NORTH CAROLINA CUSTOM KNIFEMAKERS GUILD

Billets & Blades

DEDICATED TO THE ART AND CRAFT OF CUSTOM KNIFE-MAKING

October 2010

The Official Publication of The North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild

This month's cover knife is by Jamin Brackett,
our featured knifemaker.
See page 6 for more information on Jamin and to see more of his work.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

General Information	Page 2	Guild E-News	Page 5
Guild Officers and Directors	Page 2	Scrimshaw Offered	Page 5
A Word from the President	Page 3	Featured Knifemaker	Page 6
News on Upcoming Meeting	Page 3	Scholarship Application	Page 7
July Minutes and Photos	Page 4	Member Application	Page 7
Member News	Page 5	Guild Questionnaire	Insert

******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 NCCKG.

Billets and Blades is copyrighted in its entirety by the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild. Permission to quote small noncontiguous passages is freely given as long as appropriate citations are used. Permission to reprint, in whole or in part, must be requested from the Guild. Please contact the editors.

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 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 the addresses shown at right.

GUILD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President
William M. Bisher
1015 Beck Road
Denton, NC 27239
336.859.5486
blackturtleforge@wildblue.net

Vice President
Bob Ham
45 Crescent Point Drive
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-329-8043
bobham@morrisbb.net

Secretary
Tommy Johnson
114 Poole Road
Troy, NC 27371
910.572.3230
tommy@tjohnsonknives.com

Treasurer
Tony Kelly
348 Bell Road
Kinston, NC 28501
252.527.2130
tckelly@suddenlink.net

Director
Barry Jones
221 North Avenue
Danville, VA 24540
434.793.5282
jonesbros@comcast.net

Webmaster
Rebecca Dresser
P.O. Box 316
Danbury, NC 27016
336.593.8324
rdresser@embarqmail.com

Billets and Blades Design and Editor
Rebecca Dresser
see above
www.kneedeepstudio.com

A NOTE FROM BILL BISHER

The July meeting had roughly twenty to twenty-five people in attendance. Not too bad for a Hendersonville meeting, but it could be better. Bob's shop is well-organized and equipped.

Our next meeting will be held at Montgomery Community College on the 23rd of October. This is our election meeting and everyone needs to be there. We are losing our Vice President and Treasurer and need to fill their slots. Our current VP, Bob Ham, will be moving out of state in the near future, and since his departure date is not yet set, he will be able to assist whoever is elected or appointed to fill in for him. Our Treasurer, Tony Kelly and his wonderful wife and assistant, Carol, are stepping down after about fifteen years of service. Also, the President's position was to be filled last April, but due to a lack of attendance at the meeting, the election was put off until this upcoming meeting. So it is very important that you attend this meeting and be a part of the election! By the way, you may want to keep in mind that a motion was passed in April: if you are not at the meeting, you can still be nominated and elected.

I hope everyone has had a chance to look at the new website. We still need photographs for our Member Gallery and members' website info. If you have not yet provided this info for updating to Rebecca, you have until the first of the year to get it to her. Her email address is listed in the newsletter. If you know of upcoming shows for the year 2011 that others might be interested in, please send that info along as well. The site will only be updated two or three times a year, at the end of January and again in the middle or towards the end of summer. We are not going to hold you by the hand to get this information, so please help us keep our website up to date and filled with information that will be helpful to others.

Finally, here's a reminder about names and information for the Knives Annual. We need your information before the end of November so it can be sent to Knives by early January. If you want your name listed, dues have to be paid at the October meeting and your information sent to me no later than November 30. I have to type it and email it to them for publication no later than January 7.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.

UPCOMING GUILD MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Montgomery Community College
Troy, NC

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

Business Meeting at 8:00 with ELECTIONS for President, Vice President, Treasurer

Iron in the Hat

Lunch and Demos…

- Tim Scholl will do a stacked handle demo
- Other demos, to be decided at a later date, will be done by Travis Daniel, Arthur McNeil, and Bob Ham

Please take note: We always need volunteers to lead our demos.
Don't wait to be asked! Please step up and share your skill and knowledge with our Guild members by leading a demo for us at an upcoming meeting!
It will certainly be appreciated.

JULY MEETING MINUTES...

Submitted by Tommy Johnson

1. Tony Kelly presented the financial report.
2. A letter from Rebecca Dresser referring to the website was read and the website was discussed, how often it should be updated. It was decided to update three times the first year and two times a year after that.
3. Discussed the classes at MCC. Several have come up short of the minimum number of students.
4. We need people to do demonstrations!
5. It seems that the same people are called upon to be officers; new people are needed.
6. Meeting adjourned.

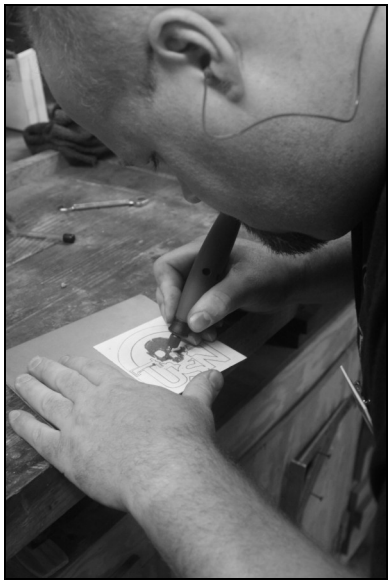
PHOTOS FROM OUR JULY MEETING...

