

Knot



News

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS - PACIFIC BRANCH

September 2004

Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

Issue #45

Knot Faire Bellingham AGM June 25th -27th 2004

Greetings from the new Pacific Branch President, **Roy Chapman**. Our June AGM in Bellingham, Washington was a great success. It was wonderful to have so many members in the same place at the same time! We realize that is one of the routine joys for many other Branches but it is a rare treat for us at the northern end of the PAB. Now that I have met Lindsey Philpott face to face I can tell you that his feet don't look very big but that filling his Presidential shoes will be very daunting. We also installed our new Secretary, **Patrick Ducey**. We created a co-treasurer position, with **Dan Callahan** and **George Pollitt** serving together. We confirmed **Jose Hernandez-Juviel** as our official Librarian. Now that our new officers are spread across 3400 miles of the Pacific coast we feel that we really have become the "Pacific Branch". One of the necessary changes will be to hold our monthly meetings and AGM in a chat-room and telephone conference call environment. We anticipate some teething pains for the first few months. The bright side is that we are moving forward with many more shows and displays, wider membership participation, more

opportunities for expanded public exposure and a well earned rest for our former officers. Joe Schmidbauer will continue as the most excellent editor of our paper *Knot News* (welcoming contributions from all quarters). I personally will have been dragged, kicking and screaming, into the current century (hard to run a chat-room meeting if I don't get internet access?) but will still continue my pen and ink contributions to *Knot News* and *Knotting Matters*.



Maggie Machado of **Portland, Oregon**

Our two day show at the AGM was a success with continuous demonstrations of Chinese Knotting by Carol Wang, wire rope splicing by Jose Hernandez-Juviel, split strand braiding from Maggie Machado and coachwhipping by Dennis Armstrong. Brion Toss delivered an engaging talk on rope

making and the changes that modern materials have brought to our craft. This dovetailed nicely with the two tours of local rope making facilities (Sampson Ropes in Ferndale and Puget Sound Ropes in Anacortes) on Friday.



Jose Hernandez-Juviel of CA
and Gary Sessions of Texas

Our venue at the cruise terminal was excellent and the Port authority personnel most helpful. We might have wished for more public walk through traffic since the rotunda isn't in a direct line from ticket counter to boat. However the many visitors who came in spent far more time with us than they would if rushing to catch their sailing. Most guests came directly to the event due to advertising or word of mouth, with some coming back to us after their harbor tour or island trip. Our raffle did quite well. Many guests expressed interest in membership, further involvement in knotting and more than a few left with the distracted look of a person planning a project and dreaming a dream.

As a special treat, Marc Chardon attended the display bringing along his 13-year-old daughter, Marie. Mark is the son of Phoebe (Ashley) Chardon and so that makes Marie the great-granddaughter of Clifford Ashley. Marc himself does not do any knotting (he works for Microsoft) but Marie showed a great interest and tried to absorb all the information she could at the show.

Lastly I am investigating the possibility of having cast brass belt buckles made displaying the Guild logo. When I ask "How much?" the first question the founder asks me is "How many?" Well, I know I want one! However I am going to proceed if there is no market interest. If you have any interest please let me know and suggest a fair market price. I see little point in making any \$300 buckles! Also if you do cast work yourself or have contacts in the trade I would like to talk with you about this project.



Roy Chapman of Washington

Branch Bits

Here are a few upcoming knotting events that volunteers are welcomed to attend:

The **Ballard Fisherman's Fall Festival** at Fisherman's Terminal, Seattle, Washington will be taking place on Saturday, September 11th, 2004 from 11:00 AM till dusk. In addition to excellent seafood and other related fishing activities, there will also be survival suit races (a local favorite). The Terminal is located in the Ballard neighborhood at 1900 West Nickerson St. For information on the IGKT-Pacific booth, email Pat Ducey at duceypl@aol.com or call at (206) 363-5122.

The same weekend we will also be having a presence at the **Wood Boat Festival** in Port Townsend, Washington. Roy Chapman will have the information about this one.

On Saturday, September 11th and Sunday, September 12th there will be the **Toshiba Tallships Festival** at Dana Point Harbor in Southern California. Featuring Polynesian dancing, sea-chanty concerts, a pirate encampment, sunset cannon battles and the largest annual gathering of tall ships on the West Coast. We will have a number of tables for displays so there will be enough room for everybody. Lindsey Philpott is the person to contact at marline.man@verizon.net or (562) 595-8854.

