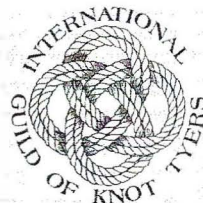


KNOT



NEWS

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS - PACIFIC AMERICAS BRANCH

January 1999

Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

Issue #15

'I said to myself, "this is the captain." And presently I decried his luggage coming along—a real sailor's chest, carried by means of rope-beckets between two men and a roll of charts sheeted in canvas piled upon the lid.'

The Mirror of the Sea
Joseph Conrad

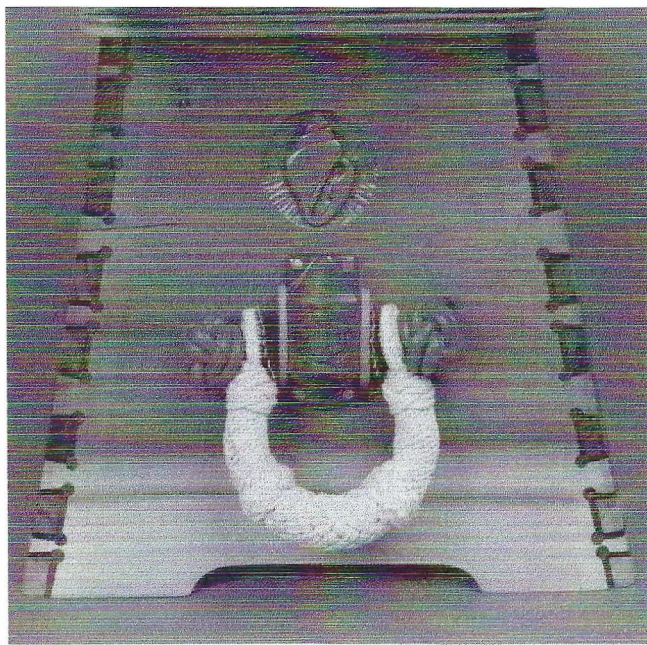
West Marine Catalog Cover

Joseph Lenchner

contacted the Branch in mid-1998 with a proposition. He had hand crafted a sea chest and was looking for someone who could make some fancy rope beackets for the handles. This was a bit out of my depth so I recommended our president, Darrell McNurlan. Darrell rose to the occasion without hesitation. After some initial negotiations, a price was reached along with a deal for an insert about the PAB in the West Marine holiday catalog. The chest was indeed pictured on the cover of the holiday gift guide but, unfortunately, the photo and the referral did not come out as we had hoped. The beackets are not very visible, and the referral did not include phone/e-mail information.

Mr. Lenchner has promised to try and get this info and our logo inserted into the annual 'master' catalog. He will put it in the book section along with Des Pawson's *A Handbook of Knots*. This catalog has an even greater distribution than the gift guide.

Also, there may be an opportunity in next year's holiday season for West Marine to offer some products made by PAB members. They already offer a small knot board but they are looking for knotted tree ornaments, bell ropes, knife lanyards, etc..., which they don't offer now. Something of a slightly higher end product than the typical third world made Monkey's Fist key chain item. They do product selection around July, and need deliveries by October. If any of this sounds interesting to any member, please contact Joe Lenchner at West Marine at (831) 761-4052, FAX (831) 763-4962 or email him at joel@westmarine.com to work out the details.



'When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.'

Franklin D. Roosevelt

From the Mail Box Mauricio

Huechepan of Chile sent this letter:

Señores de la International Guild of Knot Tyers

Presente

Esperamos que al recibo de esta carta postal se encuentren muy bien con todos los integrantes de su gran organismo como es el Club de Anuadadores.

Nosotros pertenecemos a un Club de Conquistadores, en el cual aprendemos muchas cosas referente a la naturaleza y a como convivir en ella, y entre otras cosas nos gusta practicar mucho con los nudos, porque sabemos que estos nos proporcionan una seguridad al momento de hacer una construcción sin claros. Es nuestro hobby, por lo cual siempre estmos buscando nuevas formas de hacer nudos y amarres.

