

# The InterKnot

Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers  
North American Branch

June 2004

Issue 26

Well, it's time to start working on the September issue, but I thought I better get this one out first.

Important note! If you have updated your membership in the last couple of months, you can disregard an additionally attached renewal notice. I based them on a mailing list that John Burke generated for me back in June (when I should have gotten this out).

## In This Issue

I have noticed that whenever a long time Guild member sees this newsletter for the first time, they seem to comment on the fact that there are not many articles on knots. This month we have an article on Jury Rigs from a long time contributor of "Knotting Matters" who writes under various pseudonyms. It is written from both a useful and historical perspective.

IGKT member Scott Baker has sent us information on a knot tying DVD for sale on a Canadian Squarerigging site.

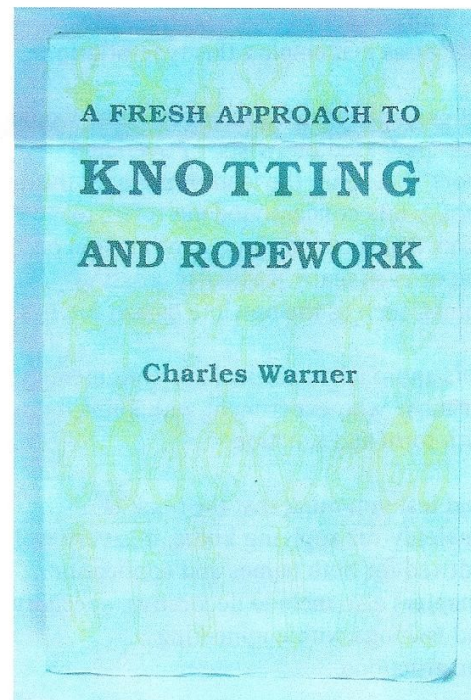
This issue also includes a short article on another knot book off my shelf – apologies if the book is out of print – it is worth finding.

Also included is information on local club meetings and events – two important things that make the IGKT-NAB more than just a mailing list!

## Featured Book

### A Fresh Approach to Knotting and Ropework

Charles Warner



Ask any serious knot tyer who owns a copy of this book and they will probably tell you that they have spent a lot of time with it.

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The two main reasons for this is its completeness and its organization. With over 1500 diagrams and 500 knots, this book ranks with a very short list of books of this undertaking (one of the few others is by that Ashley fellow). At just 272 pages, this modest sized paperback looks unassuming, but packs a lot of information.

Perhaps most unique about this book is how the knots are organized. They are not by application, not by type (loops for one chapter, hitches for another, etc.). They are organized by structure.

The biggest distinction made is between knots with 'distributed nip' and knots with 'concentrated nip,' referring to how the 'get their grip.' These very large sections are further broken down by the many structures that employ this type of grip.

An example of distributed nip knots would be knots based on twists, or overhand knots, that share the load throughout the knot, while concentrated nip refers to knots that focus the burden of tension on one or even many particular crossing points, such as the bowline or half hitches.

This approach is particularly enlightening for those who experiment with knots, both with form and function.

And lest you think that the book is unwieldy for applying knots, it is very well indexed for both names and applications. Chapters also include decorative, specialty, and lashings with engineering constructions.

Availability of the book is unknown, but here is the info.

Charles Warner, 1992, reprinted in 93, 95 Australia-McPherson's Printing Group, Victoria. ISBN 0 9592036 3 x

## Events and Meetings

**The Wooden Boat Show** was held in Newport, RI, July 23-24-25. The show was attended by Steve Coates, Dan Machowski, Bob Dollar, Kay Burke and John Burke. The IGKT-NAB had a booth and displays of various rope work. They passed out 130 information brochures.

There is another Wooden Boat Show in Georgetown, South Carolina, Saturday, October 16, 2004, 11 AM to 6 PM.

