

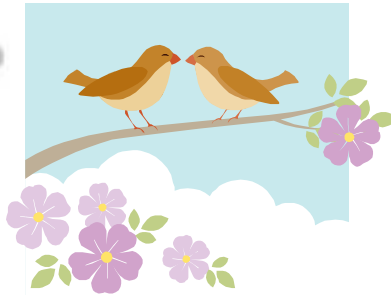


the Troll's Knit News

The Troll's Cove
E801 Lauritzen Lane
Waupaca, Wis. 54981
Tel: 715-256-9930
www.thetrollscove.com
Hours: Thurs-Sat 10-5
Sun 12-4
Open year round

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The House in the Woods that caters to you!



Spring: A fresh look in knits!

The Winter Knit Along was another great success. People made cabled vests, socks,

purses, sweaters, knee highs, and shawls. Not everyone was completely finished with their project but that is not that important.. Most important they learned that the only truly difficult task is one you haven't tried. My vendors were generous as usual with bags of yarn, shawl pins, one project bags, books, DVD's, and kits. I try to make this as non-threatening as possible by the fact that you are only truly competing against yourself. No one judges your item. We draw for prizes as everyone shares a brief description of what they have done. I am very pleased with the number of you who not only participate but look forward to this each year. But having said that I am always looking to increase our participation also. In order to discover if there are some ways you think we might improve how we do this I am including 3 short questions that I am asking you to respond to. Anyone who does and who brings a copy of their response to the shop; I will have a stitch marker for you :

1. What would you change with the Winter Knit Along if you had the chance?
2. Is the time too long/ too short? Should there be more help along the way?
3. What do you think would encourage more to participate?

With our gorgeous spring weather many of you are already into summer knitting projects. It's the season to take a break from knitting fussy garments with complicated techniques. Instead, I'm highlighting simple beautiful designs with interesting details. I try to find something to interest each of you. Do stop in and look, at the "ideas" that I have on display and ones that I can show you we will be doing.

Sandy

(We have a new puppy. Her name is Ellie. Be sure to meet her when you come to the shop. I know she likes yarn, but I'm not sure that I can turn her into a "knitter."

***Please don't forget to send me your email address.**



Also, when you change your address.

This really helps me keep my prices down.

Tips: We all prefer to have what is known as a "center-pull" skein, but sometimes the strand coming out of the center of the ball is not evident-to find the center more easily, go in from either end of the ball. Insert your fingers into the top and the bottom of the skein at once. When your fingers meet you know you are in the center. Now twirl a finger around and feel for the inner spiral. Grab the yarn closest to the inside and pull it out. You should be able to pull out a pinch of yarn without a lot of excess.

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



Books:

With Spring/Summer knitting project ideas in mind, I have added the following books.

- **Cat Bordi** has a new sock book out: *Personal Footprints for Insouciant Sock Knitters*” In this book she describes the process she **developed** for making socks as simple as humanly possible without sacrificing design or fit.
- **Ann Budd** has compiled *Simple Style*. Using just a few key simple techniques, you can create a visually interesting knitted project quickly and easily. This book is packed with clever design ideas.
- **Kristi Porter’s** *Knitting in the Sun* gives you more than 30 projects exclusively to knit and wear in warm weather. Whether you are a new knitter or a seasoned veteran, you’ll find fresh patterns and compelling designs to create lightweight pieces.
- **Charlene Church and Beth Parrott** invite knitters to knit using patterns from sock clubs everywhere. With *Sock Club* you will find 23 projects of all skill levels to tickle your toes.
- **Cookie A** *Sock Innovation* has patterns that will push the boundaries of your sock technique. This book will take you through the process of imagining and creating patterns for one-of-a-kind socks. For the person who wants to try something different with their sock knitting.
- **Kathy Zimmerman’s** *Knit Cables* DVD is now available also. An hour long class on everything cables. Techniques, various designs, and how to chapters make this a very good addition to your library.

New Yarn:

I have added a couple of new yarns and added to the color selection of some others for our spring/summer knitting enjoyment.

Llama Cotton Grande from Plymouth, I love knitting with chunky yarn but cotton and chunky don’t normally go together. The cotton tends to be too heavy and since cotton doesn’t normally have a lot of “give”, knitting with big needles is hard on your hands. Along comes this yarn— a blend of cotton and llama—a knitters dream! It feels like cotton and knits like llama. I have *Mona’s Jacket (Knits Spring 2010)* knit with it. Stop and see/feel this great yarn. You’ll want some.

Aya from Noro is a mixture of cotton and silk with a touch of wool. It has softness and a subtle sheen and of course self-striping. Beautifully crafted in Japan. (As with all Noro yarns, this one had limited colors available so I am taking what I can get and adding as they become available as I know you will want to add this to your Noro knitting yarns.)

Pima Tencel is a shop favorite. A worsted weight cotton/tencel combination. Some of you have taken my advice and used it for your Wallaby knitting for children and been really pleased with the results. I have added to our color selection.

Silk Garden, Taiyo and Kureyon from Noro all have new colors added, as well as **Baby Bamboo, Cascade 220 superwash and Soft Spun**. **If you don’t see what you want, I’m always willing to order.**

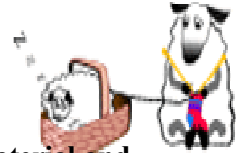
OffHand Design Knitting Bags are now available in the shop. Many of you had noticed them advertised in national knitting magazines and asked if I wouldn’t consider carrying them. Offhand Designs creates limited-edition purses, knitting bags and clutches in a luxurious array of textiles. Her designs are functional and made to last, with that timeless appeal. My original order went fairly fast but I still have a Suzannah and 3 of the Daisy design. I would be happy to order any combination of patterns you want. I have the Daisy and can’t believe all I can carry.



