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September 2015

CLUB NEWS

BY JOHN FORESMAN

Our new website is up and running! We went live with it in early June. I encourage you to logon and check out our new site. If you should have any difficulty logging on, please email me. I should be able to take care of any issues that you may experience. I also encourage you to actively participate on our new discussion forum. If we all take advantage of it, it will be a great way to enhance our membership. The possibilities are endless. Friendships can be formed as well as gaining knowledge about Buck knives from each other. So please, help us make the most of our forum.

Year after year the Blade Show seems to get better and better. Not only was this year's Blade Show no exception, it was historical for the Buck Collectors Club. You will find a complete recap of the show elsewhere in this newsletter, so I won't go into great detail here. This year, we had more table requests than we had tables available. Several of our veteran exhibitors were gracious enough to squeeze down their displays in order for newcomers to utilize the space. I am grateful to them. I also want to thank each and every member who displayed for taking the time and effort, along with the expense, to help make the 2015 Blade Show such a huge success for our club. What an absolutely awesome club we have!

Immediately following our Saturday afternoon membership meeting, we held our usual knife swap and auction. I would like to extend many thanks to

Charlie Toft, Wilde Bill Cody, Leroy Remer and Heath Stone for contributing knives for the auction. Their generosity helped us raise much needed funds.

Club member Marj Donoghue deserves a standing ovation in my opinion. Marj and her All Points Travel team were responsible for a very memorable first ever BCCI cruise to Alaska. She left no stone unturned when it came to details and I credit her with ensuring that everyone who journeyed with us to Alaska had a wonderful time. My wife Georgia and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we both look forward to future BCCI cruises and hope that Marj will be willing to help us with any future trips. And I would be remiss if I failed to mention that Marj presented a check to the BCCI for \$700 from All Points proceeds! Thank you Marj for your hard work and generosity! We appreciate you!

John Hunt and his wife Sarah were unable to attend the Blade Show this year because of the impending birth of a grandchild. But, that did not prevent John from supplying our club with magnetic picture holders that we distributed with Chuck and Lori Buck's picture. Thank you John and Sarah!

Thanks also go out to everyone who contributed articles to this newsletter! Your support is greatly appreciated.

Happy Collecting,
John Foresman

CJ's Update



Here's a fine how do you do from Tinderbox Dry North Idaho.

There are large forest fires all around us that provide a perpetual haze of smoke that is such a relief from the normally mineral free air we are usually

stuck breathing. None of the fires are in any way threatening anything in our area but we are so ready for a nice rain to put some of these fires out.

We finished our Board meeting last week where we reviewed our 2nd quarter results, our forecasts for the balance of the year and a 3-year look forward. We have a very cohesive Executive Team and a motivated and passionate workforce and with that combination you can make some pretty neat things happen.

In July we had a two pronged business trip where we traveled down to Smoky Mountain Knife Works for Buck Weekend. I had both Josh and my Mother with me signing knives at the front entrance with Billy Bates answering historical questions and Jacob Siembida taking pictures to capture the event and Bob George in the back room with Kevin making deals. Kevin and Tyler Pipes from Smoky always put on and promote a good event and we also had Bill MacDonald, one of the Pro Fisherman we sponsor, parking his boat in the front parking lot.

It was great watching my mom interacting with customers with the same grace and warmth that my father always brought. That she truly enjoyed being there and being a member of our traveling circus, running through airports and good natured jabs with each other at meal times, proved that promotional events will be a regular gig for her.

I am also happy to report on some additional family members. My son Josh has been promoted to Production Control Supervisor. To quote an email from Joe Piedmont, our Director of Operations, "Josh Buck has accepted the position of Production Control Supervisor. In this role he will be a critical gate keeper monitoring the bridge in MRP between Fab and Assembly. As we move into 2016 and implement the

"30 days on shelf" initiative and "strategic 12 month gas can" strategies, Josh's technical skills will be put into play to keep all these goals moving in the right direction."

Our commitment to USA production and flawless customer service through on time delivery will keep Josh hopping.

My daughter Sarah Hauge is back with the company following a break with our company in the position of Consumer Relations Manager. To quote from the announcement by Bob George, Director of Sales and Marketing, "It is my pleasure to announce that Sarah "Buck" Hauge is rejoining the family business. Sarah is assuming the newly expanded position of Consumer Relations Manager. Sarah will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Factory Store, Consumer Sales and the Receptionist".

Joe Houser remains the Manager of our Warranty department, Company Historian and Liaison with BCCI while picking up a new vitally important role of policing for counterfeit Buck products. Joe's extensive background in verifying product values will bring amazing insights in spotting fraudulent product and then getting that product out of the marketplace. This will be hugely beneficial to our company and our brand, not to mention clarification for our collectors.

The legacy this company represents in how we interact with all of our stakeholders from customers, suppliers and our fellow employees, to how our products are designed and built to perform in use means everything to this family and that passion resides strongly within our company.

Ending on a high note, I am very pleased to announce that my son Josh was married in my mom's front yard on Saturday, August 22nd to a wonderful young lady. Josh Buck and Mindy Meyer tied the knot and should be in Hawaii at this writing. I then received a call a few days later from my youngest daughter Rachel who is expecting a baby girl next January.

Lots of renewal going on in the Buck family and again we thank you for all the prayers over the last 6 months since my father's death.

Best Regards
cj

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BCCI FACEBOOK

BCCI now has a "Facebook Page", Its "BCCI/TheBuckCollectorsClub" !!!!!. It's been up now since mid-June. We have 92 members in our group at the present. Seem like I add one or two people every day. A lot of the members are very active and post pictures and talk about knives every day. I try to keep updates of things going on with the Club also. Come check us out and join us. Who knows where this will go. Would love your support, suggestions and ideas. If you have any questions, you can post on the page, message me from the page. Also my E-mail is lindseytim488@gmail.com.

Tim Lindsey

Dear John and Board of Directors,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me and my travel agency to put together the Alaska Cruise/Tour that was just completed by some of your Members along with their family and friends. I hope that it was up to your expectations and that perhaps you will want to do this type of activity again in the future.

I personally was honored to meet some more of the BCCI Members and the diversity of the crowd was astounding. Such a great experience for all who participated.

