

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 16, 2016



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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.

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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 either the president or the editor at one of the addresses shown to the right.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are a new member, please make sure that I have your correct email and physical mailing addresses. You may send this information to me via email or the address listed on the right.

If you are currently receiving *Billets and Blades* but are no longer interested in receiving it please let us know. You may contact Barry or Darrin (see contact list on page 3) to have your name removed from the mailing list. Thank you.

If you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please let Chris or Barry 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. I am also always in need of pictures, articles and ideas on how to make the website and newsletter better. Please contact me with any suggestions.

www.ncknifeguild.com

STEP UP. BE SEEN.

Featured Knifemakers are needed.

Don't be a wallflower!

Please let us get to know you and your work.

Contact Barry at longbowbarry@gmail.com

**LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

Well Spring is almost here and I am preparing for the Blade show in Atlanta in June. This year will be my 5th year attending as a vendor, my only regret is not having gone as a non-vendor my first year. As a vendor I am tied to a table and have a hard time getting away to see the show. For those who have not gone I strongly suggest you giving it a visit if you have never been. Its worthwhile going just for the opportunity to buy knifemaking supplies, and the motivation you will get looking at the best knifemakers in the world. I will probably make more knives this year than all my previous years combined up to this date. I continually find ways to refine my processes to make knives more efficiently. If anyone would ever like to discuss my processes in depth feel free to engage me at the next meeting as I am always willing to share my secrets to any willing to ask.

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Chris Williams & Barry Clodfelter

Bladesmithing competition

For any who did not attend the 30 January 2016 meeting we held a Bladesmithing competition. We had five participants Tim Scholl, Barry Jones,



Scott Mcghee, Jack Stottlemire and Liam Hoffman. While we had only planned to allow four, we just had a hard time saying no to anyone who wanted to participate. Guild officers decided we did not want to constrain participants on how they preferred to build a knife so we allowed both forging and or stock removal for creating the knives. All participants were given a piece of 1084 steel approx. 9" long by 1.5" wide and 3/16" thick and a choice of either wood, or

G10 scales along with pin stock and Epoxy. Our only rule was make a hardened/tempered knife that will



Bladesmithing competition



be juried by the members of the meeting and make it in four hours or less. It was very interesting to see the different approaches each participant used. Liam Hoffman, Jack Stottlemire and Scott McGhee all decided to forge there knife leaving Tim Scholl and Barry Jones the only ones who chose the stock removal

method . It was very entertaining watching the difference between the different ways say Scott McGhee and Liam Hoffman went at it in the Forge. The contrasting ways Jack, Scott and Liam used to move the metal was quite different. Tim Scholl Decided to make a Persian inspired knife complete with hamon, Barry Jones chose a utility style knife complete with a finger groove. Jack Stottlemire chose a hidden tang style knife with a Stag handle and Scott McGhee chose to go with a Dagger and lastly Liam Hoffman went with recurve choosing to use the Black Walnut wood provided. To look at the knives, one would never believe any one of them could have been crafted in half a day ,



a

Bladesmithing competition



It was an impressive display of talent on all five participants. Liam Hoffman took home the Title of Best Bladesmith of 2016 which will come with a rotating trophy which Liam will get to display for one year until we hold this event again this Winter. At that time it will be awarded to the next winner with the ability to add many



KNIFEMAKER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Barry Clodfelter



How did you find out about our Guild AND when did you join? During one of the times I spent at Art Summers house getting help with my KSO's he mentioned the guild and that I should attend a meeting. That was some-time in 2009. So I went and joined at that meeting.

Who or what was your major influence when you began knife-making or collecting AND why? At one of the traditional archery shoots I met a fellow selling pre-made blades and handle scales so I bought a couple sets and glued the scales on and shaped the handle. At the next shoot I was showing a friend what I had made and a guy walks up interested in them and asked if I had made the knife blade. He said I didn't make anything until I had made the blade. So that challenge started me down this expensive path of knife making. I sure wish I could remember who that guy was so I could thank him and show him what I can make now.

Favorite Knife, Knife maker(s), etc AND why? I would say my favorite knife is a 4" hunter and that is the model I make the most of. I find a smaller blade on a knife to be more efficient at most everyday tasks one uses a knife for like cutting a string off your pants or opening a box. I skinned my first deer with a Swiss army knife because I had forgotten my Buck 119 hunting knife on that trip. My friend and I both shot a deer and he used a big bladed knife like my Buck 119 and had a harder time skinning that deer than I did with the little Swiss army knife. So I attribute that lesson as a big reason I make and smaller knives for hunting and skinning.

