

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 27, 2018** at **Montgomery CC**
- **King Of the Guild Build Off**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Editor	2
Letter from the President	3
Guild Officers & Directors	3
King of the Guild Build Off	4
Hollow Handle Survival Knife By Andy Sharpe	5
2018 MCC Class schedule	9

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 NCKKG.

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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 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.

For those of you that were at the April meeting in 2017. Tommy McNabb brought in a box of books for the NCKKG library. Those books were not intended to be taken and kept so if you took books from that box please consider returning them so that they may be enjoyed by another member. I will have the library box at the next meeting so these resources can be shared and knowledge gained.

Stay sharp my friends!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Letter from the President. Jan 2018

Well a new year is upon us and I hope your holidays were great.

The January meeting will consist of the annual King of the Guild competition.

The rules are simple. Contestants must be paid members of the guild. Contestants will have four hours to complete a finished knife from the materials supplied. If you plan on forging a blade, please bring your own hammer and tongs. Blades may be forged or stock removal. At the end of the four hour time period, contestants must present a completed knife. This is defined as a sharpened, heat treated blade with handle.

If you have never been present at the King of the Guild competition it is a great time, it's fun to watch friends work under pressure.

Barry Clodfelter is doing a great job getting out the Newsletter. He needs your help! It's hard to produce a magazine with no articles. He needs members to submit articles and photos. Articles can be anything knife related. Take photos and tell us about your latest creation. Or how your knives are built. We have a lot of new makers and young members that have questions that you think are common knowledge. The knowledge you seasoned makers have is all new to the starting maker. Share that knowledge. On top of that you get \$25.00 per article. That's more profit than I make off most knives I sell.

Also dues were payable in Oct. Please get those dues paid to Darrin as soon as possible. The dues and monies raised are how we are able to keep the guild going. These funds are what enables us to create activities and keep the guild interesting.

On that note we have a Table at the 2018 Blade Show. We need volunteers to man the table during the show. As a volunteer you will be able to sell your knives at the table. If you are interested contact Murphy Ragsdale.

Andy Sharpe
President NCKMG

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Barry Clodfelter

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 2018. Barry Jones is currently our reigning King and owner 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.



The Hollow Handle Survival Knife

By Andy Sharpe

The hollow handle survival knife. I have heard it argued that they are no good because of the weakness of the blade to handle junction. With this assembly method, that junction may well be the strongest part of the knife with only a 1.25" tang. This assembly makes the blade and handle close to being one solid piece of steel. I started the build by doing a layout of the blade.



It is very important that all angles at the blade tang junction be square 90deg. angles. At the tang blade junction the tang is undercut slightly to allow thread tapping all the way down to the blade.



I did my build with a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide tang, for further builds I will use a $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide tang. Next I took a $\frac{3}{4}$ -16 threaded rod and cut a piece slightly longer than the tang, 1.5". That piece is slotted on center. The slot being a tight fit to the tang. Mine was .250" and required a light hammer tap to fit.



Next the threaded rod is squared to the shoulders and 2 guide pin holes are drilled thru the threaded rod and the tang. I used a $\frac{3}{32}$ drill and secured the threaded rod with $\frac{3}{32}$ Stainless pins. Note that the pins must not extend out into the threads of the rod.

Now come some grinder skills. The tang must be contoured to the radius of the threaded rod. This contour is done so that the tang can be threaded using the threaded rod as a guide for the threading die.



Next the handle is threaded. It is very important that the tap be square in the handle tubing. Also that the ends of the tubing are square. Failure to square the ends of the tubing and squaring the tap will result in an improper fit to the guard.



For the handle tubing I used 11/16 ID 4140 with a 1" OD. Once the handle is tapped, and the guard is slotted you can do a test fit.

I then removed the handle and guard, shaped the guard to my desired pattern. Note the guard must be at least as wide as the handle diameter.

I then made a butt cap that is threaded to screw into the end of the hollow handle. I made mine out of aluminum. Mainly because I was going to add a compass and to reduce weight. A steel butt cap could affect the compass reading should it become magnetic. I also cut a rounded groove at the bottom of the threads to help retain a rubber O ring. The O ring is a seal to make the handle water tight.

I then turned the handle down 1/16 leaving a 1/16 wide lip at the pommel end. This was done to provide a locking ridge for the cord wrap for the handle.



I then did my blade grinds, and heat treat. Then assembled the knife.

When assembling I used Acra-Glas as an adhesive, coating all the threads at the tang and filling all voids. You can use Epoxy of your choice or JB Weld. Then placing the protected blade in a vice (I used leather) Tighten the handle with a pipe wrench. After the adhesive dried I cord wrapped the handle with #18 Nylon cord, 2 layers then coated the cord with a clear (satin) varathane.



