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THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH

Official Publication of the
Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association

By Marty Arnold, CML

7.00 Food & Refreshments

Meeting 7.30

Our meeting is scheduled
September 18

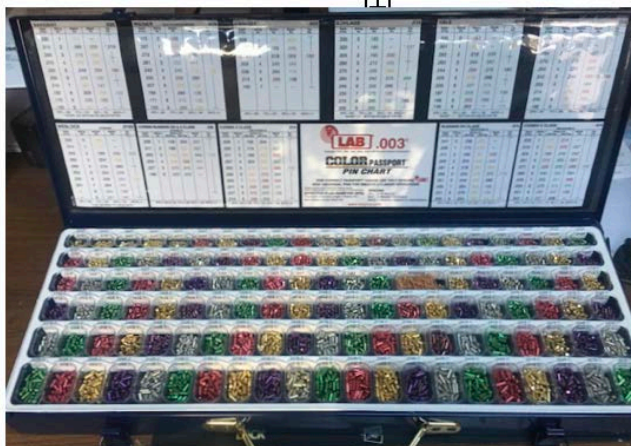
Program

Mermaid Spirit Distillery will have another presentation
about his hand made spirits for tasting.

Tickets will be issued for another
Pin Kit donated by LAB
Drawing will be at the November meeting

2023 Membership Rosters and ID cards will still be available

Thank you LAB for your support!



Presidents message

Hello GPLA members and friends,

I hope everyone had a good summer and you were able to take some time away from work to get some vacation and relaxation time with family and friends. It's always good to take a break, and no matter how busy we are before and after vacation, it's good to give our bodies and minds some rest.

GPLA was well represented at the ALOA Convention in Orlando, FL by a total of 14 members and spouses. The membership meeting was held on Friday morning, and I presented the Lee Rognon Award to John Hubel. John is the North Central Director and was recently appointed to be the Associate Education Director for ALOA as well as the ALOA Scholarship Foundation Board. John's involvement with ALOA, the Locksmith Security Association of Michigan, and his willingness to help other locksmiths and locksmith associations were qualities that deserved recognition.

The Yankee Security Convention in Springfield, MA will be coming up in October, which several of our members have attended in the past, as well as the Master Locksmiths Association of Great Britain in Telford, which Judy and I will be attending and representing GPLA.

Thank you to everyone that responded to the email survey about the future of GPLA and Sven Hellwig's efforts to invigorate the membership to step up and keep our association going into the future. His commitment to GPLA is to be commended and I'm sure the members he's counting on will be stepping up to support him as well.

You should have received a Constant Contact email about a safe servicing class to be held on October 14th at headquarters. Cliff Shafer will be the instructor and there will be 6.5 NJ CEU hours for those that will renew their NJ license in 2025. There is information on the website where you can sign up online as well as in this newsletter. Please sign up early to make sure you won't be shut out and offer the educational opportunity to your employees. Safe work can be a profitable addition to the services you offer.

There was another email sent out about the contents in the Connelly Library. Please reach out to Cliff Shafer if you did not get that email and you personally donated something to the library and would like it back.

I wanted to ask the members to keep honorary member Dee Mock, Nelly Arnold, and Diana Barnum in your thoughts and prayers. Dee is undergoing cancer treatments, Nelly is recovering from a fall over the Labor Day weekend and will be having surgery as a result, and Diana, who had a fall over the summer. We're hoping for a speedy recovery for everyone.

Finally, Paul Kline has a program lined up for the September general meeting and we're hoping for a good turnout. If you have a program or topic you would like to see covered at a general meeting that would be trade or business related, or something that could benefit our members personally, please let Paul or I know, and we'll do our best to see what's available. Looking forward to seeing you on the 18th.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ed Fitzgerald, CML
President

Membership Notes.

Just heard from Vickie that Life member #205, Albert Lilley was diagnosed with Cancer. Vickie and Life member # 259, Ken Lilley are asking the membership to please keep him in their prayers.

Just hours before the family was coming together on Labor day weekend to celebrate our 66th wedding anniversary, my wife Nelly tripped and fell. She ended up in the Cooper Hospital trauma center with a fractured eye socket, and a broken rib. She was released the following Wednesday, but was readmitted again last Sunday. We will have a tough road ahead of us as she is unable to stand up, barely eating and very weak. She will be discharged during the next few days to be admitted into a rehab facility.

It was reported that Honorary member #15, Dee Mock who will be celebrating her 80th birthday soon, is still undergoing treatments. We wish her well!!

Honorary member #17, Judy's Fitzgerald cochlear implant is working very well and her second implant is scheduled for the end of October. Watch out Ed, she can hear you now.

I send a note to retired member #115, Ron Blevins and his wife Tana replied telling me he is doing well right now. He is in remission but still having trouble moving his legs and his blood pressure continues to drop with any activity. He is in good spirits and eating much better. We keep praying for him. Thanks for keeping in touch.

Member #150, Ron Marcinkowski of Fox Chase applied for shop membership for 4 of his employees: Matthew Marcinkowski, Julian Nakagawa, Matthew Scuderi and Richard Wells. Their membership number will be 150A-B-C and D.