Nuestro club de Conquistadores cuenta con una membresia de 51 integrantes, de 6 a 9 años (Aventueros), de 10 a 15 años (Conquistadores), y de 16 a 99 años (Guias Mayores). Y tiene por nombre WENU-LIWEN que significa sol de lo mañana. Nuestras reuniones son todos los Domingos de 10 AM a 12 PM, en la hermosa ciudad de Temuco, en la IX Region de la Araucania, Chile. Y hemos logrado los dos ultimos años el coronarnos como los mejores entre todos los clubes del sur de Chile.

Navegando por Internet, y buscando nuevos nudos para nuestro conocimiento, fue que encontramos la pagina Web de la "International Guild of Knot Tyers", y decidimos hacer contacto con ustedes para pedir ayuda en este tema de los nudos. Sabemos que la IGKT tiene mucha información, y humildemente que pedimos que la compartan con nestro grupo y asi poder ampliar nuestro conocimiento en el tema.

Adjuntamos a esta carta una fotografia de las actividades que realizamos en nuestro Pais, ya que próximamente participaremos en un Camporee de Sur de Chile con mas de 60 Clubes del cual queremos salir nuevamente victoriosos, del 10 al 15 de Enero de 1999, en Puerto Montt, a 400 Km de nuestra ciudad. Y estamos seguros que con su valiosa ayuda podremos salir de este desafio.

Ya nos despedimos deseando una pronta respuestra y deseándoles lo mejor del mundo cada dia.

[Gentleman of the International guild of Knot Tyers.

We hope that when you receive this letter, you and all the members of the IGKT are very well.

We belong to a club called the Conquistadors Club (the Conquerors), in which we learn many things about nature, and living with it. We also like and practice rigging and knot tying. This gives us more security in our construction without nails. This is our hobby, and that is the reason we are always looking for new knots and tyings.

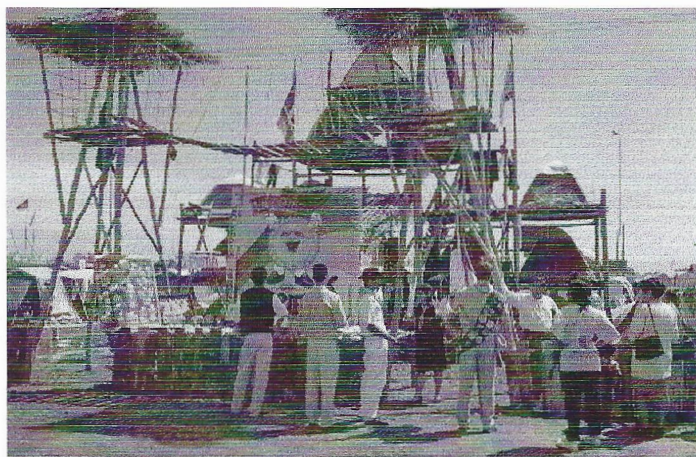
Our Conquistadors Club has 51 members; from 6 to 9 years of age, we call them 'Adventures', from 10 to 15, the 'Conquerors', and from 16 to 99, the 'Elder Guides'. We have the name WENU-LIWEN, which means "Morning Sun." Our meetings are every Sunday in our beautiful city of Temuco, in the 9th Region of the Araucania, Chile. During the last two years, we were able to be the best of all the clubs of the South of Chile.

Navigating the Internet, looking for new knots for our knowledge, we found the International Guild of Knot Tyers. So we decided to get in contact with you, and to ask for help about this subject of Knots. We understand that the IGKT has a great amount of information on this subject, and very humbly we ask if you can share with our group, so that we can expand our knowledge of Knot Tying.

With this letter we are sending a picture of some of the activities that take place in our

country. Very soon we are having a South of Chile Camporee, in which 60 clubs will participate, and we hope to win again. This will take place between the 10th and 15th of January 1999. It will be held in the city of Puerto Montt, about 400 km from our city. Your help would be very valuable in meeting this challenge.

Now we want to say good-bye, with our best regards for all of you. We hope to hear from you soon, and wish you the best in the world every day.]



This letter came to us from **Alberto Alamo Mendoza** in Spain:

Queridos amigos y compañeros de la IGKT, me dirijo a ustedes con la presente para darles mi más sincera felicitación por el empeño y esfuerzo en la divulgación de la asociación por internet. Mi primer contacto con la asociación fue a través del libro de G. Budword [sic]. Mediante el libro pude averiguar la sede de la asociación en Inglaterra, pero estaba correctamente. En otro intento por mediación del consulado, no tuve mucha suerte.

