

Promoting the
collection and
display of Buck
Knives since 1988



Famous for
Holding
an Edge!

Great Knives
Since 1902!

December 2015

CLUB NEWS BY JOHN FORESMAN

I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a meaningful Christmas that is filled with joy for you and your family. It's my hope that everyone is blessed with a healthy and prosperous Happy New Year!

The Shenandoah Valley Knife Collectors annual knife show will be held once again at the Rockingham Co. Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA on April 1, 2 and 3. This will be their 25th annual show and they are working hard to make it a most memorable show. Lori Buck has graciously accepted our request to join the Buck Collectors Club at the show. I am expecting a great turnout of club members bringing their displays to the show. Please join us in exhibiting! Let me know by February 1 how many tables that you would like and I will do my best to accommodate you. Even if you can't bring a display, please plan on attending the friendliest knife show in the world!

In October, club member David Martin and his wife Leesa represented the BCCI at a gun and knife show in Las Cruces, NM. It was the 21st time that David has displayed his collection. Hats off to David! Not only does he cover the expenses of these shows on his own, but he's a great ambassador for our club and Buck knives. Taking the time to answer questions from show attendees, David opens the world of Buck knives to anyone who asks. Thank you for all that you do, David!

I know that I have mentioned in past columns that when I joined the Buck Collectors Club, that I did so to gain knowledge. Oh, I've learned a lot over the years, but the most valuable takeaway that I acquired over the years is the many friendships that I have developed. One

such friend is club member Dan Rickman. My wife Georgia and I have valued his friendship and that of his father, Will. Dan and Will have invited us to visit them several times over the years. We finally made the trip this October. We were thrilled to meet Dan's mother, Caroline and left feeling like we've known her for years. The Rickmans made us feel extremely welcome in their home. Dan showed us his very impressive collection of knives. His vast collection includes many prototypes and one of a kind knives. We didn't just talk about knives though! We discussed football and the many different ways to eat Pop Tarts! I guess the bottom line is, get out to shows, get involved in discussions on our club's discussion board. The friendships that you will forge will be well worth it!

For the first time in our club's 27 year history, we are offering a Model 106 axe to club members! You'll find the order form in this newsletter. We're calling it the Brahma, because just like the Brahma 119, this 106 has a blackened blade with a stacked leather handle. It looks awesome and should be extremely collectible. Don't miss out on this special offering!

Thanks go out to everyone who contributed to this newsletter! Article submissions by club members are vital to creating an interesting and educational newsletter. I would be thrilled to receive an article from you for a future newsletter!!!

Merry Christmas!

John Foresman

CJ's Update



The final week of October proved to be quite busy for me as I flew to St. Louis early Saturday morning, rented a car and drove up to Illinois for an archery whitetail hunt. I had Jacob Siembida with me and we were meeting Bill Lowen and hunting for a week. I was not

going to be able to stay the full week as I was also scheduled to deliver a breakfast address at the annual meeting of the National Association of Sportsmen's Caucuses "NASC".

NASC is managed by the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation "CSF". CSF is national legislators talking about national issues that impact sportsman and conservation while NASC is state level legislators talking to other state legislators about what they are doing in their respective states. They compare free youth fishing days, changes in seasons, license fees or bag limits, funding sources for fish and game departments and how to provide access or marinas at public waterways.

I was representing the American Knife and Tool Institute. I am President of that organization for the next 18 months, taking over from Rod Bremer from CRKT, and we sponsored the Thursday morning breakfast at the event and it was there while the legislators in attendance finished eating that I gave a presentation regarding the history and legislative goals for AKTI.

I am a strong proponent for hunting being character building in people and the best wildlife management tool we have. On a quick aside, CSF is currently focused on passage of H.R. 3590 - Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act. See this web page:

<http://www.sportsmenslink.org/uploads/page/HR%203590%20SHARE%20Act%20Summary%20-%20Sec%20By%20Sec.pdf>

Focusing on issues relating to sportsmen is truly bi-partisan as major voter blocks of both Republicans and Democrats hunt and fish and they need their knives to get that done.

