



This month's cover knife is by Eddie Swing,
our featured knifemaker.

See page 5 to get to know Eddie and learn about his knifemaking.

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*******IMPORTANT NOTE!!!*******

If you are currently receiving Billets and Blades but are no longer interested in being a member of the NC Knife Guild, please let us know. You may contact Rebecca Dresser (see contact list to the right) to have your name removed from the mailing list. Thank you. Also, if you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please let Tim or Rebecca know and we'll be happy to mail a copy of the current newsletter to that person.

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 NCKG.

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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 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 NCKG 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 either the president or the editor at the addresses shown at right.

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A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Tim Scholl

Spring has sprung, fall has fell, summer's here and it's hot as ... well, you know. What a great time to be at the forge making Damascus!

Congratulations to Everett Dula for winning the Wayne Whitley Memorial Scholarship for his choice of knifemaking class at the school. We have a fantastic schedule of classes and instructors lined up again this year. For those who have not yet attended the school, you don't know what you are missing. Not only do you get to study with the main instructor, but there are usually several other makers who show up to help out. One class had *five* additional makers there with a total of over 100 years experience between them. That's a lot of brains to pick and money well spent!

As you can see, we ran the ad for the New Jersey Steel Baron again (pg 4). Once again we will try to get a large

enough order together for him to bring it to the next meeting. PLEASE LET ME KNOW what steel you want and how much as soon as possible. You can e-mail or call me at 910.897.2051 or tscholl@live.com .

We are trying to put together a list of suppliers to be available to our members. A lot of us have different places where we get supplies, and many may not know about these places, so a combined effort from all would result in a gold mine of information. So bring your list to the next meeting on July 16.

Andy needs all the ideas for demos that he can get. It's not easy to line up the meetings, so if you have a demo you can do or have one in mind that you would like to see, please let him know.

Stay sharp and I'll see you at the next meeting.

UPCOMING GUILD MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Montgomery Community College in Troy, NC

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

Board of Directors Meeting at 8:00

General Meeting begins at 9:00

Demos include...

- ◆ **A Continuation of the Quillon Dagger Demo, led by Phillip Jones**
 - ◆ **Vine Pattern File Work, led by Joel Sandifer**
 - ◆ **Complete Knife-making Demo by two members** (names to be decided by a drawing at the meeting)...
- Maker's Choice: each maker will have two hours to complete a knife which can be forged or made by stock removal. 1080 steel and handle material will be supplied. Come with your thinking caps on!

One hour break for lunch... you are on your own.

And of course, you are welcome to bring snacks to share at any meeting!

As always, family and friends are welcome.

Please note that we always need members to lead demos. No matter how simple you think something is, it may be new or different to someone else. If you have a demo you would like to do or see done, please contact Andy Sharpe.

ITEM FOR SALE

2x72 inch belt grinder made by Roger Comar with 8 inch contact wheel and flat platen that adjusts for doing slack belt grinding.

\$375.00

Contact Tim Scholl

910.897.2051

CONTACT FOR EXOTIC LEATHER...

Loy Cuellar at 915-590-0088 or lcuellar@hardtkeinc.com

Here is a partial list...

shark \$12.50 per ft average size 7-8 ft
ostrich \$17.50 per ft average size 16 ft
stingray \$32.50 each 10-12 inches wide
crocodile \$85.00 each
snake skins are also available
All above come in a variety of colors



New Jersey Steel Baron, LLC

"Quality Steel for Quality Knives"

Available Grades and Sizes

1095-(Decarb Free/Annealed)

Carbon=.99 Manganese=.42

Widths available to 15" wide

1/8"(.145)

5/32"(.180)

3/16"(.210)

1/4"(.270)

1095-(Hot Rolled)

Carbon=.99 Manganese=.45

3/8" x 1"

3/8" x 1 1/4"

3/8" x 1 5/8"

1084FG-(Hot Rolled)

Carbon=.84 Manganese=.79

1/4" x 1 1/2"

1084FG-(Decarb Free/Annealed)

Widths available to 15" wide

1/8"(.145)

3/16"(.210)

1/4"(.270)

1075-(Decarb Free/Annealed)

Carbon=.76 Manganese=.35

Widths available to 15" wide

1/4"(.270)

5/16"(.350)

L-6-(More to come!)

5/16"(.345/.365) x 1"

5/16"(.345/.365) x 1 1/4"

5/16"(.345/.365) x 1 1/2"

5/16"(.345/.365) x 2"

W-1

1/2" x 1" x 36" Cold Rolled Bar

1 1/16"(.687) Round Bar

W-2-(Decarb Free/Annealed)

(Due at the end of Jan.)

