



## NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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

March 2015

### Mosaic Pins

Sally Martin

I'm guessing that most of you readers, if you know me, think of me as Gene Martin's wife. That's very true. Beyond that, I'm the pin lady, as a friend's daughter calls me. I should talk about myself; because, you know, it's all about me. However, I'll let you guys off the hook and talk about the pins.

Ten years ago, I didn't even know what a mosaic pin was. I thought it was a decorative object worn on the lapel of a coat or sweater. A year or so after Gene and I married, I saw a mosaic "knife" pin in the shop and asked what it was. He told me and showed me how to make them. He liked using them, but I saw that he was frustrated at making them and decided to relieve him of that job. I thought I'd do a better job anyway. For a while there, I really regretted thinking that.

On my first attempts to make pins, I would get only about three made before the epoxy set up. In addition, there was more epoxy on me, and even in my hair, than there was in the pins. That's really why I wear my hair short now and I went from dark to light; so when I do get epoxy in it, the epoxy is easy to find.

When I finally did get a few pins made, there were more than Gene needed; so I put them on our table. And to my surprise, they sold. I'm not sure what anyone who bought those first few pins would say about my workmanship; but believe me, they're a lot better today.

Eventually, I learned about extra slow cure epoxies and which had the longest working time before the epoxy thickened, thus allowing me to make larger batches. I also learned which ones to use for fast set up, colored epoxy, et cetera. There are an awful lot of epoxies out there.

During the whole learning experience, one of the tools I became fondly acquainted with was a vacuum pump. Another great tool was a micrometer, which I now have on all my work surfaces. Another thing I learned was how to use a grinder. I hurt myself a few times in the beginning; but now I use all of our different grinders, band saws, chop saws, et cetera. I love power tools.

I learned that there really are pins as small as .01 and tubes with a wall thickness of .005 and even smaller. The thicker the wall thickness, the less diameter there is to make a design



within. For example, if you have a .02 wall thickness, the actual wall takes up twice that amount leaving less room to create a design. I use those tubes with the thinnest walls that I can find. Finding tubes with thinner walls was a challenge all by itself that literally took years.

The different thickness of rods and other materials used in the design is important as is the fact that the epoxy itself takes up space. Often, a .319 rod will fit where a .032 rod won't. That's only .003 difference, the diameter of a human hair.

Colored pins use more epoxy and take longer to make. There are fewer designs in color; because in order for the color to be seen, there has to be a fairly large tube of that color somewhere in the design. If there are only small tubes, the color looks much darker than it is, in some case black or dark brown.

My whole pin making process has substantially improved from that first year. If you'd like to see for yourself, come see us at tables Q10, Q11, and Q12! 🐿️

# OKCA 2015 Show Theme

Ray Ellingsen

As we are fast closing in on the April 2015 Show, I want to post another reminder about our theme this year, which is Japanese Cutlery.

