

KNIFE KNEWS



Randall Knife Collectors Club

Introduction

RKCC/RKCA

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First and foremost...WELCOME... everyone to the Randall Knife Collectors Club (RKCC)! I hope you find that your membership in this club is worthwhile and fulfilling. I can "promise" you it is needed! Without you a knife club is just a name...no imagination...no vision...no "pulse". It is my goal, indeed the purpose of the RKCC, to provide you good folks with a place to visit...a place that you will feel both welcome and at home...a place that both enlightens you and listens to you. Any comments or suggestions are most welcomed.

I cannot proceed any further without acknowledging the person who was the originator of "whatever" type of knife club would follow: Rhett Stidham. Rhett's vision for the future of Randall knife collecting was, not only ahead of it's time, but precisely what was needed then...now...and in the future!

The Randall Knife Society, founded by Rhett & Janie Stidham, was and still is the ideal model of just "how" such a club should be built. It was built one block and one member at a time.

Rhett left us to be with his Lord on April 23, 2011. He was an inspiration to many...a leader in knife collecting and purveying...and a true friend to me. To say that he will be missed is a huge understatement. Thanks for everything Rhett. You were and are my friend in knives and life. Long may you wave!

Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote: "...and the old order changeth, yielding place to new, and God fulfills himself in many ways..." I hope that all of you will find this "new" club an acceptable succession of the "old". The RKCC is indeed an entirely new club but I will do all that I can to make this new venture seem like an old friend.

We will still have meetings. We will still have newsletters. We are also fortunate to still have our Randall Knife Forum. My friend Rick Turbeville, co-founder of "KNIFETALKFORUMS.COM", picked up the ball and carried on with our internet forum. I cannot thank Rick enough for his support and efforts. He is a friend, a true professional and a Randall knife freak on top of it all!

There are a handful of people, in any club or organization, who help to keep the doors open. I consider them all serious grease for the wheels. Some of them appear in this issue, via printed articles. "Others" work behind the scenes. I wish to acknowledge all of them and thank them for their time and expertise. The term "field editor" could best describe some of them but I consider all of them "contributing" editors and will list them as such. Many thanks to all ya'll!

I started founding the RKCC / RKCA in August of 2011. Everyone was asking me "what was I going to do" about a new club. Well: This is what I did about it. Your support, in time, will show this idea to be the best solution...I have no doubt! Most welcome to all.

Sincerely,

Captain Chris Stanaback

Founder: RKCC/RKCA



Introducing Randall's 75th Anniversary Catalog (and a "Surprise"!)

"The more things change, the more they stay the same". An old quote that still holds a lot of validity today. Of no exception to this adage is the "New and Improved" Randall Knives 75th Anniversary catalog!

The new catalog "stays the same" in it's overall size. Bo Randall had always felt that his catalog should be able to be carried by his customers in their pocket. His wishes are still honored and maintained...no changes to the dimensions.

It (the new catalog) also shows it's homage to the past in more ways than not. Here's a few examples:

Q) Does the catalog still show a standard Randall Model #1, All Purpose Fighting Knife, on the cover?

A) Does a cat have a climbin' gear?

Q) Are there still photos of Bo (plus Bo & Gary Randall) in the introductory pages?

A) Absolutely

Q) Is there still a centerfold (pull-out) of a Model #3, Hunter?

A) Why not?

OK...Ok...A lot of "Yes's" to your questions. There's still a color fold out showing cool Randall knives. There's still color pages, showing handle options, hardware and other options, Bowles' scrim and all 28 models. So: What about the "more things change" part of that quote?

Well, for starters, "Besides" the Model #1: There are also 3 additional Randall knives on the cover. Oh...and that Randall green catalog cover? Not anymore! Welcome to the 21st century. A celebratory "75th" anniversary logo is displayed as well.

There's some all new photos inside. A Model #16-7", Special Fighter on digital camo, a better (larger) photo of the ever-so-popular Model #26-4", Pathfinder. You'll also find a photo of a knurled handle to help you visualize that perfect Model #18 you want to order. Nice...all of the above...N-I-C-E!!

