



Western Canada Knife Association

NEWSLETTER

Editors: Ron & Linda Nelson



A First for 2009

This Cal Ganshorn Bowie is his first knife for 2009. All metal on this fine knife is Cal's own damascus. There is a copper spacer between the guard and the bolster and the handle is Musk Ox. The ladder pattern damascus has 300 layers of 1080 and 15N20, all forged by the maker. The blade is 9 3/8" and the overall length is 14 1/4". A close-up picture of the handle is added at the end of the newsletter.

Your Executive

for

2008

President - Ron Nelson

Vice President - Roger Hatt

Secretary - Don Stevenson

Treasurer - Linda Nelson

Upcoming shows in 2009

March 14 - 15 HACS Show in
Chilliwack, BC

April 17, 18 and 19th OKCA
Show in Eugene, Oregon

April 25th and 26th KTSP
Association in Kamloops, BC

ARE YOU COMING TO THE KAMLOOPS GUN SHOW THIS YEAR?

As of February 5th, there have been over 350 tables rented for the April 25th and 26th show. Art Bourne is still the fellow to contact if you want a sales table with the WCKA people. They have planned for 480 tables this year but they will be going quickly as this show has been one of the best in BC. A poster advertising the Kamloops show is

included in this newsletter and also an application form for those of us who were not selling at last year's show and therefore did not get all the pertinent information in the mail. Of course, even if you are not selling at the show, don't forget we have the WCKA General Meeting upstairs in the main building starting about a half hour after the show closes to the public on Saturday, April 25th.

WCKA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual general meeting this year will be once again held in the main building where our Club has its sales and Club information table. The room is at the top of the stairs above the entrance to the show. We will meet at 5:30 PM. The Club will provide fresh snacks and cold drinks and we encourage our members to join us and socialize with other like-minded people. We will try to start the meeting promptly at 6:00 PM and conduct our business in an efficient and timely manner. There will be opportunities for everyone to air their ideas or concerns. If you would rather just enjoy the company and listen to the goings on then that will be fine, too.

An important part of the annual meeting is to elect the new executive. Nominations will be taken from the floor and all members in good standing may run for any office or be chosen to look after one or more of the various committees that we have. At present, the current executive are willing to let their names stand for another year so if you are not interested in being on the executive please note that there will be no shanghaing or begging this year.

Our Treasurer, Linda Nelson will have a detailed account of our current finances to present to the members and there will be several copies made to distribute. The minutes from last year's AGM will be read out and hopefully accepted as read or with additions or omissions. As in the past years, we encourage discussion and sharing ideas to help make our Club a more vibrant association.

At the end of the meeting, we will have a draw for door prizes that can be won by any member present at the meeting. We did that for a few times in the early years of our Club and would like to try it again. We have 2 donations thus far and are willing to accept more. Please let our president, Ron Nelson know if you have something you want to donate.

On a final note, after the meeting last year a number of the members headed out to a pub for more socializing and a more substantial meal. Plan to join us this year. We promise to not make it too late as many of us have to be behind our sales tables early Sunday morning.

WCKA KNIFE AWARDS

It's been a few years since we awarded plaques to our members who entered their knives into a knife competition. During a conference call between the members of the Executive, it was decided to try and reinstitute the knife competition and the awarding of plaques to the winners. The rules of the competition are as follows:

W.C.K.A. Knife Competition Rules

1. Only members of the Western Canada Knife Association who have a sales table can participate in the knife competition at the annual show.
2. The exception to the above rule is for a member who wishes to enter a knife he has made in the new maker's category. There will be no requirement to have a sales table. He/she may only enter this category once.
3. For the knife competition, only knives made since the WCKA Show of the previous year may be entered in the competition.
4. There needs to be a minimum of two (2) entries for each category for there to be a competition.
5. Knives entered in the WCKA Show in Kamloops cannot have been entered in other knife show competitions.
6. For all knives entered into competition, the maker must have done all the work himself or herself. The exceptions are heat treating, engraving and/or scrimshaw work.