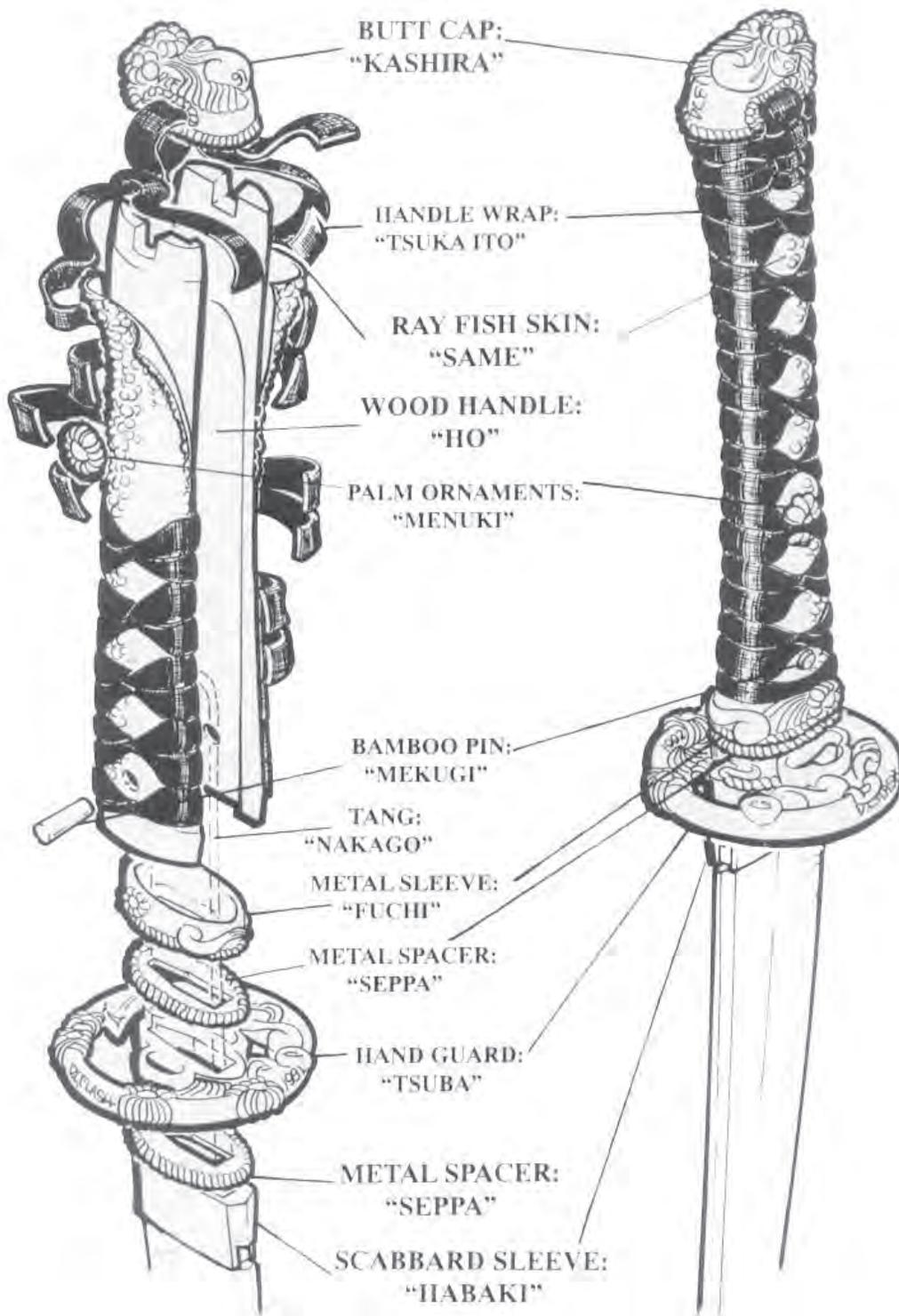
As I mentioned in the last *Knewsletter*, there will be special judging this year for Japanese swords and knives...and Japanese culinary knives, Japanese razors, Japanese machetes...You get the idea. Pretty much anything Japanese...that goes cut.

Once again, there will be two judging categories. The first will be for Japanese swords. The criteria for entry into this category is somewhat broad; it can be an older sword forged by a maker five hundred years ago or a custom sword by a new maker. The swords in this category can be *katana* or *wakizashi* only. Judging will be based on uniqueness, rarity, quality, artistic creativity, finish, etc...

The second category will be for Japanese cutlery. This will include culinary knives, tanto, razors, machetes, and any other smaller traditional Japanese blades. Judging will be based on the same qualities as those in the sword category, and the same rules of entry will apply. These cutting implements can be older, traditionally forged cutlery by makers long since passed or new custom makers.

The winner(s) for each of these new categories will be awarded one of the display award knives that have been embellished by some of the top knife makers in the country. You can take a look at these award knives on the OKCA website. They are pretty awesome.

And remember, if you wish to present a Japanese theme display this year, be it a collection of swords, Japanese culinary knives, or any other type of Japanese



cutting curiosities, you are highly encouraged to do so. You may contact the Show Coordinator to procure a display table. I wouldn't wait too long though. Seriously, if you want a display table, stop reading this and reserve one now.

As always, if you have any suggestions, questions, comments, queries, correspondences, or ideas, please contact us directly at the OKCA. See you all next month at the Show. 🗡️



## The 2015 April Show

Ain't a long now. The April Show is almost upon us. Just a few reminders. The Show doors are open on Friday, April 10, at 10AM, and not a minute before. When you enter the building from the west side, there will be Show packets for the table-holders which designate your table location and contain your Show badges. Do not ask for more badges. All this needs to be taken care of well before Showtime. Rules, Show information and information sheets regarding the displays and demonstrations can be found at the OKCA Club table. Do not roll heavy carts over the tiles at the west entrance. Broken tiles are expensive. Please use the east, back entrance for any unloading.

Friday is a casual day which is only open to members and table-holders. Set up your table or not - Cover your table or not; but this absolutely does not work on Saturday or Sunday. Tables must be open from the opening bell to closing bell. Judging for the handmade knife competition and the Japanese sword and cutlery judging will begin at 2PM in meeting room #3. Leave your items; and, when the judging is completed, an announcement will be made to gather your items.

Saturday will be the day for demonstrations, except for the forging which will take place on Sunday also. No signs will be allowed above head level. We also ask that there not be a gathering of bodies behind tables, as space can be tight sometimes. The Show closes at 3PM on Sunday, and we advertise that closing. Leaving early or folding early will result in severe consequences.

### If you Know of...

Friends or folks that figure they can get in early on Friday by purchasing their membership at the Show... please let them know they can do that **but** only after **2PM on Friday**. Getting the Show launched is our main goal, and last minute membership is low on our list in the

opening hours of the Show. So tell them to get their membership taken care of now; if they snooze they will lose.

