



THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WASATCH WOOLPACK HANDSPINNERS

April 2020

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Friends!

It feels like so long since we've all been together! I hope you are all staying safe, healthy, and well supplied with fiber! Ok, maybe fiber is a little less important to you than toilet paper at the moment. That isn't the case in my house, though. I didn't stockpile toilet paper, but I've been buying a lot of fleeces and fiber lately!

(Like, 50 lbs or so. I'm not even kidding.) With all of the fiber fairs being cancelled—including Great Basin, tragically—I've been trying to support all of those vendors a little extra. I also panicked a little when yarn shops started closing. Knit-Picks even stopped shipping! I had to make sure I had plenty of fiber for this Stay Home order. Priorities!

In order to stay sane, or try to at least, during this strange time we've all had to learn to go digital for our meetings and get-togethers. And we all know the benefits of crafting through diffi-

cult times. To that end, The Needlepoint Joint is doing a virtual knit night on Zoom on Weds. (See their website for details.) Heinselmann's did a Facebook live event to teach a knitting skill to go along with a pandemic-inspired project, though I'm not sure if this is something they plan to do regularly. If you know of more of these kinds of events, please let us know! Let's share the virtual crafting love!

Similarly, I will be holding a virtual spin night weekly (just as soon as I figure out the best platform to host that, because there are so many to choose from!) as well as a virtual April meeting! For our April meeting, at our regularly scheduled date and time, I will be doing a Facebook live* from the Wasatch Woolpack PAGE (NOT the group). You will be able to view and comment in real time. (I'm roping my hubby into being my videographer and comment relay, so you'll hear him behind the

camera.) Because of the somewhat one-sided nature of FB Live, however, our typical meeting structure is going to have to change a little. We won't have a show and tell this time, and obviously the gift bag can't be exchanged. I will give the first few minutes to announcements where I will repeat anything typed out. Then we will jump right into the demonstration on supported spinning. So, be sure to log in at 7pm, April 21st for our virtual guild meeting on the WWH Page! (*Note: I know not everyone is on FB, and I'm sorry that I'm not more prepared to host this on another platform right now. I'm juggling distance learning for 3 of my 4 kids suddenly, and let me tell you, this has not been an easy adjustment. I am working towards figuring out a different solution, but I need more time. I will announce the platform for the weekly spin-in and any future meetings on the FB Live and in a follow up email.)

Once I have an idea of what platform works best for our purposes — loom, zoom, discord, twitch, or other (feel free to email me your suggestions! Bonus points if they are free for at least an hour and intuitive, because I'm the opposite of techy!) — I will send out an email with the details for you to join in as you are able. The weekly spin-in will be just a spin-in, no demos, and will probably be held on Tues nights for consistency. If we have to hold a virtual meeting for May, it will be on that platform—whatever that turns out to be. May is still very much up in the air right now, but I'm trying to plan ahead.

Fiber of the Month news—I've really struggled with what to do here, because I want you all to get what you paid for (obviously) and that's supposed to be one new fiber per month, and I want you to have plenty of fibery things to keep you sane. But distributing that fiber goes against the Stay Home protocols. I have considered everything from driving to every single participant's house (which would be great to get me out of the house and is very time consuming—not necessarily a bad thing) and just leaving it on your door step; or having you all meet somewhere in your cars with a window down for me to toss it in. While I really would like to do either of those things (I miss guild so much!) I don't feel like I can ethically. So, here is what I've come up with: whenever it is safe to meet again, you will get however many months you were supposed to all at once. You will still have to show me your Horned Dorset all spun up (because that's how I keep track of who is still participating), but if it's already made it's way into a larger project, that's ok too. Show me that! I



don't have a great way of keeping track of who has shown me their spun fiber right now, so please just wait until we meet again. Show me your spun fiber, and I will give you your new fibers—you will get at least three for March, April, and May; Cotswold, Black Welsh Mountain, and whatever May's fiber turns out to be.

To prevent over-purchasing fibers when people drop out, I've been ordering based on the number of fibers picked up the previous month. This means that if you are not already an active member of the Fiber of the Month club, I don't have fiber for you to be able to join right now. Assuming we will still be on Stay Home orders through the end of May, I am suspending the buy-in for the rest of the guild year (through Aug.) However, I will buy a little bit extra that would-be participants may purchase at a discount. I will hold the sale of these fibers in Aug. and the total will be no more than \$10 no matter how many different fibers you purchase. I also have a few balls of various fibers from throughout the year that I will sell at that time, too.

Lastly, it's that time of year when we

begin asking for volunteers and nominations for guild officers for next year. According to our by-laws, the Vice President this year—Cyndi—will assume the role of President. But we need officers to fill the other positions. (If you are currently serving and would like to continue in that position, please let me know.) We need officers for Vice President, Treasurer, library, and anything else I may have forgotten. I will be continuing on in a new, unofficial position of Fiber of the Month coordinator so the FotM club can continue. Also, Aubrey will remain the equipment manager and Jill will stay on as Newsletter Editor. The guild runs on the dedicated service of volunteers, so please consider volunteering and helping make the coming guild year great!

Whew, that was a lot of news! I hope to see you all (well, your comments at least) on our FB Live meeting and I will let you know what platform we will do our weekly virtual spin-in—so stay tuned.

Stay Safe, Stay Home, and keep spinning.

Lisa



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wasatchwoolpack.org



Like us on Facebook

Wasatch Woolpack Handspinners

Would you like to contribute an article to the newsletter? Do you have pictures we can use?

Please email us at wasatchwoolpack@gmail.com

2020 Guild Meeting Schedule

TBA!

A photograph of a black sheep with two lambs (one black, one white) in a farm setting. A red wheelbarrow is visible to the left. The background shows a wire fence and trees.

Wool Trek 2020

Due to the ongoing health crisis impacting us all, we will not hold our annual May gathering at Notlwonk Springs.

Later this year we will invite you to the farm to celebrate life, loved ones and the creativity of the human spirit. Stay tuned for details.

In the meantime, if we can help you with any fiber needs, feel free to contact us.

notlwonk.springs@gmail.com

Stay Safe! Stay Happy! Stay Healthy!

