



# Knot News

## International Guild of Knot Tyers Pacific Americas Branch

July 1997

Issue #3

### First Annual General Meeting 27th June 1997

The first AGM of the Pacific Americas Branch of the IGKT was convened at 7:00 PM by Dr. Pete Lee at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro. The members attending this historic event were: Lindsey Philpott, Darrell McNurlan, Tom Gergen, Sean Vatuone, Tim Howard and Joe Schmidbauer. Mark Sherman (Secretary of the International String Figure Association) and Ron Haralson were interested guests; they later became active members.

#### Opening Comments

Dr. Lee's opening remarks were about his own anthropological interest in man's common cultural heritage using cordage, knots and knotting. He also offered his help in getting the Branch to grow and develop by community involvement through the museum.

Capt. Darrell McNurlan then spoke about his joy in seeing the Branch strive to keep traditional knotting from becoming a memory; to keep it alive and pass it on to the next generation.

#### Bylaws Ratification

The members then turned to the bylaws review and ratification. After some discussion (Dan Armstrong of Alaska

suggested the Branch supply grog for all General Board Meetings) it was decided to accept the bylaws as written. Tom motioned to accept and Darrell seconded.

#### Elections

Nominations were then called for the Officer and Board positions and the elections were done by voice vote:

<u>President</u>	Darrell McNurlan (1 year term)
<u>Secretary</u>	Joe Schmidbauer (2 year term)
<u>Treasurer</u>	Lindsey Philpott (1 year term)
<u>Librarian</u>	Ron Haralson (2 year term)
<u>Board</u>	Sean Vattuone (1 year term)
<u>Board</u>	Tim Howard (1 year term)
<u>Board</u>	_____ (volunteer needed)
<u>Board</u>	_____ (volunteer needed)

#### State of the Branch

Joe did a quick review of how the Branch stands now. After our initial meeting in January, some forty-five Guild members were contacted about their interest in starting a new IGKT Branch; about half ended up responding to the call. Others heard about us at the museum or from the rigger's grapevine. This group ended up being our nineteen "Plankowners" or founding members of the Branch.



Membership can only continue to grow as members pass the word in their hometowns, neighborhoods and nearby boat basins. Lindsey then reviewed our expenses. Our money is in an interest bearing Business Savings Account. At the time of the AGM, we had \$577.50 in our account. \$105 is earmarked for the IGKT for dues' payments and \$102 is for next years' expenses. This leaves \$370 for the year.

What to spend it on is the next question? Our focus should be simple for the first year or so. Some suggestions are: build the Branch Library; focus on other groups to gain new members; refreshments for regular meetings.

### **Ashley Commemoration**

Joe, Lindsey and Tom all plan to attend the NAB Conference to be held on August 7, 8 & 9 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

The scheduled lectures included:

*An Art Historians View of Ashley*

Elton W. "Toby" Hall

*A Daughter's View of Ashley*

Phoebe Ashley

*An Artist's View of Ashley*

Jane Ashley

*A Knot Tyer's View of Ashley*

Brian Field

*A Mathematicians View of Ashley*

Vaughan Jones, FRS

*A Knot Historians View of Ashley*

Pieter van de Griend

*A Scientist's Future View of Ashley*

Gregory Buck

*Ashley's Bend*

Robert Wolfe, MD

*Ashley Commemorative Stamp*

Dick Blackmer

Other confirmed attendees are Des Pawson, President of the IGKT, and his wife Liz; also Lester Copestake and Linda Turley the Hon Treasurer of the IGKT.

### **Web Site**

Everyone is linking up to the internet. Mark Sherman if the ISFA stated he gets 80% of his members on-line. quite a few PAB members found out about the IGKT first through their web sit. There is a real need for us to advertise through the world Wide Web. Lindsey's wife knows how to develop web sites and is willing to show us how to go about it. Payments for such a site range

from a monthly \$9.95 fee to \$90 for a year's service. There is also a \$50 fee to register a domain name. There are two things that are requested from the membership:

1. Feedback on what is wanted on our web page.

2. A commitment to finance it.

### **Branch Display Centers**

It is important that Branch members start showing their work in local display, for example, at your local library, museum or school. This will be a long term, low cost membership draw. Always stress that works are "Donated by IGKT-PAB."

### **Videos**

Lindsey has access through a friend of some video tape equipment. In the future the we could explore this avenue to expand the Branch's reach.

### **Ties to Sea and Boy Scouts**

The Troop Leader of the local Sea Explorers was at the *Swift* volunteer meeting and expressed a great interest in working with and learning from the Branch. Joe also knows of a Scout Leader through his church that has shown interest in having the Branch come down and lecturing his boys on basic knotting and lashing. These and other avenues will be explored in the coming year.

