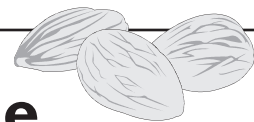




**KNEWSLETTER
IN A KNUTSHELL**



It is all about the **OKCA Show**

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

May 2023



The 2023 April Show

It was 2019 when we had our last big knife "Things That Go Cut Show." It was a great happening that saw record crowds and every table filled. How could we have a repeat performance after three

years of no Shows? The nay sayers were assured of failure, and there was nary an optimistic voice heard. Even elayne and ibd were skeptical. It then was our goal to attempt to make a Show that was a repeat of the event of days' past. We knew if we just let it play out, it would be a flop. We made a list of those things that stood out as positive, as these were the things that had made these Shows great.



Many Events/Shows had decided to raise gate entry fees and accused the pandemic for the increase. It was decided to keep the pre-pandemic rate of \$6.00 which for years had been an affordable entry price. (We wanted to get our message about collecting "things that go cut" to the many, not the few.) Sure it was easier to charge \$10.00, since making change would be more speedy. Instead we decided to charge for two days entry for the one price. This would allow the undecided to come back; and if they wanted, they could even give the pass to their neighbor who could then get in free. Our goal here was to get as many potential buyers into the Show as possible. It worked, as the Sunday crowd was by far the largest crowds we have ever seen, bar none. The comments heard were that Sunday was a good sales day too. Those who complained about low capacity crowds on Sunday in the past had no reason to complain this year.

We also made a point not to increase membership dues nor table fees.

Sales: We have always heard the complaint about poor sales, but I did not hear a single complaint about this. In fact, the volunteer information to us was an optimistic "sales were good." The other optimistic report heard was that buying both new and old knives was brisk.

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So how did we pull off the success of the event? We did our usual blanket of note pad flyers, and we had numerous other Show goers request flyers and more flyers. We also decided to go for broke on advertising. We made sure there were notifications in the national knife publications; and as the Show got closer, we splurged on local advertising. Color newspaper ads had never happened before, so now that we could we did. Radio advertising was also increased. One traveler to the Show said during the drive to the Show, they heard the ad about the Show come alive three times on their radio.

Sometime in January, our land line telephone server had trouble with our phone. No incoming or outgoing calls for five weeks. No! We paid the telephone bill. It was during a critical time for the Show which was to happen. The rains and squirrels were the culprits. Our cell phones were used in a pinch. When fixed we immediately went to a much more cost effective service which saddled us with our internet provider which is like voice over Wi-Fi. Our spam calls also went to zero.

Elayne telephoned all table-holders from 2019 Show who had not re-upped for 2023. This produced many table renewals. Of course there were the people who had moved or changed phone numbers. Then there were medical issues (knees and hips led the list) which did not allow these folks to travel. There were also those who had lost interest in making knives or collecting, and others that did not have the money to finance a trip. Of course after three years, there were those who had departed.

Communication was a must do. For those who only had one table, an effort was made to talk them into a second table. Then there were those who were down on their financial luck which allowed us the opportunity to be creative. We wanted a full-to-capacity table-holder Show, and by golly we did it. Just letting it happen on its very own would be a dud. At Showtime we had just a bare few blank tables, so we went around and asked those who were next to a bare table if they could spread out. That worked. So we had our goal of 350 plus tables fulfilled.



Creativity was also explored with handicap aids like medical use scooters and wheel chairs. We also had two nurses on staff for medical urgencies. We had three such events in which we were able to use the wheelchairs to get these folks to the lobby. Dehydration and weakness seemed to be dominant. Those on blood thinners had the usual band aid patches. Pre-Show we had arranged with the food concessions to work to reduce the in-the-past long lines and also to have a menu that catered to our age group. It worked. We had one person on our staff who was a licensed security person. This was for the night security watch. Those who wore visible vests were facilitators who had medical training. They were not there for security reasons but assisted to produce a Show that was a happy and safe place to be.

We, from day one, always anticipated some disaster would leave us financially strapped. The Covid Pandemic was the disaster. *Knewsletters* mailed during the Summer months for three years with marginal new/renewal memberships. We drew from the reserves to make this Show happen. Without a reserve, we would not have had a Show in 2023. We need now to regroup and evaluate our financial situation.

Demonstrations have always been the heartbeat of our Show. The kitchen cutlery and knife sharpening, I am told,

had great turnouts. Best crowds ever. The martial arts have always been a crowd pleaser. We had a Covid casualty with one of these demonstrators, but Filipino Martial Arts filled in that vacancy. The event was again a crowd pleaser.

The displays of collections which help to educate our visitors have always been geared for young and old, female and male. Eighteen such displays graced our perimeter, The awards for judging of these displays were handmade Seax knives that had been projected to be used in 2020. Didn't happen, so these were housed until 2023.

Our handmade knife competition garnered 63 top quality knives to be judged. No easy task for sure. We have had three judges who are more than qualified to do this judging. A last minute scramble left us trying to substitute two judging positions, as the previous judges were not available at Showtime. Two judges were found who were highly qualified to replace our original choices. The results of the judging substantiated their qualifications.