"BUT" (There's that word again) by far the way-coolest "new" addition to the 36th printing of the Randall catalog is on pg. #15. New for this fall and continuing as a full time catalog model is the all new Randall Model #27, "MINIATURE TRAILBLAZER"!! That's right, and here's some specifications and information for you.

- Stainless steel blade
- 3 3/8" blade length
- 3/16" blade stock
- 3 3/8" handle length
- Stag handle with 13 spacers
- Sculptured butt plate
- Brass or nickel silver hardware at no extra charge

Miniature Model "A" tan sheath (with hone pocket)

This is one gorgeous package! It also feels incredible in your hand and will make a great "user"! Price for this Model #27 "mini" is \$400.00 (Current 2012 pricing)

I sure hope ya'll take advantage of some of this information. You can thank Gary, Jason and Michael Randall as well as Valerie and Scott for getting this information to us in time for our first newsletter. They were also kind enough to allow me to "borrow" one of the very first finished minis to bring to my photo studio and photograph for the RKCC. Thanks to all of them...and to you for supporting the RKCC.

Stay Sharp,

Capt. Chris

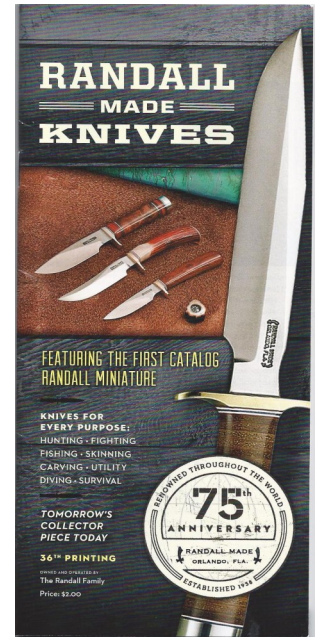
New for 2012: Randall #27 "Miniature Trailblazer"



Mini #27 shown
with my GTR for
size comparison

Nice size stag
and Sculptured
butt plate...a
perfect "user"

Randall Shop Knife Knots By Scott Maynard



In as this is the first note from the shop, I wish to convey RMK's appreciation for the continued support from the newbie's to the old time collectors. Also continued thanks for your patience regarding the delays in shipping, with the understanding of the rule changes regarding options and the like.

Our current ship time from present orders is at 54 months and holding. RMK prefers to use the term "booked ahead" here instead of 54 months behind...sure sounds better to me!

We are very excited about the addition of the first cataloged miniature Randall, as the model 27 rivals the 25-5, and the 3-5 in sales, it was a no-brainer when it came time to decide the next one to become available. Incidentally, because the shop is now only two weeks behind in production, we have made arrangements that the Model 27 mini would be available as early as Jan/Feb 2013! Yes, that means only about a 9 month wait! We will be filling in the current blade lists that were cleared so we would be able to gain the delay of nearly 16 weeks that RMK was behind in shipping a little over a year ago. The current shop personnel responded wonderfully to the challenge of getting caught up even quicker than was anticipated!

The new catalog cover and new format within has us all very excited also. GTR, Valerie, Jason and Myself worked for a good 6 months in the design and decor of the 75th Anniversary Issue and are mighty proud of the outcome! Well actually, Valerie, worked tirelessly, and we guys just nodded our heads a lot! Your input is appreciated here also, what do y'all think of it?

Referring back to shop personnel...RMK is having two of the longest tenure employees retire at the end of 2012. Steve Johnson has been the mainstay of the 14 room and has been almost solely responsible for the training of his replacementS, notice the plural S on the end of that word! Arthur "Bud" Heath has probably worked in more areas of the shop than anyone of RMK's history, from the front room, to the 14 room and has bounced back and forth from the forge since I became RMK supervisor in 2000. Bud likes to brag that he has forged more knives than anyone who has worked there, and I shall not dispute that at all! These two guys have approximately 80+ years experience and this experience will be sorely missed. But do not fret, we have other guys who are and have been trained, and are ready for the opportunity to showcase their abilities here.

