



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

April 2001

Issue 8

Member Profile



Phil Lipoma

In this issue of your newsletter we feature Phil Lipoma. Phil is one of the early members of the Texas Branch. Just like the picture Phil is always smiling. Phil recently got married and combined his love for his love for his new bride and his love for knotting by presenting her with a Turk's head wedding ring. Phil says...

"I grew up in a small farming community in central California, at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley (the "Big Valley" in the old TV series). About the only things to do there, outside of school and chores, were Boy Scouts and 4-H Club. To the everlasting benefit of animal husbandry, I became involved in Boy Scouts. The summer of 1960 brought the two highlights of my Scouting career – I received my Eagle rank, and then, a month later, attended the 50th Anniversary National Jamboree in Colorado Springs.

As a Boy Scout, I was typically proficient in the basic Scout knots – square, bowline, taut line, etc. But that was about it. Growing up many miles from any body of water sufficiently large for any kind of boat larger than a rowboat, I never had the opportunity to learn knots from a sailing perspective.

Leaving home for the big city, I attended the University of Southern California, and received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering there. While I was in school, we had a fellow named O.J. Simpson playing football there, but he wasn't in any of my Engineering classes.

Upon receiving my BS, I went to work for the Mobil Oil Corporation in Los Angeles as a petroleum engineer. In 1970 I took a short rotational assignment in the computer department, where I stayed until my retirement last year. Mobil moved us around a bit: Los Angeles, Denver, New Orleans, New York and, finally, Dallas.

Soon after moving to Dallas, my son became old enough to join Cub Scouts. At the school night organizing meeting, someone asked if any of the parents had been active as a youth in Boy Scouting. Soon after admitting that I was an Eagle Scout, I found myself a new Den Leader (at least they had changed the title from "Den Mother"). But they told me it

would only take an hour a week....

A few years and several Scout positions later, I found myself with the opportunity to attend Wood Badge training at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. It was there that I discovered a new dimension in knots – decorative knot-tying. One of the Wood Badge Staff showed me how to tie a Turk's Head on my hiking staff, and I was hooked.

Returning home I started tying a few more knots, and I picked up a few books on the subject, starting, of course, with *Ashley*. I joined IGKT, and, not too long afterward, Rob Higgins took me to my first meeting of the Texas Branch.

My lack of skill in knot tying is well complemented by the willingness of the Texas Branch IGKT members to teach others. The camaraderie and friendly spirit at the meetings makes each get together great fun. And for me, a wonderful learning experience!"

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The Prez says...

Wow!! What an announcement. The NAB (North American Branch of the IGKT) is coming to town, or almost. They will be at the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport in August. This is about as close to coming to town as we will see.

Every Texas Branch member should be encouraged to attend. Even though the meeting comes at a bad time for me, but I will work on how to get there. It would be GREAT to have a large contingent from the Texas Branch to be at the meeting. Please make an effort to attend.

Circle Ten's facilities seem to be working for our group. There is ample room to spread out and plenty of tables and chairs. The last meeting was one of the best attended. Slowly our group is expanding and as we talk it up, more people are becoming interested. Please come out of the closet and let your friends and neighbors know you are a KNOT TYER. Perhaps they too might have an interest in joining our chapter.

If you have comments or suggestions on program or projects our chapter might consider, please pass those along. It is always helpful to get that type of input to make the Texas Branch more effective in what it does.

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April meeting

A small but spirited and enthusiastic group showed up for the April meeting. There were 8 of us there, and in no particular order were:

Charlie Holmes
Rob Higgins
Jack Keene
Tony Barrick
Ed Baker
David Hudgins
Harry Yankuner
Gary Sessions

The business part of the meeting included reports from the Treasurer, Rob Higgins, and the Secretary, Gary Sessions. Once again we are solvent, not rich, but solvent. The Minutes of the last

meeting, such as they were, were accepted.

Other items included a vote on adopting the initials "TxB" as an appropriate nickname for our group. The vote carried, by the way, so we are now the IGKT-TxB in our acronym form.

A report of the web site modification was given by Jack Keene and that project promises to be very positive. The big discussion was about the upcoming IGKT-NAB meeting in Rockport. The group voted to offer to provide a snack tray for the first night's Hospitality Room Meeting. A lot of discussion was also devoted to some sort of inexpensive memento we could devise to give to the knot tyers at the Exhibition. No decision was reached so if you have any ideas don't hesitate to submit them.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to knot tying and discussions about knot tying. Some teaching/learning took place and there were a lot of helpful hints. All in all it was a good meeting and you missed a good meeting if you weren't there!

