

Billets & Blades

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA CUSTOM KNIFEMAKERS GUILD

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The next **North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild** meeting date: Unknown 2022 at MCC



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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 annual issues, 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. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of exchange for the members of the NCCKG.

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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 Editor 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 one of the board of directors listed on the following page.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are a new member, please make sure that we have your correct email and physical mailing addresses. You may send this information to us via email.

If you are currently receiving *Billets and Blades* but are no longer interested in receiving it please let us know.

If you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a member, please let a board member know and we'll be happy to mail a copy of the current newsletter to that person.

Existing members, please check the website to verify that we have your correct information. Especially your correct email address so you may be contacted should the need arise. We are always in need of pictures, articles and ideas on how to make the website and newsletter better. Please contact a board member with any suggestions.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Letter from the President. January 2022

Well another year has ended and a new one has begun. Looking ahead into the new year . We have a lot of good things in the works.

Depending on the Covid protocols. Meetings at the collage are meeting to meeting.

We do need to elect a new Vice President once we can begin having regular meetings so be thinking of who you want to nominate. Barry Clodfelter has done a great job over the last 6 years. I would like to thank him for all he has done. He will be staying on as editor of the News Letter.

With that being said he needs your help. He needs articles for the News Letter. Also as always we need people to do Demos at the meetings.

I sincerely hope 2022 is a better year. I miss yall's faces. Well as they say , "Thats all I got"
Be kind to one another.

Andy Sharpe
President NCKMG.

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Editor & Webmaster

Barry Clodfelter

Random thoughts from your VP and editor:

As we kick off 2022 the college is still enforcing a mask mandate inside of buildings so we will not be having our meeting there in January. We are in going to have another meeting as soon as we can arrange a place that will handle a hopefully large crowd and has power where a demo or two can be done.

For those of you who were not aware the Guild had a booth at the Autumn Jubilee held at Dan Nicholas Park October 2&3, 2021. Man what a time we had! Our booth was in the Heritage Village where we were able to do forging demos and promote the Guild! I would like to thank David Askew for getting us established at this event and all of the work done on the demos over the weekend. We have plans to expand from just doing forging demos next year and this will require a little more help. Stay tuned for plans on what we want to do this coming October and how you can help.

We are once again doing the Golden Ticket drawing sometime this year.

So far we have the following folks with a ticket:

Andy Sharpe - July demo
Barry Clodfelter - July demo
Andy Sharpe - October demo
Barry Clodfelter - October demo
Phillip Jones - October demo
David Askew - October forging at Autumn Jubilee
Barry Clodfelter - October forging at Autumn Jubilee

It's not too late for you to step up and give back by writing an article or doing a demo. Please let me know what demo you want to do and I will be happy to schedule that at our next meeting. If you want to write a knife making article please include pictures and preferably Microsoft Word format. I will edit all articles for content and formatting for the newsletter. I will also spell check it if needed.

The more you do for the Guild the more tickets you can have in the drawing! Don't be shy everyone has something they can provide and earn a ticket!



Since we have not been able to have meetings we are still operating with the leadership in place when the lockdowns began. Andy, Darrin, David, Murphy and myself, with your blessing, will continue in our current roles until such time as we can resume meetings and have new elections. So if you think you would like to be part of the Guild leadership team consider throwing your hat in at the next election.

With Blade show 2022 coming up in June if you are a current paid up member and wish to work the Guild's booth please get in contact with Murphy and schedule a time. If you would like to display your knives while working the booth you must be a juried member. What we would like to avoid is the members attending the show gathering at the booth for extended periods of time. The Guild booth is an opportunity to display your knives and promote the Guild to any and all that pass by not a place to gather. We hope to only have 2 or 3 at the booth at any one time. This has been an issue at past Blade shows so no offense is meant and thank you for your understanding on this.

If are still reading these ramblings thank you and I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting and also at Blade!

