

The InterKnot

Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

June 2000

Issue 11

In This Issue

This month the main feature is my visit to "Lots of Knots: A World of Knotting" hosted by the Pacific Americas Branch in Southern California this past June.

You may have noticed that this issue is late. Well... that's because I was playing at the knot show in California instead of home in Florida typing this up. But at least now I can include coverage of the show.

Gerry Moore has written an account of his trip to the 2000 Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival. Many thanks to Gerry for sharing his experiences with us.

In Future Issues

You have probably noticed that there is no occupational interview in this issue. I plan to continue doing them and I also look forward to some members writing some too. Also, here is an assignment for readers. Many of you are like me in that you always check out the way other people tie things. Send me a quick note (maybe even picture?). Maybe something you remember from long ago. I am sure other readers would like to hear about it.

And events? Start planning now for the IGKT Annual meeting in England, year 2K2. More details to follow.

PAB – Annual Meeting

For me the meeting started when I walked across the road from my hotel to the front of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum where several people were waiting for the Friday night meeting to start. There were many people that I hadn't seen in a while and I didn't know who to talk to first. I only see my knot tying friends about once a year so it is definitely one of my favorite parts of knot shows.



(Joe Schmidbauer, left. Darrell McNurlan, center, and Lindsey Philpott.)

The meeting was opened by Joe Schmidbauer, who is described by PAB President Lindsey Philpott as: secretary, treasurer, editor, librarian and all-round goodfella. He announced that he would volunteer to continue these tasks for two more years. Joe also told of a knot display board donated by the wife of the late Mr. Hensel, known to most people as one of

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the authors of the Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work.



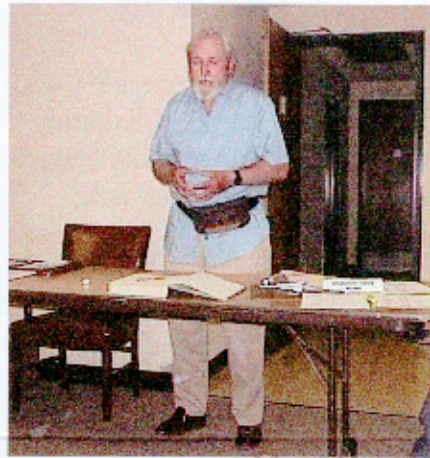
This was the display board of fancy work that he used to travel with, and Joe pointed out that each of the pieces can be found in the above-mentioned book.



(Ken Yalden, standing. Joe at left)

The meeting hosted two guest speakers: The first speaker, Ken Yalden, started by saying how good it felt to talk about knotting without having to explain why

someone would want to talk about knots. He gave a status report on the "KNOT YEAR 2K2" project. He said that a lot of people had not sent in their "First Knot of the Millennium" but that he didn't want to name names (but he might have coughed one out). He also mentioned that by the time some people went to tie their first knot of the millennium, they realized that they had already tied their shoes or their tie! He also talked about the 2K2 Guild meeting in England.



(Brian Field)

Next to talk was the IGKT President Brian Field. He entertained the gathering with how he came to knotting in his youth, and how he learned sailor's knots from a neighbor when he was young (and sailor's words). Then he took us far back in time to when knotting was the highest technology on earth. A time when rope and twine were made out of anything that grew at hand, and yet rivaled ropes of recent times in quality. He took us on a journey through different civilizations working towards the present, using methods, legends, and cultures to span knotting's noble history. His talk certainly made clear that to study knotting is to study much more than just an eccentric hobby. In taking questions from the group he was asked about the crosses he makes. He talked about the challenges he faced devising ways to tie them with one or two strands.

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When I arrived Saturday morning the tables and canopies were already set up on the lawn in front of the museum.



Every table had wonders to behold.



Richard Hodge and his chess work



(Our NAB Webmaster Ed Morai and some of his Rose knots)

Its hard not to strain you eyes at an event like this. I took a moment to razz Linsey Philpott at work making some rope fenders for the Maritime Museum's Tug Boat.



After hours of non-stop knotting and talking knots, we all got together for dinner that night at a Mexican restaurant, and went back to our hotels to rest up for the next day. *continued on page 4*

Sunday brought more of the same, which was perfect. Some people sat and gave knotting lessons to any who wanted, like



Dan Callahan (above), a well known knot tyer from Alaska. Others talked about the IGKT to anyone who wanted to hear, and



shared knot tying stories with visiting Boy Scouts, as Brian Field likes to do (above).

As a rough estimate, about 25 IGKT members attended, and maybe around 100 visitors, some of which joined the Guild.

I couldn't possibly describe all of the displays in the limited space here, or show photos of all of them (maybe I can include a couple more in future issues), but I hope this gives you a brief glimpse of what a knot show is like and perhaps even inspire you to attend one. That was really one of my main goals with this article. Maybe you can even bring a few things to display!

