

October 2016

Meetings are held at Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Que, 1641 North Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers, located on Rte 41 (Bus) between Pine Island Rd (SR78) & the Edison Bridge. First Tuesday of every month, at 4:30



Ft Myers Knife Club - Last Meeting Update

The September meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had an attendance of 11 members & guests. This month's door prizes consisted of a Frost Folding Guard and a American Blade Mini-Trapper. The winner of the Frost was Jim McDonnell and the American Blade went to Casey Philibert. The monthly 50/50 drawing of \$20 went to Dixie Smegal. Congratulations to all the winners, you too can be a winner of our monthly door prizes, 50/50 and/or raffles just simply attend one of your monthly FMKC club meetings.

The **Best Special** knife for the month was the best **Balisong Knife**. The best presenter was Bob Baughman for his custom made Philippines made Balisong. **October's Special Knife** is: Your **Best Italian Antique Switchblade Knife**.

Next meeting Date: October 4th - Free Door Prizes Drawing

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

October's Best Special Feature Knife is : Antique Italian Switchblade Knife

Bring your best to win a Prize

Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

Oct 1-2	Ft Myers - Florida Gun Show - Lee Civic Center
Oct 8-9	Cape Coral - FBL Gun Shows - Kiwanis - 360 Santa Barbara Blvd
Oct 8-9	Orlando - Florida Gun Shows - Central Florida Fairgrounds
Oct 8-9	West Palm Beach - Sport Show Specialists - South Florida Fairgrounds
Oct 22-23	LaBelle - FBL Gun Shows - LaBelle Civic Center
Oct 22-23	Tampa - Florida Gun Shows - Florida State Fairgrounds
Oct 29-30	Palmetto - Florida Gun Shows - Bradenton Area Convention Center



Latama Italy



FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com

FMKC NEWSLETTER



Switchblade Basic History

Switchblade knives date from the mid-18th century. The earliest known examples of spring-loaded blades were constructed by craftsmen in Europe, who developed an automatic folding spike bayonet for use on flintlock pistols and coach guns. Examples of steel automatic folding knives from Sheffield England have crown markings that date to 1840. Cutlery makers such as Tillotson, A. Davey, Beever, Hobson, Ibbotson and others produced automatic-opening knives. Some have simple iron bolsters and wooden handles, while others feature ornate, embossed silver alloy bolsters and stag handles. English-made knives often incorporate a "pen release" instead of a central handle button, whereby the main spring activated larger blade is released by pressing down on the closed smaller pen blade.

In France, 19th-century folding knives marked *Châtellerault* were available in both automatic and manually opened versions in several sizes and lengths. *Châtellerault* switchblades have recognizable features such as "S" shaped cross guards, picklock type mechanisms and engraved decorative pearl and ivory handles. In Spain, Admiral D'Estaing is attributed with a type of folding naval dirk that doubled as an eating utensil. In closed (folded) position, the blade tip would extend beyond the handle to be used at the dining table. It could be spring activated to full length if needed as a side arm, by pressing a lever instead of a handle button. By 1850, at least one American company offered a .22 rim-fire single-shot pistol equipped with a spring-operated knife. After the American Civil War (1865), knife production became industrialized. The oldest American made production automatic knife is the *Korn Patent Knife*, which used a rocking bolster release.

The advent of mass production methods enabled folding knives with multiple components to be produced in large numbers at lower cost. By 1890, U.S. knife sales of all types were on the increase, buoyed by catalog mail order sales as well as mass marketing campaigns utilizing advertisements in periodicals and newspapers. In consequence, knife manufacturers began marketing new and much more affordable automatic knives to the general public. In Europe as well as the United States, automatic knife sales were never more than a fraction of sales generated by conventional folding knives, yet the type enjoyed consistent if modest sales from year to year.

In 1892, George Schrade, a toolmaker and machinist from New York developed and patented the first of several practical automatic knife designs. The following year, Schrade founded the New York Press Button Knife Company to manufacture his switchblade knife pattern, which had a unique release button mounted in the knife bolster. Schrade's company operated out of a small workshop in New York City and employed about a dozen workmen.



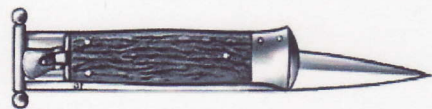
Sheffield



pen release



Châtellerault



D'Estaing

Older Switchblade Examples



George Schrade Examples

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.