

The InterKnot

Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

December 2002

Issue 20

In This Issue

Now is the time to make plans for the IGKT-NAB 2003 meeting. As usual our ever efficient chapter president John Burke has prepared everything for us again. All we have to do is make hotel reservations and get ourselves to Virginia in October. Thanks John.

On the right are a few brief notes on knot book errors. We have all seen them, so here are a couple of examples and explanations about how they happen. On rare occasions I imagine an error could pop up in a newsletter but there wasn't room to discuss that here.

I also had the pleasure to play at rope-making and knot tying with a local scout troop. There is a picture of some of the kids using the rope-making machine on page three.

And let's see what else, another listing of rope suppliers for new readers, a reminder of the Sunday night Yahoo discussion group and of course another cartoon.

In Future Issues

You tell me. I may do another article on knot book errors, or maybe another article on the square-rigger Bounty that is now wintering in Florida, or maybe an article just about knots.

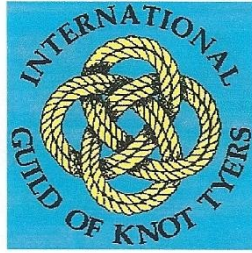
Errors in Knot Books

Have you ever noticed that a knot book you were reading had an error in it? It is possible that you were not imagining it. Almost every knot book has some errors, and a few have many errors in them.

One interesting side effect of knot books having so many errors, is that when looking at older knot publications it is possible to tell which books were plagiarized from which just by tracking errors. In The Ashley Book of Knots there is a description of early books that were based on The Book of Knots by Tom Bowling. Many government publications about knots were copied from other books with all errors intact. In fact, errors seem to survive reprints just fine, too.

How do these errors happen? Is the world full of incompetent knot book authors? Not necessarily. There are many ways for an error to show up in a knot book. Most of them are based on the way knot books are published these days. Perhaps the biggest cause of errors in contemporary knot books is that book publishers hire an author and illustrator separately. Sound silly? I agree. But that is the way many publishers are doing it now. Many knot book authors I have talked to told me they had no say in how the illustrations are done, or how the pages were laid out.

continued on page 3



International Guild of Knot Tyers North American Branch 2003 Meeting

What: The International Guild of Knot Tyers – NAB 2003

When: October 17 – 19, 2003

Where: Mariners Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23606.
Telephone: 757-596-2222

Hotel Accommodations: Point Plaza Suites & Conference Hotels, 950 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, Virginia, 23601. Located approximately 4 miles from the museum.

Thirty Deluxe Guest Rooms are being held in a block for the IGKT-NAB.
The room rate for the Deluxe Guest Rooms are \$69.00 per night, plus city and state taxes which are currently 12%.

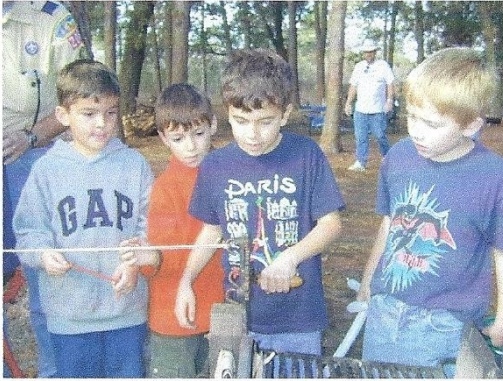
Amenities: All rooms feature in-room coffee makers, full-size ironing boards with irons and data port capability. **The hotel provides free shuttle to and from the Newport News/Williamsburg Airport.**

Reservation Procedures: USA Attendees may make their reservations by calling toll free (800) 841-1112 prior to Wednesday September 17, 2003. Overseas reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 757-599-4460. Reservation requests received after this date will be accepted on a space-available basis and a rate available basis. In order to receive the special group rate, guests need to identify themselves as attending the International Guild of Knot Tyers-North American Branch. At check-in, attendees may present a credit card or refundable cash deposit to cover any incidentals charged to their room.

Hospitality Room: Available for Thursday, Friday, & Saturday nights.

Saturday Evening Dinner: The IGKT-NAB will be holding a dinner on Saturday Evening at the hotel. (TBA).

Rope Making and Tying with Boy Scouts



I recently had the chance to demonstrate my new rope-making machine to a local scout troop. Actually it was an antique farm rope making machine, capable of making three strand rope.

I used jute twine to make the strands from because that usually lays up without a fuss. A fishing tackle swivel was used at the other end, and a Y- shaped stick for the spreader.

I also brought long one inch-thick balloons to demo knots, and of course, I cut up the ropes so they could each keep a piece.

You can't tell from the photo, but their attention span could be measured in seconds. The parents seemed more interested than the kids at times, but everyone had a good time.

Knotty Talk Online

Sunday Nite Chat Sessions – Open to any and all! Come join us 6 – 9pm EST each Sunday under the category of 'Hobbies & Crafts', in the user room 'KnotTyers'.