Barry Clodfelter

More on Hand Sanding

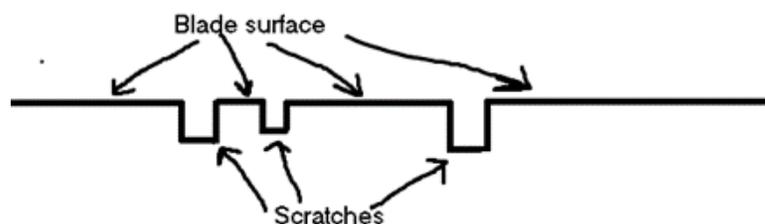
By: Barry Clodfelter

If you were at the July Guild meeting I rough ground one of my small EDC Damascus blades and got it ready for hand sanding. At the October guild meeting I did a demo of actually hand sanding one side of a similar blade. I have written a couple articles in the past on hand sanding and as I improve my skill sets and evolve my techniques I will keep writing these types of articles in the hopes that everyone reading can become a better maker. First these are the only tools I used to sand this blade.



Both are made from micarta and the black or grey pad is poundo board from Tandy that is glued on. The main tool is approx. 9" long and $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. The other one is for getting in the plunge area (more on the later).

First of all hand sanding starts on the grinder. If you don't have a uniform grind without deep scratches you didn't finish grinding your blade and you will spend way too much time at the bench using paper to get the scratches out. When you are hand sanding a blade you are not actually sanding out scratches, you are sanding everything that is not a scratch down to the lowest level of the deepest scratch. The picture below shows a small cross section of a blade with a few deep scratches. It will take a lot sanding to get the blade surface down to the level of the deepest scratch.



The best thing to do if you see deep scratches is to go back to the grinder and get a more uniform scratch pattern from your belt. I usually stop grinding at 220 before starting the hand sanding. It will only take a few stokes with 220 paper to see if you finished grinding your blade. If you see deep scratches go back to the grinder with 220 or a 400 grit belt to get a uniform scratch pattern with NO deep scratches. Below is what you want to have when you start hand sanding.

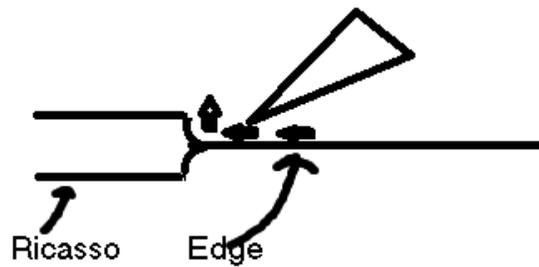
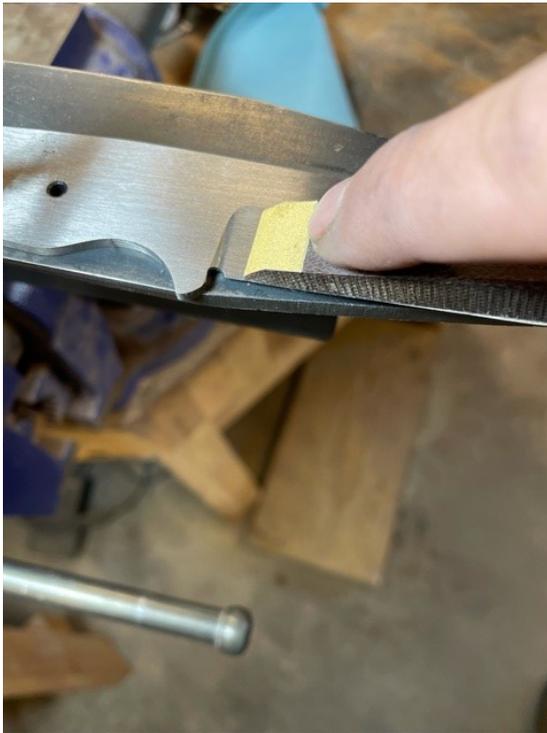


Of the last two pictures which one do you think will take less time to get the scratches out? The last one of course! If you were at the last meeting and saw my demo it took me maybe 20 minutes to take a 3" EDC blade from a 220 belt finish to a very good 800 grit hand sanded finish. And this included me talking about the process, what I was doing and how I was doing it. There is nothing magic about the hand sanding process and you can do the same with a little practice.