Knife Competition Categories

1. Best Hunter/Utility
2. Best Folder
3. Best Bowie
4. Best Miniature
5. Best Art Knife
6. Best New Maker
7. Best Display by a Collector
8. Best of Show

KNIFE AWARDS CONT.

We do not know at this time how many makers are going to be at the 2009 show nor how many will want to enter the knife competition. There has always been a little bit of uncertainty dealing with the competition because of the varying degree of expertise that each member brings to the table. For many makers it has taken years to hone their skills. Time, effort and attention to detail plus a lot of skill are needed to produce a great knife. The plaques that we award in each category will not be at the show but instead will be mailed to the winners after the show is over and we have the plaques needed made up. This will help save costs if there are categories that are not contested. Good luck to everyone! If anyone knows someone who will help judge the knife competition, please let one of the executive members know so that the person can be contacted to see if they would be willing to give up a bit of their time to help the Club out.

eBay Sales

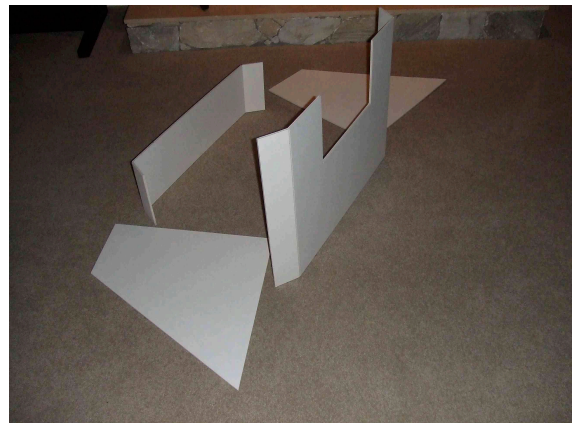
It's nice to see that Ron Lockhart has once again started selling knives made by present and past WCKA members on his eBay site. With the dramatic changes to our worldwide economy, it may be difficult to realize the same prices that these same makers fetched a year ago. My personal observation is that the prices aren't going as high but . . . if two collectors go to war over a particular piece then the sky is the limit. Good luck to all of you in your internet sales and purchases.

Light Boxes

I, Ron Nelson, recently attempted to make a light box with which I could take pictures of the custom knives in my collection. Starting with Cal Ganshorn's article in an issue of the Saskatchewan Knife Makers Guild newsletter and related items on the subject in Internet knife forums, I finally came up with the following design that for the amateur works reasonably well. The box itself is made of foam board that can be bought at any Michael's craft stores and quite possibly at picture framing shops. The flaps that hold the pieces together are connected with pieces of "Velcro" that have a sticky backing. This makes it easy to assemble/disassemble

the box as needed. Put away this box is 24" x 20" x 1". To make a cover to diffuse the bright lights used to illuminate the object being photographed, I tried 3 different materials - all worked reasonable well. A white garbage bag works but I didn't want to tape it to the box so devised a weighted system that let it drape over the top of the box opening. My second choice of material was a thin sheet of mylar film that was stiffer than a garbage bag but it, too, needed to be stretched over the opening so that it would not droop inside. It was also pricey. My final solution was to use a piece of opaque plexiglass-like material that was about 1/16 of an inch thick. It worked best of all for me. My final problem was to find the proper lights to illuminate the interior of the light box. I tried several kinds from places like Home Depot and a local lighting store but they were too weak and cast a yellowish hue. My answer to that was to check the Internet for 5000K lights. I ended up going to a large photography store and bought 3 photo floods that were 250 W each. The problem is that they need ceramic bases because of all the heat they produce yet they worked fine. They are daylight balanced but only 4800K each. The box works equally well minus the lights in bright daylight.

