



# THE WOOLPACK WATCH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WASATCH WOOLPACK HANDSPINNERS

January 2021

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2020-2021

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## President's Message

It's a new year! Time to focus on new projects and what we want to accomplish for the year. My goal it's to spend more time spinning this year. For the meeting this month Carolyn Chen will be teaching us how to make shawl cuff, a way to hold a shawl. We will also discuss options for last years due exchange. I'm also asking for your help. I'm trying to find ideas for meeting on zoom. Is there something you would like that would be good to learn on zoom? Send me your ideas. Also we will be continuing our Tuesday spinning on zoom. Stop in and say hi. (See below for information from Carolyn)

See you all next week!

Cyndi

**Link for January 19 meeting:**

**Meeting ID: 994 985 7383**

**Passcode: WWHSpin**

Carolyn Chen's January 19, 2021 Presentation: Knit a shawl cuff ! I've admired shawl cuffs as a way to keep a triangle shawl on the shoulders. They are usually made of leather. Looking at some of my knitted wristers, I thought, "Why not knit one?"

The program will show some ideas for cuff shapes, with a class for a simple cuff to demonstrate skills such as i-cord cast-on, i-cord edging, half linen stitch, buttonholes and sewing on buttons.

A cuff is a great way to practice knitting techniques, bust the stash, use up little bits of beloved handspun or to create a usable swatch. Carolyn's class sample used less than 15 yards, on U.S. size 6 needles.



**Pattern will be sent in a separate email!!**



# Finished Objects from our members!

Sara Moses has been very busy the past few months:

- Koolaid experiment
- Hats and mittens
- Zoom loom squares



**December Fiber of the Month was Manx Loaghtan. Here's some references provided by Luli Josephsen:**

\* "The Field Guide to Fleece: 100 Sheep Breeds and How to Use Their Fibers" by Deborah Robson and Carol Ekarius, 2013, p 133-4.

\* "Handspun Treasures from Rare Wools: Collected Works from the Save the Sheep Project" edited by Deborah Robson 2000. Multiple references and project examples - Manx Loghtan (p 61) was one of the rare breeds included in this earlier breed study sponsored by Spin•Off magazine.

\* Of course, the breed is described in the Oklahoma State University online compendium of rare breeds. It cites "British Sheep and Wool"; but no new pics. <http://afs.okstate.edu/breeds/sheep/manxloaghtan/index.html/#content>

Sarah McBride has just rebranded and expanded her Etsy shop, starting Tuesday January 12

McBride Dyeworks is now The Fibery Godmother! And I now offer yarn, as well as an expanded variety of fiber bases.

Check it out! [thefiberygodmother.com](http://thefiberygodmother.com)



# Fiber of the Month

I used my Spinolution Fire Fly to spin this month's fiber. It turned out to be a shorter fiber and the yarn is a bit fuzzy. It is always fun to try something different. I am ready to try weaving with it. —Patricia Walton



Slightly coarse but made a nice stretchy two ply. —Rene Hurst



I liked the Manx Loaghtan so much, i ordered another several oz -- i liked the color, and i like the way it spins... and feels... looking forward to weaving (and/or crocheting maybe even) with it... Teri Wojcik



This fiber screamed 'make me thick' and it'd been a while since I tried that so it came out lumpy and uneven >.> but it was soft and fluffy and it turned out reasonably well. I'd try it again spun finer for more uniformity and maybe make it a three ply. —Rebekah Sappington



This was a fun spin. I just love the color of this fiber! -Michele Richins



Fun to spin, and fluffy! I like how lofty this wool feels! Since it has lots of crimp, it practically spins itself! This is my first experience with this breed, but so far I like it! The color is gorgeous too! Happy spinning! —Nyssa Farnsworth



This roving expanded a lot when it easily pre-drafted, staying open and loose. (seven-year-old granddaughter Rylee, watching me, asked how I was stretching it) Spinning a finer yarn was not difficult, but less 'grab' of the fibers to each other meant more tendency of the drafting area to drift apart. I was planning a two ply, instead I will ply with Tus-sah Silk (just as soon as I remember where it was 'stored'. —Diane Cheney



I enjoyed spinning this wool. I did a semi woolen spin and it is fluffy and full of air. —Kim Sorensen



This has been my favorite so far. I may even buy some later on. —Amy Tucker



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Tuesday**  
January 19 @  
7:00 p.m.

On Zoom!!  
ID: 994 985 7383

Password: WWHSpin

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# More Fiber of the Month

This is my first time spinning this breed and I enjoyed it. The fiber was easy to spin, especially on a spindle, and made a great worsted weight yarn. I would spin it again. —Jill Tew



I don't know why, but I was expecting a long wool on this one. I'd heard of it before, but that's about it. So it was surprising how... Spongy? (Not the right word, but kids make it so I can't think) and short the fibers were. —Sara McBride



Christine Briscoe



Starting the new year with spinning a totally unfamiliar sheep breed Manx Loaghtan. From the breed descriptions I read, this 29-31 micron sample represents the typical soft russet brown color. (The name means "mouse" brown" but this is "teddy bear" brown to me, for nostalgic reasons.)

The springy medium crimp in the sample seemed to be urging this into a more woolen spun yarn, but this was deceiving. Apparently best and traditional use for this is as a worsted yarn, typically for outer wear and hosiery.

In the photo, the left sample was my first try as a two ply. I much prefer the right hand sample which is a thinner and more delicate 3 ply. This was my first time using the guild Hansen e-spinner for spinning singles, rather than for expediency in plying. It was a bit of a tussle balancing twist, thinness, and finicky take-up with this wheel. Has anyone else done much lace weight spinning on these larger size bobbins and the larger orifice? Apparently there is an orifice-reducing insert for some of the Hansen spinners ... maybe we need to add this accessory for 2021 experiments.

This is definitely a fiber worth seeking out ... Luli Josephsen