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September 2003

Chuck's Corner



Charles T. Buck
Chairman
Buck Knives, Inc.

What a delightful time I had at our Buck Collector's Club event at the Buck Factory just a few weeks ago. Everyone there seemed to enjoy the workshops and seminars put on by Buck employees and club members. I was privileged to attend four out of nine during the two day program. Club members' displays were awesome, plus there was lots of buying and selling as well. I

was impressed by Larry Oden's seminar on "Building a winning display." Other seminars were as informative and interesting also.

I was privileged to share at the club meeting and enjoyed sharing about my grandfather and his early life. The seeds that he planted carved out perspectives that we still adhere to, to this day.

Part of what I discussed at the club meeting was farming a small portion of our products to a small family business in Taiwan. This hit a major negative note among the 100 or so collectors listening.

I must tell you that this was a very hard decision for our company planners. Our larger accounts were strongly suggesting lower price points, i.e.; \$9.99, \$14.99, and \$19.99. We could not make this happen in our factory in El Cajon. I agreed to sending out our fillet knives so we could market them at a lower price (\$13.00-\$15.00). It was either go that route or drop them from our line. Sales of fillet knives were below our minimum of 20,000 units per year.

We have also added a few other items like our

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Club News

by John Foresman

What a great summer this has been for the Buck Collectors Club! With the Blade Show in June and then the 15 year BCCI anniversary event in July, many club members have been kept very busy!

I believe our club has set the standard for displays at the Blade Show. No other club or organization fills as many tables with the fine collections as the BCCI. I am very proud of our club and our members who take the time to exhibit their collections. Thanks to everyone who represented our club at the Blade Show.

We also signed up several new club members at the Blade Show. It was a pleasure meeting new club member Eugene Blankenship. He joined his son, Dennis as a lifetime member.

I would like to welcome new Board Members, Jimmy Holbrook and Dick Matheny to the Board of Directors. Both Jimmy and Dick were elected at our annual membership meeting at the Blade Show. They will each make fine additions to the board. Dick, as you know is chairman of our website committee. Gene Merritt is our newly elected Treasurer. He is very detail oriented and will make a terrific Treasurer. I look forward to working closely with the new Board.

As outgoing Treasurer, Gene Draa deserves a standing ovation. He has diligently kept our bills paid and our records straight for the past several years. After the knife sale at the Blade Show and the Fall NKCA Show in Ohio, Gene spent many hours accounting for the funds raised. When Ken Burns and Larry Oden audited our books this spring, they found Gene's record keeping correct

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Buck Manufacturing

by CJ Buck

I have been writing a series of articles relating to the development of a new business model to ensure Buck remains competitive for its next hundred years. I have talked about relocation and I have talked about our new product development. This time I would like to address our Manufacturing.

Buck has dramatically altered the way in which we schedule and manufacture products. We have instituted "Lean Cellular Manufacturing" as well as a visual replenishment trigger system known as "Kan Ban".

Lean involves 3 key areas. Pull, Flow and the elimination of waste. Pull works like this. When something is sold and shipped out of Shipping, this sends a replenishment message to Packing. Packing refills distribution boxes in shipping when they empty. As Packing uses up knives in production trays it releases the tray back to Assembly. Assembly is only allowed to build what it needs to fill these trays and return them to Packing. As Assembly uses materials and parts to build the knives Packing needs, Fabrication refills the empty parts trays in Assembly. In this way what is shipped "pulls" materials all the way through the line. It is a very responsive and efficient method of scheduling. The visual use of empty trays is one of the visual replenishment triggers.

Flow is trying to build one part at a time. We used to build batches of 50. It would take 6 weeks for a knife to be assembled until it was finally completed. The knives spent much time waiting for their next operation. With Lean, it now takes 20 minutes. Here is how it works. In our Assembly area we have set up circular cells where we used to have conveyor belt lines. The operators stand elbow to elbow and as one operation is completed they hand the knife to the next operator. Meanwhile, the operator to their left hands them their next knife, one at a time. The cells are circular and close so there is much communication going on in the cell. If someone is missing scratches or over tightening rivets they are told quickly. The beginning and the end of the line stand together. We have gotten speed, increased units per man hour, a tremendous reduction in space requirements and an incredible flexibility from our implementation of Lean.

The third element is the elimination of waste or the elimination of everything that does not add value to the knife. Time spent looking for tools instead of having an extra tool in a prescribed place. Preventive maintenance, avoiding machine downtime, cleaning the area to avoid accidents, all contribute to eliminating waste. Reducing the amount of space the product has to travel to get produced and so much more.