Lastly we will display at the **Autumn Sea Fair** of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro, California on Sunday, October 17th 2004 from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Ransom showed him the intricacies of the double-emperor knot, an appallingly difficult piece of work of no practical utility whatever, but which he alone in the berth could tie – perhaps in the whole ship's company, for he had learned it as a little boy from a very old man who had sailed with Blake, in the days when the knot was still used by way of ornament."

Patrick O'Brian
The Golden Ocean

President's Column

I want to start by saying what an honor it is to serve as your president. I am sure the two years will fly by and I will be handing the gavel to the next incoming president. Of course I don't have more "free" time than anyone else, but if we can streamline the jobs of our officers by AGM 2006 perhaps there will be a waiting list of members who are eager to have a chance at the job.

Along those lines: by the time you read this we may be on our way to holding our monthly meetings in a chat room. Incoming secretary, Pat Ducey, is working with the web-master to make that a reality. As we get toward that goal you will be able to check the web site for the latest information about the on-line meeting. I will be dragged, kicking

and screaming into the current century. My email is: CHAPMAN.ROY@worldnet.att.net. With the summer break over we will be back on schedule with meetings, editor Schmidbauer's latest *Knot News* arriving (please write something for us and get it to Joe!), some of the great shows and events will be behind us and I'll be an old hand at this business of being your president. I've never visited a chat room but at least I can type, so I guess I'll be okay. Of course I still love "snail mail" and welcome any hard paper correspondence, both as your President and as "Mountain Man".

Roy Chapman

From the Mail Bag

Bob Solon of Ohio sent in this great idea: "Dollar stores are popping up all over The Great North Coast. One of the best buys is an aluminum flash light that looks a lot like a Mini MagLite. Yes, it's a knock-off and to my eye pretty plain. How it can be made and sold for a buck is a mystery.

In reading Brother Ashley it is soon made clear that most fancywork is functional first and pretty later. Not this flashlight! This is pure fancy. The handle portion is only 3 1/2" long and 11/16th" in diameter. That's pretty short for coachwhipping, especially with North Coast fingers. The simple answer was French Spiral Hitching. A bonus with French Hitching is that the start and finish can be tied flat and easily covered.

Kelly green cod line was the only choice for me, mostly because it was on hand. It is braided 1200# test and is about 3/32" diameter. Almost anything else will do. Cotton chalk-line is also a fine choice. It is easily dyed or painted. A nice coat of shellac preserves it forever.

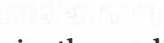
Tie a 3x4x3 Turk's Head for the butt end of the light. Because of the diameter this will come out nice and flat. You might like something bulkier for the other end of the handle. A 3x5x3 TH will fit the bill nicely and give it some variety.

Try a 5x4x3 TH on the light end. This size offers a lot of coverage on the barrel part with

only one lead on the tapered part. There is not enough line on the tapered part to start pulling the TH off the end. Tie it tight and it wont walk around on you. The lanyard is up to you.

You'll like the results! Your creativity gives a small flashlight some pizzazz that feels good in the hand. No one will ever mistake theirs for yours.

Let me know how your turns out."

Roy Chapman of  Washington wanted this printed in the earliest available space: "This is very embarrassing! Not only is my "Closed End Turk's Head Knot" not original but it is ABOK #2222! My heart felt thanks go to fellow Guild member Thomas Simpson for gently showing me the error.

I had not been able to clearly see (a function of lack of wit as well as bad vision) how many panels were in his "Double Monkey Fist" [see KM #82, page 33]. Having thoroughly misunderstood I boldly wrote him my comments, sent some samples of fists and, as a sidebar, asked if the handle of his fid (same photo) was a single strand closed end Turk's Head. I included the KN issue with my diagram. His most kind and generous (and corrective) reply included many excellent photographs, ten pages of diagrams and notes on various closed end Turk's Heads and Crowns and kind comments on our own KN.

Thanks to Thomas, KM and KN, I stand corrected. I have learned some additional knots and made contact with yet another fascinating member. Nonetheless, I feel a bit like a fellow proudly warming himself at "his" newly invented fire only to look across the valley and see other fires burning brightly (and less smoke too!).

Lastly this letter came from the **Max Manic** at **Campaign For the Abolition of Knot Boards** [www.CampKnoBs.org.UK]:

The Editor - Knot News

Sir,

As recruiting officer for our dedicated little action group, may I through your pages attempt to enlist the support of those knot

fiends who share with us an antipathy for knot boards?

We regard such displays as not only boring but unrealistic because, with their meager cut ends and static arrangements, they lack dynamism. Moreover, we believe, no person who has looked at or purchased one of these displays ever learned to tie the knots. As a teaching aid they fail.