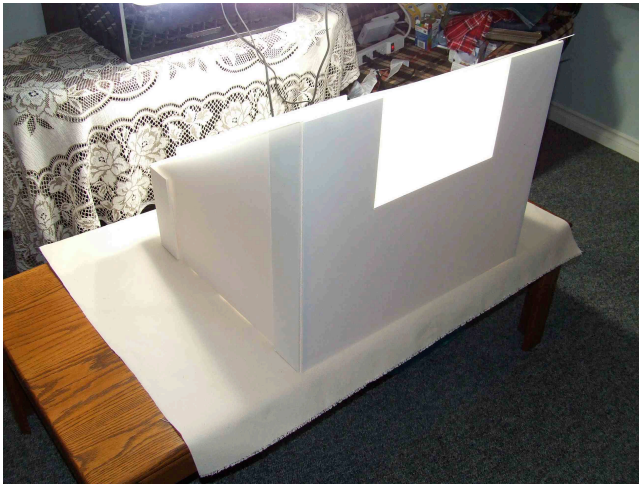
The outside dimensions of the front of the box are 24" by 20". The opening is 8" by 12". The flaps on the sides of the front and rear sections are 3" wide. The foam board is only cut part way through so that the side pieces form a flap. The side pieces are 20" at the base with the back being 8" high and the front 20". The back piece is 24" by 8" and then add the 3" flaps on each end which are used to hold the box together using pieces of sticky backed Velcro.



LIGHT BOXES CONT.

The whole set-up is very light, easy to take down and doesn't take up much storage space. As viewed in the following picture, this is how I had it set up to take a few knife pictures. The box is on a fabric covered coffee table and I have the lights rigged up behind it in a somewhat precarious position. It'll be a temporary thing till I decide how it will all look in the end. The light box will most likely be placed on a desk or table at least 30" high so that I can stand to take the pictures.

- Costs: foam board from Michael's - \$10
- flood lights - \$5 each = Kerrisdale Cameras
- clamp-on light holders -\$17 ea. - Home Depot
- lt. diffuser (25" x 25") \$18 - Industrial Plastics



This picture of a 2003 Marzitelli folder was taken using the light box around 9 PM in late January.

Member's Ads

George Roberts will be at the Kamloops show again this year and has the following used equipment for sale:

- a) 1 hp Baldor double buffer, 3450 rpm and 7/8" shafts, like-new condition - \$400
- b) 3/4 hp Baldor 10" flat disc sander with a reversing drum, like-new condition - \$400
- c) Many assorted rubber wheels from 2" to 10" that will fit Burr King and Wilton equipment
- d) Used buffing wheels - 60 ply sewn with 1" centers, approx. 8" diameter. Will bring to the show for pick-up by anyone who needs them.
- e) Selling part of my knife collection including names like Ron Gaston, Debragus, Cepec, Linklatter and Ron Post folders - ALL NEW!
- f) Selling a collection of about 20 old pocket knives. Not all in great condition. Will sell as a lot. Contact George before the April 24/25th show in Kamloops if you are interested in any of these items. (Editor) Please don't wait until the last minute as he has to pack for the long trip down. He can be contacted in his shop during the afternoons. 1 867 667-7099

Rob and Marilyn Ridley are trying to compile a list of knife makers who teach courses. They would like to list them on their website - hopefully for mutual benefit. This is free advertising for those of you have the gift of teaching.

Rob and Marilyn have their new web base supply store up and running. Have a look at their offerings. Their web page is www.knifemaker.ca They can also be reached at their toll free number - 1-888-858-3343. They'll be in Kamloops and the Saskatchewan Symposium in Regina at the end of March.

Terry and Carol Lee will be hosting 2 stock removal knife making courses at their home in Lacombe, Alberta. The dates are Feb. 27, 28 and March 1st, 2009 and the second course is a week later on March 6, 7 and 8th. **Ed Storch** is the Instructor. **Contact Terry at 403 - 782-2250 or tlee@albertahighspeed.net**

MEMBER'S ADS CONT.

Ed Storch is an active knife maker who also doubles as a teacher. We are a little late getting his earlier classes for the year advertised in the newsletter but you will still have the opportunity to attend the following workshops.

