

Private Issue Scouting Square Knots
(Experimental, Locally Authorized, Fake and Spoof)
Part 4 of 5: Craig Murray and Copies of Official Knots

George Crowl

Changes in blue from V13.0.

In 2002, **Craig Murray**, www.sageventure.com/store, issued five green background knots. They are the Silver Beaver, Eagle, Scouter's Key, Scouter's Training Award, and Venturing Advisor's Award of Merit. In 2003 he added a plethora of knots, including Honor Medal, Silver Buffalo, Silver Antelope, Medal of Merit, Whitney Young, Explorer Scout Ranger, Explorer Silver Award I, Hornaday Award, Arrow of Light, James E. West Award and International Scouter Award. The scarce knots have been produced in very limited quantities and are now sold out. There will be no more, because Craig was told by the BSA to cease producing them. Pictures are below. The green backgrounds are much closer to the original color than Sharif's knots. These are excellent reproductions that can be distinguished from the originals by the twill pattern and the gauze-plastic backing. The twill runs about 90° to the BSA twill. The backing is lighter in color and plastic is more thickly applied. In addition to the green knot replicas, Craig had two of the more complex knots delivered in error, so he has made available an Eagle Scout error knot and a Hornaday Award error knot. In those knots, the knot itself is correct, but the Eagle red and white colors are reversed, and the Hornaday green and white reversed, as can be seen by comparison.

The knots below are in the 1978 order of precedence for wear on the uniform (except the Arrow of Light! and with interpretation of later knots).



Honor Medal



Medal of Merit



Explorer Silver I



Scouter's Trng Awd



Eagle error knot



Silver Buffalo



Silver Antelope



Silver Beaver



Whitney Young



Eagle Scout



Explorer Ranger



Hornaday Award



Arrow of Light



Scouter's Key



Intl Sctr Awd



SM/VA Awd of Merit



James E West Awd



Hornaday error knot

Now in 2016 I have come to the realization that I need to completely revamp my material on Craig. I sat down and looked at his patch blanket, and realized I did not show many of the items on it. (Full disclosure – Craig and I have known each other for many years, and we both serve on the board of Las Vegas International Scouting Museum. I’ve also bought patches for my Sea Scout ship from him.) So, in the part below, I will add to older postings and insert newer postings. Many of Craig’s products are requested by other Scouters, for instance John Green and Curt Ware. If they are listed under that person’s name, I’ll try not to list them here. A lot of other knots don’t show up on eBay or other sites, but are on Craig’s patch blanket, so I will list them here. Craig is the current “go to” guy for private issue knots because of their consistent quality.

In 2005, Craig added three knots to his list. They are the Girl Scout Gold Award, the Hornaday Gold Badge (awarded to adults, not the Gold Medal which authorizes wear of the knot) and the Hornaday Silver Badge (awarded to youth). While his other knots are just green versions of official knots, some of which were officially produced in green in the past, these three are knots that are not based on anything official. He is one of two producing a Girl Scout Gold Award knot to wear on the BSA uniform. He recently added a Girl Scout Honor Medal to his list, using Girl Scout green for the background, ordered by Jeff Dorn for a girl in his ship. He is the only one to produce a cloth badge in imitation of the metal Hornaday Badges.



Girl Scout Gold Award



Girl Scout Honor Medal



Hornaday Gold Badge



Hornaday Silver Badge

In 2008 Craig produced NESAs Life Member Eagle knots with green background for the Venturing community, plus black, white and tan for Sea Scouting, at left and below. During the search, we found a new color, blue.



NESA Life Member Green



NESA Life Member Blue



NESA Life Black



NESA Life White



NESA Life Tan



Boyce Tan and Green

Also in 2008, Craig produced two versions of the William D. Boyce Award knot. These versions conform to the standard knot design, not the oddball design of the national award. One has the standard khaki border, the second has a green border for wear on the Venturing uniform. Similar knots made by Craig are sold by John Green. He also produced a Venturing Leadership Award knot in the standard knot design rather than the symmetrical knot design.