One key benefit we have gotten from Lean is an incredible flexibility. We can change the line from one product to another in 20-30 minutes and that keeps us very responsive to our customers needs. Another benefit is we have dramatically reduced the amount of space we require. Our building in Idaho will be about 30% smaller than our current facility. Lastly, our WIP (work in progress) inventory has been reduced by over \$1 million. Where there used to be 150-200 knives waiting between each station there now is 1 or 2.

As we start to push this system up to our vendors we will realize even more benefits.

Phil Duckett, our VP of operations, Ray Ramos Manager of Lean and Curt English, our Director of Production have all played huge rolls in accomplishing the vast implementation.

We will continue to refine these methodologies long after our relocation to Idaho.



*CJ Buck
President and CEO
Buck Knives, Inc.*

Chuck's Corner Continued...

new line of outdoor knives and products. Many of these are made in Taiwan. The lower labor and energy cost that Buck Knives will see in moving to Idaho will help in producing more new products here in the States. Our plan is to produce all of our hunting knives in the U.S. They represent 80% of our products.

I do get letters from customers, frustrated that we are moving jobs overseas; feeling that Buck is all American and should only be made here. This is my wish also, but sometimes economic pressures and market demands for lower prices prevail.

Every new product design will go through a process of evaluation and if we can make it here, we most certainly will.

God Bless you,
Chuck Buck

right down to the penny. Many thanks Gene, we appreciate all that you have done. Gene's wife Mona, also a club member, has lent much support and help to Gene too. Thanks, Mona!

Gordon McCoy's term as a Director of the Board expired this June. He has served our club with distinction for many years. Gordon, we thank you for your service to the BCCI.

I enjoyed our 15 year anniversary celebration at the Buck plant in El Cajon immensely. As chairman, Larry Oden led a very capable committee consisting of: Joe Houser, Charlie Tofft, Jane Davey, Bill Santarsierso and my lovely wife, Georgia Foresman. Many hours of planning and preparation were spent on this event. Their time and effort was greatly appreciated by all who attended. Thank you all very much. A special thanks to Chuck and CJ Buck for their hospitality. They and everyone else at Buck went out of their way to make us feel right at home.

San Diego Shirt Works, owned by former Buck employee, Rich Craig, supplied us with T-shirts with the club logo on them for the 15 year event. These shirts were such a big hit, that we will be offering them to all club members now. You will find an order form in this issue.

Club member, Bruce Dollinger, who owns Shepherd Lithograph, Inc., approached me after our annual meeting at the Blade Show. He offered to print our newsletter and donate his labor. This will save a substantial amount of money every quarter. Needless to say, his company will now be printing our newsletter. Thanks very much Bruce for your generous offer.

I received a phone call in early June from First Sergeant James Phippen of Charlie Company 3rd Ranger Battalion thanking us for donating the 25 Nighthawks to the Rangers. He told me that his Rangers carried the Nighthawks while they were deployed in western Iraq during the war. I expressed to him that our club was very proud of our servicemen and what they have accomplished. In return, he stated that he and his Rangers were very proud to fight for Americans like our club members.

Homer Brett delivered the additional Nighthawks to

the Rangers during the last week of July at a Ranger function. Thanks Homer, for making the delivery. Homer also donated a copy of his book, The Military Knife and Bayonet, to our club at last year's Blade Show. The book was auctioned off to raise funds for the club. His hardback book has 392 pages of studio color photographs with more than 1,000 knives and knife bayonets illustrated. And yes, Buck is covered in the book. It is a great book, I have a copy myself. He's offering the book at a \$10.00 discount to club members. Cost to club members is \$64.95 including shipping. If you are interested please write him:

Homer Brett
P.O. Box 111
Alexandria, VA 22313

Vern Taylor passed away on June 25th, 2003. He and his wealth of knowledge on Buck Knives will be missed. Please keep his wife, Pam and family in your thoughts and prayers.

During a conference call meeting in late January of this year, the board decided to honor Vern Taylor with a Mastodon handled 110 with a blade gold etched with his likeness. We had planned to present this knife to Vern at the 15 year celebration and then offer the same knife, but with walnut handles to club members. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an order form for this knife.

A relatively new club member, with some help from his wife, took on the task of assigning usernames and passwords to members for the website. He then entered the necessary information to the member list on the website. This was a monumental task to undertake. He asked me to keep him anonymous. Ordinarily, I would do anything he asked of me. But, I can't do that this time. Thank you, Dad. And thank you too, Mom.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall NKCA Ohio Show!

