

# Billets & Blades

Spring is finally starting to make the rounds. The crocus and daffodils are breaking ground here in Winston-Salem and I am ready to shut off the shop heaters and air things out. Hope all of you you have been doing well since the last get together at Alan's. You will find info about the annual meeting at Tim and Kathy Scholl's and some other things that are of interest to the guild members.

Thanks to Tim Britton for putting together a great day at ECU. A tip of the hat to Tommy McNabb for some good knife tips and Tim Scholl for hooking us up with "Carolina Adventure" magazine. They have asked for submission of custom knife related articles. This should be good for spreading information about the Guild and an article is in the works for the next issue.

It is with regret that we note the death of both Robert Mariacher and Wayne Whitley's brother. The Guild sent flowers to both families.

## Annual Meeting

This years annual Guild meeting will be held from April 30th till May 1st at Tim and Kathy Scholl's place in Angier NC. Cost for members is \$15.00 for singles and \$25.00 for couples. Non-members will be \$20.00 and \$35.00 respectively. Please bring chairs. Bring a swimsuit if you want to use the hot tub. BRING SAFÉTY GLASSES AND WEAR THEM. NO EXCUSES!!! Camping is available and there are a wide variety of hotels in Benson and Dunn.

Attention Ladies... All interested in forming a Ladies Auxillary for supporting the New Bern Show etc., please attend. Also bring any crafts you wish to share.

Please call before April 1st so they can get a head count. They need to know how much food to round up.

Day 919-552-4504 Eve. 910-897-2051

Motels in Dunn...

910-892-1293 Comfort Inn Best Western 910-892-2162 910-892-6181 Econo Lodge

Ramada Inn 910-892-8101 Motels in Benson... Days Inn 910-894-2031

**Dutch Inn** 910-894-7562 The tentative schedule is:

8:00-8:30 Register Coffee and donuts

8:30-9:30 Business meeting

9:30-12:00 Alan Patterson/ Forging of guards, Buttcaps, and assorted hardware.

12:00-1:00 Lunch (provided)

Steve Popp of Fayeteville-1:00-3:00 Japanese handle wrapping, Habaki, and sheath hardware

3:00-5:00 Alex Moss-Direct casting of Pewter bolsters.

Dinner (provided) 6:30

Sunday May 1st.

9:00-10:00 Round table discussion with Show & Tell. Bring your Knives. Coffee and donuts.

James Parker- Flint Knapping 10:00-11:00 Tim Scholl - Pinning Bolsters 11:00-12:00 12:00- ? Forge Time-- Bring your own steel and tools.

Directions to Tim and Kathy's: See attached

From Winston-Salem and all points west: I-40 or I-85 to Greensboro.

Take Hwy. 421 South to Lillington.

Take Hwy. 210 North to Angier.

Go to first stoplight and take a right on Hwy 55 Fast.

Go approx. 3.5 miles and take a left at Mikes BBO.

Take first road to right [Langdon Rd.]. Go to stop sign.

Go straight across Old Stage Road.

House is 0.5 miles on left.

3 mailboxes in front of house.

From Wilson, Greenville, Washington, etc.

Hwy 264 to Wilson Take I-95 to Benson

Take Hwy 27 to Coats

Right at the stoplight on Hwy 55W

Take the first right Just out of town Carson Gregory Road

Go to the end of Carson Gregory road and take a left onto Langdon Road.

Go up the hill to the 9th house on the right.

Anyway, there were about 50-60 people there and the organization has many events planned for this year. If you folks can see you way clear, I urge you to join and support this organization. ABANA, the parent organization, has many knifemakers associated with it and you don't have to be a blacksmith enjoy the benefits of this international organization. If you are interested give a shout to

Bert Smith Secretary, NC ABANA 821 Mead St. Greensboro, NC 27410 The cost for a year is \$15.00.

Next issue there will be more info from Steve's demo and some old notes from some previous knife demos that I've attended and neer written up.

# Congratulations

A word of congratulations to Alan Patterson, Bill Maynard and Tim Scholl for getting some good magazine coverage in several knife publications. Alex Moss also told me that he had an article published in a mountain man (?) related magazine. No other info on that.

#### For Sale

Watch Makers Lathe, all collets, face plate, live center and 3-Jaw chuck. Excellent condition. \$600.00 Danny Masser 1-704-479-8314 1-704-479-2920

0.25" x 0.75" 416 SS for guards \$4.00/foot 0.1875" x 1.5" 416 SS for bolsters \$5.00/foot Bader grinders and accessories for sale Tommy McNabb 1-910-759-0640 Work 1-910-924-6053 Home

#### **Guild Officers**

President: Tommy McNabb 4015 Brownsboro Road Winston-Salem NC 27106 (910)924-6053 home (910)759-0640 work Vice-President: Jack Hyer 5164 Beulah St. Kernersville, NC,27284 (910)595-3676

Secretary and Treasurer: Gary Gaddy 205 Ridgewood Lane, Washinton, NC 27889 (910) 946-6716

Director: Tim Scholl Route 3, Box 158-1A, Angier, NC 27501 (910) 897-2051 home (919) 552-4502 work

Director: Wayne Whitely 210 E. 7th Street, Washington, NC 27889 (919) 946-5648

Newsletter Editor: Mark Gottesman 5433 Hanover Park Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 (910) 765-8893 Days (910) 765-7128 Eves.

