

December 2011
Volume 25, Issue 5



THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WASATCH WOOLPACK HANDSPINNERS

WWH OFFICERS 2011-2012

President

Danielle Jones
801.963-2124

Vice President

Jill Tew
801-897-6318

Treasurer/Librarian

Charlotte Larsen
435.843-7597

Newsletter Editor

Sonya Campana
801-733-5888

Assistant Editor

Shawn Clarke
801-707-8719

UPCOMING EVENTS

Guild meeting

Christmas Party
Potluck & Gift
Exchange
Dec. 21
Pioneer Craft House
6:30 Meet 'n Greet
7:00 meeting

President's Message

I'm not sure how it happened, but I was well underway on my Challenge before I knew it. I have some yak fiber I was thinking of spinning for the Challenge, but I wasn't ready to jump into it yet. But I wanted to spin on my new Tibetan spindle that I bought from Amelia at the workshop. What to spin.... I had an ounce of merino from Dye Exchange a few years back that was waiting to become a scarf for my mom. I split it in half and started playing with my Tibetan (spinning long draw). I had been worrying about how the colors in it would work together, so I decided to card the other half of it to blend the colors and make a "perfect neutral" (a tip from the workshops). I broke the batt across the width into four pieces which I rolled into rolags (another workshop tip). This ply I drop spindled using long draw. I love spinning from fresh rolags--the wool seems to flow out so easily. I spun most of this half at my son's karate lessons, and I was surprised at how fast it went. Meanwhile, I was spinning the uncarded half at home on the Tibetan spindle. (I don't trust myself not to drop it on the concrete floor at karate.) It went slower because I'm new to the Tibetan, I can't thigh-roll or kick it to get it going super fast, and for a while I forgot to hold the roving back a full staple length. It did get easier to long draw it after I moved my hand back farther. But I had to keep reminding myself to keep that hand back.

After the drop spindle half was spun, and I just had a little ways to go on the Tibetan spindle section, I suddenly realized, "Hey, this could be my Challenge project, and it's already half done!" The only thing I had decided for sure about the Challenge was that I would use long draw, and I had been doing that for both plies. Even better, it's supposed to be a Christmas present (don't worry, my mom will let me bring it in May). So with my deadline 5 months early, I'm pretty sure it'll be done before May. In fact, I might even get this year's Challenge done before last year's Challenge (I still have two inches times 300 stitches of ribbing to knit on my shrug). My spindled yarn won't be winning any prizes. But these are new techniques, and I'm OK with my yarn not looking perfect. It looks *handspun*.

As a reminder, this year's Challenge is to use a new technique and spindle-spun yarn to create a finished object. If you're a "Yarn IS a finished object" type person, perhaps you could decide how and where to display your Challenge yarn in your home, and make that part of your presentation in May. You get to decide for yourself what level of challenge to take on. At the meeting this month, everyone who has made progress on their Challenge will get a ticket to enter the drawing for a lovely prize. Haven't starting spinning it yet? That's OK. If you've made plans for the project, that's progress. Or if you've been practicing a new technique you'll use for the Challenge project, that counts too.

Come join us for a fun meeting! Remember to bring a potluck dish, a gift for the exchange, and share your progress on the Challenge.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

--Danielle Jones

Report of November Meeting

November 16, 2011 Meeting

Announcements

December's meeting will be the potluck and gift exchange.

Don't forget the person with the most creatively wrapped gift gets to pick last!!

Drinks and paper goods will be provided by the guild. Hope to see everyone there!

How to Judge Skeins and What Judges Look For

Cyndi Marshall led the discussion at the meeting. Guild members brought a variety of handspun to have Cyndi review.

She explained how she judges yarn, and what judges look for as they make prize decisions.

We saw examples of underplied, balanced and overplied yarns. She discussed the reasons each type happens, and how to fix it if that's not what you wanted:

You can add twist to underplied yarn by running it through the wheel again.

If you want to use it underplied, remember it is more likely to pill.

Overplied yarn can be fixed by running through the wheel in the opposite direction thereby removing some of the twist.

Overplied yarn tends to be sturdier, but can also be hard to the touch.

If you want to use singles, spin some Z and some S, and alternate using them in the project to avoid slant.

Rib stitch is best for singles, while stockinette stitch will slant the knitting at an angle.

Again, it is up to you, the spinner to determine the use for your yarns. Ah, design freedom!

