

THE ONE AND ONLY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE



# EUGENE 5160 CLUB – JANUARY 2012



The January Meeting will be Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Woodcraft store in Sheldon Plaza on Coburg Road, Eugene. Informal get-together at McDonald's at the North end of Sheldon Plaza around 5pm.



**ROCKY TROTTER WON THE  
1ST ANNUAL 5160 CLUB  
GREAT MAKESHIFT  
KNIFEMAKING CONTEST**



Wayne narrowed down the winners according to the contest guidelines... then put the two finalists up for a vote – and Rocky's efforts won the day!

January's 5160 Club Meeting will be held at the usual time and place: First Thursday (the 5<sup>th</sup>) at 6pm at the Woodcraft Store on Coburg Road, Eugene.

This month's theme will be "Show and tell about your knife collection." Don't bring every knife you own, just those that are your favorites, or maybe a good story to go with them.

And if they haven't closed the store by the time we are done sharing, Wayne will be ready to demo inlaying, carving, filework, engraving or some such.

**Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year!**

Your unofficial 5160 Club Scribe ~

Michael Kemp



## YOU HAD TO HAVE BEEN THERE

It's *always* better to see the blades and hear the presenter in person. But seriously – you had to see these knives to believe 'em. The knives that passed around the room for **THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL 5160 CLUB MAKESHIFT KNIFEMAKING CONTEST** stretched the envelope and then shredded it! Oh yah - and then there were the stories...

Maybe I should back up.

Our esteemed (and wily) un-leader, Wayne Goddard, cooked up this think-outside-the-box challenge several months ago and put together rules and a point system for winning - which included making up a post-apocalyptic short story explaining how you found all the parts for your knife and built the #@!%\$ thing without any power tools.

You had to convince Wayne that it coulda happened that way...

It was worth the meeting to see the imaginative knives in person – but the *stories* were every bit as creative as the blades and sheaths. For the most part I have no idea who went with which knife so I'll just give you the photos.

The Winner! A broken trap spring – wrapped in twine and matching cardboard sheath.

It's got an attitude to it that says: you don't want to meet me in a dark, deserted building in some post-apocalyptic future!



Here's a simple sharpened scrap of steel with copper formed around it for a very serviceable handle:



This 2-layer cardboard sheath is glued with fir sap and done up on a shoe-string for the above blade:



I wish I could remember all the details of the stories made up for these creations... they got elaborate! Like the story behind this broken saw blade creation. There was something about where the bolts came from... fire was involved...



Here's another take on putting an edge on a scrap of steel (without power tools, remember) and persuading some copper to serve as a handle:



Sometimes it's the simple things that delight my old brain – I really liked this twist on a common object:



But if you want to do your post-apocalyptic critter skinning with flair – how about this one!



It just goes to show that “primitive” can still have class – I bet you could get money for this at one of the local art galleries.

And while this VHS-tape-bolt-and-copper creation might look less threatening than steel – it would certainly cut flesh – and be easier to get an edge back on it if the power tools are all dead.



Rocky did a great job with the winning blade – and winning was not a walk in the park. It came down to a tie before going to a show of hands.

Wayne's prizes included \$20 (in quarters), deer & elk crowns, a knife, pieces of ivory, mokume gane, other knife parts, and chunks of Osage and Snakewood.

For all the creative blades – *and stories* – Thanks! It was a hoot!

Next contest: The bamboo handled blade contest is back – judging will be at the July meeting. Details to follow.



## BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE...

As usual, there was also good discussion of a range of knifemaking issues.

Wayne was asked about dovetailing handle scales – the whys and hows. He noted that dovetailing in the scale (so that it is held tightly to the liner by the bolster and butt piece) help to keep the scale in place when a square joint would allow a slight flex in the handle (or any tendency for the scale to warp) to cause the scale to pop off the liner.

Wayne prefers a 30° angle rather than the sharper 45° - feeling that 30° is plenty to keep the scale in place without being delicate or difficult to get a tight fit.



Here's a jig Wayne uses to consistently get the angle.

In soldering up dovetail bolsters you need something like this to clean any residue out of the corner – a file with one or two sides ground smooth:

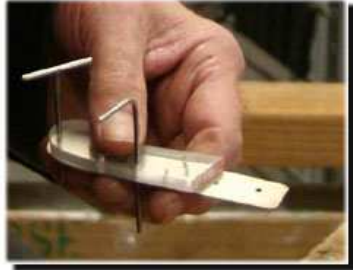


General conversation strayed to legal definitions of “what is a knife”. Wayne recounting being an Expert Witness on a case involving throwing knives (the “victim” in this case being a telephone pole). Wayne's contention is that a knife has a sharp cutting edge. Wayne convinced the judge that the “throwing knives” involved didn't pass that test.