Thanks to Tommy McNabb for providing photos

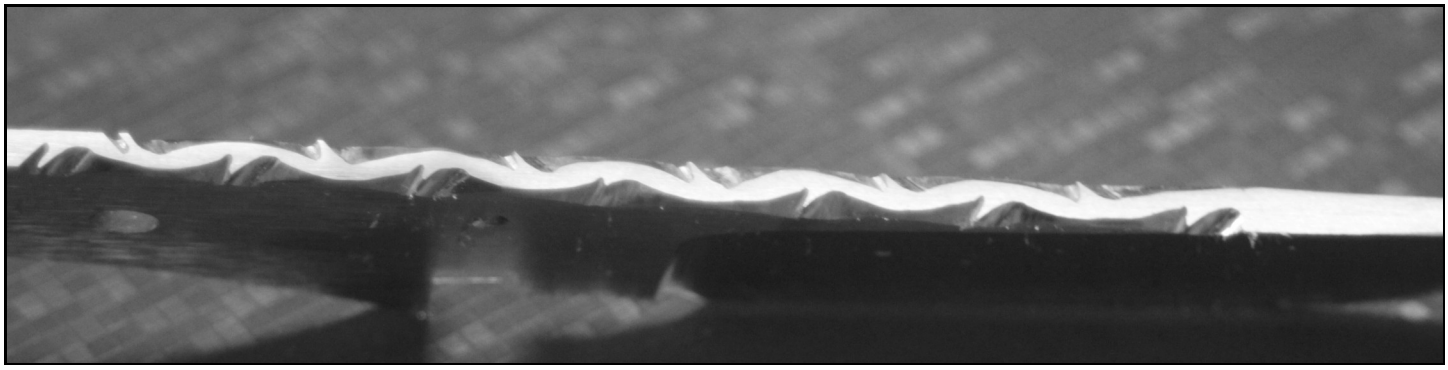
Barry Jones discusses metal carving

Bob Ham at the grinder

Bob Ham demonstrating file work



Barry Jones shows a metal carving technique



Blade spine that has been filed by Bob Ham using a dremel tool

Guild Communication Via Email

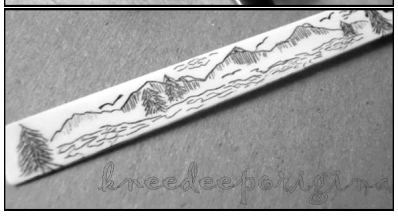
During the summer, group email was set up as a means to deliver quick news, information, and contact information to the Guild. Several email notes have been sent out already. Some have been returned as undeliverable due to, perhaps, incorrect email addresses. If you are NOT receiving the Guild notes, please be sure to send your email address to Rebecca at rdresser@embarqmail.com with a heading that refers to "NCCKG email." We want to be sure that everyone gets these emails so we can all stay informed!

Member News

The Guild has recently learned that Johnnie Sorrel has had some bad back problems and had to stop making knives. He hopes to attend the October meeting and plans to stay a member. Please keep him in mind and give him a call to check in and say hello or drop him a note to offer a word of encouragement.

Johnnie Sorrell
229 Bernard Purvis Rd.
Bennett, NC 27208-9264
336-581-3285

Need Scrimshaw for your Knives?



I am pleased to announce that I am now doing scrimshaw, and if you'd like to add this wonderful treatment to your knife-making process, please contact me. You will need to mail or bring your knife or sheath to me and let me know what you would like etched. I would be happy to design your image or you can send me a specific design. When the etching is finished, I will, of course, apply an archival wax to protect the image and provide a nice sheen for the ivory. Pricing will be based on size and intricacy of design. Send any questions or an information request to Rebecca at rdresser@embarqmail.com.

More Photos from July Meeting

A guest collector discusses what he looks for when purchasing knives for his collection

Travis Daniel discusses buffing compound

Meet Jamin Brackett...

Jamin is 38 years old and is a relatively new member of the Guild, joining in 2010 after learning about the Guild from Andy Sharpe on the forum. Andy invited him to the January meeting, and Jamin joined after attending.

Jamin first became interested in knifemaking in July 2009 when he read *How to Make Knives* by Loveless and Barney. George Guthrie has been his mentor and first major influence. Jamin says, “George has spent countless hours teaching me the art of crafting quality user knives, and as I continue to learn from him, I have found I not only had located someone to teach me but developed a true friendship too.”

Jamin prefers ATS-34 or 154 CM steel, and he prefers the stock removal method. He enjoys making hunting, camp and filet knives which sell best for him, but he has made a few tactical knives as well. He enjoys all aspects of knifemaking except profiling. He says he is “somewhat mesmerized by the polishing process and putting the final edge on the blade.”

He does everything himself in the shop except for heat treatment; he has his blades cryogenically heated treated. He also hand-stitches and forms all of his leather sheaths. He does kydex for his tactical knives if requested. Jamin spends about 8—16 hours a week in his shop, which is currently located in his garage.

His first knife was a drop point hunter, about 7.5 inches long, which he made in July 2009. He used O-1 tool steel which he treated and tempered himself. For the handle, he used Cocobolo scales and red liner material. After drawing the design on paper and transferring it to the steel, Jamin says, “I utilized a hack saw to cut it out and used a 42” Delta belt sander to grind the blade.”

When Jamin is not busy on knives, he spends time being active with his church and family.

His website is http://brackettknives.com.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE PAID IN OCTOBER!

You may pay them at the Guild meeting on October 23.
Please fill out this membership form
and return it with the appropriate fee.

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

NORTH CAROLINA CUSTOM KNIFEMAKERS GUILD

P.O. BOX 316
DANBURY, NC 27016

NEWS TO NOTE

Photos from July Meeting… Were you there?
See Page 4 and 5

MARK YOUR CALENDARS…
October 23 meeting at MCC
ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE!

MEMBERSHIP DUES… PAY IN OCTOBER!!!!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION…. DUE IN DECEMBER!

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