



# the Troll's Knit News

The Troll's Cove  
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**We keep working with you until you succeed!**

Summer is a slower paced, more relaxed time of the year. That is not to say that we can't enjoy our knitting now also. Everywhere you look people are knitting. While knitting has been around for centuries, this latest resurgence is less about the need to make and mend clothing and more about having an outlet for self-expression. That need doesn't change, no matter what the season. The items we chose to work on are just different now than at other times of the year.

My classes this time are all about smaller, easier, lighter projects that are portable. I'm also going to offer a "**Stash Buster**" class in which you can bring any project you have in your stash that has never been completed and I'll help you work on it. Think about the unfinished projects that you have. Why are they unfinished—don't you like the item, not like the yarn, too difficult a pattern. We'll deal with them all. We might even consider having a **Swap Party**—It can be lots of fun to finish someone else's project as long as you are comfortable with what is happening.

I've also thought for a long time about how to show my appreciation to all my fine customers. I've come up with a couple of ideas that I hope you will enjoy:

*First, every time you buy from me in a month I will ask that you put your name in my basket. At the end of the month we will draw a name from that basket for a prize. (Could be knitting needles, could be pattern, a book.) It will be something different each month. I'll keep you informed of our winners in my newsletters.*

*Secondly, we are going to have a "Birthday Club". If you will let me know the month of your birthday I will have a special gift for you that month.*

Many of you are continuing to bring your completed projects in to the shop and allowing me to display them for awhile. I'm hoping more of you will be willing to do that. Others of our knitting community can enjoy your accomplishment with you and it also gives other knitters ideas for things they might like to try. Although knitting is thought of as a solitary craft, knitting and sharing with other knitters is much nicer. Part of the reason I started the Thursday Night Group is to increase the feeling of "community" among all of us.

I continue to enjoy spending time with many of you this summer. I encourage more of you to come, sit, knit, talk, relax. You are more than welcome to enjoy our lovely setting.



**Now that I am only sending the newsletters out via email it is important that you include me on your list of contacts when you change your email address. I get a number back each time I send a message out due to email addresses that are no longer current.**

Sandy

## Tips:

- If you have trouble keeping track of your increases, slip an open marker into each increase as completed. Then simply count the markers.
- Seams should be "pressed" as soon as they are sewn. Wet the seam on the inside of the garment using a spray bottle and gently finger press to reduce bulk. This also helps to "set" the seaming yarn and prevents ends from working their way out.
- When taking out stitches use a needle that is smaller than the one used to knit.

**Accept your mistakes—be gentle with yourself!!**

*Thursday Knit Night:  
Knitting with company*

Every Thursday evening—  
rain or shine, snow, you  
name it—this is our time  
together.

Come when you can.  
7-9 PM



## This and That:

With summer knitting in mind, I have added the following to our already great selection of yarns, patterns and books:

- **Knitters Companion**, an expanded and updated edition. The most valuable tool in your knitting bag.
- **Swedish Knits**, you don't have to travel to Sweden for perfect Swedish knits. This book explains and illustrates how to create an infinite number of garments by fusing a variety of patterns with your own creativity. It includes a 1950's shawl that many of you may remember your grandmother wearing.
- **Lucy Neatby DVD's**, Knitting Venue 1 and 2; and Finesse Your Knitting. These DVD's allow you to learn from one of the masters of knitting technique in the privacy of your own home. Packed full of great information.
- **Long Garter Stitch Kimono** pattern that features Plymouth Encore yarn. Squared off pieces and garter stitch make this jacket an easy project.
- **Done by Monday**, A collection of 15 afghan designs for knitters of any skill level featuring Encore worsted yarn.
- **Hiya Hiya sock kits**, Includes a "one project bag", 1-size 1, 24" circular needle, 2-size 2 24" circular needles, 1-size 3 24" circular needle, and a needle gauge.
- A new color of **Brae Tweed**— red.
- Four new colors of **Ty-Dy** sock yarn.
- Eight colors of a new sock yarn called **Crock-O-Dye**, a kettle-dyed wool, nylon, and silk yarn. Wait until you see these colors. You'll want a skein of each color. We'll use a skein to make our "Spindrift" scarf from Lucy Neatby.
- **Geology** has new colors along with a couple of individual new patterns that feature the yarn.
- **Hiya Hiya interchangeable sets** are back in stock. I have begun to receive a limited number of the large sets also so please be patient if you have pre-ordered. I should be able to have your set for you soon.
- **Soft Spun** is re-stocked in all colors.
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## Something Special:

Sometimes it's a toss up. You've got some free time and you want to curl up on the couch, but do you want to knit or do you want to read? For those days when reading wins out, but just barely, here's a list of books I've read with knitting characters.

- **Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte**. In this 19th century classic Nelly Dean knits while recounting the tortured history of Wuthering Heights and the poisonous love shared by Catherine and Heathcliff.
- **A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens**. Madame Defarge, who recorded the crimes of the aristocrats in her knitting at the dawn of the French Revolution, may well be the most famous knitter in history.
- **Great Expectations by Charles Dickens**. Estella knits continuously even as Pip, an idealistic orphan, declares his enduring love for her.
- **Little Women by Louisa May Alcott**. Knitting is part of everyday life in the classic about four spirited sisters growing up in New England during the Civil War.
- **Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll**. Alice meets a sheep knitting in a shop.
- **The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling**. Mrs. Weasley, a witch; Hagrid, a warm-hearted giant; and Dobby, an elf, are all knitters.
- **Mister Sandman by Barbara Gowdy**. One of three daughters in the eccentric Canary family uses her lightning-fast fingers to package bobby pins and knit hats and scarves for handsome profit.

