

The InterKnot

Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

March 2002

Issue 18

In This Issue

Well it's been a heck of a quarter (or more) since the last issue. My computer had a virus hit it. Luckily, with a little hard drive transplant surgery, I recovered my *InterKnot* files, so if anyone needs a back issue, all you have to do is ask.

I was lucky enough to get a professional interview with Ken Casey, a man who uses knots for his livelihood.

I also wrote about some of my experiences using knots and lines while scuba diving, as a follow-up to the cave diving article in the March 2000 issue.

Need some cord? Included is detailed catalogue information from R&W Enterprises, the shop that we all like to visit whenever the Annual Guild meeting is in New Bedford.

2K2 Annual Guild Meeting

Can you make it? Great!
If not, maybe you have some knotwork you would like to have displayed there.

John Burke is willing to take your items with him and display them.

They should be transportable, have a tag with maker's name, city & state. And please specify whether you need the item back or not. It's that simple.

Ken Casey Arborist

Ken Casey has been an Arborist now for twelve years. He is the man you call when you need tree limbs lowered with rope, without demolishing your roof. He started like many Arborists did, scaling the trees without rope. He soon came to the conclusion that rope would make the climbing safer.

Turning to books, like Geoffrey Budworth's *The Knot Book* and many climbing books, Mr. Casey soon learned how to use ropes and knots to climb trees safely. Later, he learned even more from the NAA (National Arborist Association) and the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture). He says that the proper learning materials are much more prevalent now than when he started. He even communicates online regularly with other people who practice his profession.

When he first shows up to some job sites with his aged and weathered Chevy pickup, (with clutch assemble being held together with a cleverly rigged rope pulley sling), some would-be clients are a bit doubtful about his being up to the job, especially if there are large trees involved. After seeing Ken in the picture included with this article, they immediately realize that Ken Casey is the real thing. His knot of choice for belaying? He uses a

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doubled Bowline with the end tucked as inspired by the Algonquin Bowline described in the above mentioned The Knot Book. He ties it the way climbers sometimes tie the regular Bowline, by first tying without the end, and then slipping the end through and capsizing the knot to form a Yosemite Bowline loop. By having it ready this way, he can reach for stuff if needed, and can thread as much of the end through as he needs when it comes time to size the loop for a limb or any other belay. For climbing he uses the Prussik. For leverage he uses many variations and combinations of the truckers hitch, depending on how much multiplication he needs. After working with many books and field practice for many years, he has an astounding intuitive use of them.

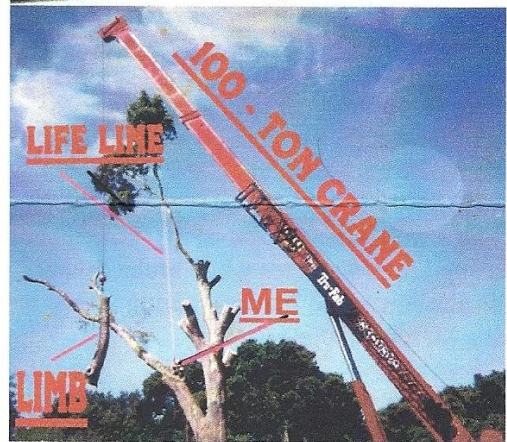
When asked how he rigs branches for lowering, he told of many different ways depending on the circumstances. A high branch is rigged differently than a long branch ten feet above a roof, which is rigged still differently from a branch just five feet above a roof. He rigs each branch so that when it is cut, its movement will serve to tighten the belay, and so the force on the rig will cause the branch to turn and twist the direction it needs for an event-free lowering. Choosing how far from the trunk to tie off has great effect too. He will even combine multiple belays to multiple branches, so that when some are cut, they will have a predictable pull on the rest of the branches. He says that seeing and feeling how his own weight responds to forces in a tree has given him additional insight into how branches will move.

