



THE KNIT STITCH

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From our President

by Heather

Greetings fellow knitters!

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your love and dedication to our craft, machine knitting, and to our group, The Midwest Machine Knitters Collaborative. Without your enthusiasm we wouldn't have much to talk about each month. However, during the meeting the excitement over the items members are sharing is being overshadowed by the chatter amongst neighbors. Please be respectful of the person talking, and I ask that you hold your comments and or questions until the most opportune time. If you must share your excitement with your neighbor, please use your indoor voice. Thank you!

I am on a personal hiatus of making afghans. I like making afghans because I don't have to be super critical of gauge, and when making scrap afghans it doesn't matter much if I have enough yarn of any given color, I just grab something else. But since I am participating in a 40 day dry spell I will finally start making sweaters for myself. I have saved several patterns in my queue on Ravelry. I made the swatch for the T-time sweater from the last newsletter. By April's meeting I hope to have two sweaters completed. Wish me luck!

Happy knitting! ~Sweet~

Yarn Bombing:

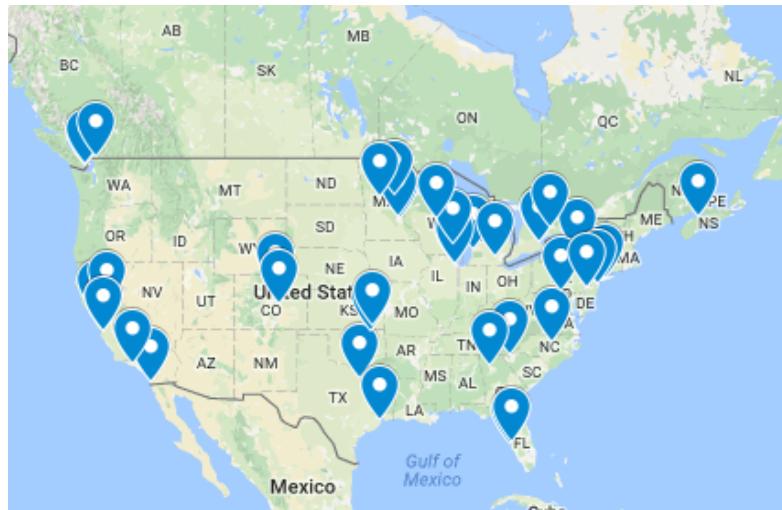
Check out the new light post yarn bombing at the Textile Center:



USA Groups

by Jane

Who says it is hard to find machine knitting groups!



<http://machineknittingetc.com/maps.html>

This is a fun site to scroll over a country and zoom in close when you see many balloons.

You have to zoom in very close to separate the two metropolitan groups, but thanks to Dee we can now be found by anyone on earth.

These are the groups in New Zealand:



Upcoming Events:

April:

11th - MMKC
Silent Auction

20th - UW Stout Fashion
Show 7pm

21st-23rd — Yarn Over

22nd - Textile Center
Garage Sale

22nd - UW Stout Fashion
Show 4pm

23rd - MKG Meeting 10am

28th-29th Purls of Joy

May:

9th - MMKC
Entrelac Gloves

12th-14th Sheppard's
Harvest (MMKC demo
13th)

16th - MKG Meeting

June:

8th-10th Knitting Machine
Camp at Rocking Horse
Farm

13th - MMKC Picnic

20th - MKG Meeting

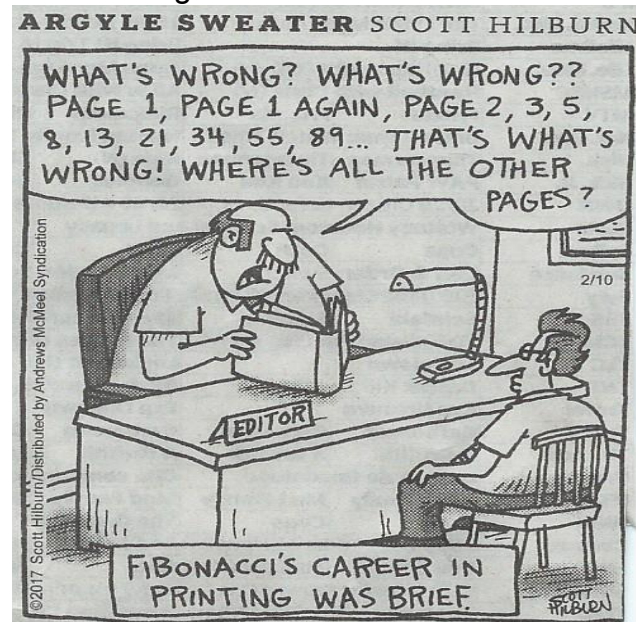
24th-25th Joyful Noise at
Textile Center 8am-5pm