We do not denigrate the ability of those men and women who assemble knot boards - a few examples of which, we concede, transcend mere knot tying and are more like modern art - but we deem them to be regrettably misguided. Their makers evince as little feeling for living knots as those who once pinned dead moths and butterflies into picture frames for natural history museums. I personally wept over one I saw recently; which was evocatively titled "Knots of the Napoleonic Era"... but had been thoughtlessly executed in shiny white nylon cord, instead of the appropriate brown and hairy stuff.

CampKnoBs believes that the world will be a better place when we all join hands around a bonfire of the last remaining knot boards.

(I would visit you in person but they do not let us roam unsupervised outside the grounds of the institution. Ah! Here comes the nursing orderly with my medication.)

I am, Sir, yours,

(signed)

Max Manic

And while we are on the subject of knots... An old retired sailor puts on his old uniform and heads for the docks once more for old times sake. He engages a prostitute and takes her up to a room.

He's soon going at it as well as he can for a guy his age, but needing some reassurance, he asks, "How am I doing?"

The prostitute replies, "Well old sailor, you're doing about three knots."

"Three knots?" he asks, "What's that supposed to mean?"

She says, "You're knot hard, you're knot in, and you're knot getting your money back!"

Tame the Apostrophe

By Geoffrey Budworth

When I was a lecturer in further education I used to advise any adult students who were bemused by those floating commas (') called apostrophes to omit them. The absence of an apostrophe from handwritten or printed words does not seem to upset even fussy readers... but sticking one in the wrong place really irks them. Those of use who write about knots, however, ought to know how to apply the apostrophe in a couple of special cases.

1. The term "**a Turk's head**" is actually a diminutive cut-and-shut form of the archaic expression "**a Turk, his head**", and so the apostrophe is inserted BEFORE the 's' to indicate where missing letters once appeared. Okay so far?

2. The plural form "**Turks' head**" would once have been written "**Turks, their heads**", and for this reason the apostrophe must go AFTER the 's' where the missing word used to be. Got it? Great!

Stubborn individuals argue that it is not correct to express more than one Turk's head as "**Turk's heads**" by assuming that the Turk in question has several heads. Nonsense! He might have several hats, in which case we would write "**a Turk's hats**" but the rule still holds that the correct plural form for the headgear of his numerous friends would be "**his friends' hats**".

So there it is the aberrant apostrophe tamed.

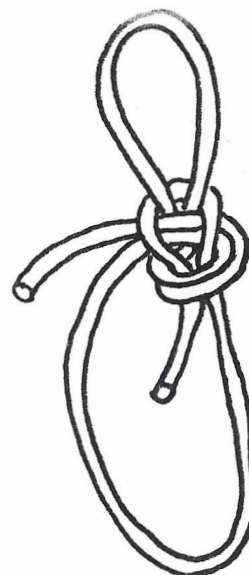
Thinking of Knotting....

Roy Chapman

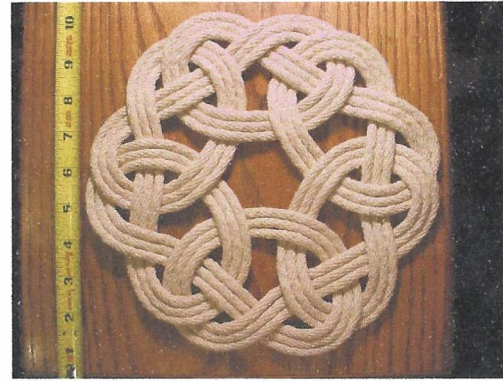
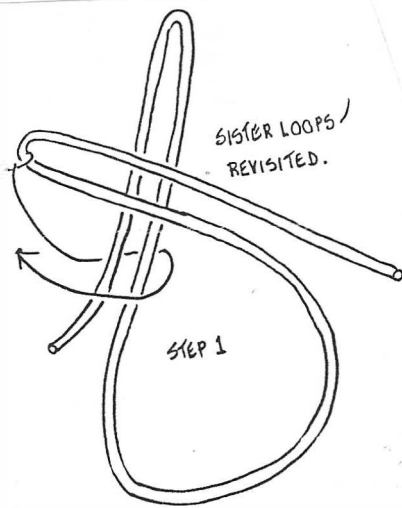
When I got my copy of KN #40 I was (as always) excited as could be. Of course I like to read my own work, but it is much better when other folks put some ideas in too. As I read about "Sister Loops" I kept thinking,

"Boy this is sooo familiar." I tie "Sister Loops" too. Sure enough; there it is... ABOK #1079, the very same knot. "But wait! I don't tie it that way, do I?" Some time after I learned ABOK #1079 I started tying the knot as if it were a bight knot. I do this with many knots... maybe it is just because I can never find the ends. If you can't either then here you go: Step #1 - grab two bights (make the left hand bight long) and form a loop in the upper one (the long one) just like starting the bowline knot as in ABOK #1010. Step #2 - slip the upper bight through the short bight and pull as the arrows show. You don't need the ends. Just as Mr. Budworth suggests, the uses are endless and now your knot is too.

