



Welcome

Here is the latest issue of our collectors society newsletter. You will find information about new products introduced in 2017 including the 2017 Damascus knife and the latest addition to our club knife series! The second part of a two-part series on the Alox Pioneer Knives, by Nate Skipper, is also found in this issue.

Some ideas being considered for future newsletters are: knives with bails, and changes to packaging over the years. We are also compiling information about changes to various tools over the years. Any information from members on these subjects would be welcome.

New Products

The special series of designer classics continued this year with the introduction of the following new items: Dragonfly, Honeybee, The Ark, The Wolf Is Coming Home, Glimmers, Woodworm, Space Walk, The Giant Panda, Guacamaya and Turtles Down Under. A new version of the Swiss issued Soldiers knife is being offered for sale to active duty soldiers in the US Army. This model has the same features as the One Hand Trekker, but with all black oxide coated implements and marked 'US' on the front handle scale.

A new Wine or Sommeliers knife was introduced this fall. It is a 111mm model with main locking blade, cork extraction tool, as well as bottle opener and foil cutter. Available in walnut or olive wood handle scales.

Also introduced this fall were two new Spartan models (The Spartan PS) with all implements having what is called a poli spectral black coating. The knife is available with white or black handle scales. The coated surfaces makes this an incredibly interesting product. In our spring newsletter we mentioned the new limited release colored Alox series for 2017. All three models, Classic, Cadet and Pioneer were released with olive green handle

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scales. Look for a new limited release in a special color next spring. The latest limited edition snowflake knife, in its third edition, is available as an Explorer with white handle scales and embossed snowflake images on the surface.



Spartan PS



Winemaster



White Christmas Explorer

2017 Damascus Knife

Victorinox produced 5,000 of the 2017 Damascus bladed knife worldwide this year. It is a special edition Outrider with a blade made from Odins Eye Damast 115 layer steel. The handle material is a special black colored Epecurian wood composite. This material is extremely durable and is most often used to manufacture high-end cutting boards. This year's model is the 8th in the Damascus series, which started in 2010.



2017 Club Knife

This year's club knife is a 91mm Special Edition Spartan with the addition of two tools. A Phillips screwdriver positioned within the main body of the knife and a wrench, such as found in the Delemont Evolution S54 and S557. This knife is a unique model produced exclusively for the club. It has blue handle scales and was produced in a quantity of 126 pieces. If you wish to place an order, please contact our Treasurer, Jason Dillman, at jasonsfreeportkitchen@gmail.com. The club limits purchases to one per member; \$33 USD, plus shipping.



Knives of World Leaders

Several world leaders, including five American presidents, have ordered personalized knives from Victorinox. The presidential models were either the Classic or Bijou (Classic without key ring). The front of the knife handle has the signature of the president in a metal inlay and the rear has a metal inlay of the Presidential Seal.

American presidents that have ordered knives have been Lyndon Johnson, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Two American Vice Presidents, Dan Quayle and Dick Cheney have also ordered knives. Knives ordered by these leaders were, we assume, presented as gifts to foreign dignitaries or other friends and associates. A special Classic knife was also produced on a very limited basis to commemorate the visit by George and Barbara Bush to the Victorinox factory in 1997.

We are currently researching other knives ordered by world leaders outside the USA. Information on these should be available for our next newsletter. The limited availability of these knives makes them highly coveted by collectors.



A Collector's Guide to the Alox Pioneer Series – Part Two

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Member No. 72

☐ **WORKMAN [Old No. 2205]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8050.20); one layer. Tools: 1 and 10; old style red Alox with Cross. May have either style Pen Blade, and may be found with bail or key ring or neither The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$22.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$13.90

☐ *The model in this pattern with spear point Pen Blade, without key ring, in the 2ndPS, is 0.8050.26; called "Pioneer Settler" in the U.S., Cat. No.53966. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$26.00; and \$29.00 in 2010; this model was absent from the 2011 Catalog.*

☐ **YEOMAN [Old No. 2206]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8060.20); one layer. Tools: 1 and 8. Similar to Workman, but with Pruning Blade in place of Pen Blade; old style red Alox with Cross, without either bail or key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$22.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$13.90.

Note: This knife is totally different from the c.1995, 91mm model in the Officer series with the same name; that knife was of a different pattern and had red Cellidor handles (Cat. No. 54781).

☐ *The model in this pattern, without key ring, in the 2ndPS, is 0.8060.26; called "Pioneer Pruner" in the U.S., Cat. No. 53967. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$27.00; and \$31.00 in 2008; this model was absent from the 2010 Catalog.*

☐ **SAILOR [Old No. 2208]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8080.20); two layers. Tools: 1, 5, and 6. Similar to Seaman plus Wood Saw; old style red Alox with Cross, without either bail or key ring.

