



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Harness Jacks
- ✓ Military things that go Cut
- ✓ Sheffield Lassos
- ✓ Small Knives
- ✓ 2005 OKCA Club Knife
- ✓ Application form for 2005

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

November 2004

In Defence of the Humble Harness Jack

By Charlie Campagna



The punch blade designs are all unique and different.

In searching for a single knife pattern to collect, I had two goals to achieve. One was to not break my bank account, and the other was to experience the thrill of the chase and the pleasure of discovery. With this in mind, I decided on the harness jack, sometimes called a punch jack or teamster's knife. I refer to it as humble because it is the simplest and least expensive knife that provides a cutting blade and a punch or awl blade. The punch blade is intended for leather harness repairs and adjustments and for cutting and reaming holes in moderately resistant materials.

There is a certain elegance

in simple effective designs and the harness jack (HJ) has it in spades. This knife has separate single-end back springs that are anchored solidly at the non-working end making the knife durable. It also usually has a hand-filling swell end jack pattern making the knife functional. Half stops, which are pauses when opening a blade, are found on the better working knives as a safety feature.

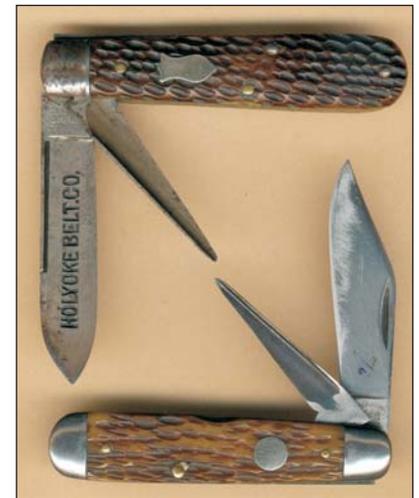
The majority of these knives are found with utilitarian wood handles, mostly ebony or other dark dense wood resulting in low cost reliability. There are fancier ones with jiggled bone handles, decorated



Handle material variations from bone to plastic

bolsters and elaborate shields; and I have seen Christmas tree and candy striped celluloid handles. All things considered a harness jack knife can be a very desirable tool.

As my search for decent specimens of Harness Jacks progressed, I found that they are much rarer than most other patterns; and they tend to be well used. You can search eBay for instance and not see a single one at auction for days on end, whereas there are always dozens of trappers, whittlers and Barlows. I recently watched an auction unfold that had a Warwick brand HJ with a large chip out of the blade. It sold for \$88 which seems too high for a knife with a bad blade. The handles and the punch blade were in respectable condition. On the other hand both the brand and the pattern are rare!



Schrade Cutlery & Cattaraugus

As a help in my search, I started to acquire older knife and hardware catalogs, reprints and some generously donated copies by fellow knife collectors. I found that most companies stopped offering Harness Jack knives in the late 1930s. I am assuming that the pattern fell out of favor as automobiles and trucks supplanted horses as a way of transporting people and goods. The earlier 1900 to 1920 catalogs appear to list several two blade punch knives, and some of them were nice looking knives. One I would mortgage the farm for is a sleeve board pattern HJ with worm-



New York Knife Company & Case

continued on page 4

Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

Semantics

In a long debate with a fellow collector we have come to an impasse, what is the proper term for knives used by military personal but not adopted, procured or standardized by the U.S. military.

I believe, as does our good friend Carter Rila, that we have two top level basic classifications, Primary and Secondary. Primary military knives are knives designed, standardized, adopted, procured, issued and any other such descriptive words you can find to place them as genuine Design Specific Government Issue knives. All the others, and there are a lot, are classified as secondary knives. This would include the Pal Blade Company RH36 as a converted commercial pattern. Yes the government purchased vast amounts of RH36 knives and issued them to soldiers, sailors and Marines all over the globe, that we do not deny. On the contrary, what we do assert is that they were a stopgap effort to supply the military with cutlery not ideally suited or designed for such but commercially available in large numbers fast and cheap.

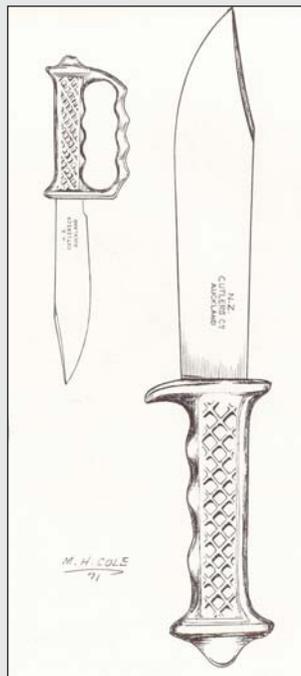
Thousands of hunting knives, old souvenirs, cut down bayonets from the First World War, butcher knives and every other conceivable knife of 5 inches in blade length or more may have been issued at some time during World War Two, this we do not deny, in fact we agree with it completely. We just suggest that they should not be considered as military issue knives in the strictest sense of the word. This relegates them to secondary status. So we agree, two top levels in the military knife world, primary and secondary. Many of the secondary knives recently, within the last few years, have been grouped into what we now call Theatre knives. This is a good term, sounds good, is catchy and has seemed to stick; but it is too broad for the knives it covers.

Is a knife made by E.W. Stone on a ship in the South Pacific Combat Theatre the

same as a shortened butcher knife made by the Oregon Home Workshop Club? Should they be sub-classed the same? Both may have been used by U.S. military personnel, but they are hardly in the same sub-classification arena. How about the Kiwi aluminum handled knuckle knife, is it the same as a Nichol's knife? Currently they are classed the same, Theatre.

I think it is time for a change. First and foremost a name for the entire genre is needed. I believe in the strictest sense of the word they are all custom knives, militarized custom knives or customized military knives, but custom knives all the same. Not to be confused with handmade or benchmark (the latter which has become a registered trademark) or any other such sub descriptions, just CUSTOM. After that we divide into subgroups again.

