



This month's cover knife is by Steve Randall,
our featured knifemaker.

See page 5 for more information on Steve and to see more of his work.

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

An email was sent to all Guild members in December, but some of those emails came back as undeliverable. These are the members whose emails were returned:

Bruce Ryan, Aubrey McDonald, Robert Knight, Guy Junkins

If you haven't received a recent email from Rebecca, or any at all, please check your emails and contact her (contact info this page) with your correct address. Group emails are helpful in delivering important information, and we don't want anyone to miss it!

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

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www.kneedeepstudio.com

Welcome to Our New Officers!

New President, *Tim Scholl*, and New Vice President, *Andy Sharpe*

And Big Thanks and Warm Appreciation

to *Bill Bisher* and *Bob Ham*, Outgoing President and Vice President.

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, TIM SCHOLL

The changing of the guard has taken place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill for his service as president these last four years and to welcome Andy Sharpe who will fill the remainder of Bob Ham's term as vice president. As most of you know, Bob has moved way across the country and is no longer in state. We wish Bob lots of luck and offer our thanks also. Any ideas for demos should be sent to Andy, which I'm sure he will appreciate.

Next, I thank you for having confidence in me to be your presi-

dent for this term. I will do my best to keep the guild moving forward and in the public eye. The first thing on the agenda is to have all meetings except for the spring picnic/meeting back at the school. Troy is the center of the state, and therefore, it's an equal distance for everyone to drive. Also the shop is well equipped and large enough to accommodate a large crowd and any type of demo we may have. Whether it is forging, grinding, or something else, everything is there and at the ready. Like most of you, I have a small shop and can only fit a few people in at a time, so meetings at the school are the

best and most logical solution.

The next meeting is in January at the school. We will raffle the knife off at this time. **DON'T FORGET YOUR TICKET STUBS!!** Bring lots of stuff for iron in the hat, bring your ideas for demos, and bring your questions about knife making. We have years and years of experience among our membership and someone will have answers. I have been in the guild since the beginning and 90% of my knowledge has come from the members and classes offered by the guild. Take advantage. See everyone in January.

UPCOMING GUILD MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Montgomery Community College

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

Business Meeting at 8:00

Knife Raffle

Iron in the Hat

Lunch and Demos...

◆ **Making a Quillon Dagger, led by Phillip Jones**

We will make a quillon dagger start to finish over the course of the next several meetings.

Members are encouraged to work along with the demo and create their own dagger.

Design and lay-out will be the first part of the demo. Please bring a pencil and pad.

As we go, we will inform members of what to bring to the next meeting.

◆ **Forging a 4" Hunter, led by Steve Randall**

Members are urged to participate. Please bring along a piece of 1080 or 1095,

at least 1" x 1/4" x 9" in size. We will take these knives from start to finish

over the next several meetings.

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.

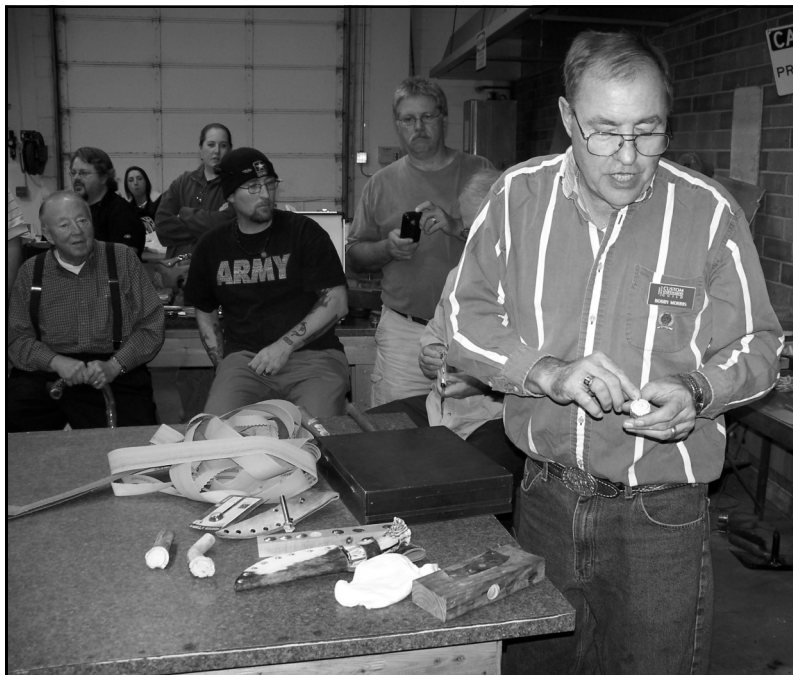
OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES...

