

Instructors Email Addresses

We are grateful for the following instructors who are willing to share their knowledge with our students. If your instructor is not listed here, please contact Donna at 719-846-5724 and she will have the instructor contact you.

[Steven Bader bar9Ldesigns@gmail.com](mailto:bar9Ldesigns@gmail.com)

[Bob Campbell robert.campbell@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:robert.campbell@trinidadstate.edu)

[Tom Hirt best to call him at 719-372-9399](tel:719-372-9399)

[Ryan Newport ryan.newport@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:ryan.newport@trinidadstate.edu)

[Steve Rollert doveknives@aol.com](mailto:doveknives@aol.com)

[Robert Sanchez robert.sanchez@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:robert.sanchez@trinidadstate.edu)

[Logan Schmit logan.schmit@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:logan.schmit@trinidadstate.edu)

[Bob Stahl reloadingexperience@msn.com](mailto:reloadingexperience@msn.com)

[Jeff Van Myers jvm@jvmyers.com](mailto:jvm@jvmyers.com)

[Fred Weisenborn weismetals@gmail.com](mailto:weismetals@gmail.com)

[Gary Yee heimatsicherheitsdienst@yahoo.com](mailto:heimatsicherheitsdienst@yahoo.com)

Please note that our full-time instructors may not be available for questions between semesters.

If you are unable to reach any of the instructors above, please feel free to call Donna at 719-846-5724 and we will try to contact them on your behalf.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

(in alphabetical order)

Bob Campbell:

Bob Campbell graduated with an AAS degree in Gunsmithing from Trinidad State College in 2009. He worked for the Williams Gun Sight Company as a Gunsmith from 2011 to 2019. In The Fall of 2019, he joined Trinidad State as a full time instructor teaching Stock Making, Conversions, and Metal Finishing.



Bob Campbell

Tom Hirt:

Tom Hirt is old-fashioned guy who does things the old-fashioned way. You might call him a throw-back to a bygone era-that time when h and cowboys and craftsmen took care of business with their hands. Hirt continues that tradition to this day as a hat maker who makes superior-quality beaver felt hats one at a time by hand. Known as the hat maker for the movies, he has designed hats for many famous clients including Val Kilmer, Sam Elliot, and Sharon Stone. His credits include Tombstone, the Quick and the Dead, Conagher, and many others. After almost 20 years, he is considered one of the West's most notable and most established hatters. [Hats of the West](#) or email Tom at info@tomhirt.com 719-372-9399



Tom Hirt

Ryan Newport:

Ryan Newport is an alumnus of Trinidad State College. After graduation he spent several years working as a repair gunsmith for Browning Arms on their high end line of shotguns and rifles. Ryan returned to TSC in 2011 as an Associate Professor of Gunsmithing teaching Bench Metal, Firearms Conversions, Firearms Metal Finishing, Alternative Metal Finishes, Shotgunsmiting, Custom Pistolsmithing, and Firearms Repair.
ryan.newport@trinidadstate.edu office # 719-846-5525



Ryan Newport

Steve Rollert:

Steve Rollert has been making knives for over 40 years, starting with a Burr King grinder in the spare bedroom of a duplex in Denver, Colorado in 1980. Steve's interest in knifemaking started while attending Skunk Hollow Blacksmithing School. After graduation Steve sought out Japanese Swordsmith, Kuzan Oda, then in Colorado Springs. Kuzan taught Steve the Japanese mindset and disciplines of knifemaking necessary to produce knives of enduring quality and value. Steve has progressed to producing Damascus Steel and hand forging fine blades in his large shop in Keenesburg, CO. He is well known for his quality pattern welded Damascus and his earlier work in cable welded Damascus. In 1999 Steve started Keen Edge Knives in response to a number of requests for high quality training knives from his fellow martial artists. Over the years Steve has strived to provide the best quality product possible at a reasonable price.



Steve Rollert

(Photo property of the Ft. Morgan Times newspaper)

Robert Sanchez:

Robert Sanchez is the full-time welding instructor for TSC. Prior to working at the college, Robert worked for Topar Welding as a gas field welder. He has been welding since 1998 where he started out as a structural welder working on schools and other buildings.



Robert Sanchez

Logan Schmit:

Logan Schmit is the Machine Shop Instructor for the Trinidad State Gunsmithing Program. A 2010 *summa cum laude* graduate of the program, Schmit had also attended the Brownells Trinidad American Firearms Technology Institute. It was during this time that he was recruited by George Gardner to join GA Precision, located in North Kansas City Missouri. At GA, employed as a Precision Bolt Rifle Specialist, fitting and chambering of barrels became a specialty for Schmit. Additional areas of expertise included barrel fluting, bedding, final assembly, and blueprinting actions. During this time Schmit completed several builds at the request of Team GA members. His work was also featured in the 2014 advertising brochure for Manners Composite Stocks LLC and highlighted on their banner at Shot Show in Las Vegas.

In December 2014, Schmit was asked to join the Mile High Shooting Accessories team to continue to develop and grow the custom side of their successful firearms business. As Senior Precision Rifle Builder and Director of Barreling and Custom Builds, Schmit oversaw a growing custom rifle-building department where, along with producing precision custom firearms to fulfill MHSA client requests, he had developed programming specific to the needs of the facilities CNC equipment. In 2017 Schmit was honored to complete barrels for Dave Walls, Ady Newberry and Scott Seigmund of Accuracy International, for their team in the 50 Cal World Championship on the 2000 yard range.