Widths available to 15" wide

1/4"(.270)

5/16"(.340)

3/8"(.390)

5160H-(Hot Rolled)

1/4" x 1"

1/4" "x 1 1/4"(.262) x 1 1/2"

1/4"(.262) x 2"

1/4"(.262) x 3"

1/4"(.262) x 4"

3/4" x 40" round

7/8" x 40" round

1" x 40" round

52100-(Decarb Free/Annealed)

5/32"(.180)

3/16"(.210)

1/4"(.270)

1080

1" square bar

3/4" square bar

15N20-(We keep all sizes cut to thickness x 1", 1 1/4" and 1 1/2" x 6" or 48" strips!! All material is DEAD FLAT and BURR FREE. We can custom size blanks and also cut any steel you use with it to size.)

.058"

.065"

.072"

Stainless Also Available!!!! CPM 154 CM, 154 CM, 440C, CPM S 3-V, CPM S 35-VN CPM D-2, CPM S 30-V

Looking for something? We can help. We are always looking for new ways to help supply Bladesmiths with the tools and materials they need. If you need it we can find it, just ask.

NJ Steel Baron, LLC

295 Wagaraw Rd Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Phone: 826-203-8160 Fax: 973-689-9501 Email: njsteelbaron@gmail.com

www.njsteelbaron.com

Board of Director's Minutes from the April Meeting

Submitted by Tommy Johnson, Secretary

1. The financial report was given by Carol Kelly.
2. It was asked how much we should pay Rebecca Dresser for the newsletter. It was decided \$100.00 per newsletter.
3. The next meeting will be July 16 at MCC.
4. The Board decided to name the annual scholarship "The Wayne Whitley Memorial Scholarship" in recognition of his contributions to the Guild.
5. It was asked when the newsletter should come out and decided three weeks or more before the next meeting.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes from the April Business Meeting

Submitted by Tommy Johnson, Secretary

1. It was asked if everyone is now getting their newsletter. The Dula's are not.
2. The current classes scheduled at MCC were listed.
3. The annual scholarship will now be known as "The Wayne Whitley Memorial Scholarship" in recognition of his contributions to the Guild.
4. We are fortunate to have two knife-making schools in NC, ours at MCC, and the bladesmithing school at Haywood Community College.
5. The New Jersey Steel Baron steel dealer is willing to come to our meetings to deliver steel if enough orders are made. This saves on shipping costs.
6. We need articles for the newsletter.
7. Lunch today will be a hotdog & hamburger cookout.
8. The Board has decided to pay Rebecca Dresser \$100.00 per issue for the newsletter.
9. There will be an article on the N.C.C.K.G. in the May issue of Knife World magazine.
10. The meeting was adjourned.

Featured Maker... MEET EDDIE SWING

Eddie is from Lexington, NC, the BBQ Capital of the World. He is a District Sales Manager for a Telecommunications Distributor, covering his hometown all the way to South Florida, so he is on the road quite a bit. He tries to work on knives on the weekend when he is home and then do the sanding on the road. He jokes, "The maids love me!"

Eddie also sharpens clipper blades, shears, scissors, and knives. He says, "My grandfather did it back in the 60's and being the oldest grandson, I went with him to High Point and Charlotte. I really enjoy the sharpening. It can really clear my head."

In 2008, Eddie says that he and his wife were on Christmas vacation at their daughter's house, and he spent some time looking on the web at different things that he might enjoy doing when he decides to retire. He saw the Guild's website and contacted then-president Bill Bisher who invited him to the next meeting.

Eddie attended his first guild meeting in January, 2009. He met Andy Sharpe and, as Eddie recalls, "Come to find out we live in the same town, so he invited me over to make a knife and I was hooked after that!" Andy taught Eddie some of the do's and don'ts of grinding. Eddie says that Andy told him the key to knife-making is how well you can fix your mistakes.

Eddie's steel of choice has primarily been 01. Although he has tried some ATS, he always seems to come back to 01. He likes to use Micarta and stabilized handle materials, but he wants to try using Stag in future handles. Eddie says, "So far several of my knives have been gifts for retiring customers." I'd say that's a pretty great gift, wouldn't you?

Eddie says that he and JD Palmer meet over at Andy's on the weekends for their "Knife Mafia Meetings" to discuss ideas and what we need to create. So far they have built a grinder and a kiln and have redesigned several items, some of which worked and some didn't, "but we had fun doing it."

