

The legacy of Randall knives



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

It has always been difficult financially for me. I have a caviar and escargot, with a fine wine taste on a dollar menu, with a diet coke budget. This causes me to skimp and save in areas not meant to be skimped in.

My wife of many years says I spend too much time clomping around in the woods, hunting and fishing. If I would spend more time working and making a living, we might get off the dollar menu. I attribute this sarcastic prattle as just another opportunity to rile me and, in the interest of marital bliss, I don't take the bait.

One place I don't skimp is in purchasing quality outdoor equipment. I used to buy whatever was cheapest during my younger days but was always sorry I did. The cheaper equipment always fails, usually leaving me with an injury or at least a bad memory. Go for the better stuff, pass on the blue-light specials, even if you have to wait longer to save up for it.

Take for example binoculars. I have gone through a dozen pairs of cheap

binos and have never been satisfied with them. About 15 years ago, I bought a high-quality pair by Swarovski and have never regretted it. Purchase a quality pair, like Leica, Swarovski, Zeiss, or the higher end Vortex, and you will never be sorry.

Another area you should never scrimp and save in would be in your field knife. Quality in a blade is something you will never regret. Cheaply made, imported steel blades break, won't hold an edge, and in other ways fail, especially during hard use. Again, knives are another area I have gone through a pile of.

When it comes to quality, the name Randall Knives rings a tone with many people. A gentleman named W. D. Bo Randall began making knives in the late 30's, with a passion to make the best, most useable, high-quality knife on the planet.

As World War II broke out, a young sailor asked Bo to make a knife suitable for hand-to-hand combat. Bo made one, and the knife world changed. Bo began making knives for soldiers, at a pace he could barely maintain.

Since that time, Randall Made knives have been used extensively by soldiers, Marines, flyers, sailors, generals, and infantrymen. Ask any combat veteran of Vietnam about Randall's, and they will tell you stories of the best knife ever made.

While Randall established the company based on fighting knives, their



Randall knives are of fantastic quality, but the wait is currently seven years. (Courtesy photo)

place in the outdoor world is well established. Bo and his son Gary are both avid outdoor people and have specifically designed knives for daily use, outdoor use, and to be carried and used day in and day out, year after year.

Randall Knives are all custom made. You start with a model number, laying out the basic knife you want to start with. Blade length, handle length, and overall length is determined at this point. Choose the blade that suits your outdoor purpose. You can order a filet knife, bird knife, Bowie, skinning, hunting, fighting, just about any purpose you can come up with. A good starting place is a general camping and trail knife.

You can then customize your knife by choosing handle material, like stag,

wood, and many others. Shape, blade style, top sharpening can all be added. There are options like brass holes in the handle to attach tethers and lanyards too. There is even an option for a compass installed in the handle.

Each knife then has a custom-made leather sheath sent with it. There will be included an Arkansas sharpening stone with it, if requested, in a special pocket attached to the sheath. Every knife leaves the factory with a lifetime warranty for the original owner.

Knives are ordered online only. Since each knife is custom made, they have no inventory available. There are a few dealers around, but their inventory is extremely limited. Online is the best way to go. The price of the basic knife starts around \$500.00 and goes up with

different models and customizations.

Now for the bad news. You are only allowed to order 1 knife per household, every 3 months. But don't fret because the delivery time is currently 7 years. They are currently making knives to be delivered in 2031.

The bad part about a Randall is after the long wait, and seeing just how incredible the quality is, you may be afraid to use it. Rest assured, these knives are built for a lifetime of use and enjoyment, so don't be afraid to give it a workout.

I finally have one, after many years of waiting. At first, I did not want to use it for fear of hurting it. I have since used it many times, and it looks almost as good as the day I received it.

My wife is right, that I could work more and

play less, but that just isn't me. I have spent a lifetime outdoors and never regretted a minute of it, and because of that, we eat off the dollar menu. Now, since it is a 6 year wait, I better get that next knife ordered. After, I have 6 years to pay back the savings account.

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FROM PAGE B1

open, 50+ and single speed riders will complete three for a 21 mile course and 2,400 feet of vert. At the end of each lap, riders can refuel with snacks and water at an aid station and will have a designated area to store their own water bottles. The race starts at 9:30 a.m. at the main Electric Hills trailhead located around 15 minutes from town, and riders can start picking up their packets and plates at 8 a.m. While same-day registration will be accepted from 8 until 8:30 a.m. unless the race hits 200 riders beforehand, organizers strongly encourage participants to register online in advance. Adult registration costs \$60 in advance, while youths race for \$40. For those looking to get in on the action without riding, MUT is also recruiting volunteers for the race to help with tasks like registration, giving directions and course take down. According to Smith, proceeds from the race will go right back into Montrose mountain biking, and will be used for building new trails and maintaining existing ones in the area. "With a mix of technical, rocky terrain and fast descents, the High Voltage Hustle is sure to be a memorable experience," he said. "You even get to pass the scenic Electric Hills waterfall." More information and registration: copmoba.org/electric-hills-race



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