



Western Canada Knife Association

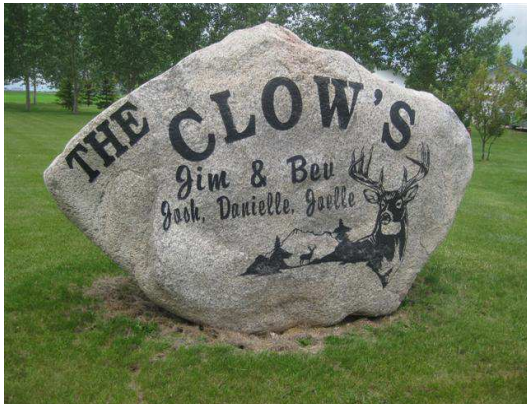
Volume 11 Number 3

[www.wcka.org](http://www.wcka.org)

September 2011

2011-12 Executive:  
President: Roger Hatt  
Vice President: Don Stevenson  
Secretary: Linda Nelson  
Treasurer: Ron Nelson  
Membership: Ron Nelson

Jim Clow hosts  
The very successful  
**Southern Alberta  
Hammer-In**



About 40 people from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan came to Jim and Bev Clow's property in Tilly, Alberta, to learn various knife making skills from some of the best in North America. Ed Caffrey and Steve Kelley from Montana came to share the art of Damascus making, and Jay Nielsen from Pennsylvania shared his skills in fit and finish. Cal Ganshorn from Saskatchewan gave a seminar on hydraulics, and Roger Hatt gave a demonstration on filework. From all reports, everyone had a wonderful time. See more elsewhere in the newsletter.

## President's Message:

Besides learning skills and networking with like minded individuals, one of the special things about belonging to various associations is meeting so many wonderful people, and forging new friendships. This summer was a reminder of that when my wife and I were privileged to welcome into our home fellow knife makers from around the country. In June, WCKA Vice President Don Stevenson and his wife, Karen, from Burns Lake visited for a few days. While they were here, members Cecil and Vi Harder from Westbank joined us for an enjoyable dinner and evening of visiting. Later on in the summer, new WCKA member Cal Heinrich and his wife Sheila came from Lethbridge to stay and explore the Shuswap with us. We look forward to members, Jay and Maureen Kemble's visit in October, along with Ron and Linda Nelson and Scott Laughlin's visit surrounding the Salmon Arm Show. Each time we get together with these people, we recognize what a great bunch knife makers are!

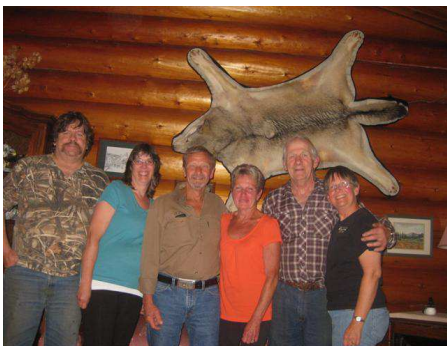
Besides the annual Kamloops WCKA show in April, I attend the Oregon Knife Collectors Show in April, the Montana Knife Makers Show in August, and the Salmon Arm Show in October. This year I also went to the Haaks Show in Chilliwack and the Calgary Show. Besides the holiday factor, it is always good to meet old and new friends. Have you considered expanding your show experience? Would you like to share some of your favourite shows and knife experiences? We would love to include some of these things in future newsletters.

Hope you are all enjoying this wonderful weather we are having, and are enjoying the art of knife making!!

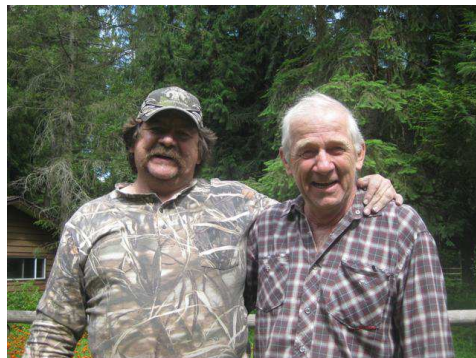
Roger Hatt

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Don, Karen, Cecil, Vi, Roger and Diane at the Hatt House in Enderby



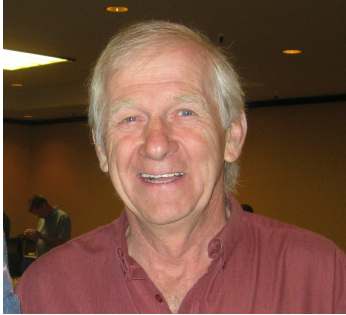
Don Stevenson and Roger Hatt, summer 2011



Cal and Sheila Heinrich from Lethbridge, Alberta with a Kingfisher Farmers Market treasure.



Jay and Maureen Kemble from Milk River, Alberta with Roger in Missoula for the Montana Show



## **Member Profile: Roger Hatt**

### **Knife maker**

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I have been making knives in my shop near Mabel Lake for about 15 years, full time hobby for about 10 years. It began as a challenge to myself and later developed into a full fledged love affair.

