

March 2019

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 February meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had an attendance of 15 members & guests. This month's door prizes consisted of a Ka-Bar Lockback and a CRKT Cruiser. Dave Masten won the Ka-Bar and the CRKT Cruiser went to new member; Ray Orlemenski. This month's 50/50 drawing of \$30 went to Paul Englund. 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 your best **Case XX Stag Straight Knife**, the winner was Russ Smegal.

*Next meeting Date: Mar 5th 2019 - Free Door Prizes Drawing
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and/or Sell
March's Feature Knife will be: Bailsong (Butterfly) Knife.*

Bring your best to win a Prize

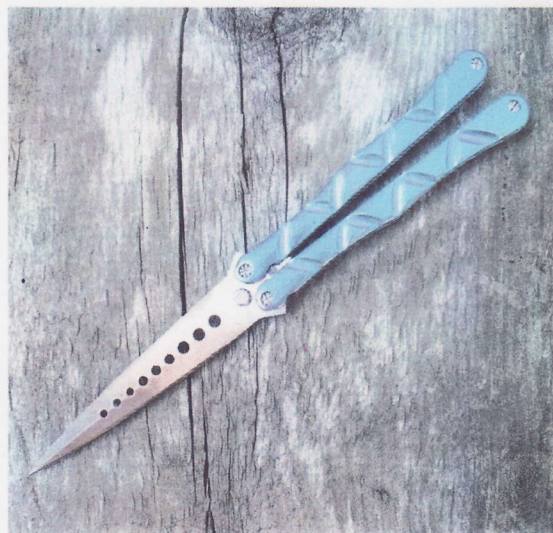
Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

Mar 16-17	West Palm Beach - Sport Show Specialists - South Florida Fairgrounds
Mar 23-24	Orlando - Florida Gun Shows - Central Florida Fairgrounds
Mar 23-24	Port Charlotte - 2 Guys Gun & Knife Show - Charlotte Cty Fairgrounds
Mar 23-24	Ft Myers - Gun, Knife and Civil War - Araba Shrine Temple
Mar 30-31	Palmetto - Florida Gun Shows - Bradenton Convention Center

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Membership dues for 2019 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 2019 please contact the club secretary at 239.233.5611 or e-mail: rsmegal@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..



CUSTOM MADE BALISONG



FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com

FMKC NEWSLETTER



10 Things You Never Knew About Swiss Army Knives

Over 34,000 are produced every single day. But that's not all you didn't know !!!

The Swiss: We love them for their decadent cheese, their masterful timepieces, and their awesome corporate tax loopholes.

The Swiss Army Knife is a modern marvel that was made out of necessity (the first models included only a blade, a can opener and reamer for consuming canned food, and a screw driver needed to assemble the Swiss Army's rifles), but its staying power proves its unbeatable utility. Every U.S. President since Lyndon B. Johnson has issued their guests an original Victorinox Swiss Army Knife. Why? We have no clue. But here are 10 other things you didn't know about the Swiss Army Knife:

1. They were born in Germany, not Switzerland. The first Swiss Army knives were actually produced in Germany by Wester & Co. The Swiss military force required quality compact knives for its army, but no Swiss company had the capacity to produce such a knife. The first official Swiss Army Knife, the Modell 1890, was outsourced to Wester & Co. and produced in Solingen, Germany, over 300 miles from the Swiss border.

2. But they didn't stay there long. Miffed about the whole "Made in Germany" thing, Victorinox founder Karl Elsener, who at the time was in the surgical equipment production business, decided in 1891 that it was time to bring the Swiss Army Knife — and the production jobs it entailed — to Switzerland.

Fun Fact: Elsener got the name "Victorinox" by combining the name of his deceased mother, Victoria, and acier inoxydable, the French term for stainless steel.

3. There were actually two official Swiss Army Knives. In order to provide a level of competition and ensure the quality of goods and goals of production, the Swiss government awarded 50 percent of their order contract to Victorinox, and 50 percent to another Swiss cutlery company, Wenger.

Victorinox advertised their knives as "The Original Swiss Army Knife," and Wenger "The Genuine Swiss Army Knife." That is, until Victorinox acquired Wenger in 2005, retaining sole control over the Swiss Army Knife market, and kicking Theodore Wenger's ghost in the balls.

4. The Swiss Army Knife is a literal work of art. The Swiss Army Knife has been selected for inclusion in exhibits for excellence in design at both [The New York Museum of Modern Art](#) and the [State Museum for Applied Art in Munich](#).

5. Some even come with thermometers. And ballpoint pens. And flashlights. The [SwissChampXAVT](#) is the largest production Victorinox Swiss Army Knife, and includes over 44 tools that serve over 80 functions.

6. There's a 9-inch, 2-pound version. [The Giant](#), produced by Wenger and first released in 2006, weighs two pounds and includes 87 tools which perform 120 functions.

7. Victorinox is still Karl-owned. Karl Elsener founded and ran the company until 1918 when Karl Elsener II took over from 1919 to 1950. Karl III ran the company from 1951 to 2007, and Karl IV took over and currently mans the helm.

8. Quality control at the Victorinox factories is a big deal. Fifteen to 20 million parts pass through the assembly line at the Victorinox factory every month. Each and every knife, product, and tool undergoes a rigorous quality inspection at all of the seven phases of production.

Every inch of raw steel is inspected, as well as the content of the metal digitally analyzed for tensile strength. The blades are cut, polished, forged and then ground down and sharpened, and then stamped—where again, they are inspected by real eyes and real hands and real micrometers after every single step of production. Perfectionism is an understatement.

9. Today, you can buy everything from Swiss Army forks to Swiss Army perfume... kinda. Victorinox dabbles in other Swiss-made products like household cutlery, watches, general tools, and even cosmetics, [perfumes](#), and clothing. Only [40 percent](#) of the company's output is still dedicated to their namesake knives.

10. But beware: there are many fakes out there — many, many fakes. Though they say imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, the folks at Victorinox [take counterfeit products seriously](#). While legal recourse for imitation is limited, the company displays a showcase of various knock-offs from the hundreds of imitators around the world.

Luckily, spotting the difference between a real-deal Swiss Army Knife and a fake is simple. The trick is in the spring mechanism and the telltale Swiss Army Knife "snap" of the tools. You can also tell by the classic Victorinox shield, as well as the inscription on the big blade: "Victorinox Swiss Made." If your knife doesn't have these qualities, chances are, you got duped. You just can't fake quality.

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.