

Promoting the
collection and
display of Buck
Knives since 1988



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Holding
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Great Knives
Since 1902!

December 2011

CLUB NEWS BY JOHN FORESMAN

We've had a great response to our "Going Green" announcement. Our list of members who opted to receive their newsletters via email has grown significantly since our September newsletter. It's never too late to join our list, just send me an email request!

I am very excited about a new concept that we have developed to offer limited runs of customized knives to our membership. Leroy Remer and Wilde Bill Cody have agreed to collaborate on these runs that will be limited to a quantity of 25. Initially, they will re-handle 110s for us, but if this takes off, we'll add more models as well. We may utilize club member Chris Baker's skills at customizing knives in the future too. Club member Heath Stone re-handles fixed blades with Lucite handles, and we may offer his knives as well. If this concept is well received by our members, we'll eventually add a page on our web site where we can offer these knives. In the mean time though, Board Member Bruce Dollinger has graciously offered to act as our agent on eBay. His selling name on eBay is ViperBruce. Please check his listings out frequently for our latest offerings.

Member Bill Wills from Washington has generously donated some Bloody Jasper and Turquoise to the club for Leroy and Wilde Bill to use on our first limited edition 110s. Thanks Bill! We sure do appreciate it.

Larry Oden continues to receive consignments from club members who wish to sell some of their Buck collections. He can now email (or snail mail) the consignment list to you and his contact information is in the club officer and board member section of this newsletter.

Our youth auctions on our web site are still going strong. We've had some very nice knives to offer thanks to some generous members' donations. If you haven't checked out the auctions, please take the time to do so. It's for a great cause! And donations are always happily accepted!

The Kentucky Cutlery Association show was held in Shepherdsville, KY on October 28-30. BCCI club member Jerry Bodner (miniature knifemaker) was show chairman and invited our club to display at this show. Jerry strongly supports the BCCI with his many contributions of his miniature Buck knives that we raffle off at shows. We couldn't turn down this invitation! Bruce Dollinger, Gene Merritt, Larry Oden and Brent Schindewolf joined me in displaying at this show. We all had a great time visiting with each other. Club members Chuck Reed, Mark Zalesky, Ralph Grotrian, Jack and Joan Foresman, Georgia Foresman, Jerry Bodner and

continued on page 3...

Many of you know that I enjoy driving when I travel. Well, the latest trip was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The trip started in Meridian, Idaho (near Boise) at a men's banquet. The next day we had another sportsmen's event in Arco, Idaho. From there we traveled to San Bernardino, California for a signing event at a fairly new BassPro Shop for the weekend. We spent five days with good friends in San Diego before heading to Las Vegas for a signing event at the new BassPro Shop.

Lori's sister Dori and her husband Jim live in St. Charles so we filled the tank and headed for Missouri for a visit. My plan was to speak at a game banquet in Topsham, Maine on September 2nd and drive down to Portland, Maine to sign at Kittery Trading Post on the 3rd and 4th. From there I planned to drive to Willey Knives in Greenwood, Delaware.

While we were at my sister and brother-in-law's, Hurricane Irene started moving up the east coast. I was really concerned about driving to Maine so I cancelled all three events on the east coast. I hated doing that but I had to make those calls.

To top it off, I still had one more event to sign knives at Fin Feather Fur's two stores in Ashland and Cleveland, Ohio. That was 1 1/2 weeks away and man, was I tired. I called and cancelled that one too, so Lori and I could come home. It was a very trying and tiresome trip back to Idaho and we were exhausted when we finally got home.

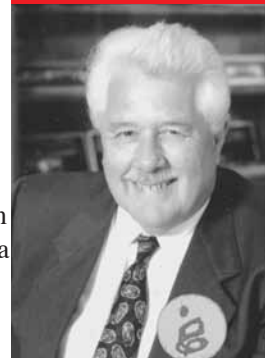
I paid for the event cancellations dearly when I received boxes and boxes of knives for signing a few weeks later.

Lori and I decided not to drive across the country for the long trips anymore so I will be flying to selected events next year. I have many great memories of driving across this beautiful and bountiful country but at 75 I've got to slow down a little bit.

I'm really looking forward to seeing many of you at the next reunion at the Buck plant. It will be a great event!

Blessings on each and every one of you!
Chuck Buck

CHUCK'S CORNER



BUCK'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KNIVES

by Joe Houser

Back in 2002 Buck Knives celebrated its centennial anniversary. In the catalog for that year you can find several Limited Edition knives made to commemorate this once in a lifetime event. The catalog lists all of the pertinent details that the savvy collector needs to know. All that is, except one major detail. The catalog lists how many of each knife was supposed to be made but in some cases, the run was never filled. For example, the 904CEN Four Generations Bowie, catalog 2002, is shown as a limited run of only 100 knives. In actuality, Buck only made about 20 of these diamond encrusted bowie knives. The suggested retail of \$10,000 may have had something to do with the low number.

The Family Favorites set of four knives, SP2CEN, cat. 5212, had a suggested retail of \$3000 and was to be a run of 1000 sets but only 55 were actually made. Over the years Buck sold some of the knives from this set individually but to have one of the 55 complete and numbered sets would be very nice indeed!

The 110 Blacksmith Shop, 110CEN1B cat. 5214, with Elderwood burl inlays and gold etched blade had a suggested retail of \$194. The plan was to serialize the first 1000 knives. Since Buck sold about 1280, that means that 1000 of them are serialized and only 280 are without serialization. That begs the question, which one is more valuable today, one with or without the serial number?

