



# THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A Newsletter of the Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

October 2013  
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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Next Meeting:**

Nov. 20th  
Pioneer Craft House

### **Spinning Saturdays**

Julie Davies...October  
Sonya Compana (?)  
Kathleen fisher...June

Contact

[Kira.spins@gmail.com](mailto:Kira.spins@gmail.com)

if you want to  
volunteer to do a  
spinning Saturday.

## ***Editor's Note***

I want to apologize for delays in sending out the newsletter. We are working out the bugs in the system and I anticipate that the rest of the year will go more smoothly. I did not have all that I needed in time to publish a newsletter in September, so this issue is a bit of a double, with two sets of minutes and two messages from our president. We also have some great articles by Carolyn Ferro, but I will only include one this time and save the rest for our next issue which should be coming along shortly. Enjoy! We are always glad to accept articles for the newsletter, which may be sent to me at [wreiersen@gmail.net](mailto:wreiersen@gmail.net) or send to [wasatchhandspinners@yahoo.com](mailto:wasatchhandspinners@yahoo.com) (but let me know if you have sent something to the yahoo address and I have not responded, as I might not have seen it).

## ***President's Message***

Can you believe it is September already? School is back in session, gardens have more zucchini than they know what to do with, the weather is thinking about cooling off and our guild is starting a new year. So, if you haven't done so already, please see Julie Davies to get your dues paid. The PayPal option is also available. Instructions are on our website at [www.wasatchwoolpack.org](http://www.wasatchwoolpack.org). September is also National Preparedness Month so while you are thinking about sprucing up your 72-hour kit, consider adding a spindle and fiber or a knitting/crocheting/tatting project to your kit so you have something to do while waiting for whatever (just a random something I was thinking about).

I am really excited to be President again this year, even I know Kathleen and Cathie would have done a great job. There is always future opportunity for them when their lives get less crazy. I still have a lot of ideas for fun and informative meetings for the year, plus a challenge and dye exchange plan that should really make things interesting. More information to follow. I am also looking for your ideas of what you want to learn or do so let me know if you have a request or suggestion since the leadership team will be meeting next week.

We have a group of people who have decided to tackle the newsletter this year. Wendy Reiersen, Carolyn Ferro, and Annie Toy will be working together to collect information for the newsletter each month. They would

love to have some participation from everyone, so if you have a pattern, story, historical fact, technique or whatever to share, please contact one of them. We are all responsible for what we get from the guild so we hope to see you all participating and coming to meetings as often as you can make it.

Happy spinning! Jill T.

## ***September Meeting Notes***

### ***More Upcoming events.....***

Rendezvous in Tooele

National spinning week is the second week in October

Taos wool festival

OFF (Oregon Flock and Fiber – too late for this year – it was September 28-29. Start planning for next year: <http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com/> ).

Big turnouts tonight!!!! 30 people for the night

Dues are due for the year 25.00 for the year and you can pay by check cash or Paypal.

Reasons to be a member ...

- \* Library
- \* Retreat
- \* Christmas party
- \* Rent drum carder and e spinner
- \* You get a newsletter each month
- \* Spinning Saturdays

We have a yahoo group page. Contact Shirley Marshall if you want to join and she will make it happen.

Meeting for today was massive show and tell as we were asked to bring our items from **State Fair and Great Basin .....**

Mumsy helped us to celebrate birthdays for Kira and luli, cute gifts!

Janet showed the costume underskirt that she is doing embroidery on... But hasn't been knitting because of carpal tunnel.

Tess is spinning alpaca, but it had soo much VM it took her months to prep it!!

She also just got little French angora rabbits and will be breeding them soon.

Brandy finished her first spun and knit project, a beautiful scarf BFL silk blend

She thinks that it is the Prismatic scarf on Ravelry.

Rebecca experienced crafting trauma.... She bought a sweaters worth of yarn and while knitting the yarn fell apart!!! She is now knitting for comfort!!

Jill Tew entered skeins of yarn and her socks...she got two 2nd and two 3rds  
She said she basically broke even.

Wendy R. Showed her scarf and her blue ribbon socks that she had knit for the retreat exchange. She also entered four skeins of yarn at the fair.

Cathie Delewski entered 2 skeins in the fair and won ?  
Diane has been knitting a baby hat, but has her knitting attacking her. She is now knitting a 45 minute baby hat with sharpened wooden dowels. It is supposed to be size 15 but no one in Salt Lake City has that size.

Carolyn spun a small skein as a sample from a Carolyn Barrows class.

Maureen entered two items in the fair: handspun yarn and two hand woven items in the fair..  
She got red ribbons....

Laurel is doing Tunisian crochet....she is encouraging us to do Tunisian rocket and there might be a new category at the state fair.

Barbara showed her blue ribbon bag knitted in Entrelac, and her second place skein of yarn.

David didn't get to enter for the fair cause everything was stolen out of his car in March, but he was given a spinning wheel from a lady in Alaska during his road trip. She heard that his wheel was stolen from his car. He is working on a new man's sock pattern with lace.

We had a couple of newbies who have been spinning for 1 to 1-1/2 years , we are glad they are joining us. Molly showed her rainbow barf yarn...

