



International Guild of Knot Tyers **TEXAS BRANCH** **NEWSLETTER**

February 2004

Issue 18

The Prez says

The meeting location had to be changed due to scheduling problems at our normal location. Never the less, there was a good turn out.

Gary continued with the process of building becketts, those handle type of things on the side of sea chests. The process is getting more complex but taken one step at a time, it is very manageable. A big thanks to Gary is due for him sharing his experience in this area. I know for sure that this know tyer would probably not get it if I attempted this on my own. Next time I am going to make a lot more progress.

Please make every effort to attend the next meeting in April. It would be great to have a big crowd. It is just a few weeks away so put your tax return off until after the meeting if you have to but it would be great to have more than just the regular crowd.

If you have any program ideas, then please let us know. As an association, our goal is to meet the needs of the members. If that is not being done then you (the members) need to tell us which direction you want to go, educationally.

Prez.

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February 8, Meeting

Well, due to circumstances beyond anybody's control, the meeting place for our February meeting had to be changed and the meeting was held at Charlie Holmes home. An attempt to notify everyone was made but it turned out to be a very, very small meeting. In attendance were:

Charlie Holmes

Rob Higgins

Phil Lipoma

Chris Dhaley

Bonnie Hart

Gary Sessions

If you tried to attend and couldn't find Charlie's home I will accept partial blame as the directions that I distributed were not exactly correct. Close but not exact.

We continued working on becketts and talked some about bolts for becketts.

No business was conducted.

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TxB Calendar

Our next meeting will be April 10, 2004. It is hoped that we will be able to hold that meeting at the usual location. I will try to get the word out earlier for that meeting.

And remember, meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of the even numbered months.

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Membership

Membership in the Texas Branch (TxB) of the International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT) is available to all. The only requirements for membership are paid up membership in the International Guild of Knot Tyers and the TxB annual fee of \$6.00 payable to Rob Higgins, the TxB Treasurer.

Annual subscription to the IGKT costs £16.00 (British Pound Sterling) which equates to about \$25.00 (US Dollars). The easiest method of payment is with credit card (Master Card or Visa). Provide your credit card details and write to:

I.G.K.T. c/o
The Charities Aid Foundation
Kings Hill,
WEST MALLING
ME19 4TA
England

Subscription through the Charities Aid Foundation is a new procedure implemented to relieve the Hon. Secretary of the IGKT, Nigel Harding, of one of the more onerous tasks of his office.

Please keep your IGKT subscription (and your TxB dues) current.

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"Many books have been published on how to tie practical knots, and a lesser number on decorative knotting, but while the latter may show how to make a fancy knot, they don't give much help in putting the knots together to make an object, be it key fob, fender, bellrope, mat, or lanyard."

Des Pawson in "Des Pawson's KNOT CRAFT"

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From The Mailbag

A feature long missing from the TxB Newsletter is "From the Mailbag" because, well because there ain't been no letters.

But Frank Charles Brown, our Tasmanian representative, leads an active knotting life and has shared some of his experiences with us. FCB (as Sam Lanham and I refer to Frank Charles Brown) has been working on the restoration of a real sailing ship, the *May Queen*. In a recent email message he wrote about the *May Queen*... well, let me let FCB relate to you.

"Had quite a bit of success with little rope making machine. I only make up about an ell at a time---yard and a quarter if I remembers me correctly, length of English arrow and a standard cloth width. Apart from playing with various bits of string I made some thick cord for Lynn out of embroidery yarn. She used it to decorate a "Queens Sweet Bag" she built. Both happy with results. May Queen has been flag ship at two local regattas, which meant lying in till 6.00, heading down to the wharf, climbing aboard and being towed up or down the river a couple of miles to a mooring about 100 ft off shore . Then we took turns at anchor watch, with stress being on "Watch". Lots of pretty young things doing interesting things in boats, and wearing interesting gear. Got lots of compliments about appearance of the old girl from passing yachties."

I then asked FCB for some pictures of some of the restoration work being done on the rigging of the *May Queen* and he sent the following.



FCB's rope machine.