What I was sharing with the state legislators at NASC was that AKTI has three major initiatives we will be pushing in 2016:

- 1) Repeal of state prohibitions against Switchblades "Automatics" and gravity knives
- 2) Striking archaic language like Bowie, Dirk or Dagger
- 3) State wide Preemption

We have made much progress as an industry association since our founding in 1997. In the last 10 years there have been 8 states that have made Automatics legal including Alaska, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Texas and then last summer, Tennessee. By tracking crime statistics there is no correlation at all between knife crime in a state and whether Automatics are legal or not. Some states have never made Autos illegal, some have been illegal and now legal and others remain illegal and there is no connection between Autos and crime.

I asked all listening to create a picture in their heads when I say the following words, Dirk...Dagger...Bowie Knife. I said I wish I could project the various pictures from each of you so you can see just how different they would be and how important it is for citizens to have clear and objective laws that are not so prone to different interpretations.

I ended with a pitch for Preemption. This is where local city and municipal governments are prohibited from passing laws that are more restrictive than state laws. The pitch for preemption is it helps people feel confident to carry the tools they need to work and play. If you drive through multiple small towns to get to a job you should not have to leave favorite tools behind.

I also threw in that the knife industry has an almost \$6 billion economic impact, that we employ over 4700 people, and when you add in ancillary employees like vendors and retailers it is over 23,000 people. How about all the other industries that are dependent on knives such as the building trades, ranching and farming, food prep and everything associated with camping, hunting and fishing you can see why we get such good cooperation from conservation groups like Mule Deer Foundation, National Rifle Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Boone and Crockett Club, Safari Club International, Ducks Unlimited and the list goes on.

There seems to be a very good openness to enabling folks to carry their knives with confidence and that is great news for all of us.

CJ

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LORI'S CORNER



I treasured my time with those of you at the Blade Show this past June. Your warm hospitality touched my heart at a very deep level. I appreciate all the wonderful things the club members shared about Chuck both to me personally and through the Collector Club Newsletters. The Buck Collectors Club and members meant a lot to him.

I think I'm progressing through this grief process normally. There are dozens of "first time without him" events that suddenly trigger painful memories but it seems each time I face the same event again it gets a little easier. And I'm finding those memories are slowly becoming warm treasures. Fifty-six years was a long time to spend with him and I was very much a part of everything he did. At home I'm surrounded by his abundant yard and landscaping projects. His last big project of course was the park in honor of the Buck Collector Club Anniversary picnic in 2013. And I'm especially honored to have shared a vital part of his life on the road as we traveled across this great country of ours promoting Buck Knives!

I became part of the Buck Knife family in December 1958 and I remember when the company officially incorporated on April 7, 1961. CJ was 5 months old. I don't think he remembers much of those early years. I worked part time with packing and shipping in our first two plants and when we relocated to our third plant on Magnolia Ave in El Cajon CA I became Chuck's secretary in the HR department. I am presently in Chuck's office and serving on the Buck Board of Directors so am keeping quite busy.

As we approach the holiday season I'm reminded of an incident that happened in our neighborhood many years ago when a young man who lived across the street from our house took his life. I stood with his parents in their garage when the doctor came out of their house and said he was still alive but not for long. I encircled those grieving parents and whispered this prayer that Jesus would reveal to this young man who He really is and that that young man might make a choice for eternity.

Later as I walked across the street back to our house I whispered a prayer through my tears asking the Lord why so many tragic things happen during the holiday season. I was reminded that Christmas is the time we honor Christ's birth but the real reason he came was that through his death and resurrection he paid the price for our sins that we might have eternal life if we but seek Him in our times of despair. What a wonderful promise.

I want to wish you all a blessed Christmas Season as we honor the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we never forget the real reason He came...