Buck's model 119CENB 100 Year Special, cat. 5215, with palmwood handle and gold "100" laser cut out, had a suggested retail of \$186 and there were about 1140 made.

Another 110, the 110CEN2B 100 Year Folding Hunter, cat. 5226, had black Charcoal Diamondwood inlays with a centennial medallion and mirror polished blade. MSRP was \$96 and 2630 were made. The smallest of the centennial knives was the model 525CENB 100 Year Gent, cat. 5216, with the centennial logo anodized on the side of the handle. MSRP was \$33 and about 2130 were made.

In addition to these Limited Editions, Buck also decided to make some of its standard knives a little more special for the anniversary year only. All model 525 Gent, 444 Bucklite II, and 119 Special knives had a black etch of the centennial logo and the standard 110 came with a centennial logo in the inlay. Each of these models also came with a centennial logo lapel pin and a special certificate inside the box. Now here's something you may not know. Some of Buck's dealers did not want the medallion on the 110. As a result, Buck came out with one that didn't have the medallion. The box is labeled B110-XX-0, Cat. 5329.

I should point out one other item for 2002: All USA made knives were stamped with the anvil mark in lieu of their model number and the year mark. You will see this anvil shown as the year mark on the date code list. It seems like only yesterday when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Buck Knives yet here we are today about to celebrate 110! Time really does fly when you're collecting knives!

Tidbits – 1992 double year marks on 110s

The issue of 110s with two year marks from 1992 continues to be an item of concern. This question seems to come up on one of the internet knife discussion forums every two or three months. Perhaps you have seen (or even own) 110s with -110- on the tang stamp. A memo from Buck Senior Manufacturing Engineer Bill Keys dated Dec. 5, 1991 addressed the issue:

“The ECR (engineering change request) for the 110 blade and rocker redesign has been approved.

To assist Consumer Relations in differentiation between new design and old design knives produced in 1992, a change in the stamp will be made; ...The spring holder to be used with the new design will be determined in '92 after additional testing on new design production parts...”

In summary, Buck made a slight change in the spring holder and wanted to make that change evident for any warranty repairs that customer relations employees would be addressing. This change in the spring holder did not affect the blade and/or rocker bar design.

Club News continued...

Alan Horner all joined us for some great fellowship. I'm sure I missed a few names here. I apologize and will blame it on my advancing years! Bruce even signed up a new member, Lee Avenatti. Congratulations to Larry Oden for winning the Best of Show award with his display and also to Brent Schindewolf for winning a Judges Award!

You'll find the BCCI well represented at a number of shows in the first quarter of 2012. The first one on the slate is the Gator Show in Lakeland, Florida. It will be held on February 3, 4 and 5. Try to plan on joining Gene Merritt, Dick Wilson, Frank Meek and Jack Foresman at the show. For more show info or to request a display table, please contact Jack Foresman.

David Martin will be displaying at the Silver City Show in New Mexico on March 11 and 12. Tables are still available there if you would like to join him. For more info please contact David: buck103usa@yahoo.com

Next up is the Southern California Blade Expo held in Pasadena, California on March 23, 24 and 25. Bruce Dollinger and family will be there along with Wilde Bill Cody and Leroy Remer. Contact Bruce for more info on this show!

My favorite "Good Ole Boy" show, the Shenandoah Valley Knife Collectors show will be held on March 30, 31 and April 1 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. We'll be well represented here with Buck knife displays, but we always have room for more. For more show info or if you'd like to display, please contact me! By the way, this is a great show for first time exhibitors!

Several weeks later, the OKCA show will be held in Eugene, Oregon on April 13, 14 and 15. Bruce Dollinger will once again head up our contingency along with Bill Finney, Leroy Remer, Bill Wills and other club members.

Many thanks to Bill Wills, Rich Neyman, Craig Heflebower and Larry Oden for their fine contributions to our newsletter!

Happy Collecting,

John Foresman

THE NEWBIE REPORT BY BILL WILLS

As a new member who joined the Buck Club in 2008, I attended the Oregon Knife Club show in 2010 for the day. You can imagine my excitement as I walked in and saw hundreds of people and over 400 tables. After meeting Buck club members and making several purchases and looking at many different types of knives, it was time to head for home. Attending one day was ok, but being asked to build a display and show for 3 days was an exciting challenge as I had never organized my collection for a show before.

Before the 2011 show, I had to think about how to display my Buck 560s and 186s. I decided that my display cases would have each knife identified with a corresponding description for the attendees to read. After setting up at the show, I had many questions and comments from attendees about my collection which was great fun and a great learning experience.

I had the opportunity to talk to three BCCI board members with displays. Each collection of knives is unique, and I found it interesting to learn about their collections and why they chose those models to collect and their history with the club.

My wife and I look forward to next year's show as we didn't have time to attend any of the demonstrations going on all day maybe next year we will. Time flies when you are looking and talking about knife displays and knives. There just isn't enough time for all the activities.

This gets me to the main point for this article. For a 3 day knife show with about 425 tables, next year we would love to see more club members display their collections. Putting the display together was lots of fun and not as much work as first thought. I would like to invite you, a Buck Club member, to participate in next year's show in Eugene and have a time of your life with other knife collectors.

