



# Jemmy Iwahara

The Kencrest Corporation  
Owner

Jemmy Iwahara is the owner of the Kencrest Corporation in Seki, Japan. He has been in knife export business for over 50 years, representing many Seki knife makers. Jemmy got to know Spencer Frazer at the trade show in 1980s and visited him in Santa Monica, California when he started SOG in his apartment. Ever since then, he worked as his Japanese agent and played an important supporting role in the growth of SOG Specialty Knives and Tools. Spencer's and Jemmy's first developments were the Tomcat with G. Sakai and SOG Bowie with Ichiro Hattori, two top Japanese knife manufacturers in Seki, Japan. These knives had a tang-mark of "S.M.CA.", but shortly thereafter, SOG moved to Edmond, Washington with a small office, and then built and moved to the current large facility in Lynnwood, WA.



Jemmy's role was not only to connect Spencer to Japanese knife makers in Seki, but manage all, i.e. developing new products, controlling production schedule, shipping and payment. For example, in 2007 Jemmy introduced Spencer to Kiku Matsuda, a close friend and a 5th generation knife grinder and knife maker who is also based in Seki City. It was their collaboration work, and the SOG/Kiku Knife won the "Best Collaboration Knife of the Year Award" at the BLADE Show in 2007.



Spencer with Kiku



Kiku with Spencer

Spencer is a talented designer to create innovative products. Also, he loves Japan, Japanese culture and garden. Spencer and Jemmy have traveled around Japan many times together and are very happy to know each other. He has been involved with SOG business from the beginning and considers Spencer his lifetime friend.



Jemmy with Spencer



Jemmy with Kiku