Venturing Leadership Awd

In 2006, Craig produced a Carrick bend knot for Richard Stone to indicate membership in the Kudu Rover Crew of Bardstown, KY, founded in 1984. The knot shows membership in the crew. It can have a six-pointed star affixed for Good Scout, and a large French palm for Distinguished Service Award (www.kudurovercrew.com/awards.html). Roving is a program of Scouting founded by Baden-Powell for young men 17-25, used in the US from about 1928 to 1965. Current US Rover crews are either independent (as is the Kudu Rover Crew), or may be associated with US Rovers, who are in turn associated with the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS) and take some of their information from the Baden Powell Scout Association (BPSA) in Britain. They are not a BSA sanctioned section of Scouting. The Kudu membership knot measures about 19mm x 57mm, and is about 3mm longer than a knot of the BPSA. The US Rovers Cornwell Scout Badge is 16x32mm, about the size of the Canadian Figure 8 knots. The Cornwell Badge is for courage in severe difficulty. If you want to know more about the badge, see the UK section of my *Knot Awards of Non-US Scouting Associations*.



Kudu Rover Scouting Membership



US Rovers Cornwell Scout Badge

The Cornwell Badge above and the YPT badge to the left are 2007 manufacture.



YPT Westchester Putnam

The black and white overhand knot at left is for Youth Protection Training, and “Learn the rules in black and white.” A large order of 2400 was made for Westchester Putnam Council.

In 2009 Crew 836 ordered a set of three knots, which are supplied as one strip, but are expected to be cut and issued as separate knots. These are incentives toward the Venturing award scheme, but I have no details. The knots themselves are a Figure 8, a white Lark’s Head around the blue standing part, and a Sheet Bend, [which make up an 836](#).



Figure 8

Lark’s Head

Sheet Bend



AHG Stars & Stripes

In 2010 Craig produced a knot for the **American Heritage Girls Stars & Stripes Award**. The American Heritage Girls (AHG) had a Memorandum of Mutual Support with the BSA. This the first presented to an all girls' organization in the history of the BSA. As a result, many of the older girls in AHG troops are now dual registering as Venturers. Some of these girls have earned the award, the highest in AHG. To recognize the Venturers who have earned this award, a prototype square knot has been developed for the Venturing uniform (red and white knot on a dark blue background with a silver border). This prototype knot is not approved by BSA.

About the same time, Craig produced a **Pack Trainer** knot for John Green. The yellow color is slightly different than standard, and it does not have a logo back. This was on the leading edge of the production of PT knots, immediately after the National prototype that was completely non-standard. **Second, Craig produced a slightly different yellow color PT knot, to closer match the BSA issue.**

Third, in 2014 Craig produced a different Pack Trainer knot for Curt Ware. This knot is based on the original issue, which was recalled.



**Pack Trainer 1 Front
Pack Trainer Back**



Pack Trainer 2

Pack Trainer Ware

In late 2013 Craig developed seven additional knots on request from other people. [Then that grew to those illustrated below](#). Four of them have been around for a long time, the District Award of Merit on blue and a version on green background to go on Venturing shirts, followed by the traditional Sea Scout colors. A total of eight Seabadge knots in a variety of backgrounds and borders. This knot has been discontinued by National. Finally, three new and three newer knots for Seabadge Underway, a relatively new course for Sea Scouters that emphasizes vessel operation in the Sea Scout way. These are on navy, white, and tan backgrounds to go on the various Sea Scout uniforms. Also recently the same knot with matching borders.



Seabadge



Seabadge



District Award of Merit



Seabadge

Seabadge

Seabadge



Seabadge

Seabadge

Seabadge



District Award of Merit
Seabadge Underway – Navy



District Award of Merit
– White



District Award of Merit
– Tan w/Gold



Seabadge Underway – Navy



- White



Tan w/matching



Pack 513



Ace

At this point, I'm going to play catch-up on the plethora of knots that Craig has produced in the past few years. The order is primarily alphabetical. The first ones are from **Pack 513**. Tom Franciscus, 2010, to recognize people in his pack.

