



This month's cover knife is by Tommy McNabb,
our featured knifemaker.

See page 6 for more information on Tommy and to see more of his work.

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*****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 NCKKG.

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

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A NOTE FROM BILL BISHER

The April meeting and cookout had very light attendance with only about 15 to 20 members attending. It was reported that a few members who did not attend said that it was a waste of time if there were no workshops or demos to see. If this is the case, perhaps more people need to step up and volunteer to do some demos! As a guild, we cannot and should not expect the same people to lead demos for others' education and entertainment over and over again. We would like to see more people involved.

It was decided that the election of officers and handing out the raffle tickets will be delayed until the October 23rd meeting at MCC so that more members can participate. So mark your calendars and be there!

On the up side of the April meeting, those that were there had a great time and plenty to eat. Our thanks go out to Bob Ham and the cooking crew and all who brought and shared delicious food. The highlights of the meetings were the knife displays and the roundtable discussions. The two new members in attendance said they picked

up many tips, and the established members said the same thing. There were two or three discussions going on at the same time, so lots of interesting conversation took place.

At the business meeting that day, it was proposed, voted on, and approved to have the picnic every spring. It's important to have this kind of meeting so that our members can get to know each other better. And oh yes... who knows? If you're not at the meeting, you may find out later that you've been elected to office! We need a new President and Treasurer!

UPCOMING GUILD MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 17 at Bob Ham's Shop

**45 Crescent Point Drive
Hendersonville, NC. 28739
828-329-8043
bobham@mchsi.com**

Lunch will be at the shop.
The shop will be open on Sunday
should anyone like to stay and play.
Please come and enjoy the day!

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE

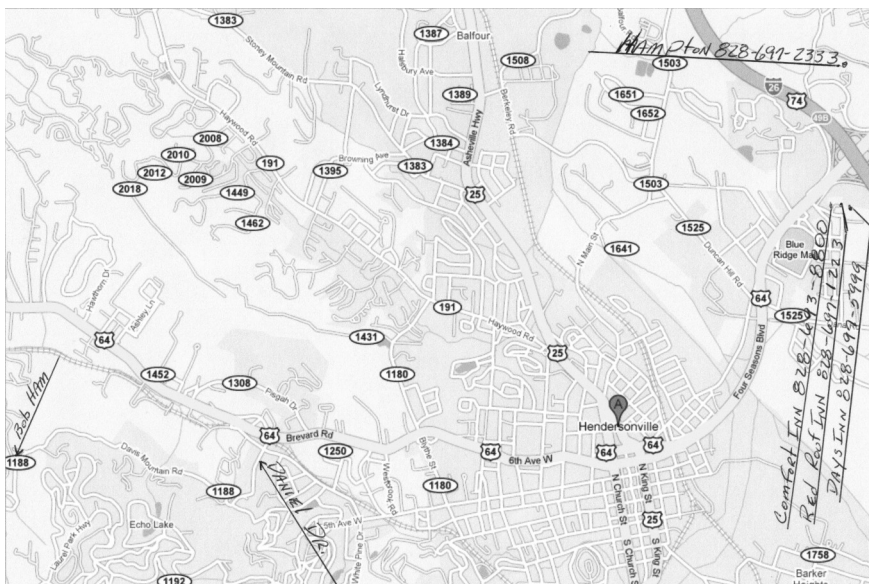
Business Meeting

Iron in the Hat

Lunch

and

Demos...



- Travis Daniel will do a buffing demo on a blade ground in Bob's shop
- Barry Jones will do a metal carving demo using a dremel tool
- Bob Ham will do a filing demo on the spine of a blade using a demo tool
- Phillip Jones will do a demo to be announced.

For others who have volunteered, please come prepared to do your chosen demos. It will certainly be appreciated.

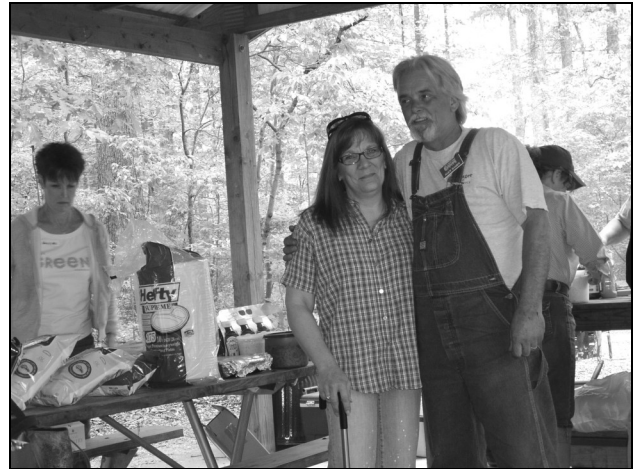
APRIL MEETING MINUTES... Submitted by Tony Kelly

