

Knot



News

International Guild of Knot Tyers – Pacific Americas Branch

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Star Knot Lanyard

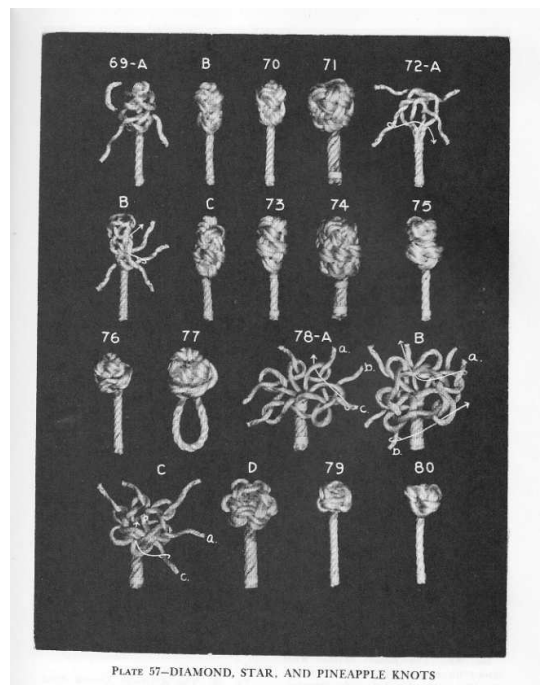
Joseph Soanes

This is an easy way to make the ditty bag lanyard. Start with two pieces of line 10 to 12 feet long. Middle one piece and make a Turk's Head knot and double the Turk's Head with the second piece. Then tie a Footrope Knot bringing the four pieces together. Feed the four pieces through the grommet of your ditty bag from the inside to the outside. Raise the knob up to determine the desired length of the lanyard. Loosely secure the ends to lines leading down.



Mr. Joe Soanes, Master Rigger

I tie a Star Knot as shown on plate 57, figure 78A in the *Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work*.



I use a small fid to hold the center open as I tighten the knot. Then secure the cut off ends to the center.



How Hard Can It be?

Patrick Ducey

Necessity is the mother of invention, and somewhere in that family tree is creativity and opportunity. When that clan gets together to party, it sure is fascinating to watch, and it's a whole lot of fun to join in. It can be anything from a quiet "I think I can" to the loud crash of "I'm going to patent that thing". Now I don't have the bang of a patent, but I did need a garden gate, and I came up with a solution.

It started for me when my kids outgrew the little play yard we had out back. It was a gravel area about 20 feet x 20 feet and my wife, Kathy, said, "Wouldn't it be great if we had a little basketball court out there where the swing set is?"

"Yikes", I thought, "if I nod my head and smile, maybe she'll forget about it."

Kathy didn't forget about it, and that summer, after a whole lot of digging and setting a block wall to level out the sport court, we were ready to pour concrete. The sport court had a 4 foot drop off at the far end, and it desperately needed a railing. That's when I had my first bright idea. "Honey, we can either pay someone big bucks to manufacture a custom railing, or I can buy some pipe and a welding machine, and I will build a railing. We'll save a bunch of money, and I'll have a welder that I can do other jobs with."

Now, I never welded, but I've worked around welders for most of my life, and I knew that all it took was to put the stinger against the metal, pull the trigger, and welding happens. How hard can it be? Kathy was pretty skeptical. I had to promise that the railing would be finished before fall. I work in a shipyard where the steel shop is always making railings and stuff, so I got a consult from some of the guys, and went ahead and ordered a welder, a grinder, and some steel pipe.

I finished the rail in two weekends. I learned that it isn't hard to weld, but it sure is hard to make the welds look as pretty as the shop makes them. The steel shop supervisor has a saying, "If you can't weld, weld lots, and then use a grinder to clean up the mess." The railing is very sturdy, but if you look closely at the welds, you will see that they have all been cleaned up with a grinder. But, hey, I learned how to weld.

I have a 6 foot fence around my house. The fence out front was falling apart, and one winter, the fence posts that hold the gate finally rotted through at the dirt line. I jury rigged a fix which lasted until spring, and I came to the conclusion that the only fence post that wont rot out is one made of concrete. I had in the back of my mind an idea for a metal gate, but I wanted to hang it on a sturdy foundation. Wood

wouldn't do, so I told Kathy of my idea. "Why don't I get some block and cement and make some pillars? I'll wire them with lights out there so we can have an outdoor outlet."