Here is a challenge to you BCCI members: Let's double our presence next year with attendees and better yet, with Buck knife displays!

BUCKMASTER HISTORY

“FIRST GENERATION BUCKMASTERS”

Hi, my name is Rich Neyman. I am a BCCI Life member # 2184 . I live up in Northern Idaho with my family . All of my four children Sophia, Nicholas, Howard and Andrew are all BCCI junior members. I had to put their names in here or I would never hear the end of it. I volunteered to write the BuckMaster model history for our Buck Collectors Club, Inc website after our 20th annual reunion. I know there are many of you model specific Buck knife collectors out there. Please feel free to write a history on one of your favorites. I am sure the BCCI would really appreciate it. Well, my small history became 70-plus pages long. I feel bad for John and Jack Foresman as I keep sending them revised versions of that document for the BCCI site. Really I had no idea I was such a perfectionist. On the suggestions of friends Bill Porter and CJ Buck, I wrote the book *BuckMaster Knives The Authorized History of the Models 184 & 185*. Using that model history I wrote as a basis. God had his hand on my book project, everything went so smoothly. Thank you everyone who helped me out with your stories, pictures and documents. I have been reading these BCCI newsletters since I was a kid in the mid 1980's thanks to Vern Taylor God rest his soul. So hopefully you will enjoy my small articles.

In the very beginning of the SURVIVAL KNIFE Project, Buck Knives was not involved just yet. That came just a bit later thanks to Harry Camphuysen (of Qual-A-Tec & PHROBIS) but I will explain that in our next BCCI newsletter. In 1983 Mickey Finn(of M9 fame) purchased three of the original Jimmy Lile-made Rambo knives for the U.S. Navy SEAL teams. In a few previous conversations the SEAL's requested a new knife to replace the good but antiquated KA-BAR. Mickey owned a Company called Qual -A-Tec. This small company supported SEAL TEAM THREE and SEAL TEAM SIX with weapon systems mostly silenced. In a Carlsbad Sports Bar and Restaurant called "Dooley McClusky's," a frequent haunt of Mickey's, Mickey had dinner and drinks with a few SEALs from SEAL TEAM THREE. As the story went, Mickey was showing off his three new Lile Rambo knives and posed a question to the now semi-hammered, but always alert, SEALs. If they could make a perfect KA-BAR replacement survival knife what would it look like? Some new ideas came from that beer break. The anchor pins. This idea was drawn on a bar napkin.

The SEALs were complaining that sometimes during a Special Operation, their gear would wash away in the surf. Having the knife with removable anchor pins was needed, and this ended up being patented on the production BuckMaster knife. Upon further investigation, I had the pleasure to talk to now retired Commander Tom Coulter who was known as Captain Tom Coulter at this time. He personally came up with the anchor pin idea. He wrote it on a bar napkin that Mickey snatched up and took right back to the shop.

Bob MacDonald, Harry Camphuysen and Mickey Finn began development of what would become the Survival Knife package, later to be known as The BuckMaster. Rick MacDonald Bob's son helped make the components. This included the handle, crossguard, anchor pins, lanyard loop, pommel and the pommel lanyard loop, which was one piece. Harry Camphuysen focused on the sheaths. He developed the signature sheath that came with the BuckMaster in production models, and it morphed into the M9 bayonet sheath. There were three original style sheaths developed. Doug Olson helped with all the drawings and helped design the retainer ring in this awesome sheath. Variations are still used today—25 years later.

There are three types of BuckMaster prototypes. They are officially called Generation One, Generation Two and Generation Three. Rick MacDonald and his Dad made all, including the first Generation prototype knives that Commander Tom Coulter, Mickey Finn, Robert MacDonald, Doug Olson and Harry Camphuysen helped design. Here is the brief description of the Generation One BuckMasters: They have all teeth (no scallops)and have PHROBIS and 2001, 2002, 2003 etc stamped on them. The blades were sized from 6 to 12 inches in length

Harry and Bob did all the original designs based on the Bowie style. Doug Olson worked out of a shop in Indiana and produced all of the drawings and helped design several components, including the prototype sheath, which was hand made out of Delrin from Dupont by Harry Camphuysen. Harry even made the original spring of this sheath design out of clock spring by hand. John Holm did all of the research and security, and kept records for the Qual-A-Tech / PHROBIS LTD office. The Qual-A-Tec R&D team experimented on the survival prototype knives with

many handles, pommels and blade designs. All with saw tooth blades only. The design for the quillion/guard with the anchor pins came from Mickey's association with the SEAL Teams that special night at McClusky's again by Commander Tom Coulter. After the meeting at Dooley McClusky's, the first PHROBIS Survival knives were handmade by the MacDonalds. Bob made the blade and cross guard. Rick made the anchor pins, handle, pommel and lanyard loop. Every BuckMaster, from these First Generation prototypes to the very last production models, were heat treated by our very own Paul Bos, the 2010 Blade Hall of Fame inductee whose fame as a heat treater is worldwide. Most of you if not all of you know Paul is now retired. In my book I have detail pictures of this First generation of Survival Knives

The anchors are important, as they are the reason for the Patent of the future BuckMaster knife. The anchors also could be used as a grappling hook in a case of emergency. The SEAL Team variation and the production variation could hold 275 lbs. (however a few of these first generation quillions and anchor pins were too small to hold such weight) The third reason for the anchors, according to CJ Buck, was to protect the hand when or if the knife was used as a brass knuckle as a last ditch effort as this was a survival not fighting knife. I did the same thing when I was a kid I bet most of you guys did also. To recap, the FIRST Generation of Survival Knife prototypes had all teeth only and different length blades. They were all stamped 200, followed by the specific knife number. Mickey and Harry came up with this idea – to start all the knives with a #2 and put the specific number after that.