Cyndi offered some tips for entering skeins:

Let the judge know the use for the yarn and justify the spinning method because it may influence the outcome of the judge's decision.

Washing your skein makes a difference in presentation.

Remember the judging is one person's opinion and they are comparing your entry to all the other entries.

Their opinion may be different than another judge at another time so don't get discouraged!

Remember, the best thing that comes from constructive criticism is learning, and a deeper appreciation for the craft.

Some of the things the judges look for in a skein:

consistency in twist and ply

color variation consistency, (like in a Navajo 3 ply)

balanced yarns

barber poling (unless done on purpose – another reason to justify your method to the judge)

look, feel and drape of the yarn

in novelty yarns, how well the novelty is done (spacing of beads, bobbles, loops – for example the yarn with more “boucleiness” will win). Another great opportunity to explain the purpose to the judge.

Show and Tell

Julie - brought beautiful fiber from her trip to Michigan and some of her recent weaving projects.

Kira - showed off her weaving and also had a special presentation of a knight in shining armor (because every girl should have one) for Cyndi. The knight can be seen as Cyndi's picture on Ravelry.

Danielle - had a beautiful yellow and gray shawl she made for her mother-in-law for Christmas.

Luli – brought tags to share if anyone was interested in marking their skeins.

-Jill Tew

Spinning Saturday

Below are some pictures of Cyndi's presentation and other member's yarns at the Nov. meeting.

Spinning Saturday in January will be held at Shirley Marshall's home on Saturday, January 7th from 10 a.m. to whenever.

Shirley says, enter the subdivision from 500 E. Turn E. at 3745 S. Follow road to the driveway.

Shirley's address and phone:

3733 S. 645 E.

Salt Lake City, UT

(801) 414-1260

--Plan on some fiber'y' fun!!

Interesting Factoids from Annie Toy:

Did YOU know?

-There are more than 1000 distinct breeds of sheep in the world?

-There are more than 40 breeds in the U.S.?

-There is such a thing as a "Sheep Rodeo"?

Yup, it's called "Mutton Busting". It's an actual rodeo for small children, 4 – 7 years old, and weighing under 50 – 60 lbs. They wear helmets for safety, (the kids that is). The children take hold of the sheep's wool, and ride the sheep bareback from the chute to the other end of the arena. The goal is to stay on for 6 seconds. Sheep don't buck much, but it's still a challenge for the young ones to stay on.

Now, maybe some of y'all knew this rather unusual information, but I didn't! Thanks for lettin' me share it with you – even if you already knew.

-Annie

Answers from November's Word Jumble:

1. Fleece
2. Shear
3. Plying
4. Whorl
5. Drop spindle
6. Treadle
7. Twist
8. Drum Carder
9. Picker
10. Skirted

Editor's note: increase your spinning power- learn your spinning vocabulary today!

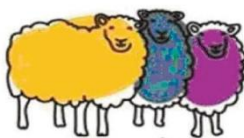




Judy's Novelty Wool

Judy Gunn
1035 N. Main,
Centerville, UT 84014
801-298-1356.

*Basic beginning spinning classes,
Sell: dyed wool roving, home grown wool
fleeces,
Howard Handcards/Drumcarders, spindles,
Miscellaneous spinning tools,
and Crystal Palace Yarns*
woolone@aol.com



three wishes
FIBER ARTS, LLC

7130 Redwood Road, West Jordan, UT 84084
801.748.1881

www.threewishesfiber.com

STORE HOURS
Mon.-Fri. 10:00-6:30 • Sat. 10:00-5:00
Closed Sunday



Alpacas for Sale
Alpaca Fiber
Products
Roving,
Custom Made
Wooden Looms,
(Round and Triangle Looms)

www.altamistalpacas.com



BEAR RIVER FIBER WORKS

Scott Kendall
PO Box 980211 • Park City, Utah 84098-0211

435/657-0336
scott@rio-oso.com
<http://www.rio-oso.com/>

Shearing of alpacas and llamas, washing
and carding to batts and roving for
handspinners and fiber artists.

Wasatch Watercolours



Fine dyed fibers for handspinners
Take along spinning wheel bags

Judy Ede Jackson
7642 South 2880 West
West Jordan, Utah 84084-3721

<http://wasatchwatercolours.etsy.com>

We're on the Web!! See us at: www.wasatchwoolpack.org



Sonya Campana
8407 Dynasty Way
Cottonwood Heights, UT
84121

