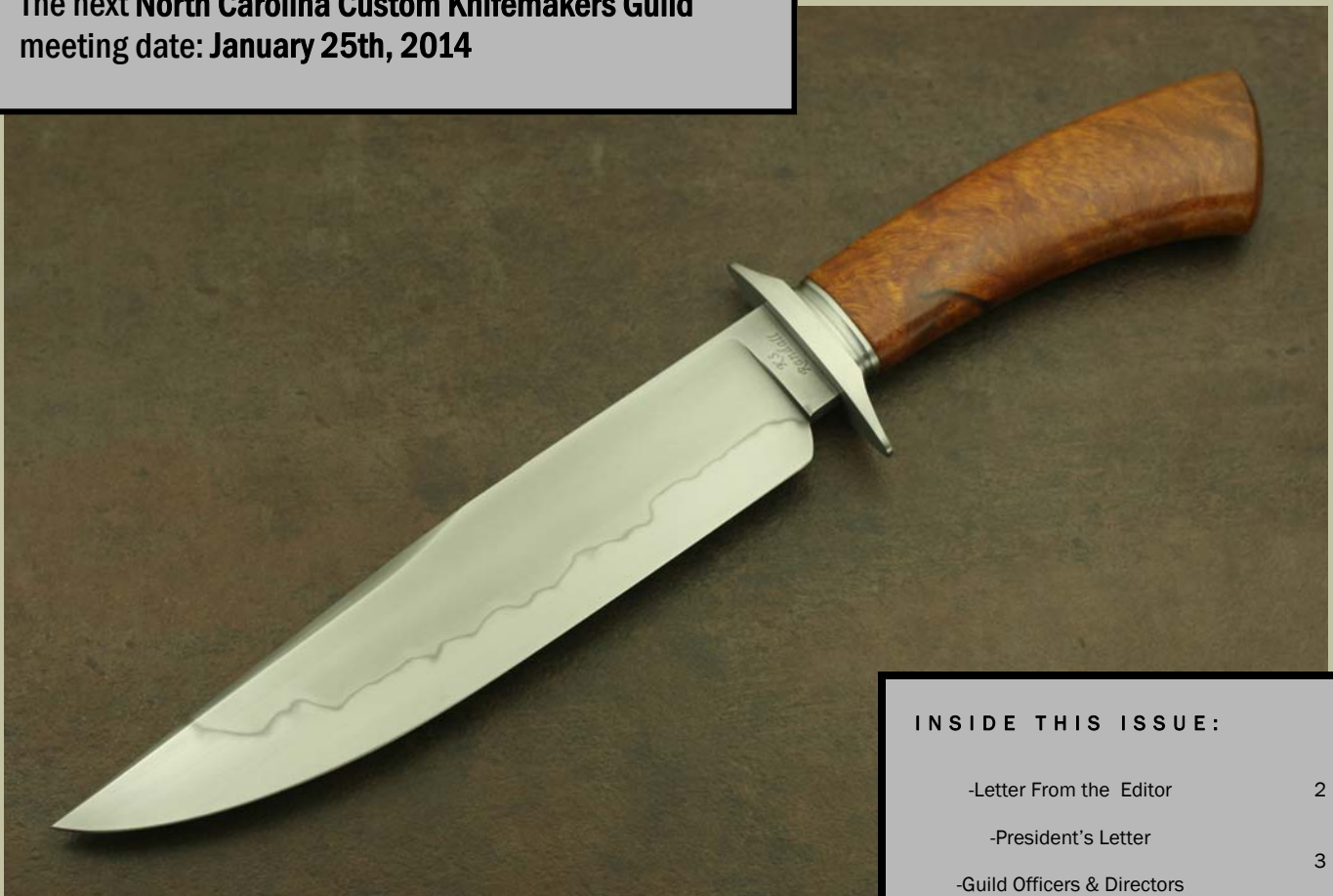


Billets & Blades

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA CUSTOM KNIFEMAKERS GUILD

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **The next North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild meeting date: January 25th, 2014**



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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 NCCKG.

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Advertising Policy:

The NCCKG 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 Michael Wilson (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 the editor 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.

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On The Cover

Steve Randall's "Bills Bowie"

-W2 Steel with Hamon

-Desert Ironwood Handle

-Stainless Steel Guard and Ferrule

-OAL 13", Blade Length 7-7/8", Width

1-1/2", Thickness 1/4"

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This will be my last President's letter. I have too many things going on in my private life at the moment to devote the time and energy needed to properly head the Guild. At the January meeting I will hand the reins over to Chris Williams. I'm sure with the connections Chris has you will be in capable hands. I thank you all for the support you have given me in my past terms as president and hope you will do the same for Chris.

