

June 2020

Minnesota Machine Knitter's Collaborative

Volume 8, No. 2

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi MMKC,

I miss seeing all of you in person, but I'm learning more about electronics than I ever intended. In some ways this has been a blessing. I've experienced how eager people are to help me stay connected.

I hope this has been your experience too. We're all in the same boat. We need to paddle together.

Patsy and I talked with Madie Ley from the Textile Center. She is the Membership coordinator and reached out to us to find out what our organization would like to see the Textile Center focus on.

Parking, of course, came up as a constant issue, and the Textile Center is working on a way to make library materials available. Patsy and I focused mainly on encouraging an upgrade in technical equip-

ment and support. We were all (TC and us) seeing this as both a need and an opportunity to increase our reach by making meetings, classes, etc. available to more people through remote communications.

Awhile back, I asked for you to send Cammy impressions of how you are staying sane in this un-sane time. I'll report that as I stay at home, I find that the equipment and stash my children have chided me about all these years is really paying off. I have a long list of projects I'm excited to tackle. Surprisingly, one project at the top of my list is Spring-cleaning my machines. I've pulled out the written materials from past MMKC programs and fully intend to give each machine a tune up. I expect to find lots of gunk and I'm already im-

agining how things will run more smoothly.

Recently, in preparing the May program on beading, I made up a Beaded Necklace. I've included the pattern in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy it. If you have any questions just give me a call. Believe me—I'm not going anywhere.

Stay safe and keep knitting--
Karen

**Staying Sane in Covid 19 Times**

At the beginning of May we asked members to share what they're doing in self-isolation with the following prompts and got some great responses:

What projects are you working on? What are you doing to stay sane?.....Any experiments?Resurrected UFO's?.....What are you learning/exploring?

From Cynthia (edited from original):

Currently Cynthia and her sister Sue have been making masks since the first calls went out, using the CDC design which is fast and simple. Her girlfriend sourced rope elastic early on, so they've made significant number but sadly, the stash is not going down as quickly as she'd like.

Machine knitting for donation to Bundles of Love.

Organizing knitting, sewing and crafting supplies. Cynthia says "I've 'found' so much which now has been put in the proper place, for the most part. I will never need to buy another spool of navy blue thread, ever".

Cooking and baking for her family and exploring new recipes with her Mom. Her Mom's sister lives alone and is so appreciative of any treats they send her way. Also organiz-

Staying Sane continued from Page 1

-ing all of those recipes collected from newspapers and magazines through the years - they're getting reviewed, categorized and filed, if they make the cut.

Cynthia now has a complete inventory of her hand and machine knitting books and patterns. She found herself buying duplicates at shows or shops and was inspired by Patsy when Patsy showed her the inventory she prepared at the last Rocking Horse Farm September Seminar. Cynthia vows to keep it up to date and have both a printed copy in her knitting bag and a copy on her phone. Lots of books, clothes and household items await the opening of the donation centers. At least a full carload of recyclable items await the reopening of the center. Herb plants from seed are healthy and ready for a warm day for planting. "Okay, some are a little leggy, but they'll catch up". (Editor's note: I'll bet they are caught up by now!)

She's keeping her sanity by having a hot "cuppa" after the evening news, sewing and knitting for others, trying new recipes with available ingredients (to limit our relying on others to get us groceries), Zooming with friends and family, watching spring come alive, reading about the progress which has been made against this pandemic and having hope for new life saving treatments and a vaccine available soon.

Cynthia has experimented with working on learning how to fully use her Bulky punchcard machine, Ina Garten's Salted Caramel Bittersweet Chocolate Chunk Oatmeal

Cookies (multiple thumbs up), Sourdough Crackers ("We're hooked! Our starter aged to be quite tangy and it makes great crackers and bread"), and keeping an Easter Hydrangea alive in the house.

Her resurrected UFO's include finding a hand knitted project that stumped her; made with chunky Wool Ease yarn in three colors. No pattern is in sight, no recollection of starting it and no clue what it would have grown up to be. She also found a child's sweater that is just wrong that was made with a too long body and way too short arms (can you say gauge swatch anyone?). It will be unwound and redone. She also has bags with one mitten or one slipper with the remaining yarn - goal is to have a pair of mittens and a pair of slippers!

Cynthia is also exploring bulky machine set up, bulky sweater patterns, home hairstyling tips for inept self-stylists, cupboards and drawers in case I missed any sewing or knitting supplies.

"While I'm keeping very close to home, I feel like I want to be busier than ever. Making things I know are needed for others brings me joy. There is and will be so much need, that I'm focusing on what I can get done for charity. Cold weather will be here in a heartbeat. Every day seems to bring tough news, but I have hope for brighter days ahead. I am really looking forward to when we can be together again. Zoom is a poor substitute for being together, but it'll have to do for now. My family and I are safe and well and hope that you and your family are the same".

Staying Sane From Jane:

"Masks!! I am not a sewer, but felt compelled to make masks for friends and neighbors who do not sew at all. A variety of batik fabric made the project a bit less tedious. Thanks to Maria Ann for telling me about the Goody Fine hair pony tail holders to use for the elastic ear bands.



Now on to the fun stuff of knitting! What will my next project be? A napping afghan (cream); a multi-colored ??? - purl side or knit side ???; or a linen over top or vest? Crazy dilemma to have! Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.