Preference? Forging or Stock Removal? AND why? I prefer to forge most of the knives I make because I can start with smaller and narrower stock and hammer it into a wider blade so the loss of material is minimized. The skinner pattern I make is all stock removed from 3/32" stock because it is more efficient use of my time to make a batch of 4 to 6 of those at a time. There is another reason I prefer to forge and that is I am a member of the ABS where the focus is on forging.

Style/Patterns? While I can make any sized knife I prefer to make small hunter/skinners with hidden or full tangs. I also really enjoy making Chefs knives with 7 to 9 inch blades. I am starting to make more camp sized knives with 5 to 7 inch blades.

Favorite Steel or Steels/AND why? I like to forge so high carbon steels are what I use. I make a lot of knives from 1095, 1084 and 5160. I picked up about 40 pounds of 1075 and 80CRV2 from the Baron at the last hammer in so I plan to start making more from those steels.

Area of Expertise? I don't consider myself an expert in any area of knife making. There are things I can do fairly well like hand finishing and sharpening. But I strive to be at least proficient in all areas and to make each knife better than the previous.

Favorite Step or Part in knife making process? I think I enjoy forging a blade to shape the most. It allows me to change my mind on the blade I am making by adding length or shape the profile a little differently. I also enjoy the hand sanding steps. Especially on the lower grits I can start sanding and zone out to think about something important like what's for lunch.

Is everything done in your shop? Sheaths/Heat Treating, etc? All steps from start to finish are done by me in the shop. From forging the blade to heat treating and finishing to making a sheath are all done in house.

Affiliations? ABS Apprentice Smith

Website? None. Look me up on Facebook.

When did you start making knives? I started this journey in 2008 and was gearing up the shop to make longbows. When we found out my wife was pregnant with our daughter I quickly figured out shop time would be greatly reduced. It was sometime during or just before this I had slapped handles on those pre-made blanks and was "challenged" to make the blade as well. Well one thing led to another and I have been making knives since.

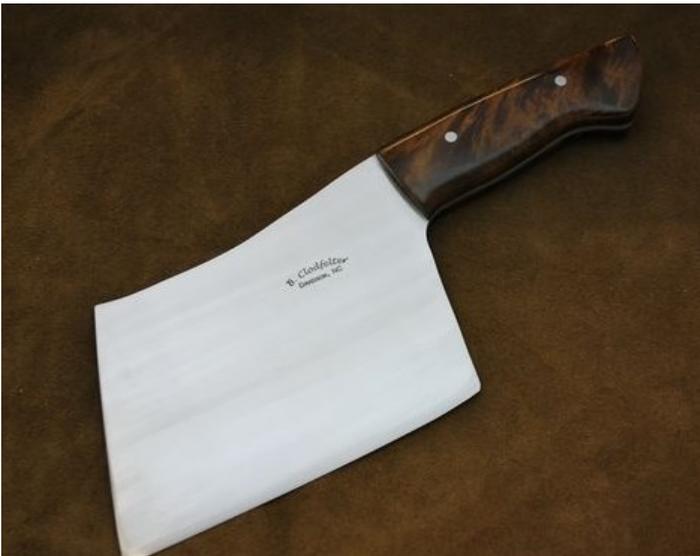
How much time do you spend in your shop in a given week? Describe your shop set up, please.

During the summer my shop time is all but non-existent. During the winter months a good week I might get 8-10 hours in the shop. So needless to say the quantity of knives is pretty low. I usually make 15 to 20 knives a year. I have been blessed with a 30x50 shop and it is crammed full with goat trails to get to the different areas. Aren't most knife makers really tool junkies at heart?!

Please tell about making your first knife. My first knife still lives in a box of rejects. It is more of a KSO than a real knife. That's Knife Shaped Object. It is ugly as sin and has an uncomfortable handle. But I will say the heat treat is pretty good. I have used it to skin a few deer and it works pretty well for that.

What knives sell best for you? My best seller is my skinner model. I have sold everyone I have made. It is a model I always say I am going keep one for myself but end up selling. I can always make another one just like right? I am a knife maker after all!

What are your goals for the future? My most current goal is to become an ABS Journeyman Smith. I have made a matching pair of the test knives and have tested one for myself and the other is the official test knife that has passed the performance test with Burt Foster last fall. I have been helped along my journey in knife making and like give back by helping newer makers develop their skills by teaching and mentoring.



