



Western Canada Knife Association

# NEWSLETTER

Editors: Ron & Linda Nelson



## WCKA 2009 AGM

There were 16 of us who stayed after the show on Saturday to conduct the business of the Club. Present were (Back L to R) Ron Nelson, Gerry Kievit, Don Stevenson, Marilyn Ridley, Rob Ridley, Mike Pizio, George Roberts, Rhonda Reiter, Randy Reiter, Ron Twa and Elliot Reiter. The front row (L to R) Linda Nelson, Frank Sargeant, Cecil Harder, Garth Hindmarch and Roger Hatt. Thanks go out to these fine people for making the Club work.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR COLLECTION WHEN YOU ARE GONE?

Several years ago, a friend of mine from Washington State passed away quite suddenly at the end of August. His health was poor so it shouldn't have been totally unexpected. He was a major collector of Marbles knives and outdoor equipment and had one of the more complete collections in the USA. But Don had foreseen the time when he would be no longer with us and so had been selling off his

collection for over a year. Some pieces were sold to individual collectors and large portions went to deep pocketed collectors that he knew back East. In the end, Don's collection was gone so that his wife didn't have that to worry about.

This past year, your president added several Canadian made Bowie knives to his collection that were part of the estate of a long time collector on

Your Executive for  
2009 - 2010

President - Ron Nelson

Vice President - Roger Hatt

Secretary - Don Stevenson

Treasurer - Linda Nelson

### Upcoming shows in 2010

Historical Arms Collectors of BC

March 13 & 14, 2010

Heritage Park, Chilliwack, BC

Oregon Knife Collectors Show

April 16, 17 and 18, 2010

Eugene, Oregon

Kamloops Target Sports Assoc.

April 24 & 25, 2010

McArthur Island Sports Ctr.

Kamloops, BC

### **WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR COLLECTION... CONT.**

Vancouver Island. Ron Lockhart, a member of the WCKA and long time friend of this fellow agreed to sell his knives on eBay for the estate. It turns out this collector didn't have any relatives in Canada and his nephew in the UK was not interested in the collection. There were a great number of custom and semi-custom knives that became available. The prices were reasonable but not cheap and when it was all over (several months later) the collection was dispersed and the nephew realized quite a profit.

I realized that if I should pass away before my wife, I would be leaving her quite a lot to deal with regarding my modest collection. So I have carefully documented my collection of custom knives with photographs, makers information and prices. My recollection of prices paid may not have been 100% accurate so wherever I could, I estimated the current value. It was a good learning experience and a nice way to keep the collection on hand for easy viewing. My final notes will be to list friends or acquaintances willing to handle the sale of my knives if none of my family wishes to keep them. What are your plans for your collection?

### **WCKA KNIFE AWARDS**

The 2009 awards were Best Bowie - Garth Hindmarch, Best Folder - Roger Hatt, Best Utility/Hunter - George Roberts and Best of Show - Garth Hindmarch. After several years of not having awards for custom knife makers, we renewed the tradition and tried awarding them again in April of 2009. There was enough interest to encourage us to do the same thing again this year. Last year we did not give awards for Best Art Knife, Best Miniature, Best New Maker or in the Best Display by a Collector. The Executive wishes to encourage all members to consider participating in the knife awards.

### **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. The exception will be the New Makers category.

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 Supplies**

Canadian Knifemakers Supply Ltd. (new name)  
Steels, grinders, kilns, belts, handle mtl. and more. Western distributor of Damasteel

Rob and Marilyn Ridley

Cremona, Alberta

Phone - 1 888 858-3343

Web - [www.knifemaker.ca](http://www.knifemaker.ca)

Brian Cuthbertson offers knife making supplies  
Phone 780 461-1050

## **eBay Sales**

A lot of sellers and collectors on this Internet auction site are finding that the powers to be have started to seriously clamp down on the handle material that they'll permit on their site. We've known for a long time that tortoise shell and elephant ivory were banned for International trade and that there were tight rules for the sale of such items within a country if it could be proven to have been purchased or from the period prior to the material being banned. eBay does not allow "Bone from any animal that produces ivory. This includes elephants, mammoths, walruses and whales. Fossilized ivory is also included in this ban. This has greatly affected the on line sale of highly customized knives from a handful of excellent BC makers. There are ways to get your knives out there for the buying public to see, appreciate and possibly purchase and that is through the web pages of knife purveyors such as Arizona Custom Knives, to name just one. They name the price and you cough up the dough!