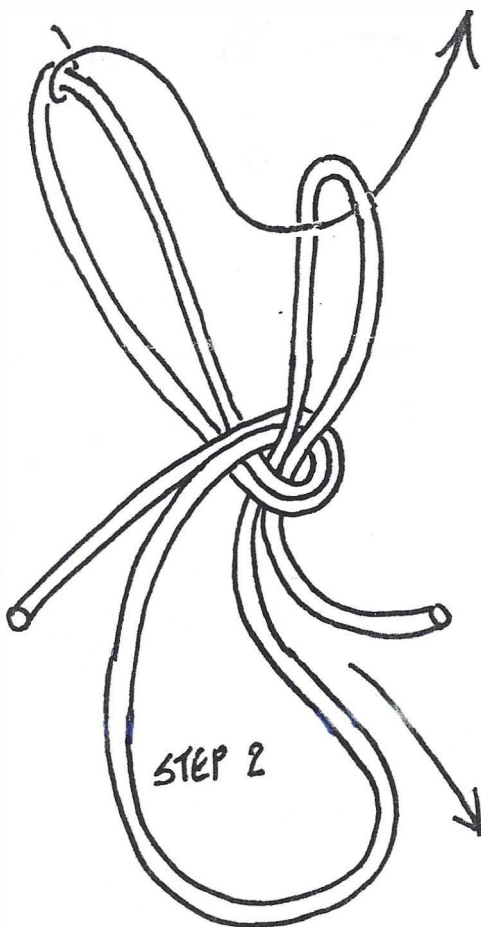
I most often tie it when improvising slings of one sort or another. I find if I form a sling as a single loop, with any favorite bend, that the bend often finds its own way into the way. Sister loops insure that doesn't happen and that neither loop chokes the load nor jams with the bend. I sometimes use the ends (if I can find 'em) to lash, mouse, frap, stop or otherwise help secure the whole mess (pay attention to the lead when you do this). As I learn a new knot I almost always try to convert it into a bight knot (or if it is a bight knot then I try to convert it to an end knot). Just as we have learned that many loops form good bends and conversely, conversion from "bight" to "end" (and visa-versa) often produces results that are very pleasing. By the way, the strap bend, ABOK # 1492, has a similar structure to that of Sister Loops. Have you found others?



ABOK # 1079



Two Mats by Jimmy Ray Williams
California



A Monkey Fist Door Stop and a Zipper Pull
by MN1 Gene Smith USN

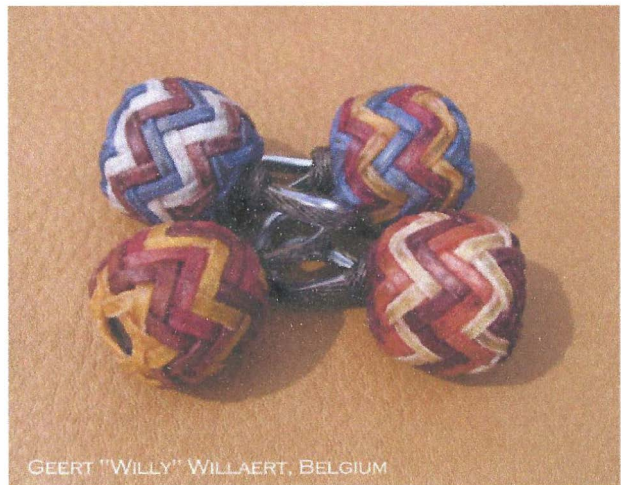
The only thing that distinguished it from an ordinary Christian parlour was the rigid formation of the chairs, squared to one another like yards on a ship, and the bell-pull, which was three fathoms of cable, wormed and served, and ending in a brass-bound top-block"