SEAL TEAM SIX heard of the new survival knife project and gave their input. I didn't say this in my book but SEAL TEAM SIX didn't want to be out done by SEAL TEAM THREE so they wanted a survival knife package, but they wanted a modular set. This way they could have different size blades for different missions and be able to change the blades when they wanted and replace parts easily. This modular idea went all the way into the production of the BuckMaster and the future M9 bayonet. The part that remained modular was the individual parts and their replacement ability in the field or armory.

To be continued next newsletter

BuckMaster TRIVIA :

Rick MacDonald remembers an inventive SEAL after a mission grabbed a beer out of the small refrigerator in the office. He was looking around for a bottle opener (no twist off's back then). After seeing this FIRST GENERATION Survival knife on Mickey's desk, he used it to open his beer bottle with the cross guard. A bottle opener was one of the ideas that went into the M9 bayonet a few years later.

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KEEPING RECORDS - FIVE KNIVES OR FIVE HUNDRED, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY WISH YOU WOULD HAVE STARTED.

Record keeping, the keeping track of the what, how much, where and when is a part of your Buck knife interest you say you will eventually “get around to”. Well, hopefully this article will stimulate you with some ideas and hints that will let you get a record system going and make it easy enough that you will stay with it as your Buck collection grows.

Buck Knives’ Joe Houser keeps his knives “in cardboard boxes with the papers inside the original boxes”. Heath Stone, of Stoneknifeworks.com, keeps a running computer listing - “I work off existing data sheets and update them. I have very few boxes to keep up with since I only collect the early stuff. I do keep a 3 ring binder for my literature. When I buy a knife for my collection I take a picture with the knife lying next to sheath, front and back views.” Alan Horner keeps track of his extensive crosslock collection by taking a picture of each knife and when he prints the photo he adds pertinent data on the sheet. These are then kept in a three ring binder.

Record keeping is a subject seldom discussed when Buck knife folks get together. We prefer to talk about the actual knives. But I believe we need to discuss it more. In the past there have been a couple of newsletter articles that gave the benefits and methods of keeping good records.

One of the early members of the BCCI, W. Murray Andrews, in the November 1999 newsletter, wrote an extensive article titled, “Buck Knives, Literature and the Collector”. Mr. Murray, covered a lot of useful subjects in his article, including information to improve your record keeping. Club Vice President Larry Oden, wrote a February 2000 newsletter article titled “Keeping Track of Our Bucks”. He outlined his method of keeping records and managing his growing collection. He mainly uses an index card method, as I do, where he keeps “index cards sorted by color for 100 series, 110 series, 300 series, 400 series, 500 series, etc. On each index card I have model number, knife name, my own sequential number, tang stamp, handle and other information, such as handle rivets, mirror polished blade, etching, construction variance and on and on. I also note if I have box and sheath and add comments such as ‘not original’. I also like to put on when and where I acquired the knife plus a code I use that tells me how

much money I have in the knife.” “I keep most of my knives separate from the box and sheath and use a small, removable label on reverse side of the master blade with the sequence number of the index card record. I use the same label on the corner of the box and usually keep the sheath in the box with a label on it. These two labels have the sequence number and if the box is not marked by the factory, I will also mark the model number on the label with the sequence number. I put this same number on any letter of authenticity and note on the card I have a letter. I keep the letter in a three ring binder. I store cards sorted by model number but in sequence number order. If I remove a knife from my collection, I remove the card and write across the card how I disposed of the knife. Every once in a while, I find a box or sheath with a sequence number that is not in my current box of cards and I can look in the disposed group of cards to remind myself what happened to the knife. I keep box papers in the original box. “

Well now you can see the different levels and directions different club members take. In the photograph below take a look at the record sheets and then we will discuss what you are seeing.



In the photograph above notice the printed record sheets, these were provided to me by other collectors. The small sheets for the six ring binder were custom printed by Mr. Charles Tofts, long time 300 series collector. I enlarged the small sheet to 8 X 10. The second sheet has both data information area and marked squares for photos of the individual knife. I will see if we can get copies of both sheets on the BCCI website so members

can print them out. You also see the 3 X 5 index card box with a copy of one of Larry Oden's own cards. Make a note: use only pencil or waterproof ink to record your data. Sharpies are waterproof and are found in many stores. You never know what may happen, something simple such as spilling a glass of water to a major flood. Ballpoint ink runs and fades. Photographs can be very useful. If you haven't learned to use a camera perhaps you can use a computer scanner to get good close-up views of each of your knives. These can be printed with space left on the bottom of the sheet to write in your data and then placed in a binder with an index system you create for ease of use. Note the thumb drives. If you are going to use a computer as your primary record keeping device, always, let me repeat ALWAYS back up your data. I would keep the hard drive copy and then make a copy on a thumb drive that is kept in a different and secure location. I have had two computers die a quick death stealing most of my saved data. I know once we get to discussing record keeping some of you computer experts will have some great ideas. You can come up with your own method, just do it and don't delay.

leaves no residue behind. Old boxes can be wrapped with a paper for information or a smaller piece held on by rubber bands. If you have some good ideas in this area please share them with other club members.

