

April 2010

Meetings are held at PERKINS Restaurant, 12300 S. Cleveland Ave. (US41), 2.5 miles South of Edison Mall or 1.2 miles North of Daniels Pkwy (SR865). First Tuesday of every month, 4:30 to 7:30 PM



Ft Myers Knife Club - Last Meeting Update

The March meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had a attendance of 30 members and guests. This month's door prizes were a Kershaw Elk Skinner that was donated by Marvin Franz and a Buck Lockback that was donated by George Niehaus. The winner of the Kershaw was Frank Veasley and Kenneth Rabedeau won the Buck Lockback. A 50/50 drawing was held and the winner of \$50 was new member Joe DiBlasio. 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.

A raffle was held for a Queen Amber Bone Folding Hunter and the lucky winner was Jim Fahrenstiel. The raffle netted \$80 for the club. The club also picked up two new members during the meeting. We welcome the new members and we hope to enhance their love for the knife collecting hobby. Welcome aboard!!!

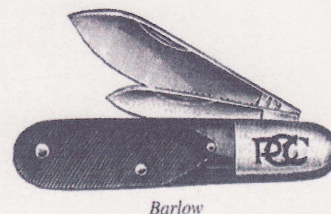
*Next meeting Date: April 6th – Free Door Prizes Drawing
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and share with the members*

Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

Apr 10-11	Wanemmacher's Tulsa Arms Show - Tulsa Expo Square
Apr 10-11	Ft Lauderdale - Sun Coast Gun Show - War Memorial Auditorium
Apr 17-18	Lakeland - Central Fl. Rifle & Pistol Firearms Show - Lakeland Center
Apr 17-18	Tampa - Sun Coast Gun Show - Florida State Fairgrounds
Apr 24-25	Palmetto - Sun Coast Gun Show - Manatee Civic Center
Apr 24-25	Kentucky Cutlery Show - Paroquet Springs Conf. Center - Shepherdsville, KY
Apr 30-May 2	NKCA Greater Ohio Knife Show - Drawbridge Inn - Ft Mitchell, KY

What is a "Barlow" pocket knife? A barlow style knife has one or two blades, a huge metal bolster, and a comfortable tear-drop shaped handle. The blade or blades are attached at the small end of the handle. Even though the first barlow knife was made in Sheffield England in the 1600's, it was made by several American shops soon after, and has become just as American as "apple pie". George Washington was known to have a barlow knife. Mark Twain referred to a "real Barlow" in his Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn in 1876. Barlows have long been gifts, treasured by young American boys.



Barlow

NOTICE: *If you would like to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail. Contact club secretary, Russ Smegal at: rsmegal@comcast.net*

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[**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:** The club has a new URL address for our Web Site. Our resident web site person, Mike Mikutis had to change our old web site. Changes are being made to enhance the site for your usage and enjoyment. Please enter and review the many changes that Mike has made to your Web Site. Remember that you can always view and/or download the latest club newsletters for your use. Any changes that you would like to see made, please ask.]
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FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com

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

FMKC NEWSLETTER



US Trench Knives

Perhaps the most easily recognized American trench knife is the Mark I, introduced too late to see World War I service in the trenches, but adopted and carried by U.S. paratroopers in the Second World War. This knife was a full-tang design with a double-edged blade and a brass hilt incorporating a guard shaped as a knuckle duster, though the guard existed much more for the purpose of being a guard than for any perceived benefit as a punching aid. The pommel incorporated a so-called 'skull-crusher' extension ostensibly designed to increase the lethality of the weapon. However, as common sense and knife experts agree, using a stabbing/cutting weapon as a bludgeon is very ineffective, an improper and pointless practice contrary to the best usage of the weapon.

The Mark I was preceded by the U.S. M1917 and M1918 trench knives, which featured more complex designs including a triangular stiletto blade, wooden grip, metal knuckle guard, and a rounded pommel. The two versions differed primarily in the construction and appearance of their knuckle guards.

The brass-hilted U.S. Mark I trench knives were made by three American companies -- Landers, Frary & Clark (L.F.&C.) of New Britain, Connecticut; Henry Disston & Sons (HD&S) of Philadelphia; and Oneida Community Limited (O.C.L.) -- and one French company (Au Lion/Societe General). American models of the Mark I are stamped on the right side of the brass grip "U.S. 1918", with the contractor's initials below that. These three American companies were among the four that also made the earlier U.S. M1917 and M1918 trench knives.

The French version of the Mark I is stamped on the blade ricasso with a recumbent lion, and "Au Lion" below that. The grip of the French version is typically stamped with "U.S. 1918". Several versions of the French model exist - some with grooves on top of the grip, some without. Some have letters and numbers cast into the knucks that are smaller than others.

The American Mark I knives and steel sheaths were issued with a blackened finish to prevent reflection, but some owners believing this to be tarnish attempted to polish them and remove the blackening. The French knives were issued with iron sheaths. American versions of the Mark I appear to be better finished than the French version, and are slightly larger dimensionally as well. American-made sheaths for the Mark I trench knife are marked "L.F.&C. 1918", while the French sheath is unmarked. American-made knives have 8-sided skull-crusher pommels, the French model is 4-sided.

Other fighting knives used by U.S. forces are sometimes referred to as trench knives, indicating their purpose. These include the stiletto-shaped daggers carried by Marine Corps Raiders in World War II, and fighting-utility knives made by KA-BAR and other manufacturers.

