

# Billets & Blades

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE NORTH CAROLINA CUSTOM KNIFEMAKERS GUILD

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The next **North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild** meeting date: April 28, 2018 at Montgomery CC
- New Tee shirts are in come and get a couple



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Editor	2
Letter from the President	3
Guild Officers & Directors	3
King of the Guild Build Off	4
Words from the Editor	5
2018 MCC Class schedule	9

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION AND OUR GUILD

*Billets and Blades* is the official publication of the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild. It is compiled and published in four annual issues, with two additional special publication dates possible each year.

The North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild was formed to meet the needs of the growing body of custom knife makers in the southeastern United States. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of exchange for the members of the NCKKG.

*Billets and Blades* is copyrighted in its entirety by the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild. Permission to quote small noncontiguous passages is freely given as long as appropriate citations are used. Permission to reprint, in whole or in part, must be requested from the Guild. Please contact the editor.

Knife making and related endeavors are inherently dangerous crafts or occupations. The material contained in this newsletter is for information only and is not intended for private instruction. Therefore, the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild and its Officers and Editor specifically disclaim any and all responsibility for damage or injury that may occur as a result of the use of any information that is contained in this newsletter.

### Advertising Policy:

The NCKKG accepts no paid advertising as a matter of policy. From time to time, advertisements may appear that are deemed by the officers to be in the best interest of the Guild. Space for advertisements is offered free to Guild members who wish to promote a service or offer specific items for sale. The officers and editor reserve the right to edit advertisements for brevity.

Members, please submit ads to the one of the board of directors listed on the following page.

## FROM THE EDITOR

If you are a new member, please make sure that we have your correct email and physical mailing addresses. You may send this information to us via email.

If you are currently receiving *Billets and Blades* but are no longer interested in receiving it please let us know.

If you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please let a board member know and we'll be happy to mail a copy of the current newsletter to that person.

Existing members, please check the website to verify that we have your correct information. Especially your correct email address so you may be contacted should the need arise. We are always in need of pictures, articles and ideas on how to make the website and newsletter better. Please contact a board member with any suggestions.



### Passing of a former member

On Saturday, March 3, God called our friend and fellow knife maker home. A memorial service was held for Bobby on March 8th in North Wilkesboro.

Bobby was born April 2, 1966 in Spartanburg, SC to Jerry Bobby Dean and Patricia Ann Snyder Keller. He had worked as an LPN at Alexander Correctional Facility.

Rest in peace until we meet again my friend!

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Letter from the President. Jan 2018

Well, it's almost summer. Time is flying by as the weather changes. Thinking ahead about what's coming up for the guild. We have a lot to get ready for.

Murphy Ragsdale is still looking for juried members to help at the table at Blade Show 2018. If you can spare an hour or 2 while at Blade get in touch with Murphy. You can also place YOUR knives for sale on the table. This is a great deal for a couple hours work.

The July meeting is our annual Cutting Competition. That gives you almost 6 months to get those choppers made. Knives cannot be over a 10" Long Blade and not over 2" wide. OAL cannot exceed 15". Knives will be measured before the competition. Let's see some world class choppers this year. For our new members this is a great meeting and a lot of fun. So build a knife and get active.

Barry Clodfelter needs articles for the News Letter. The News Letter is a tough job if no-one submits articles. Barry comes through every time with limited help from the guild membership. This needs to change. Articles can be about anything knife related. From blade steels, to how to stabilize woods, and make sheaths. Even about your knives and the designs you like best, why you make the style knives you make. The more articles the better the News Letter. It's your News Letter make it a good one. I hope by my next letter to the guild I can leave this paragraph out.

RIP, Bobby Keller. You will be greatly missed.

Well, I'll see you at the meeting.

Andy Sharpe  
President NCKMG

### 2017 GUILD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

#### President

Andy Sharpe  
Lexington, NC 27295  
336-853-6854  
sharpeknives@yahoo.com

#### Vice President

Barry Clodfelter  
Davidson, NC 28036  
704-791-6588  
longbowbarry@gmail.com

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Darrin Sirios  
Fay, NC 28304  
910-584-6928  
knives@TCTKnives.com

#### Director

Murphy Ragsdale  
Laurinburg, NC 28352  
910-276-6660  
mragdale77638@roadrunner.com

#### Director

Mark Hall  
Clayton, NC 27520  
919.810.8408  
markhallcustomknives@gmail.com

#### Editor & Webmaster

Barry Clodfelter

## King Of the Guild 2018

Congratulations to **John Hege** for making the best of the best knife this year! Phillip Jones, Kenny Hughes, John Hege, and Garrett Clay squared off in this years competition and built great looking knives. Thanks to all who came out to watch and vote on their favorite!



## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

The remaining pages have been left blank because there were no articles submitted for publication.

This is the first time in Guild history that you are receiving an online only version of the newsletter. This is because of the lack of participation on your part to be active in what this Guild is doing. Our mission is to promote the craft of custom knife making, seek to constantly improve the craftsmanship of members, provide educational resources to anyone interested in the craft, and to encourage new makers.

There is something that each of you do that someone else can learn from. We all have developed our own ways of each task of making a knife. We gain knowledge observing what others are doing and applying it to our process. Without each of you sharing and helping other Knifemakers we are failing in a big part of the Guild's mission statement. So fellow Knifemakers get off your butts and write up an article with as many relevant pictures as you can and submit it for publication. There is rarely only one right way to do something so stop worrying about what someone is going to think of how you do something!

You, dear member, are the only way this Guild is going to survive and thrive.









## 2018 Montgomery Community College Knifemaking Schedule

### **Intro to Knife Forging with Bill Bisher**

**1/9-2/27 T 5:30-9:30P**

**Cost \$175**

This Tuesday night recurring class will introduce students to all aspects of forging basic knives and blades. Includes some basic blacksmithing principals as well as metal choice and tool making. Bill is a local knife maker with over 20 years of experience. Open to all levels, and great for beginners.