Lori

COUNTERFEITERS ARE ON THE RISE

By Joe Houser

If you've spent any time surfing the web for Buck knives lately you've no doubt seen a suspicious looking Buck Knife or two. A knife that has you asking, "Is that thing really a Buck Knife? Something just does not look right" The last time I searched a popular auction web site a quick search revealed several thousand auctions for counterfeit Buck knives. In the last few years it has gone from being an annoying problem to a point at which we need to step up our efforts to help curb this type of industrial stealing. To that end I have been working with Ebay, for starters, to see how effective their process is in shutting down counterfeit auctions. I have met with somewhat limited success but I do believe I am sending a message to the counterfeiters and hopefully will start to make a big dent in their business.

Counterfeit knives pose some problems that ultimately hurt both Buck and its customers. Too often now we get counterfeit knives sent in for warranty work. Of course they are not covered and when we contact the customer to let them know, they are understandably upset. Not only did they not buy a genuine Buck Knife, but they also don't have a warranty of any kind. I encourage you to make sure you buy from reputable dealers and if you see a knife you're not sure about, feel free to email a picture or link so I can take a look for you. I used to tell folks how I knew a certain knife was genuine verses a counterfeit but I soon realized that I was just educating the counterfeiters as the information I gave out always seemed to find its way back to the wrong persons. I will gladly tell you my opinion on a knife, but will no longer divulge any details.

Right now the vast majority of counterfeit Buck Knives that I see are being sold out of China but don't think that just because a seller is located in the U.S.A. their knives must be genuine. A trend I've noticed lately is that sellers in China sell in bulk to resellers here in the States. Then the knives are listed on Ebay, showing a domestic address, which gives potential buyers a false sense of security. Again, if you're not sure of a knife, send me an email and I will check it out for you.

I don't think we will ever stop all of the counterfeiters but I am hoping to make a difference in this. Nothing bothers me more than to hear of someone getting taken by one of these fakes. It tarnishes the Buck name and inconveniences the customer as well. If you want to help, feel free to send me web pages that have suspicious looking Buck Knives on them so I can take action. Hopefully with a lot more eyes out there, we can make a difference!

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For quite some time now it has been no secret that unethical manufacturers in China have been producing inferior counterfeit Buck products, then listing those products on EBay for sale. The most recent examples are double action auto conversions represented as genuine Buck 110's made in the U.S.A., although numerous other styles can be found. On 09-15-15 Yahoo News posted an article concerning millions owed to EBay buyers under

done a couple of times takes less than one minute to do.

The counterfeits are relatively easy to spot, particularly if the seller is in China and offering an unbelievably inexpensive price including shipping. However, there are some unethical sellers in the U.S. that are buying the Chinese counterfeits and re selling them at greatly inflated prices on eBay as well. Just use good judgment in first determining it is a legitimate counterfeit before reporting it. If we all make it a club priority and an ongoing project to report the knock offs when we see them, and in view of EBay's recent troubles, the odds are now much more favorable than they have ever been that we can make a positive difference for Buck.

Below are examples of counterfeit Buck Knives. Note the packaging even looks legitimate in the pictures and "USA" is stamped on the knives. Each of these knives are counterfeit but they fool many, many buyers.

the EBay Buyer Protection Guarantee for unknowing purchases of counterfeit products listed on that web site, and further indicated one or more companies have filed law suits against EBay as a result. I posted a link to the article on 09-16-15 in the club web site forums that can be copied and pasted into member web browser address bars, and listed it here as well: <https://shopping.yahoo.com/news/dupedebay-buyers-due-millions-in-counterfeit-product-refunds-204207498.html>.

Many of us use EBay frequently as a useful tool to find and buy knives for our collections. Now that EBay is facing litigation for slow to no reaction concerning trademark violations and knock offs, there is the distinct possibility that future complaints will be taken more seriously. We as club members can make a difference by reporting every violation of Buck Trademark that we see while we are on EBay. It is remarkably simple, and takes less than one minute. For those that do not know the mechanics of how to report an item, follow the steps outlined below.