In just a short few years, I have noticed restrictions on knives (switchblades, gravity knives), gun magazines and of course, the changing of our laws to prohibit the ownership of certain handguns that do not meet a specified barrel length. How times have changed. As a teenager, I could have owned a fancy Schrade automatic knife and also a machine gun. What's the world coming to; is it any safer to walk down our streets?

## **Western Canadian Knife Maker Symposium**

June 19th and 20th, 2010

Neil Ashworth shop in Beaverlodge, Alberta

*the following is a verbatim letter sent to the editor of the WCKA newsletter by Neil Ashworth*

This year we are again hosting the Western Canadian Knife-makers Symposium in my 32' by 40' shop in Beaverlodge, Alberta.

You are welcome to camp on our spacious acreage or stay in one of the motels in Beaverlodge,

only a half mile down the hill. We expect people to start arriving on Friday the 18th, setting up for the night, visiting and preparing for the activity filled weekend.

Various makers will be available to share their insights into the many aspects of knife construction.

Neil Ashworth's press and forge will be set up so that we can build damascus and mokume, if there is enough interest.

If you are considering in making either, indicate so before the end of April, on the form you return with your cheque and Neil will set it up. Please add another \$100 for either a 12" piece of damascus, made with 1084 and 15N20, or a six" piece of mokume, made with your choice of brass, nickel silver and/or copper. This will cover materials, propane and electricity.

Some of us are interested in making a high speed band-saw and so I am endeavoring to have all the pieces here and we will take a bit of time to build one and make it work as a demonstration project.

Bolster making and guard attachment have been requested and will be presented this year. Also, a hidden tang demo and silver solder demo will be arranged. We are planning to have both leather and kydex sheath making demonstrations as well.

Neil Ashworth will endeavor to have a pocket folder made in stages so that we can see how to set it up and put it together. Several other topics have been suggested and we are awaiting confirmation of presenters.

At these symposiums, we always make time during the weekend for everyone to show their knives and display their talents. We will also build a collaboration knife, constructed at the symposium, that combines the talents of several master knife makers.. This knife will be raffled to raise money for the next symposium.

Neil is open to suggestions to add to the fun and could have rope cutting and anvil throwing competitions as well. If you have a ten pound anvil to bring, that would add to the fun. We also readily share where to purchase the myriad of tools, supplies and materials necessary for building knives.

Holly, Neil's wife, has agreed to cater the event again and if it is anything like last year, the food will be excellent.

Saturday - Breakfast, lunch and supper

Sunday - breakfast and lunch

The contribution to the symposium costs this year will be \$150. This will help us pay for stamps, envelopes, paper, phone, grinding belts, steel, electricity and food. If you would like to prepare your own food, your contribution could be reduced to \$100. Family members eating with us and not interested in the symposium are asked to contribute \$50 which will include all meals.

Places to stay in Beaverlodge:

Beaverlodge Motor Inn 780 354-2291

Side Trax Inn 780 354-2256

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Please call Neil Ashworth to update your mailing information, or if you have questions or do not wish to be on his mailing or e-mail list. He respects your privacy and does not share your information. Neil can be reached at **780 354-3647**

Editors Note: *I attended one of these symposiums a few years back and found the camaraderie to be very friendly. Everyone was willing to share their secrets and suggestions were provided if asked. No decision has been made in the Nelson family as of this writing but it would be nice to try and take part in this function. Good luck, Neil and Holly.*

### **Member's Ads**

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Terry Lee, a Club member, wrote to tell us that they are hosting a damascus course on March 5, 6 and 7 and a stock removal course a week later - March 12, 13 and 14 at their shop in Lacombe, Alberta.

Ed Storch will be the instructor

Contact Terry Lee - 403 782-2250 or

by email - [tlee@albertahighspeed.net](mailto:tlee@albertahighspeed.net)

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Neil Ashworth is offering the following stock removal courses in knife making:

May 1st, 15th and 29th, 2010

Courses to be scheduled in July and August and December as well. Limit of 4 for each one-day course here in Beaverlodge.

