



Ft Myers Knife Club - Last Meeting Update

The October 2012 meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had a attendance of 13 members and guests. This month's door prizes were a Case XX NASCAR Knife and a tube of Super Polishing Paste. The winner of the Case knife was Mike Mikutis and tube of Polishing Paste went to Rich Reichelt. The 50/50 drawing netted Jim McConnell \$30.00 this month. 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.

This month's BEST SPECIAL KNIFE was for your best **Boy Scout Knife**. The winner was Bill Cyphert for his Ulster Official Boy Scout Knife displayed in a unique Boy Scout accented box. The club would like to thank Ken Rabedeau for bringing his outstanding collection of Boy Scouts knives with original boxes for everyone to enjoy. The BEST SPECIAL KNIFE for November is: Your Best American-Made **Switchblade Knife**. So bring your favorite American-Made Switchblade to impress the members and the judges. You may also be rewarded with a small prize from the club.

Next meeting Date: November 6th - Free Door Prizes Drawing
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and share with the members
November's Best Special Feature Knife is : American-Made Switchblade Knife
Bring your best to win a Prize

Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

Nov 10-11	Bradenton - 2 Guys Gun & Knife Show - Bradenton Auditorium
Nov 10-11	Venice - Lee County Collectors LLC Gun & Knife Show - The DOME/ 5115 SR 776
Nov 17-18	Plant City - Suncoast Gun Shows - Strawberry Festival Ag. Bldg.
Nov 17-18	Ft Myers - Ft Myers Antiques Arms Collectors Show - Araba Shrine Temple
Nov 24-25	Ft Lauderdale - Suncoast Gun Shows - War Memorial Auditorium



AMERICAN-MADE SWITCHBLADES



FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com

FMKC NEWSLETTER



SWITCHBLADE LEGACY

by Bernard Levine (c) 1990 published in KNIFE WORLD August 1990

(ONLY PORTIONS EXTRACTED)

AUGUST 12, 1958, a date that has faded into obscurity, the Congress of the United States enacted Public Law 85-623, an "act to prohibit the introduction, or manufacture for introduction, into interstate commerce of switchblade knives, and for other purposes," and sent it on to President Eisenhower for his signature. Under this act, "The term 'switchblade knife' meant any knife having a blade which opens automatically --

- (1) by hand pressure applied to a button or other device in the handle of the knife, or
- (2) by operation of inertia, gravity, or both."

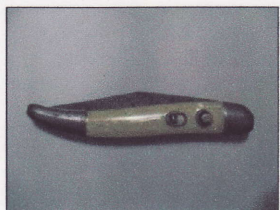
The maximum penalty for each violation of this law was a \$2,000 fine and five years in jail.

It is not within the constitutional authority of the United States to ban manufacture or possession of a class of item, although the individual states have almost unlimited authority to do so. What the federal government may do, according to Article I, Section VIII, Clause 3 of the Constitution, is "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes." Using the authority of this "Interstate Commerce" clause, Congress did the very next thing to banning switchblade knives.

In 1958 only two American companies still made switchblades: Imperial and Colonial. Both were then in Providence, Rhode Island, and so telling them that they could not make switchblades for sale in interstate commerce was effectively the same as telling them not to make switchblades at all.

Up until 1954, Schrade-Walden in upstate New York had been the leading manufacturer of switchblades. That year the state of New York had banned their manufacture and sale, so Imperial, the parent company of Schrade-Walden, had taken over the firm's switchblade production. The George Schrade Knife Co. of Connecticut had also been a major domestic supplier of switchblades. This firm was sold to Boker of New Jersey in 1956 (George Schrade had died in 1940). However both New Jersey and Connecticut banned switchblades shortly after New York had done so, and thus only the two Providence firms were still in the switchblade business in 1958.

**Imperial Shell
Switchblade**



**G. Schrade PRESTO
Fish Tail
Switchblade**



NOTE: OF COURSE AS WE ALL KNOW, THE CUTLERY FIRMS HAVE FOUND WAYS TO BY PASS THIS PUBLIC LAW...RES.

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.