

August 2012

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 July 2012 meeting of the Ft. Myers Knife Club had a attendance of 18 members and guests. This month's door prizes were a CRKT Edggie and a Smith & Wesson Lockback. The winner of the CRKT was James Slaasted the Smith & Wesson went to Ed Steinmetz. This month's 50/50 winner of \$35 went to Susan Rabedeau. 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 the Encyclopedia of Marbles Knives & Sporting Collectibles book that was donated by Ken Rabedeau. The raffle made \$30 for the club and the lucky winner of this book was Jim McDonnell. There were no entries for the BEST Knife this month. Next month's BEST SPECIAL KNIFE will be your best TACTICAL Folder, which I commonly call the "BLACK KNIFE". So bring your favorite tactical folder to impress the members and the judges. You may also be rewarded with a small prize from the club.

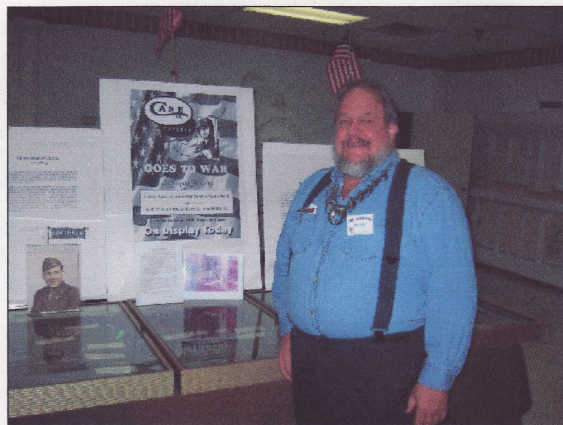
Next meeting Date: August 7th - Free Door Prizes Drawing
Bring your favorite knives for Show & Tell and share with the members
August's Best Special Feature Knife is : Best Tactical Folder
Bring your best to win a Prize

PS: This was our first meeting at our new location. All attendees were pleased at the size of the room, the food and service. We have made arrangements with the Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Que restaurant for the rest of the year for the room each first Tuesday of each month starting at 4:30 PM. So plan accordingly and attend one of your future club's meeting.

Monthly Gun & Knife Show Schedule

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

Aug 18-19	Ft Lauderdale - Suncoast Gun Show - War Memorial Auditorium
Aug 18-19	Port Charlotte - 2 Guys Gun & Knife Show - Charlotte County Fairgrounds
Aug 18-19	Orlando - Florida Gun Shows - Orlando Fairgrounds
Aug 25-26	Plant City - Suncoast Gun Show - Strawberry Festival Ag. Bldg.
Aug 25-26	Lakeland - 2nd Amendment Productions Gun Show - Lakeland Center



H. Wayne Hoffmann died June 2012

H. Wayne Hoffmann Life Member of the FMKC passed away in June, he was 64 years old. Wayne will be missed by the students he taught during his 40 years as a band director in the Dade County Public schools. His love of the WWII knives and their history was one of his many passions. He brought his collection/display to many knife shows and won many awards for it. The knife world has lost a great friend...



FMKC WEB SITE

www.FtMyersKnifeClub.mgmikutis.com

FMKC NEWSLETTER



Did the 1958 Federal Switchblade Act Actually Help Knife Collecting?

by Mike Haskew, BLADE field editor

There is little doubt the automatic is the most controversial knife style of modern times, probably of all time. It is also the most misunderstood. Originally conceived and implemented as a tool, the reputation of the automatic - or the more sinister sounding switchblade - was particularly run down during the 1950s and '60s following a wave of gang-oriented movies and the misguided efforts of overzealous politicians.

The early automatics were produced largely as conveniences for women, whose delicate fingernails might break in deploying a slip-joint blade via the nail nick. Imagine the difficulty of holding tight to a sewing project and attempting to open a small blade at the same time. The problem was solved with the switchblade.

Contrary to another popular misconception, the automatic had been around for quite some time before it became the object of controversy. "The British had them and Sheffield was making them back in the 1850s," remarked Butch Vallotton, a maker of automatics for years. "I think the French were making them, too. They go back a long way."

Cutlery entrepreneur George Schrade was instrumental in improving the automatic and its appreciable gain in popularity in the United States. In March 1892, Schrade patented an improved automatic with a release button in the bolster. He subsequently founded the Press Button Knife Co., and the successes and trials of Schrade's career went on from there.

As for automatics, he continued his innovative contributions with an automatic knife-shield-inletting machine in 1910 and the flying jack and pull-ball knives, both simplified automatics, in 1937. From 1911 to 1916, Schrade lived in Solingen, Germany, and developed the spring switchblade.

"No question, George Schrade was instrumental on the U.S. side," related cutlery historian and collector Pete Cohan, who also serves as custodian of the National Knife Museum in the Smoky Mountain Knife Works in Sevierville, Tennessee. "It's also significant that there are so many variations of automatics. Since 1836, there have been more than 150 patents on automatic knives, including a variety of things like gravity knives and others.

"These early knives became popular in what I call a folding spring knife," Cohan continued, "and people got into using them in a variety of ways. There were lots of knives made, even office knives with the spring action so women or stenographic people could open them easily. Certainly, there were several military applications made in Europe."

Indeed, according to *Blades's Guide to Knives & Their Values*, spring-open knives date back to the 18th century. Some rare 19th-century ones have spring assists to open the blades about 30 degrees when a lever is pressed. The Wilzin mechanism was used on two- and four-blade senators, with one lever for each blade, and on medium-sized double-end jackknives.

Of course, the release of films such as *The Blackboard Jungle*, *Rebel Without A Cause*, *The Cross and the Switchblade* and others whipped up anti-automatic sentiment, which culminated with the enactment of the Federal Switchblade Law in 1958 that banned interstate commerce in automatics. However, the same fervor gripped those who found the automatic of interest.

"I think the 1950s was when the next rise in popularity occurred," Cohan said. "That whole series of movies popularized the knives and brought about the interest of politicians. There was a hyper-characterization of the knives, and most of it was non-reality. The automatic was ill-defined at best in the legislation of 1958, but it was a factor and a stimulant in automatics becoming collectible."

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.