



# *International Guild of Knot Tyers*

## TEXAS BRANCH NEWSLETTER

June, 2002

Issue 15

### **Barbara and Gary's Big Adventure**

In lieu of a Member Profile for this issue, your Editor decided to fill the otherwise empty section of this issue with a condensed version of "Barbara and Gary's Big Adventure". I won't attempt to describe everything in detail – I hope to have our photo journal at the next meeting.

We departed D/FW on 14 May, flew to Gatwick, changed planes, and continued our trip to Scotland where we spent 3 days in Edinburgh and one day on a bus tour of Loch Lomond and Stirling Castle. Edinburgh is fantastic if you like old things. The section of Edinburgh called "New Town" was built in 1776! Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, and Holyrood Palace are all... well old. Old and well maintained and a joy for us to see. I particularly enjoyed seeing stuff older than I am. Notwithstanding the traditional "Dour Scotsman" description, the Scots were uniformly pleasant. The only "dour" Scots we encountered were the city bus drivers and they were dour only until we started asking tourist type questions and then they, too, became pleasant and helpful.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> we caught a flight back to Gatwick then a taxi to Fareham, where the IGKT 2K2 meeting was scheduled to start on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> was setting up day and there were people from all over the world – Tasmania, France, Germany, Alaska, The Netherlands, Sweden, Israel, Great Britain naturally, and the U.S.A. - setting up for the next few days. I claimed a table for the Texas Branch and Frank Brown (the Tasmanian contingent of the TxB) and Robert Black of Oklahoma helped me put up the Texas Branch banner and settled in with me. I didn't have my stuff to set up until the 21<sup>st</sup>, but that is another whole story in itself.

On the 20<sup>st</sup> the doors opened to the public and bless their hearts, they stayed away in droves! Which gave the knot tyers plenty of time to renew old friendships and make new ones. And the knot work. The knot work put out for display was fantastic. Some really nice knot boards, a few ditty bags, a few becketts, and tons of bell ropes. Frank Brown had his knotted menagerie and a single copy of his new book of instructions to tie his animals. It seemed like everyone at the meeting came by and handed Frank some money for him to ship them one of his books.

I enjoyed spending some time with Brian Field. Everyone seemed to gravitate to him and I think he enjoyed being there. Brian is as chipper as ever but he gets very tired very easily.

Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> was the Knotting Academy Day where some knowledgeable folks made themselves available to teach others. There were two sessions on Star Knots and Frank Brown taught a session on his knotted bears. And although I didn't get my wish to study beckett building under Carl Bareuther, I was able to spend some time with him and pick up a couple of tips. He even took a copy of my little write up on my method of building the base for becketts.

The whole week was a lot of fun – great knotting by great knot tyers. But it passed too quickly and on Saturday the program called for election of the Committee for the Guild and the Birthday Celebration. Brian Field was selected for an unprecedented third term as President and all of the other incumbent members, except Ken Yalden, were returned to office. There were officers from each of the American Branches among the attendees – John Burke of the NAB, Lindsey Philpott

of the PAB, and me representing the TxB. We were asked to give short reports about knotting in the U.S.A. Branches. John and Lindsey were very serious as they presented their reports so I decided to have a bit of fun. Earlier in the week Brian Field, very seriously, informed me that George Washington, Father of our country, came from Texas. My jaw must have dropped because he then told me the following story. And he swore that it is true.

This is the story as I related it to the audience.

*When George Washington was a small lad growing up on his father's ranch in West Texas, one year he received a small hand axe for his birthday. As any boy would be, George was anxious to try out his new hand axe. He chopped away on all of the scrap wood he found around the ranch and then, as some sort of final test, he started chopping on his father's favorite Mesquite tree and successfully chopped it down.*

*The next day George's father called him over and asked if he knew what had happened to the favorite Mesquite tree.*

*George gave his famous response, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my brand new hand axe."*

*His father then told George to go into the house and gather his belongings because he had to leave. Whereupon George began to plead with his father and ask why.*

*To which his father answered, "Son, if you can't tell a lie there is no future for you in Texas".*

I am not being immodest when I report that the crowd loved the joke! As if in some sort of confirmation of their opinions of Texas and Texans, they responded with a resounding round of applause. And with that joke as a caveat, I gave my report on the TxB.

The Birthday Party included cake and champaign and a naval sword to cut the cake. Those Brits know how to celebrate a birthday!

The dinner on Saturday night was a pretty formal affair and was very well done. I felt honored to be to be seated at the head table next to Brian. The final act at the dinner was a toast like one might see in a British movie. First we toasted the Queen, then the IGKT, then "Missing Friends". But the smashing of our glasses in the fireplace didn't occur – no fireplace. And on that note the week ended.

On Sunday Barbara and I rode a bus to Portsmouth to visit the Portsmouth Naval Yard, home of the HMS Victory and the HMS Warrior. The Victory was built in 1765 and was Adm. Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The Warrior was built in 1860 and never fired a cannon in anger because it was so intimidating and ahead of its time. Both ships represent Britain at the apex of her world power. The Portsmouth Naval Yard is an active Royal Navy installation and we could see one of Britain's aircraft carriers and other modern war ships from the main deck of the Victory.

