

CHUCK KARWAN Knives & other sharp things

Carlton Evans Fixed Blade Hunting Knives

Over the last month or so I have had the pleasure of testing and evaluating a gorgeous fixed blade hunting knife made by custom knife maker Carlton Evans. Carlton sent it along because he is known primarily for his superb folders and he wanted SCI members to know that he makes fixed blade custom knives as well. The knife he sent along is a model he calls the "Tanzania Hunter." It is a dropped-point hunter that is configured to be excellent for field dressing and skinning big game.

Carlton made his first knife some 40 years ago. It was a folder with two blades. He has made and sold many knives since then and is a full time maker. He and his wife live and work high up in the mountains of Fort Davis, Texas.



This Tanzania Hunter #196 is the knife that the author tested and evaluated. It has a 4.34-inch 154 CM blade and a narrow tang handle of desert ironwood burl with stainless steel pins. The lined and tooled leather sheath was made by Paul Long. It has an understated beauty that complements its flawless construction.

The knife he sent along was made with a 4.34-inch blade of CPM154 high-carbon stainless steel heat treated by Paul Bos, one of the best there is in that field. This particular steel is renowned for its edge holding, toughness, and corrosion resistance.

Carlton also offers a variety of other premium steels options such as ATS-34, D2, and stainless steel Damascus at the option of the customer. He makes his blades using

the stock removal method. The blade of my sample has the popular and versatile dropped point style. It has a high flat-grind that offers superb edge geometry for top level cutting performance while retaining excellent blade strength. The blade has a gorgeous hand-rubbed finish sporting Carlton's logo on the left side and the knife's serial number on the right. The blade was hair-shaving sharp right out of the box.

The knife's single cross-guard is made from tough 416 stainless steel and is fitted to the blade and handle so well as to offer no visible gaps or seams even under high-powered magnification. The blade has a narrow tang that is completely enclosed in the handle, which is made of two pieces of nicely figured desert ironwood burl. The fit of these two pieces together is so perfect that if it were not for the different grain figure in the two pieces you would swear it was one piece of wood. Desert ironwood burl is one of my all-time favorites for knife handles because it is very hard, quite tough, and beautiful in a subtle, but classy way. Evans offers a wide variety of other premium handle material options including giraffe bone, elephant, walrus or fossilized woolly mammoth ivory, many exotic and highly figured woods, pearls of several varieties, and more. One particularly attractive and unique handle treatment that he offers with

continued on page 154



The Zambezi Hunter #157 has a full tang 3.3-inch Infinity Pattern stainless Damascus steel blade. The handle is elephant ivory and Cape buffalo horn with stainless steel pins and each piece hand sanded to fit. The beads on the lanyard are individually handcrafted using elephant ivory and Cape buffalo horn.

The Serengeti #170 has a 2.72-inch 154 CPM stainless steel blade. The narrow tang handle is fossil ivory with mosaic pins. The leather lanyard has beads that are handcrafted from the same material as the knife handle. The hand-tooled leather sheath is by Paul Long.



Knives

continued from page 140

an African-related motif is a zebra stripe handle made from alternating pieces of elephant ivory and Cape buffalo horn. He can even use material from one of your previous hunting trophies for your handle if he feels it is suitable. Such a custom touch makes a knife all that more of a personal and sentimental treasure.

On this knife Carlton has used 25 stainless steel pins that serve as tasteful handle decoration as well as an elegant and strong method of joining the two pieces of ironwood. A lined lanyard hole is fitted with one of Carlton's trademark hand-made short leather lanyards that sports three beads of whatever the handle is made from, in this case desert ironwood burl.

The pouch-type scabbard that came with this knife is as good-looking as the knife. It was made by Paul Long of Kerrville, Texas. It is fully lined, has a substantial welt, sports perfect sewing, and is nicely tooled, in this case with an African motif. Other motifs are available. Each sheath is individually numbered to the knife.

As a complete package this knife and sheath is not fancy or garish in any way but literally exudes class and top-level craftsmanship. This is a knife anyone would truly be proud to own, but not be afraid to use. In use it will perform right with the very best hunting knives available anywhere. Each of Carlton's knives is signed and numbered. Included with each knife is a handsome Certificate of Authenticity that describes the knife's model, features, materials, date of delivery, serial number, and other details. A beautiful and highly functional hand-crafted leather pouch-type sheath is standard with each knife.

Carlton offers a variety of different blade shapes and sizes in his fixed-blade knife line including models he calls the "Zambezi Hunter," the "Safari Caper," and another he calls the "Serengeti." He will work with you to get exactly what you want.

I can recommend Carlton's work without reservation. Carlton Evans has been a regular fixture at past SCI conventions, and he will have a booth at our upcoming 2008 SCI Convention. You owe it to yourself to drop by and inspect his gorgeous, yet highly functional knives for yourself. 🐾



Shane Quinn ALPINE HUNTING NEW ZEALAND

Voted FAVORITE Red Stag Outfitter!

Camraderie and warm
friendly people

FREE



Your ultimate red stag hunt in
New Zealand

from **\$4,500**



Thrilling helicopter hunt for free range
Tahr & Chamois

incl. heli **\$7,500**



Crashing the boss' NEW hunting truck

PRICELESS

Some things money just can't buy...



Call us for a chat! - US freephone: 1 888 891 0526
info@alpinehunting.com | www.alpinehunting.com

Shane, Ian, Bruce and Lee will all be at the
Reno convention in Booths 939 - 945