

Steel & Fire



May, 2025



It's that time again! Blade Show Atlanta is just around the corner. Held at the Cobb Galleria each year as the World's Largest Knife Show. The Georgia Guild and Flint River Knife Club will share the Guild's old table inside the event this year. Many of our members will also be set up to share their knives with the world!

The Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild

Educating and informing the public about knife making
Assisting, aiding, and teaching members, helping to develop their skill level,
And how to promote their craft
Establishing and following Standards of Conduct and Workmanship

Steel & Fire



Steel and Fire is the official publication of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. It is compiled and published in four issues annually. Compiled, published, and distributed by The Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild.

The Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild was formed to meet the needs of a growing body of custom knifemakers in the southeastern United States. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of exchange for the members of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild.

Steel & Fire is copyrighted in its entirety by the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. Permission to quote small noncontiguous passages is freely given as long as appropriate citations are used. Permission to reprint, in whole or in part, must be requested from the Guild. Contact the editor.

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 to provide instruction. Therefore, the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild, its officers and editors 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 GCKG 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 advertisement 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 Only: Please submit ads to the editors at the address shown at the right.

Please address correspondence about this newsletter to the President or the Editor at the following addresses. Please direct requests for information about the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild to the President, Allen Surls, at the fol-

Guild Officers and Directors

President:	Eddie Ray 4957 T. Martin Road Gainesville, GA 30506 678-858-6201 raye38@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Jerry McJilton 479 Enchanted Woods Drive Blairsville, GA 30512 305-409-3828 jaimoeknives@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Cindy Acker 6766 Phillips Mill Road Douglasville, GA 30127 678-502-8883 cindyacker@bellsouth.net
Member-At-Large:	Dan Acker 6766 Phillips Mill Road Douglasville, GA 30127 404-263-4497 dackerusa@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Nola Costin 1433 Denfield Court Lithonia, GA 30058 404-660-1709 nolacostin2127@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Dirk Loots photo@dirkloots.com
Director/Chairman, Poythress Scholarship Fund	John Shore 1369 Mud Road Brooklet, GA 30415 407-878-9591 messermacher@yahoo.com

Notes from the President

Greetings Everyone!

I hope that everyone is doing well and life is going your way. This is a new path for me as President of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. As some of you already know, John Shore stepped aside as the GA Guild President at our last meeting in Cochran. First off, I want to personally thank John for his leadership and dedication to the Guild as President for the past seven (7) years. I was fortunate enough to serve as his Vice President for six of those years.

I want to also welcome new board members. Dan Acker was elected to the position as Member at Large. Jerry McJilton was elected to the position of Vice President. John I Shore will be serving as Director of Scholarship fund. Please help me welcome these to their positions within the Guild. Also, Cindy Acker will have the positions of Secretary/Treasurer and Nola Costin will continue to remain on as Newsletter Editor.

Our past meeting in Cochran, Georgia was a great meeting and I would like to encourage each of you to make it there next year. It is a great venue that Lee Dykes has, and if you've never been there it is worth the trip to attend.

Make sure to attend the upcoming Guild meeting at Pop's Knife Supply in Gainesville, Georgia on May 16-17th. Jerry McJilton has some great demos lined up for us and I know Pop's will have some great food for lunch on Saturday. Also, don't forget the Friday night social on the 16th, at Pop's, as it is a great evening to socialize and share ideas with others. Remember to bring something for Iron-in-the-Hat table.

We hope to see you there as well as at Blade Show Atlanta on June 6-8, 2025.

Thanks to you all for what you do and stay safe and tell your family you love them.

Eddie Ray

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our Spring meeting will be May 16-17, 2025 at the POP'S Knife Supply shop. We will meet once again at their shop located in Gainesville, Georgia. The address is 1742 Candler Road, Gainesville, GA. The Saturday meeting starts at 9:00 and there will be a Friday evening gathering starting around 5:00. Hope to see you there.



Guild shirts are available. Contact Nola Costin for more information on purchasing a shirt. Sizes include S, M, XL, 2XL, and 3XL at a cost of only \$15.00. All shirts are now the same price, so get them while they are still available.



The Winter meeting of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild was held at the shop of Lee & Candi Dykes in Cochran, Georgia. Thank you Lee and Candi for hosting again.



