



The One And Only Monthly Newsletter of the Eugene 5160 Club



December Meeting: Thursday the 2nd at 6pm
at the Woodcraft store on Coburg Road, Eugene



How fast did November go by? The December meeting is in just a few days! I'd better get this newsletter out – so this issue may be a little briefer than usual.

At the last meeting Wayne Goddard started us up by having us introduce ourselves to the group – our name and a few words about our knife work. As usual there were old timer bladesmiths and relative newcomers like myself.

Wayne introduced John Priest – Vice President of the Oregon Knife Collectors Association – to give us a little insight into how knife judging works at the annual OKCA show in April.

John has been facilitating judging and being a judge for 15 years now so he has seen a lot of joys and tribulations in giving out awards at the show. John ropes in three judges every year: one knife maker, one knife collector, and one local judge.

There are 10 categories of awards – and over the years they've added and subtracted categories. You can try to persuade them to add a category of your choice if at least three makers agree to submit knives for it! The

standard categories are: Art Knife; Bowie; Fighter; Folder; Hand Forged; Hunter Utility; Miniature; New Maker; Damascus; and Best Of Show. To submit a blade in the New Maker category you must never have entered a knife maker's competition before. Hmm, maybe I'll have something worthy by April.

One constant is that the knives submitted for award judging must be essentially single maker knives. Sending a blade out for professional heat treating is OK. And I believe that embellishments like scrimshaw and engraving by another artist can be allowed, but I'd check that before submitting a blade.

One thing that John stressed repeatedly was that it is not the bells and whistles that win the day. It is the quality of workmanship and design.

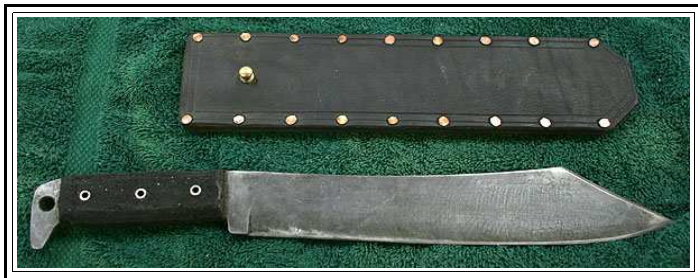
He relayed several stories of the judging process... down to one where there were two finalists. It sounds like they usually judge a batch of knives by a process of elimination: drop out the knives that have some sort of flaw in workmanship or design until there's just one left standing. So in this judging they got down to two knives and there was nothing “wrong” with either of them. They held them and talked about them and just

could **not** eliminate either one! Well, the final decision came down to subjective preference: the majority of the judges just LIKED one of the knives better: and that made the winner! And if I understood right, that was this blade that Wayne brought to the meeting:



And heck – if I didn't understand right – that's still one *fine* hunter!

If you missed the meeting you also missed this knife:



And these from Lynn Moore – the first is a really well built hunter – CPM154 with Buffalo horn scales on a tapered full tang:



This one is an Elmax blade with Walnut burl scales. It's a pleasure to hold – trust me.



And finally from Lynn – a beautiful work in N690 stainless. If I heard right the scales are Cocobolo? Whatever the wood they had that “chatoyant” thing going on in spades.



Wayne reinforced John's advice: focus on design and execution – that will get you the prize – not bells and whistles! He gave the example of a Bowie that he took to the Atlanta show. Plain. Elegant. Hand rubbed steel, ivory handle, steel guard and pommel: Best Bowie Award.

Then we got a Goddard treat: Jigs Galore! It went by pretty fast but these are my notes:



Here are a couple of clamps for holding blades during handle work.

The clamp on the left is like ones I use all the time – very handy since you can adjust the angle to match the shape of the piece of work. Especially great for keeping your sh*t from spinning under the drill press (the handles stick out far enough to brace against drill press verticals). The one on the upper left is to clamp the handle so you can file it for a ferrule – I expect you'd use a file with one side ground flat. The other jig is for – um – I forget.





And Now For Something Completely Different - Do I Have Your Attention?

We have been riding on Wayne's coattails for a couple of years now. I'm betting he will keep kicking in and we'll just get more in his debt for sharing his own experience, aesthetics, and wisdom-droppings. And the folks he's brought in to spend a couple of hours sharing their knowledge with us? Outstanding!

But Wayne has made it more and more clear that he wants/needs us to step up to the plate and give him some slack.

Let's talk it over at the meeting Thursday, but here's my suggestion: let's have a 5160 Steering Committee. I'd want it to operate on 5160 Club rules: no rules. Just a monthly meeting, folks that have ideas for what to do at a regular meeting or for a workshop show up and we hammer out who is going to get what set up for which meeting.

Yah yah I know – one more meeting (ugh). Here's what would get me to *another* monthly meeting: Sixth Street Bar & Grill has burger & brew for \$7 on Tuesday nights. In exchange for having an excuse to have one of their burgers every month I'll be the guy who coordinates/keeps track of who said they'd get what ready for which full club meeting. And I'd say we should meet on the last Tuesday of the month. That gives us time to panic if the plans have fallen through (either 2 days or 9 days depending on how month-end falls in the week). People who live far from Eugene can always email ideas/offers to us.

Obviously we want to keep sharing our own work at the meetings. I would be amazed if Wayne could restrain himself from bringing things in to share.

But we need to step up to the plate. My suggestion is not the only answer possible. Let's talk at the meeting!

Until then: Keep Well & wear eye protection when grinding (I just spent \$\$\$ on the eye doctor);

Michael Kemp

Most of these I think you can decipher. I especially like the “bow” jig for getting a nice even curve set. The one in the center is for measuring handle scale width to keep both scales at matching thickness.

And that rounds out Jigs Galore. Once again – if I've got something wrong here let me know and I'll publish a correction next month.

From there the discussion turned to mokume-gane – wood-grained-metal – and how to make it. It still sounds like we will have a workshop some time in 2011 for making this stuff - - - Awesome!

That wraps up my notes. Mark your calendars for the December meeting this Thursday!

In the mean time a number of our folks made it to the first Boise “Rocky Mountain Knife Show” (<http://www.rockymountainknifeshow.com/>) and everybody talked about what a great show it was. Same thing in the online forums I lurk in: <http://forums.dfoggknives.com/> <http://www.knifedogs.com/> Everybody was enthused – and the reports back that I saw were all positive.

Lynn Moore said that attendance was very light Friday – that was setup and “VIP Day” (collectors and dealers) – Saturday was great – lots of people. Lynn sold six knives and got an order for a seventh – he said that's the best show he's done so far. Sunday was slow, but that's normal. Lynn said there was a flea market and a gun show going on at the fairgrounds at the same time and that probably helped pull people in.