Here are two knots that appear to be **Ace Award** knots. The Air Scout and Air Explorer Ace award ran from 1943 to 1954. Only 700 were awarded. Only one variety of knot was produced officially, the blue background. The darker blue and red knot below has an entirely different purpose.



Learning for Life Distinguished Service

The second knot is not intended to be an Ace knot, but was ordered by Bray Barnes. He said he was on the National BSA Advisor Board, and serves on the national Learning for Life (LFL) Executive Board and is the National Treasurer. They had recently created a new award, the LFL Distinguished Service Award, much like the Silver Buffalo for LFL. Although LFL is not a uniformed program per se, there are awards such as the Spurgeon that have a knot for uniform wear. He wanted to see if he could promote the knot for those who do wear uniforms.



Denali - Tan

The **Denali Award** is the highest award in Varsity Scouting, a program primarily for LDS boys age 14-15. The knots below are unofficial, there is no official knot to represent the Denali Award.



Denali – Green -Blue -White



Fully Embroidered

The **Alumni Award** knot comes in only one variety from national. Craig has produced four varieties at request, for the Sea Scout community and others.



Alumni Award – Black - White - Tan



Arrow of Light - Tan

The **Arrow of Light** knot has been produced in four backgrounds, black, blue, white, and tan.



Arrow of Light – Black - Blue - White

The **Camper Recognition** knot comes in three different backgrounds and corresponding names. I do not know the meaning of the names. These were requested by Tyler Brooks, Midnight Sun Council, Fairbanks, AK as a camp recognition.



Raven Great Gray Owl Turkey Buzzard



Catholic

The **Catholic religious recognition** knot is believed to be a recognition of a diocese of the church for work below that of the St. George and the Bronze Pelican. These knots were produced in 2008, at Dr. Tom Sisk's, request for a diocese somewhere in the south. I don't know the requirements.



Community Org



George Meany Award

The **Community Organization** knot is similar to the national issue. The **George Meany AFL-CIO** award was perhaps the very first community organization type award. When the Community Organization knot was announced, many years ago, the Meany award was retained, but since then the knot has been discontinued. Those who earned the knot are anxious to keep wearing it, so it becomes private issue.

Cub Scout knots are now disappearing from the scene, and that always provides a market for private issue people. Below are seven knots that are intended to duplicate the original issue. Of those seven knots, only one knot remains current, the Den Leader knot, which originally came out in 1975. All the rest have been retired. The eighth knot, lower left, is a Cub-master knot on white by Curt Ware for a Sea Scouter.



Cubmaster



Sea Scout Cubmaster



Tiger Den Leader

Den Leader

Webelos Den Leader



Den Leader Coach

Cub Scouter

Pack Trainer

Plain **Eagle Scout** knots are produced in various backgrounds for various reasons. Sea Scouts wanted white, blue, or black. From about 1954 to 1978, these knots were produced with both a black and a white background.



Eagle - Black

- Blue

- White

Historic Trail knot. A long time ago, the Niagara Falls council had a knot to go with their trail medal. It has gained broader use as a generic trail medal knot. I don't think it is still being issued, but it has been produced by private issuers over the years. Craig has produced his in three different backgrounds. Tan is similar to the original.



Historic Trail - Tan

- Green

- White

The **International Scouter Award** is produced by national in purple and white on tan. Sea Scouts (of course!) wanted the black and white backgrounds.



International Scouter

-Black

-White



NYLT

The **National Youth Leader Training (NYLT)** knot is strictly private issue, no such knot is authorized by the national office. As usual, someone wants to provide a symbol of recognition to the graduates.



OA Distinguished Service



PTC Masters Track



Quartermaster on white



Quartermaster on blue

The **Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award** was produced at the request of an individual.