Hace unos quince días navegando por internet, le dí a las siglas de la IGKT y apareció la página web que les mando junto con esta carta.

Mis intenciones son las de pertenecer a la asociación, además de poder conseguir las señas de la asociación fundadora en Inglaterra, más que nada por la cercanía con mi país.

Mi investigación y estudios sobre el tema los definiría en la afán que tengo por recopilar el Arte Marino en las demás culturas. Poseo libros y trabajos en japonés, portugués, inglés, etc. A todo el tema de los nudos funcionales, decorativos puedo añadir cuadros de velas marinas, piezas náuticas en miniatura, bocetos, etc.

A todo esto uno mi trayectoria profesional de marino de guerra con trece años de servicio en la actualidad, como maniobra y patrón de embarcaciones.

Con el deseo de recibir más información sobre ustedes, para poder afiliarme se despidió uno más de la familia marinera.

[Dear Friends and Fellow Members of IGKT.

I am addressing you with this letter so I can congratulate you for your strong determination to make the Association known through the Internet.

My first contact with the Association was through the book of G. Budworth. Through this book I was able to find the Association address in England, but this was not correct. Then I tried through the Consulate, but without any luck.

About fifteen days ago, while navigating the Internet, I gave the signature initials IGKT, and there appeared the web page that I am sending with this letter.

My purpose would be to belong to the Association, and also to be able to get in contact with the Association in England, because it is so close to my country.

My investigation and studies, I could say, are an interest in compiling the Marine Art of other cultures. I have books and works from Japan, Portugal, England, etc. To the subject of functional and decorative knots I can add pictures of marine sails and miniatures of nautical pieces, also sketches, etc.

To all this, my professional path has been thirteen years as a Navy seaman, and now as a vessel skipper.

With the hope of receiving more information about you, and to be able to join, I say good-bye, as one more member of the nautical family.]

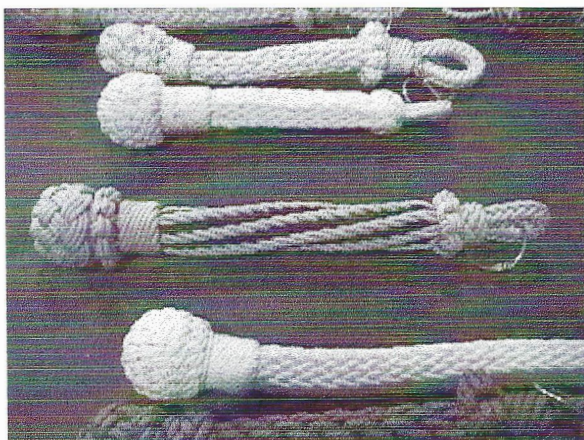
An American in Portsmouth

by Randy Penn

The setting for the 1998 AGM was the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. This is a site of centuries of ship building and rigging. It is also the home of the HMS *Victory* and the HMS *Warrior*. The meeting was held in a large open building that in years past served as a boathouse.



Any knot tyer would be amazed by the talent and diversity of knot craft presented at this meeting. Two days did not seem like enough time to gawk at all the display booths. There was practical and decorative knotwork of every kind. Not to mention weaving, spinning, braiding, plaiting, rope making and tatting. All of which were being demonstrated at one time or another over the busy weekend.

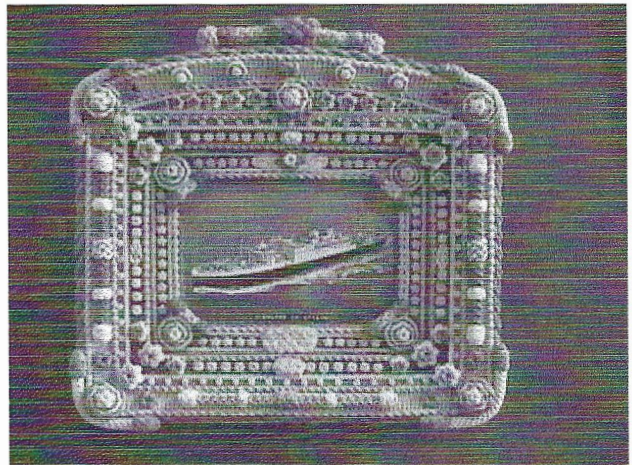


Bellropes on the IGKT Archive Table

The "Victory Riggers" had a double booth showing their work and answering the many questions from the curious.