I personally look forward to sharing with everyone as much shop news as I am allowed and am genuinely looking forward to the future as RMK forges ahead and continues to offer "tomorrow's collector's piece, today"



How To Authenticate Your Randall Made Knife by Perry Miller

Randall knives are hand forged, known for their high quality and craftsmanship and been made for 75 years. They are sought out by knife aficionados as collectables that are proudly owned and widely appreciated.

The popularity, worth and rarity of some of these knives have created an opportunity for altered or counterfeit knives to surface. If done well an altered knife is difficult to spot by the untrained eye. The handle may be replaced or the grind changed to create the illusion of a "one off" knife that will be presented as an original. Counterfeits are usually poorly made, mostly overseas. Experienced collectors can easily tell these are not the real thing.

In the past, the Randall shop was able to authenticate knives in question themselves. In fact in 2002 the requests for authentication became so great they created a position devoted to authentication. Pete Hamilton, a long time shop foreman, held this role until his passing in 2005. A void was created as no one had the experience, knowledge and ability to fill his shoes.

In May of 2008 I received correspondence from Gary asking if I would take over the position. Because of my knowledge and experience I gladly accepted the responsibility to maintain the integrity of the Randall name by certifying the authenticity of any knife in question.

In order to assure the origin of a Randall made knife it must be closely inspected. The only way this can be done is to have the knife in hand. Any person claiming to be able to authenticate a knife without actually seeing and handling it is not a true expert in the field.

As the only person authorized by Randall to authenticate their knives I require a knife to be sent to me for inspection. If there is any question about any aspect of the knife, I am fortunate to have a relationship with Gary Randall that allows me to have him corroborate my findings.

Once authenticated in writing by me, the owner can be assured the knife has been thoroughly assessed and is a genuine Randall made knife.

If you have a knife that you would like authenticated or need more information, please visit my website www.Spaceportcutlery.com or call me at 321-403-6644. **Please do not call or email Randall for this service as they will simply direct you to me.**

Perry Miller

Authorized Historian for Randall Made Knives™

This is a very unique Model 1-8". It has a finger grooved handle but the grooves are facing the top of the blade. I have never seen this configuration on a Randall and consider it very rare. Knife is in great shape and has had the blade cleaned by the shop. Sheath is almost in new condition. Knife and sheath are 100% authentic.



Mix and Match By Jim Gates



If you collect things, you have inherited a defective gene somewhere I am convinced. Why on earth do you need 400 or more knives? It only makes my wife nervous to have so many potential weapons about the house! I began as a small boy collecting things. First it was hotel stationary, then stamps and coins and on and on. During my teenage years I only collected girls, but in adulthood the collecting mania asserted itself again. Over a 13 year span I amassed the second largest collection of chess literature in the world. These books spanned the years from a 1499 edition of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (which contained the first description of a living chess game and was a source book for some of Shakespeare's plays) to the present – some 13,500 volumes. When this became a 30 hour per week endeavor I gave it up and sold the collection. After this, I returned to collecting Randall knives again, having disposed of my first modest collection when I began my chess collecting phase. So far I am still very much a Randall collector. It keeps me out of trouble if nothing else, and gives me a lot of pleasure in my retirement. I like to have collections within collections. One of my favorites is to pair similar Randall's, or full size Randall's with mini versions by other makers such as Don Hedrick. Here are several photos of pairs I like.



Sasquatch - Full Size and a Hedrick mini version



Here is a pair of Randall Model 14's in fossil Walrus ivory. The FWI has a beautiful chocolate brown color. The knife on the right has an Eskimo artifact handle.



Finally, I recently acquired a Randall Triathlete with scales of Texas Prickly Pear Cactus. It had to be stabilized, but made a beautiful and interesting handle. Gene Beal did the scales and added the colorful mosaic pins. Here is the knife along with a Hedrick mini Triathlete with ivory scales.