(1.) On the right side of the ad page, just above the item number and item description is "Report Item". Click on "Report Item". (2.) The next page has 3 drop down boxes. Box 1 says "Report Category". From its drop down menu select "Copyright and Trademark". Box 2 says "Reason for Report". From its drop down menu select "Counterfeit or Authenticity Disclaimer". Box 3 says "Detailed Reason". From its drop down menu select "Counterfeit, Fake, or Replica Items". Next is a blue button at the bottom of the page, click on it. (3.) On the next and final page is the item number and a box to type in a brief description. Be brief and to the point. At the bottom of the page is a blue button to click on "Send Report". That is all there is to it, and once it has been



CHOOSE YOUR BLADE By Larry Oden

“Pick a blade, any blade” could be the tag line for discussion of the Buck Selector models. This versatile Bucklite variant has been discontinued since last appearing in the 1995 Buck catalog but has maintained a following all along. In fact, over the past dozen years, give or take, the Selector versions have commanded rather inflated prices and some of the individual blade options bring surprisingly high bids on the internet auction sites. This review of the different versions Buck offered will provide an overview of the features and different blades that keep Selectors popular yet today. With a knife handle capable of accepting one of several Selector blade types, it is easy to understand why hunters, skilled tradesmen and outdoorsmen would find this to be a desirable tool.

Each of these target groups found this package met their various needs by providing multiple blades and one handle in place of several different knives.

In 1990, Buck introduced the Model 428BK Selector with a textured black two-piece Valox handle and a permanent non-locking clip blade. It also featured two interchangeable blades that locked open when in place. One was a 3 ¼-inch serrated drop point and the other, a 3-inch gut hook blade. For those who are accustomed to using Buck lock-blade knives, the lack of a lock on the permanent clip blade may require a bit of an adjustment but the two interchangeable blades do require that the lock-bar on the back of the knife handle be depressed in order to return the blade to a fully closed position.

Changing out the blades is a simple procedure. One merely has to depress the lockbar and slide the blade into (or out of, if removing it from) the pivot rivet. Once the blade is in place, it can be rotated to either an all open or closed position and you will immediately be able to tell if it is in proper alignment. It is not difficult and does not require a great amount of strength. A cautionary warning is probably not needed for this group of readers. However, I will go ahead and suggest that you take care as you install or remove the blade. You are, after all, handling a sharp object.



1990 Buck Catalog

For 1991, Buck Knives took the Selector concept to another level with the introduction of the Model 429 V-52 series. Available in the same textured Valox, buyers now had three different colors (black, olive drab and orange) and seven different interchangeable blades to choose from. Also of note is that the Model 429 handles did not include the permanent clip blade but the clip blade in both standard and serrated form was now available separately. Other offered blades included both serrated and non-serrated gutting and drop point blades. Completing the seven blade choices was a saw blade. With the printing of the 1992 Buck Knives catalog, the number of blades offered had increased to nine thanks to the introduction of hawkbill and skinning versions. Then, right on the heels of the standard Buck catalog, a new Buck Work-Man catalog from February 1992 added yet a tenth Selector blade with a serrated hawkbill version to the mix of blades available. This blade was matched with a model 428 BK and a saw blade and was called a Tool Box Selector. At least some, if not all of the Tool Box Selectors have the Buck Work-Man logo black etch on the permanent blade.



1991 Buck Catalog

Sheaths and Blade Protectors



1992 Work-Man Catalog

The early 428 and 429 models included a black nylon sheath fitted with a separate pocket to store an extra blade or two. (Note that the 429OD olive drab model came with a green camouflage nylon sheath.) Later Selectors were paired with the heavier Cordura nylon type sheath in either black or camouflage. In addition, the Selector blades were accompanied by a black plastic holder/protector that could be used to protect the hand while switching out the blades and also served as a storage sheath. Often, these blade

protectors are now missing when one

manages to find a Selector model available for sale. While it is preferable to get the entire package, I would not pass the opportunity to add a Selector to my collection even if it was missing the blade protectors.

