

5160 Club News for April 2010

Meeting. April 1, Woodcraft Store, Coburg Road, Eugene 6pm-8pm

The March meeting of the 5160 Club had our normal attendance of about 20 folks. There were several new faces - welcome!

The meeting kicked off with a "kid-in-a-candy-store" experience. Wayne Goddard introduced Jack Birky, tool collector extraordinaire. Wayne had invited Jack to our meeting to share samples from his phenomenal tool collection that related to things-that-go-cut, and boy howdy did we get a tour!



Jack Birky

There were stone and wood blades. Specialized knives for linoleum, Formica, wallpaper, and oil cloth. Tools for spur cutting. Pruning tools for grapes, shrubs, brush, and trees. Farrier's tools. Timber scribe knives. Chinese straight razors. Can openers. Antique multi-tools - I seem to remember one was French and another Japanese and the Japanese one was a MONSTER - another one was a fisherman's friend. There was a lancet. There was a hatchet knife. Plus hunting knives (one of Wayne's) and a buffalo skinner. And a whole set of race knives (that cut a U shaped "race" in wood) - for rubber tree sappers, barrel coopers, wine testers' markings, electrical traces, shipwrights' water line leading, bridge inspectors' marks, log house marking. puff puff puff <have to catch my breath> And I'd bet I've

missed some. Jack just kept pulling out one blade after another - giving background on each and every one - how it was used, history, anecdotes... until we had to get an extra table set up and



scoot knives down so he could lay out more and more... and more... here's some of the race knives and marking knives that wound up on the "extension" table - the timber scribes are in the upper right:

Wayne reminded us of the Great Bamboo Copper Ferrule Contest of 2010 - and had some more bamboo pieces for people to take for the handles. He got a positive response when he suggested a primitive knife workshop (no power tools - all steel knives) at Jim Jordan's place - maybe a couple of weeks after the April show.



Race knives and timber scribes.

Joe Essin (Woodcraft owner) announced an April 11 Youth For Christ auction and gave details



Here's Wayne with an example of an old blacksmith made all steel knife:

A question or two from the floor that got Wayne and Jack going on philosophies and techniques for restoring old knives and tools. What I got out of it was: the technique you choose depends on just how much you want to preserve the effects of time and tide - and how much you want a "cleaned-up" result. The specifics went by so fast that I did not get them written down.

One of the folks shared photos etc. of a belt grinder they'd built and that generated a general discussion of what to use for the wheels and pluses/minuses of steel versus wood frames and so on... It was mentioned that you can get 2x72 (and other) sanding belts in town through Oregon Industrial Supply - which is at the end of a little spur of W. 5th off of Bertelsen - out there past Cash-n-Carry and McKenzie Stone & Tile if you know where those are - and its still there even if you don't.

Discussion wandered on to mystery steel - including scavenged old files - which got Wayne to repeat the advice: test a piece of the steel before investing bladesmithing time in it. At the least, heat an end to critical (non-magnetic) - quench it in water - and if that end does not shatter with a hammer blow on the anvil, toss the steel! He also relayed the story of the accidental creation of stainless steel when British cannon-makers put too much Chromium in the mix, trying to match German guns.

Marty Brandt shared a Javanese Punal with a complex ferrule - a copper tube center with (I believe it was) two separate outer sleeves of highly decorated silver. I caught him in a blink - he wasn't really in a state of rhapsody - but I can't help sharing!

Craig Morgan shared another eastern blade (I did not catch the name) done up with brass.

Ken Swader relayed a cautionary tale - the gist of which is that if you go into a Federal building with a knife blade 2-1/2" or longer from the handle to the point - the 1st offense gets you written up in the Homeland Security database - the 2nd offense can get you up to \$5,000 fine

and 2 years in jail!!!

Back to the blades themselves: Lynn shared his display award knife - beautifully done!!!

Keith Johnson showed a book he has for reference with page after page of photos and formulas for getting just that right patina on the steel! "The Colouring, Bronzing and Patination



Lynn Moore Maker. Jade handle slabs, bronze bolsters engraved by Jerry Whitmore

of Metals" - pretty amazing (and spendy) so you might want to talk to Keith if there is a particular patina that you want to achieve.

And as always there was a good amount of milling about and sharing projects like this handsome horseshoe hanger and this blackened mustard finish blade made by Lynn Gledhill. I like it!



Keith Johnson



Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Michael Kemp



Wayne's Ramblings

“THE GREAT BAMBOO HANDLE/COPPER FERRULE KNIFEMAKING CONTEST”.

The box of treasures (\$100+ value) prize is ready for the judging at the April 1 meeting. Any questions, call Wayne at 541-689-8098 or e-mail at wgoddard44@comcast.net

Also, there is a trophy for the winner. Contest is open to one and all, the only rule is that the knife/sword has a bamboo handle with copper ferrules. Knives will be displayed at the April 1 meeting, each person present gets one vote, the most votes wins. Wayne will break a tie that will be backed up by a majority opinion ... after a discussion of the two knives.

Don't miss the Oregon Knife Show which is April 17 and 18. Members of OKCA and table holders can get in on Friday the 16th, which is the set-up day. See more at <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/okcashow.html>

A “shouldn't miss it” is the Metallurgy seminar on Friday at 9am, enter by the door at the front of the south side of the building. Phil Wilson will do a presentation on the latest CPM steels. And, we should have two or more steel salesmen there.

I'll be doing my sharpening class at 11AM on Saturday.

The collections at the knife show are judged on a point basis. The winners get handmade knives. It's fun for the collectors because the highest score gets first pick and on down the line. The knife by Lynn is a fine example of such a knife. The grinding competition at the show furnishes the blades for the award knives for the next year. There was an extra blade so I'm finishing it and should have it at the meeting. Jeff Crowner has made a beautiful knife for the awards too. Maybe he will bring it to the meeting.

Upcoming event in May will be a hammer in at Jim Jordan's farm. Details to be worked out but what I'd like to do is set up with totally portable outfits, minimal too and the emphasis will be on what I call “Blacksmith Knives” the definition of which is a knife that is made 90% on the anvil and finished with files and a stone. The picture below was taken at a similar event maybe five years ago ...or more.

See you soon at the meeting..... Wayne



“Moldy Jim” with his barrel forge and what looks like a makeshift blower.