*Marjorie Donoghue
All Points Travel – Salt Lake City*



THE SHARP ZONE

HISTORY IS MADE BY BCCI YOUTH

Owen Dady is the first youth in the history of the International Blade Show to win a major, all - show award. Owens outstanding buck 310 Whittler display took a Judges Award and placed young Owen in some very special company beside Jimmy Holbrook and Dale Eichberg. BCCI Vice President Larry Oden captured the "Best of Show" award to complete the Clean Sweep for the Buck Collector Club. Owen wasn't the first

displayer to jump up and down when his (or her) name was called over the loud speaker in Atlanta, but he certainly was the youngest!

Owen's victory was the crowning touch to a remarkable weekend. Young members of the club were involved in every aspect of the Blade Show activities. Youth Awards were presented by the Buck Family at the club's annual meeting to Sarah Lindsey, JD Goode, Conner Danskin, Aiden Danskin, Nicholas

Waldon, as well as to Owen. Luke Whitlow became a life member of the club after enjoying five years as a Youth Member. Look for Luke's excellent Turkey article elsewhere in this publication. We look for great things from Luke in the future. It's really not too soon to make that statement about each of our youth mentioned here. As these polite and knowledgable youngsters with such interesting personalities visited various locations and individuals in the great hall each made a lasting, positive impression on the adults around them. The contest in which they were participating was designed to allow the children a meaningful activity during the show. This experience turned out to be just as meaningful to the adults involved.



A TURKEY TAIL

By LUKE WHITLOW

The silence of the serene darkness shattered as a roll of thunder echoed through the woods on the opening morning of archery turkey season in Kansas. The gobbles continued to grow louder and louder as the sun crested the adjacent tree line. My companion and I sat patiently in our ground blind with our minds set on success. I, Buck Knife member Luke Whitlow, and my good friend, Checotah Clark, had little turkey hunting experience; but we hoped the knowledge we had collected from magazines articles and other hunters would be enough to lead us in the right direction in order to harvest a turkey.

I have been hunting or in the woods for as long as I can remember and have been blessed with a family who loves the amazing creation God has given us. I have also been a member of the BCCI for five years now, ever since my grandfather, Dave Robison, introduced me to the company in 2010. I am currently attending Kansas State University, majoring in Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management. This is a program that merges the outdoor industry, hospitality, and business together to allow graduates to operate hunting guide and outfitter services as well as pursue other outdoor related fields. I hope to be able to operate my own lodge in the future using this degree.

Now back to the story. I set my hen decoy about 15 yards in front of the blind in order to have a closer shot opportunity with my Prime bow.

With my Buck 278 Alpha Hunter strapped to my belt, I knew anything I were to bring down would be easy work for the razor sharp blade. When the gobbles began to fade, we readied our eager eyes to scan the small grass field on which we had picked to set up, knowing the birds would soon leave the roost. Within a matter of minutes a large dark shape of feathers appeared to the left side of us. We could hardly keep our emotions in check as the huge gobbler strutted his way across the field toward the decoy. After the tom had put on us show for us as well as for the decoy and circled a few times, I decided it was time to try to take this magnificent bird. Once the bird turned his back to us I slowly drew my bow and found my anchor point. I waited for the optimal broadside opportunity making sure I could put an ethical shot on the bird. As I let the arrow fly, the blue streak of the lighted knock could be seen zipping through the air toward the turkey that was 18 yards away. Even with months of practice, my nerves got the best of me as the shot was just hair off its mark but was still a fatal pass through. The turkey fluttered away and dove into a nearby pasture. Filled with excitement and anxiety, we watched the bird go down thinking it was best to give it a few minutes to expire. We decided to pursue the bird after giving him a little time. As we approached the pasture, I saw the bird getting tossed into the air by a coyote. After I recovered from this sight, I quickly ran up

on the predator; trying to keep him away from my prized trophy. We recovered the bird, soon discovering that the coyote had made a quick meal of it, eating a third of the tail feathers. I thought, "This is just my luck, my first turkey gets eaten by a coyote!" After placing my game tag on the leg of the bird and calling my dad, I pulled out my Buck 278.

The Buck 278 Alpha Hunter is my knife of choice in most hunting applications. This particular knife is the Boone and Crockett edition that I had saved quite a while to purchase. I had used it on my first archery buck the year before, so it is a very special blade that I knew performed flawlessly.

I was so grateful that God had blessed me with success on my first archery turkey hunt. As I began to cut away the meat I knew that this would make a delicious meal for my family in the near future. I scored the bird using the National Wild Turkey Foundation's scoring method, and the result was a score of 68.625. He weighed 23.75 pounds, his beard was over 10.5 inches long, and his spurs were around 1.25 inches a piece. His tail fan was severely lacking due to the opportunistic coyote but made for a great story for my first turkey. I am overcome with joy and thankfulness to have the opportunity to hunt these remarkable animals and to be able to share these experiences with family and friends in the Buck community.

317 TRAILBLAZER BY GEORGE CIAMPOLILLO

The Buck Model 317 Trailblazer is a traditional two-bladed folding hunter pattern measuring 5 ¼ inches long closed length. Both blades are satin finished and pivot at the same bolster with the main blade being a 4 1/8 inch clip blade. The smaller secondary blade is a skinner. Model 317s have blades with crescent nail nicks, black saw cut delrin handles and a lanyard hole in the rear bolster. The blades are 440B steel. The only negative point about the 317 is the non-stainless springs, which tarnish quite easily. The 317s were a Camillus contract knife for the model's entire run which means that even after 1985 there was no date stamp. Only Buck- made 300 series knives have the date marks after the model number on the tang stamp.

Production was scheduled to start March 1972 and Trailblazers last appeared in the 1989 Buck Knives' catalog. (per Joe Houser in the March 2015 BCCI newsletter). Production numbers for the standard production knife were 223,100. In 1989 Buck experimented with a serrated secondary blade (see photo 1). This was the only year and 700 of them were produced. (again, per Joe Houser in the March 2015 BCCI newsletter) Some lucky collectors, (not me) have early Trailblazers with handle pins. (See photo 1a) These knives were assumed to be "salesman samples". To confuse things even more, see photo number 1a of two knives with different size pins.



Photo 1



Photo 1a

There are some small distinctions in the standard model. The first editions from 1972 – 74 were stamped with the 317 on the pile side, which helps when dating (see photo 2). Attempts to date 1975- 1989 Trailblazers have resulted in various methods. Bert Lindsey in the September 2014 BCCI newsletter looked at the nail nicks to discern early or late production. The early 317 with a pile side stamp all seem to have a nick forward on the blade and close to the spine. The 1974 –1989 knives have nicks farther back on the blade. There are some irregularities in these knives. For much more detail see Bert's BCCI article. There are also different type sheaths (photo 3) and boxes (photo 4 and 5).