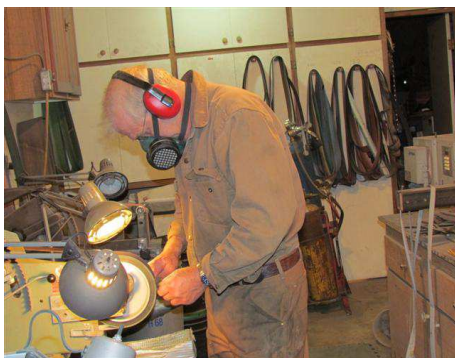
As a young child, I always had a small knife in my pocket, and spent many years whittling wood around a bonfire. I spent several years as a saw filer in a shingle mill, which gave me some experience in grinding angles, etc. When I became a hunter, I used a Buck Knife which I always felt did the job. However, when I decided to make a custom hunting knife for myself, because I was too cheap to buy one, I realized that there was no comparison between the Buck and the custom knife. The first time a neighbour offered to buy one of my knives, I thought, "Wow, maybe this is something I could do for other people." And that is exactly what happened over the next years.

Many knife makers have piqued my interest and encouraged me to continually strive for excellence, especially Frank Niro, for my work with folders. Knife collector Ron Lockhart also inspired me to expand my exposure to international markets. One of the things that I most enjoy about knife making, is the fact that most makers love to share their knowledge. I have been fortunate to have fantastic mentors and hope that I can in turn mentor others.

Although I have no specialty knife, my preference is folders and high end fighters and bowies. I also enjoy the challenge of getting a sketch or wooden model of an unusual knife and making it a reality for a customer. I like to make some miniatures that reflect as much detail on them, as on the full size model of the same style.

For working knives, I like to use ATS 34 or, my new favourite, RWL 34, a Swedish steel that I have found unmatched in quality. Handle materials vary from stabilized wood, antler and bone to some man made materials. For collector knives, I use several types of Damascus, and 440C steel for blades, with ivory, pearl and other exotic materials for handles. I stamp all my knives with either a hatt symbol, or a kingfisher.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than having a customer come back with a positive story about his knife! I also enjoy showing my shop, in all its messiness, to others. I hope that I will continue to make knives for many years to come.



Roger grinding in his Mabel Lake Shop



Roger with two knives 'on the go'

## **WCKA Raffle Report:**

The first Collaborative Knife Raffle was a success as reported in the last newsletter. All the paper work has been done by Ron Nelson, and the financial report is in.... we did well!!

Total sales amounted to \$2859.25 and when the expenses were deducted (ticket costs, postage, mailing, poster design totalling \$835.36), our net gaming proceeds were:

***\$2023.89.***

***Not bad for a first try!!***

We have been notified by Elliott Reiter that he has his design for the second collaborative knife ready and is beginning to do the first step, before sending it off to Gerry Kievit, the middle man. Roger Hatt will do the finishing this year. All of us are anxious to see the finished product so we can begin the process of getting a new license and begin selling tickets. Can't wait!!

***Hatt's Hint: This is actually not one of my hints (it is from Scott Laughlin) and it is a good one! To increase the attractiveness of your leather sheaths, dye the inside as well as the out!! Lots of people look inside the sheath, and this gives it a more professional look.***

## **Mini-Me submitted by Linda Nelson**

Let me say a few words again in support of miniature knives. I know I have raised this point before, but if you were to spend time at the club table, you would know how much interest this display generates. By now, many WCKA members have miniature knives in the Nelson showcases on display and many people stop by to check for their favourite knife or to see if their 'maker of choice' is represented. This year, the mini knives worked especially well for George Roberts when people were able to connect his 3 new minis in their own little showcase with his ending work on the completed collaboration knife. Don Stevenson also has 2 new minis in the case as of show-end this year, and Gerry has one in as well. Elliott says he hopes to have one ready for next year, so that will mean that all parties from the first collaborative knife-making venture have mini-me knives on display!

Whether you opt for miniature knives in the larger display (which is owned by Ron and Linda Nelson), or whether you choose to have some of your own miniature knives for sale at your table, it's pretty well guaranteed that they will generate a lot of interest. If you are able to get a little display case for them, so much the better, as this is another little thing that catches the eye, and it will prevent children from handling them. (Little kids love little knives.) If not, consider displaying the knife or knives openly on a small piece of contrasting coloured cloth, or perhaps raised up a bit on a piece of cork or even plain or painted wood, but be prepared to be on constant watch for little inquisitive fingers. Miniature knives, guaranteed, will bring some extra attention to your table.

# WCKA - A Royal Connection

WCKA member George Roberts had the privilege of making a knife for His Royal Highness, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge. Earlier this year, George was commissioned by the Canadian Rangers to do a special edition of the Canadian Rangers knife. Of course, George was more than willing to do such a project.



This beautiful knife was presented to the Prince by the Rangers when Prince William and his new bride, Kate, visited Yellowknife during their recent Canadian visit. The Rangers plan on visiting George in his shop to present him with an official signed document as soon as it completes its journey from overseas. Look for that story in the next WCKA newsletter in January.

