

The InterKnot Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

March 2000

Issue 10

In This Issue

Things to do! Events to attend, web pages to visit and post at, things to read, membership to renew (for some of you), and did somebody say cartoon?

Do you have your plane tickets? The knotting event for North America this year is the "Lots of Knots: A World of Knotting" event being hosted by the Pacific Americas Branch in Southern California this June 23-25th. The annual guild meeting for both the PAB and the NAB will be there too. And don't forget the other events that bring the magic and art of knot tying to scores of children and adults every year.

Notice for the new IGKT-NAB web page at www.igknab.org. It has many features and info for guild members.

Pictured at right is Steve Forman, who gave an interview on cave diving for this issue. To his left are some of the guideline reels mentioned in the text. The picture on page 4 also shows some equipment he uses. Steve was very generous with his time and answered many questions about lines and knots for this article.

I guess the looks of this newsletter will change slightly as I continue to learn. All suggestions and article submissions are welcome at rlpenn@gte.net, my address or the IGKT-NAB web page.

Guidelines in Cave Diving



Our occupational interview this month is with cave diving instructor Steve Forman. He has been running a dive shop in Florida since 1977 and has been a certified cave diving instructor since 1978. Using lines and knots is very important to cave diving and Steve was kind enough to share his knowledge.

Some definitions will be helpful here. Open water diving takes place where there are no obstacles between the diver and the surface. Cavern diving refers to the entrance zone of a cave illuminated by natural daylight, and cave diving takes place in the interior area where the only light you have is what you bring with you.

It is in cave diving that use of line is important. Disorientation is the most common cause of cave diving accidents. A single continuous guideline to an open water area is certainly useful. When

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following a guideline, it is run through a circle made with your thumb and another finger. If there is proper tension in the line, the way it pulls on your fingers can tell you useful information about your buoyancy (tendency to drift upwards or downwards). Inexperienced divers who don't control their buoyancy may swim too close to the bottom and stir up silt, which greatly diminishes visibility.

The line Steve uses is about 350-400 feet of #24 nylon carried on what looks like a fishing reel with a handle. The line is first made off at an open water area to a natural outcropping just outside the cave, with a secondary anchor point just inside the cave. The secondary tie off is insurance against mishap (or mischief) on the primary tie off. The diver deploying the line swims while holding the reel in front of themselves with a finger pressing against the reel rim to control tension.

Line placements are made at intervals with carefully chosen cave wall irregularities so as not to drift or be in the way. If there is already a line in place from another dive group, the new one is placed to run under the first, so when the first is followed out it will be on top for that group (in the manner of dock line etiquette). Some beginners have a tendency to wrap the line around something at these anchor points, but if the wraps come loose then the line will drift from slack, and even if they stay wrapped it is harder to follow out by feeling along the line. When following a line with a lot of slack, sometimes a diver will let it slip through both hands while holding it in a large z shape.

The line is taken up by reeling it in as in fishing. The last diver in the group does the reeling while the divers in front loose and free the line placements. In the case of some springs, there is a current out of the cave, which forces the reeling to be done very quickly. Steve has seen some divers

coming out of caves frantically wrapping line around a reel that looks like a large bird's nest because it jammed from trying to reel so quickly.

When working with line it is important to manage the fastenings, (read K-N-O-T-S). The closest I have come to tying a knot under water is in the tank behind a commode, but for cave diving knot tying is important. (I resisted the urge to say it can keep you out of a bind).

The line end on the reel starts with a bowline loop. For the primary tie off outside the cave the loop is passed around the tie off object, then the reel is passed through the loop, resulting in a Cow Hitch/Larks Head knot on the anchor ring. This loop is made with a macramé bead on it so that the Cow Hitch is easy to grab when it needs to be undone. Some caves already have a guideline permanently anchored. Even then it is still necessary to place a line up to this starting point. It is also necessary to carry an extra line called a jump line when branching from the middle of one permanent line to the start of another. In this case an arrowhead shaped plastic insert is placed on the main line and is held there by inserting the line through slots built into its body. The jump line is then tied here similar to before and lead to the start of the next line and made off again. The arrowhead shape here is needed to point the way to the exit since the main line would lead two ways at this point.