A small word on photographs taken by camera, your photograph will eventually be recorded on a computer. It



would likely be safest to make both a printed file and your original computer image file. Thumb drives have gotten very large in capacity get one and copy your records, put it somewhere secure. With a scanner you may only have printed copies. I would recommend you then make two copies kept in two separate spots.

I would also recommend that you place a good ruler in the photo alongside the knife to give it accurate perspective. I have a photo/data sheet of all my knives in my display. I take this to knife shows and have it available for viewers to open and check on any knives they may want the full information on. Creating a

In the photo above you will see methods of marking for storage and the storage and filing of the paperwork that comes in the box with your Buck knife. Plastic vinyl sheet protectors are great for storing inserts from Buck boxes. Some folks leave their papers folded up in the box. I take them out, flatten them by a light touch or two with my wife's iron and place them in sheet protector with info written on a stick-on tabs. Be sure to put tape over the opening to keep things from falling out. Newer boxes can be opened and flattened to reduce bulk. Again be sure to identify the box with a tab. Concerning marking methods, post-it notes, sticky tabs or even blue painters tape work well. I use little squares of blue painters tape because it

sheet with spots for different knife views and lines for data entry is not that hard, especially if I can do it.

I believe we have covered the subject of record keeping well enough for you to get started on your own knife record. Let me admonish you once again, whether you have five knives and carry them all or you have 50 knives in a display case. Good records will be useful and at the same time give you some piece of mind that you know all the details of your Bucks. Don't wish you had "gotten round to it".

Craig Heflebower/aka 300Bucks

Limited Number Still Available

BCCI OFFERS TWO NEW TACTICAL 110s!!



BCCI MODEL 110 FANS HAVE ASKED FOR A 110 DESIGNED WITH TACTICAL FEATURES. BUCK KNIVES' SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT WENT TO WORK ON THE CONCEPT AND WE ARE EXCITED TO PRESENT TWO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSIONS FOR BCCI CLUB MEMBERS. CONSIDER THESE SPECIAL FEATURES:

- *SATIN FINISHED S30V DROP POINT BLADE WITH POPULAR BCCI/BUCK TANG STAMP & LASERED S30V STEEL IDENTIFICATION. NO NAIL NICK.
- *NICKEL SILVER FRAME WITH BRUSHED TYCRO SUBDUED FINISH ON BOLSTERS WITH CHECKERED CHARCOAL DYMONDWOOD INLAYS. NICKEL SILVER INLAY RIVETS.
- *BONUS OFFER - LIMITED QUANTITY OF 50 KNIVES AVAILABLE WITH RAISED BCCI LETTERING ON EACH INLAY - NO EXTRA FEE!!
 - *CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY / NO SERIALIZATION
 - *BLACK NYLON SHEATH & BUCK LIMITED EDITION BOX

110 BCCI LETTERING TACTICAL QTY. ___ X \$110.00 INCL. SHIPPING
(QTY. LIMIT 5 - LIMITED TO FIRST 50)

110 NO LETTERING TACTICAL QTY. ___ X \$110.00 INCL. SHIPPING
(NO QTY. LIMIT)

TOTALS QTY. _____ \$ _____

Member shipping address – Please print neatly – This will be your shipping label. Photocopies ok!

Send orders & payment to: Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

**John Foresman
Dept. 110
110 New Kent Drive
Goode, VA 24556**

Buck Knives Inc. expects to ship these knives to us in March 2012. We will ship them to you as soon as we receive them!

Check/Money Order Enclosed Credit/Debit Card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover)

Credit/Debit Card Info Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____
MM/YY

X _____
Sign here to authorize card payment

BuckLock 1 & BuckLock 2

by Larry Oden

The history of the BuckLock family of Buck knives has been documented in past BCCI newsletters. The “soap opera” saga of the original Sawby lock type BuckLocks and their eventual transformation to mid-body locking folders is an interesting read. (For the pertinent facts, please see the following past BCCI newsletters: May 1995, August 1997, June 2004). Although these knives were removed from the Buck catalog as of 1995, the model 532 returned in 1998 with two separate “Limited Edition” versions. Subsequent years have seen the model 532 repeatedly show up in the Buck catalog with various handle and blade enhancements, often in a Buck “Limited Edition” type of offering.

Also, certain Buck retailers (e.g. Bass Pro Shops) and the BCCI have offered several upgraded 532s, illustrating the enduring popularity of this favorite. However, the model 531 BuckLock 1 and model 535 BuckLock 2 have never enjoyed such a comeback. It would seem that their day in the sun has been placed in a permanent eclipse. As an explanation on behalf of the BCCI, these two discontinued models are deemed by Buck Knives to be, for all practical purposes, ineligible for special projects. Any order that the club might consider would fall far short of the minimum quantity required to make the reintroduction of either model possible. Otherwise, the club leadership would jump at the chance to offer new, upgraded versions of these knives to our club members.

For those of us who remain enamored with the entire BuckLock series, the loss of these two models is a disappointment. Each of them offers an advantage that the popular 532 cannot match. The model 531’s 3 ¼ inch drop point blade is one half inch longer and somewhat wider than the model 532 drop point and I sometimes appreciate the advantages provided by that bit of extra length and width. Further, the model 535 features two blades, a 2 ¾ inch drop point paired with a 2 3/8 inch spay blade and there are times when it is especially nice to have a sharp bonus blade at the ready.

