

The InterKnot

Newsletter of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

September 2009 (LATE EDITION)

REPORT FROM THE IGKT HALF-YEARLY MEETING

Pre Meeting

My wife and I arrived in New Bedford, Mass the afternoon of Tuesday October 6, 2009. We checked in to the hotel and unpacked. We then found the hospitality room and found several knot tyers. The Knot Tyers were split between the lobbies of the two hotels. It was a time for us to renew friendships. Additional people checked in each day up through Friday Oct 9. During the days leading up to the Half-Yearly Meeting much time was spent at R & W Rope Warehouse. The hospitality of R & W Rope Warehouse has been appreciated. Their web site is www.RWrope.com Email sales@RWrope.com

USS Constitution

On Wednesday October 7, several groups went to Boston to visit the USS Constitution and the Constitution Museum. The museum displayed several artifacts from the Constitution and the Navy Yard at Boston. One display involved rope, knot boards, etc.

When we arrived to board the USS Constitution, which is an active ship of the US Navy staffed by approximately 77 US Navy Sailors. We were greeted by a host who provided a talk about the ship that proved to be very interesting. We then boarded the ship and stopped at several stations again staffed by sailors that explained the specifics of that location.

Plimoth Plantation & Mayflower Tour

We took the opportunity during the days prior to the meeting to do some side trips. Thursday, October 8, we took a trip to the Plimoth Plantation's Riggers building where they do much of the work on the replica of the Mayflower II. We saw a variety of canvas, rope, the gallons of Pine Tar used to coat the ropes. Member Frank Rodriques and other employees explained how they maintain the Mayflower II. This was special as most visitors do not have access to the Riggers building.

Old Plymouth Rope & Cordage Company

We had a surprise side trip. We went to the Plymouth Rope & Cordage Company original facility. In the now office and retail space is a room that has all types of artifacts from the rope & cord making business. It was a real treat for us knot heads.

Evening Activities

Each evening groups would split up and eat at the several restaurants'. Several members would then gather in the two hotels lobbies and tie knots and explain their techniques. We have found that the time in the lobbies often prove to be the most interesting times at these events, because one has the time to learn and ask questions of other knot tyers. This is one of the things that the IGKT is all about.

The IGKT Half-Yearly Meeting Oct 10 – 11

Several members set up at the Whaling Museum on Friday afternoon. The Whaling Museum permitted us to use the main lobby to set up our displays. On Saturday morning the museum opened and we welcomed the public to our displays.

The membership meeting was held in the Museum's Auditorium. The meeting was started with IGKT President Dan Machowski, he spoke about the status of the IGKT as of 2009. The IGKT-NAB Secretary-Treasurer spoke about the North American Branch and its status and membership. The NAB currently has about 200 members and has been at that level for several years. Pheobe Ashley Chardon attended the meeting. She invited members to the Ashley Farm for a visit and light refreshments.

After the meeting we went back to our tables and greeted the public that had come to see the displays.

Membership Dinner

The membership dinner was held Saturday Evening at The Waterfront Grill where we had a delicious meal and conversation.

The Ashley Farm

On Sunday afternoon, the members visited the farm. Phoebe Chardon had on display several of the original knots, knot board and button boards that, her father, Clifford Ashley used while writing the Ashley Book of Knots.

Mystic Seaport

On Monday Oct 12, a group went to the Mystic Seaport for the day. We visited a portion of the original rope walk from the Plymouth Rope & Cordage Company. The Charles Morgan a whaling ship that sailed out of New Bedford was out of the water undergoing repairs. It was interesting to see the whole ship instead of just above the water line. The staff did a simulated high line rescue similar to the way the U S Coast Guard did in the past.

