

Knot News



INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS - PACIFIC AMERICAS BRANCH

January 2001

Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

Issue #25

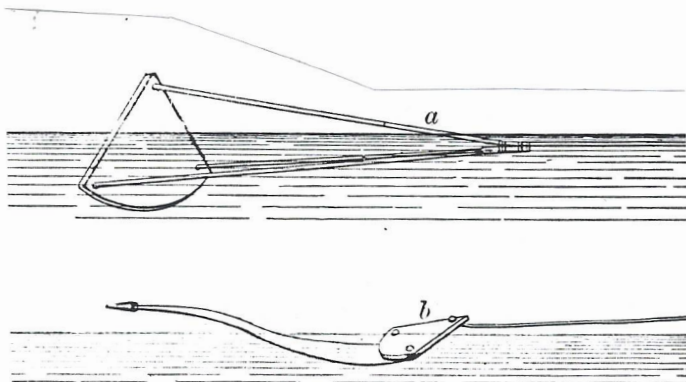
Knot So Fast!

The Log Line in the Days of Sail

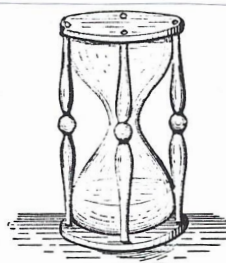
Plagiarized by Joe Schmidbauer

An integral part of navigation is knowing the speed of your vessel. This will enable you to determine the distance run for a given time period. In the days of sail, the log-line and hourglass were used to measure the speed of a vessel through water. This is where seamanship and navigation meet.

The log-line was made from signal halyard stuff, 150 fathoms long. This was divided into certain spaces called *knots*. One end of the line was attached to a hand reel and the other end to a *log* or *chip*. This log is a wooden quadrantal form, weighted with lead on the circular side and fitted with a socket and toggle. The *glass* is a regular hourglass that will time 28 seconds exactly.



Previous to marking a new log-line, it is soaked in water for a few days, in order to get it in the condition it will be when in use. Fifteen fathoms from the end is allowed for stray line. The limit of the stray line is marked by a piece of red bunting about 6 inches long.



The following proportion determines the length of the knot: as the number of seconds in an hour is to the number of feet in a sea mile, so is the length of the glass to the length of the knot, or,

$$3,600 \text{ s} : 6,086 \text{ ft.} = 28 \text{ s} : 47.33 \text{ ft.} \\ : 47 \text{ feet } 3 \text{ inches}$$

therefore the length of the knot is 47 feet 3 inches for the 28 second glass. Each length of 47 feet 3 inches (or *knot*) on the log-line is marked with a piece of fish-line that is knotted according to its number from the stray-line. Each knot is subdivided into five equal parts by pieces of white bunting about

two inches long between the strands to indicate two-tenths of a knot.

It takes three men to "heave the log." One heaves the chip-log and tends the log line, one holds the reel, and one tends the glass.

In heaving the log-line, you must be careful to veer out the line as fast as the chip will take it; for if it be left to turn the reel itself, it will deceive you in your reckoning. You must also be careful to measure the log-line pretty often, lest it stretch and deceive you in the distance. The glass is also much influenced by the weather, running slower in damp weather than in dry. The 28 second glass is used for low speeds. For speeds over 6 knots a 14 second glass is used and the readings for the log line is doubled.

Text Book of Seamanship: The Equipping and Handling of Vessels Under Sail or Steam
by Commodore S.B. Luce, U.S. Navy.
Van Nostrand Company; 1895.

<u>June 1997</u> Dennis Armstrong Daniel Callahan Marilyn 'Winkie' Fordney Tom Gergen Tim Howard Maggie Machado Michael McLaughlin Darrell McNurlan Dr. Ross Munnerlyn Jim Noon Steve Van Orson Lindsey Philpott Jean Ramentol Terry Ridings Erin Rittenhouse Sharon Rittenhouse Willard Salmons Joseph Schmidbauer Bob Schwartz Mark Sherman Sean Vattuone	<u>December 1997</u> Martin Combs Tom Mortell <u>February 1998</u> Doug Corey Kim Moore Ronald Ossandon Brion Toss <u>March 1998</u> Keith Hudson Don Rempe Al Sorkin Lael Venta <u>May 1998</u> Darrell Ausherman Dan Cashin Captain 'Hap' Heyden Joseph Soanes <u>June 1998</u> Stan Harris Rudy Petschek <u>July 1998</u> Chris Cooper Melissa Munnerlyn Noah Munnerlyn <u>August 1998</u> Eric Bagai <u>September 1998</u> Carlos Albesiano David 'Deuce' Audette Mike Ghareeb
<u>July 1997</u> Mike Bowman <u>August 1997</u> E.J. 'Skip' Dickens <u>September 1997</u> Ron Haralson Bob Koop <u>October 1997</u> Louie Bartos Alex Kleider MD Chris Rybak Mike Waring (Family)	

Standard Seamanship for the Merchant Service
by Felix Riesenberg, C.E.
Van Nostrand Company; 1936.

Coastal Navigation by Revd J.J. Curling
Simpkin and Marshall; 1892

Secretaries Corner

Sorry for the delay in getting this latest issue in the mail. A lot has been going on with me since the last KN that kept me from working on the newsletter.

I hope other members will consider sending in articles for publication in KN. I like to imagine the KN as a way for Branch members to communicate and share ideas.

