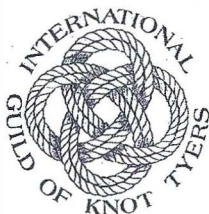


Knot



News

Spring 1997

Pacific Americas Branch

Issue #1

Editors Corner

So here's the newsletter for the ICKT-PAB! I thought I'd be nice to use the first edition to introduce everyone to each other. I've included the bio's that everyone sent me but if you find your name missing, just send it along and I'll print it in the next issue.

For those in the neighborhood (!), I am doing a display of knotting and ropework for my local library here in Corona. There will include some advertisement for the Guild as I'm hoping to attract some new members. If you have any announcements you would like posted, send them to me here at the Editor's desk.

This newsletter is for the use of all Branch members. Send in your articles and reviews, your inspirations and enthusiasms. All help is welcome.

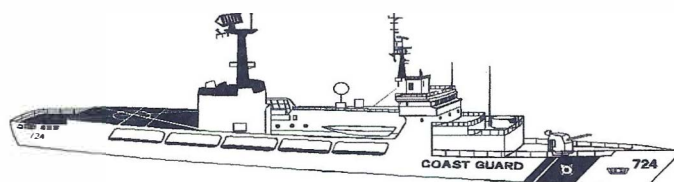
Marilyn "Winkie" Fordney

Winkie is of Japanese and Irish ancestry and has been painting, drawing, crafting, and sculpting since childhood. She is an expert in Chinese knotting. Winkie designs her own beads from polymer clay to go with the Chinese knots. She collects beach pebbles and creates whimsical animals and people.

She studied art history at the University of Southern California, under Bernard Kester at UCLA, Japanese sumi painting under the late master Hiyashi Ohta, and painting painting under Antoyan and B.J. Shyffer-Wilson. Winkie studied with Leon Salter and was preparing for a one-man show of oxyacetylene welded kinetic sculptures when shortly after her marriage to Alan Fordney in 1970 their house burned completely to the ground and destroyed all of the pieces. They now live in Oxnard.

In the literary world, Winkie is better known nationally and internationally in the medical assisting, medical transcription, and medical insurance fields for having authored many textbooks under the name Marilyn Takahashi Fordney.

In 1977 the Business and Professional Woman's Club of Oxnard gave her an Outstanding Woman of the Year Award. She retired from teaching at Ventura College after 19 years in education.



Darrell McNurlan

I have been involved in boating for close to twenty years. Ten of those years were with traditional sailing as a member of the *Pilgrim's* crew of Dana Point; five years as boatswain, two as Third Mate and two as Second Mate. I also hold a US Coast Guard 100 ton Master License for power, steam and sail.

Over the years I have enjoyed applying decorative knots to friends boats and sometimes even making some money in the process. I have held classes at the Dana Point Youth and Group facilities; these classes where on turk's heads, different covering knots and the ocean mat. The classes were small but everyone enjoyed learning the knots.

Maggie Machado

I have had a life long interest in knot tying, set in motion when I was five years old as I "sat by my father's knee" learning string figures, macramé, Turk's Heads, leather braiding and rope tricks. At the same early age my mother taught me to tat, along with other needle arts. The passion remained. At one time I took it upon myself to replicate the plates in *The Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work*; don't know how far I got but it was pretty impressive.

My current knot tying interests/endeavors have centered around Chinese Knotting, knotted buttons, flat weaves, Turk's Heads and tatting. I am designing jewelry and accessories incorporating all the skills I have grown to love over the years. I am currently teaching Chinese Knotting classes at a bead shop in Portland, and have formed an

ongoing design workshop with my students.

Doug Corey

I became interested in knot tying as a sailor, both in small boats, and later in working on large traditional sailing vessels. I was fortunate to get involved with the barque *Elissa* in Galveston, Texas, where I learned an immense amount from people like Bart Hamiter, Nick Horvath and Steve Hyman. I later was involved in helping Steve Hyman in getting the *Star of India's* rig in shape for her sail in 1984. Since that time, I have been chief rigger on board the brig *Pilgrim* in Dana Point and have also helped restore the rigging on the *Swift of Ipswich* in San Pedro. I am primarily interested in the practical application of knots as used in ship rigging, but also to a lesser extent in the decorative aspect.

I enjoy learning about knots and teaching the skills I know to others.

Terry Ridings

Terry's interest in things "maritime" is in his blood. As a youngster, the London (U.K.) docklands and river were always a great draw. Although never a sailor, he has spent time at sea as a sea-ice scientist; an avid pulling boat rower; and boat restorer; with his own small boat being listed on the B.C. Vintage Vessel Registry.

