

Knot



News

International Guild of Knot Tyers Pacific Americas Branch

February 1998

Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

Issue #8

HEMPTECH: Hemp News Service Digest
New Hampshire State Hearing Report
by John Howell, Hemp Company of America
Friday, 6 February 1998

A bill to re-introduce the cultivation of industrial hemp in the state of New Hampshire passed the Committee on Environment and Agriculture today. By a vote of 10-8, the committee recommended passage of HB1576, co-sponsored by Rep. Tim Robertson and Rep. Derek Owen, which would allow New Hampshire farmers to grow industrial hemp.

The vote allowed spirited discussion, and overrode a recommendation of its own Subcommittee on Agriculture to kill the bill, a recommendation passed the previous day by a vote of 5-2. The bill will now go to the full House for debate.

Industrial hemp is a variety of *cannabis sativa* generally defined as containing 1% or less of THC, a psychoactive chemical. Hemp was cultivated in America until the late 50s; in the 1970s, it was classed as a Schedule 1 drug, along with varieties of *cannabis* termed "marijuana." Today, over two dozen countries, including all European countries, China, Russia, and parts of Australia have redefined

industrial hemp as an agricultural and economic issue, not a drug policy question. This year, Canada moves into full commercial production of industrial hemp after four years of government sponsored experimentation. Thirteen other states have pending legislation, research bills, resolutions, and initiatives regarding the reintroduction of industrial hemp.

The subcommittee's working session (not a hearing) on Tuesday, February 3 was attended by many members of the full committee, who, to gauge by the swing of the full committee's vote, clearly rejected arguments by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Attorney General's office, and the Department of Public Safety. Those arguments were that hemp was marijuana, or looked enough like it to confuse law enforcement; legalizing industrial hemp would create crime; that testing to make sure industrial hemp was not marijuana would be difficult and prohibitively expensive; and that passing a state law in favor of industrial hemp would put the state into conflict with the federal government.

Supporters of the bill, principally Rep. Owen and Babson, argues that there was an obvious difference between the varieties; that there have been no reported crime issues in other countries that are cultivating hemp; that testing could be controlled by licensing seed; and that



the federal government could listen to the wishes of the citizens of New Hampshire on this issue.

Testimony was also given by several citizens and interested parties who represented businesses already actively buying and selling hemp goods made in and imported into the state, and who testified that their already profitable businesses would put more investment dollars into New Hampshire agriculture if the state were to permit the growing of a domestic supply of industrial hemp.

The full committee also heard from the office of attorney Paul Munzione, who argued that a close reading of the laws regarding industrial hemp did allow for the distinction between that variety of cannabis to be made, and who also argued that cultivation could be legally permitted under state statute.

My thanks to Marty Combs in Kodiak, Alaska for passing this along to me.

Festival of Whales ☼ Dana Point February 14th & 15th

The Branch had planned to make an appearance on both days of the first weekend of the Whale Watch Festival. El Niño did have the last word though. Saturday ended up being a complete wash out with the rain just coming down in buckets. A good number of volunteer knot tyers showed up anyway and many agreed to come try again the following day. Sunday started out gray and threatened rain. Jim Noon kept telling me not to be fooled by the blue patches of sky. The weather did give us a break, finally, and it turned sunny and nice. The crowds did come around too. We had set up initially in the 'Barn' which is the workshop for the brig *Pilgrim*. It cut down on some of the traffic flow since people were not just walking by our display. We still got a fair number of

people to have a look and even got a number of people show interest in joining up.

Darrell McNurlan made a number of ocean plat mats with ½ inch manila line. He did them with five passes and finished them off nicely with a seizing. Lindsey Philpott wowed the kids with his turk's heads and pineapple knots. Joe Schmidbauer did an endless number of two strand diamond knots and Tom Mortell showed off the mysterious Matthew Walker.

The members involved learned a number of lessons from this show which we'll try to keep in mind for future shows.

Library and Archive

The latest donations to the Pacific Americas Branch Library:

Turk's Heads by Ron Edwards. Pamphlet by Ram Scull Press, 1996

Donated by Martin Combs.

Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work by Raoul M. Graumont and John J. Hensel. Hardback by Cornell Maritime Press, 1972. 4th Edition.

Donated by Joe Schmidbauer

A Note on Cordage

"Of fibre rope may I have the privilege of saying, it is not only one of the oldest commodities known to man, it is also just about the most exquisite. In every inch of good quality cordage such as yachting manila, a natural beauty is for ever exuberant in the spiral assemblage of the fibers.

It's beauty is further amplified by the enchanting penumbra at the contlines, all of which make a difficult product to sketch, but a joy to manhandle."

