



THE KNIT STITCH

Our Board Members for May 2013 through April 2014

- President Dee Kupka
- Vice President Jane Niemi
- Secretary Maria Ann Youngs
- Treasurer Debbie Reese
- Member at Large Joanne Zutz
- Parliamentarian/Historian Patsy Fisk
- Events/Fundraising Maria Ann Youngs
- Web/Info Master Dee Kupka

Here's a couple of housekeeping items of which you should be aware:

- If you have a comment, concern, suggestion, a new charity that you would like to have considered, etc.; please reach out to Joanne Zutz, our Member at Large. She is the liaison between the Board and the General Membership of MMKC.
- Plans are underway for the MMKC University Junior Class. Dates will be announced in the near future.

Minnesota State Fair Challenge – In order to help promote MMKC's participation in any county or state fair - Minnesota or Wisconsin, I'd like to put forth the following challenge:

For every validated item entered in a 2013 county or state fair, a ticket will be earned for a drawing. For each ribbon earned additional tickets will be given. For every 4th Place win an additional ticket will be given; two additional tickets for 3rd Place, three additional tickets for 2nd Place, and four additional tickets for 1st Place.

County & State Fair web information

Anoka County Fair
www.anokacountyfair.com

Carver County Fair
www.carvercountyfair.com

Dakota County Fair
www.dakotacountyfair.org

Hennepin County Fair
www.hennepincountyfair.com

Ramsey County Fair
www.ramseycountyfair.com

Scott County Fair
www.scottcountyfair.com

Washington County Fair
www.washingtoncountyfair.org

Wright County Fair
www.wrightcountyfair.com

Carver County Fair
www.carvercountyfair.com

Polk County Fair
www.polkcountyfair.com

Minnesota State Fair
www.mnstatefair.org

Wisconsin State Fair
<http://www.wistatefair.com>

Happy Knitting!

*Dee Kupka
President*

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Presentations:

The April Make & Take Button presentation was a bit chaotic, though not nearly as much as I worried about. Once again, it was fun to see the variety of talents and ideas that were made. A few basic 'rules': work the polymer clay in your hands to warm it and make it pliable; run it through a pasta machine to flatten and get out any air pockets, cut and decorate – make buttonholes large enough for a needle to go through; bake at 275° for 30 minutes (use an oven thermometer). If using your kitchen oven, tent your work with aluminum foil. Since the



meeting it was suggested to use a corn cob holder to evenly space the buttonholes; this allows you to see the polymer better than using another button for spacing. It was so inspiring that I made more the next day. This was meant as an introduction to something to enhance your knits. Hopefully you all learned a bit and enjoyed yourselves.

In May we talked about pockets and collars. The two most important things to remember are: one's hand needs to fit in the pocket if it is to be useful; and if a collar is to lie flat it should be shaped with short rows from the center back to about 1" in front of the shoulder seam. A couple of pockets were knit on the machine as well to demonstrate two different techniques.

In May we had our first (and perhaps every-other year in the future) Silent Auction. What a great way to share the things for which we want to find new homes.

An interchange of questions and discussion evolved in June regarding competition in any of the county or state fairs. Most County Fairs do not give critique sheets which is unfortunate as they can provide a great learning experience. Remember that much of the judging is subjective, though the workmanship and condition of the piece are in your control. Many agreed that once you enter these competitions can be addictive.

MMKC members have an opportunity to promote machine knitting at two upcoming events:

Saturday, August 31, at the MN State Fair: This takes place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Creative Activities Building. Volunteers will be needed for two hour shifts. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next few meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting please contact Jane with any questions.

Saturday, November 2, Fiber Fest: This event takes place at the Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins. Volunteers are needed and a request for volunteers will be made later in the year.

There will be a knitting machine available for demonstration purposes at both of these events. MMKC brochures and business cards will be available to promote the Collaborative as well as machine knitting in general. Thank you in advance for your willingness to volunteer and help MMKC!

Jane Niemi

Vice President

P.S. On a personal note, I would like to express how rewarding this last year has been. Many of you are new members with an enthusiasm that is contagious; to see you knitting and sharing and wanting to learn is fabulous. It is great to see a realization of the help and teaching that we have tried to share. Thank you all.

- Jane

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING...

Goldstein Museum of Design Visit

Time has been reserved for MMKC members to visit the Goldstein Museum, on August 16th at 1pm. Many machine and hand knit pieces from the last century will be made available for us to look at and enjoy. A minimum of 15 people are required in order for this event to take place. Sign-up sheets will be made available at the July and August meetings.

To reserve your spot, you must pre-pay \$10 (cash or check only) by the August 13th meeting. Members will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Museum and any spending money they need (lunch beforehand?).

The Museum is located at: 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN.

For those interested, the current Gallery display (June 15 – August 25) is Printed Textiles: Pattern Stories. This exhibit showcases printed textiles selected from GMD's collection for their exuberant design impact and their stories.

Maria Ann Youngs
Events & Fundraising

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15
Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
Knitting Machine Camp

Friday, July 11 through Sunday, July 14
Circular Sock Convention
Machine Knitting Society of America
Williamsburg, VA



HAPPENINGS CONT'D

Saturday, July 13

Art at St. Kate's – a juried art show
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
St. Catherine University

Saturday, July 13

Minnesota Button Society Show & Sale
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Textile Center of Minnesota

Thursday, August 22 – Monday, September 2

Minnesota State Fair... GOOD LUCK!