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

As with most of Buck's models they produced some special project 317s:



Buck Railroad, 1000 produced.



Framers First, 550 produced. (per Joe Houser)



*Space Program, 130 produced
(per Joe Houser)*



Here is a stag handled 317 from the Buck Custom shop. I believe other handle materials were also used.



We the People, 150 produced (per Joe Houser)

The 317s are well-built knives done in a traditional design. I have used a 317 for everything from dressing/skinning game, filleting fish, food prep in the kitchen, camp chores and as an everyday carry knife. This model is able to handle most any situation that presents itself.

The Model 317 has increased in popularity among Buck collectors and I expect it could become even more desired as collectors become familiar with this sturdy model.

BCCI SWEEPS IN ATLANTA

I have attended twenty consecutive Blade Shows and came away from the 2015 rendition feeling like it may have been the most memorable version of all. I hardly know where to start given the number of first-rate impressions any BCCI member in attendance must have noticed. From the wonderful displays to an outstanding youth turnout to the large number of club members who interacted (some with displays, many more as show patrons) to a memorable annual membership meeting, there were plenty of things to cherish. A contingent of Vietnam veterans also graced us with their presence adding an appropriate patriotic touch to the club's display effort. But I must commence with the most obvious thing of all. In spite of his passing, the memory and spirit of Chuck Buck simply permeated our atmosphere at the show. Whether during the almost non-stop visiting amongst the membership, the well-attended fellowship meals or most especially, during the club's annual meeting, Chuck's name and our loss were interwoven throughout almost everything that occurred. This is not to say it was a sad time (of course, there were some wet eyes from time to time) but there was just something about our conversations that repeatedly came back to our departed friend and hero. Having Lori, CJ and Josh Buck in attendance along with Joe and Maralee Houser only intensified the emotion. Chuck Buck's impact on the BCCI may never cease to be felt, especially as long as we have active members whose lives he touched.

Perhaps the most conspicuous BCCI aspect at this show was the turn-out and tangible involvement of our youth members. Parents,

grandparents and BCCI board member Brent Schindewolf made a noticeable difference. The result was more than just an ordinary display with the youth member's name attached. The six displays were creative and intelligent and only complemented the outstanding behavior of our youth. These comments cover the key observable attributes of their involvement. However, Brent went beyond the obvious in order to make their Blade Show experience even more valuable. His creative thirteen point fact finding checklist assignment for the youth was ingenious as it directed each young person to search the show floor (primarily the BCCI display area) for specific cutlery or display related issues. Upon finding the targeted subject, youth were then instructed to greet the respective adults, introduce themselves and interact in various specific ways. The result was impressive with both the youth and their adult targets becoming better acquainted. The youth were further rewarded upon turning in their completed fact sheets. A drawing of the completed sheets determined the order as the young people were able to choose from a selection of Buck knives donated just for this exercise. See the Sharp Zone report in this newsletter for even more exciting coverage of our youth Blade Show involvement. It is a ground-breaking report!

Day-by-Day Summary of Blade Show Happenings and Highlights

Thursday mid-morning – Blade Show opens to exhibitor set-up. There is an on-going flurry of activity as BCCI displayers locate

the assigned tables and transport their knife cases and related display backdrops to the display area. As friends arrive throughout the day, greetings, handshakes and hugs are commonplace. First timers receive extra help to ensure their display set-up goes smoothly. Everybody is pumped up with anticipation of how the weekend will progress. At the end of the day, a rather large group of us gather at a nearby seafood restaurant for plenty of food and fellowship.

Friday a.m. – More time for display set-up and a few more of the BCCI exhibitors arrive. Displays are being tweaked for the show opening. Now is a great time to get a head-start cruising the dealer tables to find Buck treasures before the crowds descend on the show floor. I heard one club member state he always has more success and less competition before the show officially opens and I nodded my head in agreement.



Sharon & Sarah Lindsey, Wilde Bill Cody & Tim Lindsey

BCCI displayers included Craig Heflebower, Tim Lindsey, Norm Sevensma, Ed Cooper, Dale Eichberg, Jim Ridlen, John Foresman, Dave Robison, Brian Hugh, Joe Houser, Pat Donovan, Frank Meek, Dave and Cindy Meier, Michael Devlin, Gene Merritt, Jim Holbrook, Dan Rickman and Larry Oden. Youth displayers included Sara Lindsey,



Ed Cooper



Michael Devlin

Conner Danskin, Aiden Danskin, Owen Dady, JD Goode and Nicholas Waldon.

Also in attendance were some notable people I should mention: BCCI artisans Leroy Remer, David Yellowhorse, Michael Prater, Wilde Bill Cody & Heath Stone were all in attendance and I saw each of them spending time with club members. These men have talent and they are each easily approachable. No wonder their creative work is so well received.

Two Buck employees made their first visit to the Blade Show. Chris Bourassa, National Sales Manager under Bob George and Buck Knives' Buyer Cindy Eby worked the Buck booth along with CJ, Lori and Josh Buck. Their interaction with club members and other show patrons gave ample evidence of product knowledge and pleasant personality. It was nice to make their acquaintance.

Also manning a sales table on the show floor was former Buck

Knives representative John Lutes, II along with his vivacious wife, Leslie. They had a large number of older Buck knives John had accumulated over the years and kept busy throughout the weekend selling off the inventory. Both of them expressed delight with the club displays and membership interactions. I hope they will keep in touch as they are good people.

Friday afternoon – Blade Show officially opens to the public. BCCI member displays represent Pre-factory, Factory Production, Buck Customs, Yellowhorse, Prater, Historical/Literature /Patriotic, Odd/One-of-a-kind, Tactical, Decorated Blades and various Single Series / Single Model categories. Twenty eight-foot long tables were loaded to the brim with this wide array of Buck Knives and included at least seventy years of Buck workmanship. This would include knives made by or under the direction of Hoyt H. Buck, Al Buck, Chuck Buck, CJ Buck and Josh Buck. I would call that a legacy of outstanding cutlery.