March 13, 14 and 15th - making Damascus at Ed's

April 3, 4 and 5th - making Damascus at Ed's

April 17, 18 and 19th - Stock removal at Ed's shop

Call 780 763-2214 for prices and details.

** Dates may change. **

Notes: Damascus may be San Mai. If requested and there is enough interest, sword making, friction folders, forge, hydraulic press, converting a wood band saw to cut metal or air hammer classes can be arranged.

Ed Storch Phone: 780 763-2214

RR#4

Mannville, Alberta T0B 2W0

Neil Ashworth will hold the 2009 Knife Symposium in June 2009. More information to follow.

Tips submitted by Ed Storch

Roger Hatt (and now others) speeds up his wood cutting band saw to cut metal.

A dramatic handle can be made from gluing and splitting Lee Valley pen blanks.

Black-white ebony from "W.G. Chanin Hardwoods" in Edmonton is also eye-catching. He has many interesting woods.

Engravers and Scrimshanders

There is a need to let our members know about those individuals who can enhance the work of the knife maker. Following is a short list of engravers and one scrimshander whose work has adorned the knives of many of our members. Their work has been featured in issues of the Knife Annual, knife magazines and on the Internet sites of knife purveyors. Your editors have personally talked to these artisans and they have consented to let their

names and contact information appear on these pages.

Engravers

Vladimir Vancura works on knives and firearms. He is very approachable and may be contacted at:

P.O. Box 112

Bradwell, Saskatchewan SoK 0P0

Phone - 306 257-3869

Shawna Whiteside is an engraver whose company name is Sweet Iron Silver Company. Shawna is also very approachable and easy to converse with on the phone. She can be contacted at:

Sweet Iron Silver Co.

Box 2 Site 9

RR #1

Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0

Phone - 463 816-4370

Scrimshander

Virginia Hall (Ginny) is back doing what she likes to do best after taking some time off to let her hands renew themselves. Phone her to discuss your needs and she is more than willing to help you. Contact Ginny at:

1802 Demorest Road

Armstrong, BC V0E 1B8

Phone - 250 546-8814



Cal Ganshorn - Damascus and Musk Ox handle.

Tips on how to work with knife scales by Craig Stevens

BLOCKS

My blocks are polymer stabilized (not polycryl). What's the difference? Alot! Polycryl is a solution used in controlling green woods from cracking while drying. It is not true stabilization. Polymer Stabilization on the other hand is done under immense pressure. The polymer is force completely through the wood block then cured. When done correctly it will make the wood have the same characteristics as plexiglas or acrylic sheets. It files and carves evenly and wonderfully! It is much less prone to burns while sanding, and though it can still soak up water, the water no longer has the ability to crack and warp the wood. It simple dries back out as if it had never gotten wet. Most of this wood is made for knife, pool cue, game calls, pens and smaller items. The figure is smaller and tighter then other woods making it perfect for these uses. Blocks are a bit more expensive but you get more wood yield so it averages out. I like cutting my own woods to maximize them. Most times in buying wood in block form you can get extra sets of scales if cut on a good band saw (14 teeth per inch raker blades). Don't waste your time or wood, testing whether or not I am correct. I have been at this a long time (35 years) and have tried every blade out there; even carbide tipped. Grizzly Tools has them for around 10 dollars and the kerf is .35 so you will not waste your wood. They make a very smooth cut; cutting down on sanding. Large blocks... much harder to come by, but in the long run you get better figure placement on your woods (can cut them at differing angles) and in most cases get more yield.

SUPERGLUE

Sometimes when you cut into blocks, there will be cracks and or pits (it's inevitable, we all fight it; so no whining). A good super glue is your best friend here. You want to have thin, medium and thick and also black (I love black). Fill cracks with it and you make your wood look even more interesting! Most cracks I fill with black. If they are larger, I use Star Bond from a company called CHP International. Their

prices are the best I have found and their glue is awesome.