Happy Collecting,
John Foresman



Joe Houser
Club
Administrator

From the Club Administrator's Office

by Joe Houser

The Club's 15th anniversary celebration was so much fun, I almost wish we could have one every year! We got to visit with quite a few club members plus family and friends. It is a lot of work organizing such a get together as this. A lot of people contributed their efforts to the event including seminar leaders, company store clerks and many other Buck employees. A group of club members contributed as well and we could not have pulled it off without everybody. I am already looking forward to our 20th

anniversary!

I have some new information about the model 184 Buckmasters, Lucite knives from the 1940's and the 122 Nemo/124 Frontiersman. It is common knowledge that the first stamping found on the 184's (from late 1984 and early 1985) is BUCK, 184, U.S.A. In 1985 Buck decided to protect the knife with a patent and knives can be found with the words PAT. PEND. added after the U.S.A. I have recently seen two knives that had the PAT. PEND. stamped separately on the other side of the blade! This was, until now, an unknown variation. I have since heard of a couple others. There can't be too many with this marking and I would guess that less than 1000 were manufactured. For the Buckmaster collector, this would be a great find!

Lucite knives are definitely some of the most elusive Bucks to locate. There were so few made to begin with and for the most part, they were used hard. The data written about these knives indicate that model numbers were not used until Group Five, circa 1948. New information shows us that model numbers were used, although sparingly, on some Group one knives also, circa 1946. I have inspected three such knives in the last two weeks and although they don't "fit" with the other knives from that time frame, there they are! So little is known about those older knives and I can only suspect that certain customers requested a model number on their knives. Or it could just be that it was something Hoyt Buck tried for a while and then abandoned until he found an easier method of stamping.

The Nemo, model 122 is one of the hottest collectable knives going right now. But just how many of them were made? We know that it was made with the black pheolic handle from its introduction until about 1971. During that time Buck made about 7100 of them. The knife was discontinued in 1972 and reintroduced for a short while after that. The guesstimates are that only about 3000 more were made between 1972 and the time they were discontinued for good. Those Nemos will be marked BUCK 122, U.S.A. and will have slab handles of black micarta, also known as Buckarta. It Seems that everyday more information is discovered about the 122/124 so I don't expect this to be the last update for those two models!

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A Fond Farewell to a Good Friend

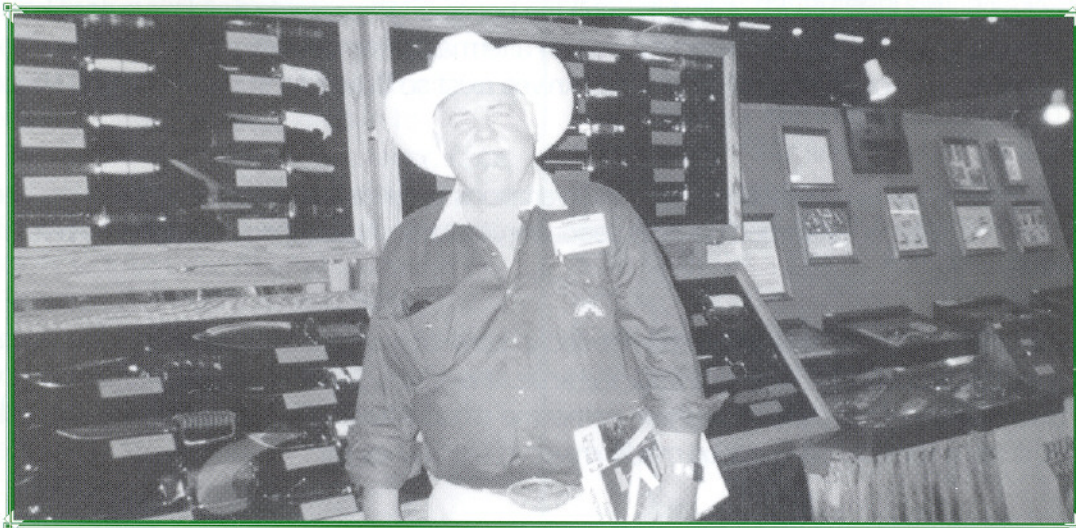
On June 25th, BCC founder Vern Taylor left this world to live eternally with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In his final article for the BCC newsletter, Vern mentioned his medical diagnosis and the possibility that his cancer may have advanced too far to allow a planned surgery to take place. As it turned out, the cancer was inoperable. Vern spent his last weeks testifying to an abiding confidence in God's love and perfect plan for his life. Those who corresponded or spoke to Vern were incredibly encouraged by his steadfast faith in the God he loved and served.

Vern touched the lives of many BCC members. While his vision to form this club was the most obvious contribution, it was only the beginning. Many of us were educated on the collecting of Buck knives by Vern's prolific writing, telephone conversations, email correspondence and personal visits. He is particularly responsible for instructing several of us in how to build winning displays. Most importantly, for many club members, Vern's most memorable contribution to our lives is related to what we learned in watching him face death with dignity and confident faith.