An extra line called a safety reel is also carried. A diver might be following a line that is broken and just ends. Here a safety line must be tied on in order to search for the permanent line, the exit or another diver. The search can always be repeated from this spot by reeling the safety line back to its start. When the new line is tied to the old, a bowline is tied in the old, and

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EVENTS

LOTS OF KNOTS: A WORLD OF KNOTTING

Los Angeles Maritime Museum, Berth 84, Foot of 6th Street in San Pedro, California

Annual Guild Meeting for Pacific Americas Branch and North American Branch.

Will be in the Brass Room of the Museum Friday June 23rd, around 7:00 PM, with “bring your own string” social starting hours before. PAB will hold a general meeting and elections, NAB will have a short general meeting and try not to heckle PAB.

Knotting show and Demonstration hosted by the Pacific Americas Branch.

Will be in front of the museum Saturday and Sunday June 24th-25th starting 8-9 AM. The museum is supplying awnings and as many tables and chairs as they have available for use on their large lawn and wide concrete walkways. A rear deck and interior static exhibit space will be available on a limited basis. Dress for warm weather. Group dinner Saturday night at a local restaurant. Location to be announced.

Contacts for more information:

Lindsey Philpott: (562) 595-8854

Joe Schmidbauer: email: Koolkatz@prodigy.net

Web Site: <http://home.fea.net/~igktpab> (hopefully to be updated soon)

If possible, please let organizers know your plans: dinner attendance, display items etc.

Recommended travel: Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and car rental.

Shuttles are available for \$25 to \$30, but a rental car will allow site seeing to many areas of local interest (like the Long Beach Aquarium, Queen Mary, Disneyland etc.).

Accommodations available in immediate area:

Sheraton Los Angeles Harbor; 601 S. Palos Verdes St; San Pedro 90731

(310) 519-8200 room rates range from \$72 to \$120 with the different options.

The Sheraton is willing to give a discount rate of \$99 + tax (14%) if bookings are made before the end of April. This is for a minimum 3-night stay.

Holiday Inn; 111S. Gaffey St; San Pedro 90731

(310) 514-1414 Room rates range from \$89 to \$119

The Holiday Inn has the same rate of \$99 + tax with a block booking made for 20 rooms, booked at least 30 days before the event. Mention the Guild when making reservations.

Hilton Port of Los Angeles; 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina; San Pedro 90731

(310) 514-3344 Room rates run \$99 and up.

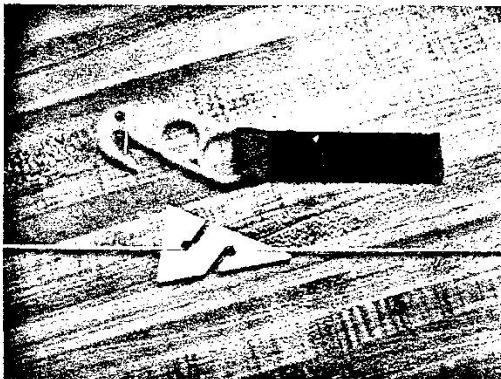
Best Western/Sunrise Hotel; 525 Harbor Blvd; San Pedro 90731

(310) 548-1080 Room rates are \$74 for a single, \$79 for a double or king, and up to four for \$84, all plus tax. (P.S. Your miserly editor had no trouble booking a room here.)

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then the new is tied to it in the form of interlocking bowline loops. Steve's method of tying the bowline is the usual rabbit hole and tree way except that he ties it upside down.

Extra lines in caves left behind by other divers can be confusing and dangerous. Entanglement is something a diver must always be careful of. From long experience Steve finds it best use cutter called a Z-knife when lines must be cut. It is a small clip cutter that does not have an extended blade like a regular knife but a recessed blade that cuts small cords that are forced into a slot in the knives body.



