

The InterKnot

Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

September 2000

Issue 12

In This Issue

This month heads off with an article sent in by Edward C. Morai II. You may have seen his rose knots in the last issue and he also serves as the IGKT-NAB Webmaster. Sorry if you would have liked to attend but didn't know about it. I certainly plan to post announcements for all events I can, so if you know of any events of interest to *InterKnot* readers, please send info.

Helene Roehm has written an account of her time at the 2000 Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival. Many thanks to Helene for sharing her experiences with us.

There is a notice about a new emailing list for ropemaking. It is very new; I received a notice about it while working on this issue.

I hope you like the cartoon. I found it last year and sent a copy to Joe Schmidbauer to put in his newsletter. Since most people who receive the *InterKnot* haven't seen it yet, I am including it here. It is one of my favorites.

In Future Issues

Where will the IGKT-NAB 2001 meeting be? You tell me. While you are at it tell our president John Burke, and he will forward your ideas to our executive board.

Also, start planning now for the IGKT Annual meeting in England, year 2K2. More details to follow, really.

Traditional Net Making Display

Goschenhoppen Historians
34th Annual Folk Festival 2000
11 & 12 August 2000

By Edward C. Morai II

I'd initially met Tony Emery in the Yahoo Knotters Club, an internet chat room. A few months later, he posted a message on the Knotters Club board that he would be at the Goschenhoppen Folk Festival demonstrating netmaking. I emailed him that I was interested, and he emailed back driving directions. I arrived on 12 August around 10 am at the Goschenhoppen Park in Greenville, PA after spending the night at a hotel not far from the PA Turnpike.

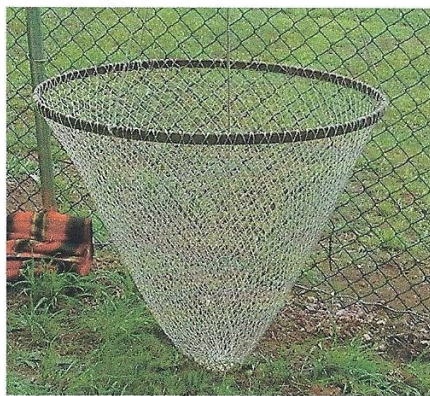
There were two displays/demonstrations I was interested in seeing. Tony's "Traditional Pennsylvania Dutch Nets" and a manual rope making display he had mentioned. I reviewed the local festival map I'd been given and walked around the large multi-acre park. I got to see a lot of displays as I navigated around the grounds because Tony's table was all the way in the back.

After introducing myself, we fell into knot talk (of course!). He had several nets on display including several dip nets, (pics 1-3), a fish trap (pic 4), an apple picking net (pic 5), and even several net/ball games to keep the kids entertained (pic 6). Tony was quite busy, between answering any

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question the public had (pic 7), demonstrating his nets (pic 8), and showing me his wares! In his spare time he helped his two apprentices, one of which was just starting out (pic 9). I enjoyed watching the young apprentices as they worked. Tony was very patient and balanced all the commotion well -- no wonder, he's had 25 years of practice.

Off on one side of the table he had his workbox. It was decorated with some fancy knotwork (pics 10, 11). On display and in use were his wood gauges, twine, and a net making guide written by Tony. He learned some of his skills in the Navy from a bosun. While knotting isn't a 'upfront' hobby or interest in the modern Navy he noted that he had two Ashleys turn up missing during his Navy duty. Once out of the Navy, he got interested in net making, and found a Dan Moser of Pennsburg who became his mentor. His grandmother had taught Mr. Moser. In the early 20th century he and his family sold fish traps to local Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River commercial fisherman. Tony's been practicing ever since, and showing the public during the yearly festivals. Tony is one of our newest members; he got an application a few years ago but had never sent it in. He's recently been surfing the net investigating all of our knot sites. I think talking with a fellow knothead helped him over the threshold.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