### Funding for the OKCA

We fill holes in the budget by having a few events that supplement our treasury.

One is our Club knife (Great Eastern Whittler this year and we still have some 2014 Queen knife sets available), and the other is our Silent Auction on Saturday. **Brian Huegal from Pennsylvania** has been gracious with his request from his vendors to support our Show with items that we can auction. We get many companies that send us pretty nice items. We also solicit from our members if they want to donate an item that we can auction. A great example is the Mike Silvey knife donated by Mike Silvey that is pictured here. Anyone can get in on this support by donating an item. Help comes from many places.



### Display award knives

We have some of the display award knives in hand at this time. **John "Slim" Coleman, Gary Griffin, David Kurt, Gene Martin, Lynn Moore, Craig Morgan, Jim Ort, Sterling Radda, Ed Schempp, Jeremy Spake and Blair Todd**. In keeping with our theme, these knives follow the pattern of the Japanese *tanto*. They are beautiful and well executed. Go to the OKCA website to view the beauty of these knives, and the effort that each maker has put into this project.

### Articles herein....

I want to thank **Martin Drivdahl, Ray Ellingsen, Sally Martin, Owen McCullen, Herb Rockey and Merle Spencer** for their words in this issue. More words are needed, and I know that they are out there. Please share your knowledge, as this *Knewsletter* is a perfect medium for contributions from our membership.

### Head scratcher thoughts.....

We put straight knives in zippered cases for transport or storage. I have a degree of paranoia about how these knives should be placed in these pouches. A recent embroiled discussion took exception to

my logic so I thought I would share this puzzler. I unzip the empty case and proceed to place the knife edge down and point first into the case. And then I zip the case up. My fear has always been if someone only partially unzips the case the knife pointed at you could result in blood leakage. Reaching in and finding the handle seems the safer approach. The argument was that when one opens the zippered case, one does a complete unzip so one will see the lay of the knife and withdraw it correctly. Sounds to me like a class on Unzipping Cases 101.



### American greetings...

As a salesman I have done the greeting with the traditional shaking of the hands and have done it a bazillion times. Not no more, as the gallonage of hand disinfectants to ward off exchanging bugs was getting tiresome. So at this upcoming glad to see you greeting, I will be doing fist bumps or knuckle bumps exclusively. Unless of course you are a lady and prefer a hug. That offer not open to men.

### The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month which makes it March 18, 2015. I always look forward to this gathering, so mark your calendar and come be with us. Come smile with us with your latest purchase.

### It ain't too early to...

Make lodging reservations for the April Show. The Valley River Inn - (541)687-0123 - 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. The rooms fill up fast. Mention the Show when you register, as we are offered a special rate for the Oregon Knife Collectors. You might also note the Courtesy Inn - (541)345-3391 - the closest motel to the Knife Show. A Budget motel that has worked well with us over the years. ↘

# The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The February meeting was held February 18 at the Sizzler Restaurant. We had an attendance of 31.

Only members of the organization receive the February and March *Knewsletter*. We will mail all 2013, 2014, 2015 members, as well as 2012, 2013 and 2014 Show attendees the April *Knewsletter*. We do send the *Knewsletter* when an individual renews their membership.

Please be sure you have received your table confirmations and membership cards. Memberships are available for purchase from now until the Show. However I must have receipt of the payment prior to **March 31** to mail cards. After **March 31** until **April 8**, cards will be available for pick up at the door of the Show. No memberships (renewal or new) will be sold on **Friday, April 10, 2015** until **2:00PM**. Table-holder badges will be available at the Show entrance on Friday Set Up Day. Please be sure you have advised me the name for the second badge (only two badges per assignment). If it is necessary to make a table-holder badge at the Show, there will be charge of \$10.00. If the individual is not a member, they will not gain admittance until 2:00PM after a membership has been purchased. Only members of the organization are admitted on Friday, April 10, on Set Up Day.

## A Smile Knife

Martin Drivdahl

Since I live out here in the sticks of Montana, I'm unable to attend the OKCA dinner meetings. I like good quality, metal handled embossed knives. It makes me smile when I find another one and doing an article in the *Knewsletter* gives me a chance to "show and tell."

This 3-3/8" brass handled pen knife is tang stamped KRUSIUS BROTHERS GERMANY on both blades. Both handle sides show well defined scenes of old fashioned grain harvesting using hand scythes, rakes and pitchforks.

What's not to be happy and bring smiles to the faces of those involved in helping bring in a bountiful harvest? 🐾

We will be a full Show come Showtime. There will be new faces, but some of the faces will be the same friends we have seen for a number of Shows.

We have a number of 2014 Oregon Knife Collectors Limited Edition Queen Club Knife Sets available for sale. Please help us with this fun raising event.