The October meeting was well attended. Steve Randall put on a superb demo on flint knapping. Everyone got stuffed to the gills at the cookout. The highlight was the cutting competition. Eight competitors chopped, sliced and diced through 10 different events. When the chips settled Randy Nance emerged victorious.

Our next elections will be held at the April meeting. The following positions will need filling: Vice-President currently held by Steve Randall (3 year term) Secretary/Treasurer held by Art Summers (2 year term) and Board of Director held by Bill Bisher (2 year term). So give it a lot of thought and talk to who you think will be a good candidate for these positions.

Again, it's been an honor to serve my terms as President of our Guild. Thank you.

Tim Scholl

2013 GUILD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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STEP UP. BE SEEN.

Featured Knifemakers are needed.

Don't be a wallflower!

Please let us get to know you and
your work.

Contact Michael at
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Knife Folding Class at Montgomery Community College By Steve Randall

I've been a knife enthusiast since childhood, have been making fixed blade knives since 2009, and I am ready to get into building folders. Folders are very popular, and I want to try and "stay hip" and be part of the trend. There are basically 2 ways to learn something: stumble along on my own, or learn from someone who knows what they are doing. I figure the learning curve is shorter learning from a master, so I was thrilled when the Guild and Montgomery College offered the Folding Knives Class with Ed VanHoy. It was held at Montgomery Community College in Troy, NC September 2013.

Ed VanHoy was the instructor, along with assistance from his wife Tanya. I can't say enough about them. Ed is a natural instructor, and Tanya is always one step ahead with preparations helping the steps move along seamlessly. To keep things consistent we all made a similar knife, modeled after one of Ed's best selling folders. Although we all started with the same parts and pieces, of which there are many, each knife had its own characteristics.

There were 5 students – we all worked together and learned from each other's mistakes. And we all made them! Seeing different mistakes helped us to see, and learn, how to avoid or correct any problems. That too saves lots of time on the learning curve.

Day 1- We started working on the blade. We cut and profiled and prepared it for heat treating. We wrapped it in foil and heat treated and tempered.

Day 2 – We worked mostly on the knife body. Cut out parts, drilled holes, threaded holes, cut screws and assembled a very rough knife which continued into Day 3.

Day 3 – Continued with the body. Took apart, checked for it, put together, took apart fixed the fit, put back together, took apart, fixed more fit, put together...into Day 4

(I learned folders require lots of little parts to fit and work well together). By the end of this day we all had a working (for the most part) line locking folding knife.

Day 4 – For the last day we worked on grinding in bevels and shaping the handle. Then fine tuning and any embellishments such as jewelling, file work, etc...This process also included taking apart, putting together, checking for clearances, putting back together, then taking it back apart, pretty it up on the inside and put it back together..

Saying I had a great time is an understatement. Ed and Tanya VanHoy have a wonderful teaching style! Barry and Phil Jones, with their wealth of experience, were there to help facilitate and assist. Montgomery College has a great set-up (thanks to the Guild for its past donations) for knife making classes.





Randall's Ramblings

I'm Steve Randall the current Vice President of the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild. I thought I'd start a VP corner to share interesting nuggets of information. Mostly knife related, but not required.

DID YOU KNOW??

Knife Anatomy, Parts, Names, Components, Definitions, and Terms says:

jim ping

The old word, *jimp* that came from North England and Scotland, means neat, handsome, and slender in form. The knife industry designated regular, machined cuts or cross-hatched patterns on the back of the spine of the knife to improve traction of the fingertips *jim ping*. They still call those regular spaced machine-made cuts jim ping, but in the custom and handmade knife world it has evolved into artistic filework. Jim ping may be machine-cut by automated slitters, mills, or blades, but filework must be hand-cut.

www.urbandictionary.com

JIMPING:

Notches down the spine of a blade created to provide grip on a knife beyond the bolster.

UPCOMING GUILD MEETING

Saturday January 25th, 2014

Location: Montgomery Community College

Events Include:

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

Demos:

Calvin Nichols—Wire Inlay

Tim Scholl—Railroad Spike Tomahawk

Barry Clodfelter—Navigating Knife Forums

Lunch will be around Noon. You're on your own.

As always, friends and family are welcome.



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HANDMADE CUSTOM KNIVES

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to get the best rate!



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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