Again, Kathy agreed it was a good idea, but was skeptical. After all, I am not a brick layer, I'm a drafter. But I have seen guys lay block. You slap down some cement, set the block, repeat. How hard can it be?

I dug two holes down below the frost line, poured a footing, installed some electrical conduit, and built two stations. I welded together some steel brackets for hinges and a latch which I set in the block. I learned a lot of things about the job. Concrete blocks are heavy, so you can't build too tall without letting the concrete set first, and it sure is hard to make the block look nice and level every course, even if you only lay one course a day. The important thing I learned is stucco. You can cover a lot of mistakes with stucco and make an ugly stack of block look nice.

Since I didn't have a gate ready to hang, I hammered together the old gate, and adapted it to the hinge brackets. I have often seen things that get cobbled together become the permanent fix. That crappy gate got a coat of paint and stayed for two years. (It was during this time that the Google Street View van drove by. I sure hope they update their records someday).

Whenever I have dropped off my kid's playmates at their houses, I always watch to make sure they get inside. I always wanted a front gate that people could see through to the front door, so when they dropped my kids, they could actually see them make it inside. I had an idea for a gate with a lot of open areas so you can see through it.

Here is where I put my drafting skills to work, and I started designing a gate. The first draft for the gate was a simple grid inside a square outline. I wanted an arched top to the gate which is real easy to draw, but it meant that I would have to bend the steel into a gentle curve. I knew what kind of tool did that, and I told Kathy what I wanted. She had no idea what a tube roller was, but she knew me well enough that she doesn't get skeptical anymore. I got a new tubing roller, chop saw and 160 feet of steel square tube. I did a few experimental bends on the roller, and realized that I could do more than just an arched top – I could bend the steel and make it look like a bight. I went back to the keyboard. I already had the grid drawn; I could connect the lines with some curves. A little more drafting and I had the knot I wanted for the gate.

When I draft in AutoCAD, I always draw things at the size they are in real life. I print drawings at the scale that the shop can use to build the stuff I draw,

and sometimes that means printing at full scale. I got permission at work to print my gate at full size, and now I had the exact curve of each bend, printed at full size and taped to my garage wall.

I knew that constructing a project like this would probably take several months to complete. It was already August, and I didn't want to be working on this during the Seattle winter, so I took a week off from work, and Monday morning, first thing, instead of joining the commute, I started cutting metal. I wasn't sure if I could finish the gate in one week, but I was going to give it a shot. Monday was a day of cutting and bending. By Monday evening, to my surprise, all the bends were done. I took some ibuprofen and was suddenly optimistic that I might be finished before I had to go back to work.

I spent Tuesday and Wednesday welding and grinding. I made a jig out of plywood to set the straight pieces of the gate true and square. Every piece was clamped to the plywood to help keep the work flat. Many of the curved pieces were eyeballed into place, clamped and welded. I only set fire to the jig once, which is pretty good considering how hot the steel gets.



Knot Gate

On Thursday I made the hinge pieces, and designed how the latch worked. By Thursday night, I

had a first coat of paint. On Friday, I finished painting, and had the gate hung by lunch time.

I get many compliments on the gate, it's very unique. It has been an adventure to get to this point, and the journey continues. I've built an arbor with a welded knot detail.



Knotted Arbor

Kathy has suggested my next project be a firewood rack for our outdoor pit. My sister wants an arbor. This new hobby is a wonderful combination of knot tying, drafting and steel work. I'm not sure where it will lead, but I'm having fun, and isn't that what we're all supposed to do here?