When asked if it takes much practice to use lines properly in cave diving, Steve said it is not too hard to master, but he has seen students trying to lay lines on open water sites become so wrapped and entangled in the line that they couldn't move.

When Steve reef dives, he carries the type of string bag that most divers use, and has even used one as a lift bag by spreading out a plastic trash bag in one and then releasing air into it.

Many thanks to Steve Forman for sharing his knowledge with us and for his many years of teaching the use of guidelines in keeping this fascinating sport a safe one.

Contacting your IGKT - NAB

President/Secretary: John Burke
For: Subscription renewal, membership info and event details and updates.
Email: knottyrope@prodigy.net
Address: IGKT-NAB
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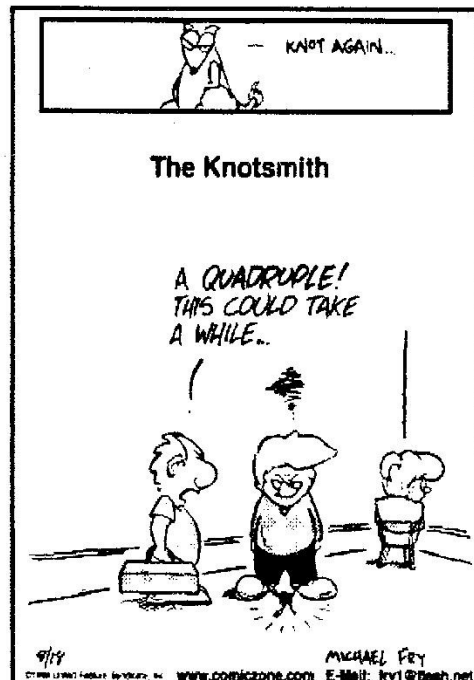
InterKnot Editor: Randy Penn
For: Event info (if desperate) and submissions for InterKnot.
Email: rlpenn@gte.net
Address: InterKnot
c/o 5024 Greenglen Ln.
Lakeland, FL 33811

Very Important: Please state purpose of email communication in subject heading.

New IGKT-NAB Web Site

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

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



MYSTIC WOODEN BOAT SHOW

June 23-25 at Mystic Seaport in Mystic Connecticut.

The long established annual Wooden Boat Show includes over 100 wooden boats, demonstrations of tools, and methods of boat construction. Attendance is around 15,000.

Though not with us anymore, Al Trout will always be remembered for making the the IGKT a part of this event. His enthusiasm for bringing the joy of knot tying to the public at this annual event and many others will always be an example to IGKT and a tradition we plan to uphold.

Help staff the IGKT booth for the weekend or just an hour. Bring knotwork to display or bring cord and tie turks heads and monkey's fists for kids, or just talk knots with the many visitors. Contact Dan Machowski. Phone (843) 795-9240 or email djm@awod.com.

Dan Machowski will also have a booth at the Tail Ship 2000 Charleston Wooden Boat Appreciation Day the weekend before on June 17-18th. Contact him as above for details. More details and related info are on the Web site <http://seaislandboatworks.com/>

2000 MIDATLANTIC MARITIME 8TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

May 19 – 21, 2000 in St. Michaels, MD on the Museum grounds.

Staff an IGKT table and show maritime visitors what we do.

If you live in the area and can help coordinate, please contact John Burke (See page 4)

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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Annual Guild Meeting for Pacific Americas Branch and North American Branch

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MYSTIC WOODEN BOAT SHOW

Man a booth and help continue the tradition started by Al Trout.

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A

2000 MIDATLANTIC MARITIME FESTIVAL

Staff an IGKT table and show maritime visitors what we do.

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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.

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MARITIME DAY ON THE SS BOYER

Join the festivities, or loan them a knot board!

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See inside for locations, dates and more.

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EVENTS