



IN THE BOOKS

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

A lot can happen in a year. As we close the books on another great year at *Knives Illustrated*, I can't help but look back with fondness at the memories that we've created in a relatively short time. Sometimes it is hard to believe how much we can pack into a year—it really doesn't seem like much while we are in the thick of it, but when we look back at it all in one lump sum, it's quite profound.

Over the past year, we have traveled to the SHOT Show together, gone behind the scenes of BLADE Show, and even taken a 4,000-mile motorcycle trip to Idaho to bring you this issue's "Behind the Scenes" article, straight from the TOPS Knives factory.

We have seen many changes in knife legislation over this past year that have expanded the choices of honest, knife-loving Americans, allowing us to carry more of the knives we love without risk of prosecution.

We have also had the privilege of testing some great knives from every corner of the knife industry, in an effort to bring you the best in many categories, so you aren't left guessing which knife might be right for you.

The Spyderco Proficient lies in wait in its natural habitat.

As we finish out an amazing year here at *Knives Illustrated*, I can't help but also ponder the great friends I have made along the way and the amazing readers we have. It is you that help to make this magazine what it is. We have an outstanding team here at *Knives Illustrated* who work hard to bring you the best content possible, but without you it would all be for nothing.

But now, as we wind down another great year, it is time to stop looking back, because we are not going that direction. It is time to start looking forward. 2018 is shaping up to be a great year for *Knives Illustrated* and our readers. We look forward to you staying with us on this journey, as we strive to continue bringing you the best knives on the planet. See you next year.

Stay sharp and keep it real.

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