Randall Thoughts (one "special" Model #1)

By Mitchell Harrision

I was fortunate enough to be asked to write something for the first RKCC newsletter. As I thought about this, several things came to mind.

In the Randall Knife collecting community, we are in the middle of a significant transition. With Rhett Stidham's passing and the loss of the Randall Knife Society, many Randall collectors find themselves a little.....homeless. Having a RKS membership number was a badge of honor. Newsletters, special club knives, RKS merchandise, and most of all Rhett and Janie's devotion to the knife show circuit and collector community aided and helped us all. I think everyone can agree, we have lost a true hero. As Perry Miller has noted, Rhett was the only one that made his living as a knife trader. He didn't have a "day job". He had it all on the line with knives....and Randall Made Knives were a big part of that. We all benefited from his love of knives.

I also think we may have a generation gap..... I am the first to admit that I am an old fart. You can't deny the "graying" of the people you see at most knife shows. We outnumber the younger collectors by a significant margin. If we want to bring young, new collectors into our beloved hobby... we have to make them feel welcome. We have to share, we have to teach, and we have to help.

Then there is the "Great Recession". Prior to late 2008 Randall Knife prices were at their best. Any knife coming from the shop could easily be sold for an instant \$100 profit, or more. The shop instituted order allocations that limited the number of options and the number of knives that could be bought by one person. Anything with "Vietnam", "Separate S", "Low S", "Brown Button", or "Heiser" was in high demand. Profits were good and trades were often. Times were good. A hobby like ours requires significant disposable income which is not as prevalent as it once was and it's going to be slow in returning.

I have also noticed a drop in activity on all the knife forums. There are several out there that have dedicated Randall Knife sections. All of them are suffering from falling activity. Maybe we have said all that needs to be said. Maybe the forums are just a symptom of the problems I have mentioned. What ever the cause, I am convinced the internet is our best avenue for bringing new and young collectors into the Randall community.

As I sit here and reflect on the above words, it would be easy to lose hope, but no. There are a lot of dedicated collectors driving our hobby forward. Blade Show is in just a few weeks and I am looking forward to seeing many of my friends. I am excited about finding the next cool knife for my collection. Maybe I can sell a knife or two...or make a trade!

In the end, it's about the people and the knives. As I think about some of the collectors I know, there is a lot of variation. I know a guy the only collects model #3 Hunters, another model #4 Skinners, yet another that only collects model #5's. Some collectors focus on knives that have provenance, maybe a name etched on the blade, or a military service number. Collector interest is as varied as the knife we love.

Me? I collect model #1's. The original, the "APFK, All Purpose Fighting Knife". My goal is to collect good examples from every decade, 1940's through today. There are so many options.... Handles such as leather, stag, ivory, and micarta. Sheathes including Heiser, Moore, Stockman, Southern Saddlery, Johnson, Sullivan. Spacer variations, choil shapes, hilts, butt caps, nuts, washers, brown buttons, baby dot snaps..... Whew!

I still love the thrill of finding that special knife..... The one that fills that "hole" in the collection. Then there is the deal. Knife guys are genetically predisposed to negotiate, barter, trade, wheel, and deal!

Which brings me around to one of my favorite new additions. It's from the early 1960's given the brown button Johnson rough back sheath, but then it gets special. The handle is brown micarta, probably the second most desirable handle material behind tenite. But the most unusual feature on this knife is the nickel silver lugged hilt. Nickel silver lugged hilts have never been offered as a catalog option, so it's a pretty rare combination and a hell of a package in the brown button sheath.

It's finding knives like this, and the friend that sold it to me, and the opportunity to share it with you that makes me hopeful about the future of collecting Randall Made knives.

So, I'll wind this up by going back to the beginning. The men and women that have carried these knives in to battle, or outer space, or the back country have made RMK legendary. We are fortunate to have a hand in carrying that forward.....let's do our best.



Clubs and Collecting By Joe Dorsky



I was asked to write a brief article for the inaugural issue of the new Randall Collectors Club Newsletter, so I obliged and touched on what this whole thing is about, that being the importance of an organization that supports the hobby of collecting Randall Made Knives.