Last year Eddie attended the Blade Show in Atlanta and purchased a Wicked Edge Knife Sharpener. He says, "That is the best thing I have found to get a Razor Edge. I had six stitches and an \$800 hospital bill to prove it!" But in all seriousness, he says it's a great device and worth the money. Eddie's cover knife is his "I finally made one for the wife" knife.



PROJECT ATTU... or the making of a very special knife

By Andy Sharpe

I have always enjoyed making knives that have a personal meaning for my customers, something more than just being a knife. For example, I made a fighter for a Marine, forming the guard from a piece of shrapnel that had been removed from his leg. I also made a hunter for a soldier who'd brought back the barrel of an AK-47 from Iraq. I used the barrel to make the blade.

My Uncle Herb was a veteran, as was I, and I loved hearing his stories of WWII. He served in the South Pacific, and when he talked, his stories always ended up on the battle of Attu. He passed away in 2007, and I miss him and the talks we used to have. He was special to me, and I wanted to do something special for him.

I didn't know much about Attu, so I did a lot of reading on the battle. Attu was the only battle of WWII fought on American soil. It was second only to Iwo Jima for loss of American life. It was also the site for the first and largest Banzai attack of the war. Due to the lack of cold-weather gear and the extreme cold, soldiers actually burned their rifle stocks in an attempt to keep warm. Attu was overshadowed by the battle of Midway in news and also in the history books. Armed with this knowledge, I felt I needed to do something to honor the men who fought and died on Attu and to honor my uncle.

So I decided to make a knife and raffle it off, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Freedom Flight which sends WWII vets to visit the WWII Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. But I knew this knife couldn't be just any knife; it had to be very special. So I started my search.

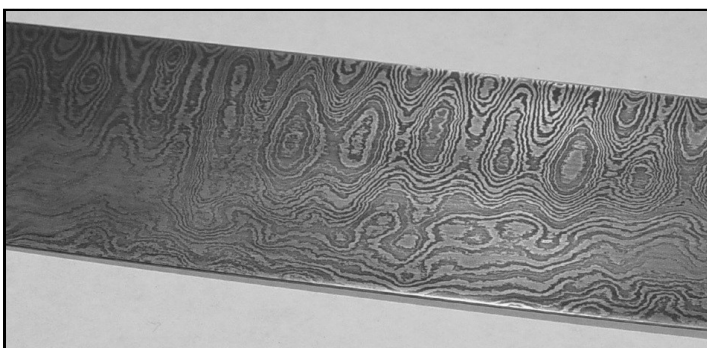
I learned that the only people on Attu Island are U.S. Coast Guard personnel. Stationed at a LORAIN Station are 21 men. I also found out that Attu is a national historic site and a federal game reserve, and while you can visit, you must be escorted by a member of the Coast Guard or the Alaska Fish and Game Service. No one can remove any object from the island, natural or man-made. So I did the proper thing. I called the Commander of the Station. We had an hour-long conversation, and I explained what I wanted to do. He informed me of who I needed to contact to get permission to remove artifacts from the island. He also said he had some items that were found on the base that would be great for my project. Three months later, I had my letters of permission with the stipulation that all unused material be returned to the island and that only one knife be made. Here is part of what I received. The photo is a 155 artillery shell, weighing approximately 10 pounds. I also received assorted brass shell casings dated 1942 and a piece of truck spring.



(Continued on page 7)

PROJECT ATTU (continued from page 6)

I discussed my project with a friend of mine, Mr. Chuck Richards, who is an ABS Journeyman Smith. He asked if he could be a part of this project, and we formed a partnership. Chuck would do the blade, and I would do the handle and fittings. Chuck's work is fantastic, consisting of 575 layers of ladder pattern Damascus. How does he do that?



So here's what I had to work with.



"So, okay," I said to myself, "it's now time to handle this beast." I'd decided to keep the knife fairly simple. It did not need to be real fancy. No file work and such. It would be simple and classy, just like the men it was meant to honor. I made the guard first, cutting an

oval from a piece of the shell. Then I drilled two holes halfway through the guard. Next I cut the base from two of the M-1 shell casings and inserted them in the holes and soldered them in place.



The handle spacer was cut from a piece of shell and shaped. Next the handle was cut from the ancient walrus tusk.



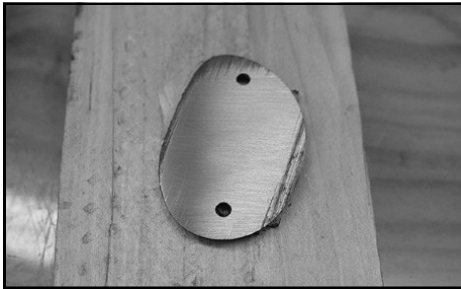
Then handle spacer and guard were assembled for the first match-up.