Submitted by Tommy Johnson

1. The question was made if the membership wanted to have lunch bought from the Lovejoy United Methodist Church Barbeque sale with funds from the Iron-in-the-Hat ticket sales. A motion was made to do this, seconded, and approved.
2. The question was made whether to allow out of state members to hold the offices of President & Vice- President. A motion was made to approve this was made, seconded, and approved.
3. It was announced that Bobby Morris had been approved for full membership.
4. Nominations for Vice-President were opened, Andy Sharp was nominated, and seconded. No other nominations were made and Andy Sharp was approved for Vice-President.
5. Nominations for President were opened, Tim Scholl was nominated, and seconded. No other nominations were made and Tim Scholl was approved for President.
6. It was announced that dues should be paid by Oct. 31, 2010.
7. If you want your information listed in the 2012 Knives Annual, you need to send your info by 12-2-2010.
8. If anybody needs name tags, contact Jim Decoster.
9. The Business Meeting was adjourned.

PHOTOS FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING...

Thanks to Arthur Summers for providing photos





Meet Steve Randall

I found out about the Guild from the online forums and joined October 2009.

My major influence in knifemaking began from my interest in survival skills and practices. I used and made (flint knapped) a lot of stone tools including stone knives. Practicing more modern survival techniques, using iron age tools, and watching videos by people like Ron Hood, Tai Goo, and Tim

Lively sparked my interest in forging my own knives.

I started making knives from very basic hand tools and a forge. I have practiced primitive survival skills for sometime and in that process used a lot of different knives – never quite finding the perfect one. About 4 or 5 years ago I decided to try making my own knives for my own specific purposes. Through trial and error I found what I liked and what I didn't like in a knife. They were functional but not the prettiest. In 2009 I went to the ABS school in Arkansas where I learned how to improve my technique. I started acquiring equipment to make a better and more esthetic pleasing knife.

The first knife I ever forged was made out of a leaf spring from a truck, using a coal forge with a hand crank blower. I had an absolute blast doing it. The knife is approximately an 8" or 9" tanto style knife. It looks horrible, won't hold an edge, but it's my favorite.

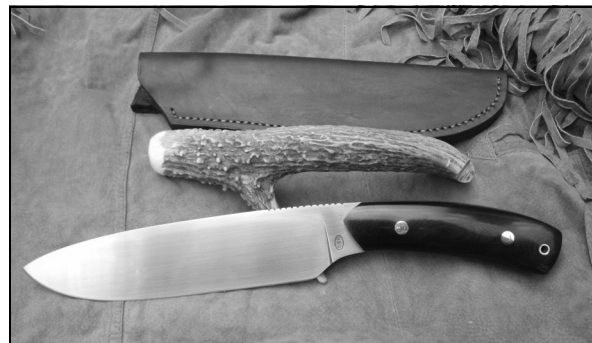
I enjoy almost all styles of knives. The fixed blade chopper style is my favorite because of its versatility out in the woods. It would be difficult to list a specific knifemaker as a favorite. I am impressed by each knifemaker's skills and techniques. There's something to learn from everybody.

I prefer forging and the chopper style blades. My favorite steel to work with is 5160 and 1075. Forging out the blade is my favorite part of the knife making process. It sounds hokey, but I like the feeling of taking a cold piece of steel and molding it into a knife. Everything is done in my shop by me: forging, heat treating, finish and leather sheaths.

The knives that sell best for me are my fixed blade chopper style knives. Some hunter type do well also.

I'm able to spend about 20 hours a week on knifemaking. My shop is "my" side of the garage and consists of a forge, 2 anvils, Coote grinder, drill press, and various hand tools. It's always growing.

My current affiliations are the NCKMG and ABS. My website is www.ksrblades.com



In each newsletter, we want to feature one knife-maker, but in order to do this, we need information from you. We also need clear, clean photos of your knives and one of you. These may be emailed as jpg files. If you have not yet filled out the questionnaire, please do so legibly and mail it as soon as possible to

Rebecca Dresser, Editor
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 the back side of this sheet 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? _____

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

NCCKG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

All applications are **due by December 31** of each year. A drawing will be held by the Board of Directors during the January meeting . If your name is drawn, you will be notified, and it is your responsibility to pay Montgomery Community College for the knife-making class you choose. You must complete the course, send a copy of your certificate to the NCCKG Treasurer, demonstrate your new skill at a Guild meeting **or** write an article for the Guild newsletter. At that time, the course fee will be refunded to you. Please note that the scholarship covers only the course fee; all other expenses are the responsibility of the student.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Course Name and Date: _____

Mail form to:
NC Custom Knifemakers Scholarship Program, Attn Tony Kelly
348 Bell Road, Kinston, NC 28504

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**CUSTOM
KNIFEMAKERS**
G U I L D

**P.O. BOX 316
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NEWS TO NOTE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...
January 22 meeting at MCC

NEW OFFICERS...
See page 3

FEATURED KNIFEMAKERS NEEDED!
Don't be shy!! Please fill out the form on page 6 and mail it in!!

NEXT WEBSITE UPDATE
Send your photos or info to Rebecca (see page 2) by January 24!!