We could also spend some time watching movies that relate to knitting.

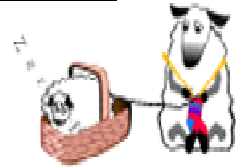
- **Chicago**
- **Antonia's Line**
- **Bridges of Madison County**
- **Murder Ahoy**
- **The Wizard of Oz**



I know I could go on but you get the idea. The next time you are looking for something non-knitting to do why not give one of these a try.

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**\*\*\* All of these classes are “small” projects. Easily portable; able to be finished within a short period of time. I’ve spent a great deal of time trying to plan classes that would make good summer knitting but not infringe on your enjoyment of our short summer season. Happy Knitting!**



## Classes: We’ll Keep You In Stitches.”

It is very helpful to me if you pre-register for the class that you want. That way I can plan for material and so on. Tel: 715-256-9930 or [sandra@thetrollscope.com](mailto:sandra@thetrollscope.com).

### **Title: Ribbed Shrug**

**Session:** Saturday, July 10 & 24th

1-3 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the two sessions.

**Description:** This easy shrug is made in a rib pattern; when completed the ribs are worn vertically down the back, and across the body at the front, giving an elegant line. My sample is done in Tweedie Chunky but almost any yarn will work.

### **Title: Curly Whirly Scarf**

**Session:** Saturday, July 10 & 17

3-5 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the 2 sessions

**Description:** A fun way to knit a scarf-with curls. You will practice doing your “wrap and turns” but will not need to worry about “picking them up”. The sample is done in “Aya” by Noro. This style of scarf was very popular last winter and I look for it to be so again this year.

### **Title: Waistcoat**

**Session:** Sunday, July 18 & 31st

1-3 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00

**Description:** A nice, one button vest with plenty of interesting details. You may want to it in a Noro yarn or any worsted weight will work. A nice addition to your wardrobe for fall wear.

### **Title: Stash Buster**

**Session:** Sunday, July 11, 25, and August 8th

1-3 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the 3 sessions

**Description:** Yarn sitting around that you maybe don’t remember what project you were going to use it for; half finished project that for whatever reason you never finished; bring them to this class. I’ll help you get back on track, or maybe even find a Surrogate Knitter whom might like to exchange projects with you.

### **Title: Scrunch Hat**

1-3 pm

**Session:** Saturday, August 7

**Cost:** \$15.00

**Description:** This is a quick and easy project for almost any yarn that gives a gauge of 4-8 sts per inch. The hat fits a wide range of head sizes and can be customized in many ways or knit as a headband by omitting the crown of the hat.

### **Title: Finishing Class**

**Session:** Saturday, July 24, 31 and August 7th

3-5 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the 3 sessions

**Description:** There are a number of techniques that help to make our garments look “finished”. During each session we will practice and talk about different areas of the sweater process and how to improve on what we do from casting on to binding off and everything else in-between.

## Summer Class Schedule Continued:

### Title: Top Knot Hat

Session: Sunday, August 1 and 15th

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 2 sessions

Description: Learn Intarsia knitting (knitting with bobbins) and make your favorite young person a hat they will enjoy wearing.

### Title: Spindrift Scarf/shawl

Session: Saturday, August 14 & 21st

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 2 sessions

Description: By incorporating lots of air-filled holes this scarf grows quickly. Using one of the new hand-dyed sock yarns works really well with this scarf. No finishing required. The scarf can be worked across its width or length.

### Title: Beaumont Hat (2 color)

Session: Saturday, August 14 and 21st

3-5 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the two sessions

Description: A 2 color Scandinavian style beanie from Jared Flood's "Made in Brooklyn" booklet. This is a special opportunity to knit an interesting swirling design using the Fair Isle Simplified method.

### Title: Friday Afternoon Sock Group

Session: Each Friday afternoon all summer long~~~~~

1-3 pm

Cost: No Cost.

Description: We'll get together and knit on socks. Try a new design, finish something from your stash. It's a time to get together and just talk "sock". **Last one will be August 20th. School will be starting for me again soon.**

### Title: Friends Class

Session: You Choose

Cost:

Description: Get a group of friends together; decide what you would like to learn; and give me a call. We'll set the class.

### Title: Rocktorp Sweater

Session: Saturday, July 17th

1-3 pm

Cost: This is our final session and we'll learn how to sew our pieces together and apply the borders.

Description: A Cornelia Tuttle Hamilton Tweed pattern that is produced by doing slip stitches. Knit with 2 yarns, one solid and one variegated. An easy one-button sweater for a cool spring/summer day.

### Something Extra:

### Knit Rx

1. Get up and move every 20-30 minutes. Sitting for a long time is really hard on your body.
2. Make sure to knit under adequate lighting.
3. Vary your projects. Knitting socks on a size 1 is fine, as long as you follow with a chunky chaser. Changing out fibers and needle sizes is easier on your hands.
4. Drink more water.
5. Wash a couple of coffee cups in warm soapy water to help prepare your hands for comfortable knitting.

Sandy