Now it gets even hairier, what to call the subgroups. Let's start with the current favorite, Theatre. I know what you may be thinking, he's spelling theater wrong, not really, I am using the spelling in vogue during WW II when these knives hit the top of their charts in popularity. As they were made during WW II and very popular at that time, I have adopted that spelling, choose any you like as it is the meaning of the term we are most interested in today, we will fight the spelling battle at another time. Theatre Knives to me are knives made or altered in a combat theatre during wartime. This would include most of the plexiglass handled knives we see today as well as the Stone knives and the Aussie and New Zealand made aluminum handled knuckle knives. This is a large subgroup but it encompasses a lot of ground. The main part of the description is that they are made in a combat theatre, that is what sets them apart



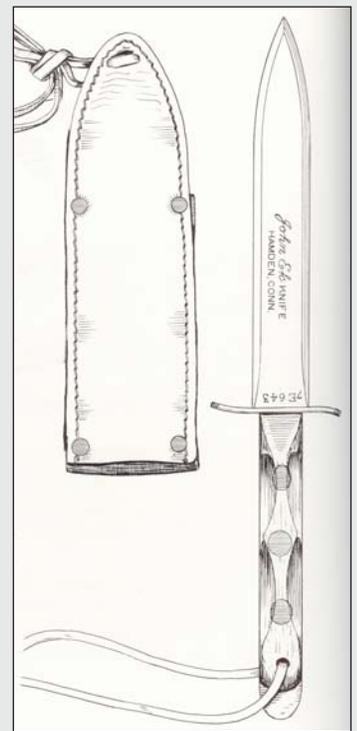
Theatre Knife

from a U.S. home made work shop knife. I prefer to simply call these "Shop" knives, it is much easier to say.

Shop made knives could be an M.H. Cole knuckle knife or a Nichol's knife, hell even a Randall. These are knives made stateside, intended as warrior's weapons or tools. No mention is made here of what they are made of, they may contain a factory blade and a converted handle or be of a completely handmade design, it doesn't matter, what matters is that it is not made by a huge cutlery company and it was made in the USA. This allows us to differentiate between the knives and place them in the proper categories. Do we have flaws in the theory, you bet. First one is "how do you know where it was made?" On most of these knives we will never know the true story. That could be a problem. What we do know is that many of the better known knives such as the Cole, Richtig, Randall are US made and should be classed as such.

Now after all this is said and done (and written) I had a discussion with Bill Wright on the term (Bill by the way originally coined the term) and here are his original thoughts on the subject, "Any custom made or significantly altered knife of the WW II era made specifically for war time use and not a production knife is a Theater Knife."

So as you can see we also disagree on the subject, but as Bill was the first he gets to choose the name. I just think it covers too much ground. Oh well...



Shop Knife

Frank Trzaska [trz@mcsystems.net]

OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

Cracker Jacks.....

I am pleased at the response of the Cracker Jack promotion. I know there are more of you out there that can spread the word of our Show via the show flyer that we have printed. Here is the deal. Send a request in for pads of show flyers (25 flyers per pad) and in the package you will receive a surprise just like when you were a kid when you opened **Cracker Jacks**. Tell us how many pads you would like and leave the rest to us.

I am kinda excited about doing this mailing as we have an automated Post Office in Eugene, and I **DO NOT** have to stand in line to mail the Cracker Jack packages. It is great fun to push the buttons and watch the machine crank out a stamp. So by all means if you think you can promote the April Oregon Show by spreading the word with flyers, just do it and make me happy when I go to the Post Office. Oh yes and BTW you will get a box of **Cracker Jacks** when you come to the April Show.

Mini Show.....

The Winter Mini Show will be held on Saturday, December 11. Reservations are coming in fast and furious. Get yours in now or you may get left out. You do not want that to happen because last year it rained so hard that being out would get you pretty wet. Tables are free to paid members.

The pot luck will be held shortly after the Show; **June Morrison** will be heading up this event. Contact June Morrison at 541.942.1374 or email at june_lewis Morrison@hotmail.com (that is an underline twixt june and lewis) and let her know what you will be bringing for the social.

It is not too early to make reservations for the Mini Winter Show. You may e-mail your request to the OKCA or call (541)484-5564 or write. Just do it. The show will be held in the round building that has heat and light and good foods. Same as Winter 2003, but a bit different than we used to know in years past.

Not to forget **Toys for Tots**. **Brian Christensen** will be heading up this event this year. There will be a table set aside to accept your toys. Remember unwrapped and geared for youngsters.

Membership Dues be due.....

Membership in the Oregon Knife Collectors Association is based on a calendar year. That means that your membership is good for the year of 2004 or the year of 2005 or greater as is the case with some. The way you can easily tell the status of your membership is by the label that appears on this Knewsletter. So if the number 2004 appears on the upper right corner of your mailing label then your membership lapses on December 32, 2004. The application form in this Knewsletter will suffice for membership and or table requests. Or if there are some that want to preserve the Knewsletter, you can print out an application from our website or you can copy the application page and send it in. Please use a form if you will as our accountant goes nuts without one. It is the paper trail for doing business and is required. If you don't do it, our accountant has to.

Seth Cosmo Burton is my hero.....

Seth accepted a blade grinding blank at the 2004 April Show to take home and enhance as a display award for our 2005 Show. **Wayne Morrison** has headed up this event for years and has always been on the edge as to whether he was going to get all the knives in time for the Show. We always have but it gets close sometimes. Wayne has bugged, pleaded and begged for early delivery so we could promote and enhance the knives in hand. We totally understand the delay, but we have always wished for early. So it was with total surprise that we received the knife back from Seth in October. I hope this starts a trend. Thank you a thousand times over for doing this. The knife is beautiful and a description and picture can be found elsewhere in this issue. Or as **Larry Criteser** put it "Seth coaxes my simple blade design into an elegant show piece..." Look for it at the Mini Show.

The Silent Auction.....

For the last few years the highlight to the April Silent Auction have been knives by **Terry Davis** and **Bill Ruple**. I have been notified that this will again happen for 2005. In addition we will also have a folding knife by **Roy Humenick**. I am pleased as punch about this offering for our Club project. Thank you, gentleman, for your support and in making this a world class fund raising event.

Club Knife.....