To Pam, Vern's gracious wife and partner in life, we ask that you accept our thanks for sharing Vern with us. You will remain in our thoughts and prayers.



Pam and Vern



Tidbits

How many of you know how to decipher the alpha numeric code found on most Buck advertising literature since the early 1980's? Here is an example: C38125M
This piece was produced in March of 1981 and 25,000 copies were printed. I am not sure what, if anything, the C represents but the 381 is self-evident. 25M represents 25 thousand copies. Look at some of your literature and see if this helps you put it in chronological order.

Buck 300 Series **by Larry Oden**

The Buck 300 series of slip-joint pocketknives is very collectable. The knives are readily available, easy on the pocket and found in many configurations. Because of their modest values, counterfeits are not much of a concern and a very attractive display can be assembled due to the abundance of different handle materials. Perhaps the most compelling reason to collect this series is due to the fact that they have been produced by three different companies since 1966.

Schrade Models

Learning to identify the manufacturer is probably the starting point in any in-depth discussion of the knives in this series. In 1966, Buck contracted with Schrade to build the 301 Stockman. Later the model 303 Cadet was added to the contract. Both Schrade-made models have pinned handles of black delrin with simulated saw cuts. The master blade is stamped BUCK / MADE IN / U.S.A. and there is NO model number on the knife. Each of the knives sports an oval shield with the familiar Buck knife, hammer and bolt logo. Bolsters are steel.

Summary of Schrade Models

301 Stockman - a 3-7/8", three blade premium stock knife - Earliest knives have grooved bolsters. The second 301's have plain bolsters and the two secondary blades are each stamped "BUCK" on the tang. Finally, the third and last Schrade 301 model lacks the "BUCK" stamp on the secondary blades and does not have grooved bolsters. Like all Schrade made knives in this series, it is identified by the lack of a pivot rivet through the bolsters. Please note that I have seen one Schrade made 301 with grooved bolsters and a pivot rivet but I know it was an aftermarket repair because I spoke to the former Buck employee who did the work. I suspect a few other repaired knives exist so do not let this confuse you should you run across one of these knives.

303 Cadet - a 3-1/4" three blade junior stockman with two variations: The earlier knife has only the master blade marked and the second variation has "BUCK" stamped on both secondary blades. Again, there will not be a pivot rivet through the bolsters.

Because of Buck's lifetime guarantee, broken blades needed to be easily replaced. Schrade's method of construction made it impossible to simply replace the blade of a returned knife. However, Camillus utilized solid bolsters which did allow efficient repairs and Buck switched the contract to them sometime around 1968. By the way, this use of solid bolsters explains why the pivot rivets are visible on Camillus made knives in the 300 series.

Fall NKCA Ohio Show

This year's Fall NKCA Ohio Show will be held October 24-26, 2003. The show will be held at the Roberts Centre, Wilmington, Ohio which is located at exit 50 on I-71. Please make plans to attend our regional meeting (Saturday 2:00 pm) and to bring along your collection to display. Display tables are available to club members at no charge. Every member who displays their collection will receive an award knife from Buck. Please contact John Foresman as soon as possible, to let him know how many tables you will need for your display. This is a great show with many fine Buck Knife displays. We sure hope to see you there.

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Camillus Models

Following is a chronological, model-by-model summary for the Camillus made knives. Please keep in mind that during the Camillus years there were various commemorative, etched and advertising variations produced. Also, some of the models were offered with stag inlays and the Buck Custom shop often enhanced the knives in the series at customer request. This listing will focus only on the standard production models.

The earliest 301 and 303 models made by Camillus for Buck were outwardly nearly identical to their Schrade made predecessors. The master blade tang stamp, pinned handles of black, sawcut delrin and oval shield with the Buck logo remained consistent. The French (or long) nail pull was continued on the master blade but none of the secondary blades were stamped with the Buck name. Also, the body of the 301 models was less markedly serpentine than on the Schrade made knives. As explained earlier, the easiest and best way to differentiate the early Camillus made knives from their Schrade counterparts is by the existence of pivot rivets through the bolsters. If the knife lacks these rivets while being otherwise identical to the Camillus made models, it is a Schrade contract knife. The earliest Camillus 301 models can be found in two configurations. The first models have four brass spacers and the second group of 301's have three brass spacers. (These spacers are known as center scales and side center scales.)