Wayne explained his method of soldering bolsters to liners – which involves using a solder paste (430°F solder – which he got from Sheffield Knifemaker Supply – page 35 of their monster PDF catalog). Stay-Brite solder was also favorably mentioned – I

believe this is widely available – around town or from [texasknife.com](http://texasknife.com) or Jantz Supply ([knifemaking.com](http://knifemaking.com)).

You prep the surfaces using wet&dry 120 paper on a very flat surface. No contamination or finger prints allowed. I suppose you could clean with acetone if necessary. Put the parts together with a little of the paste solder between. Make sure the edges are aligned – clamp it up. Wayne showed a jig he uses for drilling consistently place holes.



Wayne uses the setup shown below to provide clamping surfaces and above/below access with a torch. The regular vice has an elbow welded to the base so you can quickly clamp it into a bench vice as shown. Wayne calls this a vice-in-a-vice.

The Magician explains his tools:



With the piece clamped in place, hit it from above and below with your torch, paying special attention to the thicker bolster side. When the solder runs, a short-trimmed solder brush or some such can be used to brush away excess solder while it is still liquid.

After the piece cools, soak it in water with some soda to neutralize the flux (if I understood right).

You need something like an Optivisor to be able to do the fine cleanup and finish work. I picked up an Optivisor years ago at Nelson-The-Rocky-Feller – but you can get them from Amazon.com or wherever. And following a hint at the meeting I checked by Harbor Freight and got a similar get-up with multiple snap-in lenses and a top-mounted work light. Makes me look like a crazy professor type but sure is handy.

There was talk of using solder for fixed blade guards.

You want a hairline fit. A press-fit is best. If you have wire solder, hammer it flat before cutting pieces off with snips. Wayne says to place a few of snippets on the tang side and heat from the blade side. Have the knife clamped horizontally. The heat from the torch will draw the solder towards it once the solder melts.

Don't confuse regular solder with silver solder. Regular solder melts in the 190°F to 840°F degree range – so with some caution you can use it without damaging your heat treat – but silver solder melts from 1300°F for “easy” to 1425°F for “hard” silver solder. I've used silver solder to construct ferrules and to braze the ferrule to the guard – and it's touchy.

One place Wayne mentioned using “brazing solder” (aka silver solder) is in attaching a threaded bolt to the end of a short hidden tang to attach to a pommel nut.



Wayne puts a 2 bevel point on the tang and a matching wedge cut into the end of the threaded bolt. For attaching a nut to the pommel, Wayne will put 3 nuts on a threaded rod so that you can lock them tight against each other – then grind off the corners so they are round. Then remove them from the rod and you

can braze one to the handle side of a pommel or butt cap and have a nut that fits nicely into a round hole in the end of the handle.

Talk drifted back to attaching dovetail scales. A sharpened brass rod or brass chisel was recommended for cleaning off excess epoxy... or Popsicle sticks... or bamboo skewers like they use for cooking...

And with a smattering of random conversations [“these modern SG belts outlast those old belts 20-to-1”...] we wandered into the dark December night...



## 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're an honorable group of people but still, misunderstandings can occur and it's up to the folks making a deal to check it out first.

Larry “Bear” Criteser has a commercially made oxy/acetyl. cart with an 80 or 100 cubic ft. oxy bottle (not sure which) with unknown amount of gas in it, for sale. No acetyl. bottle, sorry. He'd like to get \$75 for the cart and bottle. He also has an extra oxy bottle the same size as the one with the cart, with some gas in it for \$40. Home phone is 541-689-5680, or email at [<bearsgunnery@criteser.com>](mailto:bearsgunnery@criteser.com)

Marty has a 6" jaw width post vise for sale. Also 1050 and 5160 steels, old files to make knives out of, and anhydrous borax. Martin Brandt 541 954-2168

Wayne's totally revised **Wonder of Knifemaking** is now available. And I believe he still has an active free steel pile beside his driveway, and an ongoing tool sale. 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.



## MISC. NOTES

Remember the Keith Johnson set us up with a public page in Facebook – which can serve as our meeting place in the virtual world:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/5160-Club/193010470733488>

As always – old newsletters can be found at:

<http://www.elementalforge.com/5160Club/>



## BAMBOO-HANDLED KNIFE CONTEST

Time (and Master Goddard) will tell how the new bamboo-handled blade contest will shape up. I've still got the one I started for the last such contest a couple of years ago. Maybe THIS time I'll get it finished!! So stay tuned – judging will be in July.



## BEST WISHES – HEALTH & HAPPINESS IN 2012!!

Here are a few more knives that made the rounds:



Your Scribe ~ ~ ~

Michael Kemp