A native of Central Wisconsin, Schmit began his career in rifle building by enrolling in the NRA Summer Program at Trinidad State. Surrounded by experts in the field and students from across the United States and around the world, Schmit's interest was ignited. His choice for a degree program was Trinidad State where, in 2009, he formally enrolled and was accepted as a full-time student in the two year Gunsmithing Degree program. Every summer he augmented his education with a series of NRA summer classes. Since experiencing his first NRA Summer Program class in 2007, Schmit has immersed himself in the exciting and challenging profession of rifle building in particular, and the firearms industry in general.

In August 2018, after teaching two NRA Summer Program classes, Schmit was offered the opportunity to join the faculty at Trinidad State as a full time Gunsmithing Instructor. This experience offers Schmit the ability to share his knowledge of firearms manufacture with a new

generation of students and to continue, and further the long and exceptional history of the Trinidad Gunsmithing program.



Logan Schmit

Bob Stahl:

Bob Stahl is a Certified NRA Metallic & Shot Shell reloading instructor. Over five decades of loading ammunition at all levels. Owner of Colorado Custom Cartridge Co. Federal licensed ammunition manufacture with over 400 calibers being offered. Specialize in unique calibers that rare, discontinued or obsolete. Match grade ammunition, special loads for sub-sonic, hunting loads and more. Questions in regards to this course can be directed to Bob at customloads@msn.com or call 970-881-2929



Bob Stahl

Jeffrey Van Myers:

Jeffrey Van Myers hails from the Brush Country of Deep South Texas. In 1954, at the ripe old age of 8, he received, as a gift from a family friend, his first "vintage" firearm - an original 1894 Stevens *Favorite* .22 rifle; the barrel is still shot out and the unique "7 o'clock ejector" is still missing, but he still has it in his collection. His love of these old classics dates from this very special event. Over the course of the intervening years, he has collected, and conserved, many more of these "Old Ladies". In part due to his 50+-year study of war, warfare and warriors, he has focused primarily on military firearms, and, in particular, on the amazing series of infantry rifles designed especially for use by the foot soldiers of the British Empire. However, he has also collected and conserved specimens of the primary infantry rifles used by all of the major

participants in the Great War (WWI), except for the Russian *Nagant*. One of his prize possessions is a Japanese *Arisaka* Type 99, that he suspects was a "carry-back" from the battle for Guadalcanal in 1942. Although still an active Patent Attorney, Jeffrey owns and operates the *Armeria del Sur*, Driftwood, TX, and its international partner, *Armeria del Sur*, in Costa Rica. He is a Viet Nam veteran, holds both an FFL and an FEL, and has been attending summer classes at Trinidad since 2015.



Jeffrey Van Myers

Fred Weisenborn:

Fred Weisenborn grew up in the Ozark hills of Missouri, where his father introduced him to the art of blacksmithing. As a teenager, Fred joined the local blacksmith association, where he worked with artists and craftsmen throughout the country and developed a passion for creating things from metal. He spent the summer of 2002 at the Touchstone Center for Crafts in PA, where he was able to work with many master smiths like Raymond Rybar and Bill Fiorini. When the time came to choose a career, Fred decided to attend Trinidad State College's gunsmith program. In the next two years, Fred was taught everything from basic machining to building his own 50 caliber rifle. After college, he worked for two years as a gunsmith for Gander Mountain in Foreset Lake, MN. He decided to make a career change in 2007 and moved to the St. Louis area in the hopes of more career opportunities in the firearm business. In 2010 he began working for Midwest Gun Works in Pevely, MO as a gunsmith. Fred enjoys the daily challenges that come with his trade, and believes that through hard work and the ability to collaborate with others, no problem is too big to solve. Fred designs and makes knives and pens in his spare time and still enjoys creating work over the forge. He sells items online as well as at local craft shows and consignment shops.



Fred Weisenborn

Gary Yee:

Gary Yee earned his Associate's Degree in gunsmithing from Trinidad State in 2014. Prior to retiring to Colorado he enrolled in numerous classes at the NRA Summer Gunsmithing Program at Lassen College, blackpowder rifle building or related blackpowder classes at the Log Cabin Shop (Lodi, Ohio), Conner Prairie Museum, the NMLRA at WKU in Bowling Green, KY and here at Trinidad State. He has written extensively on the blackpowder muzzleloading sharpshooter and his articles have been published in *The Military Collector and Historian Magazine*, *Muzzle Blasts*, *Muzzle Loader*, *American Gunsmith Magazine*, etc. Gary has authored or edited five books including *Sharpshooters (1750-1900): The Men, Their Guns, Their Story*; *World War II Snipers*; *Shapshooters: Marksmen Through the Ages*; *Union Sharpshooter v. Confederate Sharpshooter* and *World War II Sniper's Pocket Manual*.

Gary holds several NRA instructor ratings, is a member of the Contemporary Long Rifle Association, The Honourable Company of Horners and holds life membership in The Company of Military Historians, International Naval Research Organization, National Rifle Association and the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association.



Gary Yee