



EUGENE 5160 CLUB – JUNE 2011



The June Meeting will be Thursday the 2nd at 6pm at the Woodcraft store in Sheldon Plaza on Coburg Road, Eugene. Informal Steering Committee meets at McDonald's at the North end of Sheldon Plaza at 5pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 2ND ~ This Thursday **DENNIS ELLINGSEN** will be giving us a look into his collection of **JAPANESE SWORDS**. There will be swords to explain, entertain, and illustrate aspects of the creation and use of Japanese blades. I believe Jack Johnson has been enlisted to help Dennis demonstrate the correct process of unsheathing a katana. Dennis has spoken to us before about his knife passion – and given pointers on marketing yourself and your knives. Now we get to see his zeal for the Japanese blade – he's been preparing for this one so this is one not to miss!

JULY 16ND ~ **GENE MARTIN** will host a demo on making **MOKUME GANE** and other exotic layered metals at his place South of Grants Pass. We'll start at 10a.m. and continue as long as folks are standing ... and let's not stress Gene on this one – it is fantastic that he's sharing his knowledge and expertise – especially while healing up from back surgery. Directions will be included in the next newsletter. If Portland folks want a stop-over spot, I'm 30 minutes off I-5 SW of Eugene, but from here it's a "straight" shot South back onto I-5 @ Curtain. Give me a call or email if you want to stop over here Friday/Saturday nights (Michael Kemp 541-654-3444 michael@elementalforge.com).

JULY OR AUGUST will be the time-frame for another hammer-in at **JIM JORDAN'S** place just North of Eugene – stay tuned for details.

Be sure to note Wayne's World this month – announcing the First Annual 5160 Club Great Makeshift Knifemaking Contest! Fame! Fortune! Handle Materials! Judging by Wayne at the November 5160 Club meeting!



MAY 5160 CLUB MEETING

You think *you've* got an ax to grind? **JACK BIRKY** showed us a thing or two – make that twenty – or forty – or ??? about hatchets and axes. There were stone axes and cooper's axes and carriage hewing hatchets and goose wings, broad axes, saddle axes, novelty, folding, forester's, fawn foot, well – just look:





an angled (right-handed) handle?

The hits just kept coming.

... some hundreds of years old – some fairly new – some who's age is not quite known... and any of you who know Jack were not surprised to hear him talk off-the-cuff about the history and use of each piece.

Birky mentioned that he'd recently sold a good 250 axes and hatchets out of his collection and was just sharing some of those he'd kept.

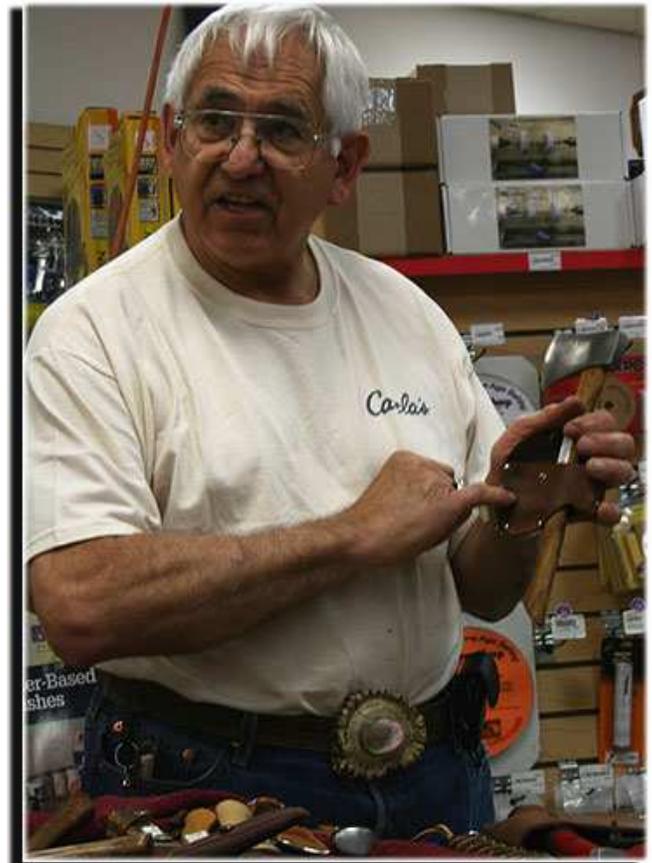
Jack challenged us to come up with a definition of the difference between a hatchet and an ax that would stand up to how traditional tools are named. After some earnest banter back and forth I started having *deja vu* with what's-a-Bowie-knife discussions: for every rule we could come up with there seemed to be a traditional exception lying on the table in front of us. Even though my personal rule of thumb (*that a hatchet is a light, one-hand tool and an ax is a heavier, two-handed tool*) fails in some cases, it's still my story and I'm sticking to it!

Most of the axes and hatchets were working tools. Jack would tell an anecdote about each one as he pulled yet another from some bottomless Calderon of Rebirth he had hidden up there behind the table. Some were just for fun – like the miniatures and the glass hatchets. Some were cleverly constructed. Some folded up or held survival items in a hollow handle. But I had to question the utility of the pocket knife folding-hatchets. C'mon. How much can you chop with a hatchet that weighs a few ounces?