The good news for collectors is that the two forsaken models can still be found on the secondary market - knife shows, internet auction sites, consignment lists, etc. Even if you do not personally collect these models, I would not pass them up if the opportunity arises because you can most assuredly use them as trading stock with other collectors who covet them. Their good looks are striking and I am particularly drawn to their rather novel locking systems and the distinctive custom looking “file-work” on their frames. The resin impregnated birch inlays matched with the gleaming stainless steel bolsters complete their package and each has “classy” stamped all over it. The earlier birch inlays used on these knives are what we refer to as parallel cut and lack the more obvious “wood grain” lines found in the later bias cut inlays. I find both of them to be attractive although the distinctive striations on the bias cut knives may have more eye appeal as they have more of that “wood grain” contrast. Finally, the slim design of the model 531 makes the use of the accompanying sheath optional for those times you would prefer not to wear the knife on your belt. Both knives feature a drop point blade while the model 535 BuckLock 2 adds a spay type secondary blade. When one combines the BuckLocks’ great appearance with Buck Knives’ superior heat-treated blades, the resulting combination is difficult to criticize.

The relative small number of 531 and 535 versions produced by Buck Knives will allow a rather brief overview of the assorted versions aspiring BuckLock collectors may seek. As regards the Bucklock 1, the original Sawby lock knives provide an obvious starting point.



BuckLock Sawby prototypes stamped BUCK/U.S.A. – parallel cut inlays



2 1990 BCC 531 club knives (L-1989 year mark, R – 1988 year mark) & standard 531 w/ 1988 year marks; Sawby locks and parallel cut inlays

Included in this category are the BCCI 1990 club knife version with gold etch, satin finish blade as well as the non-gold etched standard knife. The gold etch club knives with the upside down v (chevron) year symbol for the 1988 year mark may or may not be serialized on one front bolster as BCCI founder Vern Taylor distributed a small number of remaining non-serialized 531s after the initial 250 club knives were sold. There will be a dot inside the chevron but its significance is unknown to me. Including both the serialized and non-serialized club knives plus the non-etched standard version, there are a total of three variants in this category to pursue.

A more challenging version of the standard Sawby 531 model to look for has a 1989 v (chevron) year symbol (but no dot this time). A very small number of these 1989 marked versions also exist with the 1990 club gold etch blade and determined collectors may seek all five variants. Remember, all of the aforementioned knives will have the parallel cut birch inlays. This is the case



531 Mid-body lockback with 1990 year mark, parallel cut inlays; Large inlay rivets

with every standard factory production type Sawby lock model 531 and model 535.

Lockback model 531s first utilized blades with 1990 (X) year marks and the earliest versions were also constructed with the parallel cut birch inlays but my research indicates the switch to bias cut inlays soon followed. Those first mid-body lockback model 531 knives were actually made using the remaining frames intended for the earlier Sawby type knives. Again, these knives will have a 1990 (X) year mark and are easy to distinguish by looking at the pivot bolster from the blade well side on the perimeter of the frame. These Sawby type frames will have the final set of “filework” decoration right at the point where the parallel cut birch inlay joins the bolster. They also have an obvious convex bevel cutout in the pivot bolster that was originally formed to accommodate the Sawby lock release button on the blade and there is no “filework” on that section of the bolster. The non-Sawby lockback type frames that soon followed are lacking this bevel cutout and they will have the additional set of “filework” decoration further out toward the end of the bolster.



Close-up of 531 Sawby type frame with convex bevel cutout used on first mid-body lockback models.

It is also interesting to note that the tang stamps for these re-designed lockback models included a “Pat. Pend.” (patent pending) designation under the “U.S.A.” in the last line of the tang stamp. Of particular note is a slight manufacturing difference on some 1990 (x) marked model 531s with parallel cut inlays – the handle rivets are noticeably larger than those used on Sawby and the later bias cut handled lockback models. I have noticed these larger rivets on more than one knife and they seem to have only been used on 1990 (x) marked knives with the parallel cut inlays. It is possible that all of the 1990 (x) marked 531s with parallel cut inlays may have utilized these larger handle rivets. The larger rivets were apparently never used in tandem with the bias cut inlays.



539 – 531 mid-body lockback with 1991 year mark, parallel cut inlays

The BuckLock 1 model 531 Buck Collectors Club annual knife for 1991 is an especially good looking knife that illustrates how the gold etching is enhanced when applied to a mirror polished blade.

This knife came with the mid-body lockback construction, bias cut birch handle inlays and the aforementioned Buck Collectors Club gold etching on a mirror polished blade. The blade incorporates a 1991 (+) year mark with the patent pending notation.



531 BCC annual knife for 1991 with bias cut inlays



531 mid-body lockback with 1993 year mark, bias cut inlays

Several model 531 knives exist with non-standard inlays and they may be found with both Sawby lock and mid-body lockback mechanisms. I have seen a few of these Buck Custom Shop enhanced knives. Some of them have mirror polished blades and/or typical Cus-

tom Shop serialization. Others appear to be either “one-of-a-kind” or to have been produced in extremely small numbers. Because the knives were sold by current or former Buck employees, I am confident they were “improved” in the Buck Custom shop. Buck Knives’ first Custom Shop maker, Leroy Remer, has confirmed that he recalls doing such work on BuckLock models prior to leaving employment with Buck Knives and it would seem plausible that other Custom Shop employees likewise did customization work on BuckLocks after Leroy’s departure. Included in this category of Bucklocks and known to me are knives with inlays of jiggged bone, desert ironwood and mastodon (both bark and inside types). It is likely that several other inlays types exist.