Farewells

On Monday & Tuesday we said our good-byes and proceeded to check out and head home. Before we left New Bedford we visited the George Kirby Jr. Paint Company and purchased a can of Pine Tar. Their web site is <http://www.kirbypaint.com/>

John & Kay Burke IGKT-NAB

THANKS

The IGKT-NAB Executive Board wishes to thank the IGKT Board for having their Half-Yearly Meeting in New Bedford, a thanks to Bob Dollar for the time spent putting this successful event together, a special thanks to the Whaling Museum for allowing us to use their facility, to R & W Rope Warehouse and Rob for hosting the Knot Tyers once again.

My Thoughts on the IGKT Half-Yearly Meeting

I had the pleasure of attending the recent Half Year meeting of the International Guild of Knot tyers in New Bedford MA. Since this was my first Guild meeting, I had no idea what to expect. I was totally surprised.

There before me were the people that I have read about, studied and admired for many years. I expected to be treated as a new comer. Someone who has an interest in knotting but was not part of the “group”. I could have not been more incorrect. I was welcomed with warm smiles and friendly handshakes. I was not an outsider; I was part of the Guild. From my first meeting with Bob Dollar, to my farewells until the next meeting, I felt as if all of us have been friends for many years. We were friends who had not met yet.

I am still in awe of the many different styles of knotting to which I was exposed. So much in fact that my library is spread over four rooms of my home. I can't decide which new aspect of knotting I want to try.

For years some of these skills seemed out of my comfort zone. After talking with all of you, I learned that it isn't that difficult. Just grab a piece of cord and try. It is easy to untie and start over. Sometimes a mistake turns out to be a discovery.

I thought I took far too few photos, only about 250. My friend, Rusty Helms, took twice that many and we have exchanged them. Now I have a very nice photo reference of the art work I had the joy of viewing.

I want to thank all those at the meeting for making my first Guild meeting such an enjoyable event. Especially Bob Dollar, our host, R & W Rope Warehouse Marty Combs and Dan Machowski.

Gary Summers
67sgsummers@att.net

“Rope Yarns”

By: Mr. Twisty...

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Spent a weekend in New Bedford a few weeks ago and saw a REAL boatload of **GREAT** work. To those of you who were able to make the trip a hardy BRAVO ZULU!!! (youse of those who are ol' salts know what I mean)... the IGKT/NAB is alive and well without a doubt.

### **RECYCLING OLD RAIL ROAD SPIKES...**

Got inspired to try something new... after looking over all the good stuff and making the trip to the R & W Rope Warehouse I felt a yearn to come up with something unique. So I did!

I got back to the home 20 and hit the work shop. While sitting on the stool peering out the window pondering on a new creation... I looked to my front sitting area I saw them... a few old railroad spikes that had been tossed in a pile by a birdbath. It was then it hit me... I wanted a new “spike” (something unique) and was wondering where to get some good stock to make it with... and there it was, right in front of me (for the past few years).

So I picked myself up and got one... brought it in to the shop and evaluated what I had. And what I had was a rusted old piece of metal that I knew was made of quality steel. So I gets out me trusty old grinder, goggles and gloves and puts the old rusty piece of metal in the big vise and I begins to throw metal chaff into the deepest, darkest corners of the shop.

Ahhhhh, the bright, yellow sparks coming off the railroad spike... the high shrill sound of the multi-fiber wheel eating away the rust... the smell of burning metal filling the air... (cough... choke)... the feel of the hot molten metal chards eating away my t-shirt!!!

It took me an hour or so... but there it was... chunked out and a little rough, but there. A few touches more of the spinning wheel and a few strokes with the double cut file... a little touch of some 220 grit sandpaper on the random orbital sander and... WHA-LA!! !THERE SHE WAS!!!

It was beautiful! Slender, with a slight flat bill... customized “double hammer-headed” (for tapping in small brads or rounding off a stubborn globe knot) shiny and sleek, drilled with a hole for a lanyard and slick from 2 or 3 coats of carnuba wax (to prevent rusting) was my new baby. It’s weighty, slightly “beefy” and is very balanced... and works like a dream.

It brought a tear to me eye... maybe from the shards of rust that had penetrated my goggles, but never the less a tear! I thought to myself how many other of us may want to try this. I am all for recycling and this is a good way to make yourself something useful out of a piece of trash.