Janice went to the fiber festival at snake River and started on the drop spindle. She says that she likes the whole process. She has cleane, carded, spun and dyed a skein of yarn, which she showed us.

Danielle finished the hat that she was knitting when the tendinitis struck !!  
(Skeleton key, on Ravelry)

Sharon finally has gotten a traveling spinning wheel...she got a Louet Victoria from Kristine Bullock

Cyndi finished a beautiful wrap around sweater, which she calls her "car crash sweater" because she was teaching her son to drive when she was knitting it. Her state fair entries were many, including llama, Carolyn greenwood, and ,"take me anywhere cardigan" is also beautiful and mostly done

Annie.....

Julie Davie is finishing a UFO. She has a sweater that she is finishing and also a shawl made from Carolyn greenwood handspun

Luli was thrilled to have kids actually identify theatre of spinning guy the right terms.!!

Charlotte spun up matching fingerless mitts. The colors matched well.

The person that got to take home the fibery gift bag tonight was Danielle !!!

### ***August Meeting Notes***

- August meeting began with announcements: The dye workshop at Encampment Wyoming was fun and very helpful. It is unclear if there will be workshops in the near future, but those who attended learned a lot.
- A reminder was made about the Great Basin Fiber Arts Fair at the end of August. Everyone was encouraged to enter the fiber competitions as well as the State Fair. Shirley Marshall is willing to take entries to the State Fair.
- Soldier Hollow will be the following weekend after Great Basin. Discount tickets are available at IFA, Fresh Market & Dans (near the dog food section)
- Blue Moon Ranch now has a Ya Ya Yarn Shop

Important: Dues are now due...

Thanks to Louise for bringing mini cupcakes. ☺

The majority of the meeting was spent on installation of the New 2013-2014 officers:

Jill Tew – President

Cheryl Stratton –VP

Julie Davies – Treasurer

Wendy Reiersen – Newsletter Editor

Carolyn Ferro – Asst Newsletter Editor

The remaining time was spent in “Show N Tell”

Jill T – brought samples of fiber she finished at the natural dye workshop

Luli J – took a trip to the New Mexico Fiber Arts

Aubrey – showed off her new Kromski spinning wheel

Sonya – brought cotton she had spun on a chakra wheel

Wendy R – shared pictures from Encampment

Louise – is working on a pink/brown crocheted blanket

Diane C – brought dyed silk fabric strips she had dyed at Encampment

Apologies to anyone if items were missed...



## ***THE JOY of SPINNING in PUBLIC***

*By Carolyn Leigh Bennion Ferro*

It is early Sunday morning. My hat is pulled low over my ears, my jacket collar raised, as I splash through the morning puddles from last night's rain. The fairgrounds are nearly deserted, quite the contrast from the yesterday's cacophonous chaos of midway attractions.

The environment inside the Home Craft building is even quieter, as I join other textile enthusiast's as we set up for another day of demonstrating at the State Fair, the adult equivalent of show and tell. I am prepared for what the day might bring. I have a fun spinning project of my own, rich cocoa brown Paco-Vicuna and a favorite spindle. I am hoping I do not have a chance to work on it. While I love to spin, today I would prefer to share, rather than make.

The demo table is full of spinning examples of many fibers, inviting adults and children alike to touch and experience. I lay out a sturdy drop spindle and several different colors of roving.

Quietly the morning passes. I spin while I walk about our little area. While today does not have the crowds of yesterday, those that wander through the Zion building are doing so at a slower pace. Many who stop by are not familiar with hand spindles. This is the fun part!

Men are often more likely to accept my challenge to try it out. Perhaps some women feel that the very nature of their gender should enable them to know how to spin. Who knows?

I enjoy the children the most. A large family walks by, a couple of the younger children reaching up to touch the fluffy yarn on the table.

"Would you like to learn to spin some yarn to take home?" I ask.

The youngest one hides behind Dad, a couple older ones look around nonchalantly, shaking their heads.

"I'll try," a boy of about ten says enthusiastically. I ask him to choose a color from the roving I brought. I help him affix a tiny bit of fluff to the hook and he begins the simple process of turning wool into sturdy yarn. After spinning about a yard, I show him how to take it off the hook, and ply it back on itself.

"My turn, my turn next."

In a few short minutes all the children, from the toddler in the stroller to the 'I'm way too cool to be here' teenager have their own spun yarn clutched in their hands.

The best part of the day happens next. The part of the day that tells me, 'Yes, this is why I love this so much. This is why I pull on a rain coat on a chilly morning and spend a few hours sharing my passion for the magic of transforming mere wisps of fiber into string.'

A young girl and her father pause at the table. I go slowly as Dad translates what I am doing to the child's native tongue. It takes only a brief moment, as she struggles to turn one of the simplest tools-a whorl on a stick-into a vehicle of creation. The furrow in her brow is replaced by a bright sparkle in her eye, as she holds in her hand her first handspun yarn! "She wants to take it to school to show her teacher," the father says. "Then she will need more of this," I tell them, as I pull off several feet of roving and tuck it into her other hand.

The joy of spinning in public pales next to the joy on a young child's face.



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[woolone@aol.com](mailto:woolone@aol.com)

## We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.wasatchwoolpack.org](http://www.wasatchwoolpack.org)



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