The **Philmont Training Center Masters Track Knot** is official, awarded only by Philmont for attending and promoting PTC and teaching in the home council. The colors are those on the New Mexico state flag.

The Quartermaster Award knot is produced by national, until July 2016 only in a blue knot on white. Effective then, they have gone back to issuing a white knot on navy blue. In the past, it has been produced by national in blue on blue, blue on khaki, and white on blue. Craig has been asked to produce it in blue on white, and white on black. Actually, some think the second is the Skipper's Award of Merit on black, but that is historically wrong!



Youth Religious Award



Adult Religious – Gray

Black

White

The **adult religious award** is produced in a gray background by national supply. Sea Scouters have a tendency to want knots that match their white or blue (and sometimes tan) uniforms. Below are the three varieties Craig has made. In addition, Craig has produced one variety of the **youth religious knot**.

The **Scouter's Key** is awarded only to unit leaders (Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Coaches, Advisors, Skippers) for training and service in their unit. The knot is issued with a tan background. From 1966-78, it was issued with a Navy blue, white, and green background, and many leaders like to wear the matching background.



Scouter's Key – Black

- White

- Green



STA - Tan

The **Scouter's Training Award** is awarded to other Scouters than unit leaders working at the unit level for completing training and service. The knot is issued with a tan background. This knot also was issued from 1966-1978 in Navy blue, white, and green.



Scouter's Training Awd

- White

- Green



SMAM – Tan



SMAM - Black

The **Scoutmaster’s Award of Merit (and Coach’s, Advisor’, Skipper’s) (SMAM)** was issued from 1987 to 2010. It was only issued in tan. The other four colors are for Sea Scouters and Venturing leaders. Note that the black or blue background knots could be used to represent the **Quartermaster Award** which was produced white on Navy blue from 1954 to 1978.



SMAM - Blue



SMAM – White



SMAM – Green

The commissioner recognition award knots are based on a common theme of a red background for each. The subtle difference is the color combinations of the knot and the border.



Distinguished Comr



Doctor Comr Science



Excellence Unit Service



Whitney Young



Trained Skipper

There are several knots that are pretty much one of a kind that are regular knots produced in **Sea Scout or Venturing colors**. It seems easier to list them here. The **Trainer Knot** has green and white like the **Scouter’s Key**, blue and gold like the **Pack Trainer knot**. The **Young knot** is unusual, the **West knots** are much more common.



West – Black



- White



- Tan

The **Silver Award** comes in three varieties. The **Explorer Silver Award Type 1** existed from 1949-54, the **Explorer Silver Award Type 2** existed from 1954-66, and the **Venturing Silver Award Type 3** existed from 1998-2014. In addition, the Type 3 knot continues in service for the **Venturing Summit Award**, beginning in 2014.



Silver Award Type 1



Silver Award Type 2



Silver Award Type 3



Silver Award Mylar



Silver Buffalo

The **Silver Buffalo Award** is the highest national award for distinguished service to Scouting. Craig produced it in green, shown in the opening set of knots. He later produced it in white in a set of Sea Scout white knots.



Silver Antelope

The **Silver Antelope Award** is the highest regional award for distinguished service to Scouting. Craig produced it in green, shown in the opening set of knots. He later produced it in the white and black shown.



Silver Antelope

Lots of Sea Scouters have been around long enough to earn the **Silver Beaver Award**, the highest award of a council for distinguished service to Scouting. The black and white are for Sea Scouts, the blue could be Cubs.



Silver Beaver – Black -White - Blue



Skipper's Key – Tan

The **Skipper's Key** existed from 1939-48. Only one knot was produced, dark blue and white on khaki. It is one of the hardest original issue knots to find. Beginning in 1948, Skippers earned the Scouter's Key as Skipper, with a Sea Scout device on both the medal and the knot. Since 2002 Skippers are awarded a replica of the 1940s Key to wear, but they still use the Scouter's Key knot with Sea Scout device. Of course, some Sea Scouters prefer to use the older knot. The Silver Beaver uses a more pastel blue knot rope.