### **Basic Forging with Bill Wiggins**

**1/18-1/21 8A-6P**

**Cost \$375.00**

This is a hands-on course in which students learn proper forging, heat treating, and finishing of a knife blade. Topics covered will be steel selection, forges and forging tools, heat treating, and finishing of the forged blade.

### **Basic Bladesmithing with Phillip and Barry Jones**

**1/22-2/26 5:30-9:30P**

**Cost: \$120**

This Monday night recurring class will give students the chance to sharpen their skills in knifemaking, working side by side with Phillip and Barry to create your vision in this open shop forum. The Jones Brothers will walk students through every step of the process, from grinding to forging and heat treating. Explore handles and decorative processes, too. Open to all levels.

### **Mokume Gane with Phillip and Barry Jones**

**2/2-2/4**

**Cost: \$375**

Students will learn the ancient technique of mokume gane, the fusing together of layers of copper, silver and nickel to create a billet of decorative mokume for use in jewelry, knife guards and bolsters. Learn proper cleaning, fusing and forge welding techniques as well as patterning and design.

### **Tomahawk Forging with John Hege**

**2/16-2/18**

**Cost: \$375**

Forging a tomahawk is a great starter project for blacksmithing. Forging the tomahawk head will introduce students to the basic practice of drawing and shaping steel as well as forge welding and heat treating to harden the edge. Students will forge a traditional style "wrap around" tomahawk head and will shape and fit the handle from provided hardwood blanks. Personalize and complete the "Hawk" with traditional details and embellishments of their choosing.

### **Monday night class with Ed and Tanya Vanhoy**

**3/5-5/28 5:30-9:30P**

**Cost: \$200**

Beginner Knifemaking, all phases of construction, grinding, finishes, open to all skill levels.

### **Wednesday nights with Ed Vanhoy**

**3/7-5/30 5:30-9:30P**

**Cost: \$200**

Beginner blacksmithing, forging techniques, beginner knife forging and tool making.

**Advanced Blade Forging- Integral Fighter Knife with Theo Nazz****3/8-3/11****Cost: \$375**

Join Forged in Fire Champion Theo Nazz in this integral Bowie fighter knife making class. Design and plan your blade and guard, then, with hammer and fire, bring your idea to life. Leave the class with a forged, rough ground and heat treated knife with hamon. An excellent chance to work one on one with Theo! Some forging experience required.

Class was rescheduled from Fall 2017.

**Grinding 101 with Ed and Tanya Vanhoy****3/23-3/25****Cost: \$375**

This class is designed to teach the proper techniques of free hand grinding, covering hollow, flat, Scandinavian, and tactical grinds. It open to all levels of experience. All students will finish a fixed blade of the courses design. Materials will be provided.

**Blacksmithing Historic Gate Hinges with Greg Bray****4/13-4/15****Cost: \$375**

This exciting NEW class will focus on 18th century design and take the student through different aspects of hinge development. Students will make a pair of German style strap hinges, a pair of Moravian Staghorn hinges and if time allows a small set of cabinet hinges. We will also discuss different tooling, tongs and file work. This is an excellent class for intermediate blacksmiths, forging history with practical blacksmithing skills. Some tools and experience necessary.

**Fixed blade knife and sheath class 102****4/19-4/22****Cost: \$375**

Class will cover all phases of fixed blade knife construction, students will finish one knife and sheath of their design approved by instructor with level of experience. Grinding 101 recommended prerequisite, but open to all experience levels.

**Blacksmithing and Forging 101****5/10-5/13**

Explore all points of forging with Ed Vanhoy. Class will include instruction in anvil orientation, types and uses of forges, forging tools and techniques. Students will learn forging processes and will finish basic projects. All materials will be provided.

What a great line up of classes so far for 2018! This list will be updated as more are announced.

Contact Montgomery CC for additional class information or to register for a class.

## **UPCOMING 2018 GUILD MEETINGS**

**Saturday January 27th, 2018**

Location: Montgomery Community College

**Saturday April 28st, 2018**

Location: Montgomery Community College

Elections to be held for VP and a director.

**Saturday July 21st, 2018**

Location: Montgomery Community College

**Saturday October 20th, 2018**

Location: Montgomery Community College

Dues are due in October!

### **Events Include:**

Board Meeting begins at 8:30am, to be followed by our General Business Meeting & Iron in the Hat

### **Demos:**

Will be determined and published on the website prior to the meeting.

### **Blade Show — June 1-3, 2018**

Contact Murphy Ragsdale for table information and volunteer to help!

**Please note: At this meeting elections will be held for VP and one of the Board of Directors positions. You must be a juried member to vote in all elections and Guild business decisions. If you are not a juried member and wish to become one bring at least three knives for the leadership team to review.**

The **North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild** was founded in June of 1992. Our goals are to:

- Promote the craft of custom knife making
- Seek to constantly improve the craftsmanship of its members
- Provide an educational resource to anyone interested in the craft
- To encourage new makers and provide a forum for their training

Through public knife making and forging demonstrations by a group or individual members, we try to display the craft and to educate the public. It is our intent to raise the general awareness of custom made knives and the people who create them. That is why there is no cost to attend one of our meetings, and we welcome anyone with an interest in knife making.

Our quarterly meetings are organized around speakers and various demonstrations of activities important to our craft. These speakers and demonstrations are from our members or experts in the field who come as our guests. As a training resource, our Guild is prepared to present any aspect of our craft to organizations that feel it would be beneficial and informative.



10001 Archer Rd.  
Davidson, NC  
28036

ncknifeguild@gmail.com