Member Jim Sundstrond is looking for a Framon #2 key machine. Call 8856-854-2000.

SOME HUMOR

A thief entered a house late one afternoon. He tied up the woman and at knife point asked the man to hand over the jewelry and money. The man started sobbing and said, You can take anything you want. But please, please untie the rope and let her go right now! You must really love your wife the thief said. No not particularly, but she will be coming home soon!

Grandma and Grandpa were visiting their Grandkids overnight. When Grandpa found a bottle of Viagra in his Grandson's medicine cabinet, he asked about using one of the pills. The Grandson said, I don't think you should take one, they're very strong and very expensive. How much asked Grandpa, about \$10 a pill he answered. Well, I still like to try one, and before we leave in the morning I'll put the money under the pillow. Later the next morning, the Grandson found \$110 under the pillow. He called Grandpa and said, I told you each pill was \$10, not \$110. I know, said Grandpa. "The hundred is from Grandma."

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GPLA's President Edward Fitzgerald, CML presents the Lee Rognon Award to John Hubel CML, ICML, M.Ed. at the ALOA membership meeting



GPLA was well presented at the 2023 ALOA Convention in Orlando. Standing L to R: Jack Magee, Jim Wiedman, Ron Marcinkowski, Vernon Kelley, Paul Kline, Joe Reustle, Sven Hellwig, Marty Arnold, Ed Fitzgerald. Seated: Stephanie Marcinkowski, Barry Wilensky, Tom Foxwell, Judy Fitzgerald. Not showing: Diana & Dana Barnum who were also present at the convention.

Some history, look at those prices in 1916

MEILINK'S HIGH GRADE STEEL SAFES

NOTICE: Tight wall construction filled with light and dry cellular asbestos. One-third less weight with same capacity. Economical in shipping--easy to handle--and occupy less space. Fireproof qualities do not depend upon weight. "Meilink's" safes resist fire better than the heavy, old style cement filled safes. Positively guaranteed against swelling walls and interior dampness, which runs business records, etc.

CONSTRUCTION: Best tested steel and iron, special composition of cement and asbestos filling, light and thoroughly dried. Old style safes filled only with cement are conductive to dampness and by their greater weight increase freight charges. As much iron and steel in Meilink's safes as in any at these prices. Bolt work and draw bars all steel-not cast iron-steel plate inside and out, heavy cast frames front and back, held by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. steel stay bolts, double support in door, solid steel knobs, combination locks, malleable casters, hand polished baked on black enamel, gold and aluminum bronze decorations, knobs, dial plate and hinges nickel plated and polished. Bound carpet in bottom. Each packed with excelsior and burlapped.



264 lbs.

Each **\$35.50**

For Home (Mfgs. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$) Outside 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11x3 $\frac{1}{2}$, inside 11x7x9 $\frac{1}{2}$
sub-treasury 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x8, lock drawer 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x3 $\frac{1}{8}$ x7 $\frac{7}{8}$, file space
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ x3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x9 $\frac{1}{2}$, book space 11x3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x9 $\frac{1}{2}$. Wt. about 85 lbs.
H6806 Shipping wt. 107 lbs. Each **\$13.50**

For Doctors', Lawyers' or General Use. (Mfgs 7) Outside
25x16x19, inside 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$, sub-treasury 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ x4 $\frac{5}{8}$ x10, 2 lock
drawer 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{3}{8}$ x10 $\frac{1}{8}$, file space 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{3}{4}$ x12 $\frac{1}{2}$, book space 15x5x12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Wt. about 240 lbs.
H6808 Shipping wt. 264 lbs. Each **\$22.50**

For Office or Business - (Mfgs 9) Outside 31x21x20 $\frac{1}{2}$, inside
15x10x12 $\frac{1}{2}$, sub-treasury 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ x4 $\frac{5}{8}$ x10 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2 lock drawer 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{3}{8}$ x10,
file space 4x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11, book space 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x9x13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Wt. about 390 lbs.
H6808 Shipping wt. Each **\$22.50**

"HERCULES" STOREKEEPERS' SAFES

Fireproof Qualities —Have stood a 45 minute exposure in an intense, heat rising from 500 to 1500 degrees.

Construction — Steel plates inside and out, electrically welded, heavy steel angles on heavy malleable cast frames, front and back held together with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. stay bolts, 3 carbon steel one piece draw bolts and bars, knobs and lever.

Walls — 4 in. thick, filled with fireproof material of short fiber asbestos and cement packed between walls in a bone dry state. Best fire resisting material know, also prevents moisture and interior dampness.

Finish --Hand polished, black enamel baked on gold bronze striped, 4 in. polished nickel plated dial plate, nickel plated knob and handle, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. machine jointed hinges, inside finished with aluminum bronze, bound carpet on bottom.

Combination Lock

High grade 2 key cylinder, 3 tumbler lock. Best construction, nonpickable, combination can be changed without taking apart.



H6811 — Outside 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 22 $\frac{1}{4}$, inside 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2 lock drawers 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 x 13, with 2 key lock,
book space 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$, file space 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 x 13, subtreasury 5 x 5 x 13,
Net weight 530 lbs. Burlapped and packed in excelsior, 600 lbs.