A Pilgrimage...

... so 'ya... thought 'ya... might like to... go to the show*... What show you ask??!? Why Blade of course! What is Blade? It's only the **BIGGEST** knife show in the world! It's 3 days of knives, knifemakers, knifemaking equipment, knifemaking supplies... you get the idea. Anything and everything related to knives can be found at Blade. Anyone who's a knife enthusiast or maker should go to Blade at least once in their lifetime because it's like taking a pilgrimage. You can read about it, watch videos about it, talk about it, even think about it but you'll never understand it until you experience it.

What I really want to do is share my thoughts on how to get the most out of Blade, so here goes:

If possible, plan to attend all 3 days. Trust me, you'll need it.

Be prepared to be **OVERWHELMED**. Anyone I know who's ever been to Blade will tell you the first time they attended they were overwhelmed.

It's a full out assault on your knifemaking/ knife collecting/ knife obsession sensibilities.

Don't rush yourself, just take your time to walk, watch, chat, admire and enjoy.

Wear comfortable clothing and comfortable shoes. You'll be on your feet a long time and there is not much in the way of seating inside the venue.

Take along a backpack or bag so you can easily transport any purchases you might make.

Bring snacks and something to drink with you. It'll fit nicely in your pack or bag and you'll need the energy and hydration if you're there all day and don't want to leave.

If you're not into lugging around snacks and water you can always visit one of the food vendors but like all shows of this nature they're not cheap.

If you like freebies keep your eyes peeled. Someone's almost always giving something away. Last year I walked away with a couple of knives, a couple of t-shirts and various and sundry small items.

If you're a maker and need supplies then make a list and go shopping.

Blade has most of the top knifemaking supply outfits scattered around the venue and you can pick up stuff without paying shipping and, sometimes, paying tax. It's a great opportunity to actually pick up and look at

If you stay all day and leave Blade when it shuts down for the day be prepared for a small traffic jam. Be patient, it won't last long.

You may find yourself extremely hungry at the end of the day. No problem.

There are 2 or 3 good restaurants at the venue but they can be a little pricey. Not to worry though, you can go a few, or several, blocks in just about any direction and get anything from fast food to fine dining.

If you're staying at one of the local hotels but don't feel like driving to the venue check with the front desk because there's a good chance your hotel provides a shuttle service that will take you to the show and even to dinner if you'd like.

At the end of the day I think the main thing to keep in mind is to just ENJOY yourself. Walk around, look around, take it all in and ENJOY yourself.

*lyrics from the Pink Floyd song In The Flesh? from their epic concept album The Wall

By Mark Hall

Montgomery Community College Knifemaking Classes 2016

ALL CLASSES RUN FROM 8:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

Basic Knifemaking

Travis Daniel

Wednesday, September 9th through Saturday, September 12th

\$375

Learn knife-making by designing and making a knife under the guidance of the instructor. Each student will grind, heat and finish a knife using the stock removal method. This class is for beginners and intermediates who want to perfect their knifemaking talents. Each student will complete a knife.

Knife Sharpening

Barry and Philip Jones

Saturday, September 26th

\$125

Learn to hand sharpen knife blades the old fashioned way using stones. Students will learn multiple techniques for sharpening both plain edge and serrated edges.

Forged Tomahawks

Tim Scholl

Thursday, October 1st through Saturday, October 3rd

\$375

Learn to make adorned tomahawks using traditional forging, heat-treating, and handle finishing methods. Students will complete a tomahawk by the end of the course.

Basic Knifemaking

Travis Daniel

Wednesday, October 21st through Saturday, October 24th

\$375

Learn knife-making by designing and making a knife under the guidance of the instructor. Each student will grind, heat and finish a knife using the stock removal method. This class is for beginners and intermediates who want to perfect their knifemaking talents. Each student will complete a knife.

Linerlock Folders

Barry and Philip Jones

Wednesday, November 4th through Saturday, November 7th

\$375

This class will be a hands-on course in the designing and building of a linerlock folding knife. Each student will build a complete folder with a locking liner. Skills taught will include drilling, tapping, heat treating, and proper lock geometry.

Introduction to Tactical Knife Making

Barry and Philip Jones

Wednesday, November 11th through Saturday, November 14th

\$375

Learn fixed-blade design using the basic principles and methods of knife construction, including how to grind and heat-treat knife blades, as well as fitting and finishing handles.

Knife Sharpening

Barry and Philip Jones

Saturday, November 21st

\$125



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.



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