

Through the Shop Window

...the “little shop around the corner” on Mill Street



“From the unique to the antique!”

5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063

February 2015

The Challenge Project

To tell the truth, I have not knitted a project that has challenged my skills in a long time. Instead, I've been doing the same old things. Needless to say, my mind was turning to Jell-O. So, I've decided to do something a bit harder. I know it sounds good in theory, but the practical application is another story.

I have chosen to do an 8 cable scarf based on a change-ringing method (that's a long story in itself) using “place notation” instead of the 3 page written pattern. This reduces the 178 row repeat to a simple line of numbers and letters. It is a mathematical marvel of the possible permutations of the series of the numbers 1-8. (Ask me and I'll explain it)

So far, this is what I have learned:

- 1) It is OK to knit, rip, re-knit-throw it out and start again. After all, the yarn can only take so much before it becomes unusable.*
- 2) It is better to check your cables when they cross instead of when you are 12 rows past that point.*
- 3) Purl stitches love to jump off the cable needle-they think it is fun-and love to hear the “SOB” that issues from your mouth after you discover their mischief.*
- 4) If you don't put in a lifeline be prepared to pay the price.*
- 5) Dropping down groups of stitches to correct mistakes is an invaluable skill to have. I've practiced it a lot on this project.*

I am working on the piece and think I now have the hang of it. I only have 226 rows to go (and, this project requires cables on the front and back). I might even have it done this winter-if I can stop making mistakes.

I guess many of you think that Penny and I never have a problem when we knit. That is not true. In fact, we have made so many mistakes that we have become really good at fixing them- practice makes perfect. So go head-start that hard project-and don't forget to breathe!

Classes

Understanding Cables Tuesdays March 3 – 24 7PM-9PM Cables can be fun to knit, once you understand the basics. This class will cover how cables are constructed, when and how to move stitches, and how to make sense of a basic cable chart. Students should know how to knit and purl, and will need a skein of worsted weight yarn, size 5 straight needles, and a size 5 double point or cable needle. The class fee is \$80 and the class is limited to 6 students.

And Baby Makes Three Wednesdays, March 4 – 25 7PM – 9PM What, another baby blanket? Not after this class. We'll look at several easy projects that are an alternative to making a baby blanket for the new parents. Whether you knit or crochet, you have options. Create unique baby gifts from booties to toys, easy sweaters, and much more. The class fee is \$60, and is limited to 4 students. Sample projects can be seen in the shop. Material costs are based on the project selected.

Fiber Show Update

We have received an email that indicates there will be not be a Mid-West Folk and Fiber Festival in 2015. However, McHenry County Fair will have a **Spring Fiber Fling on May 16-17**. The new show will be open at 9 AM both days. This should be a great show, and will include fiber animals, classes, and of course-vendors! And, we plan to be one of them!

As usual, we will also be attending **the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in Jefferson this September**. So, mark your calendars and plan to support these fiber events. For more information on the 2015 Spring Fiber Fling, contact the McHenry County Fair Association. See you there!

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Winter Retreat a success. A good time was had by all, and thanks to those of you who have joined the committee to work on the 2016 Winter Retreat. I look forward to enjoying next year's as an attendee!