Skipper's Key – Tan 2



Skipper's Key – Black - White - Green



Unit Leader AOM

The **Unit Leader Award of Merit** is the successor in 2010 to the Scoutmaster's (etc.) Award of merit. Craig has been requested to make only a copy of the official issue.



Youth Ldrshp America

The **Youth Leadership in America** knot is to recognize youth who earned the medal in the 80s. This knot is unofficial, originally proposed by Mike Walton, but still keeps popping up in private issue varieties.



RT Dist Service

In 2014 this "2009 Roundtable Distinguished Service Award" surfaced on eBay. It was originally produced by Craig Murray for another Scouter.



T433 Papa Bear Youth

The **Troop 433 Papa Bear Youth Service Award** is at left, with the silver border. The gold border is for adult leadership.



T433 Papa Bear Adult

In the past year, 2015, Craig has been asked to produce several different knots, primarily in the Sea Scout and Venturing areas.



Seabadge CD



Seabadge CD



Seabadge CD

Seabadge knots are wanted. Craig made these up at the request of John Green, who designed and ordered them for Seabadge staffers. The national office has deleted the Seabadge knot from issuance and stock. In quite old Seabadge syllabi, a three trident knot was authorized for course directors and two tridents for course staff. It seems that Sea Scouters still want the knots, for more than the Sea Scout uniform. Therefore, there are many color combinations, starting with the traditional Sea Scout colors, and branching out. Six different color combinations of Course Director (CD) knots were produced.



Seabadge CD

Seabadge CD

Seabadge CD

Under the same “authorization” from long ago, Seabadge staff were allowed to wear two tridents. People have requested staff knots as shown.



Seabadge Staff



Seabadge Staff

Seabadge Staff

Seabadge Staff



Inclusive Scouting

Additional knots were requested by the Inclusive Scouting community. They have had a web site and sold knots since 2002, and earlier knots are shown in Part 5. Their web site is www.scoutsforequality.org.



The Order of the Arrow’s highest rank is Vigil. The proper insignia is worn on the OA sash, a red arrow, a red bar at either end of the arrow, and a red triangle in the middle. Alternatively, an OA dangle on the right pocket can have a tiny red triangle attached. Neither insignia is authorized with the Sea Scout uniform. No knot is authorized. However, some people want them. Below are the knots produced for the Vigil Honor.



Vigil – Tan Border



Vigil Honor

Vigil Honor

Vigil Honor

The Bronze Big Horn knot was ordered by Bill Kirkner, who said, “Once upon a time (back in 1990, actually) I received a little known regional award from Northeast Region Exploring called the Bronze Big Horn award.” It is known that Rafi Sharif produced several Sea Scout knots of similar purpose around that time. Apparently NE Region had a number of similar style awards then, and may have them now.



Bronze Big Horn

Bronze Big Horn



Merit Badge Knot

The final recent knot that Craig has produced is already shown in Part 5, page 4, the Merit Badge Knot. This is given out by the www.meritbadgeknot.com web site on authenticated earning of all of the merit badges that were available to a Scout at the time he was in Scouting. See Part 5.

The **Southern Store**, proprietor Barry Ekle, 480 NE 55 Terrace, Miami, FL 33137, Barry@TheMystics.org, was named by 2002, but I believe sold their knots at Seabadge before SR-19 that year. They sell all their knots on white, black and green. I have illustrated all types below. I also illustrate all three backgrounds. There are two significant differences in the Southern Store. First are somewhat different basic knot designs. Second is that their Quartermaster knot is a reversion to the blue-on-black design issued prior to 1954.