The sale of the Club knife has been moving along quite briskly. Get your orders in soonly or you might get left out. Many of the people that have ordered these knives have commented that this seems to be a special pricing on these knives. They would have expected to pay more. This is true but thanks to the generosity of **Ford Swauger** to our organization we are pleased to make this not only a special knife but also a special price.

In this issue you will find an application for the Club knife for 2005. This is the first ever Damascus knife we have offered. Ford is also making the Oregon Special version which can only be had as a set and only to Oregon residents. These sets can only be picked up at the Show. **No mailing**.

Only 25 of the Oregon Special knives will be made, and they will be serial numbered along with the manual knives from 1 to 25. If you want to see a colour picture of this knife go to the Club website.

Knewsletter ads.....

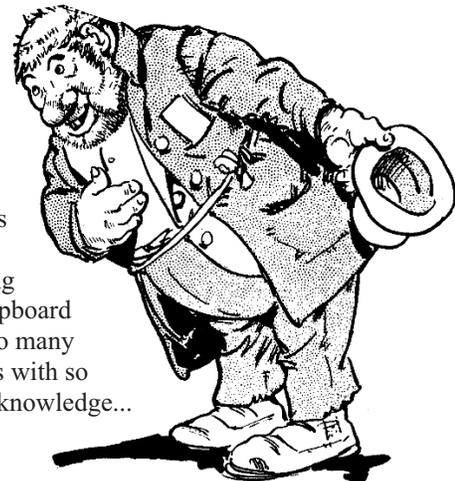
We received several new ads for the Knewsletter. Check 'em out and send one in. Not to forget that we also try and post these on our website.

Articles, articles, articles

A big thank you to our writers that help keep this Knewsletter alive and well. This month we thank **Charlie Campagna (Canada)**, **Jim Taylor (Florida)**, **Merle Spencer (Oregon coast)** and **Frank Trzaska (New Jersey)** for their contribution to the October issue.

Although good for the next month or so with articles, that "well" will

run dry. Please help us by giving us articles and keeping our cupboard full. So many knifers with so much knowledge... please share with us.



Continued on page 4

Harness Jacks (cont'd from page 1)

grooved jugged bone handles and a long pull large spear blade. This appeared in a 1911 Schatt&Morgan catalog. This of course makes the hunt for the knives all the more exciting, and the success all the more gratifying! (Please see pics of some of my favorites.)

As rare as they are one can occasionally come up with a gem. For instance there was a near mint Case Tested HJ found on eBay some months ago, and in particular a great Schatt & Morgan (S&M). Oh yes, and there is the great equal end Robeson I bought from a guy in England! Hmm, can't forget the swell center Keen Kutter from Oregon!! I better stop there!

Typical of the rarity, some Harness Jacks are the only ones I have seen of their type since I started collecting three years ago. The earlier hardware catalogs from the 1900s tend to have two to six HJ patterns listed. There is enough variety in this pattern to keep anyone who enjoys the search interested for a long time. Take the punch blades for instance; with the help of wonderful people in the knife community I have discovered that the style of punch can attribute authenticity to a Harness Jack knife or can warn of alteration or forgery. The punches alone are a unique topic of discussion. Several patents were issued near the turn of the last century, adding to the evidence that punches were an important part of life when the automobile industry

was still in its early years and horses still lived and worked in society.

After buying several different knives I started to find that a lot of them have similarities which suggest they were contract knives. This led to a comparison to find the probable originating cutlery company. This contracting out of certain models was quite prevalent over the last century and continues to this day. Queen Cutlery is still in operation at its historical location in Pennsylvania. Queen has been responsible for several contract-branded knives, and they made most of the Case Classics in the early 1990s, as well as recent Winchesters and current Robesons.



Schatt Morgan & Robeson

The question arises "is this knife pattern relevant today?" Of course you can adjust your belt by adding a hole or two. I have seen a few people who still smoke a pipe using the punch blade to clean out the bowl, but more relevant is the recent surge in people owning and riding horses including my granddaughters! A pocketknife with a punch is handy when the tools are all at the bench in the stable, and you need a quick repair in the field. The punch can assist the main blade when whittling soft wood, especially when clearing wood from tight spaces. I am currently making a leather pouch completely, with a pocketknife with a punch on it as a test for Queen's modern version of the folding punch. It is a pleasure to watch the curling cut spiral out of a hole! A caution to the reader, don't back up your cut with your hand!!

To further answer the relevancy question of a Harness Jack knife, I have decided that I would carry one for a while, as well as doing my leather project, and see if it will replace my usual whittler or Barlow or my Sunday pen knife. But the question arises if I should risk the dwindling supply of HJs in the world?! Should I carry a minty Remington around with my quarters and dimes? Can anyone suggest the answer to that question??? The answer is to have one (or more) made. So the orders are placed and a real world test is in the planning stages! I anticipate a future article on the subject so keep an eye out for it and for some new harness jacks on the market! 

Continued from page 3

Knives that make me Smile.....

This knife is one that I saw many years ago and it made me smile. It took almost 10 years before I found one for myself. The knife has two blades and is a tad shorter than 3 inches. The handles are aluminum and the tang carries the mark "Solingen." It still makes me smile and every time I show it, smiles abound. Have you figured out the moral to the story yet? I could use some more "Smile Knives" so send 'em in.

Places to lay your head down whilst here.....

We have retained the same price at the Valley River Inn as we have for the last few years. Ya gotta mention the OKCA Show to get this pricing. Is it too early to reserve a room? Nope. I checked and they are ready for you now. Their operators are standing by.



The Valley River Inn - (800) 543-8266 - (541) 687-0123 - Our top recommendation. Fills up fast. A quality place to stay. Official home for folks away from home visiting the Oregon Knife Show. Special Show rates if you mention the OKCA Show.

The Campbell House - A City Inn - (800) 264-2519 - (541) 343-1119 - Classic Hospitality. A very unique experience. Top quality.

Courtesy Inn - (888) 259-8481 - (541)345-3391 - The closest motel yet to the Knife Show. A budget motel and special rates if you mention the Knife Show. 