Online registration began May 6

Online registration ends August 6

Drop off times:

Sunday, August 11 11 am – 5 pm

Monday, August 12 10 am – 7 pm

Tuesday, August 13 10 am – 7 pm

Wednesday, August 14 9 am – noon

Saturday, August 31

MMKC Demo Day at the Minnesota State Fair
9 am – 9 pm
Creative Activities Building

Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21

Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
September Seminar

Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12

Cindy's Knitting Room, Princeton
Rochelle Moffitt Green Demonstrator

Saturday, November 2

Alpaca Fiber Fair
Eisenhower Community Center, Hopkins, MN

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Yarnover
Minnesota Knitters Guild

Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, 2014

Purls of Joy Seminar
Princeton, Minnesota

Sunday, September 14, 2014

Purl One Tea Too!
High Tea Fundraiser

MACHINE KNITTING LINKS & THINGS

Simpers blog has published a free vintage knitting machine pattern by Sirdar for toddlers – sizes 2 to 4. Click on each page photo to enlarge for your own use.

<http://elsimperblog.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/free-vintage-machine-knit-pattern.html>

The Machine Knitters Guild of San Diego has a free Clog Slipper on their website that looks like fun: <http://mkgsd.com/free-patterns.html>.

If you haven't seen the Balaclava Pixie Hat in Ravelry, take a look! It's a free downloadable pattern; 3x3 rib (ribber or g-carriage) and is knit in one piece with minimal seaming. This would be a great first ribbing project.

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/balaclava-pixie-hat-machine-knitted>

An automatic wrap machine knit version of the Lizard Ridge Square is available on Needles of Steel: <http://needlesofsteel.blogspot.co.uk/2007/10/lizard-ridge-automatic-wrap-version.html> (afghan on chair)



LaDroca Infinity Scarf (above right) – was created on the Bond but easily converted to bulky and mid-gauge machines:

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/ladroca-infinity-scarf>

For you CSM owners, Sarah Monroe offers 'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend' mid-calf socks on Ravelry. On a personal note, I would have added a bit more length to end the pattern higher above the heel shaping.

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/diamonds-are-a-girls-best-friend-12>



Magic Formula to Determine Project Increases or Decreases

Date: _____ Project: _____
 Machine: _____ Tension: _____
 Yarn: _____ Color: _____
 Stitches per inch: _____ Rows per inch: _____

To determine project increases or decreases: **WS** = widest part in stitches
NS = width of narrow part in stitches
LR = length to shape in rows

WS _____ (-) **NS** _____ = _____ (\div) 2 = **X** _____ times (Note: \div by 2 only if shaping two sides)

LR _____ (\div) **X** _____ = **Y** _____ rows (ignore fractions)

Y _____ (**x**) **X** _____ = **Z** _____ rows

LR _____ (-) **Z** _____ = **T** _____

X _____ (-) **T** _____ = **U** _____

U _____ (**x**) **Y** _____ = _____ rows

T _____ (**x**) **Y+1** _____ = _____ rows _____ Total rows for shaping (**LR**)

Increase or Decrease 1 stitch (on both sides every) (**Y + 1**) _____ rows, (**T**) _____ times = _____ rows

Increase or Decrease 1 stitch (on both sides every) (**Y**) _____ rows, (**U**) _____ times = _____ rows

Notes:



14 MINUTE SLIPPERS OR LINED SLIPPERS

Shared by Sara Coates to promote Machine Knitting
and emphasize the spirit of sharing knowledge.

Machine: Brother Bulky

Tension: 4 for main slipper, 3 for lining

Yarn: Brunswick Windrush/Germantown (any 4-ply worsted weight)

E-wrap cast on Children's Small 27 Medium 29 Large 31

Ladies' Small 33 Medium 35 Large 37

Men's Extra-large 41

Knit 1 row, carriage on left.

Set carriage to hold for short rowing.

Put needle next to carriage in E position (hold), knit 1 row (to right). Repeat *.* until all stitches are in hold except Children's (7, 7, 7) Ladies' (9, 9, 9) Men's (11) stitches remain.

Return needles to work 1 by 1 by pushing needle opposite carriage to work position (D) and knitting 1 row.

Repeat until all needles are back in work. (Toe completed) Knit 1 row.

Short row as before until Children's (5, 5, 5) Ladies' (7, 7, 7) Men's (9) stitches are remaining. Return 1 stitch opposite carriage until all are in work position. (Heel completed)

Change to tension 3. Change colors here for lining if desired.

Knit 1 row. Repeat slipper pattern, except reverse short rowing (heel first, and then toe).

Pick up e-wrap loops and hang on stitch. Knit 1 row. Remove stitches with needle and doubled yarn. Gather snugly and tie tightly. Finish with corded bow, button, or pompom. Pull slippers to shape and wear with pleasure.



SENSATIONS CASUAL BOUCLE CAPLET

By Maria Ann Youngs
(Inspired by Linda Jensen)

Any Bulky/Chunky knitting machine

Tension 9

Gauge not important

Sensations Casual Boucle -1 skein (3.5 oz.) - if you use Sensations Multi Casual Boucle you will need 2 (3.5 oz.) skeins

Using a double E-wrap, cast on 37 stitches

Knit 2 Rows

For each section do the following:

##

* Set carriage to hold. Pull 5 stitches opposite carriage to hold position

Knit 1 Row, manually wrap the 1st needle in hold next to the knitting, Knit 1 Row*

Repeat 6 times between *'s (you will end with 7 needles in work)

Release Hold

Knit 2 Rows over all needles

##

Repeat between ##'s to RC354 (7 sections completed).

Bind off around 1 gate peg, using latch tool method.

Make closure of your choice. I used 1/2" buttons and knit a 2 stitch i-cord for 50 rows at Tension 5. I connected the ends and then tied a knot in the center of the loop as a decorative feature. Steam it to 'kill it' and to get some beautiful drape.