We have an advert in this issue of the *Knewsletter* for the 2015 Limited Edition Northfield Club knife. Delivery at the Show.

If you have a display table, you will receive an email request to describe your display. If you have an entry in the Japanese Swords and Knives competition, please advise the OKCA so we can list that in our display information handout. The display description handouts will be available at the Show. There will also be a brief description of the displays in the April *Knewsletter*.

We have been receiving the display award knives from the makers who have volunteered to enhance them. Pictures of the knives which have been received can be viewed on our website. Thank you, makers, for your contribution to our Show.

Answers to your questions regarding the custom knife competition and the special theme competition were printed in the February *Knewsletter*. A copy of the *Knewsletter* can be viewed on the website.

We have been receiving donations for our Silent Auction thanks to **Brian Huegel**, Country Knives. Many of these knives are limited edition and not otherwise available for purchase. Please check the Club table Friday and Saturday and view these items and maybe enter a bid or two to purchase these items.



If you are shipping items to the OKCA, please use our special postal address of OKCA - 3003 W 11- PMB 172 EUGENE OR 97402. The mailing address for correspondence, memberships, table payments and articles is OKCA - P O Box 2091 - EUGENE OR 97402. You may always contact us via email or phone. We do return telephone calls if a message is left.

Thank you to the individuals who have contributed articles to our *Knewsletter*. They are very much enjoyed by the membership. We have also had a number of emails which have noted that a particular article has resulted in a new membership in our organization.

Meeting adjourned for Show-N-Tell.

I must apologize to anyone who has attempted to call about the OKCA, the OKCA Show, or membership during this later part of February. Our phone has worked only intermittently for several weeks. We have had email available.

See you at the meeting, March 18, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway Blvd, Eugene/Springfield OR. 🐾



# Interesting Knife Story

Herb Rockey

I was attending a meeting one evening with a friend with whom I fish in the summer. During the course of the meeting, he mentioned that he had a knife that needed a new sheath, as the one that was on it did not fit very well.

After the meeting he handed it to me and said that it had been kicking around in his pickup and tool boxes for several years and that the person who had given it to him about 30 years prior always believed in using quality tools. I looked at the knife, and it was a hunter with a very clean blade and handle. No nicks or rust to be seen. The sheath that he had was in very good condition, but the knife wobbled around in it and would slip off very easily. The handle keeper was of a different design, in that a loop came down from the top instead of the more traditional wraparound type. We didn't have much time to talk more, so I threw it in the truck and took off.

The next morning I looked at the knife again more closely. I was struck again by how nice the knife was and the quality of the sheath which was in near pristine condition with just a few wear marks; even though it had spent years knocking around in various boxes. Oh, did I mention that I'm a leather worker and often make knife sheaths so I can appreciate good quality sheaths?

Looking carefully at the sheath and knife, I realized that the knife was the right size for the sheath so simply pushed a bit harder and the knife snapped into place. Wallah, perfect fit. The owner had never done that apparently. Peering into the sheath, I could then tell that an insert was inside the sheath, ergo the snap. Problem solved, right. The knife fit perfectly and was in good condition so no need to make another sheath. Bummer, no work.

Being somewhat interested in knives (imagine that), I looked at the knife closer now. Very nice knife. As I mentioned previously, the knife was in near perfect condition and had not been abused. I looked for maker marks on the knife expecting to see a known maker, but nothing. There was only one name on it,

and it was not familiar to me. So a research project started. It did not take long to nail down what this knife was (Google knows everything). After the research I started handling the knife with a lot more care.

I gave the knife back to the owner and mentioned that he might want to make a shadow box for it and put it on his wall. This is what I found. The knife was a Morseth. Just Morseth. Apparently made by the original owner, Harry, and not his grandson who owned the company later on. The name was inscribed across the blade width. As near as I could tell, the knife was worth somewhere between \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00 in the condition it was, near pristine; and that it apparently was made sometime between 1953 and 1967. What a find. He was not interested in selling it, obviously. Later on he told me that he indeed had it mounted on his wall and had a new appreciation for "that old knife that's been kicking around in my tool boxes."

## Morseth

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia

The Morseth brand of knives was founded by Harry Morseth, a native of Norway who emigrated to the United States at age 17. After his death his grandson, Steve Morseth, continued making knives under the Morseth name. A. G. Russell bought the rights to the name and the equipment in 1971.

## Harry Morseth

Harry Morseth (1889-1967) began making knives in 1936 in Everett, Washington. Morseth primarily used A2 steel

and for the most part made hunting knives. After a trip to Norway in 1938, Morseth stopped using A2 planer blades and began importing Brusletto laminated blades. He ground the bevel of these blades to provide the desired edge and attached his own custom-made handles. In 1953 he patented the "Safe-lok" sheath system and in 1956 moved the factory to Clinton, Washington.