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Eve (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Date _____

* Collector * Knifemaker * Dealer * Mfr./Distrib. * Other _____ Email Address _____

OKCA membership includes newsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows, free OKCA Winter show tables, right to buy OKCA club knife.

___ Start/ ___ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$23 family) \$ _____

30TH ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 8-10, 2005 470 — 8'x30" TABLES

Exhibit Hall, Lane County Convention Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT SHOW CHAIRMAN: DENNIS ELLINGSEN, (541) 484-5564

AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS: If you had a table at the 2004 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2005, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2004. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/04.

ALL TABLE HOLDERS AND VISITORS agree to abide by the OKCA show rules, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane County Fair Board harmless for any accident, loss, damage, theft, or injury.

ANY QUESTION OR DISPUTE arising during the show shall be resolved by the Show Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW. All tables must be predominantly knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms made after 1898 may be sold or shown at this show.

ALL EXHIBITORS are required to keep their tables set up throughout the public hours of the Show: 9 AM Saturday to 3 PM Sunday. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO LEAVES OR COVERS THEIR TABLE BEFORE 3 PM SUNDAY FORFEITS HIS FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.

DISPLAY TABLES will be around the perimeter of the room. All displays are eligible for display awards, which are handmade knives donated by members and supporters of OKCA. Display judging will be by rules established by OKCA. Special category awards may also be offered. **NOTHING MAY BE SOLD FROM DISPLAY TABLES.**

SALE/TRADE TABLES Sharing of tables will not be allowed. Exhibitors must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Oregon has NO SALES TAX.

BADGES: Each table holder is entitled to one additional show badge.

KNIFEMAKERS who are present and are table holders at this show may enter knives in the knifemaking award competition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on categories and judging criteria in the display and handmade knife competitions, contact the Show Chairman.

SECURITY will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane County Fair Board will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

- No Smoking within the Exhibit Hall at any time;
- No alcoholic beverages consumed within the Exhibit Hall during the public hours of the show;
- No loaded firearms worn or displayed at the show;
- No swords or knives brandished or displayed in a provocative manner.

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

NOTE ON SWITCHBLADES AND DAGGERS: In Oregon it is legal to make, sell, buy, or own switchblade knives. However, it is **ILLEGAL** to carry a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, a dagger, or a dirk concealed on one's person, or for a convicted felon to possess a switchblade or gravity knife. Most other states have banned switchblade knives. Under federal law, it is **ILLEGAL** to mail, carry, or ship a switchblade or gravity knife across state lines.

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 8, 2005. 10am - 8pm set-up; open **ONLY** to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 9, 2005. 7am - 9am set-up. **9am - 6pm** open to public.

Sunday, April 10, 2005 8am - 9am set-up. **9am - 3pm** open to public.

Tables that are cancelled will revert back to the OKCA. Subcontracting tables is not permitted.

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT: PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2005; for later cancellation, refund will be granted only if your table is rented to someone else. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!! MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.**

Type of knives on your tables _____

Name for second badge _____ (two badges per table holder)

___ **Club Dues (Total from above)** \$ _____

___ Saturday Night Social Tickets \$5.00 each \$ _____

___ **Sale/Trade table(s) @ \$95 each (members only)** \$ _____

___ Collector Display table(s) free with sale table: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (make check payable to O.K.C.A.) \$ _____

I have read and agree to abide by the OKCA show rules as set forth in this contract, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane County Fair Board harmless for any accident, damage, loss, theft, or injury.

Signature _____ Date _____

*** PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!***

www.oregonknifeclub.org

Display Award Knives



The display award knives are a special award knife given to the best displays at the Oregon Knife Show. In the past few years the blades that were used in the grinding competition are given to the grinders or to anyone willing to finish the blades. These knives are truly unique, one of a kind prizes. This emphasizes the tie in the association between knife makers and collectors, we are all involved in the circle of "cut." Twelve knives will be awarded

to some 25 displays that grace our Show every year. These displays are museum quality collections that mesmerize and educate visitors to our event.

The first knife in hand is from Seth Cosmo Burton from Salt Spring Island B.C. Canada. This is a stunning knife that is beautifully executed. The blank used was a design that Larry Criteser was responsible for and is from ATS 34. The handle on this knife is sodalite in a blue, violet, cream, swirl colour and the bolsters are Mokume' gane. Seth also included a cocobolo wood sheath for this knife. Cosmo knives can be seen on the web at www.cosmognives.com.

For more information on Mokume' gane - http://www.mokume-gane.com/Pages/What_is_Mokume.html and to find out more about Sodalite - <http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/silicate/sodalite/sodalite.htm>.



The Mini Show

The date is **December 11, 2004, Saturday, and the time is 7 am.** At that time the doors will open in that round building (Wheeler Pavilion) at the Lane County Convention Center and Fair Grounds. At this early hour in the morning (yawn) the rush starts for those who reserved tables to run in and lay claim to the tables that suit their needs. Just remember that if an argument ensues as to the claim for space, everyone in the building has a knife. **"An armed society is a polite society."**

So just what is the story on this one day Show in the month of December? Mega years ago we decided that rather than have two full blown knife shows a year, we would have a Mini Show that satisfied and took the edge off waiting for the big Show in April. December was mid year so the date was set. Rather than charge for tables and admission for this one day Show, we elected to use the funding that we generate at the Big Show to finance this Show. That would be the raffles, Club knife project and silent auctions which we actively promote at the April Show.

The place we have had this event in the past has been questionable at times, but this Round Building works well. (For several years, many years ago, before it was

remodeled, we held our yearly April Show in this building.) Heat and light and room to roam, along with easy to reach rest stations. It also provides a place to have our Social Pot Luck dinner. Parking is free and that is a very good price. The location of this building is just to the North of the building that houses our April Knife Show.

We need to have advance reservations for this Show. We pay for all tables, empty or full, so we order only enough tables for the reservations we get. So if you do not order a table and expect to find one when you get there, you will be like the **tuna fish Charlie**. Same goes for the chairs as they cost us too. We have room for over 100 tables with room to spare. We will have a concession stand there to fuel your belly until the social occurs. And just like the April Show, if you leave early before 4 pm then **your name is "Mudd."** (Trivia quiz - where did this expression come from?)