The 305 Lancer, a 2-5/8" premium pen knife was introduced in 1969, after the contract was switched to Camillus. There has been some difference of opinion among the Buck collectors as to whether Schrade ever made 305 models. Two facts work against this being possible. First, archived Buck records for the era indicate purchase orders to Schrade for the 301 and 303 models. However, there is no mention of 305's being ordered or received from Schrade. Of perhaps greater significance is the fact that 305 models without the bolster pivot rivets do not exist. If Schrade did make model 305s, it is reasonable to expect that they would have used the same construction method employed on the 301 and the 303 models and that 305s would be found without the pivot rivets.

In about 1971, Buck began to use model numbers. The contract slip-joints of this era were unchanged in appearance and construction save for the addition of the model number on the pile side tang of the master blade. The next variation of the 300 series involved the removal of the handle pins and coincided with the introduction of the two new models, the 307 Wrangler, a jumbo stockman and the 309 Companion, a two-bladed pen knife which is larger than the model 305.

Buck advertising literature dated 1972 pictures four new 300 series pocketknives: 311 Trapper (a light or slim model) 313 Muskrat (one blade is a spey), 315 Yachtsman (with locking marlin spike) and 317 Trailblazer (a two-bladed, clasp type folding hunter). The earliest of these knives also featured the familiar BUCK / MADE IN / U.S.A. tang stamp with the model number stamped on the pile side of the tang. The construction materials were unchanged and all of the new models are visually compatible with the earlier knives. The one exception for these new models was the use of a crescent nail nick in place of the long pull on the master blade.

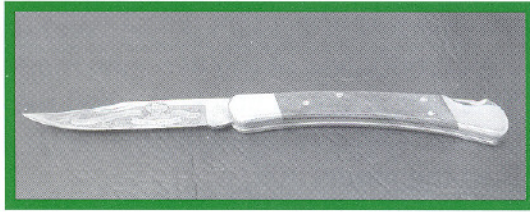
It is interesting to note that occasionally, one of these newer 300 series models turns up with handle pins when one would not expect it. I have a 309 with handle pins and I have a picture of a 317 with handle pins. These knives were introduced just as (309) or after (317) Camillus stopped pinning the handles on the knives in this series. These models with handle pins are very rare and I speculate that they may have been early sales samples made before the construction method changed. Whatever the explanation, evidence is clear that the standard production knives for these models were produced without handle pins. Perhaps you have seen similar examples.

I also have a copy of an Al Buck letter directed to Buck dealers and dated October 31, 1972. The letter announces "Our line of new pocketknives features an important engineering breakthrough: A tough stainless steel pivot pin and bolster that will not rust, corrode or break. Model #311 also has a stainless spring." This indicates that the 300 series knives had been manufactured prior to this time with bolsters and pivot pins (rivets) which were not "stainless".

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In perhaps 1972 or 1973, the tang stamp on all of the 300 series was changed to incorporate the model number: BUCK / 301 / U.S.A. Two new models were added to the series later in the decade of the 1970's: The 319 Rancher debuted in about 1976 and the 321 Bird Knife was added to the series in about 1978. The master blade on the 319 originally incorporated a long nail pull while a crescent nail nick was used on the 321. The 319 was a stockman pattern similar to the 301 but substituted the sheepfoot blade with an awl or harness punch. The 321 was modeled after the 313 Muskrat, but incorporated a gutting hook for game birds in place of the spey blade.

Those who closely follow this series will also expect a mention of some other changes that were made to specific 300 models. The 319 Rancher first had a grooved awl. This was changed to a smooth awl at some point along the way and this may have coincided with the switch to a crescent nail nick. Advertising pictures are often not updated and I am unable to pin down a date for this change. Also, in about 1987, two major changes were made to the 315 Yachtsman. The bolsters were removed to incorporate a "bare-head" look

and the handles were changed to be smooth instead of sawcut. Another minor variation revolves around notches which facilitate the opening of secondary blades. I own 309 and 313 models with and without cutouts which expose the nail nick for the secondary blade. Also, one can find some of the 300 series models with a serrated blade. Although I have not seen one with more than one serrated, there may be some in existence. The serrated blades should be from the early 1990s as that was when Buck began to feature serrated blades in the catalog. Finally, at some point, Camillus or Buck replaced the stainless steel bolsters with ones made of nickel silver. I do not know when this occurred nor do I know how to tell the difference.

Buck 300 Series Production

In about 1984, Buck began to make four of the most popular models in their own plant. On these models, the 301, 303, 305, and 309, Buck replaced the long nail pull with the more common crescent nail nick. Later, the logo shield was temporarily replaced with one that spelled out "BUCK" in block letters. This shield only lasted for two or three

years as Buck returned to the tried and true knife, hammer and bolt logo shield. By the way, Camillus made 307 and 321 models can also be found with the block "BUCK" shield. Also, I would not be at all surprised to learn that there are other contract models with the block letter shield.