## Steve Morseth

After his death in 1967, Morseth's work



was carried on by his grandson, Steve Morseth, who had

been making knives since 1961 at the factory. The younger Morseth continued the business until December, 1971, when he sold the equipment, supplies and brand name "Morseth" to A. G. Russell of Springdale, Arkansas; Russell sold the majority of these as kits, for collectors and beginning knifemakers to assemble, themselves. Steve Morseth relocated to Redmond, Washington and made knives marked "S. Morseth" until his death in 1995. 🐦



# 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 Roofing Shingles) 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.

**Best Pocket Knife Today** - Matt Davidson - <http://bestpocketknifetoday.com/>

The **best Koa** available outside of Hawaii will again be at the April 2015 OKCA Show. Look for me at table S-06. Also available will be outstanding Mango and the ever popular Spalted Maple Burl. 253-653-8742 Steve Hughes

**FOR SALE:** Handle material - horn, antler, paired wood slabs,. Also blades and some power tools - grinders and buffers. Can deliver to the Oregon Show in April. If interested contact me Dewald Boswell (541)786-9833 Table 40

**Uncle Al's Hydraulic Press** - Sold by Riverside Machine, of DeQueen, Arkansas. ([www.riversidemachine.net](http://www.riversidemachine.net)) - 24 ton hydraulic forging press with an 8" stroke. - The base footprint is a compact 2' x 3', and the machine is 65" tall. - Weight of the machine is 650 pounds. -The motor is a Leeson (made in USA) PH-1, 230 volt, 3450 rpm, 5 HP. - hydraulic system is made by Prince MFG. Corp, the Royal Plate Plus -(made in USA), operating at 3,000 psi. Purchased in November, 2012 and has been used about 10 hours. - Price of the machine new is \$3,000 plus shipping. Make a reasonable offer. - Gary DeKorte. (360)808-9498. [gbdekorte@hotmail.com](mailto:gbdekorte@hotmail.com) - Sequim, Washington.

**Knife makers / Entrepreneurs** - Start your own business - \$50,000 to \$200,000 - 100% Financing - Start your business - Expand your business -Fund your next project - No up front Fees - Call for free consultation - JW Harding Finance - Michael Praver -(310)310-8614 - [mpraver@jwharding.com](mailto:mpraver@jwharding.com) - Mention OKCA

**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](http://www.nifeboy.com) (209)295-5568.

**FOR SALE:** Remington Bullet knives, new, orig. boxes. 1987-2015. 29 knives plus 4 anniversary editions, plus 2 wood display cases - \$2,000.00. Will deliver in OR/western WA. Roger Metzger (541)593-2988.

**I am a jewelry designer** and manufacturer in Salem OR, and I do custom work. I can set stones into steel, blades and handles of various materials. I have studied gemology and have a small collection of gemstones and Oregon rocks that can be cut to size and set. I also work in silver and gold and do just about any design. Meghan Donahue Jewelry Design - 189 Liberty St NE Unit B2a -Salem OR 97301 -( 503)967-5581 [www.meghandonahue.com](http://www.meghandonahue.com)

**Custom leather work.** Sheaths, holster and belts are my area of focus. All my sheaths are lined with a fine leather for protection of your blade...The fit on these sheaths is lock tight and strong. See my work on my website [www.countyholster.com](http://www.countyholster.com). John Schnase, Eugene OR (503)501-6067. Table F08.

**Sharpening Stone** - Non functioning for display only. Make an offer - Ed Holbrook - (503)266-2478.

**For Sale** - Oregon yearly Club knives, 1979 to 2012. Selling singly, 10% off current pricing. Call Fred (541)915-6241

**Looking for** 1902 US Saber marked " 1st. Lt. Robert M. Porter". Please contact Don Hanham at [dwhanham@gmail.com](mailto:dwhanham@gmail.com)

**SOG Knife Collector** is a new book by Michael W. Silvey in the military knife series. It covers a narrow area of collecting and helps the collector identify honest specimens and distinguish them from fakes. The format is 8.5 inches by 11 inches and is all in color. The soft cover book is less than fifty pages but includes all the know variations of SOG knives. The information covered by this book will be valuable to both the new and advanced collector. The printing is limited to 2,000 copies. \$20 plus shipping. Mike at (530) 644-4590 or [m.silvey@comcast.net](mailto:m.silvey@comcast.net)

**WANTED :** Western Wildlife Series knives produced from about 1978 to 1982 (letters B, C, D, E, F). I'm missing the knives with blade etches of eagle, elk, cougar, hunting dog, antelope and bear. Call Martin at (406)422-7490

**WANTED:** Custom knifemakers and collectors for the first annual Portland Knife Makers Show. The show will be held at the Portland Expo center Oct. 24 & 25, 2015. Open to knifemakers only, no Chinese stuff, no factory knives, no factory bloms. Limited to 175 tables the first year. The show will be held at the same time, but in a separate hall, as the famous Antique show so there will be thousands of potential customers. Or at least their husbands. For more details contact Dave Rappoport, Hawthorne Cutlery, Portland OR (503)234-8898, or sword rep@comcast.net. You can also contact Christine Palmer at [chris@christinepalmer.net](mailto:chris@christinepalmer.net).