We are also having the **Toys for Tots** event. **Brian Christensen** has volunteered to head up this event. Please bring unwrapped toys for youngsters for this holiday project. Later in the day on Saturday they will be picked up by the participating organization. This

Toys For Tots drive is our way of helping the community. We find that we have to buy two of everything, as Elayne falls in love with the toys and doesn't want to let them go.

So get your table reservations in NOW! Tables are only available to OKCA Club members (easily handled by joining our merry band). The date is Saturday only 12/11/04 and the time is 7 am until 4 pm with the social pot luck starting at 5 pm. The tables do have table covers on them and they are 8 feet long just like the ones at the April Show. 2005 membership cards are available at the Show and for those that play it close to the wire, you can pay for your April table and beat the December 15th deadline.

Contact June Morrison at (541)942.1374 or email at june_lewis Morrison@hotmail.com (that is an underline twixt june and lewis) and let her know what you will be bringing for the social. This will help her to fill the void so that we won't have only broccoli and spinach dishes and no desserts.

So email, call or send messenger pigeons to get your table reserved for December 11.

The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The meeting was held October 14 at G. Willicker's Restaurant. The attendance was 35.

Wayne Morrison has requested the display award knives be returned to us by the December show. This would give us an opportunity to photograph and write about them in the Knewsletters before the April Show. Here's hoping it will come to pass. (**Seth Cosmos Burton** has already returned his knife and it is very special. Thank you.)

June Morrison has requested we contact her to advise the dish we will bring to the December potluck. The Club will supply the entree, beverages, plates etc.

Brian Christensen has volunteered to coordinate the Toys For Tots at the December show. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy. They will be picked up at the show.

Larry Criteser is working on a blade template for the grinding competition.

The December Winter Show will be held December 11 at the Lane County Fairgrounds. We will be in the round Wheeler Pavilion building. Please call Dennis (541) 484-5564 or email okca@oregonknifclub.org to get on the list for a free table at the show.

We rented a camera to tape the demonstrations at the April 2004 Show and have converted the film to VHS. The tapes are at the meeting and we have determined we will try a "lending library." If any of you have experience with video recording, we would appreciate additional volunteers to help with the taping at the 2005 Show. If the task is broken up, it will not be so overwhelming.

Glenda Brown from Excalibur Cutlery proposed a consignment agreement with the knife makers at the Valley River store. It will be a rotating display and will give additional exposure to the makers. Also if you would like to leave a business card with them they will put them on the counter.

Our meeting place is undergoing a change. New owners have decided to incorporate the meeting room as part of the bar. We have an arrangement with The Sizzler Restaurant at Gateway for the November meeting. We can try it and see how it goes. If no go, we will try another.

Adjourn for show and tell.

See you at the meeting at The Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway, Wednesday November 17.



Oregon Knife Collectors' 2005 Club Knife

This year we are offering a Ford Swauger folding pocket knife for the members of the OKCA. This will be our first Damascus folding knife. The steel is made in Ford's shop and is a blending of 1096 and L6 in what Ford calls a "twist pattern." The bolster shares this same

Damascus pattern. The handles are white bone that have been sealed, stabilized and polished. The handle length is 4 inches and the overall length is 7 inches. The liners are titanium and have been worked in what Ford refers to as a "lace pattern." This is a liner lock knife.



The knives will be serial numbered and marked as Oregon Knife Collectors knives.

This marking will be on the inside of the knife to preserve the beauty of this knife. These knives are only available to Oregon Knife Club members and the Oregon Special is only available to Oregon residents who purchase the set. There will be 25 sets available and 25 manual only knives making a total of 75 knives.



The Oregon Special knife is referred to as a double action knife and is a handle/bolster release. This mechanism is a Ford Swauger design and works quite nicely. Both knives will have a special hand-checked stainless steel thumb stud.

Serial number special requests will only be honored for those who have purchased knives with the same number in the last two years. All other serial numbers will be random drawn. Delivery will be in April at the Oregon Show.

This is a fund raising project for the OKCA so help out and also make an investment in what will soon be a very desirable knife to own. These knives will go fast so don't delay. One knife or set is available per member on this first offering. Additional knives can be purchased after December 15 if there are any left.

Knife Talk

The price on the manual knife is \$275 and the set will be \$625.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Regular manual knife _____ quantity.

Oregon Special set of two knives _____ quantity.

Total amount enclosed _____

Your 2003/2004 serial number if desired was _____

Please add \$8 for shipping if you are not able to pick this knife up at the Show on April 08-10, 2005.

A Small Article About Small Knives

By Merle Spencer

My friend Woody Woodcock was a fine craftsman and an expert knife maker. He also made beautiful miniatures. When he was sick and unable to drive, I became the driver once a week to take him to the treatment center fifty miles away. We used to talk on the way, about many different topics; experiences we had in the service, different jobs we'd had, where we had lived and even about making knives some of the time. On one of those trips, I asked him if he had any small steel scraps around his profiling saw, as I wanted to try my hand at making a miniature. He indicated he would take a look.



The next time I drove in to pick him up, as he got in the car he handed me a small transparent plastic box. Inside, nestled on foam, were several tiny blades. They were all essentially finished, except for handles.

The largest was probably an inch long, while the smallest would barely reach a quarter inch.

My wife, Janie, took a shine to a little broad dagger that she thought would be nice with an ivory handle. Before Christmas I

started on it, but I didn't finish until about Easter. There are spells when I spend my time on other hobbies. On my miniature lathe I turned a 1/8" long ferrule from

eighth-inch brass rod. I also turned a finial with a knob on the end. After rough shaping a scrap of ivory, I chucked it in the lathe and turned a nice little piece about a half-inch long to go between the brass pieces and drilled tiny holes in the ends.

I ran into trouble attaching things because there was only about an eighth inch sticking out where the handle would be fastened. After several tries, I managed to solder a short piece of rod to what was there by chamfering both ends to be soldered, so I could get the little pieces to stick together. All this was done while looking through a visor and trying to see one object instead of two, a condition caused by my macular degeneration.

