



Ft Myers Knife Club - Last Meeting Update

The December meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had an attendance of 10 members & guests. This month's door prizes consisted of a Case XX Mini-Toothpick and a STIHL German made Folder. Robert Campbel won the CASE mini-toothpick and STIHL folder went to Casey Philibert. The Monthly 50/50 drawing was not held this month. The **Best Special** knife for the month was won by Casey Philibert for his Gerber Black Applegate.

Next meeting Date: 5th of January – Free Door Prizes Drawing.

Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and/or Sell

January's Feature Knife will be your best: Advertising Knife.

Bring your best to win a Prize

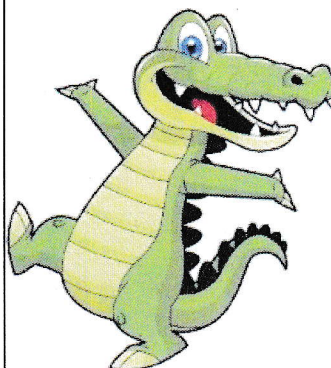
Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GUN & KNIFE SHOWS - GO THIS WEEKEND !!!

Jan 2-3	Sarasota - 2 Guys Gun & Knife Show - Roberts Arena
Jan 9-10	Orlando - Florida Gun Shows - Central Florida Fairgrounds
Jan 9-10	North Port - Expo Gun Shows - Morgan Community Center
Jan 23-24	Tampa - Florida Gun Shows - Florida State Fairgrounds
Jan 23-24	Punta Gorda - Expo Gun Shows - Charlotte Harbor Event Center
Jan 29-31	43rd Annual Gator Cutlery Show - RP Funding Center, Lakeland, FL
Jan 30-31	Palmetto - Florida Gun Shows - Bradenton Convention Center

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Membership dues for 2021 are due. In order to maintain all privileges of the club you need to fulfill this requirement. The Annual Dues are \$10.00 or you may consider becoming a Life Member, this a one-time fee of \$75.00. If you are unsure that your dues are paid for 2021 please contact the club secretary at 239.233.5611 or e-mail ismegal@comcast.net. You may pay your dues at any upcoming club meeting or submit payment to the club's address: **FMKC, PO Box 706, St James City, FL 33956-0706**. Checks will be accepted, however all checks must be endorsed to **RUSSELL SMEGAL**. Any other endorsement will result in return of your check. Sorry..



**RP Funding Center
(formerly
Lakeland Center
Lakeland, Florida**

HOURS

Fri: 10 AM to 5 PM

Sat: 9 AM to 5 PM

Sun: 9 AM to 3 PM

**43rd Annual Gator Cutlery Club
Custom, Modern & Antique Knife Show**

Jan 29, 30, 31, 2021



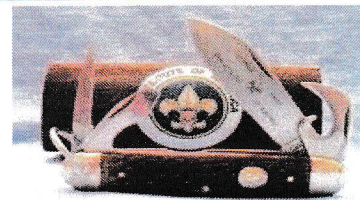
FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com



CLUB OFFICERS

Bill Cyphert, Pres - (239) 851-0666 # Casey Philibert -Vice Pres (239) 565-5339 # Russ Smegal - Sec/Treas (239) 233-5611



The **Camillus Cutlery Company** was one of the oldest knife manufacturers in the United States as its roots date back to 1876. The Company produced millions of knives until it filed for bankruptcy in 2007. Its brand name and intellectual property rights were purchased by Acme United Corporation, which re-launched the Camillus brand in May 2009 using modern materials.

Adolph Kastor: The 14-year-old Adolph Kastor (1856–1946), son of a Jewish family from Wattenheim, Germany, immigrated to New York in 1870 where he started to work for his uncle Aaron Kastor in his hardware supply business, Bodenheim, Meyer & Company. He was first put in charge of cow chains but gradually worked his way up to the firearms and cutlery department.

In 1873, Bodenheim, Meyer & Company lost one of its founders and restructured as Meyer & Kastor. Due to poor sales figures, Meyer & Kastor had to close doors in September 1876. Only a few weeks later, Adolph Kastor started his own company, Adolph Kastor & Bros. on Canal Street in New York City, where he imported and distributed German-made knives.

In 1897, when the Dingley Tariff was enacted, the knives became too expensive to import. The only solution Kastor saw was to manufacture knives domestically. Eventually, his search led him to Charles Sherwood and his small knife manufacturing business in Camillus, NY.

1902–1913: With Adolph Kastor in the driver's seat, the company started to expand. They bought new machinery, such as steam driven drop forge hammers and fly presses and they adopted new techniques, like using alumina grinding wheels. By 1910, the Camillus Cutlery Company was producing close to a million knives a year and had about 200 employees, many of them German immigrants. The company even built a dormitory to house its German workers.

1914–1945: During World War I, Camillus shifted production to support the Allied forces. The company also manufactured marlinspikes, surgical scalpels, and a folding knife/spoon combination for the Red Cross in those years.

In the 1920s, the knife manufacturer introduced stainless steel to its production, and started making collectible character knives, which honored famous people such as George Washington, Babe Ruth, and Buck Rogers. It also began manufacturing private label products for Sears, Craftsman, Woolworth and many others.

During World War II, Camillus shipped more than 13 million knives of various styles to the Allied troops. In 1942, U.S. Marine Corps officers Colonel John M. Davis and Major Howard E. America working in conjunction with cutlery technicians at Camillus developed the KA-BAR Fighting Utility Knife. After extensive trials, the KA-BAR prototype was recommended for adoption, and Camillus was awarded the first contract to produce the KA-BAR for the Marine Corps. Camillus made more KA-BARs than any other knife manufacturer producing the model during World War II. During the war, Camillus also made the M3 fighting knives, the M4 bayonets and many other utility knives for U.S. forces, including machetes, multi-blade utility knives, TL-29 Signal Corps pocket knives for signalmen, electrician's mates, and linesmen, and combination knife/marlinspike pocket knives for use by the U.S. Navy in cutting and splicing lines.

1946–2005: After World War II, Camillus was quick to shift back to civilian production. It introduced many new products, and in 1947, Camillus began manufacturing a full line of official folding knives for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

During the Vietnam War, Camillus again manufactured a large number of knives for the armed forces, for instance a pilot survival knife, a USMC KA-BAR combat knife and a four bladed utility knife. After the Vietnam War, the company continued its growth by adding more new pieces to their already wide product range. In the 1960s, Camillus was sold to the Baer family of New York City. In 1991, Camillus acquired Western Cutlery Company. This Boulder, Colorado company had been making knives since 1896.

In 2001, Camillus collaborated with custom Knifemaker Jerry Fisk, the only Knifemaker to be declared a Living National Treasure, to produce a Bowie knife. That same year, Camillus began a partnership with custom Knifemaker Darryl Ralph to produce a line of titanium framed tactical folding knives.

Notice: Receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail. Contact the club secretary, Russ Smegal at: rsmegal@comcast.net By doing this you will save the club the newsletter mailing cost.