**KNIVES FOR SALE:** Antique, custom & factory, pocketknives, folders, fixed blades, dirks, daggers, bowies, military, Indian, frontier, primitive & ethnic. Other collectibles also. Current colored catalog - FREE, Northwest Knives & Collectibles (503)362-9045 anytime.

**SPYDERCO KNIVES** wanted. Entire collections. River Valley Knives (715) 557-1688.

**AL MAR, BENCHMARKED, PACIFIC CUTLERY** wanted. Entire collections. River Valley Knives (715)557-1688.

**Wanted:** 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jiggged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. Ralph Nuno Sacramento (916)682-9305.

**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](mailto:loden@dka-online.com) or call (765) 244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

**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](mailto:wgoddard44@comcast.net).

**For Sale:** Duplicates of my old "WOOD HANDLE" Coke knives, \$100.00 each.. email: [ronjoyceedwards@comcast.net](mailto:ronjoyceedwards@comcast.net)

**For Sale:** older knives. Please visit [HHknives.com](http://HHknives.com) or [www.allaboutpocketknives.com](http://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](http://www.wildboarleather.com) - [ray@wildboarleather.com](mailto:ray@wildboarleather.com)

**Mosaic pins** and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at [www.customknife.com](http://www.customknife.com), email at [sally@customknife.com](mailto: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](http://www.customknife.com), contact Gene at [bladesmith@customknife.com](mailto:bladesmith@customknife.com), or call (541)846-6755.

**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](mailto:wagner_r@pacinfo.com)

**Knife Laws on-line.** Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 [www.knife-expert.com](http://www.knife-expert.com).

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## OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

**Craig Morgan**  
President (541)345-0152

**John Priest**  
Vice President (541)517-2029

**Elayne Ellingsen**  
Sec/Tres. (541)484-5564

**Joshua Hill**  
Master at Arms (503)580-8998

**Dennis Ellingsen**  
Show Chairman (541)484-5564

**Knewsletter** by elayne & dennis

**Web page** --- <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/>

**Club email** --- [okca@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto:okca@oregonknifeclub.org)

**Letters to.....**  
*OKCA P O Box 2091 Eugene OR 97402*

**Packages to.....**  
*OKCA 3003 W 11 Ave PMB 172 Eugene OR 97402*

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# JEST Bolo Knife

Owen McCullen

Some years ago, when it looked like I was going to Vietnam like most everyone else I knew, I tried to do all the things necessary for all contingencies. I bought my Randall knife, my own .357 Smith & Wesson Combat Magnum revolver and got a couple of supplements for my personal survival kit. We were limited to the .357 Magnum or .38 special, because we were required to carry the first six rounds as .38 tracer ammunition, for signaling purposes. If you went into the water in the dark, you could fire tracer rounds to help the “Angel” (the rescue helicopter) or the “Plane Guard” Destroyer find you.



On the way to Vietnam, all the aircraft carriers made their last stop at Subic Bay, RP (Republic of the Philippines). Subic was the jumping off point for Yankee Station, the main carrier launch area for air attacks on North Vietnam. Subic provided your last chance to prepare before things got serious. Subic was also one of the greatest natural harbors in the world, about the only harbor near Vietnam where an aircraft carrier could dock right alongside the pier, which made loading supplies much easier than using lighters or small barges to transmit supplies from the beach to the ship. It was also home to JEST (Jungle Environmental Survival Training).



Since North Vietnam was justly regarded as the most heavily defended airspace in the world for all time, the prospect of a downed pilot spending some time in the jungle could not be ruled out. Everyone had attended the basic survival training conducted at Eglin Air Force Base when going through US Naval School of PreFlight in Pensacola, Florida. It was very basic and rudimentary and not nearly as highly regarded as JEST in Subic Bay on the subject of jungle survival. But, not every pilot could attend JEST due to class sizes and time available for training. As the squadron survival officer, it was my responsibility to be in a position to teach others survival skills. That gave me the obligation to attend several fun schools. JEST was one of those.



The first thing I saw at JEST was a knife/machete not exactly like anything I had ever seen before. Obviously hand made, and perhaps a bit crude by our modern standards, it had a wicked but utilitarian appearance that struck me immediately. I already owned a bolo knife, made for the US military occupation force of the Philippine Constabulary. It was, by comparison to the JEST bolo, a poor excuse for a knife, dull and crude. It was not nearly like the knives I saw at JEST on display and for sale – cheap! I bought two, for \$5.00. I really did not know what a bargain I had.

