

## **WHAT'S A KNOT?**

By Richard Sorokin

A knot is actually a measurement of speed through the water equal to one nautical mile per hour.. A nautical mile is 1.15 land miles.

The word knot come from the way the old sailors measured the speed of the vessel. A large piece of wood was attached to a rope. The rope had knots in it at set intervals. The log was thrown overboard and the rope let out. The log stood still in the water; the vessel kept moving pulling out the rope and knots. The number of knots pulled out over a fixed time gave the mariners the speed of the vessel.

This practice lead to another nautical term, the ships log. These days , the ship's log is a record of all the information regarding the sailing of the ship, position, speed, arrivals, departures and any thing else the officers on watch deem important.