

The Slipped Stitch

Sep 2019

Kid's are back in school, Labor Day Weekend is upon us, and guess what that means? The year-end holidays are only three months away. Time to get back to crafting and making up those holiday gifts. It also means new fall yarns are coming in, so you'll have lots of choices for those special gifts.

The Second Annual Cowboy Yarn Crawl has finished. We have three winners for our in-store yarn crawlers: Susan F. of Sheridan, Marsha P. of Gillette and Mildred W. of Evansville. Congrats to these local prize winners.

Check out our Facebook Page for announcements on the Grand Prize to be selected Tuesday September 3.

Also find the complete mystery KAL and CAL patterns here:

<https://www.thefiberhouse.com/wycowboycrawl.aspx>

Or on Ravelry at: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/cyc-mystery-kal-pattern> or

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/cyc-mystery-cal-pattern>

NEW KNIT-A-LONG. As you step (pun intended) back into crafting for the fall and winter, join me in a new KAL with Skacel. We'll be knitting the [Fan Dance Socks](#) with Crasy Sylive Rasch starting September 5th. The socks are knit with Hikoo's *Cobasi*, a cotton/bamboo/silk blend – so no wool for those of you with hot feet! Check out <http://www.skacelknitting.com/Knit-Along-CraSy-Sylvie-Rasch/> for more information.

Stay tuned for more knit-a-longs coming next month for projects that will be great for gift giving.

Classes and Special Events

Please check out some class schedule changes below and I have some out-of-town commitments that may require additional changes. We'll keep you up-to-date on any changes as they happen.

Weekly:

Back on Track Mondays 1-3pm

Thursdays - Knit/crochet class for Seniors – we are back at The Hub starting Sep 5th.

Wednesdays - Learn to Knit/Crochet 1-4pm

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Fri, Sep 6 and Sat Sep 21 – Socks Two-at-time and beginning Fan Dance socks KAL

Sat, Sep 7 and Fri, Sep 13 – Intarsia style or Fair-isle style Christmas Stockings

Sat, Sep 14 – No class at TFH – Donna will be attending the Fair Isle Hat class sponsored by CFG.

Fri, Sep 20 – Pillow Sampler Block

September 27 and 28 - Prairie Handspinners Fiber Fest . TFH will be vendors at the event.

Sunday, Sep 29 and Sunday, Oct 6 – Beginning Spinning class

September Monthly Special- Brown Sheep Yarns – 10% off

Brown Sheep Yarns come from a family-owned mill in Nebraska. We're proud to carry a large selection of their yarns including *Lamb's Pride* (worsted and bulky), *Nature Spun* (tonal colors of worsted, and solids in sport and fingering), *Cotton Fleece*, *Serendipity Tweed*, *Prairie Spun DK*, *Wildfoote*, *Legacy Lace*, *Shepherds Shades*, *Lanaloft*, *Burly Spun*, and a small selection of *Waverly Wool* for needlepoint and tapestry weaving. Coming soon is their new superwash dk weight wool – *Stratosphere*. The nice thing about Brown Sheep is that we can order skeins in any amount – not just 10 packs, so special orders are always a breeze. Also they have some of their yarns (*Nature Spun*, *Cotton Fine*, and *Top of the Lamb*) available on cones for weavers.

NEW! NEW! NEW!

The fall yarns are arriving, as well as some new needles to try out. From Berroco we have new for us, *Millefiori* in worsted weight. We've had *Millefiori Light* and *Millefiori Big* in stock for a few years and are adding the worsted weight to our selection. Also, from Lang Yarns (distributed by Berroco), we have their new *Seta Yak*, a soooooo soft wool/silk/yak blend in a slightly boucle-like chunky yarn, and *Carina*, an chunky weight brushed alpaca and nylon blend.

Have you tried the new Rocket 2 needles from addi? These new needles have the slick, smooth glide of the addi original Turbo and Rocket needles with the perfect Rocket sharp needle tip but are have a ridged, square shaft with rounded corners. The square shaft can be more comfortable on the hands and the divots give a better grip. We have a pair on the table with a swatch ready for everyone to try out.

Also new are the Prym Ergonomic circular needles. We brought in the Ergonomic double points and straights a few months ago and are now able to get in the circulars. Several customers have recommended these needles and swear by them.

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Weaving and Spinning News

Of particular note for weavers and spinners, and wool aficionados in general, Christine Robason will be talking about her Leister Longwool sheep at the September 9th CFG meeting at the Holiday Inn.

Weaving and Spinning Group will now be meeting the 4th Sunday of each month. September 22nd will be at the Johnson County Library in Buffalo. October 27th will be at the UU Fellowship building in Sheridan.

We have decided to do a hand towel exchange for the holidays. Hand towels can be done in any fiber craft and any size. We'll exchange the towels at the December meeting.

In Consideration of . . . (also known as - Donna's Soapbox):

Plastic in the Crafting World

The proliferation of plastic in our world has become daily news, with stories about the huge floating islands of plastic in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the identification of microplastics in deep ocean environments, and in the fish we eat, cities banning single use plastic bottles and plastic straws, and more of the same.

It's hard to get away from plastic in our modern world. Just take a look around your home and you will find plastic everywhere. From the visible like trash bags, dishes, containers of all sorts, utensils, electronic appliances and even some of your shoes to the hidden or not so obvious, like pipes, plumbing, auto parts, vinyl siding and windows. Surprisingly, as ubiquitous as plastics are, they've only been around for a little over 100 years. The first truly synthetic plastic was Bakelite, invented in 1907. The majority of plastics are made from crude oil although advances are being made in bioplastics from plants.

As I look around our shop, I find plastic plainly visible in packaging, stitch markers, needles, and, oh yeah, all that yarn. Yep, plastic yarn. It's not just Red Heart anymore. Generally it's labeled acrylic, but anything with "poly" in the name is also a form of plastic - so polyamide, polyacryl, etc. Dupont invented the first acrylic fiber in 1947 - remember Dupont Orlon? And "nylons", aka panty hose? They were called "nylons" because they were made of nylon - yep, plastic. And then came polyester - like those polyester leisure suits from the 60s and 70s?

Although today's acrylic yarns are much nicer than the original versions, they still are plastic. The biggest advantage to acrylic yarns is their easy care. They can generally go in the washer and dryer, take dyes extremely well, and are relatively inexpensive. And it's easy to spot acrylic yarn cause it will be on the label, right? This is true if the acrylic makes up more than 5% of the fiber. Less than 5% it can be lumped in as "other fibers."

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And surprisingly, there's another form of plastic in our yarn that I did not know about until recently. Did you know that "superwash wool" has a plastic coating? Wool yarns that are not superwash have a tendency to felt when subjected to water and friction. The felting action is due to the scales of the wool strand. If you looked under a microscope you could see all the overlapping scales like on a fish. When friction is applied, the scales will catch on each other and lock together, creating a denser fabric. The process to create superwash - or non-felting - wool involves scouring the wool with abrasive chemicals to remove the edges of the scales and then coating the fiber with a resin to essentially glue down the scales to prevent them from locking together and felting. Resin is a petrochemical and, yep, you guessed it - plastic.

How do you feel about plastics? How do you feel about acrylic yarn? What do you think about the process used to create superwash wool? Although for a long time I have felt that fiber crafting is apolitical (without a political opinion) I have come to realize that sentiment is a bit like having blinders on. The political and environmental discussions about the ramifications of our plastic world impact our crafting world - because it is literally everywhere. Even where you least expect it.