



Madison Knitters' Guild Knitters' Knews

Volume 28 Issue 9

May 2008



Join Us for the Last Meeting of the Year!

Annual Salad & Dessert Potluck, Yarn/Book Sale & Fashion Show

Monday, May 12, 2008, 6:30 p.m. Monona Community Center

Potluck: Members with last names starting with M through Z are asked to bring a salad or dessert to pass. Also bring any utensils needed to serve your dish. Remember to label your dish for easier identification at the end of the evening. Add copies of the recipe also! We'll begin to eat

at 6:30 PM, so have your food in place by then. Coffee and ice water will be provided in addition to plates, cups, napkins, and silverware.

Yarn/Book Sale: Bring anything needle-related that you want to sell. While ID tags will be available at the meeting, you can also tag your own items. Please include the Item Description, Price, Your Name, and any other notes you feel necessary. You may want to bring some money to make change if you're bringing a lot of items. Remember to take home what doesn't sell.

continued on page 3...

From Our President—Mary Jo Harris



HELLO KNITTERS!

Hopefully by the time you read this, Spring will REALLY be here! As I write this, it's raining buckets, and the grass is still only thinking about turning green. For me, however, just thinking about the activities and information below helps me realize what

I have to look forward to, no matter what Mother Nature is doing. Enjoy!

MAY MEETING – We have LOTS going on at our May 12 meeting. There's something for everyone, so show off your knitting!

EDGEWOOD/GUATEMALA CHARITY KNITTING – As I mentioned at the last meeting, a group of Edgewood nurses and nursing students will be going to Guatemala in May and have asked if we would like to make and donate caps for newborns. They are willing to take caps made out of any soft yarn. Keep in mind that the heads of Guatemalan newborns are smaller than the heads of full term babies born in the U.S. Guatemala has one of the worst infant mortality rates in Central America and having these hats will help prevent hypothermia. Please bring your donations for this effort to the next meeting and mark them to go to Guatemala. Thank you in advance.

STITCH AND PITCH CORRECTION – Some of the information in last month's newsletter regarding the Stitch and Pitch promotion was incorrect. The July 9, 2008, date was correct, but the contact information was not. Here is the corrected information: please contact Chris Kimbal at 414.902.4520. The first 1,000 Needle Artists who RSVP with full payment and attend Stitch N' Pitch Night at Miller Park will receive a special Brewers-Stitch N' Pitch cap.

WEB SITE – We are looking for a few people to form a Web Site Advisory Committee. Interested parties should have a good working

knowledge of how a website is designed and maintained. Members will discuss possible website design changes and make their recommendations to the Board. While this is expected to be an ongoing committee, we anticipate that the committee would only need to meet a couple times a year. The first committee meeting will be this June. Please contact Gail Snowden directly or through the website to volunteer or if more information is needed.

STITCHES 2008 – Plans are being made to take a bus to Stitches Midwest on August 23, 2008. An application form is found on page nine of this newsletter.

WORLD WIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY – Started in 2005, World Wide Knit in Public Day (WWKiP Day) is always the second Saturday of June, which would make this year's date June 14, 2008. While the Guild is not officially sponsoring a site, we would like to encourage you to grab a friend or two and KiP!

STATE FAIR UPDATE – This year's Wisconsin State Fair will be held July 31- August 10, at State Fair Park near Milwaukee. The information on this year's State Fair knitting entries will not be available until mid-May. It can be found at the following website link: <http://www.wsfp.state.wi.us/home/wsfp/2008_FAIR/TCC.htm>. Let us know if you decide to enter something!

THANK YOU – Since my term as President is ending, this will be my last letter to you. I would feel remiss if I didn't thank everyone for their help, guidance, and friendship. I especially appreciate all the work that Board members, Committee chairs, and Committee members put in to make the Guild what it is today. Of course, none of their work would mean anything without the support of all the members, so keep up the good work! I thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you!

Mary Jo Harris, President

Meeting Minutes—April 14, 2008

VENDORS: Needles 'n Pins; The Yarn House

ATTENDANCE: 200

President Mary Jo Harris opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by introducing the vendors for the night's meeting.

MAY POTLUCK MEETING: Mary Jo reminded everyone that next month's meeting is a potluck. Those members with names beginning with M through Z should bring a salad or dessert. Coffee and water will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A new knitting group is starting in Mazomanie at the Iron Horse Gallery from 1-3 on Sunday.

