

The Knit Stitch

The official newsletter of the Midwest Machine Knitters' Collaborative

Let the Spooky Season Begin!

by Laura Heck

Autumn. Fall. Spooky Season. Whatever you like to call it, it is here.

Some may be planning their holiday knits (or maybe started months ago). I'm a little more last minute with my planning.

This is the time of year that I start thinking of ugly Halloween sweaters. Ugly holiday sweaters are about to flood the Target holiday section, but what about ugly halloween?

I'm thinking of blocks of black & white fair isle with some obnoxious greens, oranges, and purple. Maybe a silly little cat with a witch hat. The possibilities are endless, my friends.

Will I have time to plan and execute an entire sweater, or will my Halloween costume become a more pressing project? We will see...

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Machine Knit Community Retreat 2024

by **Mardi Gauer**

I was lucky enough to get a spot at the machine knitting retreat 2024 held by the Machine Knitting Community. What an experience. I'm so glad I went and hope to attend again.

I flew into Manchester, England and had some adventures getting to the town of Hebden Bridge by train where the week took place. Luckily, two young local gentlemen helped me get to my destination, and were great fun to talk to.

Hebden Bridge is a lovely, VERY hilly town north of Manchester. I was lucky to get rid of my luggage and have time to walk around the town and find some lunch. That day was a band competition. Seemed like every small town from all around the area has their own brass band. They all wear uniforms with the town name, did a march down the street and then played in the town center. Band members were young and old. I've never experienced anything like it.

The event this year took place in a hostel on a hill, a short, but steep walk from town. There were 14 participants; three from England, one from Scotland, two from Canada and the rest from the US. Nic Corrigan, the organizer, had both Brother and Singer machines for use, depending on your preference. Her plan was for us to set up our

machines on Monday morning, but everyone was too excited, and they were all set up Sunday night.

On Monday, our project for the week was revealed. It was a twin set, colorwork cardigan and vest. The yarn is Z Hinchcliffe & Sons 100% lambswool 2/17 nm knitted with 2 strands. Picking out the colors and doing swatches came next. I guess I'm fast. I had mine picked in about an hour, while others worked on it for more than a day.

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MARDI GAUER WITH HER FINISHED
CARDIGAN

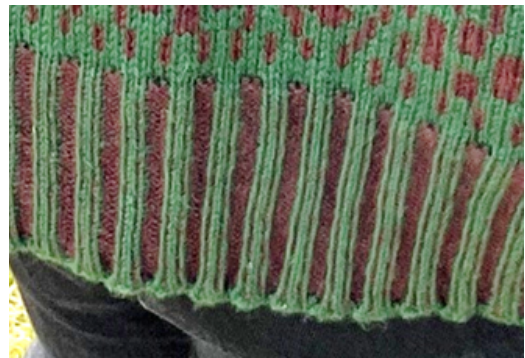
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One of the options was to plait the ribbing. Since I'd never done plaiting before and liked the look, I decided to incorporate it into my sweater. What a learning curve. If you've never done it before it's a space plait that fits on the ribber. The two different yarns must go thru small little holes A and B. Also, after you cast on you need to remember to change your Pitch nob from H to P. Needless to say some parts were knit more than once, but I was happy with the look. I also learned to do motif color work but decided I was having too much trouble and changed directions to a striped sleeve. It is something I want to explore further.

I decided to only knit the sweater as I wouldn't wear the vest. I was able to get all the pieces knit that week and take home to block and sew together.

Two teachers came during the week to give demonstrations and help. First was Victoria Salmon. She showed us some really amazing things you could do with plaiting. Decorative ribbing, cabling, lace. Another deep dive to get into. Bill King came and showed us many, many swatches, how to do multiple colors in one row and garter bar use. He was very interesting to get to know.

On Friday, was an optional field trip to Fairfield Yarns which is a yarn store with mill ends. Everything is on cones and deeply discounted. I bought a cone each of mohair and lambswool yarn to knit together for a sweater. Both cones cost me about \$12. I kept my buying contained because I was trying to just keep to my carry-on on the way home. Some others were not so restrained. We also stopped at a lovely little store called Beyond Measure. They had great books and knit-related tools and accessories.



Friday night was a celebration dinner at a local restaurant. It was sad to go home after such a great week. But I feel like I met some great new friends, and I learned a ton. What a great experience I hope to repeat.

Exhibition: Karin Larsson: Let the Hand be Seen

From now through October 27, you can view the work of Karin Larsson at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. According to the ASI website, “Karin Bergöö Larsson (1859–1928) was a groundbreaking artist whose approach to textiles and design ushered in a new era of interior design and established the iconic Swedish style that continues to inspire contemporary artists worldwide.”

Exhibit information can be found on the [ASI website](#).



Calendar of Events

Now through October 19

[A Common Thread](#) Member Exhibition at the Textile Center

October 3 - 5

Machine Knitting Camp at Rocking Horse Farm

October 4 - 5

Wool and Fiber Festival: Monroe County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, IN

October 8 @ 7 PM CST

Member Meeting: Double Jacquard with Lisa Holz

October 19 @ 9am, 1pm & 4pm CST

Knit-in

October 19, 9am to 5pm

Minnesota Fiber Festival

MinnesotaFiberFestival.com

November 12 @ 7pm CST

Member Meeting: Book Review

November 16 @ 9am, 1pm & 4pm CST

Knit-in

December 10 @ 7pm CST

Member Meeting: Bingo!

December 14, 2pm to 4pm

MMKC Demo @ Carnival of Color at the Textile Center

December 21 @ 9am, 1pm & 4pm CST

Knit-in

50 Years of Machine Knitting at the State Fair

This year marks the 50th year of Machine Knitting Competition at the Minnesota State Fair. Volunteers from our guild participated in a demonstration of our craft on August 26th.

To recognize this special milestone, Laura Heck knit a 3ft tall rosette in the style of our state fair ribbons, complete with gold duplicate stitch lettering.

Four special gold rosettes were awarded by the MMKC to outstanding machine knit entries. The categories included Outerwear: coat or jacket, adult, any technique, Toy, any technique, Socks, any technique, knit on circular sock machine (CSM) and/or flatbed machine and an overall award.

53 entries were submitted to the machine knit competition. Thank you to all who participated this year!



ABOVE: KELLY NEZWORSKI
RIGHT (FROM TOP TO BOTTOM): MACHINE KNIT ROSETTE,
ROSEMARY BURNS VELEZ, REBECCA YAKER

Views from the Minnesota State Fair



TOP ROW: MACHINE KNITTING ENTRIES AT THE CREATIVE ACTIVITIES BUILDING; CARDIGAN BY KELLY NEZWORSKI
 BOTTOM ROW: CHILD SIZE SWEATER BY CINDY ERICKSON; JACKET BY KELLY NEZWORSKI; HAT BY REBECCA ANSPACH AND SWEATER BY JANE NIEMI.