Do you have anything to share?

The Branch account has been transferred from Lindsey to Joe (finally!) and we are now able to collect Branch dues again. I would like everyone to try and pay on the month they joined the Guild. Here is the history of the growth of the Branch:

<u>November 1999</u> David Carleton Sylvia Wikle <u>February 2000</u> Alberto Alamo Mendoza <u>March 2000</u> Charlie Bell Roy Chapman Mark Kreinhop <u>April 2000</u> Robert Blanchard Bob Solon <u>May 2000</u> Wayne Lewis (Family) Don Tucker <u>June 2000</u> Dan Hatfield <u>August 2000</u> Jerome Mullins (Family) Richard Woodfin jr (Family) <u>September 2000</u> David Peters <u>November 2000</u> Jimmy Williams <u>January 2001</u> Don Vanderwal	<u>June 1997</u> Dean Westervelt <u>October 1998</u> J. Paul Simons <u>November 1998</u> David Clark Tom Hall <u>December 1998</u> Jerry Bowser Marie Ortiz Margaret White <u>February 1999</u> Dean Cole Tillie Easton Arne Jensen Stephen Wolf <u>April 1999</u> Clint Funk <u>June 1999</u> Clifford Case Yvonne Chang <u>August 1999</u> Charles Quirnbach <u>September 1999</u> Scott Harrington Jim Munford Randy Penn <u>October 1999</u> Geert 'Willy' Willaert
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Quite a collection of characters, hey?

It would help me a great deal if after your initial payment of dues for the International and Branch; you separate all subsequent yearly dues. One would go to the International in England and one to us here in the PAB. Nigel Harding in England says that to pay by check is the easiest for him but a personal check is okay, too. If you want to chance it, you can send cash. Do not send a postal money order or an international money order. These cost too much to exchange at the bank. If this would be too much of a problem, contact me and I will see what can be worked out.

For Sale

I have a number of Guild Supplies for sale. All interested members should contact the Secretary to fill your order.

Guild Tie – Long, dark blue tie with Guild logo in gold.....\$15.00

Guild Enamel Brooch.....\$5.00

Brian Field Booklets

Breastplate Designs.....\$4.00

Concerning Crosses.....\$2.50

Dan Callahan Knotwork

Star Knot Tie Tacks.....\$5.00



The Secretary also has copies of all back issues of *Knot News*. These are available to all Guild members for the asking, while supplies last!

Marty Combs is selling brass thimbles on his web site. The sizes available are 2mm, 3 to 4mm, 4.5mm, 5mm, 6mm, 7mm and 8mm. These are solid brass and not just a coating for color. See his web site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ak/skateworld/index.html> There you can find the prices and how to order.

Branch Library and Collection

We have had two more very nice books donated to the Branch Library.

Quipus and Witches Knots: the Role of the Knot in Primitive and Ancient Cultures

by Cyrus Lawrence Day

University of Kansas press; 1967

Donated by Lindsey Philpott.

[Lindsey and I bid against each other on eBay for this one, so I know what this one cost him!]

Restraint of Animals

By John R. Leahy and Pat Barrow

Cornell Campus Store; 1953

Donated by Mike Storch

[Mike sent a note along with the book commenting – “This book is not a knot book, but the restraint of animals necessarily involves ropework and more than 2/3rds of the book is devoted to the same. Also, it is old, unique and I reckon a good addition to the collection.]

Captain Karl Bareuther has donated two wonderful pieces of sailor ropework to our Branch collection. An authentic Cat O’Nine Tails and a Blackjack. The cat is made from tarred hempen rope used during the 1960’s in the rigging of the German sailing vessel *Gorch Fock*, the sister-ship of the USCGC *Eagle*. The blackjack is made from old cotton fishing line given to him by Karl Ottison of Nantucket.

Branch Web Site

The PAB Web Site is up and running again. Through the efforts of Tom Gergen, the site has been revamped and updated. The new address is:

<http://igktpab.org>

We have a “Rogues Gallery” on our site where we can post your knot images and portraits. All members are encouraged to send in their jpg’s and gif’s to help fill up our on-line gallery.



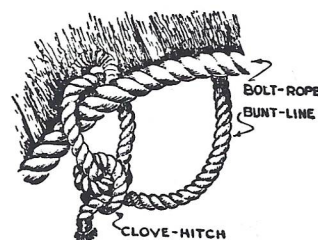
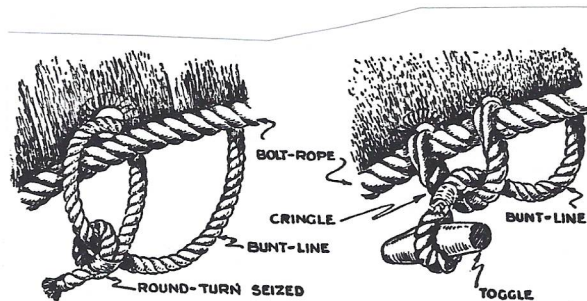
Monthly Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13th** at the **Los Angeles Maritime Institute**. This is the building right next to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro, California.

Charlie Bell will give a lecture and demonstration on how to make Pieter van de Griend's *Little Lump Knot*. There will be handouts to help the discussion along.

The next meetings are scheduled for the following Tuesdays:

March 13th, April 10th and May 8th



Knot News

International Guild of Knot Tyers
1805 Kingsford Drive
Corona, California USA