My favorite has a blade of unpolished steel nearly 1/4” wide on the spine with a large belly near the tip; but a “bloody sharp tip” as a Brit attending JEST remarked, while mopping up blood from his lacerated finger. Just ahead of the handle the blade narrowed, as pictured. One of the remarkable things about the knife is the handle or grip. It is carabao horn, a buffalo

variant. The handle had amazing astringent properties. If you had a small cut, you just touched it to the handle; and the bleeding stopped immediately. I was informed that if you had a larger cut, and wished to stop the bleeding, you shaved bits of the handle directly into the wound; and it clotted the blood immediately. I cannot say how it works with larger wounds; but I can say that it works just like styptic pencil on smaller cuts, like the styptic pencil works on razor cuts, but faster.

The scabbard for the bolo style knife is made from a type of Philippine mahogany and is just under 1” thick overall. It does not have belt loops or anything of the sort. The wood is smooth; and it has a large protrusion near the top of the sheath, as it is intended to be worn stuck into a sash and the protrusion keeps it from sliding through. There were a few yards of nylon cord wound around the sheath, and I suppose it could be tied around your waist. However the cord could also serve a number of survival purposes, like fish line, lashing for snares, hanging food up above varmints that would steal it, clothesline, seine line for nets, lashings for shelters, etc., etc., etc.



What made the knife so amazing was the multitude of uses that it could be put to. All the instructors at JEST, other than a few regular Navy types, were Negritos. I have not researched the issue; but we were led to believe that they might have been the original inhabitants of Luzon, one of the two main islands in the Philippine chain (the other being Mindanao). What is certain is that the Negritos scared the living daylights out of native Filipinos. It was rumored that they were head hunters and cannibals and had practiced those arts as late as the World War II. Whenever there was a murder in Subic Bay (a frequent occurrence), and the body was not readily

found, it was always suspected that the Negritos had done the deed and spirited away the corpse for secret purposes – or a snack.



One side of the Cubi Point Naval Air Station (part of the Subic facility) was not fenced, being faced by over 120 miles of very dense jungle, with no roads or regular habitation. There was a real problem with theft, and it was suspected that the Filipinos were stealing valuable stuff and sneaking it around the ends of the fence through the jungle to where there was a road. Roving Marine patrols provided security, but not effectively enough. The straw that broke the camel's back was the theft of three 16" Naval cannon barrels, each weighing around 239,000 pounds of ordnance steel, just over 66 feet long. Each could fire a 16" projectile that weighed more than a VW bug (up to 2,700 pounds, up to 24 miles – up to 125 miles if rocket assisted).

The gun barrels walked off one night, and there were no roads that did not go through a controlled gate manned by armed Marines. There had been no truck traffic that particular night at all. Somehow the Filipinos got the replacement gun barrels off the base. No one could figure out how. Negritos were hired as private security to replace the Marines; and the thefts stopped immediately, but the three big gun barrels were never found. Rumors flew about a group of Filipino bodies later found

due to the odor of decomposing flesh that wafted onto the base. For sure there was a great uproar and protest by the Filipinos about our using Negritos as base security.

The bolo knives, in those days, were all hand made by the Negritos, without the benefit of power tools. The basic steel material was generally old car leaf springs, assumed to be 5160 steel. Whatever it is, it holds an edge well under serious use and can be resharpened without a huge effort. I have used mine for chopping sod in Florida, clearing berry brush in Oregon and fire preparation in hunting camps in several of the 48 states and Alaska. It would do almost anything a hatchet would do and do it better. It not only chopped but cut and sliced like a fine piece of cutlery.

The Negrito instructors at JEST used their knives for everything. They built shelters, fabricated tableware and silverware, dug latrines, made beds, made spears for monkeys in the trees and fish in the streams, made a form of bamboo fire starters and even fashioned a pressure cooker that cooked a smorgasbord of rice, fish, monkey meat, bamboo shoots and other unidentified jungle plants that was pretty good. At the left is a picture of a Negrito fashioning his pressure cooker for the evening meal. What was amazing was how fast a Negrito could start a fire from green bamboo and a bolo.

The Negritos used the bolo to shave thin bamboo fibers, or make thicker slices of bamboo, or chop bamboo. The bolos were sharp enough to shave hair off your forearm. They used the very sharp tip to make holes in bamboo for lashing or to aid fire starting. With it, they cleaned fish, gutted and field dressed monkeys. Quite obviously, it was also a weapon if needed; and it could be used to cut, slash, stab or in the reverse, as a club to bludgeon your enemy. Struck me that it would be superior to most tomahawk type small hatchets as a weapon. Imagine stabbing someone with a tomahawk!