This Newsletter is mailed to members of the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild four to six times a year. Due ar \$50.00 per year and are due by October 1st every year. Make check payable to NCCKG.

The purpose and policy of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of information exchange for members of th NCCKG, related organizations may copy the information used herin as long as credit is given.

This organization has been formed to help meet the needs of a growing body of custom knifemakers in the Southeasten region. In addition, the Guild seeks to provide a training forum and educational resource for new and vetern makers alike.

Knifemaking and it's related Crafts are inherently dangerous occupations. Therfore the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild, its officers and the editorial committee specifiscally disclaim any responsibility for damages or injuries that occur as a result of the use in any way of any information contained in this newsletter.

Anodizing of refractive metals covered the coloring of Niobium, Titanium and Tantalum. After a piece had been taken to the desired shape and finish it was throughly cleaned. The item is then connected to an electrical circut for setting up the coloring reaction. The piece can be immersed or a brush can be used as the cathode to paint the colors right on the piece. Coloration of these metals comes from the buildup of an oxide layer on the surface of the object. As the thickness of this layer changes so does the color. Again you can vary the effect using combinations of resists and voltage.

All of the above processes use nasty chemicals and, in some case, electricity. If you are interested you could direct letters to Linda or Bill care of the Fine Arts Department at ECU. They gave out some very good informational sheets on all of the above. Better yet, find a class or someone to walk you thru any of the above.

Tim Britton gave a very good talk on safety. He stressed the importance of good ventilation and light. Use fresh belts instead of trying to get just a bit more life out of it. Quit before you get tired since injuries occur when you are trying to get just one more knife done. Get comfortable safety equiptment and use it. The dust given of by many of the handle materials will cause lung damage. Tim told a story of a grinder who was nearly done in by a material that had been treated with a pesticide and let off fumes will he was shaping the stuff.

Tim also gave some of the following tips:

- \* Drill Stainless with 135 degree points, use a new drill on valuable material and use a backing to prevent splintering.
- \* 406 and 410 make good bolster, they are hardenable and therfore are easier to drill and buff.
- \* If you have a beard, you might want to look into an air helmet. This also avoids fogging your glasses.
- \* Use different buffs for blades and handles to avoid scratching due to embedded metal particles.
- \* Ivory can be sealed with a very thin "superglue" to avoid drying cracks.
- \* Keep your buffs in large baggies to avoid grit contamination.

- \* Tim has had some problems with stabilzed woods moving on the finished knives.
- \* Don't nurse your belts. The heat that a dull belt creates contributes to many problems such as movement of handle material.

Tim Scholl the gave a great demonstration on how to forge damascus steel. Working outside in the sun and fielding questions at the same time, he proceeded to work thru several welding heats. The students were very interested in this and I'm sure they are investigating the uses for their own program. Tim finished up with an etching demo and then there was a spirited discussion on finishing methods. Seems this is an area that causes alot of people much grief.

In between all of this Linda Darty managed to give a nice slide show on surface and texture treatments by many students and other metalsmiths. We would like to thank Linda, Bill and Tim for a great day.

#### North Carolina ABANA

This year I joined the North Carolina Artist Blacksmith Association of North America. It has a membership of around 120 people that are interested in various metalsmithing pursuits. They range from full time professionals supplying the architectural industries to hobby smiths. This meeting was held at Robin Eanes shop in Lexington and featured Steve Carter doing a good knifemaking demo on the air hammer. Two points that he showed were very interesting. One was that normalizing a blade while you were working on it was a good way to keep the grain size down. The other point was that when the metal was cast and rolled a grain direction was formed. This grain pattern does NOT go away when forging. If your piece of steel was sheared from a piece of plate with the grain running across the blade, the item will not be as stong as it could be. (Editor here. I've seen this in a metals lab where I worked, but I'm not sure how you could check in the shop. I'm not even sure how much of a problem this could be, but keep it tucked away for the day when you have a blade acting odd.)

From Wilmington: Hwy 421N to Dunn Hwy 55 to Coats See map for route from Coats

From Kinston, New Bern, etc.
Take Hwy 55 East to Dunn
Take 55 to Coats
Follow map from Coats

#### Calendar:

March 20-26 American Bowie Knife with Jim Batson. Campbell Folk School

April 22-24
Bladesmithing Symposium at Jim Batson's Shop. For info write to Jim at 176 Brentwood, Madison, AL 35758
This draws some MAJOR talent.

