



AKCA

JANUARY 2007

Newsletter

Next meeting is:

JANUARY 25, 2007

Looking Back and then Forward

By President Rich Hale

Our goals as we took office were fairly straightforward and simple, put out a nice newsletter on a regular basis, make the meetings enjoyable and increase attendance, continue the effort to recruit new members, and conduct a fall show that would please all table holders and those attending.

The newsletter is first class. The meetings have been excellent. The membership has not changed a lot. (We have gained a few and lost a few) But...The board and I are not pleased with the fall show. It was not what we envisioned at all. The numbers of folks that came in the door was down in spite of the fact that we tried to make a significant increase in the count. That in a very condensed version is that year past.

Now to the year in front of us: David will continue to put out the quality of newsletter we have enjoyed as long as he gets folks to submit articles. The new meeting place speaks for itself and it is our intentions to keep the meetings enjoyable. I still feel we should increase membership.

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We have tried a lot of things in the past couple of years to attain that goal. We need to continue past efforts and seek new ideas.

Now to the fall show: If you attended the show or held a table you know what it was. In spite of the low traffic some folks did really well, while others did not do much at all. Why was the attendance down? I am not sure how to answer that. Several folks have mentioned that the gun show hurt us. I also heard the attendance at the gun show was way off. Did the big car show hurt us? A couple of folks have told me they went to it on one day and to our show on the other. What about the horse show? I am not sure. I do know this: With all of the things that go on in the metropolitan area, there is not a weekend that we could book that would not be in competition with something else. I believe our biggest threat would be the Crossroads of the West gun show. They are not booked anywhere in Arizona in November of 2007.

What do we propose to do for the 2007 show? The number one item is to appoint a new show chairman for next year. Give him full responsibility and support to get things in order and moving forward. A review and revision of how and where we advertised is in order and top priority. It is our responsibility to provide the table holders an opportunity to present their wares to as many people as we can.

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Each and every member of the board shall provide all they can to assist the show chairman.

We sent out questioners to the table holders from the last show. The replies are very informative and we will review the data as a board to see how we can address the issues that were brought up. I was very impressed how much effort you put into the answers. It shows your business savvy and show experience.

At the Jan meeting we will conduct our yearly elections and all members that have paid dues either for 2006 or 2007 will have the opportunity to nominate members for the positions open. Each person nominated will be given the opportunity to give a short presentation of why they feel they are qualified for the position. Paid members will then vote on the candidates of their choice and those elected will serve for the coming year.

I am in the running for president once again and would like to have the following people join me on the board:

David Ammons; Vice president and newsletter.

Jim Yarbrough; Sec/treas.

D'Alton Holder; Director and show chairman.

Mike Tamboli; Director.

Mike Salois; Director.

This I feel is the right group for the future. It is a mix of long-term experience and the new and fresh ideas. The common thread is business experience and the ability to work as a unit. The goal of this group is a solid commitment to the needs and wishes of the AKCA members.

Please come to the Jan meeting and express yourselves by voting. Your vote will direct the future of this club. What I have put in this letter is a very short review of a year that has had strong and weak areas. Don't let anyone direct the future of this club without you casting your vote. continued

We have heard your concerns if you held a table. We have not heard from the members that did not. Bring your questions to the meeting and raise your hand. Or see us before the vote. We will make time for each of you to visit with the candidates prior to the election.

Bring your dues for the New Year and we will see you at the meeting.

Rich Hale

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Arizona Knife Collectors Assoc.



Jim
Bowie

Get your name tag at the next meeting! We would all like to get to know you and these make it easier! SEE YARBY to ORDER!

What Do You Want?

By David Ammons

Change: a variance from a routine or pattern; to become different, or make something different. (Encarta Dictionary)

“I feel change blowin’ in the wind...” is a line from a movie remembered that I feel sums up what is happening within the Arizona Knife Collector’s Association. For better or worse it’s a coming, and there is no stopping it so...Let’s think about what we want, how we are most likely to get what we want, and what we can do to make sure it is a change for the better.

Like most of you, I am a creature of habit. (probably more so) I’ve worn black for thirty-five years, and the same pair of boots for over eight. I like being comfortable, and new, just somehow is never associated with comfortable in my experience. Change??? Not Me!!! But wait...Every time there has been a major change in my life it has always been for the better. I found a beautiful girl and married her. Who’d a thunk it? We’ve had two great kids. Not in a million years... etc.etc. Maybe change ISN’T THAT BAD!

Each time there has been a change, I looked at the current situation, evaluated it, thought how it might be made better, what it’s going to cost, and then asked myself if I was willing to pay the price. “What’s this have to do with the AKCA?” you might ask. Well, I think we are at a crossroad and the wind is a blowin’.

A bad turnout at the AKCA Knife Show is the catalyst that is driving the change, but the lines being drawn date back several years. It is time to decide what we want from this organization and how that end is to be achieved.