1. The next meeting will be July 17 at Bob Ham's shop.
2. The Oct. meeting will be Oct. 23 at Montgomery Community College.
3. Bob Ham move to suspend the elections and all other business 'til the July meeting due to the low attendance in April. It was seconded and passed. (NOW CHANGED to October 23 meeting.)
4. The following things were discussed:
 - A. For an updated Member List, contact President Bill Bisher.
 - B. The Guild Knife is to be raffled. Tickets will be \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00. Tickets will be handed out for sale at the July meeting.
 - C. President Bill Bisher asked if those present were enjoying having a social meeting and would they like to make it an annual event. All seemed to agree that they would.
 - D. Rebecca Dresser has requested that you take clear, magazine-quality photos of your knives for a gallery on the Guild website. Please send your photos as jpg attachments to Rebecca (see page 2 for contact info).

The business meeting was adjourned.



Members gather 'round to chat before lunch



Andy Sharpe and better half



Some member knives on display



NEW WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING!

The Guild's new website has been completed, uploaded, and is now running smoothly. The URL has not changed, so please visit www.ncknifeguild.org to see the new site. Please email the webmaster, Rebecca Dresser, at rdresser@embarqmail.com if

1. You would like to add a personal website link on the Members page
2. You would like to add photos of your knives to our Gallery (Webmaster reserves the right to edit photos for the site; please prepare photos as magazine-quality jpgs of no greater than 75 KB.)
3. You have a knife event that members would like to know about for our Events page
4. You have any correction to make to your name or its spelling on the Members page

Please bear in mind that corrections and additions will not be made daily. Updates will be made on a monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly basis, as the board will determine.

A NOTE FROM A MEMBER

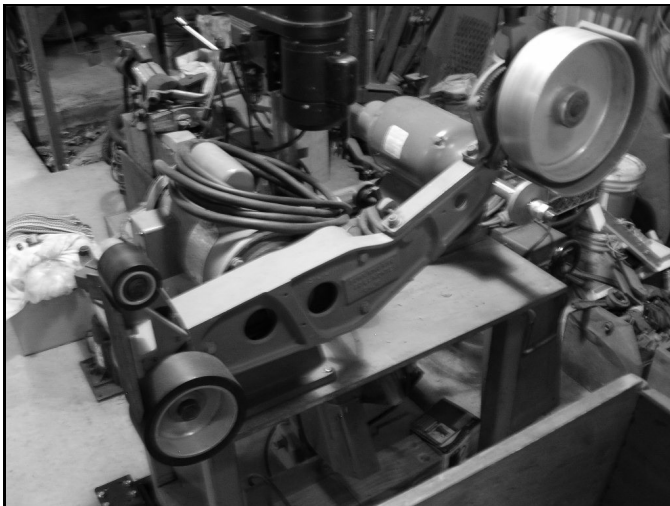
Tommy McNabb received the following note from Chuck Staples in an email which we wanted to share with all members.

I wanted to let you and the Guild know that I have been sick since I retired. I had a mental problem by taking a drug called Cantix, and last year I had cancer on my vocal cords. I was operated on several times and the last time they took my left cord out. I can still talk but I'm very hoarse. I'm still making knives but not a lot. I decided not to come to meetings anymore. I do miss seeing you and Tim. I sure do miss Wayne, John, and Mr. Herron. I got this computer a few weeks ago and am still learning how to use it. Thanks for all you taught me about knifemaking. May see you some day.

In case anyone wants to call Chuck to say hello, his phone number is 919-471-2731.

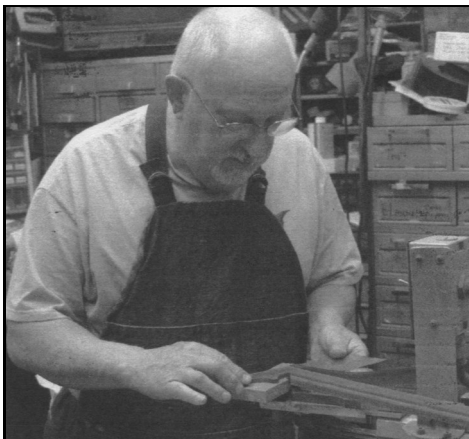
ITEMS FOR SALE

Bill Bisher is selling a **Burr King grinder and buffer** on table with drill press is for sale. The table is all iron and sits on a FoxShop dolly. For more information, please contact Bill at 336.859.5486 or blackturtleforge@wildblue.net.