Scouter's Key



Silver Antelope

Silver Beaver

District Award of Merit



Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout



Quartermaster

Quartermaster



Seabadge Course Director

Seabadge Staff

Seabadge



Seabadge

Seabadge (blue)

Seabadge



Arrow of Light

Arrow of Light

James E West Award



Advisor AOM

Scouter's Tng Award

International Scouter Awd



Community Organization

In 2002 the Pennsylvania Masonic Lodge in Harrisburg, PA produced one lot of the Community Organization Award knot before the BSA produced theirs. The knot had a plastic back without logo. That is the only way to distinguish it from the official knot because they used the BSA supplier to produce the knot. When BSA started producing the knot, they did not order any more.

In 2003, **Gary Whitman** produced some Seabadge knots, as illustrated below. They resemble Sharif's knots, but are Creslon backed. They have blue and mylar borders as illustrated.



Seabadge



Seabadge Staff



Seabadge



Seabadge Staff

The next series is older, probably 60s or 70s, proven by an article in *Trading Tent*, August/September 1981, "Square Knots" to be before 1981. Several of these fit into a pattern. The BSA stopped manufacturing the square knots for the **Ranger Award** in 1951, and for the **Ace** and **Silver Award I** in 1954, but people who earned them and collectors wanted them. These were probably made to fill that vacuum. Five are similar. The Ranger green and tan and the Silver I blue background knots have real counterparts. The Silver I tan and the Ace tan backgrounds have no official counterpart. Note that the Silver I knots have the rope colors backward. The Ace copy I have actually has a gauze backing, the remainder are all "Creslon." I call these knots Creslon because I have seen the backing referred to by that name. It is a fine fabric, not woven, just matted together.



Ace (2010)



Ranger Green,



Ranger Tan,



Silver I Blue



Silver I Tan,



Ace,



Creslon backing

In 2007 Charles Ced of Ship 77 in Dallas produced a set of knots for adult members of his ship and for others that he knew who hold the older summit ranks. He produced the Ace, Ranger, and Silver Award I knots. The latter he produced on white and on black. This is a limited run, not intended for commercial sale.



Ranger (on black)



Silver I (on white)



Silver I (on black)

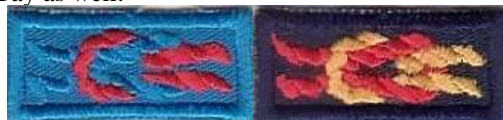
In 2008, TSPA had an Ace and a Ranger private issue knot for sale that were apparently from the same manufacturer. Their provenance is unknown. Note the twill right at a 60° angle, not a BSA pattern until into the 1990s. TSPA believes the knots to be "vintage."



Ace

Ranger

In 2011, Jim Clough in Maryvale, TN had both Air Scout Ace and Explorer Silver Award I knots made so he could wear the correct knots on his uniform. He is a memorabilia dealer and he put them on eBay as well.



Ace

Silver I



Ace
Ace (imawonder42)



Ranger (from SK)



Ranger (from SK?)



Ranger Bar #1



Ranger Bar #2



Ranger Bar #3



At least [six](#) other **Ace** private issues are extant. The left one below dates from about 1992, the second was sold on eBay in June 2002 and again in 2005, the third on eBay in November 2002. The one on the extreme left was on eBay in 2010. The first is roughly done, the knot is not correctly formed. For the second, note that the knot colors and the border colors are a little light. However, the knot itself is not BSA standard, and the ropes go to the border. The twill behind it looks gray, and rougher than the real knot. The sellers had no additional information about the knot. The third has a well formed knot, but the blue border and rope are too light a color, the twill is not right, and it has a gauze/plastic back. The real Ace knots had a gauze back. The knot on the [upper](#) extreme left is probably the same vendor as the Creslon knots above. I can't tell the difference in front. The reverse resembles the Creslon knots above, but is slightly different. This has a Taiwan manufacture sticker on it. It may be much more recent. If anyone has information, I would like to see it. [The knot on the lower left is a 2014 offering by imawonder42, which he stated he got from a Scouter in Malaysia, possibly produced in China.](#)



Three Different Ace Knots

Over 25 years ago, I personally manufactured **Ranger** knots using brown permanent magic marker on a Scouter's Key with a green background. I did it for a friend whom we found out was a Ranger, but had no knots. At that time, mid-70s, I don't believe the "catch-all" Silver Award II knot specifically mentioned the Ranger and Ace knots.