Leonard Popple
Advanced Ropeworking

Monthly Meeting
LA Maritime Museum, San Pedro
February 10th, 7:00PM

Members attending were: Darrell McNurlan, Lindsey Philpott, Kim Moore, Bob Krug, Joe Schmidbauer, Mark Sherman, Chris Rybak, Doug Corey, Tim Howard, Tom Mortell, Tom Gergen, Mike Waring, Ron Ossandon.

Joe Schmidbauer had obtained a copy of Pieter van de Griend's knotting software *RK2.3* from Dan Callahan in Alaska. Two members, Tom Mortell and Tim Howard, volunteered to investigate this program and make a report to the Branch at the next meeting.

A last call was made for anyone interested in buying a copy of Charles Warner's fine book, *A Fresh Approach to Knotting and Ropework*. After the meeting, enough money was collected to obtain fourteen copies of this book. The order is in the mail and we are awaiting the package.

A discussion was started about the Preston's 'Of Ships & Sea' catalog and the various knot boards they have for sale. Some opinions were expressed on ways the Branch could make similar knot boards as a promotion. Future meetings will develop these ideas as future projects for members.

Lindsey had several proposals. He's been looking at the museum's tug boat *Angel's Gate* and realized that its fenders are in a poor state of repair. It is suggested that the Branch volunteer its services to replace these fenders. Darrell made the point that the museum should supply the material needed, so we are not left with unwanted rope.

On March 22nd the museum will have an open house to celebrate the arrival of the schooner *Bill of Rights* to its sailing program. The Guild is invited to set up a display. Lindsey

also suggested on working out a set up to break the world's speed knot tying record. The current record for the six Boy Scout Handbook knots is 8.1 seconds by a Clinton R. Bailey of [redacted] OR on April 13, 1977. We need to work out the details of the event and the rules to follow.

A question had come up from a member on how to make a 12 strand eye splice. Lindsey found a how to in one of his books and passed out copies to everyone present.

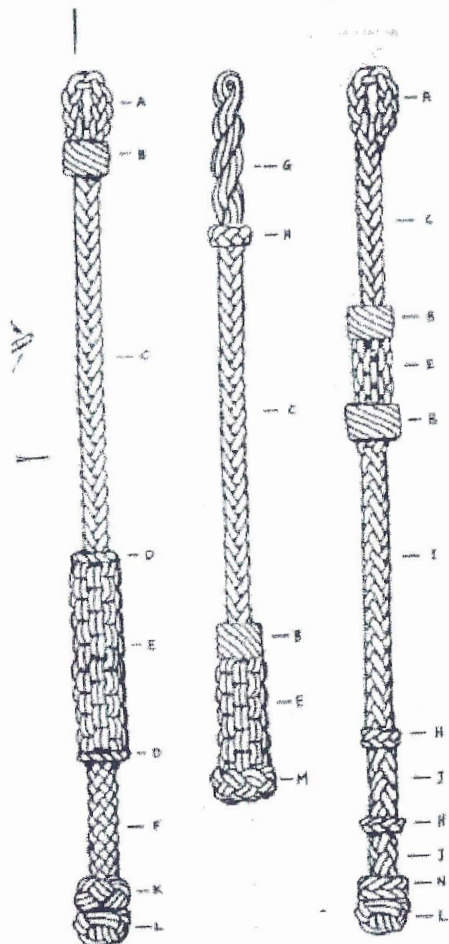
Joe had received some leather key fobs from Mike Storch in Colorado. These are of kangaroo leather, a braided loop ending in a pineapple knot finished off with a shank of horse's hair.

Dan Callahan also sent a few key fobs made from parachute cord based on the 'Wee Light House Knot' of Pieter van de Griend. There was also one made from venetian blind cord with a double knife lanyard knot.

Our Second Annual General Meeting is not that far away. Brion Toss has confirmed his guest speaker status and will be speaking on 'From Spectra to Spun Yarn: How Knots Keep Pace with Technology.' Brion has also honored us by joining the Branch and will be attending as a member too. More details about the meeting will be forthcoming as we get closer to the time.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10th at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum at 7:00 PM.

The editor always welcomes any articles to help fill out the pages of the *Knot News*. Just send it on in whatever shape you like and I'll make it presentable enough for publication.



- A. 4 plait.
- B. Full Mathew Walker Knot.
- C. 8 strand Square Sinnet.
- D. Wall Knot.
- E. 8 strand Square Sinnet.
- F. 8 strand Round Plait.
- G. Whipmaker's Cracker Twist.
- H. Diamond Knot.
- I. Simplified 8 Plait.
- J. Doubled 4 Plait.
- K. 3 part 5 bight Turk's Head.
- L. A Stopper Knot.
- M. 8 Strand Knob.
- N. Spanish Ring Knot.