Published in 1916

Each **\$54.50**

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Historical Bank Heists

Amil Dinsio flew from Cleveland Ohio to Los Angeles with one thought in mind: find a bank located in a rich, high society neighborhood. The United California Bank was a perfect choice.

The bank was at the end of a shopping center, with its front windows facing away from the main adjacent street. The site of the shopping center was on a hill and the rear of the bank building looked down onto a nearby passing highway. A service road circled behind the bank with tall shrubs concealing the rear of the building. A high wooden fence enclosed trash containers and made a perfect place to hide the tools needed for the job.

Amil's brother-in-law, Charles Mulligan joined the operation and the two repeatedly 'cased' the bank. They rented a townhouse with a direct view of the shopping center and bank building. An all night surveillance noted and recorded all the coming and going movements within the bank area.

On a dark Friday night in late March of 1972, a reconnaissance trip was made to the bank roof. A power line coming onto the roof was tapped to provide electricity. The electrical power was needed to operate a jig saw for cutting an opening through the roof and a drop light for illumination while entering the building.

The two men lowered themselves through the two foot square cut out in the roof and onto the false ceiling of the bank. Once inside, they determined how to circumvent the vault alarm that would signal the monitoring police.

The men measured and located the exact spot for the entry through the solid eighteen inches of the vault ceiling. The men returned to the roof, replaced the cut out section and glued it in place with roofing tar. A small piece of mirror was stuck into the tar so it could be seen from their surveillance townhouse. Each day the reflecting mirror was checked: if the mirror had been moved, they would know the opening had been found.

After a week of watching the bank, checking their plans and equipment, they were ready. The gang had increased to six men. In the late hours of a Friday night, the shopping center was totally closed and desolate. As the gang climbed to the roof entrance, one member headed for the alarm bell mounted on the outside wall. A mixture of Freon and polyurethane was pressured sprayed through the vents of the bell housing. This mixture quickly formed a hardened solid mass and prevented the alarm from sounding.

Hours were spent drilling one inch holes into the roof of the vault and planting the explosive charges. Twenty sacks of earth were lugged to the roof of the vault. The packing of the dirt filled sacks on top of the explosives would deflect the blast downward into the vault. When all was ready, the gang moved out of the bank to a knoll behind the building. The explosive expert triggered the detonating device.

An inspection of the blast revealed a gaping two-foot diameter hole through the roof of the vault. A crisscross of steel reinforcing rods still protected the hole. An exhaust fan was used to clear the area of the smoke, dust and the strong sulphur odor. By this time, it was early Saturday morning. The gang loaded up all of their tools, sealed the roof entrance and left for the day. That night, they returned with a cutting torch to remove the reinforcing rods. Once inside the vault, 458 safe deposit boxes were opened, all with contents of undetermined amounts. An estimate of five million dollars in negotiable items was taken from the vault.

The burglary of the bank was well planned and executed. The meticulous research of every detail provided the formula for success. Ironically, the entire gang was caught by poor house keeping. When the F.B.I. searched the townhouse, it had been cleaned and wiped of all evidence. Except one. Dirty dishes had been placed into the dishwasher, but no one pushed the wash button. Finger prints of all the gang members were found on the dirty dishes.

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The Greater Philadelphia Locksmiths Association

is pleased to present a NJ Locksmith Licensing Board Approved 6.5-CEU Course:

Basic Mechanical Combination Safe Lock Servicing

Instructor: Clifford L. Shafer, CPS, CML

Date & Time: Saturday, October 14, 2023 - 8 am to 5:00 pm

Location: GPLA Headquarters, located at 8014 Craig St. Philadelphia, PA, 19136

Cost per Student: GPLA, ILA, MLANJ, NJMLA and SJLA Members: \$115.00 Non-Members: \$165.00

Class Description: This intensive hands-on, entry-level course will instruct students in the proper methods of installation, operation, service and troubleshooting of the mechanical combination safe locks typically found on safes and security containers. Defeat methods will also be discussed if time allows. Students who complete this class will be able to perform the service procedures necessary to maintain these locks for consistent and trouble-free operation, and diagnose and remedy common operating deficiencies. Students should bring assorted hand tools including #2 Philips and slotted screwdrivers, end or diagonal cutters, small vice grips, pen light, safety glasses, shrum tool, small hammer and a center punch.

Lunch will be provided.

NJ Locksmiths will receive an 6.5 CEU certificate for their 2025 NJ State Locksmith License renewal. Students must bring their NJ State License to class to receive their CEUs.

A GPLA certificate suitable for framing will be awarded to each student.

You can register on-line at www.gpla.org or fill out and mail in the registration form below.

CUT HERE and RETURN BOTTOM WITH PAYMENT

Name: _____

Company: _____

Company Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ NJ Locksmith License # _____

☐ **GPLA, SJLA, ALOA, MLANJ and NJMLA Members (please circle one) = \$115.00** Member # _____

☐ **Non-Members = \$165.00**

Please make **check** payable to: **GPLA**

Remit registration and payment to: Basic Mechanical Combination Safe Lock Servicing Class
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