The Buck Knives Catalog for 1994 introduced to new variations of the Model 429 Selector targeted at specific audiences, namely hunters and outdoorsmen. Aptly named, the 429A7 Outdoorsman Selector Set came with the black Valox handles and was paired with a clip and serrated drop point blades plus the saw blade. For the 429A8 Hunter Selector Set featuring an olive drab Valox handle, only two blades were included (gutting and skinning) and this set was priced fifteen dollars lower reflecting the absence of a third blade. Of course, both models would accept any of the ten Selector blades available in the marketplace making each knife just as versatile as any other V-52 or Selector model.

Collectability

It is not extremely difficult to assemble a complete collection of each of the above knives in each of the colors: black, olive drab and orange. You may find it a bit more difficult to locate new-in-box versions, especially for the Tool Box Selector. You also may find some of the ten blades to be a challenge to locate, but it can be done and they do show up on the auction sites, at knife shows and on consignment lists. A real challenge is to find ten separate blades for each color of handle plus the Workman version. Good luck and pick your blades with care.



1994 Buck Catalog

COMPADRE BRAHMA AXE

A BRAND NEW BUCK KNIVES/BCCI PROJECT



After seeing the Buck Knives' Brahma Model 119, a moment of inspiration set us to thinking about the possibility of combining black oxide steel with stacked leather spacers and replicating the distinctive Brahma look on a Model 106 hand axe. This exciting idea was well received at the Buck factory and after building a few prototype versions, Buck's testing proved it met the higher strength standards necessary for an axe. For the first time ever, the BCCI is pleased to offer our members a Model 106 and the picture above clearly shows just how special it is. It will also nicely pair up with a Brahma 119 and any future Brahma models that may introduced. Do not miss out on this special project designed for both collectors and outdoors enthusiasts. Consider the following features:

- Handle of stacked leather with micarta spacers
- 420HC black oxide blade
- Buck/BCCI etching on handle throat
- Certificate of Authenticity – no serialization
- Black leather sheath
- Standard packaging

***** **PLEASE NOTE: ORDER DEADLINE IS JANUARY 30, 2016** *****

NO QUANTITY LIMIT – PRICED AT \$106 EACH INCLUDING SHIPPING

I wish to order _____ 106BRSCC AXES @ \$106 each (Incl. S & H) TOTAL _____

___Check/Money Order enclosed ___Credit/Debit card (MC, Visa, AMEX, Discover)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ (MM/YY)

Security # _____ Signature authorization _____

Phone # _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BUCK COLLECTORS CLUB

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

Name _____

Send orders to: Address _____

JOHN FORESMAN _____

Dept. 106BRSSCC City, State, Zip _____

110 New Kent Drive

Goode, VA 24556

April Delivery is Anticipated

PHOTOCOPIES OK!

A Note from Russ Donoghue

I wrote a tribute to our dear friend Chuck Buck in the July 2015 Newsletter. At the end I used some moving words that I heard several years ago. The phrase began with the words “He threw his loop true ----- and ends with “and loved his country”. I should have placed the entire ending phrase in quotation marks, and then placed Author Unknown at the end.



THE SHARP ZONE

Youth and adult BCCI members alike will soon realize that winter is that time of year when you can either complain about being inside more than you care to be OR you can think of things to do to improve your status as a Buck Knife Collector. It seems to be an excellent time to increase your knowledge of the knives you love. Why not drag out some of those old yearly catalogs and thumb through them to find some new facts about some old knives. Now we know the modern way to do that is to go on- line to do your “thumbing” and there’s nothing wrong with that. There is something to be said, however, for the feel of a solid page beneath your fingers. The same holds true of those carefully arranged club newsletters accumulated over the years. Look for information about a specific topic or knife model or person you want to get to know better. Research your way into