Contacting your IGKT - NAB

President/Secretary: John Burke
For: Subscription renewal, membership info and event details and updates.
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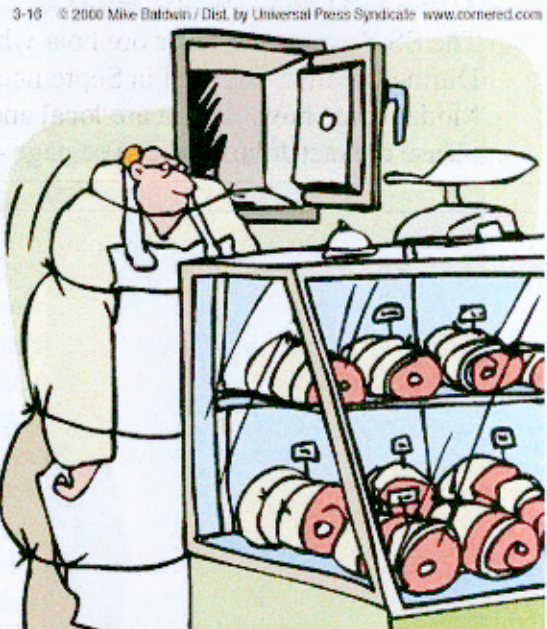
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Very Important: Please state purpose of email communication in subject heading. Only the subject line is visible in email lists so this helps people get back to you.

New IGKT-NAB Web Site

<http://www.igktnab.org/>

This link is not updated yet on most web pages and must be typed in an address bar (or click on this page).



Police suspect it was an inside job.

Recap of St. Michael's, MD. Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival

Had a great time meeting, and manning the IGKT booth with, fellow knothead, Jim Kobe.

The weather wasn't very cooperative - rain and drizzle, on and off most of the day (FRI), but that didn't dampen our spirits. We met and talked with a number of people, who happened to wander into our tented area.

This was my first active participation in one of our events, and I thought it uncanny how most of our visitors started their visit in the same manner: "The International Guild of WHAT?...Knot Tyers!...Is there REALLY such a group?"

When we assured them that, "Yes, there IS such a group, and we're part of it. Certified Knotheads?" they'd laugh and become engaged. Continuing with our patter, we'd say, "I'm not handing you a line...or, maybe I am!" as we'd hand each person in their group a 5' length of braided, 1/8" nylon line, (with Butane Backsplice on each end)...their laughter continuing.

We'd then ask, "What's your favorite knot?" or "Show me what knots you can tie." or "What knots do you use?" or "What questions about knots do you have, that we may be able answer?" Invariably, we'd get a response and, as a result, we had a ton of delightful conversations, with total strangers, about ropes and matters related to knotting. And I can safely say that each person left the booth area with a better understanding about knots and a brochure about the IGKT.

All in all, (and only having been there for the afternoon of the first day), I'd say that we had a fun-filled outing, and that the Guild was very capably represented and promoted.

Gerry Moore, Dale City, VA

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

East Lansing, Michigan, August 12 - 13, 2000.

This would be a craft booth with for sale items. Booth fee is not yet determined.

The show has a shortage of small stuff available for sale (like knotted items).

Please contact John Burke for details (See page 4).

MARITIME DAY ON THE SS BOYER

The SS Boyer is a former ore boat which is now a museum docked in Toledo, Ohio. During the first weekend in September, they have a Maritime Day which includes a Model boat show. If you are local and interested in helping coordinate an IGKT booth please contact John Burke (See page 4).

Membership Renewals: The date on your mailing label is the month and year that your membership expires. Please report any errors. Please submit your renewals by that date.

DUAL MEMBERSHIP: Covers membership in both the IGKT and IGKT-NAB.

Membership Fee as of January 1, 1998

	US				
Family	\$44	Individual	\$35	Youth	\$12

Please make check payable to in U.S. funds to the IGKT-NAB and mail to **IGKT-NAB, c/o 4417 Academy Street, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125-2205**

Address Changes: Please use above mailing address to update your address, phone number and email address. Updates are forwarded to England on a monthly basis.

InterKnot

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EVENTS

Did you miss these two events? Read about them inside!

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LOTS OF KNOTS: A WORLD OF KNOTTING

Knotting show and Demonstration hosted by the Pacific Americas Branch.
Annual Guild Meeting for Pacific Americas Branch and North American Branch

2000 MIDATLANTIC MARITIME FESTIVAL

IGKT shows maritime visitors what we do.

You can still represent the Guild at these upcoming events!

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

They want us there! We should be there! Represent the IGKT, sell your goods,
or just visit with many craftsman including model boat builders.

MARITIME DAY ON THE SS BOYER

Join the festivities, or loan them a knot board!

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EVENTS