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## Reflections on the Alberta Hammer-In: submitted by Ron Nelson

One of my highlights of the year had to be the Southern Alberta Hammer-In hosted by Jim Clow in Tilley, Alberta. It was a well attended 3 day workshop with demonstrations by Ed Caffrey, Jay Nielsen, Steve Kelley, Cal Ganshorn and our own Roger Hatt. The sessions were to begin Friday morning but many of the participants arrived on Thursday afternoon and so the activities in Jim's shop started right away. On Friday and Saturday the sessions started early after a breakfast of coffee, muffins and doughnuts purchased for us from Tim Horton's. A delicious lunch was provided each day consisting of hamburgers, steaks, salads and plenty of cold drinks and juices. From the way we attacked the food, I'm sure that it was enjoyed by all.



Jay Nielson



Ed Caffrey



Steve Kelley

Jim Clow had brought 2 skookum bleachers into his shop on Thursday so no one could complain that they couldn't see any part of the many demonstrations. The presenters were very easy to understand and their delivery was very clear. A sound system was set up but after the first couple of hours it was discarded in favour of loud voices. That went very well.



Lucky raffle winners



Demonstration by Cal Ganshorn

The morning sessions started as soon as everyone present had eaten and except for the break for lunch continued non-stop all day. After we had all gone for dinner, you might think that was it for the day but it wasn't. Those of us staying with Jim (the presenters) or who camped on site returned after dinner to participate in more knife making activities. I don't know when the evenings ended because I got up and went to bed when I became tired. Everybody was there again

the next morning ready for the next set of demonstrations. The symposium was all that it was advertised to be and more. Most of the demonstrations were focused on forging and making Damascus steel although all knife makers could find something useful to take home and try in their own shops. I was fascinated as usual at the variety of belt grinders in Jim Clow's shop and the neat disc grinder being demonstrated and sold by Rod Nielsen who lives in Tilley, Alberta, the site of the symposium.



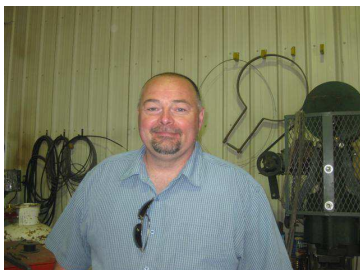
Jim Clow's handle material storage



Evening bull session

As a collector, I showed off some of my knives during the sharing sessions and quite a few were made by some of the participants at the symposium. Cal Ganshorn lamented how he wished he hadn't sold a drop point hunter to me several years ago at the Kamloops gun and knife show. It had an etch of a wolf howling at the moon with the Northern Lights dancing in the sky above. Since then he has made two more hunters with similar scenes etched on them. Hope he doesn't sell those too soon because I'm keeping mine. I was pleased to show a beautiful crafted knife and then be able to point to the maker standing in the crowd.

Of particular interest to me and others was the opportunity to buy knife making materials and equipment while I was there. It cost me another couple of hundred dollars but for a knife maker wannabe, it was well worth it. Just have to stop talking about making knives and do the deed. Jim Clow's shop was a huge thing separate from his house. There was a grinding room, a mezzanine floor where he did his leather work, relaxed and had refreshments plus the main floor with its propane fired forge, a couple of 125 pound plus anvils and his 'Orange Crush' hydraulic press that easily crushed the bars of heated steel into what ever he wanted. Jim Clow had the space and equipment well suited to hold this symposium.



Our gracious host Jim Clow

Despite the sprinkling of rain, Jim's site provided ample room for the many trucks and campers and motor homes to park just a short 10 to 20 metres from the shop. His place was easily reached off Hwy. 1 not far from Brooks, Alberta. Jim and his wife were very gracious and welcoming. If he has another symposium, it would be well worth attending. In the end, several new members joined the WCKA and we hope that they will find something in our organization they like and can use and of course, renew their membership next year.

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and welcoming.....

..... *these new WCKA members:*

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The beautiful setting for the Alberta Hammer-In

# WCKA Membership Application For 2011

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

Year 2011

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 include: Collectors, Dealers, Mfr./Distributors  
**(WCKA Membership includes Newsletter and opportunities to be part of our website)**

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



More photos from the

# Alberta Hammer-In

In the photo above, Roger's grand daughter, Hailey Nicole listens carefully to the 'knife-talk' during one of her visits to the symposium. Perhaps one day, she will be a member of the WCKA!

Jim and Bev made everyone feel welcome, and the pets were welcomed as well. Left, Titan 'dances' with his master,

Below, the resident canine, Tigger, was a great part of the weekend.



See you next year!

**Some final thoughts:** As the editor of the WCKA newsletter, I would like this publication to be not only a place to showcase our members, but also a way to educate and share ideas. In the next edition, I will have an article on the building and uses of the 'knifemakers plane'. What is your favourite tool in your shop? Would you be willing to explain why it is your favourite and how you have adapted it to meet more needs than the obvious ones. *PLEASE* help us make this newsletter something that members will use as a resource!! Thanks.

Email your articles to [dianehatt@hotmail.com](mailto:dianehatt@hotmail.com)