BCCI Board of Directors meeting – The last two hours of show time on Friday found your BCCI Board of Directors reviewing the club's finances, committee reports and planning for the future. As we considered where the club stands financially and the caliber of individuals willing to serve, I could not help but be impressed by how blessed we have been. Your club has people in leadership who are committed to making the organization better serve our membership and they diligently work at the task.

Contemplating the club's new website, sticking our toes into the social media pond, an upcoming Alaskan cruise that will be history by the time this newsletter goes to print and undertaking the planning of the club's thirty-year anniversary just whetted my BCCI appetite. Perhaps

at the top of my excitement list is a potential new collaboration with our friends in Post Falls. If testing proves the idea feasible, you may find the announcement of a brand new BCCI model offering that will grab your attention. It is too cool for school!

Saturday – This is the racetrack day. No, I am not referring to the Belmont leg of thoroughbred horse racing's Triple Crown held that same day. I am referencing the pace of show floor happenings, annual meeting room set-up and administration of the membership annual meeting. The pace is so quick and so full that by the end of the day, I felt like I had participated in a five hundred mile race at a certain two and one-half mile oval in Indianapolis. It was simultaneously exhilarating and tiring.

The Saturday morning visit by the aforementioned group of Vietnam war veterans was incredibly memorable. I will leave the story for Jim Ridlen to relate but understand that it was unquestionably a Blade Show highlight. We owe much to these fine men and those who served with them. I was impressed with each man and hope they sensed our appreciation for their service.

This year's annual meeting agenda was loaded. President John Foresman opened by requesting a moment of silence for Chuck Buck. This was followed by a medley of gospel songs soloed by Maralee Buck Houser to honor her father and invocation prayer by Lori Buck. When CJ's turn to address the membership came, the emotion just overwhelmed him. After several tries to speak of his father, he finally just skipped ahead to other matters. CJ Buck obviously cares about the BCCI and we have every indication that his support will continue in the tradition his father established and maintained for so long.

Committee reports and the re-election of two officers (Treasurer and Vice-President) plus the election to the Board of Directors of Tim Lindsey (Lawson, Missouri) completed the business portion of the annual meeting. President Foresman also announced that Tim would be our administrator addressing the club's need to be active in the social media realm. Three special introductions added great meaning to our annual meeting. First, BCCI treasurer Pat Donovan was honored with the Paul Lentz award. His efforts in handling club finances and ancillary reports have been faithfully executed for some time and recognition was actually overdue. Pat has ably and faithfully served the BCCI in various capacities over many years. We are most fortunate to have the benefit of his many contributions.

Also singled out for recognition was long-time club displayer and supporter Dan Rickman of Hilton, New York (near Rochester). Dan's effort has been a tower of consistency for many years and while his health has wavered, his love for Buck Knives and the BCCI has only strengthened. The place Dan holds in the hearts of club members was evident when the entire membership in attendance gave him a standing ovation. The recognition was totally unexpected but Dan had both his father and an adult niece with him and all of our hearts were touched as Dan struggled to stand, raised his arm high and acknowledged the



Dan and Will Rickman

honor being accorded him. It was a touching moment in an emotion filled meeting. I am confident this memory will stick in our minds for a very long time. Dan, you are well regarded by your friends in the BCCI!

Finally, Lori Buck was formally saluted for all the years she steadfastly stood by Chuck and voluntarily helped support our club. We have had no better friend and the club leadership wanted to make sure that Lori knew she was loved and appreciated and that our love for Chuck also spilled over to include her. The following is an excerpt from a post-Blade Show email received from Lori. Her feelings are obvious:

"It was a great show and I absolutely loved mingling with the collector club members at every chance possible. What a blessing



Lori Buck addressing members at the Annual meeting

you are to me! Everyone that cared so deeply for Chuck reached out in memory of him and touched the heart of this little gal too. Your love and compassion stirred deep emotion as so many arms reached out to hug my heart. Years ago I wanted the Lord to come down and talk to me at a time when I was experiencing deep sorrow and I never realized that is exactly what He does through so many

wonderful people. He sent "real live hugs" graced with shed tears and it is with deep appreciation I want to thank you for the comfort and joy you brought into my life during the Blade Show."

BCCI display awards are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The award knives Joe Houser and his team prepared were, as is always the case, fantastic. The square frame model 112s with various handle inlays befitting the award level would be welcome in any collection. Most of the category awards are selected by the displayers themselves and they know how much effort and creativity goes into building a quality exhibit. Some of the category winners are easy to select but others are very hard to rank due to the quality of the competition. In fact, ties are not uncommon, giving Joe the opportunity to return home and build still more award knives. Being the kind of person he is, I never hear him complain about the extra work we cause him.

Saturday evening, nearly fifty of us met at a nearby restaurant for dinner. The wait for a room large enough to accommodate all of us was rather long so a few people left to find dinner on their own. Those who remained enjoyed a great time of fellowship and some fine Italian food. As the evening wore on and people asked for their bill in order to pay, we were told everyone's meal had already been paid! It took a while, but CJ finally admitted he was the "culprit". On top of everything else Buck Knives does for this organization, we have the company president paying for our meal at a fine restaurant. Is this a special relationship or is it a special relationship? Thank you, CJ. You have your father's generous heart and many more of his other attributes, I must add.

Sunday – Sunday morning found a number of BCCI members in attendance at the Blade Show worship service. The balance of Sunday morning is a much more relaxed atmosphere and many of us explore the large amount of not yet visited Blade Show aisles. As noon time comes and goes, the tension begins to build as we anticipate the Blade Show display awards announcement. This year the BCCI was part of a Blade Show first. For the first time ever, a youth displayer took a major award! Owen Dady's Buck Whittler display was chosen along with Jim Holbrook and Dale Eichberg to receive a Blade Show Judge's award. Until we explained just how meaningful this was, Owen had no idea it was such a big deal! He had some fine help from his

grandmother, Pat Robison but the combination of Buck 310 Whittlers and examples of whittled items in an attractive display obviously impressed the judge(s). Also, club VP Larry Oden garnered Blade Show Best of Show honors so the BCCI actually swept the display awards again. This has happened several times in the past but it is always a thrill and an honor for the club to run the table on all of the display awards.