For Your Funny Bone:

by Jane

Fibonacci in the media:

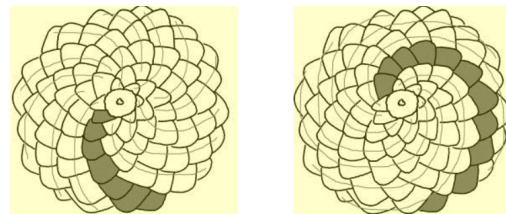
The morning cartoons:



and on

Big Bang Theory spoken by Dr. Sheldon Cooper:

The spirals on pine cones follow the Fibonacci theory!



Count the number of spirals going from the center of the cone where it is attached to the tree (count this) to the outside edge.

Above there are 8 clockwise spirals and 13 counter-clockwise spirals.

And to think the theory is more than knit stripes!

Oleana Exhibit:

If you have not been to the Norway House yet to see the Oleana exhibit...

<http://norwayhouse.org/>



Elections I:

Heather is currently looking for a volunteer for the position of Vice President and Events. The 2017 Board will be elected at the April meeting.

If you are willing, please reach out to her.

UW-Stout Fashion Show

by Maria Ann

Jason alerted us to the opportunity of supporting and attending a fashion show at Stout University in Menomonie, Wisconsin this coming April. This is one of the few college fashion design programs still offered that includes machine knitting. Below is an excerpt from the letter they sent us:

“The University of Wisconsin-Stout Wear Fashion Association (formally known as Silhouette Fashion Show Organization) Spring Fashion Show is approaching quickly! The fashion show is developed, paid for, and run entirely by students in the Apparel Design program. The show represents months of hard work and dedication. All designers are required to create their own original designs, develop their own patterns, and sew all their own garments for the show. Throughout the year, students help raise funds to pay for the show.

We thank you for your consideration of supporting our efforts. The shows will be held at 7pm on April 20th and 4pm on April 22nd with an award ceremony to follow.

We hope you will enjoy the show as much as we enjoy doing it.”

MMKC has 4 reserved seats for the April 22nd show. Maria Ann and Patsy will be attending. Two others can attend so please reach out to Patsy if you are interested.



Magnetic Name Badges:

These are once again available - \$3.00 each.

Pre-paid orders will be taken in April, with delivery in May

Please contact Jane if you are interested



Elections II:

Your Board for 2017:
 PresidentHeather
 Vice President
 Treasurer Jane
 Secretary Gretchen
 Member at Large ... Robin
 Events
 Ex-Officio ...Maria Ann

State Fair

by Jane

The Premium Book is not yet available, but should be online May 1.

REMEMBER online registration ONLY!

Online registration will begin as soon as the Premium Book is available and closes on August 8, at 4:30 p.m.

Delivery of entry dates are:

Saturday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 13 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 14, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

And return of articles:

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1-7 p.m. (No articles returned before 1 p.m.)

Thursday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Textile Center News

THE WALL

Textile Center has removed the coat hooks on the wall outside of the auditorium to be designated a Guild Wall. This is for member organizations to display member works and to put up a description of the organization. Each display will be up for 8 weeks. Many of the details have not been finalized, but MMKC has reserved the wall for sometime in November – exact dates and details to follow. Because this is a hallway items cannot protruded into hallway space. We briefly discussed a theme and have come up with “knit something from an inspiration: along with a photo of what inspired you and a brief explanation” your knit item will be on display. The exciting thing is that this is after the State Fair, so enter your inspired knit and then have it on display at the TC in November.

Book Review:

By Maria Ann

"Hilda Hopkins, Murder She Knit"

By Vivienne Fagan

I was hooked at the first paragraph which referenced "...finely detailed faces of three knitted dolls..."

Set in England, this is the story of an elderly lady who happens to machine knit. And has uncanny luck. And murders her guests.

Though she is quite smug and her logic is questionable much of the time, she is so sincere in her belief that she is right, I found myself thinking she was a hoot and wanting to know her next crazy antic.

The plot takes us on the journey as she is discovered as the murderer but then evades the police. Although the end seems too convenient, it is a fun, light, and quick read.