**Steve Coates** has been heading up a New England Regional monthly meeting. If you live in the New England Region and would like to attend a meeting please contact Steve Coates at [shcoates54@comcast.net](mailto:shcoates54@comcast.net)

**The Middle Atlantic Region** has been holding meetings. If you live in the Middle Atlantic Region and are interested in learning more about the meetings and location, please contact Ed Mori at [ecmii001@erols.com](mailto:ecmii001@erols.com)

**Every Sunday Evening** between the hours of 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM there is a Knot Chat that takes place on Yahoo Messenger. Instruction and procedures for participating are available on [www.igktnab.org](http://www.igktnab.org) web site. We encourage members with computers to participate in this.

**The IGKT** is planning on a 25th Anniversary Meeting in 2007 in the United Kingdom.

**To Ponder:** Should the IGKT-NAB biannual meeting be yearly instead of every other year? It's only a possibility (rumor) at this point. What do you think?

## Training DVD

IGKT-NAB received from member Scott Baker a DVD titled "Scott's Knots -- Learn the Right Knots for the Job" -- A Clear Concise Guide to Great Knots for Everyday Use.

"Join Scott Baker as he clearly shows you how to tie a wide variety of great knots to know and use. Knowing and being able to tie knots is a valuable personal skill and Scott's inspirational presentation will have you tying your own knots in no time. Knot tying is a part of our collective human culture worldwide and continues to flourish as both a skill and an art form.

"Scott Baker BASc is an avid sailor with a passion for nautical history and sailing that has grown with him from childhood. Scott has taught seamanship aboard the sail training ships Robertson II & Pacific Swift out of Victoria BC. He is a member of the IGKT and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary crew member."

The Bosun's Mate, [www.bosunsmate.org](http://www.bosunsmate.org)  
\$19.95 Plus Tax Shipping & Handling

Additional information is available from  
Max Flex Digital Media, 2042 Porter  
Road, Roberts Creek BC Canada V0N  
2W5 , Telephone 604-886-0270

## Jury Rigs

By Interknot's UK stringer

[illustrated by Geoffrey Budworth]

I was dismayed to learn from a recent TV news bulletin that a couple of British men had abandoned an attempt to row across the Atlantic Ocean when their rudder failed due to metal fatigue. Why did they not rig a jury rudder?

A jury-rug was once commonly applied by sailors as makeshift steering gear, and to substitute for a mast carried away in battle or bad weather. These simple lash-ups – mere 'hippie engineering' (to quote the words of that acerbic travel writer P.J. O'Rourke, when describing a 20<sup>th</sup> century aerial walkway in a South American rain forest) – made it possible for disabled ships to limp to safety and a source of more substantial repairs. A jury-mast (with sail) was also used to maneuver newly-launched hulls, prior to the installations of their actual poles and spars, when *ad hoc* points of attachment for temporary stays and shrouds would be formed from one or other of several masthead or jury mast knots. The adjective 'jury' for this kind of nautical self-help may, incidentally, have come from *ajurie* (Old French: aid).