The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$38.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$23.90. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

☐ **TECHNICIAN [Old No. 2210]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8100.27); three layers. Tools: 1,2,4, and 9. Similar to Electrician, but with Precision Screwdriver in place of Cable Blade; old style silver Alox with Cross, without either bail or key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$28.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$17.90. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

☐ **MASTER TECHNICIAN [Old No. 2211]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8110.27; three layers. Tools: 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9; old style silver Alox with Cross, without bail or key ring. This pattern was not included in the 1994 Price List. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

☐ **ELECTRICIAN [Old No. 2212]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8120.27); old Cat. No. 5024; Cat. No.53781; two layers. Tools: 1, 2, 4, and 7; old style silver Alox with Cross, without bail or key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$27.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$16.90.

☐ *The model in this pattern, without key ring, in the 2ndPS, is 0.8120.26; also called "Electrician" in the U.S., Cat. No. 53781. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$30.00; and \$40.00 in 2010; this model continues in the 2017 Catalog.*

☐ **Club Knife No. 9; Jahr 2008; Electrician.** A regular Electrician, new style medium blue (French Blue) Alox with 2003 Shield; the field of the Shield is also blue. The Large Blade was etched: "Jahr 2008", and the

engraving panel on the reverse was lettered, in two lines: "VSAK", "Collectors Society". Only 100 pieces were made; Club price was \$30.00.

❑ **MASTER ELECTRICIAN [Old No. 2213]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8130.27; three layers. Tools: 1,2,4,5, and 7, Similar to Electrician (*q,v*), plus Wood Saw; old style silver Alox with Cross, without bail or key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$34.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$22.90.

❑ *The model in this pattern, without key ring, in the 2nd PS, is 0.8130.26; called "Electrician Plus" in the U.S., Cat. No. 53952. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$36.00; and \$45.00 in 2008; this model was absent from the 2010 Catalog.*

❑ **GARDENER [Old Nr.2214]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8140.20); two layers. Tools: 1,2,4, and 8; old style red Alox with Cross may be found with or without bail or key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$28.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$17.90.

❑ *The model in this pattern, without key ring, in the 2nd PS, is 0.8140.26; called "Pioneer Rancher" in the U.S., Cat. No. 53959. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$33.00; and \$39.00 in 2008; this model was absent from the 2010 Catalog.*

❑ **PLOWMAN [Old Nr. 2215]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8150.20); three layers. Tools: 1,2,4,5, and 8; old style red Alox with Cross, may be found with or without key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$35.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$22.90.

❑ *The model in this pattern, without key ring, in the 2ndPS, is 0.8150.26; called "Pioneer Harvester" in the U.S., Cat. No. 53953. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price*

of \$38.00; and \$48.00 in 2010; this model was absent from the 2011 Catalog.

❑ **FIRST MATE [Old Nr. 2216]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8160.20); three layers. Tools: 1,2,5,6, and 8. Similar to Bo'sun (*q.v.*) but with Pruner instead of Can Opener plus Wood Saw; old style red Alox with Cross, may be found with or without key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$50.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$29.90. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

❑ **STURDY BOY [Old Nr. 2200]** (Art. Nr. 0.8200.20); Old Cat No. not available; Cat. No. 53841; two layers. Tools: Basic Four; old style red Alox with cross; always without bail or key ring. This model without bail was shown separately in the Old Photo; the U.S. Importer also listed this model separately from the Pioneer in some early catalogs, or apparently as an alternate name for Pioneer in somewhat later listings; later deleted from U. S. catalogs. This model was not included in the 1994 Price List. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

❑ **PIONEER [Old Nr. 2220U]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8201.20 ; Old Cat. No. 5066; Cat. No. 53960; two layers. The "U" in the Old Nr. indicated a bail; the "1" as the fourth digit of the core of the Art. Nr., indicates having a key ring. Tools: Basic Four; old style red Alox with Cross, always with bail or key ring, The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$27.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$16.90.

❑ *The model in this pattern with key ring, in the 2ndPS, is 0.8201.26; also called "Pioneer" in the U.S., Cat. No.53960. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$28.00; and \$37.00 in 2010; this model continues in the 2017 Catalog.*

☐ *Pioneer Red, the field of the Shield is also red, Art. No. 0.8241.20R4, Cat. No. 54967. Introduced in 2008 with a List Price of \$36.00; and \$37.00 in 2010; this model was absent from the 2011 Catalog.*

☐ *Pioneer Black, the field of the Shield is also black, Art. No. 0.8241.24R4, Cat. No. 54968. Introduced in 2008 with a List Price of \$36.00; and \$37.00 in 2010; this model was absent from the 2011 Catalog.*

NOTE: At times, this model has been available in still other colors, although not listed in U.S. Catalogs.

☐ **Club Knife No. 5; Jahr 2004; Soldier.** A regular Soldier, in old style silver Alox with the usual *Schweizerwappen* Swiss Shield (in place of Cross), but which is in a different style from the 2003 Shield. The Large Blade has tang stamp "05"; and is etched "Jahr 2004", "5th Anniversary"; and on the engraving panel on the reverse, in two lines: "VSAK", "Collectors Society". Only 150 pieces were made; Club price was \$20.00.