I loved seeing the old tradesman's tools. There's something about a tool that's made for a particular job and just looks *right* for it. Was that a French cooper's ax that had an edge that curved in two dimensions and

It was an excellent meeting. I heard more than I learned, and I learned more than I would have thought about the history and styles of “the ax.”

Thanks Jack – it was a treat!





PASSAROUNDS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Let's hold off on passing around our show-and-tell pieces until the speaker is done with their presentation. It's a show of respect/appreciation for the person doing the presentation – and it allows everyone to pay attention to our guest while they are “on stage” - - - and I also allows us to give the passarounds the attention they deserve.

... and the passarounds were quite satisfying: Mighty Mike had couple of nice ones: a 5160 blade with brass bolster/finger guard and Koa wood handle:



And another in his series of Grade 60 Rebar blades – this one with a cord wrapped integral handle:



And speaking of Mighty Mike, I know he was looking for tube size, burner construction, and pointers on the birdhouse (vertical) forge he was building – maybe we will hear Thursday how that project's gone?

Jeff Crowner brought in an good length of tightly twisted cable Damascus that he's already made a couple of blades from. Jeff described a meticulous up-front cleaning – he credits that and the heat of his birdhouse forge for the quality of the result.



He also brought a reincarnated machete – Wayne had handed him a beat-up old machete and gave Jeff the assignment of bringing it back to life. Here's the re-profiled, horse-mat handled, mustard-finished result:



DE-CLASSIFIEDS

Buy/sell/trade/etc. notices received by the editor. I'll repeat notes a few times then drop them unless I hear that the deal is still on. Postings are not backed by anyone other than the person who sent in the notice. We hope we're a generally honorable group of people, but even then misunderstandings can occur and it's up to the folks making a deal to check it out first.

Mighty Mike's brother-in-law is working on making a retirement presentation out of a Polaski ax and would like to have it laser etched/engraved. Does anyone have a source or idea where the work could be done on short notice? Mike Johnson 503 351-3104

Marty has a 6" jaw width post vise for sale. Also 1050 and 5160 steels, and anhydrous borax. Martin Brandt 541 954-2168

Andy Franco in Idaho has a Centaur Forge blower and motor (Baldor .2 HP) w/ variable speed. This is for a coal forge but will also work well on a gas forge. Andy Franco/ Calico Forge Knife Co./ 907 Sunny Lane/ Nampa, ID/ 83651/ (208)442-7110/ www.calicoforge.com

Wayne has an active free steel pile beside his driveway. Call for an appointment: 541 689-8098.

Mighty Mike has access to a steady supply of used LARGE brake drums that can be welded up as bases for post vices, grinders, propane forges or whatever. Let him know if you are interested: Mike Johnston 503 351-3104.



WAYNE'S WORLD

(This is also attached to the email as a separate PDF document so you can print it and post it in your shop)

FIRST ANNUAL 5160 CLUB GREAT MAKESHIFT KNIFEMAKING CONTEST

First prize, \$20 in cash and an assortment of materials.

I handed out a quickie notice and stated a few rules on the hand-out I circulated at the last meeting. Read this carefully and let me know if you get confused.

You'll find some changes here as I think and rethink what should be — or not be — the rules.

There will be an entry form to fill out, with as many details of how the knife was made as you can think of.

Everyone will start with 100 points, you will have points taken away as elements of the knife become less makeshift. There will be some elementary tests of cutting ability with a value of 25 points. Remember that a knife is defined as a sharp cutting instrument. The handle can earn you 25 points. Ingenuity of construction another 25 points. The last 25 points will be based on the overall strength and utility of the knife.

#1. Time limit is six months. Knives will be judged by Wayne at the November meeting. .

#2. This is a survival exercise, a test of the imagination.

#3. Handle material can be anything from a cord wrap to antler, horn, tree branches or some type of metal. (Think tube.)

#4. Wood slab handles will be allowed but won't score as high as a section of tree branch or broom handle. Plastic screwdriver handles are one sources of handle material.

#5. You are expected to use a minimum of tools. Blades must be made from a "found" source. Examples are; lawnmower blades, grass trimmer blades, old scythe blades, putty knives, broken knife blades and etc.

#6. Heat treating allowed if you can accomplish it in a campfire.

#7. All makeshift knives shall have a cardboard sheath which will be judged for 25% of the total points.

#8. Not really a rule but keep in mind that drilled holes come from a drill press. I'll allow hand cranked equipment if it can be explained as to how you found it in the wilderness.

#9. I hope to see some non ferrous blades, bronze, copper or stone.

#10. Remember that you start with 100 points. You will be docked if and when I see something that isn't "makeshift". Makeshift means: a crude and temporary expedient.

I'll have some makeshift blade materials at the meeting to give away.

Questions, call Wayne 541-689-8098 or e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net



See you at the meeting Thursday!

I'm looking forward to getting another perspective, and the fruits of Dennis's research, into the mystique and making of the Japanese blade.

Not to mention getting to see a variety of swords!

Mossy Mike – signing off!