As this particular Blade Show wound down, I heard more than one well-known cutlery industry mover express the opinion that the BCCI makes a most favorable impression as we promote Buck Knives. Eyes are watching and we are making an impact. Friends, no

other "factory" club comes close to the symbiotic relationship that exists between Buck Knives and the BCCI. We should all be grateful for the way the Buck family and key Buck employees have embraced our efforts. It is truly a "win-win" relationship. If you have never attended a Blade Show, I urge you to add it to your bucket list of things to do. The show is huge, the stage is important and the BCCI footprint will impress you. On top of that, you will meet some really nice people. The 2016 version is slated for June 3-5. Hope to see you there.

A "TOP OF THE LIST", QUALITY INDIVIDUAL

My introduction to Chuck Buck came in 1990. My story is far from unique. During the '80's I collected that other brand of knife whose "10-dots" were becoming increasingly hard to find and very collectible. Right smack in the middle of my quest for those "other" types, I got a hold of a Buck Knife whose box contained a message. As I pulled out and read that message, it became very clear that the knife in my other hand was much more than a combination of metal and handle material! This knife was a product of prayer. This knife was manufactured by people who recognized God as their Senior Partner! This knife involved Bible believing leaders who boldly quoted the Word in every one of those "messages in the box": "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son; so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16. This knife was being made by individuals I would like to get to know better, especially this gentleman in charge. And finally, I decided right then and there that that first Buck knife needed to have other Buck Knives join it in my soon-to-be Buck collection.

At that time the black, phenolic fixed blade hunters were my main interest. I had to have one each of the 8 different models. (actually I really wanted one each of all the knives shown on page 8 of the 1985 catalog!) I became very frustrated by the fact that no stores in the St. Louis area had a full complement of these hunting / sheath knives. Well, I'll just write a letter to the fellow in charge out there in El Cajon and buy them direct from the factory. It wasn't very long after that a personal letter came from Charles T. Buck indicating kindly that, since it was the policy of their company not to sell direct, he would suggest I get in touch with a fellow named Vern Taylor who might have the knives I needed. "And by the way" Chuck wrote, "you might be interested in the collectors club Vern is starting". That letter is a treasure to me today as I think about the chain of events that began back then and have allowed me to get more involved with Buck Knives, with the Buck Collectors Club, and with the many quality individuals associated with both. At the very top of the list of QUALITY INDIVIDUALS I place the name Charles E. (Chuck) Buck.

Brent Schindewolf, –Founding Member # 71–Buck Collectors Club



Jim Ridlen

BLADE SHOW 2015.

..as seen by a pretty old “First Timer”
(there were 7 first timers...5 school kids and 2 aging Baby Boomers)

My story began one year ago on the drive home from BLADE 2014. I attended Friday and Saturday while my wife, Lila, shopped at the Cumberland Mall. That worked well as we both had great times. I told her how much I enjoyed the BCCI area and talking with all the members. She said I should try my hand as an exhibitor in 2015. I have been a BUCK collector since the mid 1960's

and became a CHARTER member in 1990 (#234), but had never, ever thought about exhibiting. She suggested that I make my theme the 5 generations of BUCK men who are Christian businessmen and American PATRIOTS (Al and Chuck Buck served in the Navy) and tie that to the BUCK knives guys carried in Vietnam.

I am an amateur military historian of the Vietnam War. As a Hoosier native I knew about the Indiana Army National Guard unit that went to Vietnam in 1968 and returned to a hero's welcome, Nov. 1969 in Indianapolis. That unit was.... Co.D (RANGER) 151st INFANTRY (AIRBORNE). Those 204 young men from the Greenfield, Indiana area became known as the INDIANA RANGERS. In Vietnam they went on Long Range Recon Patrols (LRRP) in the IRON TRIANGLE daily for a year and were awarded 538 DECORATIONS for VALOR (extreme bravery in combat) including Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, and 101 Purple Hearts (6 didn't come home). They were to become the MOST DECORATED UNIT IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

So...I made my primary theme PATRIOTISM. It is about 5 generations of BUCK men, ALL Christians, ALL patriots, makers of the best knives in America and about the INDIANA RANGERS, the ULTIMATE PATRIOTS who carried BUCK 110's and 120's into combat daily.

How did it all turn out?...my being a first time exhibitor...better than I could ever have hoped. First of all, my dear wife of over 45 years did NOT go shopping during the 4 days...not once. Instead, she took to being an exhibitor like she was born to it. She had planned on going to the mall, but decided she would rather be at the show. It was a joy to watch her interact with BCCI members, BUCK family members, attendees, knife legends like Wilde Bill Cody, David Yellowhorse, and Leroy

Remer, and especially with the INDIANA RANGERS. The 4 days at BLADE did abound with fabulous fellowship. Our club members were talking, laughing, full of joy....giving, sharing, and caring for and about one another the entire show. That is pretty rare today in a nation living inside social media where it's all about “selfies”.

Secondly, in addition to my 3 display cases, my exhibit, to be complete was to include a gathering in our club area of 20-25 INDIANA RANGERS. To accomplish this took an effort spanning several months. I coordinated it with Chuck Wallace, the Co.D 151 Association President, and with Steve Shackleford, BLADE Magazine Editor. On Friday, June 5, 30 RANGERS and brothers, sons, and grandsons carpooled from Indiana to Atlanta. Saturday morning at 10, I greeted them in the lobby and led them to our area (I felt pretty silly leading RANGERS....their motto is “RANGERS LEAD THE WAY”). As I turned into our aisle I saw Lila standing behind our display table. When she saw us, tears of joy flowed down her pretty face. I had all the guys form up beneath our BCCI banner and shutters began clicking. Steve Shackleford, Ed Danskin, and Craig Heflebower all took pictures. Ed, being a semi-pro photographer, was able to get a super wide angle shot of the entire group from only a few feet away...MAGIC.

Thirdly, I had a gift to present to Chuck Wallace. In 1968 his Dad wanted him to have a good knife so he bought him a new 110 Folding Hunter to carry in combat in Vietnam. He carried it daily for a year. He brought it back home to Indiana where, 6 months later, he lost it. With Larry Oden's help, I had ordered a new 110 factory engraved withCHUCK WALLACE / INDIANA RANGERS.... on one side and.... VIETNAM / 1968 - 1969... on the other. When Chuck accepted it and showed it to all the other RANGERS I heard them all say..”Where's mine?” Chuck then surprised me with a gift from the RANGERS. It is a miniature replica of the 3 GIs in front of the Vietnam wall in Washington, DC with an inscribed brass plaque ‘from them to me’ and it also has a removable Army issue type knife, also engraved. To say the least, that was a very moving experience for me.