Patrick O'Brian
Post Captain



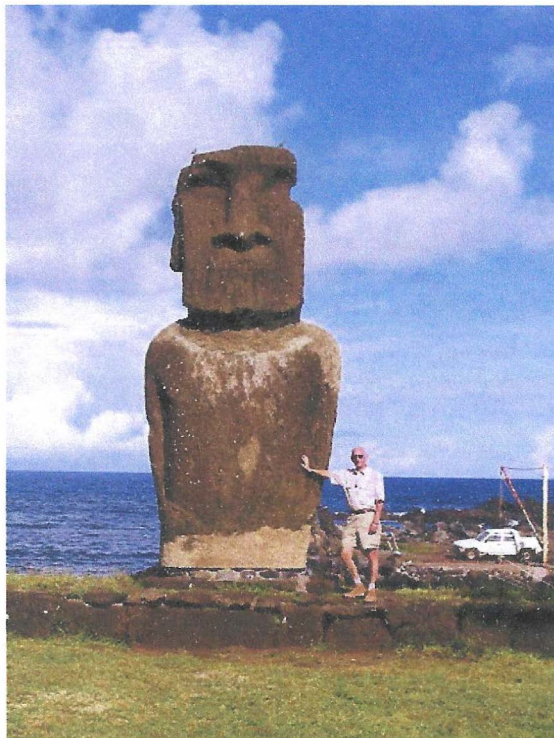


Dan Cashin aboard *USS Constellation*

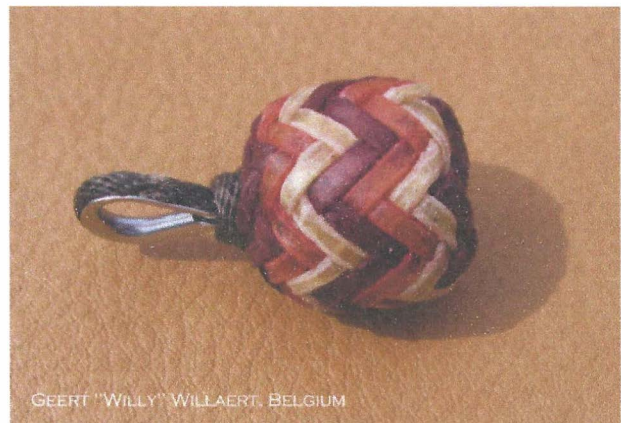


GEERT "WILLY" WILLAERT, BELGIUM

Gert "Willy" Willaert of Belgium



Ken Yalden on Easter Island



GEERT "WILLY" WILLAERT, BELGIUM

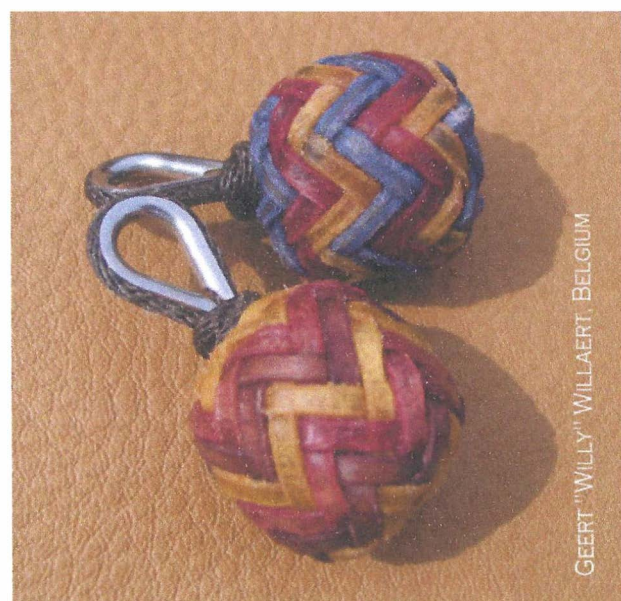
Quelques photos de mes derniers Rawhide Pineapple Button Knots



type 3 pineapple (from 7x6 th)

type 2 pineapple (from 7x6 th) "heel knot"

Dan Callahan Pineapple Knots and Heel Knot



GEERT "WILLY" WILLAERT, BELGIUM

IGKT-PAB Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at the Los Angeles Maritime Institute, which is right next door to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, Berth 84, at the Foot of Sixth Street in San Pedro, California.

The meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Our gatherings are very informal and everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a knotted work piece to show or share a knot trick or technique.

The Meeting Schedule for 2004:

September 14th October 12th
November 9th December 14th

Knotting Events

Fisherman's Fall Festival – September 11th
Wooden Boat Festival – September 11th & 12th
Tall Ships Festival – September 11th & 12th
Autumn Sea Fair – October 17th

Knot News

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