



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

October & December 2003

Issue 17

The Prez says

The meeting in October was GREAT!! those of you who were there will concur, I'm sure. Gary did a great job in getting us started on sea chest handles made of ropes, called becketts. It is an involved process but is not very complicated, in getting started that is. Gary will continue that project at the next meeting, December 14th.

Due to conflicts with members, the idea for hosting an annual meeting in fall of 2004 in Galveston has been shelved for now. It was a great idea and is worth doing, we just have to find the right timing.

At the December meeting, elections will be held for the at large board set which was vacated upon the death of Wayne Lewis. We will also be electing for the program position which was vacated by Ed Baker with his plans for relocating most of his time to East Texas, God's country according to Ed.

Gary attended the NAB meeting at Newport Beach in October and will be giving us a report. He is quite the man around the world having attended the IGKT general meeting in England last year. I am sure he will be full of information about what is up in the IGKT world.

At the last meeting, the tying supplies that Wayne had were for sale. There were many books, tools, and material that were available. There was even some hard laid cotton from Des Pawson in England. Attendance has its benefits.

Member attendance could be better so please mark your calendar now to be at the next meeting. The more the merrier and beside, you might learn something and have fun doing it.

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In Memoriam

We have lost two members this year – Brian Field and Wayne Lewis. Brian was the President of The International Guild of Knot Tyers and an honorary member of the Texas Branch since July of 2000. Wayne had been a member of the Texas Branch for several years and held the position of Member at Large on your Board.

Brian made the trip to the United States for American IGKT meetings as often as he could and was dedicated to helping the U.S. Branches grow and prosper. He suffered from cancer for several years but his spirits and sense of humor stayed strong until the end. He was a very capable knot tyer and had published several booklets on flat knots – in which he was especially interested. I feel fortunate to have been able to travel to Great Britain last summer for the Guild's 20th anniversary and to spend some time with Brian. He will be missed.

Wayne was retired from the U.S. Army Special Forces. Wayne and his wife, Kay, lived in La Vernia, Texas in the house that they built - cutting the trees, milling the lumber, and driving the nails. At some point after their home was finished, or almost so, Wayne began casting about for some sort of hobby to keep himself busy. He narrowed the options down to two – raising chinchillas or tying knots. At least that was his story and he stuck with it! He jumped into knot tying with the same enthusiasm he exhibited for everything I ever saw him do.

I miss both of these gentlemen. And I'm sure that would also if you ever had the opportunity to meet either of them.

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October, 2003 Meeting

The October, 2003 meeting for the Texas Branch was held on October 12, 2003 at the Circle Ten Headquarters.

Sadly, the major item of business was to call a vote of the members present to cancel plans for the Texas Branch to host an IGKT meeting in Galveston in 2004.

Gary Sessions then instructed interested members in building a foundation for a becket.

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December, 2003 Meeting

The meeting for December, 2003 meeting o the TxB was held on the 14th at the Circle Ten Headquarters.

In attendance were:

Charlie Holmes

Tony Barrick

Rob Higgins

Phil Lapoma

Jack Keene

John Schauer

Dee Schauer

Bonnie Hart

Gary Sessions

Chris Ghaly and John Bain attended as visitors.

The business portion concerned the Newsletter. Gary proposed returning to distribution of the Newsletter by mail but it was decided to continue putting the Newsletter on the TxB web site. It was also suggested that an email be sent to TxB members to announce that a new Newsletter had been posted.

The other business item discussed was the replacement on your Board for Ed Baker and Wayne Lewis.

No volunteers or nominations were forthcoming.

The meeting broke up into several small groups and a good time was had by all.

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TxB Calendar

Due to a scheduling situation our meetings have been moved to the second Sunday of the even numbered months. Meeting dates and location will continue to be announced by email. Stay tuned.

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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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Activities

You probably get tired of me reporting about yet another IGKT meeting that Barbara and I attended. Well, tough, 'cause I'm gonna report yet another meeting anyway.

In October the North American Branch hosted a meeting in Newport News, Virginia. And Barbara and I attended. We drove to this meeting instead of flying and we had a wonderful trip, both going and returning. En route to Virginia we traveled part of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which was beautiful. After some inclement weather forced us to leave the Parkway we drove to Norfolk, Virginia to visit a battleship the USS Wisconsin, BB64. I love those old battleships and Barbara puts up with me about it. Anyway, the Wisconsin is still an active ship in the service of the Navy and we couldn't go below decks, period. It didn't take long to walk from the bow to the stern and then we left and drove to Newport News early. A pretty good size crowd of knot tyers had already formed so we renewed some old friendships and met some new folks.

On the next day we set up our displays at the Maritime Museum in Newport News. The museum is a really nice museum – probably the best maritime museum I've ever visited. Lots of neat stuff to see. The museum is the location of the restoration of the Civil War ironclad, the USS Monitor. There are various parts of the Monitor sitting in big vats being processed as a part of restoration.

There was plenty of knotting displays to see and enjoy and try to learn about. And all too soon the meeting came to a conclusion.

After the meeting Barbara and I drove to Washington D.C. intending to spend a couple of days touring the Smithsonian Museum. Well, after one day of the Museum and walking around D.C. to see the normal tourist things – the Capital, the Mall, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the Viet Nam Memorial wall, the Army Nurses Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial, we decided that we had had enough of D.C. and left to start our drive home.

To see some different scenery on our way home we drove down the Shenandoah Valley, almost the whole length of Virginia. An absolutely beautiful route. The weather was beautiful and the foliage was close to its best. We found lots of artsy crafty places to see local handcrafts and sort of took our own sweet time.

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From the Ditty Bag

With the death of Wayne Lewis, who was Member at Large, and Ed Bakers' resignation as our Program Chair there are two unfilled positions on the Texas Branch Board of Officers. Your President and I would like to fill these positions as soon as possible. The duties of these offices are as follows, according to our bylaws:

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

Item #1.

It seems a pity that we had to cancel our plans to host a Guild meeting next year. Galveston would have been a nice venue and the Museum there wanted us to bring knot tyers to town and display our talents but, alas, we couldn't generate enough interest in the TxB.

The meeting in Newport News was really great and I think we could have had a great meeting in Galveston. Oh well.

Item #2.

Your Editor offers his most sincere apologies for the lapse in newsletters. No excuses, just apologies. I will endeavor to do better but some input from you, the reader, would make the task easier. Please let me know if the newsletter meets your needs and keeps your interest. Also, and I guess this is even more important, do you read the newsletter online. Maybe we should take a step back and resume mailing the newsletter. That would be a little more work but if that would promote readership and input I would be glad to do it.

Com' on folks, I need your input.

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