Hey... give it a try, you might get a kick out of making one... and you that have lathes may just have a little easier time... minus the fumes, sparks, clean up... and the need for a new t-shirt!!!

## THANK YOU

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THE OCTOBER MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL GUILD KNOT TYERS AT THE WHALING MUSEUM IN NEW BEDFORD MASSACHUSETTS U.S.A. SUCH A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ME. A SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB DOLLAR FOR ALL HIS WORK AND HOURS SPENT ON ORGANIZING THAT WEEKEND.

THAT WEEKEND WAS AN EVENT FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT YET A LITTLE SADNESS IN MY HEART. MY DAD, WHO WAS MUCH LOVED AND ADMIRER, WAS NOT THERE TO SHARE THIS WITH ME. 12 YEARS AGO IN 1997 HE ASKED JOHN BURKE "HOW DO I JOIN THIS GROUP - I AM A CLOSET KNOT TYER". 2 YEARS LATER IN 1999 THERE WAS A MEETING OF IGKT AT THE WHALING MUSEUM WHICH MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE BOTH A PART OF. MY DAD DISPLAYED HIS KNOT WORK OF LANYARDS, BECKETS ETC. & MY MOTHER MADE HIS DISPLAY SIGNS IN CALLIGRAPHY.

MY MOTHER HAD SO MANY MEMORIES OF 10 YEARS AGO & KEPT MANY PICTURES OF THAT MEETING WHICH SHE SHOWED TO ALL. SHE ALSO PRESENTED A CHARCOAL PORTRAIT OF CLIFFORD ASHLEY, WHICH SHE DID MANY YEARS AGO, TO HIS DAUGHTER PHOEBE ASHLEY CHARDON. I WAS SO AMAZED AT ALL THE LOVELY WORK THAT WAS ON EVERYONES TABLES AND HOW EVERYONE APPRECIATED EACH OTHERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I WAS ALSO A LITTLE OVERWHELMED WITH TRYING TO GATHER IN MY MIND ALL THE NEW IDEAS AND DESIGNS. HOW WE HAVE GROWN OVER THE YEARS WITH KNOTTING AND SOME EVEN PUBLISHING THEIR OWN BOOKS.

SO ON BEHALF OF MY MOTHER I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO COME AND LOOK AT OUR DISPLAY & TALK. MUCH KINDNESS WAS SHOWN FROM ALL OF YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND IT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. I WILL LOOK AT ALL THE PICTURES THAT WERE TAKEN, THINK OF THE MANY NEW FRIENDSHIPS WE MADE & REMEMBER THE MEMORIES OF A LOVELY WEEKEND IN OCTOBER 2009 AT R & W ROPE CO., THE WHALING MUSEUM, RESTAURANT, AND AT CLIFFORD ASHLEY'S FARM.

ROCKIN' & KNOTTIN'  
ERIKA HAMER  
"THE BUSYBEE"  
DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

### Half-Yearly Meeting Pictures

Pictures of the IGKT Half-Yearly event at the Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA will be available by going to the IGKT-NAB Web site. [www.igktnab.org](http://www.igktnab.org)

**If anyone has pictures from the Half-Yearly Meeting please contact Don Burrhus at [donb@donb.com](mailto:donb@donb.com) He can either place them on the IGKT-NAB website or link to a site that contains your pictures.**



IGKT-NAB InterKnot  
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**EXPIRE DATE:**

**SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & PICTURES FOR THE “InterKnot”**

Please submit written articles in MS Word Document or convertible document. If sending instructions for tying a knot please include black & white sketches with motion arrows would be easier to understand. Pictures are welcome but try to make sure that they are high-contrast black & white photos in jpeg format. Color Pictures are also welcome, but it increases the cost of publication significantly. Please send items to [knottyrope@prodigy.net](mailto:knottyrope@prodigy.net)

**Please Note Your Membership Expiration Date is shown on the “InterKnot” next to each member’s name.**