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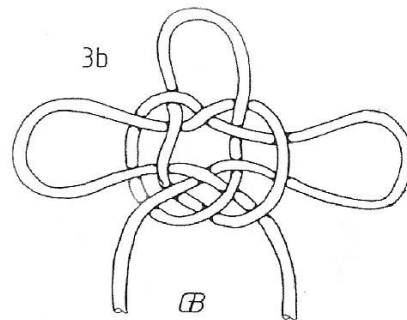
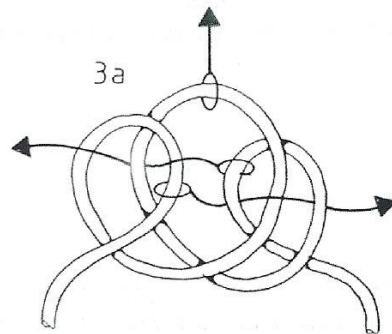
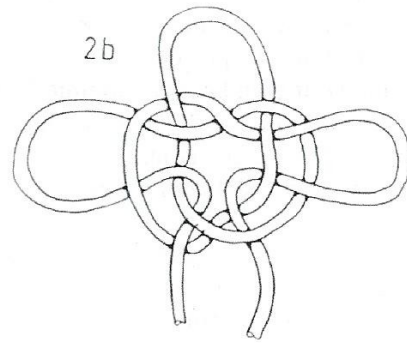
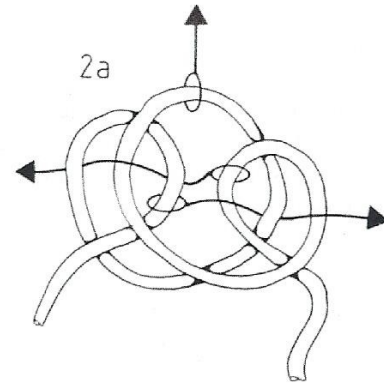
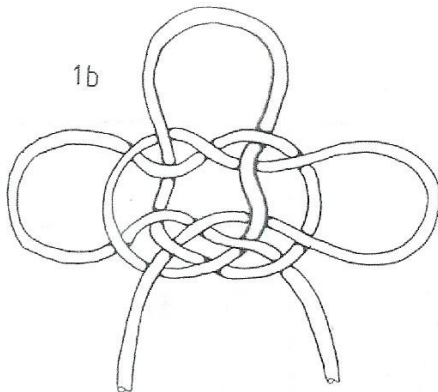
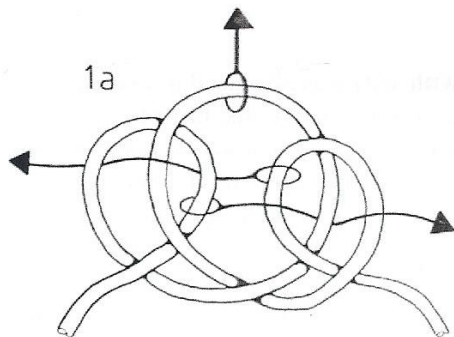
**Jury Rigs** – (continued from page 3)

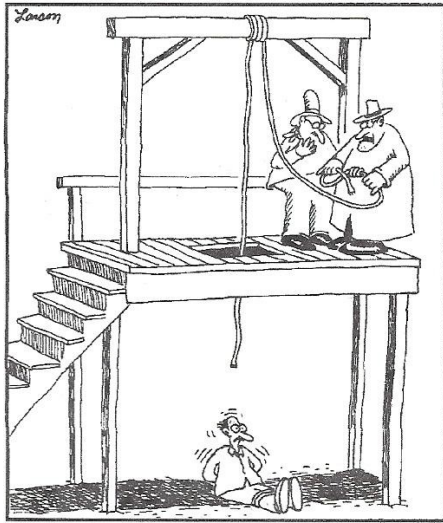
The three jury mast knots illustrated here by Geoffrey Budworth seem, at first sight, all to be tied the same way; but subtle alterations in the initial trio of loops, prior to interweaving, change how each loose pair of ends emerges from its knot.

[To learn more about their practical application, read ABOK (“Ashley Book of Knots”) #1167, #1168 and #1169.]

IGKT members ought to be familiar with a variety of jury rigs... for we claim to be the hi-priests of lo-tech cordage contrivances.

---oOo---





"You meathead! Now watch! ...  
The rabbit goes through the hole.  
around the tree five or six times ..."

### Got Rope?

Thanks again to those who have sent in information on rope sources. Future issues will continue to list sources, and I also plan to include sidebar information on which sources have which types or cordage, and which are good for different types of projects. So if you have anything to add on the subject, please let me know.

### Contacting your IGKT - NAB

**President/Secretary:** John Burke  
**For:** Subscription renewal, membership info and event details and updates.  
**Email:** [knottyrope@prodigy.net](mailto: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:** [rpenn@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rpenn@tampabay.rr.com)  
**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

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**

IGKT-North American Branch

5024 Greenglen Ln.

Lakeland, FL 33811

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**Inside This Issue**

Article on Jury Rig knots, with illustrations!

Book Review – “A Fresh Approach to Knotting and Ropework” by Charles Warner

Information on New England and Mid-Atlantic regional meetings

And for the discriminating reader, not one cartoon, but two

Enjoy.

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