Dan Acker, (right) was elected to the position of Member at Large. Jerry McJilton, (third from right) was elected as our new Vice President as John Shore stepped aside and Eddie Ray holds the Presidents's position for the remainder of this year.



DEMO: Jerry Costin did a demo about his class that he and Dan Acker and Criag Schneeberger took at the Iron Mountain Metal Craft shop of Robbie Bowman in Pigeon Forge, TN. In the class they learned how to make Cu Mai.



Cu Mai knives are made by welding copper into pattern welded billets. The billet was constructed in the order of 1084 steel, nickel, 1084 steel, nickel, copper, nickel, 1095 steel (3/16 inch thick for the center core) then nickel, copper, nickel, 1084 steel, nickel, 1084 steel.

This was one that Jerry did on his own and the pattern was a bit different from the one done in the class.

Demo presented by Eddie Ray included information on how to best set up your table for selling your knives at an event. Presentation is very important to help sell those knives or other items.



Scholarship Knife

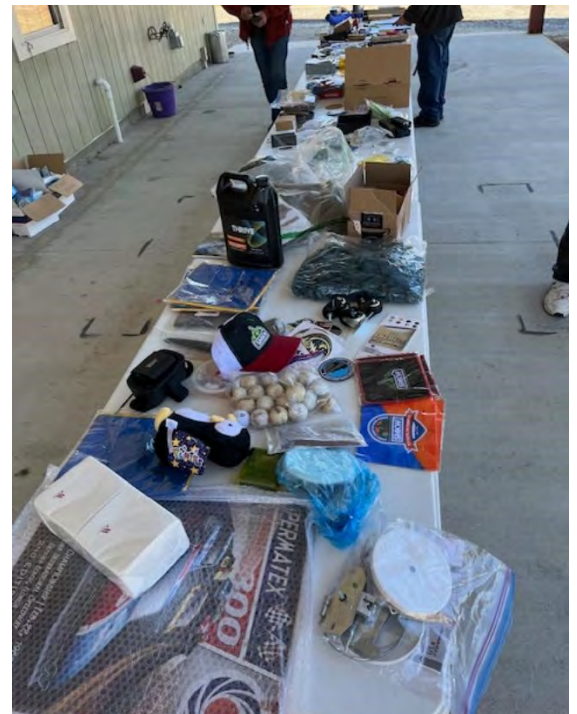
was made and donated by Rex Newall and won by Andy Roy. Thank you Rex and Congratulations Andy!!



Saturday's lunch was a catered BBQ meal. The weather was a bit cooler than usual, so sitting in the sun helped.



Remember to bring something for the **Iron-In-The-Hat** table. The money from this goes to help pay for the meals at the meeting. We thank everyone that attended this meeting and brought something. Remember, tickets are only 6 for \$5.00



New Members

We had one new member join the GA Guild at this meeting—Kenneth Nelson from Fayetteville, GA. Welcome to the Georgia Guild and we hope to see you at upcoming meetings.



**PAY YOUR DUES WITH PAY PAL
OR BY CREDIT CARD!!!**

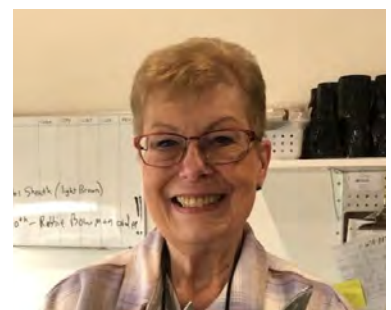
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYING DUES WITH PAYPAL

1. Go to paypal.com
2. Log into your account or set up an account if you don't have one
3. Choose **Send & Request**
4. Enter GCKM2021@gmail.com
5. Enter the amount you want to pay
6. Hit **Continue**
7. Choose **Personal**
8. Hit **Continue**
9. Hit **Send Payment Now**

Cindy Acker, our Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild Treasurer, now has Pay Pal available to pay those dues.

Or you can pay by check or cash at our meeting.

We also can now do a credit card payment!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS—

The Spring GA Guild meeting will be held at Pop's Knife Supplies shop on May 16-17, 2025

Blade Show Atlanta will take place on June 6-8, 2025 at the Cobb Galleria. GA Guild will be back inside along with Flint River Knife Club

Fall Trackrock Hammer-In will take place on September 12-13, 2025 in Blairsville, Georgia



Joint meeting of the Flint River Knife Club and GA Guild at the shop of Jerry Costin, Conyers, Georgia on October 4, 2025. More on this to come

Pop's Knife Supply 2nd Annual Fall Festival, Gainesville, Georgia, October 25, 2025

Knife Making Instructors List

This will remain in the newsletter for those that are interested in taking a class on some aspect of knife making? Here is a reprint of the list of some members who can help you out.

