

May 2011

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 April meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had a attendance of 24 members and guests. This month's door prizes were a Rough Rider Lockback, a Case XX NASCAR knife and a George Niehaus donated Gerber Tool Knife. The winner of the Rough Rider was Frank Veasley, the Case NASCAR knife went to Kenneth Napolitano. The donated Gerber Tool knife went to James Patton. A 50/50 drawing was held and the winner of \$45 was John Burkhart. 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 the BEST SPECIAL KNIFE Contest was for the Most Famous Knife Makers Knife. Several members brought their best Custom Knife to be judged and the winner was Russ Smegal. Russ's entry was a beautiful pearl single blade lockback that was made by Frank Centofante. Next month's BEST SPECIAL KNIFE will be your best **Antique pre-1940 knife**. So bring your best antique knife to impress the members and the judges. You may also be rewarded with a small prize from the club.

*Next meeting Date: May 3rd - Free Door Prizes Drawing
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and share with the members
May's Best Special Feature Knife is : Best Pre-1940 Antique Knife*

Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

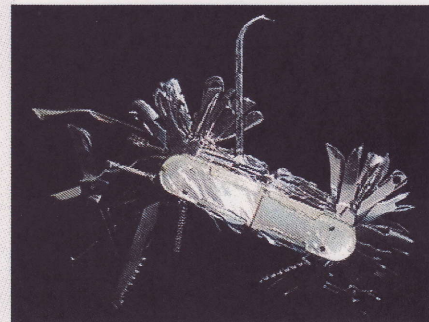
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GUN & KNIFE SHOW - GO THIS WEEKEND !!!

Apr 30-May 1	Ft Myers - Suncoast Gun Show - Lee Civic Center
May 14-15	Orlando - Florida Gun Shows - Central Florida Fairgrounds
May 14-15	Ft Lauderdale - Suncoast Gun Shows - War Memorial Auditorium
May 21-22	West Palm Beach - Sports Show Specialists - South Florida Fairgrounds
May 28-29	Port Charlotte - 2 Guys Gun & Knife Show - Charlotte County Fairgrounds



Antique Folding Knives

Antique Folding Knives are one of the most interesting things you can collect. Each one tells a story, especially the ones with a message. You can run across everything from a single-blade knife to one with a spoon as well as a knife blade all the way up to one with 75 blades. The variety is endless and they are not that expensive as collectibles go.



FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com

FMKC NEWSLETTER



Camillus® Cutlery Co. History

In 1876, Adolph Kastor, a 20 year old immigrant from Germany, formed A. Kastor & Company to import quality cutlery from Germany and England. Located on Canal Street in New York City, the new company offered an extensive assortment of knives.

In 1897, the Dingley Tariff dramatically increased import tariffs on knives and Kastor searched for a domestic manufacturer to satisfy his growing customer's needs. Contracting with Mr. Charles Sherwood of Camillus, New York to provide knives, Kastor eventually purchased the small factory that employed 20 men in 1902. The one story factory in Camillus was expanded and new equipment and techniques were developed to increase production to meet the needs of the growing American market.

In the coming years, Kastor turned the Camillus factory into one of the major knife suppliers in the United States and production totaled 902,976 knives in 1910. The small one story factory perched on the banks of Nine Mile Creek had now grown to 6 buildings and employment reached 200 workers.

During World War I, Camillus' skilled craftsmen turned out 471,044 knives for the Canadian, British, United States, and Dutch governments. The American doughboys were provided with a Camillus folding knife & spoon courtesy of the Red Cross.

In the 1920's many new lines were added and knives with stainless steel blades were introduced. The Cutlery continued to prosper with many new patterns being offered during the 1930's including knives commemorating George Washington, Babe Ruth, and Buck Rogers. Numerous knives were made under private label for companies such as Hibbard Spencer Bartlett & Co. (O.V.B.), Sears Roebuck & Co. (Craftsman and Dunlap), F.W. Woolworth (Kent), Simmons Hardware Co. (Keen Kutter), and A.F. Shapleigh Hardware Co. (Diamond Edge).

With the beginning of World War II, the Camillus factory geared up to meet the Allied Forces knife requirements. During 1942 - 1945 more than 15 million *military knives* were produced including the U.S.M.C. Raider Stiletto and 7" Fighting Knife. For distinguished service the Cutlery received the Army/Navy "E"xcellence Award on several occasions.

Following World War II new items were introduced under the Camillus® and Camco® line (Kastor brand was discontinued). Character knives such as The Lone Ranger, *Daniel Boone*, Davey Crockett, and Dick Tracy were designed to appeal to the young buyer. An official *Mumbly Peg®* knife and *Charm* knife were produced in the late 1950's.

During the Vietnam War, Camillus manufactured the U.S.M.C. 7" Fighting Knife, #MIL-K-818 four blade utility knife and the 5" Pilot Survival Knife.

The original *American Wildlife®* Series of 4 knives was first offered in 1975 and eventually grew to include a total of 18 different models. Many newly designed styles including the LOK-BACK, LOK-RANCHER, and CAM-LOCK were developed.

The Western® Cutlery Company of Boulder, Colorado, a knife manufacturer since 1896, was purchased in 1991 and added to supplement the extensive Camillus line.

Camillus remains as the leading private label manufacturer of quality sporting and pocket knives in the world. Over 20 different brands are manufactured at the Camillus factory. These brands, as well as, the Camillus® and Western® brands are distributed in all 50 states and worldwide.

POSTSCRIPT: *Recently in 2006, the company filed for bankruptcy, noting overseas competition had become too much to handle. They officially closed the doors on February 28, 2007. In May 2009, Acme United re-launched Camillus at the 2009 National Hardware Show in Las Vegas with a new line of knives. The new Camillus knives have durable handles and the blades are coated with titanium carbonitride. The knives are sold at retailers and specialty knife shops.*

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.*