The following picture shows that I didn't finish grinding this blade and it would take quite a while to sand down these scratches. So I went back to the grinder and finished grinding the blade and the second picture shows that.



The second picture above shows 220 grit paper wrapped around the sanding stick. The first motion will be lengthwise along the blade perpendicular to belt scratches. I will continue with 220 until I cannot see any of the belt scratches. The better your light source is the easier it will be to see the scratches. I use an opti-visor and sometimes a magnifying glass to look the blade over. The next pic shows how I start sanding the plunge area and the motion is into up and out of the plunge taking care not to round over the ricasso side.



Plunge area nicely cleaned up and the blade at a pretty good 220 finish.



Once there are no belt scratches in the plunge area I switch back to the first stick and sand diagonally with 400 grit until I cannot see any of the 220 lengthwise scratches. Then I sand with 600 grit diagonally in the other direction until there are none of the 400 scratches showing.

The picture below shows 600 grit diagonal scratches all the way into and up the plunge area by using the corner of the sanding stick.



The final grit I hand sand to will be 800 and that will be lengthwise in the same direction as the initial 220 grit. When the only scratches showing on the blade are 800 grit switch to a new section of paper and make long smooth strokes to try and avoid the j-hooks from stopping and changing directions.

Final result is a good clean 800 grit hand sanded finish ready to be etched if Damascus or handled if mono.



This shows the sum total amount of paper used to take this blade from a 220 belt finish to a very good 800 grit hand sand satin finish.



There nothing magic about hand sanding but it does take work and practice to get efficient enough to reduce your hand sanding time to only a few minutes per blade instead of hours. Even stopping and taking pictures I spend maybe a total of 15 minutes to finish this side of the blade.

A few random thoughts....I use WD-40 on all grits as a lube. The only paper I use for hand sanding is Rhynowet Redline and a 220 grit, self-adhesive paper on the plunge grind stick. The paper lasts a little longer when using a lubricant and WD-40 doesn't rust the blade should you not get it all wiped off. When using the higher grits on the pundo board the action in the plunge area is a rocking motion using the corner of the stick without breaking over the edge of the ricasso. Make sure you are still sanding as close to the diagonal direction you are sanding as possible in the plunge area so you can see any prior grit scratches left in there.

2022 Montgomery Community College Knifemaking Schedule

Basic Knife Grinding Techniques

The core of all knife making is the 2"x72" belt grinder. This class covers the importance of proper set up of the machine as well as proper technique. Students will grind knife blades to learn different grinding techniques. By the end of class students will have a complete working knowledge of the machine and its capabilities. Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Basic Knife Grinding Techniques | 2/24-2/27 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$356.60

Holiday Knife Making (Easter)

Just in time for a great holiday gift! MCC is proud to present its annual tradition of the holiday (Easter this year instead of Christmas) knife class with the legendary Ed VanHoy. In this class, you will learn how to fashion a knife from scratch complete with a custom leather sheath. Students will design, shape, heat treat, cut custom grips, hollow grind, polish, and sheath their own knives. All Materials are provided. Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Holiday Knife Making | 4/28-5/1 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$375

Basic Knife Making 101

This class teaches the proper techniques of free hand grinding, it will cover hollow grinding, flat grinding, and basic knife scale installation. It is open to all levels of experience. All materials will be provided, all students will finish a fixed blade knife of the courses design. Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Basic Knife Making 101 | 5/5-5/8 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$346.60

Intermediate Knife Making 102

This class covers all phases of fixed blade knife construction, students will finish one knife of their design, and designs will be approved with level of experience. All materials for class project are provided. Class will be open to all levels of experience but it is preferred that students have some knowledge of knife making or having taken the Basic Knife 101 course. Students will finish a completed knife. Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Intermediate Knife Making 102 | 6/23-6/26 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$346.60