In 1986, Buck began to reduce the number 300 series models offered in their catalog. First, the 317 Trailblazer was discontinued. In 1991, the 319 Rancher was removed from the line. By 1992, the 311 Trapper and 321 Bird Knife were dropped. In 1998, the 307 Wrangler, 315 Yachtsman and 313 Muskrat were no longer in the catalog. I suspect that, in reality, Buck discontinued the contract models as existing inventory of each was depleted. It is my understanding that once Buck commenced using year marks in 1986, all 300 series knives actually manufactured by Buck were stamped with a year mark. Later offerings without a year mark were made on contract by Camillus.

The 300 series has had a few additions since Buck began to manufacture the knives. In 1990, the 312 Mini-Trapper and the 314 Trapper models were introduced. These trappers were designed to be stronger than the slim contract made 311. Also for 1990, the 305 Lancer was converted to a Clipper with the substitution of scissors for the standard coping blade. These Clippers were offered with several delrin colors (black, red, pink and lavender) and jugged brown bone before their run was completed. Later, Buck added a three blade version of the 309 Companion to the line in 1998. This knife, the 310 Whittler, had originally been made as a limited edition knife commissioned by Smokey Mountain Knife Works in 1994.

Speaking of SMKW, several Buck 300 series have been produced on a limited edition basis for this well-known cutlery outlet. SMKW has sought to capitalize on the growing number of Buck collectors and has commissioned new knives or new variations of existing models from the 300 series. Some of the new patterns never before sold by Buck include a congress (322), barlow (332), large barlow (331), toothpick (333) and two more trappers (329 and 334). I believe these models were also made by Camillus as none of them have year marks.

The 300 series knives have been manufactured with various handle materials and colors. You can find gray, red, yellow delrin, several jugged bone variations and stag. David Yellowhorse handled some of the models in his native Indian motif and I have even seen some pearl handled models. The pearl models were probably aftermarket as are the various stone and gem handled knives from outfits such as Santa Fe Stoneworks. The gray delrin knives are Buck 'Workman' series models and often have the 'Workman' logo etched on the master blade.

In recent years, Buck has scaled the series back to just the four models they originally began to produce themselves in 1984. These four models, the 301, 303, 305 and 309 were the best selling models in the series and apparently are still well received by the knife buying public. In my article on the 700 series, I related how Buck initially envisioned that series as an upgraded replacement for the contract made 300 series. Is it not ironic that, over 20 years later, four 300 series models are still going strong while 700 series models are all discontinued? Again, this is a fun series to collect and study. I know several avid 300 series collectors and it seems that each one of them finds something new or different on a regular basis. Maybe you have an unusual one in your collection!

Blade Show

The BCCI had a tremendous turnout for the Blade Show this year. Club members filled twenty tables with extensive Buck Knife displays. It seems like each year, the displays continue to improve. It was obvious that a great deal of time and imagination were employed by everyone. Fellow exhibitors voted for BCC display awards. Listed below are the winners.

Limited Edition and Commemorative:

Judy & Murray Andrews

Buck Custom Shop Knives:

John Foresman

Factory production 1961 to present:

Larry Oden

Single model numbers & related knives:

Greg Smith

Yellowhorse Knives:

Gene Merritt

Organization Series:

Jim Christy

Youth Awards:

Courtney "CB" Thompson

Chris Schure

Courtney Foresman

Zack Foresman

Judges Award

Larry Oden

Best of Show Award

John Foresman

Presidential Award

(Chosen by CJ Buck)

Jimmy Holbrook

Blade magazine also honored two of our club members with awards. Larry Oden received the Best of Show Award. John Foresman received a Judges Award. Our Club has consistently had members receive top Blade Show awards.

Nearly 50 members attended our annual membership meeting on Saturday afternoon. Display award knives, Custom Model 470s built by Wilde Bill Cody were presented at the meeting by CJ Buck. The 470s had Damascus blades with several different handle materials. Every member who displayed this year received a nice glass mug with our club logo on one side and the "Blade Show 2003" on the reverse side. These mugs were donated by a club member.

This year's Paul Lentz Memorial Award, the second annual, was bestowed upon Vern Taylor. Elgin Thomas also received a special plaque thanking him for his years of service to the BCCI. Elgin served as a director of the board and had displayed Buck knives faithfully for years now.

The New BCCI Web Site as a Resource for our Members

As some of our members already know, we now have a website at www.buckcollectorsclub.org. On the home page you have the ability to look up upcoming events, get membership information and contact the Club to ask questions in this regard. In order to enter the site you will need your user ID and password. Attached to this newsletter is a label with that information included.