1. Joe Sangster-instruction on making pocket knives
2. Batson's at Tannehill State Park holds classes on various subjects. These are held on the first weekend in April.
3. Damon Lusky- Does a small training group in Dawsonville, GA. Focus is on martial blades concepts.
4. Carl Rechsteiner-general bladesmithing & knife making instruction as well as leather work.
5. John C Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC
6. Charlie & Harry Mathews-basic knife making class
7. Stephan Fowler-basic class on forging a full tang Hunter.
8. Haywood Community College, Haywood/Canton, NC ABS classes-check website for class schedule
9. Mark Hopper of Goat'N'Hammer Blacksmith Shop in Atlanta, GA. See their website for more information. They are in the process of moving to Douglasville, GA.

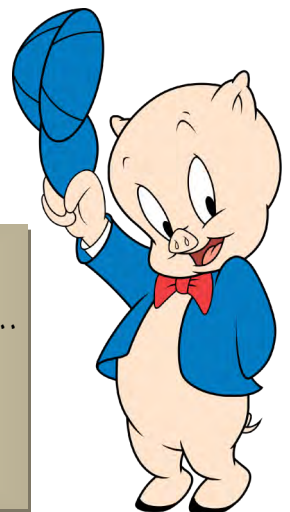
****Please let me know if you would like to be added to or removed from this list.**

REMINDER

**See you on
Friday & Saturday
May 16-17, 2025
In Gainesville, Georgia.
POP'S Knife Supply Shop
Please bring
something for
Iron-in-the-Hat.**



One more page with
a special article then...
"Th-th-th-that's all,
folks!"



This is an article written by Randy Scott that deals with noise induced hearing loss. This article helps to educate us in preventing hearing loss by using hearing protection before it's too late! Thank you Randy for sharing this information with us.

Noise Induced Hearing Loss

I was a State of Georgia licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser employed by a major retailer from 2012 till my retirement in 2021. During my tenure I know of at least two GCKG members that I fit with hearing aids. One day I was cutting a piece of bar stock for a blade and the noise was painful. I have a Sound Level Meter app on my iPhone which I used daily in my practice. I used the app and the sound was 108 dB(A)! Folks.... that is loud, really loud. In the app is a chart.... 110dB(A) at a regular and prolonged unprotected exposure of more than 1.5 minutes per day risks permanent hearing loss! Well... I already have a severe Noise Induced Hearing Loss from.... hmmm... was it the M80 firecracker that detonated 3 feet in front of my face or, the 30-06 muzzle blast 4 feet from my right ear or, was it the afternoon that I stood at the start line for the winning run of the Gator National blown fuel railers with Don Garlits taking home the prize? Don't know... I can tell you the sound of umpteen thousand horsepower was pure pain! I did not hear well for about a week. That was in the early '70's... yeah, I am that old!

We live in a noisy industrial society. We have noisy hobbies, attend concerts, play our music loud, and "it will only take a second" attitudes. Yet all these insults add up. Noise Induced Hearing Loss is cumulative.. every insult adds additional damage to your hearing structures and it never heals... it will heal in a chicken but not in a human!

The name of the game is prevention... you can't cure it! But you can prevent it with hearing protection... ear plugs, ear muffs, noise cancelling head phones... However... they must be worn properly. I have piece of yellow tape on my Harbor Freight band saw on three sides labeled "108 dB – wear muffs" to remind me to take a few seconds... just a few seconds.

What about Hearing Aids you ask? The operative word is Aids...they assist in amplyfying sound to a level that you can hear. The aids do not correct your loss. Your loss is permanent... today is the best you will hear (unaided) the rest of your life.

God gave you two hands and two ears... use your hands to put on your ear muffs!

If you want the app...it is free.. it is the NIOSH Sound Level Meter app, available for Android and IOS phones.

Randy Scott

If you have an article that you would like to share with us in the Steel & Fire newsletter, please send it to me in an email. I would like to add an article in future newsletters that would be of interest to our members...

Pictures are welcomed too.

Email me at nolacostin2127@gmail.com