☐ **"Bo'sun" [Old Nr. 2223]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8230.20); two layers (I have originated the name, for reasons too lengthy to include here). Tools: 1,2,3, and 6. No specimen has been available for examination; but as shown in the Old Photo, this model had old style red Alox with Cross, without either bail or key ring. This pattern was not included in the 1994 Price List. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

☐ **Club Knife No. 15; Jahr 2014; Pioneer Special.** Same pattern as Bo' sun (*q.v.*); Tools: 1, 2, 3, and 6; new style red Alox with 2003 Shield; the field of the Shield is red. The Large Blade is etched: "Jahr 2014", and the engraving panel on the reverse is lettered, in two lines: "VSAK", "Collectors Society". Only 90 pieces were made; Club price was \$33.00.

Note: The accompanying Certificate states this is "No.14". This designation is inconsistent with the original numbering system, which established the first annual Club knife as "No. 1", which was issued for Year 2000. Thus, in this tradition, 2014 is the *fifteenth* year of annual Club knives, and therefore the Certificate should be numbered "No. 15".

☐ **FARMER [Old Nr. 2224]:** (in Canada, "*Fermier*"); (Art. Nr. 0.8241.20); Old Cat. No. 5032; Cat. No. 53964; three layers. Tools: Basic Four, plus 5; old style red Alox with Cross, always with key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$34.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$21.90.

☐ *The model in this pattern, with key ring, in the 2ndPS, is 0.8241.26; also called "Farmer" in the U.S., Cat. No.53964. Introduced in 2003 with a List Price of \$33.00; and \$45.00 in 2010; this model continues in the 2017 Catalog.* NOTE: At times, this model has been available in other colors, although not listed in U.S. Catalogs.

☐ **Club Knife No. 6; Jahr 2005; Farmer.** A regular Farmer, but the Alox handles were Bronze in color with the 2003 Shield; the field of the Shield is red. The Large Blade is etched: "Jahr 2005", and the engraving panel on the reverse is lettered, in two lines: "VSAK", "Collectors Society". Only 125 pieces were made; Club price was \$30.00.

☐ **MIDSHIPMAN [Old Nr. 2228]:** (in Canada, "*Woodsman*" or "*Bucheron*"); (Art. Nr. 0.8280.20); three layers. Tools: 1,2,3,5, and.6 Similar to Pioneer, but with Large Needle in place of Can Opener, plus Wood Saw, old style red Alox with Cross, without bail or key ring. The 1994 Price List indicated that the "retail price" was \$45.00; but the knife was available from that source for \$29.90. *This pattern is not represented in the 2ndPS.*

☐ **PIONEER X [new in 2016]:** (Art. Nr. 0.8231.26US2); Cat. No. 11141; two layers. Tools: Basic Four plus Scissors with rivet; new style silver Alox with 2003 Shield, the field of the Shield is red.

☐ **Club Knife No. 17; Jahr 2016; PIONEER X Special;** an unique pattern produced only as this Club Knife: (Art. Nr. 0.8231.26US2); Cat. No. 11141; two layers. Tools: 1, 2, and 4 plus Scissors with rivet; new style "steel blue" Alox with 2003 Shield, the field of the Shield is red. The Large Blade is etched: "Jahr 2016", and the engraving panel on the reverse is lettered, in two lines: "VSAK", "Collectors Society". Only 156 pieces were made; Club price was \$37.00.

As a collecting interest, I find the Pioneer Series unsurpassed: a goodly number of patterns (about 30, or quite a few more if bail or key ring and colors are considered); small but interesting variations among them; some unusual compliments of tools; a long history and thus large numbers manufactured, and therefore a realistic hope that a few pristine specimens may still await discovery, with the great pleasure that such a find would provide.

In closing, allow me to observe that most writings on historical or scientific matters are virtually ephemeral; new discoveries or a better understanding of known facts frequently demand modest changes or a full restatement. In this light, your comments, corrections, criticisms, and material for expansion of this

Check List are requested and would be welcomed. Please call me and leave a message: Tel: 252-637-6703; or send a message via E-Mail: cutlerscart@embarqmail.com ---30---

Author's End Notes have been omitted.

DISCLAIMER: the Author acknowledges that the names of the knives used herein, other than "Master Technician" and "Bo'sun", are owned by, or first use is claimed by, other persons or entities; and the Author disclaims any proprietary interest in any of them. With respect to both "Master Technician" and "Bo'sun" as used in connection the class of goods described herein, in the broadest application, however, the Author claims rights as originator and as to first use; and the Author claims all proprietary rights there to, and the same are hereby reserved thereto.

Editor's Note: The foregoing Article (both Parts One and Two) has been severely condensed from a Special Issue of *The Swiss Blade*, written, edited, and published by Nate Skipper. This Special Issue (20 pages in "booklet format") contains listings of a number of other knives in the Pioneer Series, not seen in U.S. Catalogs, or rarely found in the U.S. Also, many additional details, much historical information, and some thoughtful commentary are included, as well as a reproduction of the "Old Photo" mentioned above. If interested in obtaining a copy, contact Nate at the address shown above.

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