I chose to do a sandblast finish on my knife. So I taped off $\frac{1}{4}$ inch around the blade and did a tactical blast finish. You can finish as you choose.

2018 Montgomery Community College Knifemaking Schedule

Intro to Knife Forging with Bill Bisher

1/9-2/27 T 5:30-9:30P

Cost \$175

This Tuesday night recurring class will introduce students to all aspects of forging basic knives and blades. Includes some basic blacksmithing principals as well as metal choice and tool making. Bill is a local knife maker with over 20 years of experience. Open to all levels, and great for beginners.

Basic Forging with Bill Wiggins

1/18-1/21 8A-6P

Cost \$375.00

This is a hands-on course in which students learn proper forging, heat treating, and finishing of a knife blade. Topics covered will be steel selection, forges and forging tools, heat treating, and finishing of the forged blade.

Basic Bladesmithing with Phillip and Barry Jones

1/22-2/26 5:30-9:30P

Cost: \$120

This Monday night recurring class will give students the chance to sharpen their skills in knifemaking, working side by side with Phillip and Barry to create your vision in this open shop forum. The Jones Brothers will walk students through every step of the process, from grinding to forging and heat treating. Explore handles and decorative processes, too. Open to all levels.

Mokume Gane with Phillip and Barry Jones

2/2-2/4

Cost: \$375

Students will learn the ancient technique of mokume gane, the fusing together of layers of copper, silver and nickel to create a billet of decorative mokume for use in jewelry, knife guards and bolsters. Learn proper cleaning, fusing and forge welding techniques as well as patterning and design.

Tomahawk Forging with John Hege

2/16-2/18

Cost: \$375

Forging a tomahawk is a great starter project for blacksmithing. Forging the tomahawk head will introduce students to the basic practice of drawing and 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 and fit the handle from provided hardwood blanks. Personalize and complete the "Hawk" with traditional details and embellishments of their choosing.

Monday night class with Ed and Tanya Vanhoy

3/5-5/28 5:30-9:30P

Cost: \$200

Beginner Knifemaking, all phases of construction, grinding, finishes, open to all skill levels.

Wednesday nights with Ed Vanhoy

3/7-5/30 5:30-9:30P

Cost: \$200

Beginner blacksmithing, forging techniques, beginner knife forging and tool making.

Advanced Blade Forging- Integral Fighter Knife with Theo Nazz**3/8-3/11****Cost: \$375**

Join Forged in Fire Champion Theo Nazz in this integral Bowie fighter knife making class. Design and plan your blade and guard, then, with hammer and fire, bring your idea to life. Leave the class with a forged, rough ground and heat treated knife with hamon. An excellent chance to work one on one with Theo! Some forging experience required.

Class was rescheduled from Fall 2017.

Grinding 101 with Ed and Tanya Vanhoy**3/23-3/25****Cost: \$375**

This class is designed to teach the proper techniques of free hand grinding, covering hollow, flat, Scandinavian, and tactical grinds. It open to all levels of experience. All students will finish a fixed blade of the courses design. Materials will be provided.

Blacksmithing Historic Gate Hinges with Greg Bray**4/13-4/15****Cost: \$375**

This exciting NEW class will focus on 18th century design and take the student through different aspects of hinge development. Students will make a pair of German style strap hinges, a pair of Moravian Staghorn hinges and if time allows a small set of cabinet hinges. We will also discuss different tooling, tongs and file work. This is an excellent class for intermediate blacksmiths, forging history with practical blacksmithing skills. Some tools and experience necessary.

Fixed blade knife and sheath class 102**4/19-4/22****Cost: \$375**

Class will cover all phases of fixed blade knife construction, students will finish one knife and sheath of their design approved by instructor with level of experience. Grinding 101 recommended prerequisite, but open to all experience levels.

Blacksmithing and Forging 101**5/10-5/13**

Explore all points of forging with Ed Vanhoy. Class will include instruction in anvil orientation, types and uses of forges, forging tools and techniques. Students will learn forging processes and will finish basic projects. All materials will be provided.

What a great line up of classes so far for 2018! This list will be updated as more are announced.

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

UPCOMING 2018 GUILD MEETINGS

Saturday January 27th, 2018

Location: Montgomery Community College

Saturday April 28st, 2018

Location: Montgomery Community College

Elections to be held for VP and a director.

Saturday July 21st, 2018

Location: Montgomery Community College

Saturday October 20th, 2018

Location: Montgomery Community College

Dues are due in October!

Events Include:

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

Demos:

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

Blade Show — June 1-3, 2018

Contact Murphy Ragsdale for table information and volunteer to help!

*Please note that if you are not current on your dues for 2018 this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Thank you for your understanding and please consider renewing your membership!

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.