Upon entering the site you will see the home page/site map to guide you through the member accessible portion of the site. Under member operations you can complete your member profile, which will have the effect of updating the Member List. We would appreciate it if you would include your E-mail address as we would like to move in the direction of distributing Newsletters via the web site. The existence of a viable E-mail address is a good indication to the Board of your ability to receive your Newsletter on line through the site. You can also contact the Club Board of Directors and Officers to ask questions regarding knives and other issues. You are also able to view the Member List, obtain a membership application and see links to related web sites such as the Buck Knives, Inc.

There are other areas on the site which have been included to help members do research on Buck Knives and the Club. These include the Newsletters area where you can see the current and all past issues of the BCCI Newsletter. In these newsletters there is a wealth of information on key Club activities, important people in the world of Buck Knives and of course information on Buck Knives. There is also a Club History section, which contains biographies of current and past Club Advisory Board Members as well as our Club Charter Bylaws. Under catalogs and Price Lists you can see the current catalog and price list as well as all the past catalogs and price lists that are known to exist. If you have a catalog or price list that is not shown in this area, please contact John Foresman so we can add your catalog to the site. Under Display Awards you can see a list of the display awards, the subject of display, the name of the winner(s) and the show where the award was given. This information may help you to determine the name of at least one subject matter expert for the type of knife you collect, so you can share information and help us build our history of Buck Knives by model number. To this end, we have also included a Model History section. In this section, you can see a list of all the Buck Knife models that existed up through the end of the year 2002. THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN! We need your help in adding information on all Buck Knife models from day one. This information will be the master resource of background information on Buck Knives for identification and valuation. We hope this section of the site will grow into the definitive body of knowledge on Buck Knives that will transcend the knowledge of any individual "expert". It is critical that we capture the knowledge of our experts before memories fade and our experts pass on.

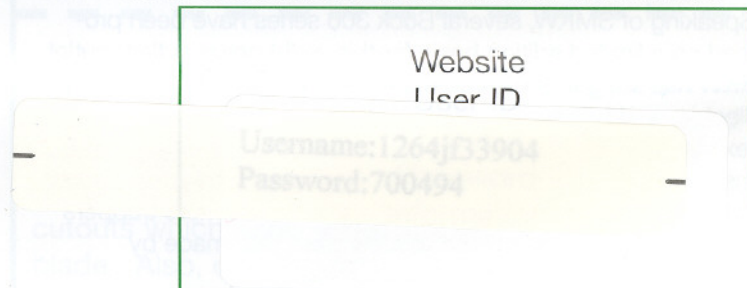
As you enter the site for the first time, there will only be a few knife models, which are partially populated in the Model History section. This is just to give you a feel as to where we would like to go in accumulating the information on Buck Knives. We have a template for this basic information, which would appear first in the file on a given model. This template is available from the Board Members. Once the basic information is in the template, we are free to add pictures, artwork, stories, diagrams and lists of product variations, limited edition knives, special project knives, custom knives, etc. to tell our story on a particular knife. For the time being, your information, however fragmented, can be forwarded to John Foresman for loading in the site. If a member wishes to "adopt" a particular model knife please contact John. If you don't wish to "adopt" but want to add to the information, John can let you know who the "adoptee" is so we have a single point of contact for accumulating information on a given model or series of knife. We need volunteers to "adopt" knife models so they can be the focal point for accumulating information. We need to be considerate of John's time so he doesn't have to do it all.

It is my sincere hope that this web site will serve as a vehicle to pull more members into active participation in our Club. We need to document and spread our knowledge of Buck Knives and the activities of the Club to help other appreciate the fun and satisfaction of collecting Buck Knives. The web site should make this possible in a way that is far more efficient and informative than our previous methods. have fun with the web site. It is a Club asset for every member's enjoyment.

Take Care.

Dick Matheny
BCCI Board Member

Editor's Note: For any assistance with the website you may contact John Foresman. His email address is : jforesman@swfla.rr.com



T-SHIRTS WITH CLUB LOGO ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

Gray:

Med___ Large___ X Large___ @ \$12.00 _____
XX Large___ @ \$12.50 _____

Forest Green:

Med___ Large___ X Large___ @ \$12.00 _____
XX Large___ @ \$12.50 _____

Navy Blue:

Med___ Large___ X Large___ @ \$12.00 _____
XX Large___ @ \$12.50 _____

Please send order form and check or money order to:

Buck Collector's Club
110 New Kent Dr.
Goode, VA 24556

Shipping.....\$4 _____
Additional shipping of \$3.00 for more than 4 shirts _____

Total..... _____

BCC 15th Anniversary Gala

In what was the last BCCI event to be held at the Buck plant in El Cajon, club members gathered July 16-18 for a celebration of the club's 15th year anniversary. From the opening catered banquet Wednesday evening through the group picture early Friday afternoon, the event was filled with memorable moments. Buck employees and club volunteers went out of their way to make the trip worthwhile for all in attendance.