Mary Jo received a request from a person in McFarland wanting to learn to knit. If interested in teaching this person, talk to Mary Jo for details.

Mary Jo announced new members and guests.

ELECTIONS: Elections for open Board positions will be at the next meeting. The nominees were introduced to the Guild members. They are: Kathy Digman, Joan Deneen, and Kate Findley. See page three for more details on our nominees.

CHARITY CHALLENGE: Gail Snowden announced that 589 items have been donated as of the March meeting. She showed a sample of the donations. The May meeting will be Knitter's Choice. There will be a special drawing at next month's meeting for those bringing an item to donate.

Gail explained that a large amount of yarn had been donated by a man whose wife died before she could use up her yarn. The yarn was free if using it for charity knitting and \$1.00 per skein if using it for personal use. The money collected will be donated to Hospice in the woman's name.

There were stuffed animals available, donated by Ursula Hartwig, to be dressed and brought back for donating to hospitals or other children's charities.

CHARITY REQUEST: Mary Jo announced that a group from Edgewood College requested baby hats for a project they will be undertaking in Guatemala. Bring hats next month and give them to Mary Jo.

STITCHES MARKET BUS TRIP: The date is August 23. This event still needs a leader. Mary Jo asked for volunteers.

SPEAKER: The meeting's speaker was Susanna

Hansson. The topic was Bohus Stickning 1939-1969. This technique was started in Goteborg, Sweden, by a group of six women with art backgrounds. The name Bohus was taken from the county that Gotenburg is in. It was not built on a pre-existing tradition but was a new innovation started to earn money for the women and families in this area. Susanna described the beginning of the tradition and gave brief biographical histories of the founding designers. Information on this industry survives because they kept very good business records—like a corporation. They maintained incredible quality control throughout the process. Samples of the various original designs were shown. Current status of available designs and yarn was described as well as sources where these could be purchased. (Note: Please see page five for a clarification on Susanna's presentation.)

There will be a Bohus Exhibit January 23-March 29, 2009, at The American-Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN.

A short question and answer session followed.

A break for shopping and viewing the samples of Bohus knitting followed the presentation.

SHOW AND TELL participants at this meeting were:

Judy Pruski

Beth Di Loreto

Pat Scullion

Elin Haessly


Yvonne Respalje

Gail Snowden


Respectively submitted by Jane Newman

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MKG Board Nominees— Joan Deneen, Kathy Digman, & Kate Findley



I learned to knit as a child but didn't start knitting continuously until my son was born. I don't sit well, and I knew I'd have to play trucks, read stories, and do other boy things that I'm also not very good at. Knitting benefited both of us. We were both happy spending time together doing something we each enjoyed. As I grew older, knitting became my therapy, a way to meet new friends, travel, and as some of you know, a way to have more close friendships.

I look forward to meeting more of you!

—Joan Deneen



There wasn't a time that I didn't knit. At first, I was knitting a sweater because I needed a particular color to go with an outfit or to make the latest design. As time went on, I became more curious about other techniques, pattern stitches, the history, and designing my own sweaters. In 1982, I joined The Knitting Guild of America, and I have been a member of the Madison Knitters Guild since 1993.

I don't have a favorite type of knitting as it all brings me joy and pleasure in the process. My knitting and I are still a work in process.

—Kathy Digman



I've been knitting since 2002 when I moved to the knitting capital – Madison. I used to do a lot of cross stitch, but somehow all of my materials have been lost underneath the yarn stash. Imagine that.

Through the Guild, I meet other knitters, get ideas for projects from what others are knitting, am awed by what people bring to "Show and Tell," and am tempted by the vendors each month.

What qualifications do I have to be a board member? I've got needles and yarn, and I know how to use 'em. But most importantly, I'd like to see the MKG continue to be a fun, creative, and worthwhile organization.

—Kate Findley

Voting Protocol:

Ballots and pencils will be at each table. Please vote only once and then deposit in basket at check-in table.

Potluck/Book Sale *continued from page 1...*



Style Show: Everyone is encouraged to bring knitted items to model or otherwise exhibit. Information forms will be at the check-in table when you arrive. Please complete them and give them to Mary Jo prior to the start of the style show. Information needed includes the following: name, item, fiber content and brand, and pattern. Please let us know any other interesting details you have about the piece.