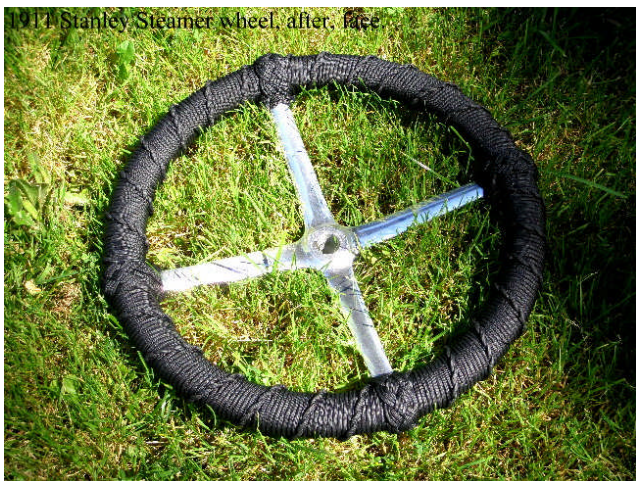


Mr. Pat Ducey – cutter, fitter and welder extraordinaire

Roy Chapman's Work Book



1911 Stanley Steamer wheel, before



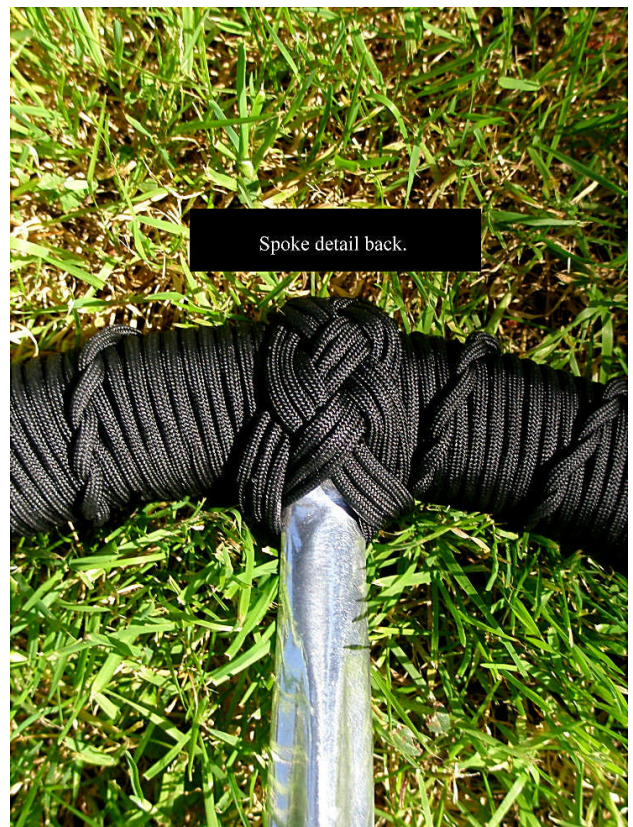
Stanley Steamer wheel, complete



Hitched wheel ready for Turk's Head



Spoke Turk's Head details





USMC retirement presentation blade



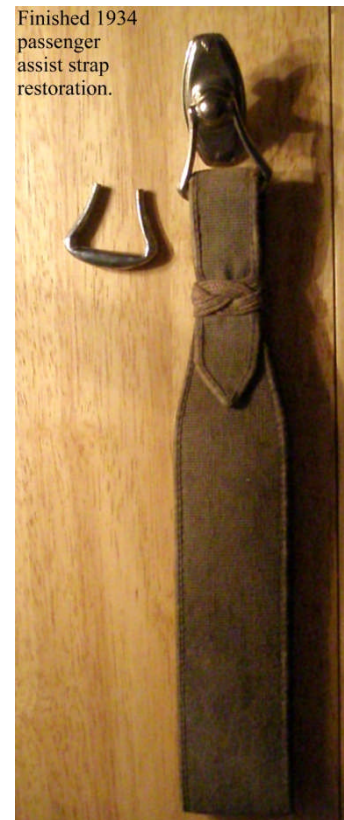
Presentation knife, handle detail.



Turk's Head details



Turk's Head Knot sheath detail, upper.



Finished 1934
passenger
assist strap
restoration.

1934 passenger assist strap restoration, finished



**Treasure Island Yacht Club
Summer Sailstice**
Jimmy Williams

Lindsey Philpott arrived at my home about 8:00 AM on Friday the 18th of June. He and I transferred our collection of knots from my Jeep into his Prius and we set off for San Francisco. It was a long but pleasant drive, as we were able to discuss many knotty subjects (some even pertinent to the Guild!).

After checking into our hotel, Lindsey contacted Bob and Sue Bosch. Plans were made to meet at a local brewery/restaurant. Lori and Karin Bosch (Bob and Sue's daughters) joined us and we had a very pleasant evening talking Branch business, knot silliness and other important issues.



Treasure Isle Marina

So – on to the Summer Sailstice: we arrived on Treasure Island about 10:00 AM on the 19th and contacted Arian Paul (the event coordinator) for directions to our “booth”. We had a very nice setup, a large canopy, about 15 feet by 15 feet, with a canvas wall on one side to protect us from the strong wind that was evident all day.



J.D. Lenzen (JD~TAIT) joined us. We were able to set him up with his own table and he spent the day with folks lined up to see and learn to tie his “fusion knots”.