So, to sum it up, I owe thanks to a long list of people. Most of all my thanks go to my dear wife Lila. They also go to Larry Oden, John and Georgia Foresman, Dee and Brent Schindewolf, Ed Danskin, Craig Heflebower, Chuck Wallace, Steve Shackleford, and many others. Being an exhibitor is a whole order of magnitude better than just attending. For me and Lila it will always be one of our very best memories. I whole- heartedly recommend that BCCI members who have never done it consider being an exhibitor. Not only will you never regret it you will treasure the memory forever.

Jim Ridlen

BCCI # 234

PAUL LENTZ AWARD TO PAT DONOVAN



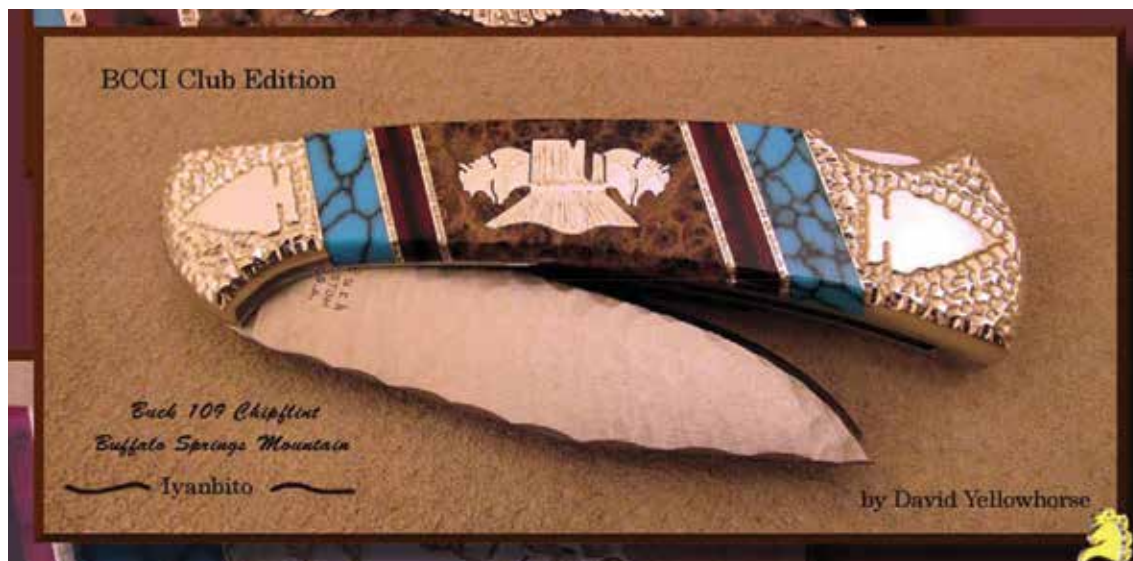
The 2015 Paul Lentz Award for distinctive service to and on behalf of our club was presented to Pat Donovan at the BCCI annual meeting held at the Blade Show this past June. It has often been explained that this prestigious award is really more about the memory and contributions of Paul Lentz than it is about any of the recipients or their considerable efforts. Those who knew Paul Lentz understand why this is emphasized. Paul was the heart and soul of the Buck Collectors Club and his incredible contributions on behalf of our club are legendary. It is likely that each recipient of the award has felt unworthy to be mentioned in the same breath as Paul.

Nonetheless, it is entirely appropriate to remember and appreciate Paul's work while concurrently acknowledging the selfless work of those who do so much today. Pat Donovan is a worthy recipient of what may be our club's highest honor. The award announcement at the presentation to Pat made the case quite clearly:

The 2015 Paul Lentz Award for distinctive service to the BCCI is gratefully bestowed upon Patrick Donovan to recognize his service to the club typifying the "selfless" spirit and effort of the award's namesake. Pat's enduring record of leadership, timely and accurate financial recordkeeping and even disposition as an officer are just some of the ways he has shown himself to be a deserving honoree. Further, Pat has served as an able volunteer at several BCCI special events and significantly contributes to our hobby by providing leadership to his regional knife club in Michigan. Pat, we salute and thank you for reminding us of Paul Lentz!

Please join us in congratulating Pat on this well-deserved honor.

BUCK COLLECTORS CLUB IS PROUD TO PRESENT
THE 10TH ANNUAL YELLOWHORSE BCCI - LIMITED EDITION
BUCK 109 BUFFALO SPRINGS MOUNTAIN



Buffalo Springs Mountain is created on the Buck 109 which has the chip flint style blade. The blade stamp is Buck Custom, USA. The stone accents are Blue Turquoise with Red Jasper and Jet within nickle spacers. The design is inlaid in Maple Burlwood and hand textured. The bolsters are hand textured and the design is on both sides of the knife. Delivery to the USA is included in the price, overseas delivery is higher.

To order send check or money order for

\$360.00 each made payable to the Buck Collectors

Club or by credit card \$370.00 each.

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ExpDate _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Ship to: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

email or phone _____

Member # _____

Send payment or order to:

BCCI c/o Gene Merritt
 7212 E Chelsea Street
 Tampa, FL 33610

Email : genemerr@aol.com for additional info or picture

BLADE SHOW 2015 AWARDS

CATEGORY AWARDS

YELLOWHORSE *Gene Merritt*

BUCK CUSTOM SHOP *John Foresman*

FACTORY PRODUCTION *Larry Oden*

SINGLE MODEL & RELATED *Jimmy Holbrook*

ORGANIZATIONAL SERIES *Frank Meek*

DECORATED BLADES *Dan Rickman*

HISTORICAL/PATRIOTIC TIE: *Tim Lindsey Jim Ridlen*

MILITARY/TACTICAL *Brian Hugh*

1 OF 1, ODD, PROTOTYPE *Dave Meier*

EARLY HANDMADES *Dale Eichberg*

AFFILIATION SERIES *Sarah Lindsey*

OVERALL AWARDS

NOVICE AWARD *Jim Ridlen*

JUDGES AWARD *Jim Ridlen*

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD *Ed Cooper*

BEST OF SHOW AWARD Tie: *Jimmy Holbrook Larry Oden*

YOUTH AWARDS

Sarah Lindsey, Nicholas Waldon, Owen Dady, Conner Danskin,

Aiden Danskin, JD Goode

BLADE SHOW JUDGES AWARD

Jimmy Holbrook, Dale Eichberg, Owen Dady

BLADE SHOW BEST OF SHOW *Larry Oden*

The First Woman to Win the Iditarod Race

By Russ Donoghue

Libby Riddles, from Teller, Alaska (70 miles north of Nome) was a guest speaker aboard the cruise ship that carried BCCI Members, family and friends from Vancouver, BC to Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and then into beautiful Glacier Bay and on to Whittier, Alaska. She was the first woman to win the 1049 mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race in the snowy wilderness from Anchorage to Nome. The year was 1985. She braved a Bering Sea blizzard to win the grueling race.