Brown Bag Exchange: This year's theme is "Creative Carryalls." Please remember to have your completed carryall at the meeting for the unveiling. This should be a lot of fun! The people participating in this activity are listed below:




Elisa Budde
Nancy Elmer
Kristi Gersbach
Barbara Grubman
Carol Huber
Erika Jarden
Tina Kaspar
Stephanie Kissel
Muriel La Rose
Lynda Lagodney

Elaine Landry
Gennifer Lawrence
Nancy McCulley
Judy Pruski
Rexie Reeves
Angie Simon
Bev Stange
Mary Kay Vogel
Rebecca Wasieleski
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Knitting Safari 2008

Thirty-five knitters left Madison on Saturday, April 19, 2008, to make our way for an exciting day in Chicago.

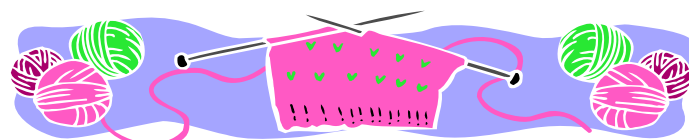
We began our Safari at Lorna's Laces located in an old warehouse on North Honore Street. Beth Casey and her husband, Michael Franzese, along with their dog, Pearl, gave us a warm welcome. Beth explained that she had purchased the business in 2002 from Lorna. She has eight full-time employees who help her operate the business five days a week. She demonstrated the dyeing process and explained the business, which is so successful that she doesn't need a sales representative. Lorna's Laces is strictly a wholesaler, but a knitter can order as little as one skein from retail knit shops, and the order will be placed. In doing her business, Beth is very conscience of the environment, and she genuinely cares about her employees. Beth and Michael were so charming and made this an unforgettable tour.

Our next stop was Ann Sather's restaurant. The food was outstanding and oh, those cinnamon rolls! We all ate too much and rolled ourselves back to the bus for a short ride to Arcadia Knitting on West Lawrence Avenue. Arcadia is a quaint shop that had all of their yarns displayed by color. The owners, sisters Sharon and Kathy, were so helpful, and we all added to our stashes.

The Fold in Marengo, Illinois, was our final stop. It is located in a beautiful countryside of sheep and horses. Toni, the owner, has an unbelievable shop attached to her home, which includes spinning supplies, any book you would ever want or need, and a large array of neatly displayed yarns. This would be a nice day trip from Madison.

A million thanks to Jane Newman and Karen Scammell for the scrumptious homemade cookies and to Kate Findley for making this a memorable and fun-filled Safari!

-submitted by Jane Walker



Beth Casey of Lorna's Laces



Knitters listening attentively...

I like making a piece of string into something I can wear.

~Author Unknown

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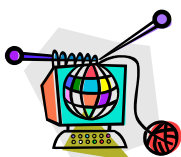
Hours:
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10-4
Wed: 10-6 Sat: 10-3



NOTE from Susanna Hansson

What Susanna Hansson did not tell you at our April meeting is that she volunteers to translate the patterns for Bohus into English - free of charge - and hopes that if you appreciate the availability of the English translation and want to make a special *BOHUS* donation to Doctors Without Borders, e-mail Stephanie Pearl-McPhee (a.k.a. Yarn Harlot) at kwb@yarnharlot.ca and let her know how much you donated. She will then add your donation to the running total for her *Knitters Without Borders* project, begun in December 2004 in response to the tsunami disaster. You can read more about Stephanie's fundraising efforts by checking out this page on her blog: <http://www.yarnharlot.ca/blog/tsffaq.html>.

Web Site Advisory Committee



Our Guild Board is looking for volunteers to get together as a Web Site Advisory Committee. Member Gail Snowden is willing to lead the group. Our guild's web site has come a long way this year, but there is always room for improvement.