531 Sawby model with red jigged bone inlays, enhanced in Buck Custom Shop



Sawby BuckLock set with bark mastodon inlays, enhanced in Buck Custom Shop

A limited number of special project, decorated or etched blade BuckLock 1 (non-Sawby) knives were produced and collectors with these knives in their possession own knives that now only become available on an occasional basis. As is the case with so many of the special project knives, they were originally marketed to a “niche” group that often has little or no contact with the knife collecting community. The result is that even when the knives do become available, they rarely make it to the normal knife collecting community circuit of dealers and shows. Further, because these knives were

produced in very small quantities to start with, their likelihood of being discovered by knife collectors becomes even smaller.

With thanks to Richard Matheny for his extensive work on Buck special projects, following are some such Model 531 projects known or thought to exist. Some of them may have been “decorated” after market (enhancement work not done by Buck Knives):

- Buck Collectors Club 1990 & 1991 knives as described above
- Ducks Unlimited - electroetch blade – quantity 3000 (1991?)
- Oxychem ICWU – engraved blade – quantity 75 (1991?)
- Tulsa Knife Club – oil derrick etch – serialized 1-14 (1991)
- Kentucky 200 Bicentennial gold etch – quantity 200 (1991)
- White House 200th Anniversary gold etch – quantity. 500 (1991)
- Burlington Northern Railroad – quantity 75 (1991?)

Civil War Battles – gold etch – 100 quantity of each commemorated battle with Certificate of Authenticity in gray jewelry type box, serialized 1 – 100:

- 531EB First Manassas (1992)
- 531-003 Antietam (1992)
- 531-004 Seven Days (1992)
- 531-005 New Market (1992)
- 531-006 Brandy Station (1992)
- 531EB Chancellorsville (1992)
- 531-E3 Monitor & Merrimac (1993)

NICA Founders’ Edition – laser etch blade – quantity 370

(Shooting sports organization?) 1993

Virginia Bear Hunter – electroetch blade – quantity 75? (1993?)

Megasafe – “The Power of Safety” electroetch blade (1993)

Southwire – laser etch blade and laser cut inlay (1993)

Our look at the BuckLock 2 model 535 knives will be even briefer than the model 531 summary. As with the BuckLock 1, interested model 535 collectors should begin with the Sawby lock model. There is only one type of factory production Sawby model 535 to seek and these are rare indeed. Buck may have only produced about 100 of these particular models with the Sawby lock system and it is my understanding that none of them made it into the Buck Knives’ dealer network. The knife will have the previously described parallel cut birch handle inlays and a 1988 upside down v (chevron) year mark with the mysterious dot in the middle.



Standard Sawby 535 with 1988 year mark, parallel cut inlays

Moving on to the mid-body lockback versions of this model, there is a similar variation road to follow as compared to the model 531.



535 mid-body lockback with parallel cut inlays

Again, the first models were built with the parallel cut birch inlays but this time, the blades with “Pat. Pend.” under the tang stamp incorporated a 1991 (+) year mark as opposed to the 1990 (X) year mark found on the first model 531 versions. You can also find the same knife with identical blade markings (year mark and patent pending verbiage) but handled with the later bias cut birch inlays.



535 mid-body lockback with bias cut inlays

When Buck issued the 1992 BCCI annual knife with the gold etch club logo and club number engraving, they continued this same construction and blade year mark / patent pending configuration except the year symbol was the 1992 (-) mark and the blades were mirror polished.



535 BCC annual knife for 1992 with bias cut inlays, mirror polished blades

Other than this 1992 club knife, I have yet to find a mid-body locking model 535 with anything other than a 1991 (+) year mark. However, please note that not all of them have the patent pending designation. Standard factory production lockback model 535s may exist that have a non -1991 (+) year mark – but I do not recall ever having seen one.

My earlier comments regarding the model 531 non-standard, custom shop enhanced and special project, decorated or etched blade knives also are appropriate for the model 535 except there are many less knives to consider. I have seen a few 535 models that originated with current or former employees of Buck Knives featuring upgraded inlays. I also know of one that has the Buck Custom Shop serialization.



BuckLock set with desert ironwood inlays, mirror polished blades & Buck Custom Shop serialization; note barehead construction on model 531

However, again based upon Richard Matheny’s excellent research of Buck Knives’ archives, only one model 535 “special project” other than the 1992 Buck Collectors Club knife is documented. A 1994 project of 100 pieces evidently was produced for Norfolk & Southern Railroad featuring an acid etch on one blade. The records indicate the master blade had a 1991 (+) year mark.

If you find the appearance and functionality of these knives to be intriguing, their addition to your collection may be worthy of serious consideration. The collectability of these knives seems to have stayed somewhat under the radar to this point and you may be able to build a very nice collection before increased interest causes them to be more difficult to locate and ratchets prices to a higher level. Keep your eyes open and welcome these beauties into your knife collection.