The 2023 OKCA Show was a big smile event; and one that should leave a good imprint on our visitors, members and participants, one and all. 🐾



Displays at the Show

There were 18 museum quality displays by 16 displayers at the 2023 Show. The display winners choose one of the award knives which were completed from the 2019 Seax blanks for the 2023 Show. Awards were presented for the following displays:

Individual	Display Title	Knife Chosen
Loraine Micke-Hayden	Der Hirschfänger	Jeff Murison
Michael Kyle	Remington Knives	Peter Bromley
Phil Bailey	Gerber Mark II	David Kurt
Jim Pitblado	Remington Scout Knives	Cameron House
Randall Veenker	WWII Theater Knives	Gary Griffin
Barbara Kyle	Miniature Knives	Theo Eichorn
Mike Adamson	Kutmaster	Gene Martin
Bob Lowry	Devuces Of The Allied Clandestine WWII	Brion Baker
Chuck Morgan	Camillus Knives	Gary DeKorte
Ron Carriveau	Military Fighting Knives	Harlan Whitman
Dale Larson	Seax And Other Viking Blades	Bryan Wages

Thank you to all who displayed at the 2023 Show:

Mike Adamson - Phil Bailey - BK Brooks - Ron Carriveau - William Finney - James Gedlick -- Barbara Kyle - Michael Kyle - Dale Larson - Bob Lowry - Lorraine Micke-Hayden - Chuck Morgan - Connie Morgan - Jim Pitblado - Dave Schultz - Randall Veenker



These are the People who helped to make the 2023 OKCA Show the success it was

Mike Adamson

Steve Allely

Phil Bailey

Brion Baker

Bill Berg

Martin Brandt

Peter Bromley

B.K. Brooks

Glenda Brown

Ron Carriveau

Bryan Christensen

Chuck Cook

Ana Cooper

Tim Cooper

Edward Davis

Gary DeKorte

Martin Drivdahl

Theo Eichorn

dennis

elayne

Ray Ellingsen

George Filgate

William Finney

Bram Frank

James Gedlick

Dave Gentry

Eric Glessner

Sal Glessner

Robert Golden

Gary Griffin

Bob Hergert

Joshua Hill

Howard Hoskins

Cameron House

Joan Mae Howard

Brian Huegel

Roy Humenick

Dave Jones

Jim Jordan

David Kurt

Kelly Lane

Dale Larson

Bernard Levine

Bob Lowry

Gene Martin

Sally Martin

Jerry Melton

Lisa McCraney

Lorraine Micke-Hayden

Grace Mikolyski

Robert Miller

Lynn Moore

Chuck Morgan

Connie Morgan

Craig Morgan

Jeff Murison

Sue Myers

Jim Pitblado

John Priest

Ray Richard

Chuck Richards

Ed Schempp

Dave Schmeidt

Dave Schultz

Mike Silvey

Blair Todd

Mike Tyre

Randal Veenker

Bryan Wages

Lisa Wages

Dan Westlind

Harlan Whitman

Michael Yoh

Mark Zalesky

Donations

Many companies and individuals contribute knife-related items and financial support to the Oregon Knife Collectors Association Annual Show.

Silent auction and door prize items are displayed prominently during the course of the Show. Door prizes are awarded by drawing to the public who have paid Show admission.

The contributors to our organization are listed on our web page <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org>

The following is a list of the people and companies who have contributed to the OKCA 2023 Show:

Al Mar Knives - Gary Fadden

Dave Anderson

Apogee Cutlery

Benchmade Knives

Boker Mfg

Bill Burke - Blade Gallery

Buck Knives

Matthew Caldwell

Charlie Campagna

Coast Cutlery

Columbia River Knife & Tool

Common Sense Self Defense -

Bram Frank

Country Knives Inc - Brian

Huegel

Dexter-Russell

ETE Knives

Flexcut

Fox Chappel Publishing

Gransfors Bruk

Great Eastern Cutlery

Steve Greenough

Roy Humenick

Jim Jordan

KA-Bar Knives

KAI Shun

Kershaw Knives

Knife Magazine

David Kurt

Bruce Lanham Scrimshaw

Leatherman Tool Group

Michael Luft

Gene Martin

Mcusta/Condor

Lorraine Micke-Hayden

Ron Nelson

Oregon Leather

Protech

Neal Punchard

Mark Rotella

Ed Schempp

Dave Schultz

Mike Silvey

Rick Sorrell

Spyderco Knives

Will Stegner

Victorinox Swiss Army

White River Knife & Tool

W. R. Case & Sons

Wustoff Trident

Xikar







Handmade Knife Competition

There were 63 entries into the categories for competition by custom makers.

Plaques were awarded to the makers and were engraved by **Chuck Richards**.

Event Coordinator John Priest | Photography by George Filgate

Best in Show 2023



Folder "Whittler"
Rhidian Gatrill
Gibson BC Canada

© George Filgate Photography

Art

Frank Edwards
Nampa ID



Bowie

Erik Fritz
Forsyth MT



Damascus

John Davis
Salem OR



Fighting

Michael Faber
Reno NV



Hand Forged

Jeff Murison
North Plains OR



Hunter/Utility

Craig Morgan
Eugene OR



Kitchen

Bill Burke
Boise ID



Miniature Knife

Rhidian Gatrill
Gibsons BC



New Maker

Rhidian Gatrill
Gibsons BC





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Newsletter by elayne & dennis

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**This will be your last *Knewslettter* until September, 2023.
We will be taking a three month summer hiatus.**



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Membership is on a calendar year basis.

If your contact information (address, including email address, phone number) changes, please contact us.

Help us by writing articles for the *Knewslettter*

C U at the meeting,
May 17, 2023. 🐾



May 2023