He frequently teaches would-be Arborists. When teaching knots, he likes to teach them a by family, so as to approach the subject in an organized way. As he demonstrates to students he says to watch carefully as "my fingers never leave my hand." Some students are very confident and eager to go up a tree after learning the

belay knot, but when finally ready to trust their weight to it 30 feet in the air, seem to hesitate to trust "that knot."

Of course one of the questions he gets most often is if he is nervous about going so high in the trees. He answers that not only is he afraid of heights, but that he is not even comfortable being as tall as he is (about 5' 7"). He says that he has just had to learn to 'trust the ropes.' According to Ken, what he sees as dangerous is roofers working on a second story building with no safety line. Although, he admits, it does feel a bit weird to be suspended high up by ropes and using power cutting tools.

Calling card including text on reverse



NOT JUST A JOB...

We remember this day very well; it was a muggy 90 degrees by 7:30 A.M. Obvious to anyone else too hot to work but you see the crane was reserved with a 3 hour minimum @ \$150/hr in 1995.

The little bit of green above was the only shade to hide while temps. rose; as a 36" chainsaw worked around in the air. We had to be very careful as we balled logs around in the air weighting several tons a piece; like the fresh cut one hanging here! For unseen below were two homes, power, cable and telephone lines; a cement wall, palm tree, driveway etc.! All faired very well of course!

Follow-up on using lines in cave diving.

If you read the professional interview "Guidelines in Cave diving" in the March 2000 *InterKnot*, then you might be interested in hearing about my experiences in trying it myself. Since I interviewed Steve Forman, we became friends and I have taken many dive classes from him.

My experiences in using lines and knots under water have certainly gone differently than I would have guessed. You would think that after years of learning about lines and knots that a new application would be straightforward, but it didn't seem to work out that way.

On my first try at tying one line to another in an underwater cavern, I found that I had to manage with just one hand, using the other to hang on because of the current. I hadn't noticed the current was that much until I tried to hold still to do something. That was also when I noticed I could have used a third hand to hold the light.

It seems that even swimming along a line underwater has its challenges. When first asked to follow a line underwater, I couldn't even find where it started. I finally noticed the instructor waving his light at it like an airport signalman, hoping I would get the hint. That was my first lesson in paying attention to where the line is, and staying close.

Continued next column

When there is no visibility, the line is followed by holding it in your fingers, in the circle of an OK sign. It sounded reasonably easy when I read about it in the manual. When I tried it however, I found that when any slack was on the line, it was almost impossible to slide my hand along the line. It became like spaghetti. And a couple of times I was hurriedly trying to change my buoyancy because I could feel myself pulling harshly up on the line, and hence pulling slack into it. I'm sure I looked more like a yo-yo than a diver.

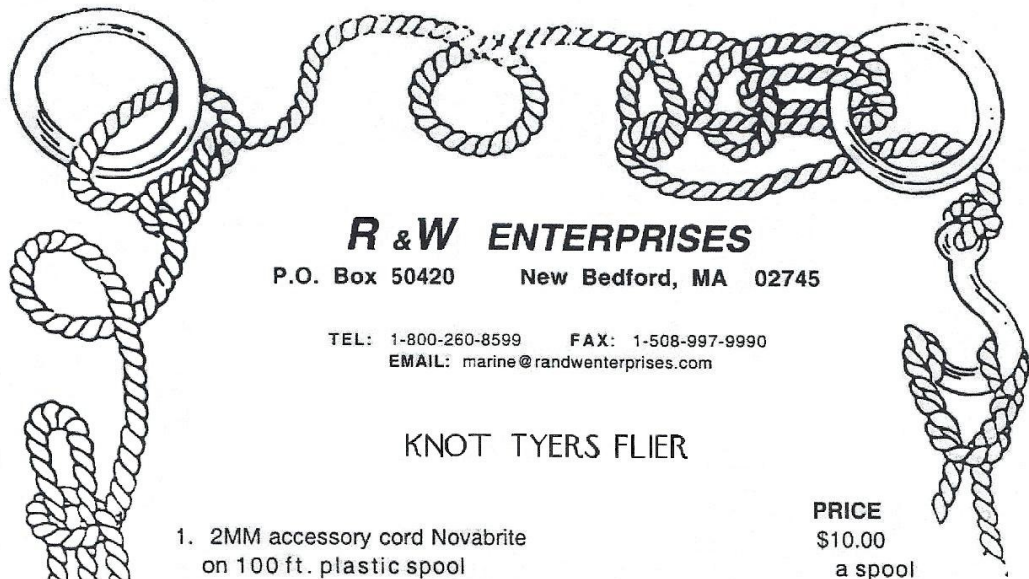
When running a reel for the first time, I had practiced on land first and was determined to get it right the first time I used it underwater. Nope. Tangled my reel the first time I turned around and tried to reel my line back on the spool. Later I had to disassemble the reel to untangle it.