J.D. Lenzen demonstrates his knots

Mr. Joe Soanes also joined us. Joe is a member of the PAB who recently moved up to the San Francisco area, so we haven't seen him in some time. Joe visited with us, demonstrated knots for a couple of hours, and then he had to head back home. We were all very happy to have had the pleasure of his company, even if for a short time.



Joe Soanes

And, of course, the dinner crew was there: Lindsey, Bob, Sue, Lori, Karin and me. We had eight people representing the Pacific Americas Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. Everyone was busy all day showing, teaching, answering questions, and showing our passion about knots. One of the biggest draws (almost as big as JD) was letting the kids make rope. Making rope from twine is one of the most popular things we do at nearly every event we attend – and the kids get to keep the rope they make.

We had very little down time, as there was a pretty good crowd there all day long.



Bob and Lori, Lindsey Philpott, Karin and Sue Bosch

One of the event items was a boat building contest. Folks started about 8:30 AM building their boat and by 5:00 PM they were putting them in the water. There was a race and, wouldn't you know it, the "man-powered" boat won – the two men paddled like crazy!



These guys won the race

At the end of the day, Ms. Paul came by our booth and apologized for the small crowd. She said the weather probably kept them away. I responded with, "If we had seven more people visit our booth, we would not have been able to handle it!"

I must acknowledge Bob, Sue, Lori and Karin Bosch, as they were the folks responsible for putting us in touch with Ms. Paul in the first place. And, on a long shot, I let JD know about the event, hoping he would at least visit us. He ended up spending the whole day working the crowd. And we were especially happy to visit with Joe Soanes again.

Forest Falls, California Search and Rescue Team Pancake Breakfast

Jimmy Williams

We were invited for our second time to the Forest Falls event. They must like us? And, again, Lindsey and I left my house at about 6:00 AM (yes, there is a 6 in the morning). They wanted us there at 6:45 AM but I had to say, "No Way!" We arrived about 8:00 AM and there were already tables set up for us. Fortunately, Lindsey packed one of our canopies and that was the first thing we set up. It is surprising but at 6,000 feet elevation, when the sun is high it can be very hot!



The PAB booth

For such a small community event, we were unexpectedly busy – a pleasant surprise. We had several folks interested in having us attend their group meetings to present a class on knot tying. I gave out a lot of PAB business cards and we hope those showing interest will get in contact with us. A lot of attention was given to our display by the local Sheriffs and Fireman.



A Boy Scout Fob

Jimmy Ray Williams



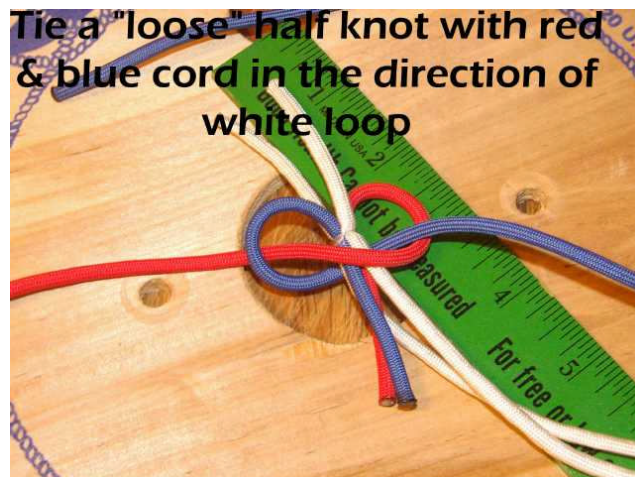
A Boy Scout Fob finished off with a Chinese Knot and a Tassel.
(Attach to a key ring, zipper pull, etc. with a Lark's Head hitch.)



Start with red, white and blue cords approx 30" long.



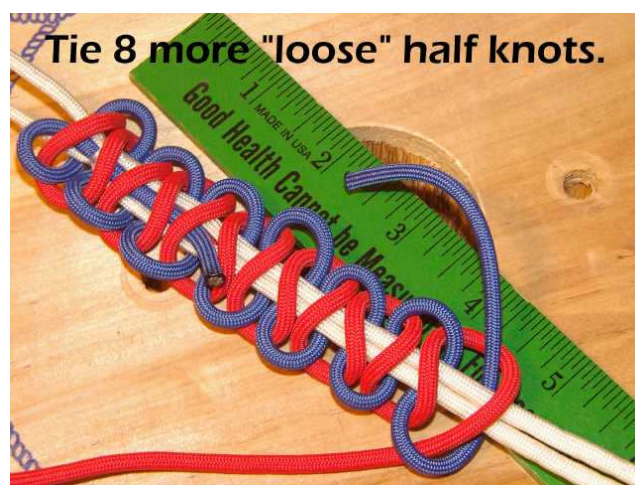
Double white cord - temp seize 2" from standing ends.