being a well informed member. For you YOUTH members, you might begin preparing questions to ask those adults you’ll be visiting as you participate in the BCCI YOUTH 2016 BLADE SHOW FACT FINDING CHECKLIST or the Shenandoah Valley version soon to be prepared for presentation in the spring. After you spend time on research, may we suggest you devote yourself to DISPLAY improvement? What can you do to make last year’s display more appealing and informative? Do you have a title that clearly tells what your display is all about? Is your name, hometown, and Buck Collectors number there? Are your knives labeled and straight? Have you put too many knives in a case and caused crowding? Does a sign somewhere on your display say “FOR DISPLAY ONLY ... Not For Sale? These questions and many more useful guidelines can be found during that research mentioned earlier. For starters, look for the early Newsletter articles written by Vern Taylor and Larry Oden. A fellow name Brent Schindewolf

has shared a few additional tips for display improvement, too. Once again, it’s time to emphasize the value of HANDS ON activities. You can read and read until the cows come home but shouldn’t overlook the value and sheer delight in getting out those favorite knives and touching and viewing them. Now, for those adults who just gasped at the thought of touching those ultra rare collectibles or at the thought of a child or grandchild doing this, it needs to be written here that PERMISSION must be obtained prior to even coming close! That disclaimer having been established, personal contact with the knives you love seems a good way to warm up on a cold winter’s day ... Even if only to view them under glass. And don’t forget to take time out from those knives and other activities to celebrate that very special day of Our Savior’s birth. MERRY CHRISTMAS fellow club members ... And may you be blessed with a healthy and happy 2016.

DATING BUCK 303 CADET KNIVES WITH NO DATE STAMP by Bert Lindsay

A common description by sellers of the 300 Series knives is, "This is a Pre-1986 knife." In most cases, the seller actually is saying that there is no date stamp on the tang. Whether such a knife is pre-1986 depends on the model. The early 300 models manufactured by Camillus had no date stamp. Some of those Camillus models were made well past 1985 and never had date stamps. However, for the 303 Cadet, along with the 301, 305 and 309, the statement is correct. By 1986 Buck manufactured these models and used a date stamp.

Charles Tofft listed nine variations of the 303 made before the use of date stamps, and I think most collectors would like to say more than, "This is a pre-1986 knife." What I am offering is a way to give dates for these variations. Some of these dates may vary from information in the Buck catalogs. Especially in the early years, there was lag time getting new information into the catalog. I am not providing a new history, just a new look at existing information. Charles Tofft and then Craig Heflebower provided the original information. I am building on their information.

What follows is a simple outline for identification. This outline is for the 303 only. There are only a few characteristics that you need to be familiar with: blade rivets, tang stamps, handle pins, and escutcheons.

Photo 1 and Photo 2 show two knives that illustrate most of the characteristics needed for dating purposes. Photo 1 is a Schrade 301 with handle pins and no visible blade rivets in the bolsters. In addition, the sheepfoot blade, which is larger than on the Camillus, is pretty visible or prominent in the closed position. Photo 2 is a Camillus 301 with no handle pins and with visible blade rivets in the bolsters. If a knife has been heavily buffed or polished, the blade rivets might be difficult to see, but careful examination will show them. The sheepfoot blade on Camillus knives is not very visible in the closed position. Both the Schrade and Camillus knives have the typical Knife, Bolt and Hammer escutcheon



Photo 1. Schrade Contract 303



Photo 2. Camillus Contract 303

The third photo shows a knife that has a spacer. All of the knives from this period had three brass strips: a middle spacer and one brass liner strip on either side. Some knives had an additional brass strip or internal spacer on one side. Sometimes the additional spacer is hard to see, but the extra thickness is always evident.

While I was working on this project, Rick Roney, who worked at Camillus, told me they called this spacer a "side center". Tolerances for the knife parts were not very tight, and as expected the spacer/side center was used when needed to align the blades. These were not design changes; the spacer was used to account for problems in machining. With that in mind and with all other characteristics being equal, it might be better to think of a knife with spacers/side centers the same as the variation for a knife without.