2019 MMKC Audit

The annual audit was carried out by Gretchen and Maria Ann

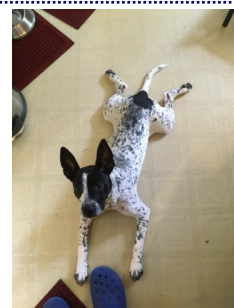
2018 ending balance \$3749.84

2019 income + \$1709.41

2019 expenses - \$2526.97

Balance = \$2932.28

Note from editor—Since I had to fill this little corner I thought you might enjoy a picture of my newly adopted pup, Dipper, doing a "sploot"! 🐾



Staying Sane continued from Page 2

Quarantine Fun for Maria Ann:

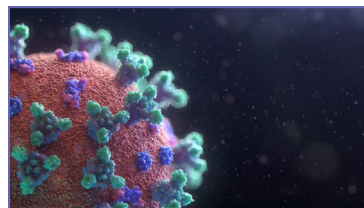
We (husband, Steve and daughter, Anna):

Play board or card games
FaceTime board games with family not at home (each house sets up the game board identically)
Do the dishes
Walks
Zoom with family

Maria Ann:

Take walks
Help hubby learn to like tea
Bake desserts
Snack
Eat chocolate
Gain weight
Decorate window with teddy bears

Sew masks (raided donations for TC Garage Sale to complete)
Decluttered 1/2 the family room (I got bored and have not finished)
Cleaned out old e-mails
Cleaned up old snail-mail
Try new hairstyles
Zoom with workout friends
Zoom with knitting friends
Knitting - octopus toilet paper cover, sweater for sister, pumpkin decorations, sweater for me, baby sweater, contemplate gnome



Yarn Review with Maria Ann

"I want to knit with more of this yarn!"

Brown Sheep's Lambs Pride Super Wash Sport Yarn was purchased to make a toddler's sweatshirt. It is 100% wool AND machine washable! Each skein is 1.75 ounces (180 yards)/50 grams (165 meters). It comes in several colors, some heathered and some solid.

I selected the Explosive Berry color and knit the sweatshirt on my standard gauge machine at Tension 9 (ribbing done at 6/6). My gauge was 7.61 stitches and 9.45 rows to the inch. The yarn was fun to knit with and I love the heather color way. Not only did it knit up well, but the colorway did not create any 'pooling'. Once washed, it softened to a nice touch. I believe it will hold its shape and wear well and would be a good choice for many projects.

My current project is a baby sweater in the Stained Glass color. This is a blackish color (or maybe a deep, deep, deep purple) and I found it to be a bit tight at Tension 9, so am knitting it at Tension 10. My gauge is 6.98 stitches and 9.5 rows to the inch. Look for it at show and tell in June!



Karen's Beaded Necklace

See photo in President's corner on Page 1

This pattern should be viewed as a "recipe." Add your own seasonings and make it to suit your taste.

Materials & Equipment

Machine-Standard Brother 940 – tension #6

Optional – Oral B Super Floss or Glide Floss Threaders

Fiber-Cotton 8/4

Added Bauble, Bangles & Beads –

#6 Toho glass beads

I say--Drill a hole in it and it's a bead.

Crochet hook that will fit through your beads

Directions

E wrap cast on 7 stitches.

Knit 14" of Stockinette, ending with the carriage on the right.

*Begin adding #6 beads. The first bead will go on the center stitch - - - x - - -

To add a bead with a crochet hook-

Remove the stitch onto a transfer tool.

Pick up a bead on the crochet hook.

Put the crochet hook through the stitch-remove the transfer tool.

Pull the stitch through the bead-pull hard to get a good loop through the bead.

Insert the transfer tool back through the loop.

Remove the crochet hook and put the stitch back on the needle.

Knit 4 rows – carriage should be on the right.

Add two #6 beads in the following pattern - - x - x - -

Knit 4 rows *

Repeat from * to * until 4 pattern repeats are completed.

**Add first Bauble. This bauble will need to be attached on the "knit" side of your work.

Remove the stitch to the transfer tool.

You will need to extend a stitch in order to accommodate large items.

Pull up on this stitch until it is quite long ½" or so. - - - - B -

Put the crochet hook through the bauble--going from front to back.

Insert crochet hook from behind the work and pick up stitch off transfer tool.

Pull the stitch through the bauble.

Put the stitch back on the transfer tool and rehang on the machine.

On the same row-add a #6 bead - - - x - B -

Knit 2 rows- carriage on the right.

Add two #6 beads in the following pattern - - x - x - -

Repeat adding as many Baubles and beads as you desire**

Knit 4 rows –

Repeat from * to * until 4 pattern repeats have been completed.

- - - x - - -

- - x - x - -

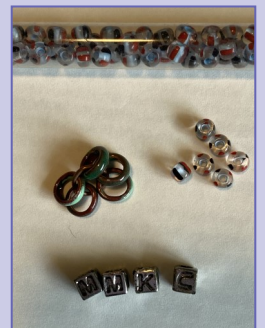
Knit 14" of plain Stockinette.

Draw up ends and finish.

!!Special thanks to Maria Ann and Jane for their Tech support!!

"Beading Fun!"

May's Presentation by Karen was inspiring! I went to my stash the day after and pulled several selections of beads that I wouldn't mind working with. Right now I am pondering what type of project I would like to add them to. After I decide that, I will need to select yarn to complement them. Hopefully, the pondering will not bog me down for too long!"



- Maria Ann