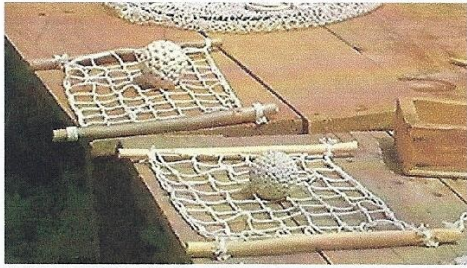


Picture 4

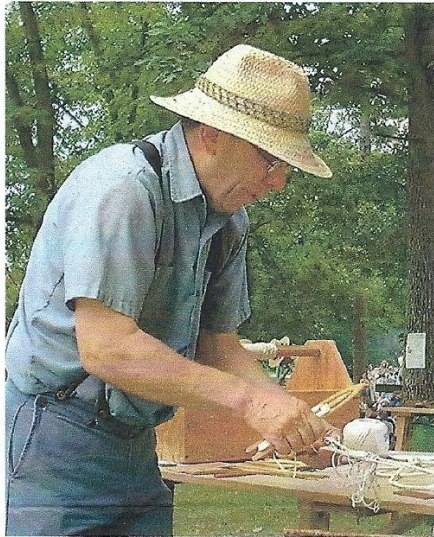


Picture 5

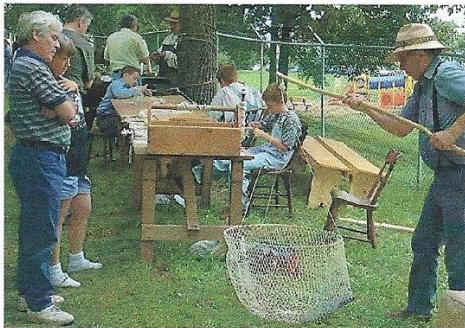
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Picture 6



Picture 7



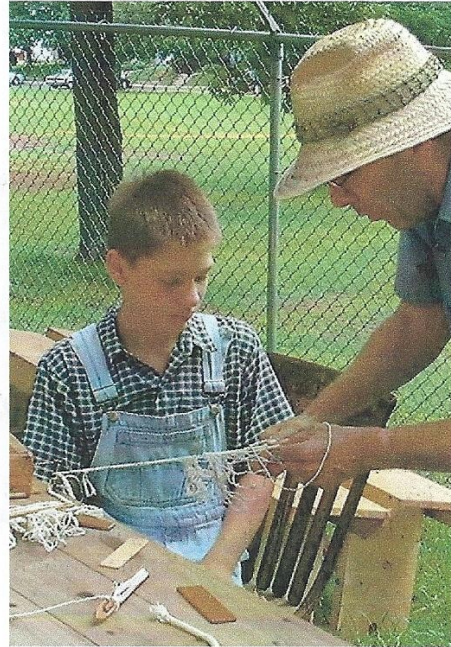
Picture 8

Ropemaking Online

There is a new mailing list on ropemaking. A mailing list is like a newsgroup but with email. You can subscribe by going to the website:

www.egroups.com/group/ropemaking.

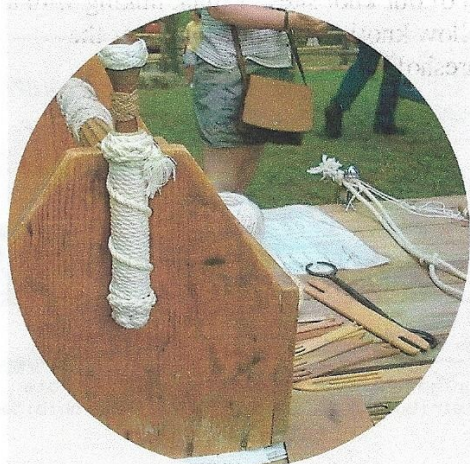
Some of the subscribers have their own ropemaking web page to visit.



Picture 9



Picture 10



Picture 11

MARITIME DAY ON THE SS BOYER

Six IGKT-NAB members visited the SS Willis B Boyer Maritime Festival in Toledo Ohio, on Saturday September 9, 2000. In addition to the knotted items, the program included a folk singer, an author of maritime books, a radio controlled model boat basin, and maritime merchandise. The IGKT-NAB display was set up in the forward Captain's Dining Room along with several model ships. Visitors were able to view macramé, table lamps with rope decorations, bell ropes, knot boards, canvas ditty bags, and many miscellaneous items. A great time was had by all of those participating. The IGKT-NAB thanks all who participated in making this a successful event.