And the second time I tried to run a reel underwater?... I couldn't even unclip it from the D-ring in the back of my belt. It seems I hadn't locked down the spool well enough and the end of the line became thoroughly snagged on some of my dive equipment. One of the instructors had to undo it for me.

So all in all, I guess it was a good thing that I was an expert in lines and knots when I started the class.

Although I greatly enjoy my continued diving experiences, at this time I do not plan to do any rope climbing in trees.





R & W ENTERPRISES

P.O. Box 50420 New Bedford, MA 02745

TEL: 1-800-260-8599 FAX: 1-508-997-9990
 EMAIL: marine@randwenterprises.com

KNOT TYERS FLIER

- | | PRICE |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. 2MM accessory cord Novabrite
on 100 ft. plastic spool
beautiful combination of colors
yellow with pink and purple
pink with yellow and blue
purple with yellow and pink
blue with pink and purple | \$10.00
a spool |
| 2. 3MM accessory cord Novabrite
on 70 ft. plastic spool
beautiful combination of colors
same color combination as
2MM accessory cords | \$10.00
a spool |
| 3. 1.8MM braided polyester cord
packaged: 500 feet per cardboard tube
Colors available: natural or solid black | \$10.00
per tube |
| 4. 1.4MM braided polyester cord
packaged: 500 feet per cardboard tube
color: only in natural | \$10.00
per tube |
| 5. .9MM braided polyester cord
packaged: 500 feet per cardboard tube
color: only in natural | \$10.00
per tube |

List Continued on next page.

R&W Enterprises – Continued

6. Ref #025 – hollow braided cord
Size: approximately 0.110 of an inch
3 Colors: white, O.D. black fleck, solid black.
Price: \$60.00 a spool
7. Tiny braided polyester cord. Size: 0.012 inch
Diameter. Breaks at 28 lbs. Color: natural
Price: \$.01 per foot
8. 3-strand twisted cotton seine twine
sizes #18 through #72 packed on ½ lb. balls.
Price: \$5.00 each.
9. 3-strand twisted nylon seine twine Size: #18
Packaged on cardboard tubes containing 250 ft
Equivalent to ¼ lb. Colors: fluorescent orange
Fluorescent green. Completely color fast.
Price: \$4.00 each.
10. #650 paroline parachute cord 1000 ft spool
twenty different colors. Price \$60.00 a spool.
11. ¼ inch 3-strand cotton rope \$.10 a foot.
12. 3/16 inch 3-strand nylon rope. Gold color.
Price: \$.10 a foot
13. 3/16 inch or 5mm spun Dacron rope
Color white. Price \$.20 a foot.
14. 3-strand Manila rope ¼ inch to 2inch dia.
Contact for price.

Many other ropes ¼ inch – 1 ½ inch diameter
20% discount for minimum \$200 order

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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.

IGKT-NAB Web Site

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

Check here for updated information on
events, and many other knotting related
items.

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

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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EVENTS

E 2K2 Annual Guild Meeting

V The International Guild of Knot Tyers celebrates 20 years of existence with
E a week-long conference and exhibition in the Furnham Hall, Fareham,
N Hampshire, 20th May to 25th May 2002

T See Inside

S Professional interview with an Arborist.
Rope and knot misadventures from a beginning diver.
Detailed catalogue info from an excellent cordage supplier.

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