

The One And Only Monthly Newsletter of the Eugene 5160 Club

August Meeting: Thursday the 5th - 6pm – Woodcraft store on Coburg Road



Knife and Sword by Ray Richard

This newsletter is the first where I (Mossy Mike) have not passed my notes to Wayne Goddard (Tomo-wayne) for correction and editing – so let me know if you spot a goof. You should also receive the first copy of **WAYNE'S WORLD** with thoughts on Stellite, the many uses of Simple Green, and email gleanings – enjoy!



Ray takes the stage...

The July meeting's secret surprise speaker was Ray Richard who came all the way from Gresham, Oregon. Thank you Ray, and thank you Mighty Mike for being Ray's driver.

I admire Ray's knives and hawks a lot. Check out his website is at <http://hawknknives.com/>

With a short intro from Wayne, Ray launched into his story. How did he become a bladesmith? “I got bored. The library was closed. I went to the book section at Freddy's and found a Reader's Digest book on Back to Basics that had plans for a truck brake drum forge.” And he was hooked.

Well it actually goes a little farther back than that. Ray is a 4th generation knife maker. Great grandfather Stephen Richard put together a cutlery-making business in Southbridge Massachusetts back in 1862. Stephen passed the business on to his son JA Richard (the factory burned down and was rebuilt once or twice) and from there went to Ray's father. Business had trailed off and the facility was sold to a wire company.

Ray remembers his dad helping him make a knife or two for himself when he was 14 – but cautioning Ray that the business was too much work for too little money. Hmmm. Some things never change, I guess.

So after 30 years as a carpenter, there was that fateful bored day and the Reader's Digest Back to Basics book. Bladesmithing found its way back into Ray's life.

Ray says his success comes from a simple attitude: he's not afraid to be original. Stay away from what other folks are doing. He remembers one early show where Wayne got the podium and said *something like* “There are a lot of great knives in this show. And it

looks like they all were made by three knife makers.”
That sunk in for Ray.

I don't believe I've ever seen a ricasso or a Spanish notch on one of his blades. The lines just flow: they are where they should be. Ray has won 20 show awards. Wayne complained he doesn't win awards since Ray got going!



Knives and Dagger by Ray Richard

And Ray brought in some delicious pieces. A spear made from industrial rebar. Several knives. A dagger. A short sword. If you can look at – or hold – one of these blades and not smile with satisfaction, there's something wrong.



Nothing wrong with Jeff Crowner

Ray uses a variety of steels. 1084; L-6; 5160; 52100; W-2... Ray can get a temper line on 5160: I've got a lot to learn.

Natural materials and natural shapes for the handles. Bog oak; Elk; Sambar; Ebony; Ivory... and he likes to work up wrought iron fittings from old wagon wheels.

Then there were questions from the floor: One of the treatments he mentioned was leaving the handle in linseed oil & turpentine for 24 hours. That ought to soak it in!

What do you use for your temper line clay? “Bullshit. Seriously. I buy a 50# bag of fire clay for \$7, use about 1/3 fire clay and 2/3 cow flops. Works great!”

Hammer vs stock removal: Ray said it always amazes him to see the metal change shape on the anvil.



Ray's Spear

Usual handle construction? Forge a partial tang. Drill a hole in the end and rivet on an extension with threads at the end. Pressure fit the guard. JB weld and stack the handle pieces. Finish off by tightening a bolt on those threads (could be in the pommel or external).



Tang with Pressure-Fitted Bolster

Where do you see yourself in 5 years: “If I'm not ashes in a can then I'll be out in the shop. I'd like to be found laying over the anvil!”

Amen.

Thank you again Ray for taking the time to make the drive and spend an evening with us. I speak for more than myself when I say: I really appreciate it!



Joe Essin (proprietor of Woodcraft) shared a beautiful bow that he built from bamboo, yellowheart, and redheart. It's an elegant simple bow with a 42 pound pull. Nice!

Joe then presented the group with a salvaged circular saw. I believe someone with a plasma cutter is going to make blanks out of it and spread

them around. Thanks! It will be interesting to see what folks come up with.



Wayne demonstrated a ball vice made from a bowling ball. It provides a smooth transition to any angle you want.

Then he shared a piece of meteorite from Africa. Beautiful crystalline structure.

Wayne gave the cooling rate as 20 degrees C per million years to form those crystals. There was quite a discussion about what could and could not be done with meteorite steel and why anyone would make a knife from it.

There were some hints about variations on mustard patina, such as doing several scatter applications with a Q-tip – and a light FeCl₃ bath between. Rinse and repeat for that aged look we're all taking on.

A general tip was that when dealing with a new substance (solvent, oil, whatever) – to dab a little on a sheet of paper – let it dry – and see what sort of residue it leaves behind.

Wayne also demonstrated how to lap a sharpening stone that has been worn



unevenly. And boy did Lynn Moore have a swayback stone to work on! Wayne demoed the process but I think Lynn gets to finish it himself.

There was some general discussion of sharpening stones – especially water stones and the Goddard special: a Norton combination Crystolon/India stone.

Keith Johnson demonstrated a bending press that would make more sense for stress testing blades than sticking them in a vice. The press is used to check the skill of a welder by deforming a test weld and looking for resulting cracks.



Mike Johnson (the Mighty) showed us a beautifully tempered 5160 blade. Unfortunately my photos of the blade itself are out of focus – except for one where he shows the tempering gizmo he used. Mike quenches in 2/3 transmission fluid, 1/3 bacon grease. Even with an edge quench the blade

gets hard all the way to the spine – so the tempering gizmo (or torch work) is required for a durable blade.

Wayne promises a spread of his own knives at the next meeting – with history, anecdotes, and all the trimmings. See you there!

Michael Kemp (the Mossy one)



Knife by Ray Richards

As I was getting ready to send this out, I received photos of the 5160 Club booth at

I bet we'll hear all about it at the meeting – until then, here are the photos from Wayne Goddard:

Bohemia Mining Days