### **Lists and More Lists**

Every member has expressed the concern on the best places to get knotting material. The Secretary has volunteered to compile all places known by the membership that are special sources of the cord, twine, rope or string you use on your projects. He will need to know the Name, Address, Phone and what the specialty is (if any) at this source.

Another list that is still 'in the works' is our Member Book List. Several members have already contributed; the list has gotten quite lengthy but we still need your library list today. All the Secretary needs is the book title, author, publisher, date published and edition number. Please send in yours today! This will be one of the great strengths of the Branch. Any knotting information we need, we will have the resources to search it out. Any of these lists is available upon request to all members from the Secretary.



**Knotting Show and Demonstration**  
**Saturday, 28th June 1997**  
**Los Angeles Maritime Museum**

Article in the Thursday, 26 June 1997,  
*News Pilot*

**SAN PEDRO**  
**MARITIME MUSEUM**  
**PLANS KNOT CLINIC**

The Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro will present its first exhibition and demonstration of knot-tying and making string figures and related skills from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

The exhibition includes displays of traditional maritime knots and their application; knots used in braided leatherwork; Chinese macramé; jewelry made with knots; and various knotting paraphernalia.

Demonstrations include how-to on tying Turks's Head and Monkey's Fist knots; making string figures; grommet-making; and hitching

The day started with a regular "June gloom" morning of California springtime but it soon turned to sunshine and a perfect day was in store for our show. The Parks and Recreation Department loaned us four tent awnings for shade and the museum let us use a number of their good tables to use for our displays.

Many hands make light work so everyone pitched in to set up on the front lawn of the museum in San Pedro. Once everything was set up, all the members delved into their sea chests and ditty bags to fill up the tables with their knotting craftwork. The centerpiece was the completed traveling knot box set up with the first of (we hope) many panels displaying the Branch knotting. One panel is covered in burlap on which is various splices and mats done in manila with ends whipped in green twine. The other panel is covered in a blue cloth on which was different knots tied in spun dacron whipped with blue twine. Lindsey finished the panels, with some last minute help from Darrell, in the last few frantic weeks before the show. The box is perfectly topped off by Darrell's white cotton becket handles. It proved to be a real show stopper!

Some of the other displays on hand were Maggie Macado's Chinese Knot display; Lindsey Philpott's knot earrings (red and green); Joe Schmidbauer's anchor from the *Encyclopedia*; Darrell McNurlan's knot coverings, bell rope and marlinespike tools; Dan Callahan's star knot key fobs and monkey's fist necklaces. Tim Howard had his leathercraft work for show. There was a cat o'nine tails, a

superb riding crop, and a good number of different sizes Turk's Head knots. Through it all, Tom Gergen answered the questions from the passers-by and helped generate interest in our displays.

Mark Sherman of the International String Figure Association wowed the kids with his endless cats cradle permutations from around the world. Right next door was Erin Rittenhouse with her display of Half Hitch Knot Jewelry. There was quite a crowd most of the day around this part of the show. The kids were amazingly fast in picking up the techniques and patient in pursuing them to completion. We need to watch these kids; maybe some future members of the Branch there? Other demonstrations were Darrell showing the marlinespike art of worming, parcelling and serving a line (using a handmade mesquite serving mallet) and Sean Vattuone showing traditional net making using a net shuttle.

It all ended too soon and everyone is looking forward to next years show.

## **Around The Branch**

After such a great show, it was decided to give the Pacific Americas Branch the summer off. The next meeting will be sometime in September. The Secretary will send out flyers to notify members in plenty of time to make sure everyone can attend.

## **Library**

Our Library continues to grow with ever more generous donations from our members:

Chinese Knot Display - *Stone Chime Knot* combined with an 8x8 *Pan Chang Knot*; *Plaford Knot*, fashioned after decorations seen on ceilings in Chinese temples and palaces; *Butterfly Knot*, a variation of the *Pan Chang* which forms the body of the butterfly; a *Double Coin Knot* links the

butterfly to the last knot, it forms the butterfly's wings as well as the four corners of the last knot; the *Pan Chang* again (4x4 doubled), an amazing knot, for the weave is complete on both sides, having a hollow center. Historically, it has been found only in Asian cultures. Donated by Maggie Machado, 1997.

Gear Shift Knob Cover (Ashley #2217), brown macrame cord, triple pass. Donated by Maggie Macado, 1997

Chinese Knot *Heart Pan Chang*, made from #5 nylon with silk and imported from Taiwan. Donated by Winkie Fordney, 1997.

Square Knot Book No. 3 by Philip C. Herwig. Donated by Bob Schwartz, 1997.

## **IGKT - Pacific Americas Branch**

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