(Continued on page 8)

PROJECT ATTU (continued from page 7)

Next I was ready to build the butt-cap. I started by forging a piece of shell to about 3/16" and cutting to shape to follow the shape of the ivory. Then I carved the island of Attu from wax.



I used the wax carving to make a mold. Then I took two of the M-1 shell casings and melted them down and cast the island in brass. I then did final detail work on the island casting with a dremmel tool and hand tools, finally polishing and attaching the casting to the plate by drilling a hole in the plate and soldering the pieces together.



The finished butt-cap was then attached by two one-inch pins made from pieces of shell.



The stand is the base of the artillery shell that the knife was made from. The knife is currently in the hands of scrimshaw artist, Rick (Hutch) Hutchings, who will soon add scrimshaw to the ivory handle.

This knife is more than a knife; it may contain the only documented artifacts from Attu Island from the WWII battle. The project has taken three years. The hard part was starting. As Chuck said, "Man, I was scared to death, making Damascus from steel that cannot be replaced. If you screw it up, it's over." He and I both had deep feelings just holding the artifacts in our hands and knowing the story of Attu. I was truly humbled. Mr. Jim Cooper (Sharp by Coop) has volunteered to donate his work for the photo shoot. I am also writing a book that covers the history of the Battle of Attu and the complete making of the knife from start to finish. The knife will be raffled off (hopefully at the Blade Show 2012), and the winner will receive the knife, stand and display case, all documents, and a hardback copy of the book signed by all who helped with the project.

Classes in knifemaking are held each year on the campus of Montgomery Community College in Troy, North Carolina.
To sign up for a course, go directly to the school's website here... <http://www.montgomery.cc.nc.us/cenra.htm>

Custom Folding Knives - Ed VanHoy

July 14 – 17, 2011... Cost \$375

Design and craft a custom liner-lock folding knife.

The instructor will show the basic principles and methods of construction required to make a folding knife.

Design, machine work, drilling, tapping, grinding the blade and finishing will be covered.

Each student will complete a knife using both machine shop and common hand tools.

Introduction to Tactical Knifemaking – Barry & Phillip Jones

July 21 - 24, 2010... Cost \$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.

Coffin Frame Handle Bowie Knives – James Batson

July 28 - 31, 2011... Cost \$375

Each student will forge an early American or Sheffield Style Bowie blade of high carbon steel to shape; the rough ground blade will be finished with power belts and hands.

The students will learn to heat treat various carbon steels and the blade.

The guard and frame handle will be fashioned and fitted to the blade.

Walnut, stag or bone scales will be used for the handle scales.

Damascus – Tommy McNabb

August 18 – 21, 2011... Cost \$375

This will be an intensive class covering Damascus steel making, basic and advanced pattern development, and finishing.

The class will address many aspects of making Damascus steel

including billet preparation, steel combination, and tooling.

Basic Knifemaking – Travis Daniel

August 25 - 28, 2011... Cost \$375

Learn knifemaking 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 to intermediates who want to perfect their knife-making talents.

Automatic Folding Knives - Ed VanHoy

September 8 - 11, 2011

Cost \$375

Design and craft a spring-loaded folding knife. The course will include the basic principles and methods of construction required to make a spring-loaded automatic folder.

Techniques will include drilling, tapping, grinding and finishing.

Advanced Knifemaking Techniques – Travis Daniel

September 22 – 25, 2011

Cost \$375

An intensive class centering on complex construction methods and fit and finish techniques.

For experienced knifemakers who want to improve their skills.

Tomahawks – Tommy McNabb

October 7 – 9, 2011

Cost \$295

A hands-on course. Forge and finish an early American tomahawk; skills include forging, grinding, heat-treating, and finishing the blade and handle.

Instructor will furnish all the supplies for the students to make one tomahawk.

Art of Mokume Gane – Phillip Jones

October 27 - 30, 2011

Cost \$375

Learn the ancient Japanese technique of pattern fusing multiple copper based metals.

The decorative skills can be used in both knifemaking and jewelry.

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

**P.O. BOX 316
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NEWS TO NOTE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**JULY 16 meeting at MCC
featuring three exciting demos!
Details on Page 3**

FEATURED ARTICLE: PROJECT ATTU

Pages 6— 8

FEATURED KNIFEMAKER

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