Terry is probably best known as a fancy knot-tyer who works in the traditional style. This interest has taken him to three Continents where he has given workshops and demonstrations, and spent time researching the people who tied maritime knots, the lives they led, and

the knots they tied. One particular highlight was being asked to replicate the bell rope of Captain Scott's Antarctic exploration ship Terra Nova. The bell is housed at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, U.K.

Perhaps not so well known is Terry's interest in maritime history. Currently, Terry is researching material for two books (one knot-tying and the other on a historically important vessel) together with compiling an index of reader's letter from a maritime magazine. He is an ex-Trustee of the Vancouver Maritime Museum and has sat on a number of advisory committees.

Some recent events have included:

- Resident knot-tyer for the B.C. Sea Kayak Assoc.'s annual Coast Kayak Symposium.

- All the ropework in the Commonwealth Games Pool, Victoria

- The rope fenders for three productions of *Showboat*, these were the Broadway (N.Y.) opening and the Vancouver and Chicago productions.

- "Artist in Action", Peninsula Gallery/Sidney Days Festival, B.C.

- "Saltwater" Festival of Maritime Arts and Music, B.C.

- Teaching a series of fancy knot-tying workshops

Lindsey Philpott

I have been involved with knotting since I was in the Cubs (same as your US Cub Scouts) and the Boy Scouts in England over forty years ago. Apart from knotting ties and shoelaces, I have been tying bowlines, reef knots, grocers knots (for parcels) together with a quick-release knot my grandfather taught me (he was Head Postmaster in Ifracombe, U.K.) and various trick knots for parties since I

was a kid. I have tied knots in rope, paper, grass, metal and wood. Lately, over the last five or six years, my interest has turned more strongly toward maritime applications for knots and the practice of leathercraft, woodworking and ironworking as allied skillsets. I am now a volunteer chief rigger and bosun for the *Swift of Ipswich*, a skipper of a sailing club in Marina del Ray (for which you have to pass at least two all-day at-sea exams and four or five eight-hour exams together with grilling by other skippers!), the Jr. Staff Commodore for South Bay Yacht Racing Club (I was Commodore in 1996 of the 150 member club) and the Fleet Captain for Marina Venice Yacht club (also a 150 member club, but with a landed premises). I am also a registered instructor in basic keelboat sailing for the ASA and I perform rigging services for traditionally rigged vessels sailing in the South Bay Area. Who knows what I'll be when I grow up! I have over fifty knotting books in my personal library of about 1300 books total.

I am a registered and practicing civil engineer (designation P.E.), a Competent Toastmaster, a California certified water treatment plant operator, an instructor at Mt. San Antonio College in hydraulics and instrumentation, a marlinspike teacher and a father of three teenage boys and a teenage girl (one older boy and girl in England, the two youngest boys live with my lovely wife Kim and me here in). I am also a member of Mensa, and have been cited in five separate Who's Who directories.

Dennis Armstrong

Dennis runs his business *The Knotted Line* out of Redmond, WA, selling boat fenders, mats, belts, bell ropes, barrettes and key fobs. This business started as a hobby when a Coast Guard quartermaster in Salem, Mass., had shown Dennis how to tie a Turk's Head and, using his new skill then and there, he fashioned a ring for his wife. It was a ring she truly fancied. He later tried to make another for her but couldn't remember how to tie it right. His wife later presented him with an anniversary present of two balls of twine, an instruction book a fid, and said, "Here, make something."

He began showing and selling his work at boat shows, especially wooden boat shows throughout the Pacific Northwest. Dennis was even called upon to help rig a reproduction of Columbus's ship, the *Nina*. After he got past the hurdle of finding a supply of old fashioned hemp rope for the rigging; there was some real detective work trying to rethink the 500 year old rig.

Joseph Schmidbauer

Joe's caught the knotting bug early from his Dad, who one day showed him a "Tom Fool Knot". He was hooked! An older brother loaned him a Sea Scout manual from which he

learned some of the basics of marlinspike seamanship. Later, while at college to study Oceanography, he learned macramé from a girl friend and became good enough at it to sell much of his work.

Joe left college to join the US Coast Guard. After basic training, his first billet was to be a Seaman aboard the USCG Cutter *Jarvis* in Honolulu, HI. He would do a number of Fishery Patrols in Alaskan waters; the Aleutian Chain and the Bering Sea. He was then transferred to a small boat station on Martha's Vineyard Island, Massachusetts and trained as a coxswain for 44' and 30' Search and Rescue boats. He left the service as a Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class. Along the way he picked up a copy of *Ashley's Book of Knots* which opened the door for him to the lore of ropework. This knotting library has now grown to some 50 books on all aspects of knots, splicing, rigging and fancy work.

Originally a native of New Jersey, Joe moved to California in the late '70's after his discharge. He now lives in with his wife, Linda, and teenage daughter, Erin. He works as an aerospace toolmaker or "Jig & Fixture Builder" at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, CA., working on the Air Force C-17 air transport.

