to read 2014 or, like many have done, read up to 2020. The deadline for the same April Show table in 2014 you had in 2013 was December 15. We have assigned tables to individuals on the waiting list. You can get forms from our website if you need membership or tables: www.oregonknifeclub.org

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Knewslettter by elayne & dennis

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The Knewsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

A not so Smile Knife

Who amongst us knife peeples can say they have never cut themselves? Son Ray, when 12 years old while testing pocketknife can openers, found himself receiving his first stitches to his thumb. I think dear elayne holds the record for how many times she has cut herself. Now it is not the hospital. It is Urgent Care, and we have all the addresses down pat in our memory. They even know us on a first name basis. Sharp (sometimes dull) knives take their toll when we let our guard down. So it is with the pictures of this seven plus stitches, doctor sew em up, oops it hurt, cut. The hand shall remain anonymous to protect he who should have known better. While demonstrating a liner lock knife, the liner lock was not firmly in place; and the pressure on the blade caused the blade to fly (or leap) to closure. But alas the hand was in the path of the blade; a picture is worth a thousand words. And some of those words cannot and shall not be printed. Keep your paws out of the path of a closing folder and practice safe knife handling. See you at the Sizzler on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. 🐾