Got Rope?

We have had several members looking for sources for various types of line, rope, and miscellaneous items. If you have any sources for these types of items please email or snail mail me and I will publish the information in the *InterKnot*.

Contacting your IGKT - NAB

President/Secretary: John Burke
For: Subscription renewal, membership info and event details and updates.
Email: knottyrope@prodigy.net
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InterKnot Editor: Randy Penn
For: Event info and submissions.
Email: rlpenn@gte.net
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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/>

OK it is not really that "new" anymore, but I thought I would call it to your attention again. Thank you for your time.



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2000 MidAtlantic Maritime Festival

By Helene Roehm, Knot Tyer (North American Branch)

"Hey, are you going to the Maritime Festival with the IGKT this year?" Jim's voice greeted me on the phone one day in early May. He went on to say that he had emailed Dan Mahowski to volunteer his help, but since Dan couldn't be there, Jim had agreed to set up and man the Booth. Because I had gone with Jim to this Festival before and was a member of the Guild, I was the first one he called.

We organized a knot-tying display, with me preparing the boards and placing the knots on them and Jim making the stands. We made two boards, the more traditional one showing and naming various knots, and the other was interactive! We attached two dowels to the board, tied around them some knots requiring an anchor, making sure to leave enough room for the visitors to practice tying their own knots. Jim also took some of his knot books, several IGKT-NAB newsletters, lots of line, and several different fids. I brought plenty of iced tea, too. I even borrowed a knot board the father of a coworker made a long time ago, which uniquely displayed knots tied around nails.

The weekend was cloudy and overcast, that unfortunate circumstance keeping down the number of attendees to the Festival as a whole. However, the Knot Tyers booth almost always had at least several or more visitors inquiring, "Is there really a club of ... of people who tie knots?" Their skepticism very soon melted as both Jim and I explained the role knots played in the day-to-day activities and sometimes the very survival of the men aboard the early sailing ships. In addition, during the long periods of enforced leisure on a three to four day tack in steady weather, the "purpose" of decorative knotting developed, and this grew very elaborate as time went on. Did you know that the double helix of DNA can be explained by knot theory?

Throughout the entire weekend, there was frequent reference to "knot knot" jokes or a comment about how much fun this was . . . knot, and on and on. I added to my collection of "afraid knot" jokes too! Jim's instructing background came out in full force, and he frequently had whole families earnestly learning how to tie the monkey's fist. Once the people laughed and talked with us for a moment or two, it was easy to have them tie a knot from childhood, as long as they didn't "get the brain in the way of their hands" so the memory could come back. From then on it was really fascinating to hear the stories and see the results, some simple and others quite elaborate. On Sunday afternoon an old salt (he had the rolling walk of one long used to balancing on a heaving deck!) talked with me a long while about his experiences aboard various steamers over the years, and all the while he made knot after knot without thinking about it. His belt was made out of line, tied elaborately in a pattern I'd never seen, and his pocketknife was pulled from a rope carrying case.

It was a long weekend, involving standing many hours and eating bites of food between the frequent visitors to the Booth. More importantly, it was very rewarding, spreading the word about the Guild, sharing information about knots, and we went home tired and with a terrific sense of accomplishment!

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
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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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Lakeland, FL 33811

EVENTS

Did you miss these events? Read about them inside!

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MARITIME DAY ON THE SS BOYER

Read about the many activities and IGKT-NAB participation at this event.

2000 MIDATLANTIC MARITIME FESTIVAL

Helene Roehm tells us about her time at this event.

Goschenhoppen Historians 34th Annual Folk Festival 2000

Read an article including 11 pictures by Edward Morai on Net-Making at this event.

Upcoming events?

The IGKT-NAB 2001 Annual Meeting

The IGKT-NAB Executive Board is looking for ideas from the membership on a location for the IGKT-NAB General Membership meeting in the year 2001. Please offer suggestions to John Burke at address listed inside.

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EVENTS