On a personal level, I would like the AKCA to be a fun and informative place

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that supports me both as a collector and an amateur maker. I want to meet and associate with people of like mind so that I learn in an enjoyable setting. To this end, the administration headed by Rich has been a success. Steve finding our new digs and the board implementing the move is a great improvement over the old meeting place. The regular and ongoing presentations at the meetings have been informative. This is a result of Rich’s commitment to the program. The improved attendance these two steps have sparked means I see more, and meet more, potential friends at the meetings. Not bad, I don’t think I want that to change. But, that is on a personal level.

On an organizational level the AKCA is expected to: “promote education and public awareness in the use, handling, and safety of edged implements, as well as to assist in the development of information regarding every aspect of knives: knifemaking, collecting, exhibiting, coordination and sponsorship of trade shows and conducting regular meetings.” (taken from our by-laws) This is where our Fall Knife Show comes in and the problem as I see it. To “promote education and public awareness...etc.” you have to get them through the door. This did not happen this year at Mesa and seems to be a problem nationwide. At every show I have been to in recent years, attendance has been down. Fewer people are coming out, and those that do are more discriminating in their purchases.

Low attendance does not necessarily mean the show was a “bad show” for all those involved. After reading the responses to the questionnaire Rich sent to the table holders I was surprised how many answered the question “How did you do at the show? (i.e. sales, trades, etc.) “positively. I was also pleasantly surprised by the thoughtful and caring responses to the other questions.

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Election Platform

By Gary Fields

My name is Gary Fields and I am running for president of the AKCA. I have been encouraged to get involved in the future direction of the club's activities and Knife Show due to the extremely poor outcome of the 2006 show. The yearly knife show is the club's big event and is an event that almost every one in the club looks forward to. It is a very important event in that it is one of the few chances the knife community in Arizona has to introduce the populace to the art of the knife. While almost everyone knows about knives as practical tools, very few know about the wide-ranging aspects of knives and knife collecting. These include the fascinating history of antique knives, the beauty and workmanship of custom knives and the fact that there are so many very fine makers here in Arizona.

The planning and execution of the AKCA 2006 Show resulted in major disaster for the club. It did not meet the expectations of most of the members and exhibitors, the "customers" of club management. Many of the exhibitors have said they will not participate again. I can tell you that this is the worst AKCA show I have seen. In 2003 I became vice-president of the club under the Presidency of Mike Mooney. He had been working on improving the AKCA show for a couple of years. The 2003 show was a wonderful show and was the first event I had ever seen where so many people were so happy with the outcome. The vendors, purveyors, makers, and attendees wholeheartedly proclaimed the show one of the best they have ever attended and looked forward to the 2004 show. New members were joining at every meeting. The amount of monies available to put on the Club Show was growing. Building on that success, the 2004 and 2005 shows were also fairly successful.

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In 2006 the current administration took over management of the AKCA and the Knife Show. Rich Hale, President, and his administration moved the club meetings to a better location, which I feel was a good move, and the meetings seemed to improve. The AKCA Knife show was to say the least a very expensive flop. Attendance was at an all time low and for the first time the vendors were so upset that some of them left on Saturday. The raffles held at the show made very little money compared to past years. The club brochures were made available so late (at the October meeting) it gave insufficient time for the members to distribute them, and as a result, generated very little attendance. The advertising was very ineffective. The main raffle, which always brought in a fair amount of funds, fell off drastically because the tickets were distributed so late.

Because it has been made very difficult for members to see the financial reporting, we have no idea as to the solvency of the organization. One of my main worries is what can be done to rebuild and fund future shows that will meet member and table holder expectations. This is one of the areas we need to focus on in 2007.

What I want to accomplish, as president of the club, is to build a management team that will meet the expectations of the AKCA membership. Members have expressed to me the hope that we can rebuild the AKCA and make the AKCA Show a success again. The first thing I want to do is open up the leadership to a broad range of people. I will suggest a few members for the board and hope others will run for these posts. I will also consider all suggestions from the membership. The leadership of the club will be based on the bylaws with the board members having a say as to how the club is run. My goal is to understand club members' expectations and meet them.

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We will execute club functions in a professional manner that is open to all members. I will make sure the preparation for next years show starts immediately after the election. I will also publish the condition of the clubs finances as soon as possible.

- We will prepare a simple brochure to be passed out at the various knife shows that our members attend.

- We will commit to buying advertising in the various knife magazines and publications (as funds become available).

- One of my plans is to get tables at all the major gun shows held in the state and let people know we exist and there is a knife show in the future.

- We will try to get exposure at the various sporting clubs in the state.

- We will submit our show dates to all show lists, on line forums, and community bulletin boards that we can.

- We will get the knives for the Show raffle and create the raffle tickets and brochure by mid-summer.

- We will explore new venues for the show, if not the 2007 show possibly the 2008 show.

- We will build on the goodwill created in the 2003 show and try to convince the vendors to come back and give us another try under the new administration.

- Another thing I would like to see is small satellite shows in Tucson, Flagstaff, Prescott, and Payson. This may not be possible until the future because of lack of funds, but when we get the club solvent again we will consider the small shows.

- At the meetings there will be a financial statement available for the members to peruse and a state of the club finances will, if possible, be published in the monthly newsletter.

- We will update the web site and will attempt to add services to the web site for the general membership.

