

May 2016

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 April meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had an attendance 22 members & guests. This month's door prizes consisted of a NRA Utility Knife and a Kershaw Crown 3260X. The winner of the NRA knife went to Lou Louchart and the Kershaw went to Aior Wrona. The monthly 50-50 drawing of \$42 went to Robert Campbel. 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.

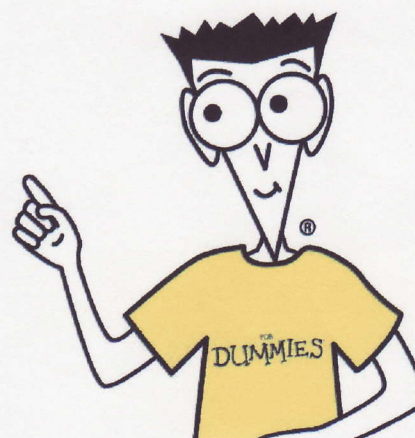
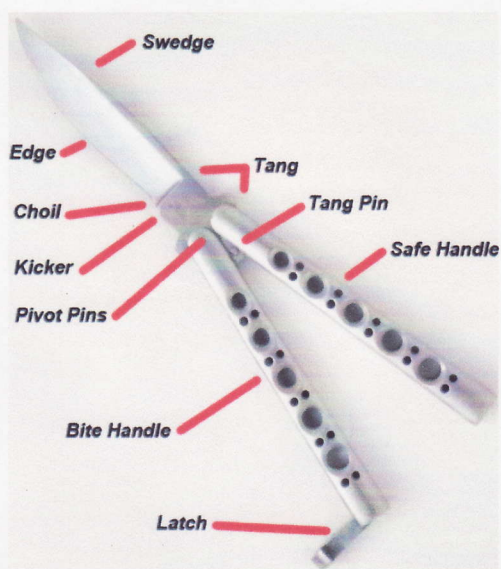
No member brought a April's Best Knife. **Best Special knife for May** is for the best: **Abalone Knife (Non-Custom)**. So bring your knife to impress the club members and maybe win yourself a prize.

*Next meeting Date: May 3rd - Free Door Prizes Drawing  
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell & share  
May's Best Special Feature Knife is : **Abalone Knife (Non-Custom)***

## Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

|           |                                                                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 7-8   | Cape Coral - FBL Gun Show - Kiwanis Club 360 Santa Barbara Blvd         |
| May 14-15 | Palmetto - Florida Gun Shows - Bradenton Area Convention Center         |
| May 14-15 | Englewood - FBL Gun Show - VFW 550 North McCall Road                    |
| May 14-15 | West Palm Beach - Sport Show Specialists - South Florida Fairgrounds    |
| May 21-22 | Orlando - Florida Gun Shows - Central Florida Fairgrounds               |
| May 21-22 | Ft Myers - (NEW) FBL Gun Show - Araba Shrine Temple 2010 Hanson St.     |
| May 28-29 | Port Charlotte - 2 Guys Gun & Knife Show - Charlotte County Fairgrounds |



*Nomenclature for a Generic  
Butterfly Knife*



## FMKC WEB SITE

[www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com](http://www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com)

# FMKC NEWSLETTER



# Antique Axes and Hatchets

Perhaps no tools are more closely linked to the founding of America than the axe and its smaller sibling, the hatchet. Cast-iron axes with heads weighing seven pounds were swung by pioneers and Colonists, who used the versatile tool to clear land for crops and build their homes. And while the exact implement of destruction is not definitively known, a young George Washington held either an axe or a hatchet in his hand when he famously cut down the family cherry tree. The most familiar type of axe (also correctly spelled "ax") is the felling axe, whose long, curved handle increases its impact. The heads of these axes varied regionally in terms of their design, but their functionality was the same. Originally made entirely of single piece of iron that was folded around a handle-shaped pattern, axes incorporated steel wedges into their heads in the 1700s. Steel was not only more durable than iron, it could be sharpened to a finer edge.

Most 18th-century felling axes were single bit, which means it had a cutting edge on one side and a flat hammer-like head called the poll, or butt, at the other. Double-bit axes had two edges—a sharp one for cutting trees and limbs, and a duller one with a shorter taper for splitting firewood. Significantly, the handles of double-bit axes were straight rather than curved.

Once a tree was on the ground, the woodsman would turn to his broad axe to square, or hew, the trunk. Broad axes can be identified by their chisel edges—in contrast, felling axes are beveled to a knife-like point on both sides, not just one. The handles of broad axes were also unique—they were installed bent or swayed away from the blade's flat side to keep the woodsman's hands from being mangled against the tree trunk with each swing of the axe.

North American broad axes varied in their designs from region to region—the heads of those made in New England, for example, tended to be narrower in width than those made by Pennsylvania blacksmiths. Broad axes brought over from England generally lacked a hammer-like poll, while those imported from Germany had a medieval-looking goose-wing design.

As with hammers, planes, chisels, and numerous other antique tools, there was a specialized axe for just about every job. Shipwrights wielded axes designed to shape masts, while coopers swung short-handled axes that were good at shaping barrel staves. When expertly struck by a mallet, a good mortise or chisel axe was used to create holes in the shape of tenons—mortise-and-tenon framing was common in barns and other rural structures.

Of particular interest to those fascinated by Native American history are trade axes, which were used by French, Spanish, and English settlers when bartering with the New World's indigenous peoples. Some of these axes were small enough to hang from a belt. Others were favored by Native American women for chopping wood. Today these tools are known as squaw axes, but due to the rarity of these items they are favorites of forgers, so make sure you've done your homework before adding one of these beauties to your collection...



**Notice:** Receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail. Contact the club secretary, Russ Smegal at: [rsmegal@comcast.net](mailto:rsmegal@comcast.net) By doing this you will save the club the newsletter mailing cost.