



Knot *News*

**International Guild of Knot Tyers
Pacific Americas Branch**

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Issue #2

Ross Munnerlyn, Ed.D.

One of my best friends, Ken, was a Navy vet who tied knots for fun as well as for practical uses. He tried to teach me some basic knots, yet I proved to be a slow learner. He had an old book by Hervey Garret Smith and we used to try some of the knots in that book. I still have the Turk's Head we made using a 100 ft. length of 1/2 inch nylon. Ken passed away in '93 and his family gave me some of the knots that he made right before he died. His wife also gave me the book by Smith. Since then I have tried making the knots on and off again, but with no success.

My wife, bless her heart, volunteered me to teach a knot class to a group of eager Boy Scouts at our church. The only knot I could master in time for the class was the bowline. Then my brother decided to move to Los Alamitos Bay and reside on a sail boat. He knew of my interest in lines for anchor, dock and rigging. I read all I could on this subject (including books and videos by Brion Toss), watched videos put out by the Coast guard and Kevin O'Sullivan. I found the IGKT on the Internet and I hope to be able to participate in activities of the PAB and learn from the collective experience of the members of the Branch.

Willard W. Salmons

Willard W. Salmons was born near Emerson, Mills County, Iowa on January 7, 1915.

In order to escape the Depression, he dropped out of Junior College in 1934 to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

In due time he found himself aboard the Heavy Cruiser USS Minneapolis CA36; then based in the Long Beach San Pedro outer harbor. Assigned to the deck force, he soon learned some of the rudiments of knotting.

Besides the elementary knots, he helped make mats, boat fenders and fender coverings, short and long splices. As Turk's Heads seemed to be his specialty, he was assigned to decorate by covering stanchions and hand rails. Learning the Monkey's Fist and heaving line knot followed. He did worming and parcelling and pointed a hawser or two; made fringes and fancy canvas curtains for the gig motor boats and learned the use of the palm and needle by helping to cover the ship's refueling hoses.

Also might add, he almost fell about 80 feet while painting the main mast due to an improperly secured safety line: a valuable lesson never forgotten.

After about three years as a deck hand, he was transferred into the Naval Air Arm and became an Aviation Machinist Mate. Learned to splice aviation control wire which

is not much different from regular cable work.

Willard's finest knot was performed on May 20, 1945 in Malvern, Iowa with his marriage to Josephine L. Dye. Jo and Willard rode on the same school bus together when they were children. Jo and WW are still partners.

WW eventually retired as a Warrent Officer. Knotting and rope work has continued to be his major hobby up to this time.

Tim Howard

I have been tying knots all my life. Like a lot of folks, my first real knot tying was when I learned to tie my shoes. I remember trying to learn how to make that first knot. I also remember how satisfied I was when I finally got it right.

Before I was old enough to read, I found my father's old Boy Scout knot tying manual and started trying to learn the knots in the pictures. I have been trying to learn and master more complicated knots since then.

A few years ago, I discovered the Monkey's Fist and the Turk's Head knots and have been happily working with them. I love the symmetry and the feeling of stepping back in time when I work with knots. Knot tying is one of the oldest technologies in our history. I have particularly enjoyed working knots in leather.

Sharing what I have learned about knots with others is also one of the most enjoyable aspect of knot tying.

Report from the Secretary

For those who had the pleasure of attending the May meeting at the Museum, it turned into quite a knot fest!

By-Laws

It started with a review of the new by-laws by Lindsey. He was finally able to get the finished product back from the lawyer. The Secretary will send out copies to all Branch members for review. It will be voted on at the AGM in June and then sent to the International for acceptance.

IRS

Darrell had talked to the accountant and has straightened out what methods we need to use to organize ourselves for the IRS. We will be using Form 1024 and will be listed as a "Social Club."

Branch Merchandise

Polo shirts and t-shirts are now available from the Branch with the IGKT logo. The shirts are heavy-duty cloth, navy in color with a white 3" square logo on the left breast. All sizes are available. The polo shirts are \$18.00 and the t-shirts are \$10.00. Contact Lindsey for further information and ordering.