**Phone Neil at 780 354-3647**

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Ed Storch is offering the following courses in knife making and also does custom heat treating.

SPRING CLASSES:

April 9 - 10 - 11 Damascus at Storch shop

May 21 - 22 - 23 Stock removal or damascus as required at the Storch shop

Sword - Forge - Hydraulic Press - Air Hammer classes as you request. San Mai Damascus a possibility.

Bryan Lyttle may hold engraving classes at Ed Storch's shop - call if interested. More classes can be arranged as requested. Please call.

**Phone Ed Storch at 780 763-2214**

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### **WCKA Annual General Meeting**

As in past years, the Club's general meeting will be held on Saturday night, April 24th, following the close of the Kamloops Gun and Knife Show for the day. We expect to once again have the use of a spacious room on the second floor and refreshments will be provided by the Club. We try to keep the business part of the meeting flowing along so that there can be time for schmoosing or a gathering for dinner after the formalities are over.

This is the time of the year that we elect our Club executive and seek volunteers to help with various jobs within the organization. Let us know if you are interested in being part of the executive or willing to take on some small job within the organization.

Please attend the meeting, if you can, and think about suggestions you might wish to make as input is always needed. Thank you.

Do you buy or collect the Knives Annuals published by Joe Kertzman? They make excellent reading and in recent years all of their photographs have been in colour. I have bought a collection that includes all the copies from 1981 to 2000. They are in excellent shape and I will be selling them at the Kamloops Gun and Knife Show in April. Phone me if you are interested in one or more copies and I can put them aside for you.

Ron Nelson 604 465-5138  
email - [ronnelson@shaw.ca](mailto:ronnelson@shaw.ca)

*Knives Annual 2010 - Did you notice that the photo index at the back of the book does not correspond to the pictures of knives in that volume. Krause Publications made a boo boo. The information included this year is a duplication of the 2009 book.*

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### **OKCA Show in Eugene, Oregon**

There is a substantial number of Canadian knife makers and collectors who are attending the Oregon Knife Collectors Show in Eugene, Oregon on the 12th, 13th and 14th of April. The week before the Kamloops show. It is a show well worth attending if only to see a show solely "for anything that goes cut". There are about 500 tables dedicated to new custom and factory knives plus many older knives for the collector. Knife making supplies are sold by several dealers that specialize in items such as stabilized hardwoods, pearl, bone scales, rivets, leather and just about everything else. They have awesome displays.

If you are planning to go and want to get in on the members only day, Friday, April 16th, then you must have purchased a Club membership before the show date and you need to wear your badge. No exceptions. Membership is \$20 US for a single and \$23 US for a family (under 1 roof). Some of us get together for a dinner on one of the nights and everyone is welcome to join us.

### **NOTICE**

Rob and Marilyn Ridley have changed the name of their company to Canadian Knifemaker Supply Ltd. (tax purposes). Same email, phone numbers, same location in Cremona, Alberta. Their big news is that Crucible has dramatically increased their prices for steel. More info to follow.



Don Stevenson manning his table at the 2009 Kamloops show.



Rob and Marilyn Ridley (Canadian Knifemaker Supply Ltd.) visiting new maker Elliot Reiter and his father, Randy Reiter.

### WCKA Membership Application For 2010

New Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Renewal Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Year 2010

#### 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 1N3

**Knife Maker Symposium June 19th and 20th, 2010**

Registration information:

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

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons accompanying: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation type: \_\_\_\_\_

Meals requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Damascus or Mokume (Circle which you prefer or both) \$100 each

Since knife making has its inherent dangers, I need you to sign a waiver to free my family and I from legal issues regarding safety.

Please include this waiver/registration form with your cheque - dated June 1, 2010 and made payable to Neil Ashworth (refundable before June 1, 2010 if necessary) and mail to:

Neil Ashworth  
Box 157  
Beaverlodge, Alberta  
T0H 0C0  
Phone: 780 354-3647

**WAIVER:** I agree to assume all responsibility for my own and my family's safety during the weekend symposium held at 1108 Hayfield Drive, Beaverlodge, AB, this 19th and 20th of June, 2010.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed: \_\_\_\_\_