

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 2020 at MCC
- New Tee shirts are in so next time we meet come and get a couple

I'M EXHIBITING

AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST KNIFE SHOW

BLADE
SHOW

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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. Spring-Summer 2021

To All

I hope this finds everyone healthy and doing well.

The guild will have a booth at this years Blade Show. Any members who would like to work the booth and display some of their craft (as long as you are a juried member). Should contact Murphy Ragsdale. He'll be organizing the time slots. Hopefully it will not be cancelled again this year.

At this time VP Barry Clodfelter is trying to get a meeting/ cook-out organized for May 22. Just some time to get together and renew friendships with other members also to show off any work you have done in the past year.

The Knifemakers of the Carolinas exhibit at the McKissick Museum is back on for this year. They need to know by May if you are interested. If you would like to put an item on display, Jane from the museum, is going to try and meet us there and do the paperwork for the museum to take custody of the knives. So plan to bring your knives to this cookout.

Jane Przybysz (I have no idea how to pronounce that last name)

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Well that's all I got.

Hope everyone stays safe and healthy,

Remember to be kind to one another.

Andy Sharpe

President NCKMG.

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Editor & Webmaster

Barry Clodfelter

Random thoughts from your VP and editor:

Please join us at Lowe Warner Park just down the street from MCC on May 22 for a cookout! It has been over a year since we gathered and we thought it was time we did. This will be a catered event and you are welcome to bring your favorite dessert or side dish to share! I nominate the Jones brothers to bring a batch or three of their world famous chocolate chip cookies!! Unfortunately there are still restrictions in place at MCC that prevent us from having official meetings there for the time being. But as time goes on I am hopeful that those restrictions will be lessened to a point where we can resume our normal meetings. We will have an iron in the hat raffle so bring all those things you have collected over the past year with great expectations of using but now want to get rid of to donate. Also feel free to bring any knife making related equipment or items you wish to sell and a table to display them on.

As the one who organizes the meetings it has been a difficult year trying to balance the safety of our members against the total lack of respect for our governor locking us down for a year and counting. If you are not feeling well please do not to attend this event. Also if you are still in fear of the virus and of a hopefully medium to large crowd please use your discretion. You are responsible for your own safety.

We have not forgotten about the Golden Ticket prize drawing. To recap this... You can earn one ticket for each article published in the newsletter and one for each demo you do at a meeting. This is not going to be some cheap trinket of a prize. The prize will be somewhere around \$200 and the choice will be yours of several prizes including a 5 gallon bucket of Parks AAA or Parks 50, a small forge, a knife making class at MCC, a very nice assortment of belts, surface plate and height gauge, or if you have an idea of something else you want you can discuss that with the board.

So far we have the following folks with a ticket:

Gene Smith - July 2019 article
Barry Clodfelter - July 2019 article
Andy Sharpe - July 2019 demo
Darrin Sirois - July 2019 demo
Larry Stapleton - October 2019 article
John Hege - October 2019 article
David Diggs - King of the Guild participant
Logan Walton - King of the Guild participant
Garret Clay - King of the Guild participant
Phillip Jones - King of the Guild participant



As of this writing the plan is to have this drawing at the cookout so we can keep the number of entries low.

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 coming up in June if you are a current paid up member and wish to work the Guild's table please get in contact with Murphy and schedule a time. If you would like to display your knives while working the table you must be a juried member. What we would like to avoid is the members attending the show gathering at the table for extended periods of time. The Guild table 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 table 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.

We have new tee shirts for sale at the cookout so come buy a couple and represent us wherever you go! It would be awesome if all attending Blade would wear their new Guild tee shirt on Saturday. Kind of an organized color coordinated Guild solidarity thing.

If are still reading these ramblings thank you and I hope to see you at the cookout and also at Blade!

Barry

2021 Montgomery Community College Knifemaking Schedule

Basic knife making 101

Cost: \$346.60

Dates: Feb. 18th-21st

Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

- This is a class designed to teach 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. Student's materials will be provided, all students will finish a fixed blade knife of the courses design.

Intermediate knife making 102

Cost: \$346.60

Dates: March 18th-21st

Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

- This class will cover 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 provided. Class will be open to all level of experience and it is preferable that student have some knowledge of knife making or having taken Basic Knife making 101 helpful although not required. Students fill finish a completed knife.

Advanced knife making 103

Cost: \$356.60

Dates: May 20th-23rd

Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

- This class will cover more advanced methods of custom fixed blade knife making to include advanced grinding techniques and advanced handle installation including hidden tang. All materials for class project will be provided. Class open to all levels of experience. Some knowledge of knife making or having taken basic knife making 101 and intermediate knife making 102 helpful although not required. Students will finish a completed knife

Basic folding knife making

Cost: \$356.60

Dates: Sept. 16th-19th

Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

- This class will cover 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 other classes in knife making helpful but not required. Students will finish a completed folding knife.

Advanced folding knife making**Cost: \$366.60****Dates: Oct. 21st-24th**

Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

This class will cover design and construction of knife consisting of more advanced parts including the use of hidden pivot, bolsters and liners. Class will be open to all levels of experience. All materials will be provide for the class, some knowledge of knife making helpful but not required. Students will finish a completed folding knife.

D-Guard Bowie Knife**Cost: \$316.60****Dates: Dec. 10th-12th**

Instructor: John Hege

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.

Tomahawk forging**Cost: \$316.60****Dates: Oct. 8th-10th**

Instructor: John Hege

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 & complete this "hawk" with traditional details & embellishments of their choosing. Open to all levels of experience.

Chef knife making**Cost: \$316.60****Dates: Oct. 1st-3rd**

Instructor: Ken Hall

During this 3-day chef knife class students will be instructed on how to make a chef knife. Topics that will be covered in class include: knife design, steel selection, heat-treating, knife grinding, blade finishing, handle selection, handle finishing, blade sharpening, and the use of equipment and tools used in making a knife. Materials and supplies will be provided to make a finished Chef knife using stainless steel. Simple wood handle material will be provided, but students are welcome to bring wood of their own choosing.

Christmas knife making**Cost: \$375****Dates: Dec. 2nd-5th**

Instructor: Ed and Tanya VanHoy

Just in time for a great Christmas Gift! MCC is proud to present our annual tradition of the Christmas Knife class with the legendary Ed Vanhoy. In this class, you will learn how to complete a knife from scratch including how to make a custom leather sheath. Students will design, shape, heat treat, cut custom grips, hollow grind, polish, and sheath their own knives. Whether the class is a present for a loved one, a chance to make a present for a loved one, or just a present for yourself you can't beat this annual tradition. All Materials will be provided.

What a great line up of classes for 2021! This list will be updated as more are announced.

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

UPCOMING 2021 GUILD MEETINGS

Stay tuned for meetings when restrictions are lifted.

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 prior to the meeting.

Blade Show — June 4-6, 2021

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.

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.

