

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: January 21, 2017
- Second annual **King of the Guild Build off.**



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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.

STEP UP. BE SEEN.

Featured Knifemakers are needed.

Don't be a wallflower!

Please let us get to know you and your work.

Contact Barry @ ncknifeguild@gmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

First of all I was honored to be chosen President I hope to continue the work of our past president Chris Williams. He's a hard act to follow. By expanding the guild and making the meetings fun as well as educational for all members. I would like to see members urge the young people in their lives to attend meetings. This is the only way our craft will survive . We must pass on the wealth of information that is contained in this Guild to the next generation. On a business note: Guild membership dues were due in Oct.

Please fill out a new membership application, with paid membership, and mail it to our new Treasurer Darrin Sirois. We need the new applications to update membership information. The treasurer's address is as follows:

Darrin Sirois
6182 Lake Trail Drive
Fay, NC 28304

On the exciting side. Great things are happening with our partnership with Montgomery Collage.

Our meeting place will be moved to a separate building. New Forges will be added along with another press and power hammer. The collage is expanding its knife making programs. I received permission from the collage to resume our cutting competitions. The first competition will be held at the April meeting.

Knife specifications are as follows

Blade Length maximum --- 10"

OAL, maximum -----15"

Not only could you win a Trophy of some type, the bragging rights will be priceless. I plan in the coming year to visit 1 or two members a month in their shops. To see what you're working on and what you're working with. Share a few photo ops for the newsletter. We need everyone's help with the News Letter. We need articles. This is your newsletter. You can write an article about anything knife related. The Guild is paying \$25.00 per article. Good way to pick up a few extra dollars.

Working together we can do anything.

Andy

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Do you have what it takes to be King Of the Guild?

Come find out for yourself if you have what it takes. You will be given a kit like the one below, 4 hours to work and access to anvils, forges, grinders, heat treat oven, and any other equipment in the room to complete a knife. Everyone at the meeting will have the chance to vote for their favorite knife and we will crown a new King for 2017. Liam Hoffman is currently our reigning King and first ever winner of this prestigious title! Your name will added to a plaque so all who come later will know you were the King for a year. Last year was a tough competition, the knives were excellent and the voting close. At the very least come out and watch the good natured fun while ribbing your favorite competitor!

Please note that if you are competing and would like to use your own steel or handle material you will need to bring four sets so that all are or has the chance to use the same materials and no one has an advantage.

The kits will include a piece of 1084, micarta scales, brass rod, epoxy, a set of belts and one drill bit.



Last years competitors:



Last years knives:





Choosing a fire extinguisher for your shop

By: Tim Scholl

No one thinks about a fire will ever happen to me. But a knife shop is a prime location for just that. Dust, oily rags, cleaning chemicals, quenching oil, high pressure hydraulics, etc. not to mention a raging but controlled fire if you have a gas forge. I personally have almost set mine ablaze a couple of times in my dust collector at the bend in the pipe where stuff likes to collect. As everyone knows, KNIFE MAKING IS DANGEROUS!





One extremely important piece of equipment is often overlooked and sometimes forgotten all together is the fire extinguisher. The following article will teach you what type of extinguisher to purchase for your shop and home and its maintenance.

I spent 15 years in the fire suppression industry as an inspector and salesman of fire extinguishers and demonstrated the selection and their use through controlled burns to a variety of different businesses. A fire consists of three things called the fire triangle. Oxygen, fuel, and a source of ignition, must be present for a fire to exist. Take one of these away and the fire will go out.

There are typically three classes of fire. Class A, which consist of paper, wood, rubber anything that

leaves an ash. Class B oil, gas etc. and Class C which is an electrically charged fire, which will contain either class A or class B material. All fire extinguishers are not the rated the same. You have to look at the label which all modern extinguishers have pictographs to see what rating it has. Class A will have a flaming trash can, Class B will have a flaming fuel can and Class C will have a flaming electrical outlet. The most common extinguisher are dry chemical and are rated ABC, which means it will work on class A, B, and C fires. A class BC rated extinguisher which can be dry chemical or Co2, WILL NOT WORK ON A CLASS A FIRE! The Co2 extinguisher is usually for fuel fires do not make the mess that a dry chemical one does. Also one that is rated just class A is water extinguisher and obviously should not be used on a fuel or electrically charged fire.

Fire Extinguisher Chart

Extinguisher		Type of Fire				
Colour	Type	Solids (wood, paper, cloth, etc)	Flammable Liquids	Flammable Gasses	Electrical Equipment	Cooking Oils & Fats
	Water	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
	Foam	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✓ Yes
	Dry Powder	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No
	Carbon Dioxide (CO2)	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes

Titanium, aluminum, and magnesium are in a class all by themselves. These are considered Class D combustible metals. Nothing but specialty class of extinguisher, a class D extinguisher will put this type of fire out. These metals create their own oxygen when they burn and will even burn under water. There are several other types of specialty class extinguishers. Clean agents, for computer rooms, K class for restaurants, and de-ionized water that can actually be used on an electrical fire.

Size matters. These little 2-1/2 pound ones are pretty much useless. You only have about 8 seconds of firefighting time. I recommend at least a 5 pound or 10 pound is even better. Get one that has a steel valve with a gauge. Do not get the plastic headed ones. They are prone to leak down and the siphon tube has been known to break off in the canister. Buy several. It's cheap insurance. I have about 6 or 7 around my shop. I live in the country about 4 miles either way from small town volunteer fire departments. By the time they rally together it will probably take them 20 minutes to get to my place.

Maintenance is essential. At least monthly check the gauge to make sure it's in the green zone. Twice a year turn it upside down and whack the bottom with a rubber mallet. This is to keep the powder from settling. If you use it, even if you just give a short blast, GET IT RE-CHARGED. The powder will get into the valve stem and even though the gauge reads full it will leak down.

I hope this has shed some light on the importance of this overlooked piece of equipment.



Letter from the Editor

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I would like to thank each of you who have renewed their membership in the Guild for 2017 and would also like to encourage those of you who have not renewed to please consider renewing for 2017. As you all know there has been a changing of the guard in the leadership of the Guild. One of the proposals was to do a better job at tracking of who is a member and which members have been juried in as voting members. Along those lines, I regret to inform you that all future newsletters will only be mailed to those of us on the current membership roster. The cost of sending these out will only allow us to send them to members. I will update the website with a PDF version that will always be free for anyone to look at and or print their own copy.

Also, I am in the process of updating the website to list members for 2017 and hope to have that finished by the time you read this. If I happened to miss adding your name please let me know. For security reasons the street addresses and phone numbers are being removed from the website. I didn't want our website to possibly become a shopping list for those who are less than gainfully employed. If you would prefer for those to be added back for any reason I will be glad to do that if you will let me know.

In the event of adverse weather conditions please check the website for any changes to the meeting date or time.

<http://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.