AGM

Members then discussed the Agenda for the AGM on June 27th and the Program Schedule for the display on June 28th. Here is the present AGM agenda outline:

Friday 6:30 to 9:00 PM

1. Welcome addresses by Dr. Pete Lee and Captain Darrell McNurlan.
2. By-laws discussion and ratification.
3. Election of officers.
4. Attendance at New Bedford IGKT-NAB Clifford Ashley commemoration
5. Discussion of cost and content of a Branch Web Site.
6. Permanent display centers to be set up on West Coast.
7. Ties to Sea and Boy Scouts.
8. Training in school districts for kids.
9. Sources for knotting materials.
10. Producing videos.
11. Members knots & knotting book list.
12. Discussion on member donated knotcraft.
13. Location of 1998 AGM.
14. Closing remarks.

The Program Schedule for the Display is as follows:

Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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| 8:00 | Set up tables on sidewalk |
| 9:00 | Opening Dr. Pete Lee |
| 9:15 | Visitors invited to walk Museum and exhibits |
| 10:00 | 1st Demo - Turk's Heads |
| 11:00 | 2nd Demo - Monkey's Fist |
| 12:00 | Quoit making and RingToss for prizes |
| 13:00 | 3rd Demo - Leathercraft |
| 14:00 | 4th Demo - Traditional Marlinspike Seamanship |
| 15:00 | 5th Demo - Chinese Knotting |
| 16:00 | 6th demo - Jewelry Making |
| 16:30 | Take down tables |
| 17:00 | Close and celebrate! |

The success of this Display will be due to the enthusiasm and participation of all

Branch members involved. The first and most important thing to be done is the getting together as many samples of Branch members work as we can get. This is a call for all Members to dig into their sea chests and ditty bags for any scraps of knotting they would like to loan for the show.

The other need for the show to come off is to have people show up make it work. Even if you can't tie your shoes, come anyway to help out with the one hundred and one things that will need to be done.

We need YOUR support.

Book List

One of the last items of the Meeting was a call by Joe for the creation of a reference list of all the knot books owned by Branch members. He has already started a data base of his own books and volunteered to start a master listing for the Branch. Please send a list of your books, publications or anything of printed knotting interest to the Secretary.

Knots of Fun

The Workshop part of the Meeting started with Joe showing the knot work donated by Branch members so far. Dan Callahan of Alaska has sent a number of items for display and for sale. There were several six strand double Star Knot key fobs in different colors and a number of Monkey's Fist necklaces. Dan also sent the fixin's for more necklaces and fobs that we can make during the show.

Maggie Machado of Oregon and Winkie Forney in nearby have sent in samples of Chinese Knotting. Maggie's display is particularly impressive being a combination of five knots mounted on a board with a cloth cover. Maggie also sent a sample of Ashley's gear shift knob cover; she did it from a reprint in KM of the article Ashley did in the 20's.

Lindsey also donated some traditional ropework with one item displaying a Crown Whipping and the other a sample of a Crown Shroud Knot.

The gathering then broke up into different groups; some talking about how to make different kinds of Turk's Head, others about the Monkey's Fist, and another still trying to figure out the Matthew Walker. Tim Howard shared with us some of the joys and mysteries of working with leather; he

also showed us the various tools he uses in his work. Some members even lingered after most of the others had gone home, hoping to keep the mood going.

It is our hope to have more meetings like this getting together sharing our knotting knowledge and to draw in with us.

Computer Newsgroups

For those members with computers hooked to the Internet there is now a UseNet News Group called rec.crafts.knots. This is a great area to go to and talk knotting with people from all over the country. For those unfamiliar with newsgroups the easiest way to get there is with a visit to:

<http://www.dejanews.com/>

There are FAQs there that can walk you through the whole newsgroup thing. Check out what has been posted so far by using "Quick Search" for rec.crafts.knots.

Book Donations

The Branch Library is off to a running start with some generous donations:

Guild Knot Charts - set of 100 (Lindsey Philpott)

Knots, Splices and Fancy Work by Charles L. Spencer (Dan Callahan)

Creative Ropecraft by Stuart Grainger (Lindsey Philpott)

The Knot Book by Geoffrey Budworth (Joe Schmidbauer)

The Arts of the Sailor by Hervey Garrett Smith (Joe Schmidbauer)

Tying Strong Fishing Knots by Bill Herzog (Karl Schmidbauer)

The Essential Knot Book by Colin Jarman (Joe Schmidbauer)

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