Another **Ranger** private issue that Shay Lelegren has is made from an older issue knot (note the rough twill, characteristic of pre-1966). It too appears to be made from a Scouter's Key by coloring the white thread. Note the border is khaki, not green.

A recent development is cloth **Venturing Ranger bars** to sew on in place of the pin-on Ranger bar approved by the BSA. In 2001, Cindy Sanders, 312 12th Lane SW, Oronoco, MN 55960 sold the first item. The #2 came out in 2004 from Ora Sheffler, 1735 24th AVE SE, Albany, OR 97322, 541-905-2776, o_sheffler@yahoo.com. It also follows the newer variety bar. Ora's #3 bar is somewhat larger than illustrated, and comes out on a forest green backing. It was available in January 2007. The problem is that the Ranger bar pokes and prods and catches on branches and people during activities, and the sew-on bar does not.

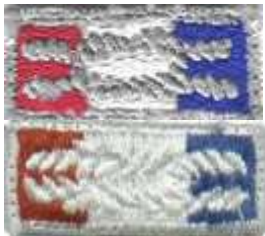
In the summer of 2007, Ora came out with three more bars, representing the **Venturing Silver Award** (even though it has an official square knot), the **Quest Award** and the **TRUST Award**. All of these are approximately 62x15mm (2 7/16 x 9/16"), considerably larger than the actual bars that they represent. The latter two fill the gap in logic of having a Ranger bar, but not a Quest or TRUST bar.

The **Silver Award I** knot has attracted several people to duplicate it. For the few of us who earned it, it seems to have attracted more attention than it may deserve. Anyhow, here are three more examples of private issue Silver Awards. While the khaki/green knot is clearly not standard, two of the knots on blue are pretty close to the real thing. Al Hoogeveen (*Scouting Collector's Quarterly*, Spring 1981, p. 46) stated the middle knot was made by a council, perhaps in Minnesota. A youth earned the knot, the council did not have any, so they had some made up. The youth kept many of them, and they have come on the market gradually since then. Mitch Reis provided the reference. The right hand knot was offered on eBay in November 2002. It is apparently a companion to the Ace knot above, with similar twill and gauze/plastic backing. The left hand knot came up on eBay in 2011.



Four Different Silver Award I Knots

The **Silver Award II** knot has two known copies so far, illustrated at left. We have no information on these knots, except their obvious origin. Any information will be appreciated.



Silver Award II



Quartermaster



Medal of Merit prototype?

We have also found two varieties of a private issue **Quartermaster** knot on white, of unknown origin. Ken Leja, himself a Quartermaster, found them in a West Coast council trading post, and a second example of the first item was on eBay in 2002. We are agreed they do not fit any national standard issue, but are puzzled why they would have been in a trading post. The QM knot on blue is also of unknown origin, not standard issue. It was offered for sale on eBay in 2006 as an early knot, but in several expert opinions is private issue.

The Medal of Merit prototype came from TSPA. Their sale said, "Patch came out of the sample book of a patch company in the Midwest. From what we can tell it's 50's vintage and completely authentic. Not a later made up deal, this is a true prototype directly out of the files of a patch company." The Medal of Merit knot came into the catalog in 1953, so it is possible. It may also be something else.

The Las Vegas International Scouting Museum has a Navy blue and a white version of the **Arrow of Light** that is not a product of one of the known producers. These were first seen in 2001, and scanned by a museum staff member then.



Arrow of Light (Blue)

(White)

The second set of knots was bought in 2013 and scanned like most of the rest of these knots. I do not know if the orange vs. red color difference is a function of the scan, but the lower scan is very color true. The seller in 2013 had no idea where these came from.

This Arrow of Light was auctioned in 2013. The seller only knew the original owner was from the Omaha, Nebraska area. The light blue background is unusual, I can only think of someone trying to match an Air Scout background, but the AOL knot itself is well after the demise of the Air Scout program.