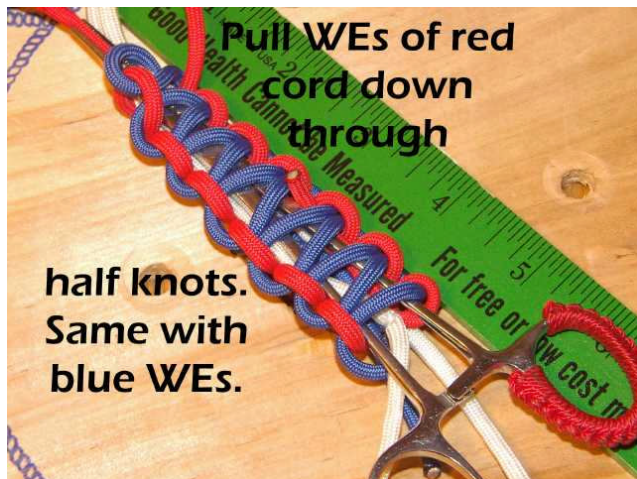
Tie a loose half knot with red and blue cord in the direction of white loop.



Tie 4 more alternating half knots (square knots) – bring standing ends of blue and red cord out... no longer capturing them under the half knots.



Tie 8 more loose half knots.



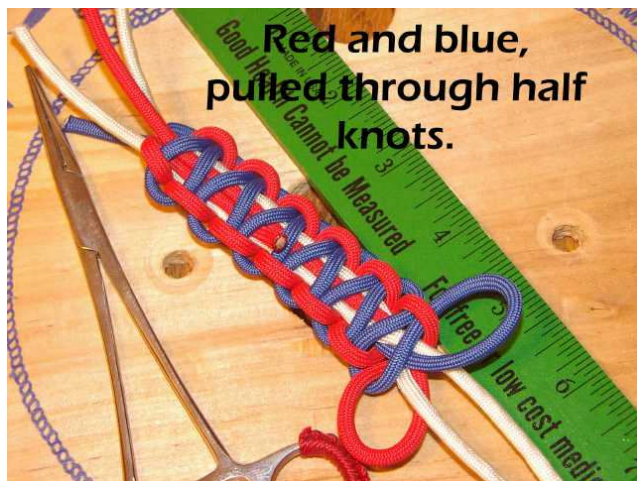
**Pull WEs of red
cord down
through
half knots.
Same with
blue WEs.**

Pull working ends of red cord down through half knots.
Then do the same with blue working ends.



**Ready to begin
"firming up"
the square
knots.**

Ready to begin "firming up" the square knots.



**Red and blue,
pulled through half
knots.**

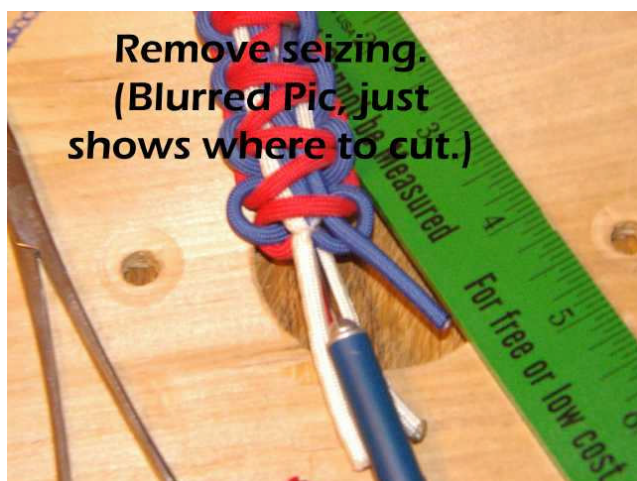
Red and blue, pulled through half knots.



**Tighten first 5 half knots.
Remove SEs of blue & red
cords. (put knife on cord
to be cut, then wiggle SE.)**

**This will cut only what you
want to cut. {Thanks Jose}!!**

Tighten first 5 half knots. Remove standing ends



**Remove seizing.
(Blurred Pic, just
shows where to cut.)**

Remove seizing.



**Fair the rest of the half
knots (careful, don't let
red or blue loops cross
over white loop)**

Fair the results of the half knots.
(Careful, don't let red or blue loops cross over white loop.)