A popular booth was the one set up to sell Guild supplies: books, back issues of KM and the like. Various demonstration sites were set up throughout the dockyard including the Six Knot Challenge. (I did not threaten the record.)

The only thing more impressive than the knot work at the AGM were the people. I took many pictures to help me remember the knot work but it is because of these Guild members that I will definitely make the trip again.



Delightful Knotboard by Bernard Catbush



That's Brian Field twiddling away but who's that fellow looking over his shoulder?

Branch Bits

Tom Hall of Texas sent these comments: "In KN #14 Bryant Arrington verified the bight count on his Headhunter's ring. Lo and behold, the ring is a 10 part 22 bight 3 pass Headhunter's Knot! This is very interesting. Why would someone tie a 10 x 22 x 3 Headhunter's Knot that takes two strands to tie when they could of tied a 10 part 21 bight 3 pass Headhunter's Knot that is tied with one strand? Also, the 10 x 21 x 3 Headhunter's Knot is tied by building the pattern, so it is easy to tie. Each half-cycle is layed down right in order.

The 10 part 22 bight 3 pass Headhunter's Knot is tied by first tying a 5 part 11 bight 2 pass Headhunter's Fan Knot that has an under-one, over-two, under-one pattern. This knot is also tied by building the pattern, so it is easy to tie. That would count this out as a reason for one knot being easier to tie than the other.

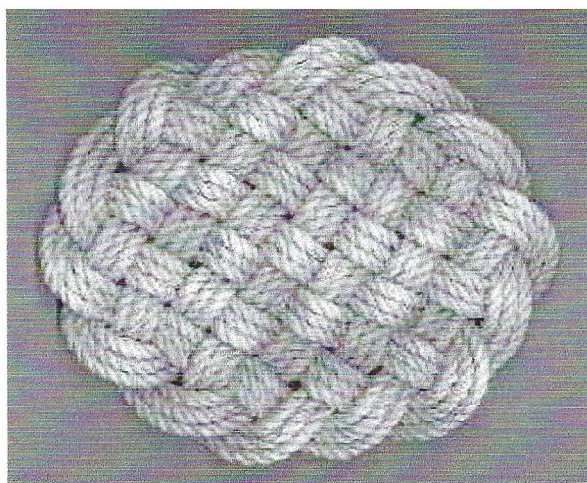
Could the reason be the use of two colors in the two strand knot? Or, could it be they could not get orchid fiber long enough to tie the knot in one piece, so the two strand knot worked better with the material they where working with?

The next question is do you think the people that are still tying these rings today could tell you why they tie a 10 part 22 bight 3 pass Headhunter's Knot instead of a 10 part 21 bight 3 pass Headhunter's Knot? Could it be that this is the way they were shown to do it and that is the way it was always done?"

Terry Ridings in British Columbia sent this story: "I hope you had a good Holiday and Santa arrived with balls of string etc....

This reminds me of a trip I took to the UK once. I had the good fortune to find some really nice cotton cord and bought a whole bunch of it. I arrived back in Canada and the customs guy asked if I had anything to declare? "Yes, I bought some string." It was late and we were so both tired. I could feel the tension beginning to rise. "A ball of string...?" The officer was somewhat taken

aback when I opened the bag and showed him about 50 pounds of it!"



Manila Mat by Marty Combs

Carlos Albesiano in Venezuela had this to say: "*Hoy recibí su carta y veo con agrado que mi historia de los nudos fué publicada, así como algunas de mis fotos de cuadros de nudos, agradezco mucho dicha publicación; cuando escribí esa historia no pensé que fuera ha ser publicada, la escribí como una especie de carta presentación para ingresar a una asociación, aun cuando ustedes no lo exigen como requisito de ingreso, quise de esta forma que me conocieran un poco mas y supieran del trabajo que hice, me alegro y gracias mil, cuando supe que lo publicarían, creí que lo harían en español, pero ustedes fueron mas inteligentes y adoptaron una buena solución al hacerlo en Ingles y Español, mis palabras de aliento y agradecimiento a la persona que hizo dicha traducción, la cual me imagino fue su cuñada Mary.*