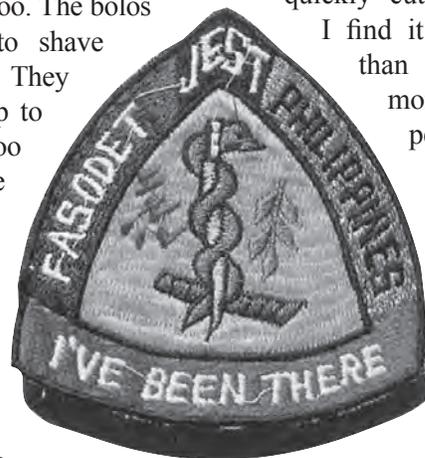
The Negritos felt that it was all they ever needed to make whatever they needed, other than clothes. They used the knife to scrape bamboo fibers which they braided or wove into belts, mats and cordage of a sort. However, generally for cordage, the Negritos preferred a type of vine that was always immediately at hand in the jungle. They could survive in the jungle with nothing more than their bolo, period.

Everyone I knew who attended JEST left with one or more bolos and a jacket patch from JEST. The bolo was just short enough so that it could be strapped to a survival vest, or strapped to your leg, or could be stuck diagonally in the seat pack of an A-4 ejection seat – if you bobbed the handle a bit. While it was an extremely useful implement, I never knew of any downed pilot using their bolo in an actual survival situation. On the other hand, they saw a lot of use in the yards in Florida.

The Negrito bolo was perhaps the most useful knife I have ever seen. It could used as a tool, a weapon, or a first aid kit. It literally did anything the Negrito needed to do on a daily basis. I have found mine very useful for a variety of uses, generally rough in nature. It is pretty much in the same condition as when I acquired it and is none the worse for wear, as far as I can tell. The heft and balance make it easy to use, and yet it quickly cuts with great authority.

I find it definitely more useful than a hatchet. It has split more than one deer and elk pelvis. It even removed a moose head from its shoulders once. It is heavy enough to chop effectively and yet light enough not to tire you out from prolonged use.

The Negrito bolo did it all and nothing else was needed. My wife, after reading this article, asked me why I had to have 50 or 60 knives that hardly did anything. I am not sure how to answer that one. Any ideas?



# A Riveting Experience

Merle Spencer

A while back I had a surprising experience in putting mother-of-pearl handles on a Damascus blade. It was the first time I had attempted anything using mother-of-pearl.

I managed to get all the holes drilled without cracking anything and got the scales fitted and adhered to the tang and the bolsters. Final shaping went well. It turned out to be a beautiful knife ... except for one thing. When I was doing the final polishing of the bolsters, I noticed that the three rivets that I had pounded down into the nickel silver bolsters were actually showing through. This is not good.

On thinking back, I remembered that I had riveted the one-fourth inch thick bolsters to the tang with a very good solid fit. That had always worked before, since the handle scales were thicker and everything would shape down into a nice handle.

Sometimes I reamed the top part of the holes in the bolsters by slightly slanting the bit so the pins could mushroom down there as they were riveted. Other times I just hammered them down without reaming the holes and things went well.

This time I had neglected to take into account that the pearl scales, even backed by a black fiber spacer, were still quite a bit thinner than the thickness of the bolsters. So when the bolsters were sanded down to the pearl, the mushroom crown of the pins was gone. Three little circles showed just where those pins were.

Now what to do? Start over? No!

Since I have never found a situation in making knives where I could not repair a mistake, I came up with a solution to this one. I ran a bead of Super Glue along the joint of the bolsters and blade to hold things temporarily, till I could come up with an idea. My plan now is to engrave a pattern on each bolster whereby the stippled background will rivet the three pins to hold them in place.

At present I am searching for a suitable design and a procedure for transferring it to the bolsters. The design must be such that the purpose is not obvious. A better way in the future would be to ream the holes prior to riveting with the proper size tapered reamer, but those reamers are expensive. I am about ready to bite that bullet. In the meantime, this becomes one of those ever-present unfinished projects. Wish me luck. 🐸





# The Knewsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association  
PO Box 2091  
Eugene, OR 97402

## 2015 Great Eastern Split Back Whittler

The Oregon Knife Collectors 2015 Club knife will be unique with an etch of our state logo and a beaver shield. The tang stamp will be Northfield. The handles will be peach seed jugged chestnut bone and the 3 blades will be 1095 polished carbon steel. The blades are clip, pen and coping/sheepfoot. Size closed is 3-7/8". There will be a total of 52 knives of which 50 will be serial numbered. The knife will come in a Great Eastern tube with the OKCA label. This offer is only available to OKCA Club members.

This is an organizational funding project and allows members to support the organization and get a great return on their investment.

### 2015 OKCA Club Knife Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Great Eastern Whittler \$120.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping if needed - add \$15.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total:      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment in full must accompany your order to reserve your knife

Delivery on April 11th 2015 at the April Show