TUCK

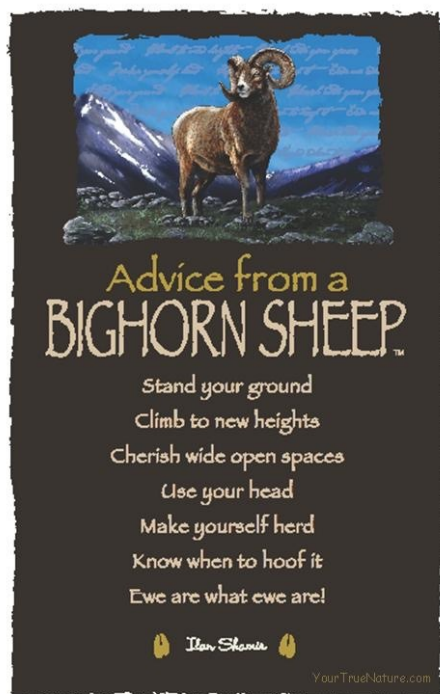
We had lots of fun knitting squares and have piles of them for dressing him. Here are a couple of recent photos:



There will be a backdrop fence that is to be chain link in a wood frame 10' wide x 6' tall. More knitting in store for us! Stay tuned.

A Tale of Six Shawls

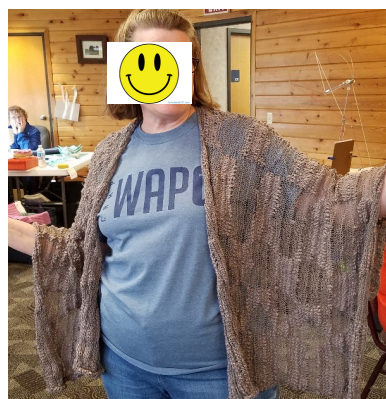
by Dee



I received a last minute invitation to a machine knitting retreat last week. Boy am I glad I accepted! Often I can be bogged down with all the possibilities to the point where I end up unprepared when I go to any kind of knit in. Not so this time. Loaded down with six different color waves of King Cole Opium and Opium Palette (54% Cotton, 42% Acrylic, 4% Polyamide), my trusty bulky (9mm), and toothbrush I ventured into the wilds of Wisconsin... okay, Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp – not too wild.

Opium is a thick and thin slub yarn – the slubs are about 4 inch sections of combed cotton – definitely rewind the yarn before knitting. Tension 4! The only change to the bulky directions was to increase the number of rows on the straight knitting for the two front sections of the shawl – 140 rows instead of 120 rows. Four balls of each color was plenty with some leftover, even with knitting the additional 40 rows. However, two of the colors – Ruby and Wedgewood – I did go into the 5th ball. Good thing I always buy an extra ball or two of any dye lot. Literally, I needed 5 more rows plus bind-off with those two colors. So if you're using Opium, definitely either follow the pattern as written or buy a 5th ball of yarn.

In two days I was able to wind (with a ball winder that didn't like Opium) 26 balls of yarn and knit up all 6 shawls. I still need to secure ends and block them (photos are pre-finishing) but these shawls are cozy and perfect for spring and summer. Can't wait to show these off at the next meeting!!!





Christine B. Linfield Shawl for the Mid and Bulky Gauge Machines You may use this pattern freely, however please give credit to Christine.

(Although a true tension square is not needed, I would suggest knitting a small one just to be sure you are happy with the finished look)

Knitted at T-4 or T-5.

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Cast on over 136 Needles (Mid); 90 Needles (Bulky) in WY

K 1 row with nylon cord

With main yarn, e-wrap cast-on and K 3 rows.

Transfer every 4<sup>th</sup> stitch to adjacent N.

K 180 rows (Mid); 120 rows (Bulky).

Set carriage to Hold. (Set up looks like this: IIIIOIIIIOIII )

# Put the first set of 3 Ns at the opposite end of the bed to the carriage to Hold.

(Carriage is on the left = needles on the right) K 4 rows.

Put the next set of 3 needles in Hold.

K 4 rows. #

Repeat this until all Ns are in Hold.

\*\* Bring back the first set of 3 needles on the LEFT back into Work.

K 4 rows.

Bring back next set of 3 needles into Work.

K 4 rows. \*\*

Repeat until all Ns are back into Work. (First Point Knitted)

K 12 rows (Mid) or 10 rows (Bulky) straight. (Shoulder to nape of neck)

Repeat # to # and \*\* to \*\* (knit second point, center back)

K 12 rows (Mid) or 10 rows (Bulky) straight (Nape of neck to shoulder)

Repeat # to # and \*\* to \*\* (third point knitted)

K 180 rows (Mid); 120 rows (Bulky)

Bring all needles into Work.

I picked up from the heel of adjacent stitch, so all needles have stitches. Knit 3 rows and cast of very loosely. I gave the shawl a good pressing!

Pattern reworked for both Mid and Bulky gauge machines by Ileen Levy with Christine's permission.