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•I have discussed board membership with the following people and they have said they will run for office. Jim Ort (vice-president), Dan Zvonek (board member), John Brown (board member), and Mike Mooney (board member). Mike Mooney has also agreed to become the show coordinator for the 2007 show. Dave Ammons has agreed to continue on as newsletter editor.

Please vote for my team and me and for the future of the Club at the January election meeting. My team will work hard to make the club and show a success. We need your support and involvement to make these things happen.

Gary Fields

Show Schedule

Feb 23-25	Knife Expo Pasadena, CA
Feb 24-25	N.W. Knife Collectors Tacoma, WA
Mar 23-25	Badger Knife Show J anesville, WI
April 14-15	Oregon Knife Collectors Eugene, OR
April 27-29	Solvang Custom Show Solvang, C A
June 8-10	Blade Show – East Atlanta, GA
Sept 14-16	Blade Show – West Portland, OR

Remember!! Order your AKCA club knife made by Bill Ruple now! See Yarby at the January Meeting

Arizona Knife Collectors Association

% Jim Yarbrough
19221 E. Via De Palmas
Queen Creek, AZ.85242

Membership Application

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Eve (____) _____ Day (____) _____ Date _____

E-mail address _____

Maker ___ Collector ___ Dealer ___ Other _____

AKCA Membership includes meetings, newsletter, access to AKCA shows

Start ___/ Renew ___ my membership (\$ 25.00 per year)

(Editorial from page 3

The recurring negative had to do with attendance and the way advertising dollars were spent. (or not spent) In all the time I have been a member, there has been no quantitative analysis of the effectiveness of the advertisement purchased in relation to people through the door. This has to change. No business would continue to spend advertising dollars with out figuring a way to see if they were getting a bang for their buck. The AKCA should be no different.

Both candidates for president have something to offer and a combination of the people willing to run for office that could work together and would embrace both sides of the aisle would be ideal. In the atmosphere that currently reigns, this seems unlikely. That is why I have committed to keep on publishing this newsletter as long as I am wanted, and to run for vice-president with Rich Hale. I feel I can better effect change that will meet the needs of all Arizona Knife
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Collectors' Association members, within the present administration.

This is what I want, and this is how I feel I can best serve. I am sure your wants are different and as long as you are willing to actively pursue the change you feel is needed, you will be listened to. Be heard. Be at the January meeting and vote. Work for what you want.

Dave Ammons



A potential sale???

Knife Handle Materials

by B. R. Hughes

Let's face it. A knife handle can be made out of virtually anything, including kitchen linoleum! There are, however a number of other materials that are more suitable, and the would-be purchaser of today's handmade beauties is often asked for his preference at the time of placing the order.

Very quickly it must be emphasized that there is no ideal handle material. Indeed, in my modest collection of custom cutlery can be included most of the more commonly encountered hardwoods, the various micartas, ivory, stag, oosic, etc., and there is generally something to be said for each. Conversely, not one is perfect.

If you start asking around, you will soon discover that the majority of today's bladesmiths do not like synthetic handle materials. Thus, if micarta is your number one choice, you may have to shop around for a maker if you opt for a forged blade. There are also cutlers who will not make handles from mother of pearl, because of the hazards presented by the dust when grinding and polishing. The recent action on elephant ivory may soon remove one of the more desirable materials from the option list, although some makers are already switching to Woolly Mammoth ivory as a substitute.

It is difficult to find a great deal of fault with hardwoods such as cocobolo, rosewood, ebony, etc. Handles made from such woods feel extraordinarily good in my hand and hardwoods are relatively low in cost and are also easy for the maker to shape. Whenever the subject of Bowie knives comes up in my presence, I generally interject the knowledge that John Johnson, better known as... continued

"Liver-eatin" Johnson carried an English-made Bowie with a rosewood handle.

Stag is a beautiful handle material. It is becoming more and more costly. Stag has its charm from the rough texture of its surface. This can also make it hard to use. For using knives the stag must be carefully chosen.

It is tough to cast brickbats at micarta. The stuff is almost unbreakable, and it is relatively inexpensive. For a tough, heavy duty knife, I don't know of anything better. Of the various micartas, I have found that paper micarta is probably the weakest, although it is still exceptionally rugged, and to my eyes very attractive. Linen and denim micarta are both tough, and either of these would be a wise choice for a combat-survival knife. One of the more appealing aspects of micarta is that it can be had in many colors, tan, black, red, green, etc. It will shrink, not as much as wood or ivory but it will shrink.

This brings me to the "exotics". Some are quite good. Caribou antler is very good indeed. I don't like the look of moose horn but it should also be good. Oosic is not pretty but is novel and therefore popular. Many stones; jade, agate, petrified wood, turquoise and others make good looking handles. Most are too heavy and of course too slick for a working knife. Bone is not as popular on handmade knives as it is on folders, why, nobody knows.

A closing tip: Spend at least as much time and thought on the handle material to be used on your next custom knife as you do on the blade material. The handle generally receives too little attention until it is too late.

(This article was first published in Jan/Feb 1990.)

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Our new meeting location: 552 N. 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ

