
Billets & Blades

Official Newsletter of the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild
Mark Gottesman Editor

Welcome to the October 1995 issue of Billets and Blades. This is my final issue as Editor. Inside you will find info on the annual meeting and also my observations on the 1st Annual Southeastern Custom Knifemakers Show.

Time to Pay Dues:

It is time to pay your dues. They must be sent to Gary Gaddy by the end of October. Failure to do so will mean that voting members will lose their voting privileges and also have to rejury before rejoining. Also, your contact information will not appear in the Guild brochure that will be going to the printer shortly after that date. Send in your \$50.00 to Gary as soon as possible.

Annual Guild Members Meeting:

The annual Guild members meeting has been moved to Montgomery Community College located in Troy, NC. It will be held on Saturday October 28 and Sunday October 29. Plan to attend as there are important elections to be held. There will also be an in-depth discussion about this year's knife show and talk about next year's show. Your input is important.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Saturday October 28

8:30 - 9:00
Board of Directors Meeting

9:00 - 10:00
Guild Meeting
Discussion of the Knife show
Elections for:
 President
 Secretary/ Treasurer
 Director

10:00 - 12:00
Scott Goguen will lecture and demonstrate various handle wrapping techniques and also talk about Habaki. These are the shims found on Japanese swords in front of the guard. They help lock the blade in the scabbard.

12:00 - 1:00
Lunch on your own.

1:00 - 2:00
Ed Van Hoy will give a presentation on how to put together and use mosaic pins.

2:00 - 4:00
Tommy McNabb will talk about how to photograph knives and related topics.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29:

9:00 - ?
Walt Heim ,instructor at MCC will present "Machine Shop for Knifemakers".

? - ?
Bill Maynard will demonstrate how he puts

serrations into one of his knives.

Till you want to leave.

Hang out, Talk and have a good time.

There is only one place to stay down at Troy. It is a place called the "Uwharrie Mountain Lodge." Call information for the number.

Directions to MCC: Take 220 South from Greensboro. Go to 24/27 West towards Troy. Just before Troy there is a sign for MCC. Take that exit and follow the signs into the College. Take the loop road following the signs for the Student parking lot. There will be a sign to show where we are meeting.

New Members:

These members have joined since the Summer '95 issue. Welcome to the Guild and Thank you for becoming a part of this organization. We look forward to your contributions.

Sam Beale , Roanoke Rapids, NC
Ronnie Banks, Birmingham, AL
Alan C. Folts, Cary, NC
Norman A. Gervaius, Hardy, VA
Murray Sterling, Purllear, NC
Clarence Gregory, Burnsville, NC
Doug Hartsook, Kernersville, NC

[ED. If I have missed someone let me know for the next issue. If I have misspelled someone's name I apologise. It will be right for the Guild Member Brochure.]

Calendar

October 20-22 Winston-Salem , NC

32nd Piedmont Crafts Fair featuring many of the finest craftspeople in the South East. Call Mark Gottesman at (910) 725-1516 for info.

October 28 - 29 Troy, NC

NCCKG Annual Business Meeting at Montgomery Community College. Business meeting, Knife Show Discussion and Demos.

November 3- 5 New York, NY

18th Annual New York Custom Knife Show, Park Central, 56th and 7th Ave. Call (516) 781-5515 or (516) 868-4300 for info.

Dec. 10 Timonium, MD

Chesapeake Bay Knife Club Knife Show, Holiday Inn. Contact Marty Merchant (410) 343-5027.

Jan. 12-14 1996 Orlando, FL

1st Annual Florida Invitational Knife Show, Renaissance Orlando Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place. Contact the Art Knife Collector's Association, 2211 Lee, Suite 104, Winter Park FL 32789 or call Mitch Weiss (407) 740-8808

Feb. 17, 1996- Little Rock , AR

1st Annual Arkansas Custom Knife Show sponsored by the Arkansas Knifemakers Association. Capitol Ballroom, Hilton Hotel, University Ave & I-630. 50 tables. Contact Art Tycker, 3807 Hillside Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118 PH (501)753-7637.

1st Annual South Eastern Custom Knife Show Review.

[ED. The following are my own personal observations on our first show. They **DO NOT** reflect any other Guild members opinion.]

I had a great time at the first show. I did not have a table and went as a full time on-call volunteer. In exchange for booth sitting, running errands and other assorted tasks I got to meet a lot of people who have just been names. On top of that, I got to see and handle knives made by these people. It doesn't get much better than that.

Deb, my wife, and I got in Friday night at 11:45

PM. The walk from the parking lot into the hotel was one of the few complaints I had about the hotel. It was too isolated and no security was present at that hour of the night. The room was fine except for it being on the top floor where you could hear the mechanicals for the building laboring away. We were too tired to notice.

Next morning we went downstairs for complaint #2, which was the fact that the people running the food restaurant were not up to speed. This happened again on Sunday. It was a pain for those who wanted to stay in the hotel. Simply put it was understaffed and could not function properly. No food in the Buffet, non-existent service. I also noticed one of the waitresses from the breakfast shift working the award buffet later that night and in again on Sunday morn.

Talking to Travis Daniel, I found out that the early arrivals had worked to 1:00 AM (?). They had hoped to get in earlier and set up the room, but there was a conference booked in there. So it was a late night and an early morning for that crew. [ED. This is an area that needs discussion for next year.]

With breakfast finally completed we went down to the showroom to see it full of tables and dealers. The show had sold 106 (?) tables. About 85 to knifemakers and the rest to suppliers, knife purveyors, and specialized collections. It was wonderful.

I immediately started wandering around the show seeing who was there and what they had brought. What I saw was a great collection of nicely made knives spanning the range from very reasonable sheath and pocket knives to some superbly executed art knives. [Ed. for those of you who can't stand the suspense I did break down and buy a small forged blade pocket knife.] I also took a slow turn by the suppliers booths. Beautiful shell at Culpepper's and the desert ironwood at Popp's was worth a long hard look. Mickey Koval also had a huge area full of knife supplies and books.

First thing on the agenda was to swing by Tommy McNabb's table and round up Chris Latta and find out what they wanted me to start working on. The first project turned out to be helping set up the knife judging. So the show was off and running. The doors opened at 10:00 and CUSTOMERS started coming into the hall.

The knife judging went well and the three judges had about 60 running feet of knives to evaluate. The thirteen categories included everything from a miniature knife with a rayskin (?) sheath by Jack Hyer to a pole weapon by Scott Goguen.

The demos over the two days were well attended by the public. They got to see Errett Callahan chip flint, which was absolutely fascinating. The control in shaping a hunk of obsidian with a rock and some sharp pointed tool was a joy to behold. Wayne Whitley and Dan Winkler each gave forging demonstrations using a gas forge. Watching them take a blank steel bar and work it into a rough knife shape and narrate at the same time was an enjoyable episode. Tommy McNabb and Travis Daniel gave their usual superb grinding demo by stepping up and hogging out a blade in short order and then fielding questions by a very interested audience.

Let me say a few words about the people that showed up for the show. They were knowledgeable and they came to do some serious shopping and some did some serious buying. I heard one knifemaker happily say that he did not have to spend the whole day explaining damascus steel and another remarked that he was surprised that the public knew of Blackie Collins. It was a good crowd, and next year there should be more of them. I don't have attendance figures as I write this. The crowd was pretty solid to about 4:30 on Saturday. Sunday the crowds never got really heavy, but they were still in a serious buying mood. In fact it was good enough to persuade about 40 people to sign up for next year's show before leaving on Sunday.

The awards banquet was a sellout. We had about 200+ people there. The buffet was great. I figured

we would have a rubber chicken dinner, but was pleasantly surprised when we had fried chicken, BBQ, pepper steak and all the sides. The apple pie and banana pudding for dessert were delicious. Certainly no one went away hungry. My hats off to the planner and the chef. After dinner we had the awards ceremony. That was fine except for one glitch that we had not expected and missed in the confusion of opening the show and other hurrah. It seems that one of the knife resellers had entered knives and they took several awards. This won't happen next year. We will probably hold the jurying before we open the show. Hopefully this will avoid some of the problems that developed. Guild Members, George Herron, Mike Wise and Mike Weaver won Awards of excellence in several fields.

The auction was a briskly bidded event with knives from Tim Scholl, Wayne Whitley, Harlan Simmons and Mike Wise, as well as a carved bison head .

Sunday was pretty much the same except that the crowds were markedly smaller. We continued to hold a variety of raffle and door prize callings. Mike Weaver donated a scrimshawed piano key for one of the prizes and there were also shirts and posters from Tommy and Trena McNabb.

I took the opportunity on Sunday to walk around and take a real close look at the tables and talk with as many makers as possible. The majority were very happy about how the show had gone and some had had good sales. They felt we had done our homework and that all in all it had been a good first show. I know I hope to be able to make it out next year.

So everyone needs to get involved now in the planning and execution of next year's show. If you have a suggestion let it be known. Come to the meetings and sign up to help. This year's show was a great shakedown cruise, but more volunteers from the Guild would have been greatly appreciated. Especially for setup and teardown.

Guild Officers

President: Tommy McNabb
4015 Brownsboro Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
(910) 924-6053 Home
(910) 759-0640 Work

Vice-President: Tim Scholl
Route 3; Box 158-1A
Angier, NC 27501
(910) 897-2051 Home
(919) 552-4504 Work

Secretary and Treasurer: Gary Gaddy
205 Ridgewood Lane
Washington, NC 27889
(919) 946-4359

Director: Alan Patterson
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Hayesville, NC 28904
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Director: Wayne Whitley
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Newsletter Editor: Mark Gottesman
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Winston-Salem, NC 27103
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73030,3437 Compuserve

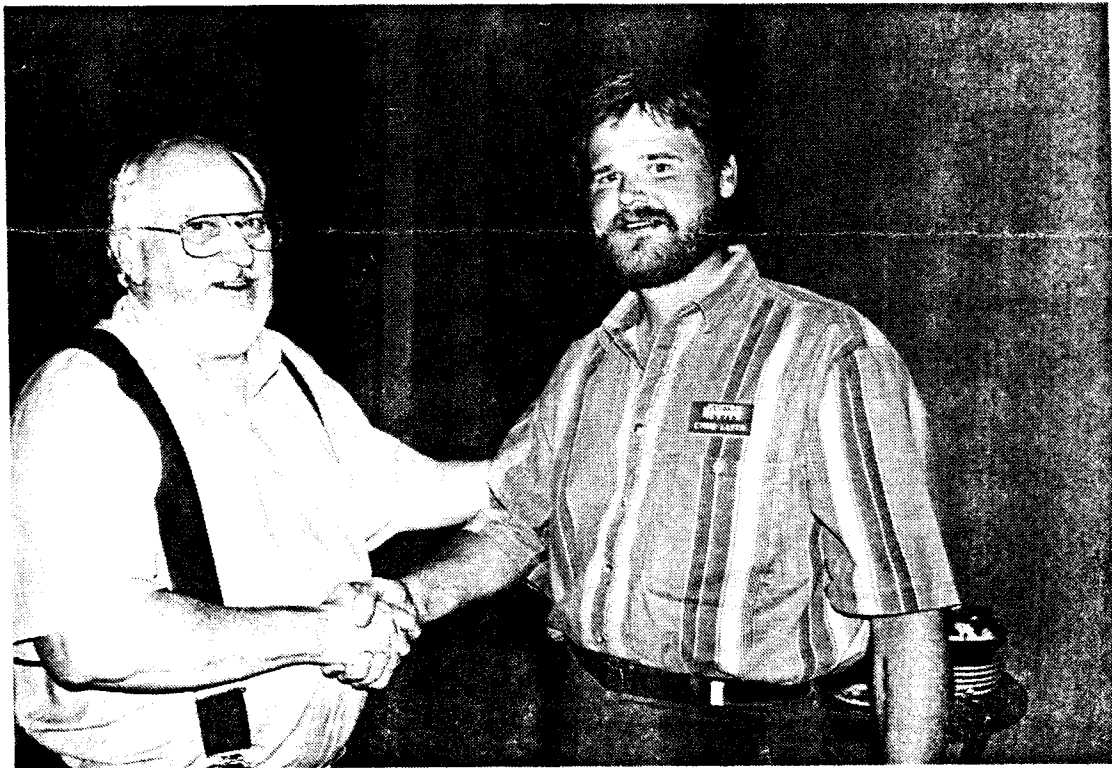
This Newsletter is mailed to members of the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild four to six times a year. Dues are \$50.00 per year and are due by October 1st every year. Make check payable to NCCCKG.