Tommy McNabb has a **Hydraulic Forging Press** for sale for \$3900. Comes complete with drawings and flat dies which are rapidly interchangeable. Painted "safety red" with a 3 Horse Power Baldor Motor ; 220 volts ; Weight is 800 lbs ; 52" tall ; Base is 24" x 32". For more info, call Tommy at 336-759-0640 or 336-416-2584 (cell) or email him at tommy@tmcnabb.com.





MEET TOMMY McNABB...

Tommy became interested in blacksmithing in 1979 and began a course of self-study which took him to Sloss Furnace in Alabama and to the Penland School and the John C. Campbell Folk School, both in North Carolina. He learned and began making Damascus Steel through these venues, and so began his knifemaking in 1982. He was inspired and helped along by Travis Daniel, Jim Batson, George Herron, and Rade Hawkins.

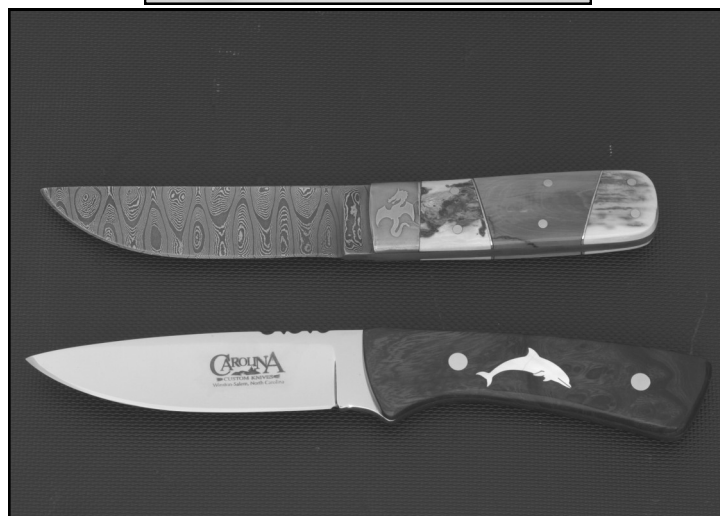
In 1992, Tommy and some friends and fellow knifemakers formed a new group which became the NC Custom Knifemakers Guild. Tommy also helped get the Southeastern Custom Knife Show off the ground by drumming up support and seeing the show through in 1995 in Durham, after which it moved to Winston-Salem for a number of years. He was the Director of this show from 1995—2005.

Tommy makes working knives, Damascus knives, copies of historical knives, and of course his gorgeous one-of-a-kind collector knives. His favorite handle materials are natural bone, stag, and ivory. His favorite steels are Damascus and SS Damascus.

Tommy's shop is located at his home in Bethania, North Carolina, where he lives with his wife, Trena, a nationally known artist. He is highly active in selling at various regional and national juried craft and knife shows, and he has a website at www.carolinaknives.com.

He has also been involved in a number of knife-making associations, including but not limited to Artist Blacksmith Association of North America, American Bladesmiths Society, Piedmont Craftsmen, and of course, the NCKKG. He has taught numerous workshops for knifemakers.

Tommy's knives are designed with beauty and function in mind, and care is given to each step to ensure a blend of style and performance. The outcome is an elegant cutting tool that is a natural extension of one's own hand.



2010 KNIFEMAKING CLASSES

AT MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

www.montgomery.cc.nc.us

Grinding Knife Blades – Barry & Phillip Jones

July 8 - 11, 2010; Cost \$315

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.

Silver Wire Inlay – Steve Keeslar

July 16 - 18, 2010; Cost \$240

Learn the decorative art of inlaying silver wire into wooden gunstocks and knife handles. Students will learn design, layout and proper tool technique to make beautiful patterns.

Forged Scagel – James Batson

August 13 -15, 2010; Cost \$240

Learn the basics of forging and assembling a classic William Scagel style folding knife. Students will learn how to forge the blade and prepare it with a file and grinder for heat treating. Course is designed for all levels of student skills.

Basic Knifemaking – Travis Daniel

August 19 - 22, 2010; Cost \$315

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 9 - 12, 2010; Cost \$315

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.

Leather Sheaths – Rob Bennett

October 1 – 3, 2010; Cost \$ 240

Learn how to make a leather sheath for knives or pistol holsters. Techniques include design, stamping and finishing.

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

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

**P.O. BOX 316
DANBURY, NC 27016**

NEWS TO NOTE

NEW WEBSITE!!

See Page 5 for details!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

July 17 Meeting at Bob Ham's Shop

October 23 meeting at MCC
ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE!

FEATURED KNIFEMAKERS NEEDED!

Don't be shy!! Fill out the enclosed form and mail it in!!