

January 2012
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THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WASATCH WOOLPACK HANDSPINNERS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Guild meeting

Charlotte Larsen
Presents:
Spinning Boucle
Yarns
Wed. Jan. 18,
Pioneer Craft House
6:30 Meet 'n Greet
7:00 meeting

Fibre Outlaws Retreat
Roosevelt, UT
Jan. 19 – 21, '12
More info. Inside!

President's Message

I did it! I finished my Challenge early! (Strangely, I also finished my spun and knitted Christmas gifts early. That's never happened before.) And I really did get it done before last year's Challenge (still a couple rows to go). As I was spinning, I knew it wasn't prize winning yarn. As I knitted it, I realized it was pretty terrible yarn. The fat spots had almost no twist, the thin spots had gone corkscrew (bad news on a scarf where they're going to scratch and poke your neck), and most of the skein was really terribly under-plied. I put some effort into fixing these things as I was knitting, and the scarf turned out really nice. The yarn flaws aren't very noticeable, and certainly don't detract. And my mom says she likes it a lot. ☺ Hurray!

I've started another spindle project, too. Four whole ounces of wool (I just try not to think about that). And I have no idea what it's going to become. I still feel the need to keep the pressure off when spindling. (When I started spinning my mom's scarf, it was maybe going to be for Christmas, but more likely for Mother's Day or next Christmas.)

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The New Year is here, time for goal-setting and resolutions. Is there a skill you'd like to develop, or something you'd like to learn? Something you'd like to accomplish this year?

Last year I resolved to practice spindle spinning. I kept it low pressure, low expectation. And when it got aggravating, I set it down. Most of my spindling sessions were only five minutes long, either because I got annoyed, or because I had to stop and do something else. I decided spindling was a good thing to work on when I only had a couple minutes, but felt the need to unwind (then I stopped *before* the spindle annoyed me). I didn't really notice any results until later in the year, when people would sometimes comment that I made spindling look so easy, and they complained about how bad they were at it. My first reaction was "No, I'm no good at this." But then as I stopped to think about it, I realized that it really was a lot easier than it used to be. And I was quite a bit faster than I used to be. Some days. I also learned a lot of new things just because spindling was my goal and I was looking for things about it.

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At our meeting this month we'll have a hands-on lesson on novelty yarn. We didn't have the Challenge Progress Report last month (December is just too crazy), but we will have it this month. If you have any kind of progress to report, you'll get a ticket for the prize drawing.

Happy Spinning!
Danielle Jones

Report of December Meeting

Our Annual Woolpack Holiday party was a lot of fun with good friends and good food. Many of our “regulars” were in attendance plus we had some new faces as well as faces we haven’t seen in a while. There were many creatively wrapped fiber gifts and lots of food.

The fiber wrapped in an origami ball made by one of Cheryl Stratton’s daughters (whose name has totally escaped me – sorry!) won the creative wrapping prize of picking last.

We played our traditional[”] present-opening game, where you pick a present and open it or steal a present from someone else who then has the option of stealing from yet another person or opening a present. The stealing didn’t start for quite a while because some people were really shy, but once it did, there was a lot of competition for several presents with all kinds of secret combinations going on between people with family members also in the guild (you know who you are). At one point, Louise even stole back the gift she brought. Go figure! At last, the stealing ceased and trading negotiations began. All in all, I think everyone had a good time and went home with some fabulous stuff.

Our January meeting is going to be great. We hope to be learning all about spinning novelty yarns. We will also be checking out your progress on this year’s challenge of spinning something on a spindle or using a new spindle technique. Be sure to bring your challenge to show and tell to be eligible for a prize drawing.

Jill Tew

Looks like the Christmas Party at the December meeting was a celebration! Merry Christmas everyone, and a Happy New Year!!!



Spinning Saturday

We had a fun Spinning Saturday on Jan. 7th hosted by Shirley Marshall. It was nice to relax and enjoy food and friends while spinning both yarn and tales.

For those of you who missed it, be sure to come next time where we may learn another new technique on knitting from Dan. Cindy M. found this wacky web site on You Tube. If you want to see the lecture presented to us, it is available on:

You Tube under Knitting 101
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4_XNKOuODU

Thanks Shirley for a fun time!

Our next Spinning Saturday is scheduled in April. That's a ways away- so, if you would like to host a Spinning Saturday in February or March contact Kira Masnica at: kira.spins@gmail.com, or call her cell at: 801-671-4496.

Fibre Outlaws Spinning Retreat

January is such a drag! Come and get your happy back!! Bring your UFO's, your Show and Tells, your stories, and that project that is the subject of one of your New Year's resolutions. We are camping out in the multi-purpose room at the University of Utah's campus at Roosevelt, UT.

The Retreat will be held January 19, 20 & 21, 2012. The Fibre Outlaws will take turns cooking meals, except on Friday night, we will go out to a restaurant. Please RSVP so the cooks know how many to cook for. The cost is \$10.00/day. Bring sleeping bags, snacks, prizes for the prize table.

Contact Donna Trotter to RSVP at:
donnamae@easilink.com,
or home phone: (435) 789-4120;
or her cell: (435) 790-3351.

We hope to see you there!
Donna Trotter

Below are some pictures from the Christmas Party. More Christmas Party fun!



Words of Wisdom -

Remember to work on your fiber challenge. It can be hard fitting it all in, but think of all you could accomplish in just 15 minutes a day!!

So, try breaking the job down to smaller pieces, and it won't be so overwhelming.

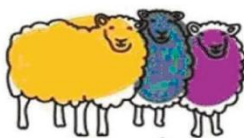
--The Lazy Spinner



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