

Steel & Fire



The meeting held on October 4, 2025, was a joint meeting with the Flint River Knife Club and the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. The meeting took place at the shop of Jerry Costin in Conyers, Georgia. At the meeting there was a competition of forging an 8" railroad spike. There were four, 2 men/person teams competing. Shown above is the winning team.-Jason Posey and Tony Crabtree, with their forged large 8" railroad spike. Jerry Costin had twisted a couple of those 8" spikes and had them painted for the prize to the winning team.



February, 2026

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.

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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.

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Notes from the President

Greetings Everyone!

Hope this finds you all doing well and I hope each of you had a great Christmas and got to spend it with family and friends. I'm hoping we are all done with this snow and ice we have been experiencing and hope each of y'all made it through unscathed.

Our next guild meeting is coming up soon. It will take place at the home/shop of Lee & Candi Dykes in Cochran, Georgia. If you have never been to a meeting at Lee's shop you are missing one of the best locations for a meeting. So, plan to come and attend this one.

Our demos for this meeting will be—

*John Shore on handle shaping before glue up and final fitting

*Lee Dykes will be doing a demo on folders.

We will be holding elections for my position as president and Cindy's position as well.

Due to my second heart surgery and a prior obligation, I will not be at this meeting so Jerry McJilton will be officiating the meeting. I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers as I continue to heal.

I wish you all safe travels to and from the meeting and can't wait to hear all the great news from the meeting. A special thanks to Lee and Candi for hosting the meeting.

Blessings to you all,
Eddie Ray

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our Winter meeting of the Georgia Guild will take place on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the shop of Lee Dykes in Cochran, GA.

There will be a Friday gathering also, starting around 5:00. The address for the meeting is

372 GA Hwy. 126, Cochran, GA

Saturday's meeting will start at 9:00.

Remember that your annual dues are due at this meeting. The dues are \$60 per year unless you are 70 or over, then they are \$25 per year.

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

.....
: **Cindy Acker, our Georgia**
: **Custom Knifemakers' Guild**
: **Treasurer, 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!!!*
.....



The Fall meeting of the GA Guild was a joint meeting with the Flint River Knife Club. It was held at the shop of Jerry Costin in Conyers, Georgia. Perhaps this will become an annual event to get the two clubs together.



There's always plenty of time for fellowship and great food at these meetings.



Demos for the joint meeting included one by Carl Rechsteiner...he is a member of both clubs. He shared the art of making War Clubs. He brought several of his completed War Clubs as well as stages of some in progress.



Carl has lots of ideas of things to use to embellish one of his war clubs.

The competition of forging an 8" railroad spike consisted of volunteers of 2 person teams. The 2 worked together to decide on the twist and blade for their spike. It took some hammering to work on those larger 8" railroad spikes.





The knives were judged by a committee and the winner was TEAM 1

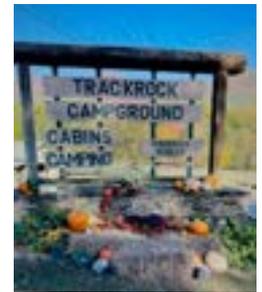
Scholarship Knife

There was no scholarship knife at the joint meeting. Donated knives are needed for future meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS—

Georgia Guild meeting will be held on Friday & Saturday, February 20-21, 2026, at the shop of Lee Dykes in Cochran, GA.

Spring Trackrock Hammer-In will take place on March 20-21, 2026 in Blairsville, Georgia. This will be the 50th Hammer-In event at Trackrock (two events each year-Spring & Fall), so come see what special events we have in store for this one. Check it out on Facebook for more information.



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. Stephan Fowler-basic class on forging a full tang Hunter.
7. Haywood Community College, Haywood/Canton, NC ABS classes-check website for class schedule
8. Mark Hopper of Goat'N'Hammer Blacksmith Shop in Douglasville, GA. See their website for more Information.

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

REMINDER

See you on
Friday & Saturday
February 20-21, 2026
In Cochran, Georgia.
Shop of Lee Dykes
Please bring
something for
Iron-in-the-Hat.



That's all Folks for this edition. Hope to see you at the upcoming meeting!!