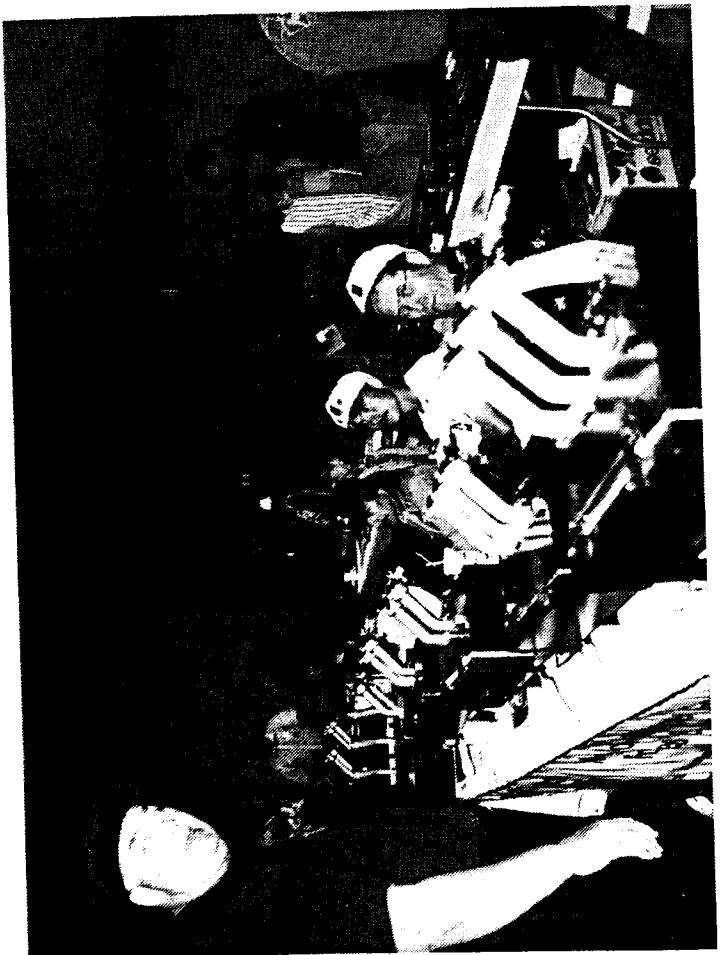
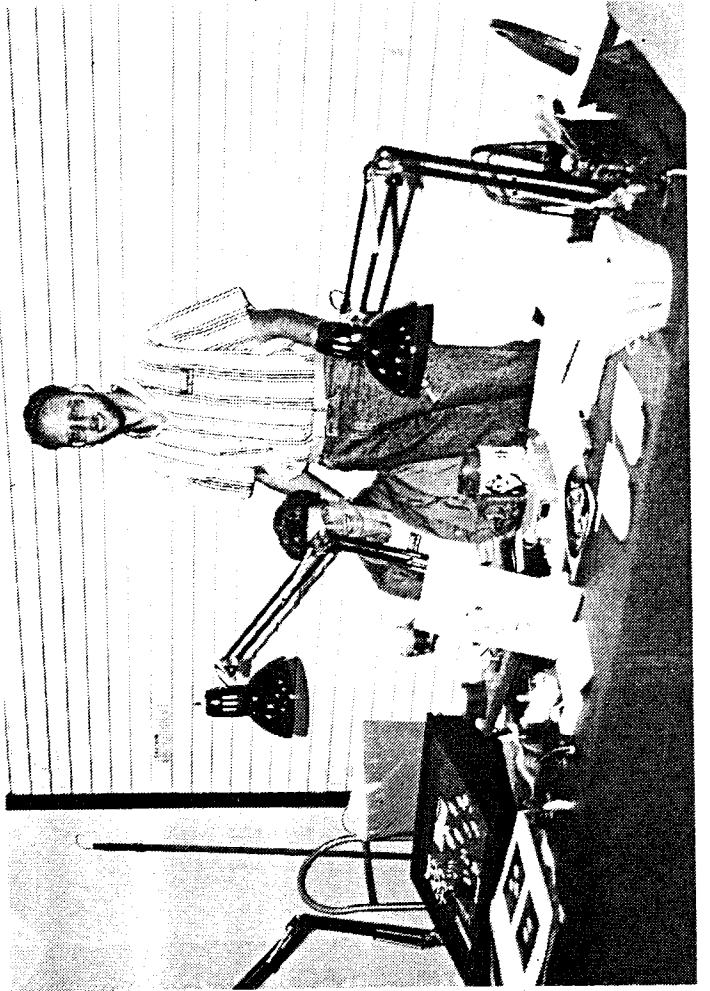
The purpose and policy of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of information exchange for members of the NCCCKG; related organizations may copy the

information used herein 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 Southeastern region. In addition, The Guild seeks to provide a training forum and educational resource for new and veteran makers alike.

Knifemaking and its related crafts are inherently dangerous occupations. Therefore the North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild, its officers and the Editorial committee specifically 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.





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

PO Box 327 • Bethania, NC 27010 • 910-924-6053

October 2, 1995

Dear Guild Member:

Subject: Guild Membership

Thanks to you, this was a good year for our guild , lets make next year GREAT.

Our by-laws say that dues are due October 15, and must be paid before November 1. Please be aware that your name will be removed from our membership list unless you act now. If you get your dues to our secretary by November 1st your name will remain on our 1996 membership list. We need your support and enthusiasm.

Please take a few minutes to fill out this form and send a check for \$50.00 to NCKKG.

Tommy McNabb, President

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION
FORM**

Please send to: NC Custom Knifemakers Guild
\$50 Attention: Gary Gaddy • P.O. Box 2574
Washington, NC 27889

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ HOME _____ WORK _____

In which category would you be interested in applying: Knifemaker _____

(How long have you been making knives?) _____

Collector _____ Just Interested _____

Barry & Phillip Jones
Jones Knives
221 North Ave.
Danville, VA 24540

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Next Meeting
October 28th & 29th
Troy, NC

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

CUSTOM
NORTH CAROLINA
KNIFEMAKERS
GUILD



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

CUSTOM
NORTH CAROLINA
KNIFEMAKERS
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