The loss of Rhett and the concurrent demise of the RKS left a void for many collectors that depended on and/or preferred a "hard copy" of the newsletter to keep the fires stoked and interest high. Many are old school and not 100% up to speed on the computer, web sites, and the like. Even though I do the computer thing, I still enjoyed the newsletter and looked forward to getting it every few months.

So here we are, a year or more later, and Capt. Chris has stepped up to the plate and decided that it was necessary to 'continue' the tradition of the RKS by offering a printed copy of a periodical for the Randall Made Knives enthusiast devoted to the collecting of Randall Made Knives. Many of us that enjoy this hobby have offered our support as he brings this thing out of the ground. I hope that there will be a healthy response to the introduction of the new collectors club and the associated newsletter.

The reason for a 'club' is to bring people with a common interest together. This gives us the opportunity to learn about and discuss Randall Made Knives. I think this has been a rewarding endeavor for many folks over the years and gives them much enjoyment. What is great about this hobby is that there is a butt for every seat. You can collect a certain model, a configuration, a handle material, a blade length, an option(s), an era, 'sock drawer' knives, carried pieces, knives with provenance, and any myriad of combinations of those listed. That being said, we will all find our niche.

Most collectors and collections evolve over time. This can be as simple as a small nuance that interests the collector or a grand shift and complete departure from what had previously been the collector's focus. I think most of us have had these changes in direction relative to our Randall collecting interests, and the longer you are in the hobby, the more changes you may experience.

Despite the poor economy over the past few years, there still appears to be a keen interest in Randall Made Knives. With the revivification of a club for the enthusiast, it appears the interest will continue to grow and will help keep the hobby alive and well.

Joe Dorsky www.rmcollector.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without my contributing editors and their support this endeavor would not be possible. I asked each and every one of them for their support and it was given...free of charge...and with substantial enthusiasm!

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

Captain Chris Stanaback

Largest authorized Randall dealer in the south
RKCC / RKCA Founder

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Jason Randall
Michael Randall
Valerie Rivera

Scott Maynard
Jed Peckham
Perry Miller
Guido Bitossi

Edo Garofoli
Rick Turbeville
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Edo Garofoli (Italy)
Artistic & other Randall's (Photo & graphics consultant / International liaison)

Ron Mathews (California)
Pre-WWII & other vintage Randall #3, #3 ½ and #4's

Gene Beal (Florida)
Exotic handles (ivory, fossil walrus, musk ox, etc.)

Greg Gutchner (Florida)
Sullivan's Holster shop / Authorized Randall dealer

RKCC Membership Application



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RANDALL KNIFE COLLECTORS CLUB

Application For Membership

STAY SHARP!

Capt. Chris Stanaback

Founder: RKCC / RKCA

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

What would you consider yourself:

(Check those which best describes you)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collector | <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbyist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purveyor | <input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiast |

What Type of Randall knives are you interested in:

(Check those which best describes you)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older, Vintage Randalls | <input type="checkbox"/> Newer, Current Production Randalls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Style Randalls | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoorsman Style Randalls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highly Embellished Randalls | |

Please include the following:

1) Initiation Fee (One-time Fee): \$10.00

2) Annual Membership Dues: \$25.00

The Randall Knife Collectors Club "Code of Conduct"

Members of the Randall Knife Collectors Club (RKCC) are required to conduct themselves in a civil manner. A RKCC member whether a collector, purveyor or hobbyist, should treat fellow knife enthusiasts with both respect and fairness in all dealings. It is a goal of the RKCC and its affiliate, The Randall Knife Collectors Association (RKCA) to serve as the mantle for the utmost in character and example of this is fairness and civility, with regards to Randall Knife Collecting.

By asking for consideration for membership into the RKCC and or RKCA each applicant is stating that he or she is fully aware of the goals and standards set forth and required in this "Code of Conduct". Please show this awareness and acceptance by proudly signing this application for membership. It is through like members that this club and Randall knife collecting shall flourish.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Randall Knife Collectors Club

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