We are seeking members with some computer skills especially in web site design and maintenance. We'd be happy to have you on this committee! Please contact Gail Snowden at 233-8861 or gsnowden@wisc.edu. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report for May

Balance as of April 1, 2008:

Checking: \$16,421.52
Savings: \$3,054.81
Total: \$19,476.33



Incoming:

Membership, Knit-in Registrations and Advertising and Knitting Safari: \$2,996.25

Total Incoming: \$2,996.25

Outgoing:

Newsletter Printing and Postage: \$309.88

Knit-In Expenses (includes Lily

Chin Speaker Fee for March Meeting): \$3,035.18

Knitting Safari: \$1,095.00

Misc. Supplies and Fees: \$20.33

(Note: Knit-In Expenses have not been paid in total as of April 1, 2008)

Total Outgoing: \$4,460.39

-submitted by Kathy Trudell



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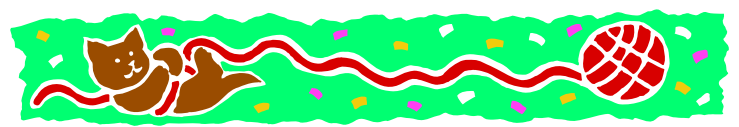



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Library Acquisition Committee

Each year the MKG Library receives a budget from the Guild Board for new acquisitions. I'm sure you know how quickly the cost of books, magazines, and DVDs can add up, so the decisions as to which materials to add to the MKG Library are very important. We are looking for several people to be part of the Library Acquisition Committee for 2008. You will be provided with a copy of the current library inventory, and we would ask you to suggest new items that would be of interest and value to our members. We have also received a number of suggestions throughout the year that will be taken into consideration. There will be only one meeting to attend, probably toward the end of May. At that time, all suggestions will be reviewed and final decisions will be made. We then try to purchase materials from those vendors who have supported the Guild by advertising in the newsletter. If you would be interested in joining this committee, please contact Karen Scammell at 608-832-0505 or <kgscam@earthlink.net>.



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2007-2008 MKG-Charity Knitting Challenge—Knitter's Choice

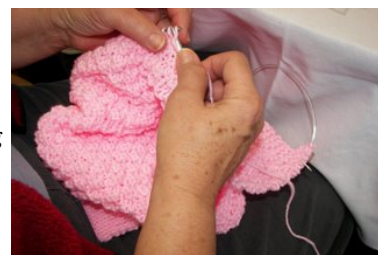


The May Charity Knitting Challenge is Knitter's Choice. Hats, booties, blankets, sweaters, mittens, scarves—you can make one or all!! Make whatever you want for charity. Although this is free-choice knitting, remember these limitations:

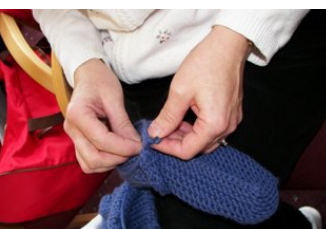
1. Use washable yarn and tie a care label to the item.
2. If making chemo hats, be sure to use soft, non-irritating yarn. People undergoing chemo have unusually sensitive scalps.
3. Small, cuddle blankets are needed for hospitalized children.
4. We will store winter items until next fall. This doesn't mean you shouldn't make winter items, but distribution in spring is difficult. We will save them safely for the next cold season. (Yes, spring is coming!!) It will be good to have a stockpile of winter hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets in anticipation of next fall's needs.



You are awesome! The Madison Knitters' Guild has been incredibly responsive to the Charity Knitting Challenge this year. So many people have participated each month, making numerous items for each collection. Thank you to each and every knitter and crocheter. You have made Dane County warmer with your time, your yarn, and your love.



At the May 2008 meeting, we will have a special door prize drawing for everyone who brings a donation. Gail Snowden will sew (not knit) a knitting bag as one of the prizes. We will have more prizes, some big and some little—all great! Just maybe every single person attending will be eligible for a prize because they brought an item to donate!



As of the March collection, the total number of donations is 589!! Just think, that number exceeded our goal by nearly 20%, and we still have two more collections (April and May) to count. You can find photos and the official tally online at <http://mkgckc.blogspot.com>.

Thank you also to those who bring food, grocery store gift cards, personal items, and other gifts to the donation area. All is needed and appreciated.

Finally, thank you to Pat Bernhardt who has distributed all of our donations, making sure they go to good homes, that is, to people who need them and for whom they make a difference. Pat, all of our knitting would be in vain without you and your distribution network.

-Gail Snowden



CHARITY

"You will find, as you look back on your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."