Great Deal* **RIMINI RAINBOW** one of the discounted yarns that I alerted you to last newsletter still has some colors left. It’s a great buy at 25% off of it’s original low price of 4.99 a skein. It knits to a bulky gauge. An easy shawl, lap robe, top.

**** 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’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. If you can’t make a session, I am flexible and will be happy to help you another time as long as it is within 2 months of the class you attended.

Title: Begin to Knit

Session: Sunday, April 11 & 25

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 2 sessions.

Description: Want to learn to knit? Join this class. You will learn to cast on, the knit and purl stitch, and how to bind off. We’ll make a bath mitt.

Title: Spring Lace Afghan

Session: Sunday, April 18 and May 2

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 2 sessions

Description: Light as a feather and soft as a spring breeze. This throw practically guarantees sweet dreams. I am suggesting we knit it in Brushed Baby Alpaca.

Title: Wavy Stripe Scarf

Session: Saturday, April 24

3-5 pm

Cost: \$15.00

Description: This lovely scarf is a nice first project for those learning lace technique. We’ll use 1 skein of a variegated sock yarn. The variegated yarn really picks up and shows the waves created by your lace pattern.

Title: Beyond Begin Knitting

Session: Saturday, April 24, May 1 & 8

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 3 sessions

Description: We’ll make a split neck t-shirt. This cute top pattern is written for worsted weight yarn. Great for all seasons, for work or play. Nice way to take the next step beyond scarves and hats.

Title: Friends Knit Class

Session: You choose the date (s). Call the shop to set up your own private knitting group.

Cost: \$15.00

Description: Do you have a group of friends who would like to take a knitting class on a specific topic, but just can’t find a class to fit your schedule? Get a group of friends together (2 or more) and call me.

Title: Mona’s Jacket

Session: Saturday, May 1

3-5 pm

Cost: \$15.00

Description: This class will get you started on Mona’s top down jacket. We’ll discuss a couple of design issues that I have discovered and get you on your way to making this easy summer weight jacket. Easy enough to be sized down for a younger member of the family.

Title: Bella’s Cardigan

Session: Saturday, May 8, 22 & 29

3-5 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 3 sessions

Description: Knit a top-down, 3/4 length sleeve, cardigan that is stockinette stitch at the top and the “feather and fan” pattern completes the bottom half of the sweater.

Title: Cottage Creation Class: Kyler's Kardigan or Babes and Bears.**Session:** Saturday, May 22, 29, June 5 & 12

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 4 sessions**Description:** Either one will be a sure fire winner to add to your wardrobe. You chose the design and we'll knit them together and learn as we move along.**Title: Baby Bootikins****Session:** Sunday, May 23 & June 6

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the two sessions**Description:** These boot socks for baby are knit flat and then sewn up the bottom and back. Knitting short rows creates the instep. Your favorite little person will love them over their socks or on bare feet.**Title: Friday Afternoon Sock Group****Session:** Each Friday afternoon all summer long. Starting June 11th.

1-3 pm

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".**Title: Learn to Knit Socks****Session:** Sunday, June 13, 20 & 27

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00 for the 3 sessions**Description:** Learn to knit socks on two circulars just in time for summer knitting. Session one is the start; two is the heel; and the third is the toe.**Title: Rocktorp Sweater****Session:** Saturday, June 19 & 26

1-3 pm

Cost: \$15.00**Description:** A Cornelia Tuttle Hamilton pattern. 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.**Title: Kids Camp****Session:** Thursday and Friday, June 10, 11, 17 & 18

10.30-12:00

Cost: \$15.00 for the 4 sessions.**Description:** This camp is aimed at the young person who would like to learn to knit. They'll learn all the basics in a kid friendly, hands-on setting. Get them started on a lifetime of knitting enjoyment.**Important Dates:*****April 17th:** I'll be at our daughters wedding shower starting at 1. Gerry will have the shop open.***Our Daughters Wedding:** **Friday-Sunday May 14-16** **Closed*** **Summer Break starts for me. June 10th I'll be in the shop Thursday through Sunday.****Pot Holder made with Fantasy Naturale (cotton) You could also use Cotonade.**

1 skein of Fantasy Naturale

Size: 10 needles.

With double strand and size 10 needles, cast on 41 or 61 sts.

Rows 1 and 2: knit.

Row 3: Knit 19, work double decrease, knit 19. (double decrease: slip the next 2 sts knit wise, knit the next stitch, pass the two slipped sts over the knit stitch)

Row 4: Knit

Repeat rows 3 and 4, decreasing the number of stitches before the double decrease by 1 until you get down to 5 sts. Work one more double decrease (3 sts). Do not turn work.

Next row transfer sts to double point needles (size 10) and start making I-cord: Bring working yarn across back of sts and knit the 3 sts. Slide your sts to the opposite end of the ends and repeat until you have 3" of I-cord. Next the next st and then knit the next 2 tog. Pass the first sts over the 2nd. Tie off and attach your cord in a loop onto the body of your pot-holder.