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, June 3, 2001.

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Letters to the Editor

We now have proof that someone out there is reading our Newsletter! In response to our article about errors in the ABOK, Brian Field submitted the following by e-mail:

"Hi, Gary,

Members of the Texan Branch and other readers of your newsletter may be interested to know that if they want to get hold of an error free Ashley (at least as free as we could make it), all they

have to do is buy a copy of the latest English edition, published by Faber and Faber with amendments by Geoffrey Budworth 1993 .It has a dust jacket cover showing part of a multi-coloured knot board by Guild member Bernard Cutbush. I understand the original list of errors has been lost but partial lists still exist. The decision was taken that the work on Ashley should be a revision, rather than an update including the many new knots which have arisen since its first edition. The one departure from this decision has been the inclusion of the Riggers Bend / Hunter's Bend, the publication of which on the front page of The Times newspaper, lead indirectly to the formation of the I.G.K.T.

Perhaps American members should start putting pressure on Doubleday publishers to update the American edition!"

And in response to Brian's message is this e-mail from Sam Lanham.

"Gary—

... I have the 1993 US edition by Doubleday and it has Budworth's corrections and the Hunter's Bend. My copy does not have the d/j described by Brian, however, so the question is have they done something since the Budworth corrections of 1993. I was helped by Budworth's note on the way the globe knot was constructed when we were working on those.

Might ask Brian about this the next time you correspond."

Sam

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From the Ditty Bag

Some late breaking news! I have been notified that the North American Branch will host its 2001 meeting at the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport, Texas on August 24, 25, and 26. This is great news for us as members of the Texas Branch. Your Ink Stained Wretch has attended three meetings hosted by American Branches, two by the North American Branch and one by the Pacific Americas Branch, and has enjoyed them all. There will be some fantastic knot tying and some very interesting folks to meet. As you may remember several Texas Branch members traveled to the Texas Maritime Museum (TMM) last November to entertain with our knotting. The TMM has a very nice museum and is, we think, a fantastic venue for a meeting of knot tyers. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. It would be great to have a good representation from the Texas Branch.

The Best Western Inn by the Bay will be the event headquarters and has a block of rooms set aside for members of the IGKT. Call before July 15 to reserve one of these rooms. The number to call is 1-361-729-8351.

Do not use the Best Western 1-800 number. There are many other hotels/motels in the Rockport/Fulton area but all of the after show activities will be at the Best Western in the NAB Hospitality room. There will be a dinner on Saturday, August 25 but details are not available.

If you would like to fly, American Airlines is the official airline. Call the American Airlines Meeting Services Desk at 1-800-433-1790 and use the code #A1281AL for the special rate.

An arrangement has been made with AVIS for car rental. Call AVIS at 10800-331-1600 and use the code #D006483 for special rates.

Log onto www.igktnab.org for registration form and further information.

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On another vein, There are a couple of projects that are in some stage of being worked on. It has been suggested that we distribute our newsletter via email. The idea has been tested and works just fine. We would still have to print one or two copies for those of us who do not have computers but we would save some money on postage. And my poor printer could take a vacation.

The other project is to revamp our web page. One thing that may come out of this effort is to include our newsletter as part of the web page. One could read it online or print it as required. Another planned new feature will be a picture gallery of our member's work. Stay tuned for future announcements about these projects. Jack Keene is our Web Master, although he doesn't like that term. Thanks, Jack

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Editorial

We call ourselves the Texas Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. And that is exactly who we are. But in this day of acronyms, "The Texas Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers" is quite a mouthful. In someone's infinite wisdom the International Guild of Knot Tyers has come to be known also as the IGKT. Bless their hearts! And the other two Branches in the USA also have come to be known by initials – the North American branch is known as the NAB and the Pacific Americas Branch is known as the PAB. From the early days using "TB" to identify us just didn't sound very appetizing so, as far as we know, we have always been known as the Texas Branch. Until now. Sam Lanham, the "Hill Country Wordsmith", has begun to refer to us as the "TxB".

We like it.

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"He'll allow his superiors on board to be tolerable good Navigators etc! But Alas! They want the Main Point; for shew me the Gentleman cries he, that can knot or splice?"

Ned Ward in "The Wooden World"

From the ABOK

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