FCB and a mate serving some of the *May Queen's* standing rigging.



FCB, on the right, and a mate seizing an eye.

FCB sent this message with the pictures.

"Gudday Amigo

A few pictures as requested. I am including them both ways, as some sent to me as "Attachments" get stripped by the anti-virus program, but "Inserts" seem to get through. I think Attachments are easier to handle, but I am very much a greenhorn with this stuff.

Picture of Cackling was replacement of serving on hard eye when we did not want to undo the splice and then get it back together again. Not that we are lazy, just did not feel confident enough to handle some very old, very stiff wire. The serving marline is some of the stuff I twisted up on the rope machine from three strands of skinny Dacron marline. A soft wire loop was used to drag the line through each pass and the job took about 5 hours. Parcelling is with stuff called Denzo tape, and all the wire was given a thorough coating of a Mobil proprietary material which contained a lot of lanolin judging by the smell. Seizing wire is actually 7 strand clothes line, split for the purpose. Not as good as the older material, being stiff and springy. but did the job.

Info and pictures of MQ are on the web, with some newer photos ---including some of mine---included.

While on the subject---have a look at a couple of my items on the IGKT gallery.

Off to see family in Melbourne and Sydney tomorrow, so will be out of contact for a fortnight or so.

Thanks for Sam's new address--- must have got lost in the static.

Cheers

Frank"

So, enjoy this news from Australia.

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A Book Review

Des Pawson has a new book in print entitled *Des Pawson's Knot Craft*. I was able to buy a copy of it at the meeting in October in Newport News, Virginia. It is an interesting little book, smaller than his previous two books, but Des takes a very interesting approach. If you are like me you never stop long enough to estimate how much cord you will need for any given project. And if you are like me you wind up underestimating or overestimating and in either case you run the risk of wasting a little or a lot of cord. Des' book discusses this problem in his introduction. He also lists some tools of the trade and other interesting tidbits of interest to us as knot tyers.

The real meat of this neat little book are the interesting knotting projects that Des has written into the book. Each project lists the amount of material that he used in tying the project and most of the projects combine knots that most of us already know how to tie.

I don't know if the book is available at Borders or Barnes and Noble as yet but I would imagine that Des would be more than glad to sell you a copy. And inscribe it if you asked him to. I don't remember what I paid for my copy but I think it was about \$9.00 (US). You could email Des at

knots@footrope.fsnet.uk

to get a delivered price and then remit your payment for the book, in cash by the way, to him at 501 Wherstead Road
Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 8LL
United Kingdom

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"Not having enough cordage is a constant risk. You try remembering how much line went into an item you have made in the past, but it is soon forgotten and you are back to guessing, hoping that you have guessed correctly or with a bit to spare."

Des Pawson in "Des Pawson's KNOT CRAFT"

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From the Ditty Bag

The Program Chairperson and Member At Large positions remain unfilled. Just to refresh your memory the job descriptions are printed below.

Program Chairperson:

Develop programs for the regularly scheduled Branch meetings to include projects and invited guest presenters. The Program Chairman may also call upon Branch members to help develop programs or to demonstrate and teach any specialty a Branch member may have developed .

Branch Member at Large.

A voting member of the Board with no specific duties. This person may be assigned specific Ad Hoc duties by the Board.

This issue will be brought up as a Business item at our next meeting. If you have an interest in either position, or think you might know of a member who might be, contact Charlie Holmes or me.

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Editorial

Until we get the Program Chairperson position filled we will have to rely upon each other to provide ideas for program material for our meetings. I'm trying to fill the void partially with some sessions on tying beackets. I thank you for your interest in this endeavor and I will continue until you stop coming to meetings or when everyone has a set of beackets.

I realize that my interests are not necessarily your interests. If you have no interest in beackets feel free to pursue your own projects at our meetings. But an even better response would be to let us know what you might be interested in doing and maybe the whole group might benefit. Please consider this option and let Charlie Holmes or me know if there is something you think needs to be covered at one (or two or three) of our meetings. And if you feel comfortable taking the lead to instruct the rest of us, so much the better.

Good knotting!!

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