Libby was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1956 and headed for Alaska and adventure when she was 16 in 1972. Her love of animals drew her to the sport of sled dog racing. Once she became involved with sled dog racing, she worked summer jobs with the Bureau of Land Management, a fish processing plant and a warehouse. She also sewed fur clothing to help support herself and her dogs. She built a cabin North of Nome in 1987 where she still lives and continues to breed and train sled dogs.

I was able to meet Libby and talked briefly with her. I was wearing a Buck Knives shirt that she noticed as she talked about her love of sled dogs. She asked if I worked for Buck Knives. I said no, and that I was a member of the Buck Collectors Club. She then smiled and said, "My first knife was a Buck and it helped me build my cabin." One of her favorite dogs, Beauty lay at her feet as we spoke. A very heartwarming experience for both Marjorie and I.

WHAT A BUCK KNIFE ADVENTURE IT WAS

Not only did I get to claim I took my wife on a cruise but I got to go with over two dozen Buck Knife collectors. As we rested a day in Anchorage at the end of the trip, Rusty Donoghue led Bruce Cannon and myself on an adventure to interview the man who had killed an Alaskan Brown Bear with a Buck 110. Rusty had talked with and arranged to visit with Gene Moe at his home. (See the story with Gene and Chuck Buck meeting in the May 2000 BCCI Newsletter).

This visit started several weeks before we went on the trip with Rusty having several long conversations with Mr. Moe making the necessary meeting arrangements. Gene offered to come pick us up at the hotel and take us to his house to see the bear rug, the 110 and hear the detailed story of the attack and fight. Rusty, Bruce Cannon and I climbed into 86 year old Mr. Moe's car and we traveled to his house as we listened to a running travel-log of his concrete business construction accomplishments throughout Anchorage. Gene was a great story teller and he continued with that as we arrived and were ushered into his home. I was impressed right off the bat with his concrete work projects and his pioneer Scandinavian backbone. This would come into play during the attack.



In the photograph you see (R to L) Mr. Gene Moe, Rusty, Bruce and the Bear. The rug was smaller than I expected and Gene explained it had not been stretched for a long while after skinning and it had shrunk. Gene told us a detailed account of how he was attacked while dressing out a Sitka Blacktail deer and how the young female Brown Bear was on him so quickly he couldn't reach his rifle. The bear tore loose his right bicep and knocked him down, then grabbed him by the thigh, biting several other spots in between. He was able to switch hands with the knife and stab it into the neck of the bear, cutting up and down creating a large flow of blood. He remembers feeling the bear get weaker and that is when he hit the bear with a punch on the nose with all his might. Here is where his concrete work strength was a blessing. The bear let go of his leg and slumped over and Gene was able to crawl to his rifle and put three shots in the bear to make sure it stayed down. But things were only just beginning, he now had to survive the injuries with a grueling crawl back towards the shore of the island to get help. The shooting alerted the men he was with but they thought that he had shot another deer. Eventually with shots near the shore, his son and another man were alerted and able to find him and get him back to their large boat. They knew of the only cabin in the area and made for it. The cabin owner and his wife helped stem his blood loss as best they could and a Coast Guard helicopter was luckily in the area and came and got Gene to the hospital still just barely alive.

Gene still bares the deep scars to his arm and thigh, which he showed us. His friendliness and tough pioneer spirit was apparent. He gave credit to God and a Buck 110 for letting him continue his life. After a long period of recovery he continued to hunt and has even managed to take a Grand Slam of mountain sheep. We came away impressed and a little overwhelmed.

Craig Heflebower

PIONEERS VISIT BOARD MEMBER

BY BRENT SCHINDEWOLF

It's not often, if ever, you are privileged to welcome genuine pioneers into your home. Now if you are picturing a covered wagon with a bonneted lady and a fellow walking beside the horses, you are thinking of another kind of pioneer. The meaning, however, is very similar. We are talking about folks that were first on the scene and helped pave the way for those that followed.

Ernie and Arlene Logan certainly fit that description in relation to the Buck Collectors Club. Way back in the early 1990's these two were attending BLADE Shows, displaying, and winning awards for excellence. Ernie was one of the very first to become a Board member of our newly formed organization. Arlene was a pioneer in her own right as one of the first women to display Buck Knives and as the official photographer for the club. Both were major contributors to the success of our display in Idaho in 2013, even though they were unable to attend.



Ernie and Arlene Logan

Among the items used to prepare the "THANK YOU, CHUCK" display at our club's 25th Anniversary get together, were four of the very first award knives made available as presentations to Buck Club displayers. Representing the 1992 "Presidential Award" was a Stag Handled 532 BuckLock handed to Ernie by Vern Taylor at the annual meeting. This new way of rewarding excellent displayers was "so much better than the ca\$h" that had been given in the past. In addition to the prototypes and one-of-a-kinds displayed that year,

Arlene and Ernie showed off a very colorful grouping of "Bubble Gum" 425 MiniBucks including the equally colorful boxes. (make note, Faith Anne B.) Also made available for the 25th Anniversary was a magnificent 192 Vanguard with Ivory handle slabs, and a Zipper and Ranger with Sambar Stag. These additional knives were received over the next few years for Presidential and Category awards.

The significance of these four knives is that they are the reason Dee and I were blessed with a visit from the Logan's. We have been trying to get together to return them since these knives were put on loan for that Thank You, Chuck display!

Fond memories were shared by the Logan's as they recalled meeting not only Chuck, but Al, too "way back when". Other very special people such as Fred Wilson and Jane Davey were mentioned as having been so kind and helpful to them.