All lines faired up!



Slide Solomon Bar to about 2" from end of white loop – finish off however you want (Matthew Walker, Chinese Button, etc.)
Fray ends and comb for tassel.



More fobs ideas and colors.

Knotting 101

Mike "Hooey" Storch

I like simplicity in most things. All else being equal, I will follow the simpler path, choose the simpler solution. I apply this to my braid work as well as to my use of braiding terminology. For instance, when keeping notes on my many over and under tucks of a pineapple knot, I don't classify them as "algorithmic tables", they are simply tucking tables. The two may be the same, but how many braiders, especially beginning braiders, had to look up the meaning of algorithm? I find tucking tables simple and to the point, understood by all. A Turk's Head by any other name is still a Turk's Head. And, of the several choices now popular, an interweave is still an interweave. I have already written several short responses to Knotting 101, and this will be the last. I intended all of the responses I have written as no more than suggestions to instructors as a way to reach a student, hold his attention, and impart as much useful information as possible, as effortlessly as possible.

Something I impart to a student is that my way is not the only way, I encourage creativity. I bring a student to a certain level and then encourage them to find alternative solutions. You can't teach creativity, but you can encourage it.

The last thing I offer a student is the follow up. Should anything we covered in our sessions need re-explaining, I am available. I offer this as a consideration.

All told I look upon instruction as a pleasure, as well as a commitment to a student. I would like to see some serious input from other instructors on their methods and results. Please take the time to write *your* ideas.



Please be aware a new stand alone multilingual application (user's manual: English only) called Regular Knots Builder (RKBuilder©) by Clause HOCHET appeared recently that will do the coding of each half-period in *any* single strand knot whatever its type of coding as long as it is made on a Turk's Head knot shadow or cordage route that knot tyers with full command of their wits and ken could imagine attempting 'in the cord'. (column, row, neither row, nor column).

It will also give you the enlargement of a Turk's Head knot from which this entered Turk's Head knot can be made, its root knot.

Direct access for download: <http://tinyurl.com/39ytuyt>.

The author will be tremendously pleased to get your feedback: criticisms and suggestions.



Steering wheel covered by Roy Chapman

Monsieur Charles HAMEL is proud to announce the releasing of his IsoGridMaker – a windows application for drawing full diagrams of knots of any coding (single and multi-strand) made on a Turk's Head knot cordage route.

You will find the details at the bottom of:

http://charles.hamel.free.fr/knots-and-cordage/publications_5.html

He is most proud of the version that does the knot half-period by half-period at mouse command. That way you may use the computer to do the knot in hand, easier than with a book and much more versatile than a fixed printed model.

The IsoGridTracer can do all types of coding, the only imitation is the size (computer screens are just a small place) limited to 41 leads x 26 bights (single and multi-strand).

This nicely compliments the whole set of Excel Worksheets given at

http://charls.hamel.free.fr/knots-and-cordage/publications_3.html

that do Turk's Head knots, Herringbone-Pineapple knots and Herringbone knots.

Feel free to share with people able to use it and report any bugs so they can be fixed in time. In any case criticisms both positive and negative are welcome.

Knot News Hail and Farewell?

Joe Schmidbauer and Carol Wang

As I mentioned in the last issue, I will be stepping down after this issue as editor of the *Knot News*. Many of you have been kind enough to tell me how much you looked forward to reading these pages over the years but no one has enjoyed this rollercoaster ride more than me. As I have said many times before, much of the credit goes to the people who contributed their various articles, letters, pictures, drawings and illustrations that made the newsletter what it was.

As an officer of the Pacific Americas Branch of the Guild I found myself rubbing elbows around, sharing with and learning from other knot tyers that share the same passion and mania. How cool is that? But the time has come to turn the fun over to someone new and Carol Wang of Burnaby, British Columbia has stepped forward to take over the reins.

So I would like to bid everyone a final goodbye, wishing you all happy knotting and pray that you keep preaching the gospel according to Matthew Walker.



Jose and Joe making mats at the Newport Wooden Boat Show

Hi, incoming editor, Carol, here. I have an idea for some stuff to put into the newsletter. Let's talk amongst ourselves! Introduce yourself: tell us how you got started into knotting: any websites - Scouts, sailing, climbing, etc, etc... groups you belong to, books and articles you've written; gatherings you organize or just recommend; your favorite string shops.

Drop me a note or an email. If it's more interesting that way, I'll break the information into groups and publish a category at a time. If you're just so cool I may ask you for an interview.

