

VIBA Oct 28 '12

Show and Tell: Charlie L brought 4 little elephant tusks in stainless steel, from an outboard motor drive shaft. They are to be installed in two poor tuskless elephants a friend got at a garage sale.

Dennis brought in two damascus razors. He has been using pure nickel along with L6 and 1095 or 1084, and had a problem, in that the nickel cannot be hardened, so it had to be kept away from the edge. He did manage to keep it back around a quarter inch, while the L6 and high carbon steel formed the edge exclusively, giving a hard, tough edge which can be sharpened enough to shave with. The blades were hollow ground. This allows sharpening with the top edge of the blade touching the hone, which maintains a standard angle between the edge and the hone. The handles are of rosewood, buffed to a fine smooth finish. They look like some finish has been applied, but this was not the case. The shine was purely a function of the smoothness of the wood.

Willy brought an old folding carpenters rule, with a pull-out brass insert which can be used like calipers. It had obviously spent a lot of time in someone's pocket. All the surfaces were smooth and shiny, and the outside was darker and much more worn than the inside.

Financial: we are still very solvent.

Minutes were adopted although they were not actually published in last month's newsletter, since there was no newsletter last month.

The need for a new newsletter editor was discussed. For quite a sizeable fraction of the membership, the newsletter is their only contact with the club. As there were no volunteers at the meeting, it was agreed that these notes and the photos of the show and tell things would go to Evelyn and be posted on the website.

Brodie gave us a rundown on his efforts at cleaning up the shop and his plans for further progress. The steel racks at the back of the shop are organized, and the downspout no longer dumps water on them every time it rains. The buckets outside being used to store small stuff will be arranged so they don't accumulate water, and another rack for hammers and tongs is in the planning stages. He is also planning to make the welding table much more useable, with a solid surface which will actually be flat. We will organize the space at the back of the shop to make room for the press which will be coming, as well as the welding table.

The fairs this summer were, for the most part, a resounding success, though we missed Langford Days. Essentially all the fairs had enough people to run them comfortably, and we made a considerable amount of money at them, between our appearance fees and sales.

The gate needs another coat of the phosphoric acid primer, and at some time we will want to add decorations to fill in the gaps.

And with that, we adjourned