The blue and white on blue knot at left is supposed to be a **Silver Fawn**. The white rope does not follow the standard BSA pattern. To the best of my knowledge, no Silver Beaver knots in blue twill were produced by the BSA. See my monograph, *Illustrated History of BSA Knot Evolution*, where I discuss the Silver Fawn knot.



Silver Fawn



Eagle Scout on white



Fake Skippers Key



Real Skippers Key

I recently found this “stand alone” Eagle Scout knot on white, on sale from Sharon Hanna, vizsla2000, on eBay. It very closely resembles the Southern Store Eagle on white.

Some knots are good enough to deserve the label “fake.” These knots can be confused with the real thing. This is especially appropriate when the knot itself is valuable. Here is a very good fake **Skipper’s Key** in khaki. Beside it, I will put a real Skipper’s Key for comparison. Note the main difference is in the color of the thread. The cloth is rough twill, the knot weave is quite good, etc. In 2001, another reproduction Skipper’s Key was sold on eBay, but it was clearly a reproduction because the rope pattern was similar to that in the Mataguay knot on page 2. Craig McCullough’s knots are shown in his section.

In 2012 a reproduction Vale La Pena knot showed up on eBay. The reason given was that they were hard to find, which is exactly by design! They are given only to the few who have earned them. Mark Ports is doing them for the Tannu OA chapter of the Nevada Council. Immediately following were several more, the Asian-American, Explorer Silver I knot, Explorer Ranger, Eagle NESAs Life in white, Commissioner Award of Excellence in white, District Award of Merit in white, and the Unit Leader Award of Merit in white. In addition, they are selling small sew-on badges of the Venturing Gold and Bronze ribbon awards.



Vale la Pena!



Asian-American



Ranger Bar



Explorer Silver I



Explorer Ranger



Eagle NESAs white



Commish Awd Excellence



District Award of Merit



Unit Ldr Awd of Merit



Gold Award



Arts and Hobbies



Outdoors



Sea Scout



Sports



Youth Ministries

Hornaday Unit Award

The Hornaday Unit Award in actual fact is just a certificate for the unit, and does not authorize the members to wear anything at all. The patch below was designed by John Green. It is a well-done figment of the originators imagination, because the actual medals and badges are executed in bronze, silver and gold, and are therefore all one color. Compare Craig Murray's cloth badges on page 2 of this section. This patch is almost 3 ¼ x 1 ½, it was not intended to be used as a knot. The author thinks of it as similar to the Quality Unit/Journey to Excellence awards.





Scoutmaster's Award of Merit

When any knot is discontinued, eventually it becomes hard to find. This then creates a market for private issue knots. This is what happened with the Scoutmaster's Award of Merit knot. It was sold on eBay in 2014. "Battle Dress Unlimited is ordering/promoting this knot as a consequence of our company's owner, a former Scoutmaster and recipient of this award, being unable to find a reasonably priced one for his new Cubmaster uniform. The details in the knot were improved upon (over the original issue knot) while the dimensions of the original were maintained. (Current issue knots are longer than former issue knots.) While we do produce a very few other Scout patches, this is the only knot we have produced."



Silver Beaver, giant 6" X 3"

This Silver Beaver was sold on eBay, without identifying information, and no indication that it was as large as it is. The width is about the same size as the jacket patches for the red jacket.

Please go on to Part 5 of five.

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If you are interested in specific varieties of all or a single series of knot over time, a monograph titled *Varieties of Official BSA Square Knots* is available. It covers all official knots from their first issue to the current issues with scans of each major variety. It is also available from the author.

It is the nature of this information to change, sometimes rapidly. I hope this exposition has been of interest. As you can see, there are still some gaps to fill in. If you have information that would help, please contact me at George@Crowl.org or 832-467-1998 or 16213 Congo Ln, Jersey Village, TX 77040-2011.

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