I wanted to share something that happened while I was attending a recent Safari Club event in Atlanta with Bob George and Billy Bates. This event was the EPIC Outdoor Game Fair. The have nicknamed the event "The EPIC". We were in a tent on a very large property where people could ride horses, shoot bows and shot guns, go fishing, test drive ATV's etc. We were with other companies showing their products to the folks walking by.

What I found most interesting was when another exhibitor walked over to our booth and said he was really seeing Buck everywhere these days. He said Buck had kind of disappeared for 10 years or so and now was very visible.

This is a true and unintended compliment to the work our marketing department is doing. The real key to our marketing efforts is that we are once again becoming relevant to our hunting consumers. They are seeing our products in TV shows, seeing our new point of purchase displays (POP) in Cabela's, seeing our increase in print advertising showing off our new products like the Paklite Field Master kit. When folks come up to us at shows and ask to see a product they read about or saw in a hunting show it means the messages are getting out to people. Imagine if you are a dealer and

someone asks you for something they saw and were ready to buy. That dealer has a very positive feeling about Buck and carrying Buck products. It is working.

I recently had the great fortune to go on an elk hunt with Boulder Creek Outfitters. This was a televised hunt for "Boone and Crockett Country" TV show. What made this so awesome was what actually happened. On the second day of the hunt we spotted a nice bull across a ravine with a group of cows. We watched them move up the hill and bed down on the hillside just the other side of a small stand of timber. We decided to harvest that bull so we crept along a ridgeline until we were about 40 yards from where the nearest cow was lying. We were stuck. Could not cross the open grass and could not move forward in the timber without spooking the cows. While we were sitting in the open on the ridgeline another group of cows we did not see came up from beneath and spotted us, sounding an alarm. Instantly all the elk in front of us got up wondering what the alarm was. We just sat still and we heard the bull bugling. He was rounding up his group of cows. My guide made a cow call and the elk was all of a sudden bugling right at us about 20 yards away behind a tree. He was directly facing us because I could not see his face but his antlers were swaying on either side of the tree. He moved across some brush in front of us at about 15 yards but I could only see his horns and a vague outline of his head through the bushes. He kept moving and when he stepped out of the brush he was only 10 yards away from me. Ka-Boom. Was a heart racing experience for me. The real neat part was that because of how we were already set up and the bull came to us the camera footage should be just spectacular.

I saw pictures of Mike Dolmage from a steel head fly fishing trip he did for "Seasons on the Fly" TV show. It is good for people to see that our director of product development is actually out there proving to be an avid outdoorsman.

With our page on Facebook now contributing to this momentum I am hopeful this energy will carry through this Christmas season in a strong finish for this year. It is such good stuff.

CJ Buck, President

Karen and Jesse – Our Newest Members

Ron Hood was a very special person and an instant hit with all BCCI Club members who heard him in Atlanta. The news of his passing was devastating to all of us. The “WoodsMaster” and designer of the Hoodlum will indeed be missed. As a special way to honor Ron’s memory and at the same time, show the warm regard our club members have for his wife, Karen and son, Jesse, we have presented each with a BCCI club membership. Karen is now Life Member #2295; and Jesse is Youth Member #2296. Congratulations to our newest members!

Karen is most often recognized as the videographer behind the scenes in those “must see” Hoods Woods DVD’s. What is less known, but equally important is her level of expertise across the board in both urban and wilderness survival preparedness skills....after all she was trained by the Woodsmaster himself. Want to get to know our newest life member?.... check out the Hoods Woods website at survival.com.

On the site, you’ll be able to purchase DVD’s that cover all aspects of survival techniques from Home Security to Wilderness Cooking and everything in between. Also available for a reasonable “download” fee are Survival Quarterly Magazine issues. A good place to start would be with the Urban Master – Volume One DVD. Karen and Ron expertly instruct in the fine art of preparing your home for a disaster. After viewing this DVD, be sure to read Karen’s article in Survival Quarterly Volume 1, Issue 4 entitled “Food for Thought-Preparing Your Storage Pantry.” Those who take the time to absorb all that’s available in that magazine/DVD combo will be well versed in the type of preparedness that could convert your home to a life – saving sanctuary in time of emergency.

Speaking of combos, you might want to check out the WoodsMaster Special Edition DVD Volume 3 “Survival Kits” and related articles in that same SQ Issue. Putting together both mini - and maxi survival packs is not only a highly interesting activity, it could save your life someday. You won’t believe what’ll fit in that special pouch on the Hoodlum sheath; for instance: at least 36 items if you miniaturize. Hint: wrap your snare wire and your fishing line around your waterproof, strike anywhere match stick. Oh, and don’t forget to stuff in those pencil – sharpener shavings for fire-starting tinder.

From Tube – Tent Tricks to Copy – Canning you’ll learn from the best. Our newest member is quite a find for our club. A word of warning: don’t assume she knows any less about knives and their use and certainly don’t challenge her to a knife throwing contest. It’s also quite reasonable to assume that Jesse possesses skills far beyond his eight years of age. Here’s an idea – maybe we can talk Karen and Jesse into joining us at our 25th Anniversary get-together in July of 2013 and demonstrate some of their many skills.

MEMBERS ONLY AND PAPERSTONE 112s UPDATE

The gold etch annual members only 112 are being shipped to club members as this newsletter goes to press. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the paperstone 112’s will be delayed for at least another thirty days.



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IN THIS ISSUE

BuckMaster History
Karen and Jesse Hood
Keeping Records
Bucklock 1 and Bucklock 2