EPOXY

I use West System epoxies. I also get epoxy dyes to dye it what ever color I want. So if I need to fill large voids this is how I do it. Want to know how to perfectly fill a set of knife scales in one shot? Drum roll please! Mix black epoxy dye (love the look) but you can keep it clear if you prefer. Press epoxy in with your thumb forcing it through the woods fibers - use gloves! Epoxy will wipe out your kidneys. Slip it into a Ziploc sandwich baggy...yes, that's what I said...Ziploc. Why, because they are made of polypropylene plastic. It is one of the few things epoxy will NOT stick to. Also for larger projects GARBAGE BAGS made of the same material can be used. One scale goes in each baggy. Have particleboard cut into slightly oversize pieces and then stack your two knife scales together and put a piece of board on each side. Use large office paper clip type holders for clamps (cheap and perfect). Clamp and let dry. Why do this? Your scales will be perfectly flat! Not only that, but epoxy is one of the few glues that sands fast and easily. It takes 2 seconds to sand and prep them. Defects in wood, wood that is gnarly, spalted or rotting is always going to have the most figure and character. Hope this helps in your endeavors.

WARPING WOODS

Even polymer stabilized woods can warp a bit when cutting them. The blade heats the polymer to the point that it softens then the wood's grain pulls the wood so that when the polymer cools it's now warped. You can undo this by heating the cut wood in the oven at around 250 to 300 degrees for about 10 minutes and placing it between two pieces of steel, brass, nickel or what ever bar stock you may have lying around. Clamp it till it cools and it is now flat. Polymer melts and then when it cools, it hardens in the shape it is put in and stays that way.

TIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

KNIFE SCALES

Never sand them on a sander. The wood will not be flat on the back. Most people don't have a flat marble block but you can use a thick piece of glass or even high density particleboard (I use lots of this in my shop). Klingspor sells sand paper and other items. They sell rolls of sand paper with adhesive backing that you just stick down and sand. It will ensure that your scales are truly flat. If you really want a tip...try their zirconia belts for your sanders. It is a wonderful company to deal with and they have excellent products.

Ok, one more tip and that's it ...Want to know how to hold onto a small knife scale that is hard to hold on to while you are sanding it? There are two ways... one, use 3m matte spray that you get it at most craft stores. It's tacky like rubber cement but removable. Spray it on your gloved fingers (make sure gloves are tight fitting) then sand...no slipping! Another way is to take thin pieces of wood and frame in a little box on a piece of particleboard. Make sure the little frame is thinner than your scales. Glue them with hot glue or super glue and drop your scale on your sanding block. Use your new sanding jig and sand. No slipping.

Craig Stevens

Seven safety tips for your knife shop.

1. Wear hearing protectors to avoid hearing loss .
2. Wear a good respirator when sanding and grinding. Dust can cause all sorts of lung problems. Natural products like wood can cause allergies and sinusitis. Some wood species contain alkaloids which can cause swelling of the respiratory tract and severe allergic reactions.

3. Wear safety glasses – metal filings and splinters can penetrate the eyes and cause blindness.
4. Always think and concentrate when you use equipment like a band saw – you can't buy new fingers, once they are off they are gone!
5. Be careful when taking medication while you are working. Allergy medication, Flu medication and cough mixtures can make you drowsy.
6. When you are sick stay in bed and think about the knives you what to make. A healthy knifemaker can be much more productive than one who is nursing an injury because he did not follow these rules.
7. The GOLDEN RULE – rather be safe than sorry. Hearing loss is permanent, lung problems maybe fatal and a blind knifemaker is no good!



A sample of a Craig Stevens set of knife scales.

WCKA Membership Application For 2009

New Member _____
Renewal Membership _____

Year 2009

MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE - JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

Knifemaker/Associate Single \$20.00
Knifemaker/Associate & Family* \$25.00

* Family members must all reside at the same residence to qualify for Family Memberships.
Associate members includes: Collectors, Dealers, Mfr./Distributors

(WCKA Membership includes Newsletter)

Name(s): _____

(Please include all names for family memberships)

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov./State _____

Postal Code/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

Payment enclosed: \$ _____ Date: _____

Membership list, complete with member information, will be sent to all members.