When the adhesive was set that held the little handle pieces to the blade, I found my ferrule was offset a tiny bit. In my wife's collection of spools of thread, I found the exact color of the brass. A few wraps around the hilt hid the discrepancy.

Janie is pleased. 

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Eugene, OR 97402

New Meeting Place—The Sizzler



Over the years we have rotated around to various Oregon Knife Collectors' meeting sites. The organization seems

to favor eateries so that we can partake in a bite while we share the wonders of the knife world. Finding such a watering hole is difficult at best. For the last few years we have been at the G. Willickers restaurant. We recently found out that this place is now under new ownership and change is in the wind. Part of that change would be the elimination of the meeting room in favor of a liquid watering hole call a "bar."

We scouted around and located another meeting site which could work well for us. It is the Sizzler restaurant located near the Gateway Mall just off the I-5 freeway. The address is 1010 Postal Way or just across from the Gateway Post Office on the north. The room is light and airy and larger than previous meeting spots. There are only two down points that we can easily get around if the membership helps with their support. One is that our traditional meeting night is taken so we will have to modify the dates we meet. The second is that this restaurant

requires a minimum attendance in dinners or the Club will be forced to meet the minimum. We can easily meet this minimum with better than 25 dinners. This is easy I think if we all make an effort to try and attend this once a month event.

The November meeting will be Wednesday, November 17th. Same times as indicated on the last page of this Knewsletter. So we will give this a try and see if it suits our needs. The one thing for sure is the varied menu. When you come in you place your order and then take your seat in the meeting room located at the west end of the building. Your choices for food are: Burgers & Sandwiches - Sizzler Steakhouse - Sizzlin' Platters - Chicken & Ribs - Classic Combos - Seafood Market and the infamous Salad Bar.

So on Wednesday November 17th at 6 pm come join us for a gathering of some pretty sharp people at The Sizzler Restaurant.

If you would like a reminder to this event give Bernard Levine your email address and he will be happy to notify you of the time and places. brlevine@ix.netcom.com

Great Steaks, Seafood and Salads

Old Sheffield Tales

By Jim Taylor



*"Buffer Girls: Mappin' & Webb - c. 1914."
Courtesy, Alice Dyson.*

To this day, certain cutlery trade happenings are still chuckled over in the nooks and crannies of old Sheffield pubs. Some are actually recorded in the old literature. Others, (perhaps not fit to print?) are, understandably, chuckled over the more so, if only because of that fact!

Seeing as how we are bereft of hurricanes this week in Florida, I thought that I might endeavor to fill a little space in this month's Knewsletter. If nothing else, it just might prevent Dennis from whining.

When considering "colorful" anecdotes, my mind turns immediately to the famous "Buffer Lasses." The reputation that this redoubtable crowd "enjoyed" for strong language, as well as for the tricks they played on any young males that dared to enter their buffing shops, is part of Sheffield folklore. I can assure the reader that such reputation was fully earned.

As late as the 1960's, buffer lasses could be observed doing a little lunchtime shopping on The Moor, in Sheffield. Shiny black faces, dirty black overalls and legs wrapped in brown paper that was secured with string. Head wear was always a red head scarf. A common enough sight, and one that nobody thought twice about.

This "uniform," for such is what it was, had been observed in Sheffield for many generations. The brown paper leggings were

used as a protection against the filthy working conditions that prevailed in the gloomy workshops, as they polished spoons and forks using a mixture of sand and oil.

Old films still exist, depicting the simply dreadful working conditions of the times. The spoon-fed workers of today would be amazed if they could witness what these lasses considered to be quite normal! I am always astonished by the sheer blazing speed that these workers needed to operate at, if they were to have a half-decent wage packet to take home. One hand full of spoons and the other full of sand/oil mixture, are almost a blur as the lasses hunched over their buffing wheels. Needless to say, the end product was always a work of art.

It was always said of the buffer lasses,

that they were so valuable to the Masters, they became known as; "Diamond's in Brown Paper." The veracity of this statement is born out by the fact that both a book and short film were produced, bearing this very title.

Back to my theme; When interviewed, one group of lasses related a time when they noticed that one of the lads in the next shop, always, "came to work mucky." This unfortunate lad was grabbed by a group of these lasses and stripped. The lasses washed him down in the "cooling tub." They then washed his clothing and made him stand by the fire until they were dry. The lasses even ironed his tie with a hot file! This group of lasses then pronounced, whilst roaring with laughter, "He never came mucky again."

Alice Dyson, who started her working life as an errand lass, with Mappin & Webb, in 1912, recorded one incident that occurred when she toiled as an advanced buffer, amongst a small group that only worked on expensive sterling silver.

The King of Afghanistan, (Mohammed Zahir Shah, who was later overthrown in a coup) and his Queen, had ordered a large canteen of cutlery from Mappin & Webb,

and whilst on a visit to the U.K. they visited the works. Alice had been told to demonstrate her polishing skills to the King on one of the fish eaters, in order to show the difference between before and after buffing. After finishing the piece she threw it down into the sand. Before she could stop him The King picked it up. Silver, of course, gets very hot when buffed—which is the reason that the buffer girls all wore finger rags—and the King of Afghanistan burnt his fingers! Alice related that the Queen considered this to be highly entertaining and couldn't stop laughing. Later, as the King drove away, he waved to the staff with his bandaged fingers and the Queen was still laughing.

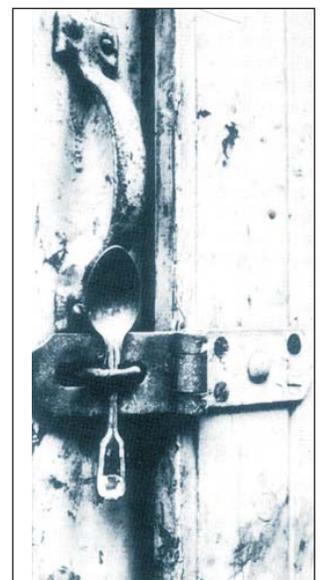
Little Mester, Stan Shaw, regaled me with a tale that happened to him around 40 years



"Typical workshops in Sheffield." Courtesy, Sheffield Newspapers.

earlier, when he worked at George Ibberson's. Stan was polishing the blades on a nearly finished knife, using a rag dolly. Without warning -- although Stan does admit to carelessness, here -- the dolly

"grabbed" the knife out of his hands and threw it! It wasn't until around ten years later that the knife was found sticking into one of the rafters in the roof. Stan still shudders when he tells the story. No wonder.



