fair the deck stringer in place. You have now completed your kayak deck.

**Ribs**

Ribs can be fashioned by several methods. I prefer kerfing, steaming and bending, but three-piece ribs lashed together are an option. Inuit also bent ribs. They thinned the area to be bent with a knife, softened the wood by boiling it, and then clamped it in their teeth while slowly bending it.

With my method, 1/2" by 1" ribs will be kerfed and bent for stations 4-25. Stations 1-3 and 26 will have pairs of struts. Struts at stations 1-3 are lashed together. Those at 26 are not lashed.

The Inuit used a curved carving knife to cut the tenons. A simple way is to use a 1/2" tenon cutter attached to an electric drill. The finished tenon is 1" long and 1/4" in diameter. Beginning 1" from the end, reduce the rib ends (and one end of the struts) by sanding the narrow sides.

Mark kerf locations on each rib using chart measurements (on page 11). Note that measurements are from middle kerf to bend, wrap with waxed sail twine (see photo below).

Insert rib at each station, seating tenons firmly. Ribs should be symmetrical and level across the middle. Adjust as needed, by tying a temporary length of twine from the high bend to the opposite gunwale.

Use struts in place of bent ribs at stations #1-3 and #26. Drill two holes about 1" from the top of each strut. Insert struts into gunwales and lash together. Struts at station 26 do not meet at the top. They can float free or be lashed to the keelson.

**Keelson**

Cut 2 keelson pieces, 16" x 1 1/2" x 1/4", and 8" x 1 1/2" x 1/4". Scarf the 2 pieces together, making a 12" scarf joint. The keelson length will be adjusted later. Trim the keelson as shown in the cross-section. The keelson needs to be thinned and then steamed for about 4" on either side of rib #4. A simple way to steam the area is to wrap it with a wet rag and place an electric tea kettle under it.

Use a rounded spoke to plane the underside of the keelson on either side of rib #4. The keelson at the rib crossing should be about 1/8" thick. Steam the thinned area for about 20 minutes. Slowly bend the heated section to shape. You may need to fair some of the rib/keelson intersections or even replace some ribs if they get too high or low and prevent the