To see help in how to do this with Yahoo Instant Messenger, see the links at the IGKT-NAB Web site.

Knot Book Errors Continued from page 1

They don't even see the book until it was on the shelves.

There are many types of errors, too. Sometimes the cause can be guessed. For instance, when a knot in a photo is backwards, it can be the photo that is backwards and not the knot.

Nomenclature can be a biggy. Fishing knot books can have different names for knots and even systems of knots. You can often find many different descriptions for the origin of knot names. In the case of Blood Knots, I have heard at least three accounts that I can think of: that they were used in surgery, that they bloodied your hands when you pulled them tight with thin line, and that they were used in the lashes of whips to make them draw blood. We may never know which, if any, of these is correct. I guess it doesn't help either when many knot names suffer various translations. And of course as long time knot tyers we eventually come to accept that some knots will always have more than one name. Or in the case of the Monkey's Fist, it is tied differently in different books – but this distinctive name has become somewhat universal.

Even when a book illustrates without a doubt what all the crossings are, there can still be confusion on how the knot is drawn up when it is tightened. An example of this is the climber's Figure Eight Knot. I know a climber who complains that three different books illustrate three different ways the doubled form of this knot is layed out for drawing up.

One interesting observation I have heard is that early books about knots on square-riggers were not written by the sailors who knew and used them every day but by those rare officers who could read and write. Then there is the occasional newsletter editor, perhaps lacking in both knotting and writing skills.



"Yes, but is it a Windsor knot?!"

Have a funny Knot or Rope story?

Does your dog tie neckties? Ok probably knot, but maybe you know of something else that may be of interest to *InterKnot* readers. I am always amazed at the stories people think of just by being asked. Just please don't send me a story about a newsletter editor who went to jail for violating copyright laws on cartoon publications.

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
 c/o 4417 Academy Street
 Dearborn Heights, MI 48125-2205

InterKnot Editor: Randy Penn
For: Event info and submissions.
Email: rlpenn@gte.net
Address: InterKnot
 5024 Greenglen Ln.
 Lakeland, FL 33811

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

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.

Got Rope?

Try some of these suppliers.

1. THE KNOT SHOPPE, PO Box 202607 Anchorage, AK 99520 Tele:
(907)274-2321 E-MAIL: the_knot_shoppe@prodigy.net or visit
<http://members.wbs.net/homepages/k/n/o/knottyver/store01.html>

Great selection of cordage and accessories for decorative knot tying.

2. FOOTROPE KNOTS, Des & Liz Pawson, 501 Whersted Road, Ipswich,
Suffolk, IP2 8LL, United Kingdom

An amazing rope and knot specialty shop. Probably the only shop of its kind.
Write and ask for a catalog. (The catalog itself makes for a very fun browse.)

3. S-T LEATHER COMPANY, P.O. Box 78188 St. Louis, MO 63178-8188
Tele: (314) 241-6009

4. MARTIN COMBS, 915 Arago Ave Coos Bay, OR
97420 E-MAIL: roundturn@hotmail.com
<http://members.tripod.com/~knots/index-2.html>

A nice source for knot books and cordage. I even used his web page as a
source for the info on this page. It also has links to sites with even more info.

5. TANDY LEATHER, PO Box 791, Fort Worth, TX 76101 USA
<http://www.tandyleather.com/>

6. R&W ENTERPRISES, 404 Nash Road, PO Box 50420, New Bedford, MA
02745-0014 Tel. 508/997-3933 Fax 508/997-9990
Astounding variety of ropes and twine, including mini blind and drawstring cord.

7. WRISCO INDUSTRIES INC., 6075 W 115th St Alsip, IL 60803 (708)385-7000
This source was suggested by Mr. Jackson as a source for venetian blind cord (says
they have every color under the sun) \$51.36 / 1000 yard spool 1.4mm nylon cord
Part # 160080

8. LEE VALLEY TOOLS, 12 East River St. Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 USA
Tele:1-800-871-8158 in Canada also LEE VALLEY TOOLS, PO Box 6295,
Stn J Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1T4 Canada

Write for a catalogue, you can never have enough tying accessories.

9. CHARLES HARDTKE, 11040 Argal Ct. El Paso, TX 79935
Tel. 1-888-353-0101

Kangaroo hides for leather braiding. No minimum order.

10. OKLAHOMA ARMY SURPLUS, P.O. Box 470488, Tulsa OK 74147
Tel. 918-627-4164 or 800-331-4079

Braided nylon 1/8" to 3/16", nylon rope 1/4" to 2".

Nylon Paracord 1/4" (6mm) available in 26 different colors!

InterKnot

IGKT-North American Branch
5024 Greenglen Ln.
Lakeland, FL 33811

EVENTS

**E
V
E
N
T
S**

Upcoming events?

IGKT-NAB 2003 meeting

Mariners Museum
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23606

A short article in knot book errors.
And of course a cartoon.

**E
V
E
N
T
S**

EVENTS