

May 2012

Volume 29, Issue 9



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

Charlotte Larsen
435-843-7597

Newsletter Editor

Sonya Campana
801-733-5888

Assistant Editor

Shawn Clarke
801-707-8719

Librarian

Louis Pratt-Mecham
801-979-3344

UPCOMING EVENTS

Guild meeting: May 16, Spinning Challenge Reveal!!!

Pioneer Craft House
6:30 meet n greet, 7p.m.
meeting

May 19 – 20:
Snake River Fiber
Festival, Idaho Falls, ID

May 19:
Lamb and Wool Festival
Thanksgiving Point, Lehi,
UT

June 9
Scottish
Festival/Highland Games,
Thanksgiving Point, Lehi,
UT

July – RETREAT!!!

President's Message

The Spinning Challenge Reveal is almost here! How are your projects coming along?

A challenge--things aren't fun when there's nothing new to learn--that's boring. Usually the hobby type things I challenge myself to learn are fun, easy. Spindling had been not quite enjoyable-- a challenge that was more challenging to stick to. It's also been a much slower learning process. I think that's because it involves a lot of muscle memory, like playing violin or basketball. And I haven't spent as much time practicing as people who are proficient at those things. Spindling takes more skills than wheel spinning. So it takes more time and effort before you can do it on auto-pilot. (Although for some people, spindling is easier than wheel spinning.)

I've been taking spindles instead of my wheel to most of our spinning meetings and events this year. That's because it's now easier for me to spindle spin than to pack my wheel into the car. Every once in a while I can hit a groove and spin really fast and really well on the spindle. Sometimes I hit a rut and nothing works right. Usually it's somewhere in the middle, but my middle is getting better. So at a Spinning Saturday I can just bring a couple spindle projects (to have one to switch to when I hit a rut with the other) and feel like I got something done and had fun, without the wheel.

Whether you'll have your project done in time or not, I hope you've made some progress on spindling. Hopefully you've developed your muscle memory thru repeated practice, and feel like your skill level is a little higher than it was. Maybe you're closer to getting over the "I can't spin that whole project on a spindle" idea. Probably you've learned one or more techniques to add your repertoire. And maybe you've fit more spinning time into your life by taking your spindle when you're waiting in lines and doctors' offices. And maybe you've just thought more about spindling. That's OK, too.

Even if your project isn't done (or you chose not to do one), please come to the meeting. Bring what you've done, or what you have plans for, or just your smile. Come see what everyone did, and hear about what they learned. We'll all be glad to see you!

Happy Spinning!
Danielle Jones

Announcements for WWH meeting April 21, 2012

Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners April Meeting Minutes - April 18, 2012

Calendar

- Snake River Fiber Festival – May 19-20, 2012
at the Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls, ID
For more information on the festival including classes, shopping and vendors, go to
http://www.srfiberarts.org/fiber_arts_fair_2012

- Thanksgiving Point Sheep & Wool Festival – Saturday, May 19th, 2012
Spinners needed to demonstrate from 10:00am – 4:00pm at the farm. Can be in or outdoors. You can also sell your fiber related items. Please contact Paige at Thanksgiving Point 801-592-9120 if interested.

- Scottish Festival @ Thanksgiving Point – Friday & Saturday, June 8-9th, 2012
We will have a booth for spinning during the Festival. Please contact Judy Jackson for additional information.

Our meeting in April was led by Danielle and we discussed singles yarn and it's characteristics and uses. Some of the benefits of using singles in your projects are:

- 2 & 3 ply takes longer to make so you save time using singles
- you can preserve color repeats in a singles
- singles yarn has a larger reflective surface – especially with shiny fiber
- you will have greater stitch definition with singles
- energized singles make good shapes

An example shared was from Spin-Off magazine Winter 2007 where a skirt was made using singles where the slant of the knitting adds to the finished pattern.

Finishing singles can be done in several ways similar to what we do with other plied yarns.

- Fulling or felting
- steaming – wrapped in plastic in a rack over boiling water or wrapped on PVC niddy-noddy
- hot water wash and hang to dry

Some tips to remember:

- singles you use for knitting should be S-spun so the action of knitting doesn't untwist the yarn
- singles can pill easily – watch the staples length, long is better

Several people had examples to show, but I didn't capture them. Danielle also had her orange beaded shawl. Sorry I can't remember the rest, but everything was beautiful.

Remember our meeting coming up on Wednesday, May 16th is the Challenge Show & Tell. Bring whatever you got done no matter what stage it is in. There will be some soft, fiber-y prizes available. Come claim yours.

Some Pictures from the Spinning Saturday at Sonya's and the Wooltrek



We really lucked-out on the weather for the April Spinning Saturday. Thanks to everyone who came over! The sun decided to finally come out, and we gathered on the back deck. There were several of us, and we had such a nice relaxing time- when we weren't running for the cover of shade! The sun got quite hot. So, we did get some excersize moving gear around.

Danielle also got to use my picker. She was pretty amazed at how much fluff she ended up with. It's like it triples in size! Thanks to David for helping get the picker table and picker down in the yard. Anyone can use it- just give me a call and come on over!

Also, thanks to Shawn Clarke for entertaining my dog, Rudi. He thought she came there just to throw balls for him!

I got to use the mini electric spinner the Guild recently purchased for the first time that Sat. I've been spinning on it pretty consistently over the past 3 weeks. Once you get used to no treading and a new way to spin- it can be quite enjoyable. I've even reclined all the way back in my La-La-chair and spun! I hope everybody gets a chance to use the mini electric spinner! You can get a lot done in a short time. —Sonya C.

Wooltrek was so much fun last weekend! Here is Fred Knowlton recharging batteries after the Skirt Skramble Saturday at Notlwonk Springs sheep ranch. It is worth the drive to enjoy the beautiful countryside, and have some of Jo's delicious lamb stew. Thanks Knowltons!!



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



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



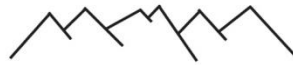
BEAR RIVER FIBER WORKS

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