



the Troll's *Knit News*

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The Troll's Cove
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Hours: Thurs-Sat 10-5
Sun 12-4
Open year round

The House in the Woods that caters to you!

The start of another year. Where did the time go? If you are like me, I did lots of knitting but there is lots more I want to do. Time! Knitters know how it looks to others, this constant parade of new projects. We know it makes us look as though we lack loyalty, faithfulness, follow-through-or even commitment. It makes us look as though we have no sense of continuance in a relationship, and most of us even feel guilty about it. Many of us, when considering a new project, feel at least a pang of regret for work abandoned. Some of us (even though there are no knitting police and we could start twenty thousand projects a day if we wanted to) try to “do better” or work on being a monogamous, “one project at a time” knitter. . . . As though there are some sort of moral victory in resisting the urge to do more of what we love. Startitis is not a rejection of the things we are knitting now, although I do understand how a perfectly good half-finished cardigan could take it this way if you toss it in the corner like a dirty wash-rag just so you can start a sexy new pullover. Instead of a rejection, startitis is actually an embracing. By exposing ourselves to as many projects as we can, we’re actually strengthening our bond and our relationship with knitting, WHICH AFTER ALL IS WHAT MATTERS.

It turns out that knitting is a luxury and buying yarn or having time to knit or simply sitting in our homes with that warm, soft yarn in our hands is a sign that we are extraordinarily rich and fortunate. Knowing this means that I’m going to try to remember the very best things knitting has taught me so far. Sitting here screwing up this sweater means something. It means I lead a very good life. I am fortunate. I AM A KNITTER.

Today starts the beginning of our 8th Annual Winter Along. A time we come together as a community with a united purpose-enjoy and learn from our project and from our neighbors. That is as I have said above a luxury we give ourselves. Enjoy it to its fullest.

Occasionally Gerry and I will not be in the shop. When we are not there are now two very competent “assistants” who will be here for you. This will enable us to not have to close the shop during our infrequent absences. This should be good for you also.

I’m including my little smiley face

Again to remind you to let me know when you change email addresses. I use email exclusively now to get the newsletter to you.

Sandy



Tips: Sure Fire Ways to improve your knitting.

- Remember all stockinette stitch curls.
- Scissors have a sharp point? Cover the point with one of your knitting point protectors.
- You can soften a “scratchy” yarn by hand-washing it in a small amount of cool water and a couple drops of white hair conditioner.
- Yarn end too short to weave in with a tapestry needle-use a crochet hook.
- There are many parallels between knitting and parenting: you have to work for a long time before you know how it turns out.

Saturday Knit Morning:

Knitting with company

Every Saturday morning- rain or shine, snow, you name it- this is our time together.

Come when you can. Bring a lunch if you'd like.

10am-12pm



I have not been ordering many books lately as I believe most of you are more interested in individual patterns, but this time I have added a few that I thought might be helpful in aiding you in finding your project for the Knit Along. They are, of course, good additions to your knitting library, also.

- ◆ **“Seamless” (or nearly Seamless) Knits by Andra Bowman.** Anyone who loves to knit-but doesn’t love the finishing-can now enjoy all the fun parts and escape the tedium. Discover stylish projects cleverly designed for knitting either all in one piece or in sections added on by simply picking up stitches.
- ◆ **“Knit Swirl” Uniquely Flattering, One Piece, One Seam Swirl Jackets by Sandra McIver.** 18 designs that flatter all figures each bases on an innovative one piece, one seam, circular construction.
- ◆ **“Knit Noro: Accessories: 30 Colorful Little Knits by the editors of Vogue Magazine.** Lots of nice, easy to follow patterns. Projects are very portable and most require just a few skeins.
- ◆ **Celia’s Blankie Booklet by Cottage Creations.** Carol Anderson has decided that this will be her last pattern. This “blankie” holds any number of design possibilities for innovations and I believe it will be a “fun knit”. (Cottage Creations is the work of Carol Anderson. Many of us have made her “Wallaby” and “Babes and Bears” Sweaters.

New Yarn:

- ◆ **Coffee Beenz** is my newest addition to the shop. I liked it because it is soft, has lots of yardage, a good price, machine washable, worsted weight, a main color is accented with a variegated strand that produces a very appealing yarn. A product of the Plymouth Company. I have 8 colors and will add more as I see how you react to it.
- ◆ **Maxima** the hand-dyed, hand-spun merino yarn from *Manos del Uruguay*. I have added 6 new colors. Those of you who have knit with it tell me you “love” the yarn. I have one of the samples for our classes in a red Maxima.
- ◆ **Brae Tweed** continues to be one of your favorite yarns. I have re-stocked on all colors and added one new one.
- ◆ **Ty-Dy Socks Skinny Stripes** is a variation of our popular Ty-Dy Sock yarn but with skinny stripes that work up with narrow sections of color. Really soft yarn, feels almost like alpaca.