Mi esposa es Profesora de Secundaria, de noche estuda Post-Grado y los Sábados estudia Computación, aprendió algunos nudos que le enseñé tal como: Cabeza de Turco, Roseta, Jibilay, Estera de Cubierta, Nudo de Verdugo, As de Guía, Balso por Seno; últimante de tanto oír hablar de los nudos y de la IGKT-PAB se está entusiasmado y quire continuar con el estudio y la práctica de los nudos. Ella opina de su carta lo siguiente: 'Nadie es profeta en

su tierra y que ustedes le están dando más valor y reconocimiento a mi trabajo y a mi persona de lo que he obtenido aquí y que de alguna manera es una forma de trascender; que en general ustedes le dan más importancia a las personas y su trabajo de lo que nosotros le damos aquí.'

¿Será verdad que US es el país de las oportunidades?"

[Today I received your letter, and I was very pleased to know that my history of knots was published, also some of my pictures of the Knotboard. For that I thank you very much. When I wrote that, I never thought it was going to be published; it was a sort of letter of introduction to you, to become a member of the Association. Even though it was not required, I tried to let you know me and some of my skills. But, anyway, thank you very much. When I found out you were going to publish my letter, I thought it was going to be in Spanish, but I think it was very nice to do it in both languages. My best regards and appreciation to the person who did the translation, who I think was your sister-in-law, Mary?

My wife is a High School teacher. She is also a post-graduate student at night, and on Saturdays, she is studying Computers. And now, she is learning from me about knots. She has already learned to make the Turk's Head, Rosette, Covering Mat, Hangman's Noose, Bosun's Chair, etc., and lately, after hearing so much about knots and IGKT, she is thinking about learning and practicing knots.

Now, I want you to know what she has to say about your letter: " 'Nobody is a Prophet in his own land', because you are giving so much credit to my work and me, so much more than I have been able to obtain here, and that is because you acknowledge and value more the person and his skills."

Is it true that the U.S. is the Land of Opportunity?]

Branch Library

The Library continues to grow with more generous donations from Branch members:

More Bush Leatherwork by Ron Edwards
Donated by Marty Combs in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Cowboy Roping and Rope Tricks by Chester Byers

Sling Braiding of the Andes by Adele Cahlander

Both were given by Mike Storch of Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

The Marlinespike Sailor by Hervey Garrett Smith

The Art of Knotting and Splicing by Cyrus Lawrence Day

Both were both donated by Joe Schmidbauer.

The Library is available to all members and any of these books can be borrowed for a reasonable amount of time. Here is a complete list of our Library as 1999 begins:



The Arts of the Sailor by Hervey Garrett Smith.

The Knot Book by Geoffrey Budworth.

Tying Strong Fishing Knots by Bill Herzog. *The*

Essential Knot Book by Colin Jarman. *The Art of Rigging* by George Biddlecomb. *The Rigging of Ships in the Days of the Spritsail Topmast, 1600-1720* by R.C. Anderson.

Creative Ropecraft by Stuart E. Grainger

Knots, Splices and Fancy Work by Charles L. Spencer (Revised by Percy W. Blandford).

Square Knot Book No. 3 by Philip C. Herwig.

Knots by Peter Owen. Charwell Books, 1996.

A Fresh Approach to Knotting and Ropework by Charles Warner.

Knots Useful and Ornamental by Ron Edwards.

Turk's Heads by Ron Edwards.

Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work by Raoul Graumont and John Hensel.

The Riggers Locker-Tools and Techniques for Modern and Traditional Rigging by Brion Toss.

Knotcraft-The Practical and Entertaining Art of Tying Knots by Allan and Paulette Macfarlan

The Splicing Handbook-Techniques for Modern and Traditional Ropes by Barbara Merry with John Darwin.

Knots and How To Tie Them by Walter B. Gibson.

Knots and Splices by Cyrus L. Day.