- Henry Drummond



Second Annual Stitch N' Pitch Event at Miller Park

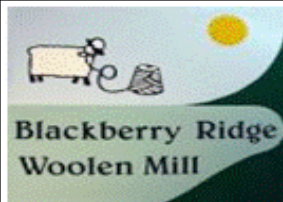
**Milwaukee Brewers vs. Colorado Rockies
Wednesday, July 9 @ 7:05 p.m.**

Join the Milwaukee Brewers for **Stitch N' Pitch Night** at Miller Park as they take on the Colorado Rockies at 7:05 p.m. Purchase a Loge Outfield box seat for just \$22 (a \$4 savings)! The first 1,000 needle artists who RSVP with full payment to attend **Stitch N' Pitch Night** at Miller Park will receive a free special edition Brewers **Stitch N' Pitch** cap. You'll also have the option to participate in a special needle arts project for a good cause. Plus, you can socialize with fellow needle artists, visit TNNA instruction tables and have a great time! For details, or to purchase tickets, please contact Chris Kimball at phone 414-902-4520 or email <chris.kimball@brewers.com>. Flyers will also be available at our May meeting.



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Afghan Raffle to Support Central Asian Institute

Val Parish was our MKG newsletter editor from 1995 until 2000 when she moved to the Columbia River Gorge. She organized a group of knitters to make the Great American Afghan (pictured at left) for a raffle to directly support Greg Mortenson's (author of *Three Cups of Tea*) efforts to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Raffle tickets are \$5 each. You can make your check payable to Central Asian Institute and mail it to Val at 705 W. Jewett Blvd., White Salmon, WA 98672. Tickets are available until July 4.

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MADISON KNITTERS' GUILD

STITCHES MARKET BUS TRIP

Come join us for a fun-filled, wallet-lightening, stash-building day of shopping at the Stitches Market. Non-guild members are welcome!

- DATE:** **Saturday, August 23, 2008**
- TIME:** **8:00 AM**—Leave from the Park and Ride on Old Dutch Mill Road [Take the belt-line east to the Stoughton Road (US 51) exit and turn left (north). Turn right at the first light which is Dutch Mill Road. The Park and Ride is right next to the Arby's.] The trip will take about 2 hours, arriving in Schaumburg at 10:00 a.m. (approximately).
- 4:00 PM**—Leave Schaumburg. Plan to be back in Madison around **6:30 p.m.**
- COST:** **\$35.00**—Includes bus trip and ticket into the Market. Participants are responsible for their own food and beverages.

Return registration form and fee (checks made payable to Madison Knitters' Guild) by **July 1, 2008** mail to:

Nancy McCulley
 5221 Old Middleton Road
 Madison, WI 53705
 608-238-3958
 <thecraftingmom@yahoo.com>

If you do not have email, please enclose a SASE for confirmation and itinerary details.

STITCHES MARKET BUS
 AUGUST 23, 2008

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The only place where housework comes before needlework is in the dictionary.

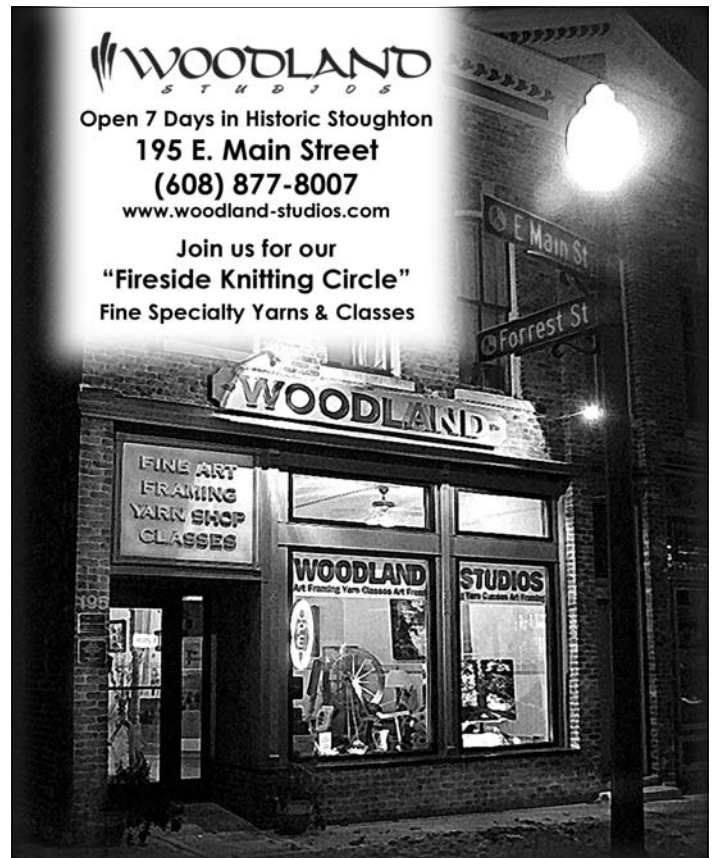
~Mary Kurtz



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Getting to Know Our Members— Janet Fishbain