On Monday we rode a train to London, crossed London on the "Tube", and caught yet another train to Ipswich to visit Des and Liz Pawson. Des picked us up at the train station and we hardly slowed down for the next two days. Des conducted us on his world famous "Red Hat Tour" of the countryside around Ipswich. This is the England we expected to see – pleasant countryside with fields separated by hedgerows and stone fences, small villages with quaint homes, magnificent old churches, and well preserved castles. Did I mention that everything was old? Most, if not all, of the small villages we visited had civic restrictions to insure that the buildings in the village were maintained as nearly original as possible. We saw one house having its thatched roof replaced. We saw several houses with second floors that were noticeably out of plumb – way out of plumb!

But all good things must come to an end. On the 29<sup>th</sup> we had to leave Ipswich and make our way, via train to London, across London on the subway to another train station, and then to Gatwick, to catch our flight home to Dallas.

We had a great time and would return to England and Scotland in a heartbeat!

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### **The Prez says...**

The first Annual Meeting of the IGKT - TxB is now history. While several members and family were present, more members could have been accommodated. There was a brief business and lots of time of friendship.

The previous officers were reelected with out fanfare. I appreciate your confidence and will continue to do my best as your president.

Efforts to expand the membership are underway. The initial thoughts have been to contact local yacht clubs and see if we can attract more interest and members. As details unfold you will be included in those plans.

My hat to off to Gary for attending the big IGKT meeting in England last month. While I really wanted to attend, the ole business schedule would not allow. It sounds like Gary represented our group well (he did not tell any bad jokes...thanks Barbara). Getting an update from across the big pond was fun and important to your group. While we tend to do our own thing, we are part of a much larger organization.

The next meeting is on August 4th. Let's have a great turn out so check your calendars now and mark it down.

See you there, and in the interim, fair leads.

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### **June meeting**

In a break from the normal TxB scheduling, we met at the Spring Creek Barbecue in Richardson for our first election of Officers or as the Big Guys call it, our AGM . It was decided that we would not have a knotting program but instead would invite the members to bring their spouses or significant others to the meeting to have some barbecue and then share a little fellowship.

Members attending were

Charles, Debbie, and Carson Holmes  
Tony, Pam, and Sarah Beth Barrick  
Rob and Paula Higgins  
Jack and Annie Keene  
Gary and Barbara Sessions

As soon as everyone completed their meal, Prez Holmes called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce him or herself. He then called for the Secretary's Report and a report on the TxB 2K2 T-shirt project. The Secretary gave a lengthy report (for a change) and announced that the recipients of the TxB T-shirts in Fareham were

Colin Grundy  
Des Pawson  
Jeff Wyatt  
Geoffrey Budworth  
Ken Yaldon  
Gordon Perry

Prez Holmes then asked for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Higgins gave his report and accepted some dues and passed out the 2002 TxB Membership Cards.

Phil Lipoma, in whom the election nominations and absentee balloting proceedings were entrusted could not make the meeting due to a death in the family but he had turned everything he had over to Rob Higgins. Phil had received two nominations – both for the existing body of Officers to be reelected. Phil had received no absentee ballots. A move was made, and seconded, to reelect the existing Board. So in accordance with the wishes of the Membership of

the Texas Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers your new Board looks exactly like your old board:

President	Charles Holmes
Secretary	Gary Sessions
Treasurer	Rob Higgins
Program Chair	Ed Baker
At Large Member	Wayne Lewis

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### **Letters to the Editor**

There have been many e-mail messages about the TxB appear in your Editor's mailbox as of late. Many are from folks who decline membership because of the distance to Dallas from wherever they live but there were messages from two gentlemen who live close and both have promised to make our August meeting. One of these guys is a manager for a large national sporting goods store and we have already had some preliminary discussion about the TxB conducting a knot clinic in his store. This would be an excellent opportunity to attract new members and we look forward to working with him on this.

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### **From the Ditty Bag**

As great as it was to attend the 2K2 festivities in England, it is always great to return home and sleep in ones very own bed. And then to start thinking about the next knotting trip. Before the show in Fareham was over, Ed Morai of the NAB was trying to get some sort of meeting for next year on the calendar. Ed lives in Maryland and is promoting that part of the East Coast as a possibility for the meeting but I also heard someone mention the West Coast up around Washington State as a possibility. As a member of your newly elected Board I would like to encourage all of you to at least think about making plans to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet some good folks and probably see some fantastic knot work. According to Ed there are several Maritime Museums that will be worth visiting, also. And seafood that doesn't come out of the Red Lobster's kitchen is something to look forward to. If and when any details become available you will find out about it here. At least think about trying to attend.

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### **Editorial**

As Charlie noted in his comments, we are part of a larger organization. Our Bylaws state that membership in the Texas Branch requires concurrent, paid up membership in the IGKT. We have elected to not collect membership fees for the IGKT for our members and to leave that responsibility to our members individually. A scan of the IGKT Membership Handbook reveals that there are several of us who have not paid our dues to the IGKT. If you are not current on your dues to the IGKT please take care of it as soon as possible. There has been a change in the manner of paying your IGKT subscriptions. The Guild has grown to the point that the Secretary, Nigel Harding, cannot handle all of the required work so the work of handling some of the work has been out sourced. To renew your IGKT membership send your credit card information to:

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

Include your credit card number, expiry date, and the name on the card. I believe that your personal check will also suffice but credit card is the easiest to use for currency conversion.

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