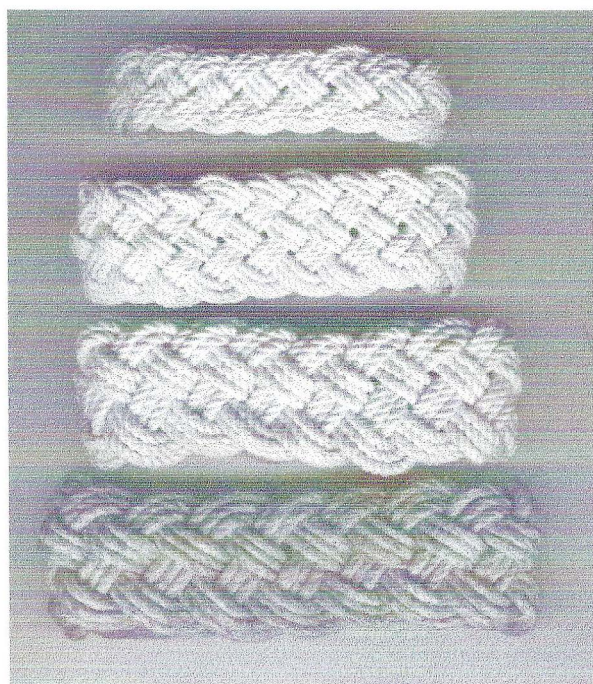
Rigging by Harold A. Callahan.

Chapman's Nautical Guides-Knots by Brion Toss.

Knots and Physics by Louis H. Kauffman.

Knots and Applications Louis H. Kauffman

Turk's-Head Knot Tips: A Knot Tier's Guide To The Turk's-Head Knot by Tom Hall.
Notes on Knots by Pieter van de Griend.
Knots and Rope Problems by Pieter van de Griend.
The Hamlyn Book of Knots by Geoffrey Budworth.
Knotlore by Geoffrey Budworth.
Marline-Spike Seamanship by Leonard Popple.
The Complete Rigger's Apprentice: Tools and Techniques for Modern and Traditional Rigging by Brion Toss.
Tassels: The Fanciful Embellishment by Nancy Welch.
Celtic Knotwork Designs by Sheila Sturrock.
The New Encyclopedia of Knots by Derek Avery.
Knots for Climbers by Craig Luebben.
Practical Fishing Knots by Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh.
Knots for Hikers and Backpackers by Frank Logue with Victoria Logue.
Making Discoveries in Knots by Ham Gerber.
Knots and Splices by Steve Judkins and Tim Davison.
Macramé by Lynn Paulin.
Step by Step Macramé by Mary Walker Phillips.
Macramé Creative Knot-Tying: Techniques and Projects by Susan S. Lampton.



Turk's Head Bracelets by George Haycraft



Some Knots by Derek Chipperfield

The Knot Heard Around the World

Willy Willaert has gotten the green light to arrange a knotting exhibition in Belgium. The exhibit will be held at the local museum of Weert, *De Zilverreiger*, close to Antwerp. De Zilverreiger's theme is life and crafts around the old river Schelde. The expo starts at Easter 1999 and will run till October. The range of items already collected for display runs from cowboy braiding, sailor's decorative marlinespike seamanship, examples of practical sailor's marlinespike seamanship, ropemaking, braiding, fishing.... from all over the world. There are going to be a few meetings, but the exact dates and such are not yet known. To stay informed you can check out: www.euronet.nl/users/vdgriend/homepage.htm If you would like to exhibit any of your knotwork at the first ever international knotting expo in Belgium, you can send it to:

Willy Willaert

You will have to do so before March 1999. Please also indicate whether you'd like to have them returned, what value they should be insured for, or whether you would wish to donate them to this Museum at which the show is being arranged.

Pacific Americas Branch

The Pacific Americas Branch has monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro, California. Meetings are held in the rear classroom and go from 7:00 to 9:00 in the evening.

This season's scheduled meetings are set for: February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th and finally our next AGM will be falling on Friday, June 25th. Mark your calendars and be sure to attend.

A number of useful items are always available to members upon request to the Secretary.

- 1) IGKT-PAB Bylaws—need some help going to sleep?
- 2) Branch Member List—discover other knotters in your area or become a knotting pen pal.

- 3) Information Sheets and Applications—to help lasso in those new members.
- 4) Member Book List—a bibliographic delight!

Please note that the Secretary, Joe Schmidbauer, has a new e-mail address:

Koolkatz@prodigy.net

The Secretary also wishes to give special thanks to:

Ron Ossandon for his excellent Spanish translations and **Terry Ridings** who donated the graphics to give the *Knot News* a new look.

Photos are courtesy of Martin Combs (Oregon), Randy Penn (Florida) and Dan Callahan (*The Knot Shoppe* — Alaska).

KNOT NEWS
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