April 30-May 1
Annual NCCKG meeting at Tim and Kathy's.
Angier, NC

May 13-15
First Biennial NC Blacksmith Conference at the Old Time Thresher's Convention grounds neat Denton, NC. Demonstrators will be Clay Spencer, Enrique Vega and George Dixon. Put on by the NC chapter of ABANA

May 20-24
13th Annual Blade Show Atlanta, Georgia

June 6- June 10
Forging Damascus Steel Knives Hugh Bartrug at Touchstone Center for Crafts. Uniontown, PA. 1-412-329-1370

July 1-5
Tool making for the Metalsmith Bill Fiorini
Peters Valley Craft Center in Layton, NJ.
1-201-948-5200

August 5,6, and 7th George Herron, Advanced Knifemaking. Montgomery Community College, Troy, NC.

August 12-16 Damascus Steel with Daryl Meier at Peter's Valley September 4-10 Bladesmithing with Chuck Patrick at Campbell Folk School 1-800-FOLK SCH

September 24,25 1994 NC Wildlife Show at New Bern. (919) 637-4631. Ask Hugh Mills Jr. for further details

### **ECU Workshop**

On Feburary 26th about a dozen Guild members and as many interested students got together with instructors of the Fine Metals Department at East Carolina University. Tim Britton had set up a series of lectures with Linda Darty and Bill Satterfileld covering spray etching of metal, coloring of reactive metals, and aluminum anodizing.

The lecture on spray etching was the most interesting for me. Using a contained spray wash setup with ferric chloride as the etchant, a test copper plate was etched in a very short interval of 15 minutes. The bite was very clean and straight sided. The interesting area was the use of a variety of non-traditional resists being used. In addition to nail polish, masking tape and presstype, she used a Pilot(?) Gold marker and other paint and grease stick products. The Pilot marker, after drying 24 hours, will even stand up to nitric acid. These all seemed to work well and allowed the user to rework the lines and images with tools before going to the etching step. After the etch was neutralized various metal coloring solutions could be applied.

The Anodizing aluminum lecture was a straight forward procedural talk on equiptment, supplies and technique. The process involves cleaning the metal and hooking it to an electrically conductive tree. It is exposed to a certain current density to open the pore structure of the metal and then dye is introduced into the porous metal surface. The color is then sealed in to prevent it from fading. It is also possible to build up colors by layering resists and building up various dye layers. The results are very rich and colorful to look at. Anodizing could also be used on metal that has been textured.

#### Final Cut

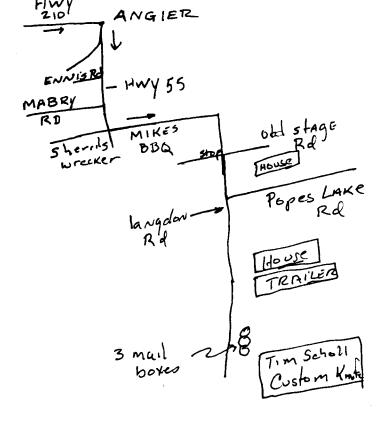
Im going to use this section for all the bits and pieces that I accumulate between newsletters and are to good to let slide.

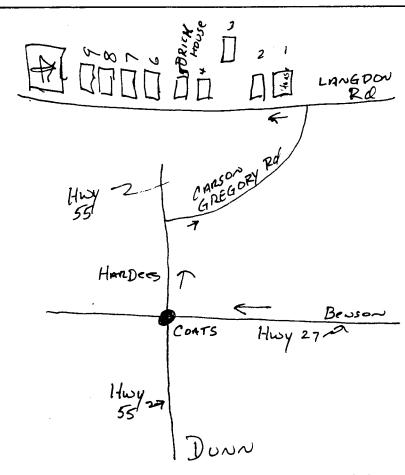
In Richmond, there is a shop that can be seen from the interstate called "The Daily Grind". I have no idea what they do.

For those of you who appreciate a craftsman making good use of an edged tool, keep a eye out for a Roy Underhill show, of the Woodwright's shop, on log cabin building in Norway(?). These are finely shaped and fitted 2-story houses with carved end pieces and internal caulking channels. Most of the work is done by axe and the tool is used with surgical precision. Quite a demonstration.

I have started keeping up with the message traffic on Compuserve. This is a large online information service. The area that I'm using is a message area where woodworkers post mail. An interesting point was that Home Depot will match mailorder prices if you push them. This is OK on small handtools, but watch out for included shipping charges, since they will add this in for large stationary tools. I haven't done this, but this is the rumor.

That's about all for now. If your looking for a fun movie check out "Dragon" the Bruce Lee BioPic. It's got a Clever fight scene at a Chinese resturaunt that will make you jump. Enjoy the nice weather and see you at Tim's.





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Billets & Blades

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Next Meeting
April 30th - May 1st

Angier, NC

Mark Gottesman, Editor 5433 Hanover Park Drive Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Billets & Blades

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