Club president John Foresman served as the emcee for the banquet and kept the evening moving along with introductions, instructions and presentations. Approximately 125 club members including their guests were in attendance. Both Jane Davey and Vern Taylor were recognized for the many things they had done for the club. Pam Taylor, Vern's wife, accepted a plaque on Vern's behalf and received a well-deserved standing ovation. For those of you who have met Pam, you know she is a wonderful and gracious lady who has always supported Vern and his efforts on behalf of our club. The evening also featured welcoming remarks from Chuck and CJ Buck, numerous door prizes and a delicious catered dinner. Some of us especially appreciated the generous portions! Extra thanks are due to Buck Knives, Inc. for sponsoring the banquet.

Thursday featured a short club meeting, factory tours, a catered lunch and five rotating seminars. The seminars were very well received. It was apparent that the presenters had put time, thought and effort in preparing their material. Several club members also brought displays which were enjoyed by all. On Thursday evening, many of the attendees gathered back at the Buck plant for a huge knife sale and members' silent auctions. Joe Houser really went the extra mile to have a large number of mostly discontinued models and special knives available at very discounted prices. Many club members picked up needed knives for their collections. Also, several members were able to auction knives they wanted to sell.

Friday was filled with more great seminars and a group picture. Not to be overlooked is the fact that Sarah Buck and her Buck company store staff worked many extended hours throughout the three day event. Their sacrifice of time kept the company store open for club members and they still managed to lead factory tours. Well done, ladies!!! The members in attendance bought club tee shirts and hats from the club and they bought a bundle of Buck Knives products and apparel from the factory store. There should be no question that club members did their part in helping Buck exceed July sales goals for the company store!

With people such as CJ Buck, Joe Houser, David Yellowhorse, Wilde Bill Cody, Paul Bos, Greg Gardner, Jeff Hubbard, Efen Reyes, Brandon Hatcher, Billy Bates, Gene Merritt and Larry Oden sharing their expertise, it was a very informative time. A special thanks should go to the Buck employees and club committee members who planned this memorable event: Jane Davey, Joe Houser, Georgia Foresman, Billy Santarsiero, Charles Tofft and Larry Oden. Finally, there were many other Buck employees whose extra effort made the special event special. Thank you loads!!!

Plan now for the 20 year anniversary event in Post Falls. It should be just as memorable!!

Blade Show Continued...

Eugene "Shoe" Shoemaker was presented with a special 103 skinner with an Elkhorn handle for his years of displaying and service to our club.

CJ Buck also addressed club members at this meeting. He covered the move to Idaho and Buck's new philosophy of lean manufacturing. Having the president of Buck Knives speak at a club meeting is always a thrill.

Gene Draa's term as Club Treasurer expired at this Blade Show as did Gordon McCoy's term as Board Member. Gene Merritt stepped down as Board Member and was elected as a new Treasurer. Jimmy Holbrook and Dick Matheny were elected to fill the two vacant board seats.

Joe Houser brought quite a few unusual and discontinued knives to the Blade Show. These knives were sold to club members after the meeting. Club members also used the silent auction to sell some of their own knives. Buck knives also donated several knives that were auctioned off.

The camaraderie between club members, who are in essence competing against one another for display awards, should be noted. Throughout the entire show, exhibitors could be seen sharing information and simply enjoying one another's company. A large group of members even got together for dinner Saturday evening. Paul Lentz was famous for saying "Knife collectors are the finest people in the world. And Buck collectors are the cream of the crop!" Paul was right on the money every time he made this statement!

*****CLASSIFIEDS*****

For Sale: Lifetime membership #300, includes yearly club knives from 1991 until 2002.
Price is \$1000.
Please call Daryl at (317) 878-5789

For Sale: Model 903 Bowie with a mirror polished blade and silver guard. The handles are genuine cocobola and it is serialized 071 just below the stamp. It has the gold engraved service award logo and says, "Buck Knives, 15 year service award" in the engraving. Asking \$500, please call Joe Houser at Buck, (619) 449-1100, ext. 233. Selling for another employee.

Wanted to Buy: Duke Model 500
Impala Horn pattern jugged bone
Sold only at Bass Pro Shops
Jim Holbrook
(770) 607-5345 or
papaholbrook@earthlink.net

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and much more

email address: jhouser@buckknives.com
Fax: (619) 596-5533



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110 New Kent Drive
Goode, VA 24556

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