*"Sorry folks, it's all over!"
Courtesy,
Sheffield Newspapers*

The Knife That Started A Lawsuit

From the collection of Ed Holdbrook

From a March 4, 1925 memo from James E. West, Chief Scout Executive

I am very happy to make known to you, and through you to the entire scout field, the text of two very important decisions conferring great benefit upon the Boy Scouts of America recently rendered by the commissioner of patents, United States Patent Office.

The first decision was in matter of the Opposition filed by the Boys Scouts of America against the Winchester Repeating Arms Company of New Haven, Connecticut, who sought to register a trade-mark for pocket knives consisting in part of the words "Winchester Scout." The Examiner of Interferences of the United States Patent Office decided in favor of our contention that the Winchester concern was not entitled to appropriate the word "scout," but from this decision the company appealed to the commissioner of Patents. Here again the Patent Office decided that the rights of the Boy Scouts of America would be invaded, and confusion caused to the public if the Winchester organization were permitted to appropriate the title "scout" to its own use without license or proper authority of the Boy Scouts of America.

I recently received a letter from the newly elected President of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in which he pledges that this company will cease the sale of Winchester goods bearing the word

"scout" as soon as the outstanding stocks are exhausted. This expression of a desire to co-operate with the Boy Scouts of America irrespective of the legal technicalities is most gratifying. It supports so splendidly the viewpoint which I have repeatedly

advanced during the necessary patent Office procedure, that the officers and directors of such companies are desirous of contributing to the best interest of scouting from the standpoint of what is fair and just to the values and high ideals imported by the scout program to the boyhood and future leadership of America.

The decision of the Patent Commissioner upon our General Petition is also of

great significance and capable of wide application. It sets forth the history and present status of the right of the Boy Scouts of America to freedom from encroachment upon its name and characteristic titles, and instructs the Examiner of Patents to be guided thereby in passing upon future applications inconsistent therewith. This will be of great value in eliminating at their source trade-marks sought to be registered and likely to prove harmful to the Boy Scouts of America.

During the year just ended, we have passed well beyond the 300 mark in the number of instances in which firms and individuals have been persuaded through correspondence and personal interview to give up unauthorized use of the titles "scout," "boy scout," and "scouting," etc., or other practices deemed harmful to the best interest of the Movement.



Cut-toon



Dr. Johnson thinks he has proof that perhaps man and dinosaurs did co-exist. OK, maybe not co-exist!





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 Hill Billy Jeans) 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.

WANTED: Harness Jacks or punch jacks, excellent + or better condition. Will pay cash, or trade for pocket knives I have. I have about 200 folders old and new to trade. Email to charlie.campagna@telus.net or leave a message at (604) 649-6789. N

For Sale: 2nd edition Randall Made™ Knives "Quick Reference Guide," 12" x 25" laminated full-color folding document for identifying and dating most common RMK characteristics over the years. \$20 per delivered copy, payable to Sheldon Wickersham, P.O. Box # 9651, San Jose, CA. 95157, or via Paypal to bluestarknives@sbcglobal.net N

Wanted: Randall Knives, any make, model, or condition. Buy/Sell/Trade. Contact us at (408) 557-9475, eves, PST or via email to bluestarknives@sbcglobal.net N

Wanted: Two piece canopener with the vertical lift for the Remington junior scout the or the junior RWB. Call Jim at (562) 438-8678 or email jpitt306@earthlink.net N

Wanted: SEGUINE KNIVES Call or email Jack @ (805)489-2222 or (805)431-2222 cell jh5jh@aol.com N

Gallery Hardwoods (Larry Davis) has moved. We've moved the business from Sacramento to Eugene. Although we no longer operate a retail store, we'd be happy to show knife handle stock by appointment. Please call us (541) 747-5725 for an appointment. Thanks and it's GREAT to be home again. O

Closing shop. For sale: 2 grinders (2" X 72") - 1 Hardcore Grinder 1 year old variable speed 1.5 hp with 10" wheel and other attachments. 1 Square wheel with attachments 1 hp. - Forge 3 inlets LP - Anvil 130 lb Mankel - Baldor Buffer 3/4 hp - Mill/drill machine - Leather Working tools, lots - Hammers - Handle materials exotic woods stabilized ivory, etc.- Steels (various) and brass - Other tools, and woodworking items - Too much to list. Lowell C. Lockett JS ABS (541)756-1614 or spur@outdrs.net O

For Sale: Case toenails, melon testers, Barlows, peanuts, etc. Have lots of Case memorabilia, catalogs, decals. Have a lot of razor sharpening stones in original boxes. Plus knife boxes, various brands. Contact Frank Miller (541) 822-3458 fshnfrank@aol.com O

For Sale: Rick Dunkerley, MS Knife. Here is your rare opportunity to own one of Rick's knives (one of five) submitted for his MS test – the Ironwood Persian Fighter. This knife is the best of the best, having won "Best Damascus" at the 1997 Blade Show and the 1997 OKCA Show, as well as the Blade "Handmade Award" in 1997. It utilizes a Three Bar Composite blade with a Mosaic core. The guard is Damascus and the ironwood handle is fluted. Total length is 15 inches; blade length 10 inches. Asking price only \$3,499.00 for this unique knife. Robert Zielke (206) 340-2008 (day) or RobtZielke@mindspring.com. Digital photo emailed upon request. O

For Sale: Silver Trident rare dual signature knife signed by both William W. Harsey and Chief Patches Watson. These men are the designers of the famous knife made by Gerber. The knife comes with a signed copy of Patches' book Point Man. Contact Bryan at (541) 895-2557 or (541) 953-2456 For other knives and info go to www.signedknife.com S

