



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

August 2004

Issue 21

The Prez says

It was a clean sweep at the last IGKT TxB meeting, literally. Gary provided the program with the art of making a hand whisk broom. They could not be used to pick up all the rope fibers that ended on the floor so we had to relent to the vacuum cleaner. Ugh.

Next Meeting is bring a friend meeting. You are not limited to one friend, unless you only have one. A very popular knot with the younger crowd is a monkey's fist. That will be the project for the day and Gary will be sending out what will be needed.

Our IGBT branch continues to chug along with regular meetings. Did you know we meet much more frequently than the meetings in England? Yes indeed, we do. Generally they don't do what we try and do. Thanks to all of you that continue to participate and attend the meetings. If you have a particular project or task that you would like to share with the group and learn at one of the meetings, please contact Gary or myself. We are always open to project ideas as well as the need of the group.

So you have a favorite book? Bring it to the October meeting to show the visitors. Also, bring along any projects and "special" tools so someone interested will see what you use and how.

See you on October 3.
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June 13, Meeting

We met at our usual location on Sunday, August 15. Members in attendance were:

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|------------|------|
| Charlie | Ken |
| Jack | Tony |
| John & Dee | Gary |

No Branch business was discussed.

The project for the meeting was to tie a Sailor's whisk. Everybody pitched in and tied one and several of the whisks were very well done. I think everyone enjoyed the exercise and maybe even went away from the meeting with some knowledge.

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"Rope is simple, ubiquitous, ancient. A creature of tension, it exists to be stretched between opposing forces. It is a highly evolved tool which, in its myriad sizes, materials, and constructions, can every sort of rigging need. Limitations are likely to be on the part of the user; it is for us to develop skill appropriate to the tool."

*Brion Toss
"The Rigger's Apprentice"*

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TxB Calendar

The next TxB meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 10, 2004. Mark that date in your calendar. I hope that we won't have to reschedule.

Pres. Holmes has declared the October meeting as **'Bring a Friend Meeting'**. If you are like me you will probably have to hire someone to be your friend for the day but please make the effort. We'll have something for everyone to work on.

Remember that meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of the even numbered months, even if we sometimes shuffle things around.

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Activities

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 £18.00 (British Pound Sterling) which equates to about \$27.00 (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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"Someone looks at a Turk's Head, button, lanyard, or whatever you've been slaving over and asks, "But what did you do with the ends?" To which the only reasonable reply is, "I cut them off and threw them away." Never give boring details, however informative, when a smart-ass answer will do as well."

*Brion Toss
"The Rigger's Apprentice"*

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From The Mailbag

The mailbag was once again empty.

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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.

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Editorial

Our President, Sir Charlie Holmes, has declared our October Meeting as “**Bring a Friend Meeting**”. I think that that is a capital idea and if I can find, or hire, a friend I fully intend to bring him/her. In keeping with the possibility of having some Knotting Novices on hand I have decided that we will need one knotty project to work on. I have in mind having everyone work on building a Monkeys Fist. That is something that everyone, after having seen one, immediately wants to tie. So if you know how to tie one, that is good. Practice. If you don't know how to tie the Monkeys Fist find a book with instructions and learn. Then you will be able to impress your friend!

Fair leads.

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