Advanced Knife Making 103

This class covers more advanced methods of custom fixed blade knife making to include advanced grinding techniques and handle installation including hidden tang. All materials for class project will be provided. Class is open to all levels of experience. Some knowledge of knife making or completion of Basic Knife Making 101 and Intermediate Knife Making 102 is recommended. Students will finish a completed knife. Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Advanced Knife Making 103 | 8/25-8/28 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$356.60

Basic Folding Knife Making

This class covers basic design and construction of a frame lock folding knife with exposed pivots. All materials for class will be provided. Class is open to all levels of experience. Some knowledge of knife making or completion of other classes in knife making is recommended but not required. Students will finish a completed folding knife. * Limited seating available* *Basic knife grinding skills are highly suggested for this class.* Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Basic Folding Knife Making | 9/15-9/18 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$356.60

Advanced Folding Knife Making

This class covers design and construction of knives, including advanced topics like the use of hidden pivot, bolsters and liners. Class will be open to all levels of experience. All materials will be provided for the class. Some knowledge of knife making is recommended but not required. Students will finish a completed folding knife. * Limited seating available* *Basic knife grinding skills are required for this class.* Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Advanced Folding Knife Making | 10/20-10/23 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$366.60

Tomahawk Forging

Forging a tomahawk is a great starter project for blacksmithing. Forging the head will introduce students to the basic practice of drawing & shaping steel as well as forge-welding and heat treating to harden the edge. Students will forge a traditional style "wrap-around" tomahawk head and will shape/ fit the handle form provided hardwood blanks. Then students will personalize and complete this "hawk" with traditional details and embellishments of their choosing. Open to all levels of experience. Instructor: John Hege

Tomahawk Forging | 10/28-10/30 | FSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$316.60

D-Guard Bowie Knife

A "D-Guard" Bowie was the traditional short sword carried by many confederate troops during the American Civil War. So called because the closed hand guard is shaped like a D, it is a large fighting Bowie featuring a blade about 16 or more inches long. While there are many manufactured versions, there are also many other versions made by local blacksmiths. Making a D-Guard Bowie is a good project for someone new to bladesmithing. During the class, students will hammer out, harden and finish a blade and fashion and fit a steel guard and wooden handle. Instructor: John Hege

D-Guard Bowie Knife | 12/9-12/11 | FSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$316.60

Intro to Damascus Knife Making

Who doesn't love Damascus? The beauty of the two interwoven metals is mesmerizing! In this intermediate level class we will learn all about it. Students will forge out their own billet blanks and learn about forming patterning. Once the billet is formed the students will then learn to grind knives from the blanks. *Basic knife grinding skills are required for this class.* Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Intro to Damascus Knife Making | 11/17-11/20 | THFSASU | 9AM-6PM | \$356.60

What a great line up of classes for 2022! This list will be updated as more are announced.

Contact Montgomery CC for additional class information or to register for a class.

UPCOMING 2022 GUILD MEETINGS

Stay tuned for meetings when restrictions are lifted.

Dues for 2022 are waived due to Covid.

Events Include:

Board Meeting begins at 8:30am, to be followed by our General Business Meeting, Demos & Iron in the Hat

Demos:

Will be determined and published on the website prior to the meeting.

Blade Show – June 3-5, 2022

Contact Murphy Ragsdale for table information and volunteer to help!

If you are not a juried member and wish to become one bring at least three knives for the leadership team to review.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.NCKNIFEGUILD.COM

The **North Carolina Custom Knifemakers Guild** was founded in June of 1992. Our goals are to:

- Promote the craft of custom knife making
- Seek to constantly improve the craftsmanship of its members
- Provide an educational resource to anyone interested in the craft
- To encourage new makers and provide a forum for their training

Through public knife making and forging demonstrations by a group or individual members, we try to display the craft and to educate the public. It is our intent to raise the general awareness of custom made knives and the people who create them. That is why there is no cost to attend one of our meetings, and we welcome anyone with an interest in knife making.

Our quarterly meetings are organized around speakers and various demonstrations of activities important to our craft. These speakers and demonstrations are from our members or experts in the field who come as our guests. As a training resource, our Guild is prepared to present any aspect of our craft to organizations that feel it would be beneficial and informative.



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