On the humorous side, it seems that two young ladies named Courtney - one a Logan, the other a Foresman - created an enterprising business at at least one of the Blade Shows by walking around with Windex and cloth offering to clean the display glass for all that would agree. A considerable sum was gathered and split (our esteemed president and his lovely wife might recall the amount)

On a serious note, Ernie wants all in the club to know that he is sorry he has not been as active and supportive as he would like to be. Health issues have taken their toll. We give a great big Hats Off to Ernie and Arlene as we convey greetings from them to all those they knew in the club. As for those who have not had the pleasure to make their acquaintance, our Sheriff Rusty Donaghue said it best as he signed the Logan's copy of his book " To Two True Pioneers of our Club. I haven't had the chance to meet you - MY LOSS!

OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION 2015 - EUGENE, OREGON

by Stephen Dunn OKCA member (AKA 'oregon' on the forums, BCCI #2038)

If you don't visit this annual Cutlery show then you will never know the kicks that you are missing. You'll never know.



James Gedlick

People often ask me, "Steve, how can I be happy?" The answer, as some of you clever folk have already guessed, is that it depends.

If mountains turn you on then I'd say give Washington State's Mt. Rainier's 14,000 ft. summit

a go. However, if things that go cut put the beat into your heart's desire I'd say OKCA is the way to happiness for you. It certainly is the high point of my year in cutlery. The sweat inducing excitement, the warm and informative comradery of fellow aficionados and more knives than you can lay eyes on in a day. Real live cutlery immersion for the true believers with a tolerance for adrenaline.

Dennis Ellingsen, capable Chairman of OKCA, is the focused erudite champion responsible for this show taking place on such a grand scale, 360 tables for 2015. OKCA celebrated its 40th anniversary in the same location, the Lane Events Center. Dennis told me, "It was a good show and the crowds for all three days were exceptional." Dennis and I, coincidentally, collect the same models of vintage knives by Geo. Schrader so we have that in common and we have shared emails and conversation over this topic to my complete delight. Dennis has authored several pieces on that subject so his knowledge is deep, colorful and rich.

James (walks the earth like a giant, with knives) Gedlick, is pictured here holding a toothy-handled Buck 124 Frontiersman. WOW, what a gorgeous Bowie (and yes that is a BCCI cap). Amiable James was asked to put together a display two months before (jig time) the show and to hold down a Buck-laden

table next to Bruce Dollinger (tenacious BCCI hero of ours). Buck Knives, Inc. was absent from the show for the first time in recent memory (no Joe Houser) leaving a huge hole that knowledgeable James filled with delightful results. My meeting him in person was the highlight of the show for me. His collection of large Buck Bowies is exceptional and worth the price of admission all by itself. Bravo James. May you live a thousand years. You are why I haven't missed an OKCA annual meet in a decade.

How to approach this three day meet (Friday is setup and member only, Saturday and Sunday are open to the public for a small fee). I put together a "hit list" a week before the event based upon table layout and table holder listing from the OKCA website: http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/site_map.html. I print out a map of the tables and mark the must-see ones with a highlighter and names of the table holders. I make sure to visit those first then go clockwise around the hall looking for targets (knives and such) of opportunity to examine and possibly acquire and for terrific people to learn from. The combined cutlery knowledge of everyone in this hall would fill the Library of Congress. Everyone here is a part of the cutlery encyclopedia. Half of the table are collectibles and half are makers.

I took a ½ and ½ salesman sample (half Lucite and half regular) tiny Buck 505 to show Leroy Remer. Leroy was kind enough to authenticate it as one of one that he built for Vern Taylor while Leroy worked in the Custom Shop back in the D.A.Y. Leroy told me to ping him with email about it and he would issue a letter confirming what he told me about the demonstrator. What a kind and knowledgeable genius he is. You ask him a question and be prepared for a detailed answer that only someone with a photographic memory could offer. One in ten million. No, he is one in a billion.

I visited Sunday only this year during the open hours of 9-3. It took me every minute of that time to go around once! Really. And I did not see everything and I could not talk to everyone. I took about 250

photos of what I consider eye candy (stuff I like) which are mostly in the collectible camp vs maker ware.



I traded two BCCI 301s to Bruce D. (who didn't have any) for one gorgeous pearl inlaid NIB 532. WOW, is it a stunner and I've wanted one for years. I bought a used 170U from the original owner, my first of this unusual Buck model. I furiously beat the bushes for Bucklites for Armand (ITE on Bladeforums) with no joy. Non-Buck purchases: Older than me huge and rare in this Hemisphere ethnic Shilin Cutter by Kuo family \$150, two Nathan Klecker wooden kit knives

2 x \$12 (Nathan was ill so his Sister was manning the table, get well soon Nathan), vintage very good condition Pulaski axe \$40, folding Cattaraugus WWII machete \$50 and a Kershaw 1556TI \$25 from the affable Kershaw Guy. I am already looking forward to 2016 OKCA. I hope to see you there. You know who you are.



Leroy Remer

ALASKA CRUISE EXPERIENCE – GREAT BCCI ADVENTURE

Thirty-Seven people participated in the first BCCI Cruise event in July, which was offered by the Club to members, family, and friends. The experience included a night or two in Vancouver, BC, and then seven nights aboard the Grand Princess visiting various ports of call up the Alaskan coast including cruising the interior of Glacier Bay. The scenery was awesome, and the weather and sea conditions could not have been better. At various times up the coast, whales and seals were visible from the ship.

Those who purchased a tour extension on the trip after the cruise experienced a spectacular train ride from Whittier to Denali National Park where they were able to spend a night at the Princess Denali Lodge and participate in a natural history tour the next morning. During the tour the group was able to see bear, caribou, moose, and eagles. From there they were bussed to the Princess McKinley Lodge for a night. Early the second morning, Mt. McKinley was visible in all of its splendor, so the group was able to see a mountain that is only visible about 30% of the time.



This BCCI event was put together by All Points Travel in Salt Lake City, the owner of which is a lifetime BCCI Member. The crowd was diversified and included people from all over the U.S. as well as South Africa. On the second day of the cruise, the travel agency sponsored an afternoon get-together with drinks and snacks, and the guests were greeted by three of the Board of Directors of the Club. Each participant had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the group and indicate how they had gotten involved with the Club and/or a club member. Stories were told about the various Buck knife collections of those in attendance, and how these collections were started.

The trip ended in Anchorage from where everyone caught the various flights back to their homes. Many of those that were on the trip expressed an interest in doing this type of activity again. Memories made that were special and friendships with other Club members were also highlights of the trip.



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