Janet with husband, Jerome

My name is Janet Fishbain, and I'm not as smart as I thought I was! I began knitting as a sophomore in college some 40 years ago. I sang in the Hope College choir. During spring break, the choir gave concerts from Holland, Michigan, to the East Coast and points in-between. My bus seat partner was knitting argyle socks for her fiancé, and as the trip and the socks progressed, I thought knitting a pair of socks would be fun. So on one stop, instead of going to the restaurant designated for lunch, we went to a yarn shop.

Thus my first-ever knitting project was argyle socks for some unnamed and unsuspecting fellow. Once I had done a couple of pairs (for different fellows), I figured that I knew everything there was to know about this addictive art. After all, I knew how to cast on and off, how to pick up stitches, how to use color, how to follow a chart, how to turn a heel, and how to knit in the round.

Using these basic skills I knit sweaters, hats, and mittens; I always used size 7 or 8 needles and worsted weight yarn. And after knitting three or four sweaters, I immediately used up any leftovers—usually in a striped item. I was certain only one cast on was possible. I even knit a dress (wasn't so fat then!).

As I married and began my teaching career (first high school—Racine, Horlick; then university—UW-Parkside, UW-River Falls, and UW-Madison), I always had something on the needles. The needles got smaller, the projects more complicated, and the yarn much finer. But the skills were still basic.

My husband and I have three children (one a swim coach in Baltimore, one a Nature Conservancy specialist in Anchorage, and one an IT specialist in Sun Prairie), and it just so happened that when they were babies and wanted to nurse in the afternoon, Elizabeth Zimmermann was on TV. This was my only “formal” knitting training. The kids had way too many knit items to be even slightly practical. And I developed two knitter's elbows, treated periodically with steroids.

When I retired from the University's English Department and Writing Center five years ago, a friend lured me to the Knitters' Guild where I experienced a really powerful epiphany: the void in my knitting knowledge and experience was colossal. As I listened to speakers, attended workshops, and talked with other knitters, I realized how much there was to learn. I also began to pay attention to designers and yarn names, something I totally glossed over before the Guild.

Now my stash is huge, my collection of knitting books is obscene, and the closets are overflowing with knitted items. My husband, a retired football coach, stoically tolerates all of this. As we travel, he follows me into the knitting shops and stands around looking impatient—which definitely helps the budget. He even supports my evening bouts with the needles, as then he can “click” away on the remote to his heart's content. I still don't understand how he can watch two sporting events and one movie at the same time, and then retell the details of all three.



Jake wearing one of Grandma Janet's creations

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MKG Calendar

May 12	MKG Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Monona Community Center; Annual Salad & Dessert Potluck, Yarn & Book Sale, Fashion Show and Brown Bag Exchange
May 20	MKG Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Whole Foods, Classroom
June 14	World-Wide Knit in Public Day!		
June 17	MKG Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Whole Foods, Classroom



Other Fiber Events

Meg Swansen's Knitting Camp Holiday Inn Conference Center, Marshfield, WI, July 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, 24-27.

Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair Lakeside Legacy Arts Park, Crystal Lake, IL July 18-20.

Fiber Arts Festival Bonanzaville USA, West Fargo, ND July 26-27.

Stitches Midwest Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL August 21-24.

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival Jefferson County Fair Grounds, Jefferson, WI September 5-7.

Vivian Hoxbro workshops in Monticello - October 13,14,15. Email <knitterstreat@wekz> and ask to be put on workshop e-mail list. Put workshop request in subject line.

Jane Slicer-Smith workshops in Monticello- November 9,10,11,12. Email <knitterstreat@wekz> and ask to be put on workshop e-mail list. Put workshop request in subject line.

Bohus Exhibit at the American-Swedish Institute in Minneapolis January 12 - March 29, 2009.

For those inclined to travel, you may want to visit this web site which lists many other festivals across the country and internationally <http://www.knittersreview.com/upcoming_events.asp#jul>.

Madison Knitters Guild

397 Starling Lane

Madison WI 53704