



KNEWSLETTER IN A NUTSHELL



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

May 2024

Secretary Report Susan Goddard

I am happy to report the show last month was a success. We had record attendance, over 1,500 tickets sold (this is not including the attendees who returned on Sunday with their two day pass or children who were not charged for admission and of course all club members who attended) To give you a comparison, the attendance for the 2023 April show was under 1,000 tickets sold. The club is in good health! With over **900 active Members!** Thank you to all of the members for your hard work and support.

The Custom Knife Competition had over 90 knives entered for judging! The 2023 show had just over 60.

Due to the increased number of people attending and the Lane Events Center receiving multiple complaints of pets at the show, we will now need table holders to let us know ahead of time if you will be bringing your registered service animal. We will have to be more diligent with the paperwork to

ensure we are not in violation of our contract with our venue, The Lane Events Center.

We are already taking renewals for 2025 club membership dues and registering table holders for the 2024 December Mini Show and 2025 April Show.

We would like to announce a new level of membership. We are now offering Individual Lifetime Membership for \$520.00 (with a digital newsletter).

We will be taking summer vacation for the months of June, July, & August. The next Knewsletter you'll receive will be in September. We will still gather at the Sizzler on the third Wednesday of the summer months, however, we won't be holding an official meeting.

Speaking for myself and the other members of the OKCA Board of Directors, we are all grateful to be a part of such a great group of people

who rally together to keep alive the community and fellowship among knife enthusiasts.

Have a great summer!!

P.S. Grace would love to have a head start on the fall Knewsletters. If you have written any articles for the Knewsletter, please send them our way during the summer, no need to wait. (Please keep it PG-rated, we've got youngsters in the club).



May Meeting at Sizzler 05/15/2024

(dinner at 6pm, meeting starts at 7pm)
1010 Postal Way, Springfield,
OR 97477

How to make your own composite handle material

By Bryan Wages

Part 2 of 2

One at a time, take a fabric strip and completely immerse it in the epoxy mixture. The loose weave of the burlap used in this tutorial will almost instantly soak up large amounts of epoxy. If you are using a fabric with a tighter weave, like linen or canvas, the epoxy will not penetrate as quickly, but will still not need much time in the mixture.



After you take your strip out, run the fabric between two gloved fingers from the top down, tightly squeezing as much into the fabric and as much excess back down into the mix as possible.



Lay the epoxy-soaked strip down in the center of your prepared wax paper stack. Take a moment and make sure the strip is flat and square, with the weave of the fabric also as square as possible, since wavy weaves will be visible

once the finished product is ground.

Repeat the soaking and squeezing steps

for each piece of fabric individually. Each time you lay the piece down, examine and square the weave, and make sure that no loose threads from the edge get caught between the layers (otherwise, these will also be visible once the handle is ground). You will end up with loose threads both on the edges and also falling off into the epoxy. Just stick them off to the side on a piece of scrap wax paper as you come across them, to keep them out of your way.

Once you have built up several layers of soaked fabric, at least a dozen but possibly more depending on the thickness you hope to achieve (for example, typically 20 layers creates a 3/8" thick slab for me), tightly wrap the fabric in the wax paper layers below, one by one, taking care still to ensure the weave of the fabric remains square. Leave the ends long, at least 4-5" on each end, just roll the ends in a few times.

These ends will fill with the overflow epoxy once the slab is in the press, and so it is important they are long and not tightly bound to the fabric.

Pressing the Slab

Place the wax paper wrapped, epoxy-soaked fabric stack into your mold and place the mold into



the press. I found when I used only one long block in my mold, the width of the slab did not come out uniform. You can see I added a smaller pillow block between my press and my mold to more evenly distribute the pressure across the entire slab mold.



As you compress the press down onto the mold, a large amount of

epoxy will fill the long tubular ends of wax paper sticking out of both ends of the mold. Keep an eye on these that they don't leak epoxy onto the press or floor, and quickly clean up any spills.

Check the recommended curing time for your epoxy and leave your mold in the press until the full time has elapsed. The West Systems 105/206 combo used here requires 15 hours of pressure.



material, very similar to G10

(meaning it also requires proper PPE when grinding).

The Finishing Touches

When you remove your mold from the press, your slab should be fully hardened and cured. All you need to do is unwrap and discard the

wax paper, and clean up any remaining paper stuck to the slab. If you have stubborn wax paper on your slab, a short soak in warm water should help it scrub right off. Now you have a slab of homemade composite for knife handle scales. Your slab should prove as durable as any manufacturer composite handle



Winners of the OKCA 2024 Custom Knife Competition

**Best of Show
Hunter/Utility
OKCA 2024 Winner**



**Rhidian Gatrill
Gibsons, BC, Canada**

© george filgate photography

**New Maker
OKCA 2024 Winner**



**Dmitry Shklyar
Vancouver, WA**

© george filgate photography

Art Knife
OKCA 2024 Winner



Scott Sweder
Columbia Falls, MT

© george filgate photography

Fighting Knife
OKCA Winner 2024



Josh Osborne
Central Point, OR

© george filgate photography

Bowie Knife
OKCA 2024 Winner



Jeff Murison
North Plains, OR

© george filgate photography

Folding Knife
OKCA 2024 Winner



Rhidian Gatrill
Gibsons, BC, Canada

© george filgate photography

Damascus
OKCA 2024 Winner



Brion Baker
Great Falls, MT

© george filgate photography

Hand Forged
OKCA 2024 Winner



Mike Clark
Monmouth, OR

© george filgate photography

Kitchen Knife
OKCA 2024 Winner



Bill Burke
Boise, ID

© george filgate photography

Miniature
OKCA 2024 Winner



Rhidian Gatrill
Gibsons, BC, Canada

© george filgate photography

2024 Display Award Knives

These are the Display Award Knives that were donated to the club by our Knifemaker club members. Ka-Bar blanks were distributed last year and the below is what our members came up with. They came out great!





Gene Martin congratulated Phil Bailey on winning 1st place for his Display “The French Connection” (Phil picked Mike Silvey’s donated Ka-Bar pictured above).



The above knife made by Paul Sarganis won the “Best Display Award Ka-Bar”



The above knife is the 2024 OKCA Club Knife numbers 1 thru 5 (of 105) these were sold in the Silent Auction at the 2024 April Show (#3 pictured here).

Joshua Hill presented Mike Clark with the award for winning 1st place in the Rope Cutting Competition. (He cut though four 1 inch ropes using a knife made by Ed Schempp).





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Board of Directors & Club Contact Information

Ray Ellingsen - President
Steve Goddard - Vice President
Susan Goddard - Sec/Tres.
Joshua Hill - Master at Arms
Lisa Wages - Show Chair
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The Knewsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association
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OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS

MINI SHOW OREGON KNIFE SHOW

DECEMBER 7th 2024

BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE

Lane Events Center
796 W. 13th Ave.
Eugene, OR



**Saturday December 7th - 8am-9am set-up.
9am-4pm open to the public.**

OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION



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← Become a Member on our website



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS

48th Annual OREGON KNIFE SHOW

APRIL 12th-13th 2025

Lane Events Center - 796 W. 13th Ave. Eugene, OR

BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE

Largest Cutlery Show
East or West of the
Mississippi River
350 TABLES

Informative
Educational
Fun for Everyone
Live Demonstrations

**Fri. April 11th 8am-9am set-up. 9am-5pm open ONLY to
table-holders and members of OKCA. Join on our website!**

Sat. April 12th 7am-8am set-up. 8am-5pm open to the public.

Sun. April 13th 8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to the public.

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