

# Tying up Loose Ends

BY BILL CHISAMORE

**W**e are at the end of the year and my final column for *Knot Again*.

I thought that I would do something different this time. We usually teach knots for use in the appropriate outdoor or camping situation. However, knots can be used in all sorts of ways, every day. With this in mind, let's look at different ways to use knots throughout the year.

## Gift Wrapping, Table Setting and More

Securing gifts with a ribbon instead of tape is a great way to promote knot tying. Take any decorative cordage, line, or ribbon. Start by putting a small **Bowline** (May issue) in one end. Wrap the line around the gift, bring it back and put it through the loop of the Bowline. Tie a **Half-hitch** (March issue). This will change the direction of the line 90 degrees or perpendicular to the previous loop. Then wrap it around the other way. Tie it off with two Half-hitches.

Another way to get a similar effect is to first find the center of a piece of line. Starting at the top of your gift, bring the two ends up around the sides of your gift and tie an **Overhand knot**. Then bring the two ends around the other two sides, tying them together at the cross-over point with a **Reef knot** (June/July issue). Put a

**Stopper knot** (Oct. issue) about 5 centimeters (two inches) from the ends, and then fray the ends to make decorative tassels.

In a dinner setting, fold your serviettes or napkins into mini-neckers, with the points tied in an Overhand knot. These can be laid flat or tied around water glasses.

A **Turk's Head knot** (Feb. issue) creates a fancy napkin ring holder or make it using natural fibers in larger sized cordage, then lay it out flat. Now it can be used as a hot dish trivet for your table or centerpiece for a flower vase.

Another idea for the dinner table is to **lash** (April issue) three bamboo skewers in a tripod formation, to hold up place sitting cards.

These are just a few ways that knots can be applied to everyday situations rather than just at camp. I have no doubt, that if you challenge your youth to find all the different ways knots are used around them, they will come up with a huge list. So be creative with your knots and practice. You just never know when a good knot will be necessary, however if you know them, then you will always "Be Prepared".

Good Scouting! X

— Scouting Life Magazine would like to say thanks to Bill Chisamore for his series of Knot articles this past year. A leader with the 78<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Troop, Bill also works at the national office Scout Shop, and enjoys sharing his knot expertise. All of Bill's Knot Again articles can be found on Scouts Canada's web site, under For Scouters, Program Resources, Outdoors.

## Gift Wrapping, Table Setting and More



Various states of fraying for creation of tassels.



Four Lead, Five Bight Turk's Head Knot



Present wrapped with overhand knot and finished with a bow tie.



Napkin holder with Three Lead, Four Bight Turk's Head knot



Diamond Hitch

Photographs: Richard J. Petsche