Do you want your name to appear on this list?

Yes _____

No _____

Return to: WCKA, 19861 – 114 B Avenue, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 1

KAMLOOPS TARGET SPORTS ASSOCIATION

April 25 & 26, 2009 GUN & ANTIQUE SHOW

McArthur Island Sports Centre - 12th. Street South, Kamloops, B.C.
KTSA SHOW Mailing Address: P. O. Box 744 Kamloops, BC V2C 5M4

**For Information Contact: Art Mon. to Fri. (250) 376-7871 or Cell (250) 819-2442
Email gctech@shaw.ca**

Exhibitor Application/Contract: To be assured tables please return as soon as possible. Tables will be issued in order of receipt of application. No phone reservations.

Name _____ Phone () _____
Please Print Clearly

Address _____ Postal Code _____

City _____ E-mail address _____

Display only table(s) Qty _____ @ \$40/each Trade (sales) table(s) Qty _____ @ \$50/each

Each Exhibitor will receive 2 free ribbons. Additional Ribbons Qty _____ @ \$10.00 each.

Overnight parking for recreation vehicles in the parking lot is available from the City at \$15.00 per night. City of Kamloops Bylaw Officers will collect fees on site. **Please be aware that No Pets are Allowed in McArthur Island Park.**

Display Tables: Only Historical & Educational qualify. If judging is requested please check _____

FOR CONFIRMATION: please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with payment. **PAYMENT IN FULL** must accompany this application to reserve space. No post-dated cheques!

Maximum of 6 Tables per Exhibitor.

Make Cheques Payable to: KTSA Show and mail to P. O. Box 744 Kamloops, BC V2C 5M4

Briefly describe the goods to be displayed and /or sold: _____

Special Requirements or needs: tables back to back; in a row; near or next to..state friend's full name.
We will accommodate these requests where possible.

Need to setup Saturday morning (**Must** be completed before 9 AM) _____yes _____ no

Do you need electrical power _____ yes _____ no

MUST have wall space for display _____ yes _____ no.

I agree to be bound by the Show Rules of this contract & comply with all Federal & local laws & regulations.

Exhibitor's Signature _____ date: _____

Show begins on Saturday, April 25th. 9 am to 5 pm; and Sunday, April 26th. 9 am to 3 pm.

See enclosed pages for Show Rules, Motel Information, Route Map, etc.

Do you wish to attend our Annual Buffet Dinner for the Exhibitors & Guests? Y___ N___ Reserve ___ @ \$17.00 ea.
To avoid disappointment, tickets should be purchased with the returned application. Dinner served at 6:00 PM
Saturday April 25, 2009 upstairs in McArthur Island Sports Centre. Tickets will also be available at the Show on
setup day, Fri. April 24th. 2009 until 9:00 PM.

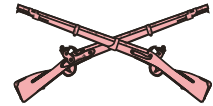
K.T.S.A. Use only

Date received _____ Rec'd: \$ _____ Chq. ___ MO ___ Cash ___ Rec'd by _____



**Kamloops Target
Sports Association**

**26th Annual
Kamloops**



**GUN &
ANTIQU
SHOW & SALE**

McArthur Island Sports Centre - 12th. Street South - Kamloops, B.C.
Show Times:- Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm & Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Admission \$6.00 Seniors \$4.00 (Gold Card)
Accompanied children 12 and under Free.

**April 25 & 26
2009**

Including...
9th Annual

Custom Knife Show



Western Canada Knife Association

**Free Parking
ATM on Site**

For Information write to:
P.O. Box 744, Kamloops BC V2C 5M4
www.ktsa.ca - Email gctech@shaw.ca
Ph. (250) 376-7871 Cell (250) 819-2442