January Cowl

Materials: 1 skein Chunky Alpaca; size 10 or 10.5 or 11 needle

You could also use worsted or double your double knit yarn.

Cast on 25 sts.

*k1,p1 repeat til last st. k1

Repeat this last row unit you have used up almost all of your yarn

Bind off

Twist one end of your rectangle from top to bottom, one time.

Sew the cast on edge and bound off edge together flat.

Enjoy!!

I carried a silver thread along with my yarn to give it a very elegant little sparkle. I have both silver and gold thread available should you care to try it.

**** I enjoy being able to share items you have knit/crochet with others who come into the shop. By no means do all my samples have to be something I have done. If you are willing to share the item that you have made with others in our “community” I would LOVE to display it. Just bring it in and let me know what yarn you used, your pattern, and basically how long I may keep it on display. You all do such nice things I love to show them off for you. (Some of you have done this already.)**



CLASSES, WE WILL KEEP YOU IN STITCHES:

It is very helpful to me if you pre-register for the class you want.

Tel: 715-256-9930 or Sandra@thetrollscope.com

All Classes \$15.00

Description of Classes on Next Page

January:

Sunday, January 9th	Fair Isle Scarf	1-3 pm
Sunday, January 22,	Fair Isle Scarf	1-3 pm
Saturday, January 28,	Begin Knitting	1-3 pm
Saturday, January 28,	Sonnet Vest	3-5 pm
Sunday, January 29,	Meridian Socks	1-3 pm

February:

Saturday, February 4,	Begin Knitting	1-3 pm
Sunday, February 5,	Baby Pullover	1-3 pm
Saturday, February 11,	Begin Knitting	1-3 pm
Saturday, February 11,	Sonnet Vest	3-5 pm
Sunday, February 12,	Meridian Socks	1-3 pm
Saturday, February 18,	Begin Socks	1-3 pm
Sunday, February 19,	Baby Pullover	1-3 pm
Saturday, February 25,	Begin Socks	1-3 pm
Sunday, February 26,	Knit Along Help	1-3 pm

March:

Saturday, March 10,	Begin Socks	1-3 pm
Sunday, March 11,	Celias Blanket	1-3 pm
Saturday, March 17,	Wallaby	1-3 pm
Sunday, March 18,	Celias Blanket	1-3 pm
Saturday, March 24,	Wallaby	1-3 pm
Sunday, March 25,	Party	2-4 pm
Saturday, March 31,	Wallaby	1-3 pm

Classes Description:



Fair Isle Scarf: Head to the skating rink or make a snow angel in this traditional winter-motif scarf. Knitting in a tube makes the colorwork quick and easy.

Begin Knitting : You'll learn to cast on, the knit stitch, and binding off. We'll make a scarf to practice your new skills. If there is time we'll learn the purl stitch and how to decrease. I'll give you a hat pattern to accompany your hat so you'll be all set for our Wisconsin Winter months.

Sonnet: A side to side vest or cardigan. You can use any weight of yarn to make this and it will fit all sorts of individuals. Fit is boxy with a simple squared neck but shaped shoulder. Knit all in one piece.

Meridian Socks: These socks are knit by inverting the norm and placing gusset decreases on the top of the foot. This brings bands from the sides of the socks to the instep where they merge into a cable. Would be a great project for our Knit Along.

Baby Pullover: Knit in one piece up the back, over the shoulders and down the front. A quick, cozy knitting with a few fine details such as short row shoulder shaping and a button placket add function and interest.

Begin Socks: I teach you to do socks on two circulars. I show you how to do socks on double points in case you want to know how to do that also. First class we will show you how to cast on and get comfortable just working on our needles. Second class is the heel and gusset. Third is the toe, how to convert any pattern to using two circulars and grafting the toe stitches.

Celia's Blanket: This blanket is knit all in one piece using mitered squares. You can really use any weight of yarn. There is also the option to add a ruffle. This will be Cottage Creations last printed pattern. Those of you who have enjoyed Carol's patterns will want to do this one.

Wallaby: I decided to offer this class again as it is a great Spring sweater to be able to put on when our Spring weather gets cool and it is also Cottage Creations most popular pattern of all time. Individuals of all ages love this sweater. Make it in *Encore*, our new *Coffee Beenz* yarn or *Pacific* and your student can throw it in the wash machine.



The Fair Isle Scarf picture is not accurate as to the actual pattern I want to use but I was unable to find one closer. Pattern using is on page 11 of *60 More Quick Knits by Cascade*.