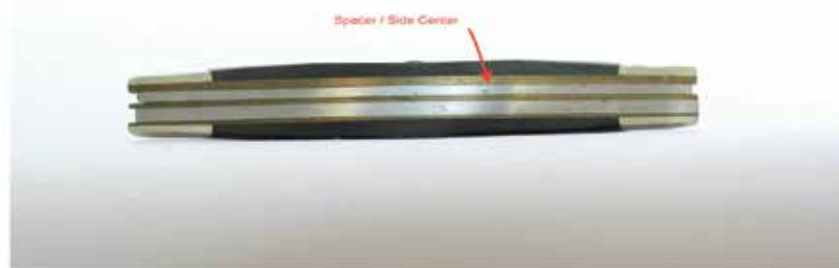


Photo 3. Side Spacer/ Side Center

This outline assumes that all Camillus versions occurred with and without spacers/side centers. Therefore, unlike Tofft's original list, no distinction is made for the presence or absence of spacers/side centers in the Camillus knives and only seven variations occur in the outline.

To use the outline, start by looking at both Line 1a) and Line 1b) and decide whether the knife is a Schrade knife or not. Once that decision is made, you will go to choice 2 if the knife is a Schrade or to choice 3 if it is not a Schrade. Most of the lines give a couple of characteristics, but only the first characteristic (in bold print) is really necessary. Continue making choices until you reach a line that does not end with "go to choice ...". Be sure to read both "Line a" and the corresponding "Line b" before making a choice.

Outline for Dating 303 Knives That Do Not Have A Date Stamp

1a) Blade Rivets Not Visible; Sheepsfoot Prominent when closed– made by Schrade Contract (go to choice 2)

2a) Only Master Blade Stamped, Tang Stamp: "BUCK/MADE IN USA", Handle Pins, No Model Number {1968-1971} - Schrade

2b) Secondary Blades Stamped "BUCK", Tang Stamp: "BUCK/MADE IN USA", Handle Pins, No Model Number, {1968-1972} - Schrade

1b) Blade Rivets Visible; Sheepsfoot Not Prominent when closed – made by Camillus Contract or by Buck (go to choice 3)

3a) No Model Number, Handle Pins, Tang Stamp "BUCK/MADE IN USA" {1971} - Camillus

3b) Model Number (go to choice 4)

4a) Tang Stamp "BUCK/MADE IN USA" (go to choice 5)

5a) Handle Pins, Model Number on Pile Side {1971} - Camillus

5b) No Handle Pins, Model Number on Pile Side {1971 – 1974} - Camillus

4b) Tang Stamp "BUCK/303/USA", (go to choice 6)

6a) Knife, Bolt and Hammer Escutcheon; No Handle Pins {1974 – 1985} - Camillus

6b) "BUCK" Escutcheon; no handle pins; Spacer {1985} - Buck

As an example: You decide that your knife fits the description of Line 1b) because it has visible blade rivets. You then look at Line 3a) and Line 3b) and choose Line 3b) because your knife has a model number. From there you look at Line 4a) and Line 4b) and choose Line 4a) because your knife has the tang stamp "BUCK/MADE IN USA". You then look at Line 5a) and Line 5b) and select line 5b) since your knife does not have handle pins.

This tells you that the knife was made by Camillus between 1971 and 1974. Looking back at your choices the knife should have the following characteristics: visible blade rivets, a sheepsfoot blade that is not prominent when closed, a tang stamp of "BUCK/MADE IN USA" with the model number on the pile side, and no handle pins.

When using this outline, get in the habit of reading both lines to make a choice. When you reach a decision, go back through all of the choices you made to be sure your knife matches everything.

Schrade made two variations of the 303; Camillus made four variations of the pre-1986 303, and each of them occurs with and without the side spacer/side center, so there are eight Camillus knives to look for. Finally Buck made one pre-1986 variation. That makes 11 different knives to collect.

I thank Craig Heflebower for his suggestions while I was writing this.



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