"The Bowie Knife": Unsheathing an American Legend by Norman Flayderman. 512 pages, over 260 color plates, hard cover. This book covers the fact, fiction and folklore of the world's most famous fighting knife. Only \$79.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. James D. Hayden Bookpeddler, 88360 Charly Lane, Springfield OR 97478. Check or Visa/MC orders (541)746-1819. Info email jhbkpddlr@rio.com O

KNIFE LAWS on-line. Federal, state, local. <http://pweb.netcom.com/~brlevine/appr-k.htm> Bernard Levine (541) 484-0294 <http://www.knife-expert.com/> S

Wanted: Serious Victorinox-only collector is looking for used and new knives and literature about them. What have you? Contact Dan Jacquart P O Box 145 Cochrane WI 4622-7167 (608) 248-2794 or email to vsakcs@mwt.net S

For Sale: Remington (repo) bullet knives, complete set of 24 knives 1982-2004. All new in boxes, many extras. 48 knives in all, \$2,400.00 OBO. David Scheffer (580)227-3835 S

Books on US Military Knives and Government Reports. Send \$2.00 for a list of over 300 declassified govt. reports and current listing of military knife books in stock. Knife Books - PO Box 5866, Deptford, NJ 08096 or free via e-mail at trz@mcsystems.net S

For Sale: One of only three Cole made Mark 2. These have been written up in Frank Traska's articles. Email for pictures and price. Trades considered. I also have other Cole made knives. Doug Smith Fremont CA. Contact dsmith559@comcast.net S

Wanted - Robeson whittler pattern #633499 in brown bone. Should say Pocket Eze on the shield. Consideration given to one close to this pattern. ibdennis (541) 484-5564 or ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org S

WANTED: Pre-1940 sunfish/toenails. No reworks. VG+. scott@elephanttoenails.com (256)439-0143. Visit www.elephanttoenails.com, the only website exclusively about old toenails, plus an extensive photo gallery! J

Official Scout Blades a new book by Ed Holbrook 112 pgs. Boy Scouts ,Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. Pocket knives, sheath knives, axes, 99% complete from 1910 to date + price guide \$25.00 + \$3.00 postage Ed Holbrook 12150 S. Casto Rd. Oregon City OR. 97045

For Sale: - New book, KEEN KUTTER POCKET KNIVES by Alvin Sellens. Soft bound, 239 pages, this book is full of useful information on markings, descriptions of the knives, period offered, and a price guide. Illustrations all seem to be taken from Keen Kutter catalogs. \$19.95 plus \$2 shipping. Quality Blade Books, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404 or <http://www.qualitybladebooks.com>

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The Knewsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

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Events Calendar November 2004

----- November 2004 -----

- Nov 12-14 - New York Custom Show - (KW-B-TK)
- Nov 13-14 - Arizona Knife Show - Mesa AZ (KW-B-TK)
- Nov 13-14 - FMKC - Ft Myers FL (KW-B)

----- December 2004 -----

- Dec 02-04 - Parkers Knife Show - Pigeon Forge TN (KW-B)
- Dec 11-11 - Oregon Winter Mini Knife Show - Eugene

----- January 2005 -----

- Jan 28-30 - Gator Cutlery Show - Lakeland FL (KW-B)
- Jan 28-30 - American Bladesmith Expo - Reno NV (KW-B-TK)
- Jan 28-30 - Las Vegas Custom Show - Nevada (KW-B-TK)
- Jan 28-30 - Gateway Knife Show - St Louis MO (KW)

----- February 2005 -----

- Feb 12-13 - Arkansas Custom Little Rock (KW-B)
- Feb 25-27 - Knife Expo 05 - Pasadena CA (KW-B)
- Feb 26-27 - Atlanta Knife Show (KW-B-TK)

----- March 2005 -----

- Mar 04-06 - NW Georgia Show - Dalton GA (KW-B)
- Mar 04-06 - East Coast Custom - NY (B-TK)
- Mar 18-20 - Arizona Custom Show - Scottsdale AZ (KW-B-TK)
- Mar 18-20 - Ohio Spring Show NW - Wilmington OH (KW-B)

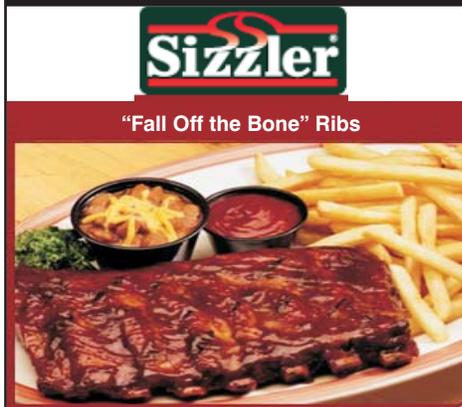
----- April 2005 -----

- Apr 01-03 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B)
- Apr 08-10 - Oregon Knife Show - Eugene Oregon
- Apr 09-10 - Bunker Hill Show - Bethalto IL (KW)
- Apr 22-24 - NKCA Shepherdsville KY Show (KW-B)

----- April 2005 (continued) -----

- Apr 22-24 - Wolverine Collectors Show - Novi MI (KW-B)
 - Apr 30-01 - Espolama Knife Show - Lugano Switzerland (B)
- May 2005 -----
- May 14-15 - NCCA Stamford CT Knife Show (KW)
- June 2005 -----
- Jun 03-05 - 2005 Blade Show - Atlanta GA (B)
- October 2005 -----
- Oct 14-16 - Montana Knifemakers - Missoula MT

DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening
November 17, 2004

Sizzler Restaurant
1010 Postal Way
Gateway area
Across from the Post
Office

6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Meeting

Come Knife with us!
Show-N-Tell -
Bring a special knife!

Contact Dennis or Elayne (541) 484-5564 for additional information on OKCA events. For non-OKCA events, contact the sponsoring organization. Additional info = (B)lade Mag. -(KW) Knife World - (KI) Knives Illustrated (TK) Tactical Knives

