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Startin the Fire George Hensler

The top five Christmas gift suggestions for the aspiring competition BBQ cook.

I received a few inquiries as to gift suggestions for someone thinking of entering into the world of competition BBQ cooking. I have tried to include an assortment of gifts across the price range to adapt to your particular situation. This list is based on the assumption that you have already ruled out a new truck, trailer, or cooker. These gift suggestions could also be used for someone you know that is already involved in competition BBQ, Realizing of course that most therapists' do not sell gift cards.

- 1) Dr BBQ's Big Time Barbecue Cookbook, \$16.95- Ray Lampe, St Martin's Griffin- What I consider one of the most complete BBQ books for both the beginner and intermediate pit master. Great stories and good recipes are included along with some very helpful information. This book belongs on the shelf of any serious BBQ chef, backyard or on the competition circuit.
- 2) The Original Super-Fast Therman- \$74.00- available from www.thermoworks.com. A good insta-read thermometer is a necessary tool in any kitchen or BBQ camp. The company is in the process of introducing their splash proof model which will replace the original, but this is still a great buy for a fantastic instrument. The support offered by these folks is also considered first rate. Debate continues amongst many experienced Therman users as to what color works faster, for my money, I think yellow is boss.
- 3) 16 slot Cordura Book style knife case made by Messermeister, \$56.75, available from www.knifemerchant.com Safe transportation of sharp knives is essential for any traveling cook or BBQ'er. Knives left in a drawer or box along with other utensils is an accident waiting to happen. This case is very handy and includes a zippered mesh compartment in the rear for transportation of other small contest essentials.
- 4) 9-LED Strap-on Headlamp- \$9.86, available at www.overstock.com A great stocking stuffer. This is a great tool to have when moving around your set-up during the night or early morning hours. The light also has many uses away from the contest setting and just a good all around gift. I own several.
- 5) DigiQ II- Made by BBQ Guru. A power draft control system- \$169.00 (base price) available from www.thebbqguru.com. A very reliable system that helps you control the air flow to your cooker allowing for more constant temperatures resulting in a better end product. A more steady, trouble free cook also allows you to get some much needed rest when cooking a BBQ contest. This system is

adaptable to a wide range of cookers and the support service offered by the folks at BBQ Guru is second to none.

While my list is by no means complete, it does offer a few suggestions for the pit master in your life, whether they are well seasoned or just starting out. Other ideas would be charcoal, wood chunks, or even a rub and sauce sampler. The combination possibilities are endless.

I would like to take a moment to wish all of my KCBS friends and their family's a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, prosperous and safe 2010.