

February 2009

Meetings are held at PERKINS Restaurant, Palm Beach Blvd, Morse Shores Plaza,
1 mile West of Interstate 75, Exit 141. First Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 PM



FMKC NEWSLETTER

Ft Myers Knife Club - Last Meeting Update

The January meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had a attendance of 32 members and guests. This month's door prizes were a Colt M4K Folder and (2) Frost Knives. The winner of the Colt was Aaron Winans and the Frost knives went to Bert Burnell. The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner of \$48.00 was Jim McDonnell. During the meeting 16 members paid their annual dues. 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.

*Next meeting Date: February 3rd - Free Door Prizes Drawing
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and share with the members*

Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

Jan 30-Feb 1	Lakeland - 31st Gator Cutlery Knife Show - Lakeland Center
Jan 31-Feb 1	Palmetto - Suncoast Gun Show - Manatee Civic Center
Feb 14-15	Ft Lauderdale - Suncoast Gun Show - War Memorial Auditorium
Feb 14-15	Bradenton - Gun & Knife Show - Bradenton Auditorium
Feb 14-15	West Palm Beach - Sports Show Specialists - South Florida Fairgrounds
Feb 21-22	Ft Myers - Suncoast Gun Show - Lee Civic Center
Feb 21-22	Dayton - NKCA Ohio Knife Show - Hara Arena, Dayton, Ohio
Feb 28-Mar 1	Tampa - Suncoast Gun Show - Florida State Fairgrounds



-MISC KNIFE INFORMATION-

Clip Blade: The clip blade is generally the most common blade found on American folding knives. They have a concave curve from the back of the blade to the point, and a cutting edge that slopes upward to the point. These features make them extremely versatile and enable them to perform almost any cutting tasks. Some of these blades have a longer concave curve on the top that generally makes for a more narrow blade. The narrower blade creates a sharper tip that is better suited for detail work but are not as strong. The narrow clips are often called California clips, muskrat clips, or Turkish clips.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES: Membership dues for 2009 are due now. 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 is a one-time fee of \$75.00. You can pay at the February meeting or submit payment to the club's address: FMKC, PO Box 706, St. James City, FL 33956-0706.

NOTICE: Is your newsletter in Black & White, do you receive it via Snail Mail (Post Office)? Did you know that you can get your newsletter with color pictures, quicker delivery time and save the club 42 cents for the postage mailing plus copying fees of 9 cents per copy. It is simple just submit a e-mail requesting that you receive your newsletter via e-mail. When you do, your monthly newsletter will be submitted to you via e-mail in the form of an attached pdf file which you may read, print and save for future viewing by using the FREE software Adobe Reader. This reader software is free to all computer users, simply download and install it in your computer, FREE. Then you can enjoy the monthly newsletter in color and you will be saving the club 51 cents per copy. Send your request today to: rsmegal@comcast.net



Check this website out

FMKC WEB SITE

www.geocities.com/mikegm.geo/knifecub.html

Pres: Ken Rabedeau (239) 466-8175 -V. Pres: Bill Cyphert (239) 936-4746
Sec/Treasurer: Russ Smegal (239) 283-7253 ~ E-Mail: rsmegal@comcast.net



Edged Weapons from the Civil War

The American Civil War was not fought by highly trained, professional armies, but by a whole population forced to fight for the family values and ideals they believed in.

This made it a unique war in many ways, not least in the types of weapons that were used. The large majority of weapons carried through the conflict were old-fashioned and rudimentary as the tide of the battle seemed to rely more on fighting spirit than superior modern technology.

Typical tools were bayonets, sabers, swords, short swords, cutlasses, Bowie knives, pikes and lances which were all produced in profusion during this period. They are a delight to modern collectors and were often spectacular decorations for their users but actually inflicted few casualties. Of approximately 250, 000 wounded victims treated during the war, only 922 were victims of edged weapons.

One reason for this was the troop's lack of training. Although a bayonet is dangerous in the hands of a trained trooper, the volunteer horsemen had difficulty handling them and so avoided using them.

Furthermore, until recently swords were the symbol of an American officer's authority and served this primary function in the Civil War. Officer's kept their short but useless artillery swords as decorative items rather than using them as they were supposed - to disembowel the horse and kill any rider who stood in their way!

Lances were also serious weapons in the hands of trained troopers but fairly ineffectual for the volunteers. The weapons shortage in the South meant troops were armed with lances and pikes but they were often abandoned if a more practical weapon could be found.

As edged weapons were more decorative than useful they make fabulous collectibles for the Collectors of Civil War weaponry as most of them are in very good condition. Classic Civil War Confederate 'D' Guard Bowie style fighting knives are typical finds. These knives will often show crude Southern workmanship with a long iron blade which may have been fashioned from an old file - the edge of the blades sharp with a spear point scratches in the surface. They will sell for an average of \$2000. It is rare to find a Confederate made fighting knife still with its original scabbard and this will increase its value to \$3000 or more.



AMES 1861 PRESENTATION SWORD