



This month's cover knife is by Bill Bisher,
 our featured knifemaker.

See page 4 for more information on Bill and to see more of his work.

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*******NEWS, ARTICLES, CLASSIFIEDS*******

This is **YOUR** newsletter. To make it the best it can be, we need your help. If you have shared information at a workshop, or if you have certain **tips you can offer** on any aspect of the making of knives, please send these in for inclusion. If you have an **idea for an article**, or would like to read info on something, please let us know so that we can try to work it out. We are also interested in offering a **classified section** so that you can buy, sell, or trade knife-making tools and materials. Send all info the editor via email.

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 issues annually 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. This purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of exchange for the members of the NCKKG.

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Knife making and related endeavors are inherently dangers 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 editors 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 either the president or the editor at the addresses shown at right.

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A NOTE FROM BILL BISHER

The Holiday Season is here and I want to wish everyone a HAPPY AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!

As everyone knows, the October meeting had to be canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. We hope all is well with Travis and that things are improving for him. Sometimes things happen and there is not enough time to make alternate plans. This was the circumstance for

our meeting.

The next two meetings will be held at MCC. Our first meeting of the new year will be on January 16 and the spring meeting on April 17. I believe this is far enough in advance so everyone can make arrangements to attend.

This is old news but it has to be repeated. I have been in contact with the publishers of Krause publications and they need the Guild information and membership list no

later January 7, 2010 for the 2011 issue of the Knives Annual. The NCKKG membership dues were to be paid by the end of October, and as I have stated before if you are not paid up, you will not be on the list. As of November 20, the Treasurer has sent me a list of only 12 paid members. This has been posted on the Guild's forum and in the last newsletter.

So please get your dues paid NOW, and please make plans to attend our January meeting.

UPCOMING GUILD MEETING **SATURDAY, JANUARY 16**
Montgomery Community College

THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE...

Business Meeting, Iron in the Hat
and a Variety of Interesting and Helpful Demos...

Andy Sharpe's demo will be "Clay Quenching" a blade

Art Summers' demo will be Fitting a Curved Handle to a Curved Bolster

Bob Ham's demo will be Making Mosaic Pins in the Shop

Tommy Johnson's demo... to be announced

Out-of-town members may stay in Albemarle on the by-pass at the Sleep Inn, The Holiday Inn Express, or the Hampton.

Lunch will be on your own.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership/Renewal Fee: \$50 per year

Collector Fee: \$25 per year Student Fee: \$10 per year

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

New Member? _____ or Renewal? _____

Member Category: Maker _____ Collector _____ Student _____

Mail form and check to:
NC Custom Knifemakers Guild, Attn Tony Kelly, 348 Bell Road, Kinston, NC 28504

MEET BILL BISHER of BLACK TURTLE FORGE

Bill Bisher joined the Knife Guild in 1998 after learning about it from a previous member. He began making knives that same year, and his influence was not a person so much as a desire; he simply could not find the type of knife that he wanted!



His favorite knives are period pieces, and he prefers forging over stock removal. The style he likes is a straight, fixed blade, or a sheath knife. He likes working with carbon steel in the 1000 series. While he likes each step of knifemaking, he most enjoys the process of forging, and he feels that he is always learning something with each knife he makes.

Bill does all steps in his shop, from start to finish, including making sheaths. He spends some time almost every day in the shop, perhaps just one hour or an entire day, depending on what he is working on. He has a gas forge and a coal forge and an anvil for each, and he has two bench grinders in use.

He forged his first blade from a horseshoe rasp at a farrier school to make a Plains Dagger with an elk antler handle which he then traded... but it was so long ago, he can't remember what he traded for!

Bill is a member of ABS, ABANA, and NRA as well as our knife guild. He also has a website, and you can find him and this photo online at www.blackturtleforge.com.



On the cover... Blade: 6in long, 3/4in wide of 1095 powder & nickel foil Damascus in flame pattern; Guard: nickel silver & copper; Bolster: nickel silver; Handle: walnut slabs with silver pins in box frame construction; Sheath 9/10 weight leather, tooled by Bill Bisher. Price \$485.00



Bill Bisher Tardiff Hoffman photography



Bill Bisher Tardiff Hoffman photography



Bill Bisher Tardiff Hoffman photography



In each issue, we hope to feature one knife-maker, but in order to do this, we need information from you. The questionnaire gives basic information and more to help us get to know you.

If you have not yet filled out the questionnaire, please do so legibly and mail it as soon as possible to Bill Bisher, President or Rebecca Dresser, Editor 1015 Beck Road, Denton, NC 27239 P.O. Box 316, Danbury, NC 27016

GUILD QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please don't be chintzy with your answers; we want to get to know you! Use extra paper if you need more space.)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone and Email: _____ Age/Birthday: _____

How did you find out about our Guild AND when did you join? _____

Who or what was your major influence when you began knife-making or collecting AND why? _____

Favorite Knife, Knifemaker(s), etc AND why? _____

Preference? Forging or Stock Removal? _____ Style/Pattern? _____

Favorite Steel or Steels? _____ Area of Expertise? _____

Favorite Step or Part in knife making? _____

Is everything done in your shop? Sheaths/Heat Treating, etc? _____

Affiliations? _____ Website? _____

When did you start making knives? _____

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

Please tell about making your first knife. _____

What knives sell best for you? _____

NORTH
CAROLINA
**CUSTOM
KNIFEMAKERS**
G U I L D

**P.O. BOX 316
DANBURY, NC 27016**

NEWS TO NOTE

**January Meeting... right around the corner
on January 16 at MCC!!**

**A new website is coming soon.
Please be on the lookout for details and information
and how you can be a part of it.**