

THE MOSTLY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

EUGENE 5160 CLUB ~ APRIL 2013

The April Meeting will be Thursday ~ the 4th ~ at 6pm at the Woodcraft store in Delta Oaks Shopping Center just off Delta Hwy and Beltline Hwy in North Eugene.



APRIL MEETING

The 5160 Club will meet tonight the 4th at 6pm – at Woodcraft of Eugene. Bring some show-and-tell – and we can make plans for the OKCA show!

The OKCA knife show will be on April 13th & 14th for the general public – plus Friday the 12th for OKCA members and table setup.

<http://www.oregonknifecub.org/okcashow.html>

... at the Lane Events Center.

When the suggestion came up that 5160 Club should get a table I ponied up the \$120 to nail one down. Last meeting I passed the hat and I got \$147. I picked up a \$40 gift card from Woodcraft with the extra and we'll have a drawing for it at the meeting. Thanks to everyone who put money in the hat.

A couple of folks have agreed to help me sit our table and others are welcome. I'll make up a table-sitting schedule so we don't have a crowd behind the table. 1 or 2 folks is good - 3 is getting cozy and we don't want to be a bother to neighboring table-holders.

Having your OKCA membership *before* the show gets you in free for the weekend plus Friday is cherry-picking day from the suppliers tables. Membership renewals are *not* taken until late Friday afternoon to preserve OKCA staff sanity.



I've made some “conversation starter” info-graphics that I'll glue to stands and set on the table... you can see them posted on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/5160Club>

I'll have some knives & bits I can lay out on the table along with some sample newsletters.

Erik Land has made a 5160 Club plaque.

Mike Johnston & I think we can cobble together a digital picture frame to run a slideshow of photos from past newsletters.



We *can* sell knives at our table – but we shouldn't put people put in the position of selling someone else's work – there are just too many ways for that to go wrong... so if you have some blades you want to sell, sign up for table-sitting and you can hawk them while you help sit the table.

I'm hoping that some folks who have their own tables will bring examples of what they will have at the OKCA show to the meeting tonight for a sneak peek!

See you tonight!



MARCH MEETING

WAYNE GODDARD laid out an array of knives on the table. Three bugs were present. 3. Count 'em!



And an array of smaller blades. Wayne gave away a copy of one of his books and launched into a discussion on knife design.

He noted that he



made his first

knife from scratch with the “50 Dollar Knife Shop Grinder” in 1963. And while you should not let a lack of fancy tools stop you, “I can make a knife three times faster with a belt grinder.” Steve Goddard made the top and bottom knives in the above photo. Both are 5160 blades. The “stubby camp knife” has a slightly

short handle for the size of the blade. The other antler-handled knife is a slightly modified traditional design (below). The handle gave them a challenge – they silver-soldered a butt cap on to fix a pithy center. Nice mustard finish too!



Wayne noted the structural advantage of silver brazing. The brazed area being generally stronger than the metal being joined.

Wayne talked about taking the nastiest piece of antler he could find to make a folder - - - to prove he can! He detailed the construction technique for antler folders – most of which I think have been noted in earlier newsletters.

Wayne talked about his “art knife” bug knives. With his first bug knife he figured he'd have to charge \$1,000 to make his shop rate. “Then I thought: there's only one of these in the world.

There's never gonna be anybody stupid enough to do another one. So I priced it at \$2,700 and one of



the first guys that looked at it bought it from a photograph.” So Wayne kept an eye out for another crazy antler – and made another art knife for the next year's show – and sold it to the same collector.

Wayne talked for awhile about this Swiss collector who wound up with 43 of his knives... and about these art knives: “there's file work all inside and little pins here and there. They're fun. But you can't really find many antlers that will work.” You could see Wayne really enjoyed the challenge of these knives – as well as the premium price that can be gotten. After this Swiss collector passed on “The Bug” became available on the internet and Wayne bought it back.

Wayne noted he's looked in his notes and he has made 662 folders out of about 5000 knives. Wayne made a 3x scaled-up Scout knife for Dennis Ellington one time. THEN he made an 8' 4" folder for the bicentennial. For that one he did a 10x scale-up of a standard design. He got it put together and it just didn't look right no matter where he stood... until he and Steve hauled it outside, leaned it up against the house, and walked across the street – then it looked good!

At the other end of the spectrum – a collector wanted a miniature – no more than one inch long! So Wayne took a solid piece of antler and carved it down to be a tiny crown for the miniature knife.

One of the group shared this knife they'd bought:



And while it's in the general “camp knife” style, Wayne's critique was harsh. “There's nothing I understand about this knife.” While he didn't go into specifics my suspicion is that he felt it was too heavy, the edges of the handle are sharp, and to me the handle/choil/finger notch areas look like blister-makers. The sheath looked great to me. There was speculation about it having been stamped out in a factory rather than hand tooled due to the precision of the markings.



There was some discussion about creativity and the amount of time you are willing to invest versus the results you are going to get.

Wayne noted that in his experience, years of overtime are required to be a professional custom knife maker.

(Scribe's note: Hmm. I put in my years of overtime on another profession – so I'll just enjoy this as my retirement job and not figure I'll set the world on fire.)

Another member picked out a piece of handle material from Wayne's picking box and made this knife out of it in a sod-buster style. The frustration was that it loads up with black spots when sanded to 400 grit.



Mike Johnston shared some grinder rebuild he's been doing – making wood parts. The big drive wheel is a couple of pieces of oak laminated with Titebond III – he relayed all his trials and errors getting it sized and trued up. It's never as simple as it first seems. He's running the drive wheel at 1725 RPM. The smaller tracking wheel – set the bolt into the bearing by freezing

the bolt and heating the bearing. Set for life! He reports that his grinder runs so nice and smooth now.

In response to a question about contact wheel construction Mike noted that you can get the neoprene material Wayne like if you look for “Bandsaw Tire.” Wayne has some for sale.

Mike also brought in one of the knives he made at the hammer-in at Lynn's.



Mike noted that he has a lot of knives forged out and ready to put handles on. He'd though it was maybe 25 knives – but when he counted them up it was 45. So there's a definite advantage to a blacksmith knife!

A new club member (Al) who came down from Forest Grove area for the meeting got up, showed some

profile cut pieces he's working with and connected up with Mike – who's also in the Forest Grove area – for advice on heat treating etc. Remember guys – there's also our former regular, Eric Ochs, making knives (mainly folders) on a professional basis in the Sherwood area.

There was some wind-down discussions among groups of folks.

Here's a knife that went around – “Goddard & Son”



And Jim Jordan passed around some “practice” inlay pieces – Nice!!



And with that I'd better sign off and gather props for the meeting – I've got an appointment to catch this afternoon – see you at Woodcraft for the meeting!

Your Scribe ~ ~ ~ Michael Kemp