

The Roving

July 2014



President's Message

I want to thank all the members who helped with the sorting of Show and Sale table cloths and who took table cloths home to wash and hem. It was a busy room, but it got done quickly because we were all working together.

Dee Dee reported Wool Day was a success. It looked to me like a lot of members went home with beautiful fibers to spin. I look forward to Wool Day next year so we can see all those beautiful fibers again and maybe next year I will be able to purchase some instead of being jealous of those who did.

Our next meeting will be a spin-in at Dee Dee King's home at Pierpont Springs. She has a beautiful place and she has graciously invited all of us to enjoy the cooler climate (higher altitude) and spend a day socializing. It is very relaxing under the trees out on her deck. I have to say it was nice of her and her husband to build a home in the mountains for us to enjoy. As mentioned before there will not be a business meeting at the July meeting.



Spin-In at DeeDee's Mountain Retreat



Door prizes will be offered at the spin-in. Please bring a chair, a spinning wheel, and something to work on. If you have an extra wheel and want to bring it, it will give others a chance to try out different wheels. It will be a potluck lunch, so bring something tasty! Iced tea or coffee, table service, and treats for the morning will be provided.

During the spin-in, please have something to share with the group. A question was raised about how to spin a balanced single yarn. If you have an answer to this question, or have a question of your own, write it down and we can have a short clinic on "How to spin it". We have a lot of experienced spinners in the group that can probably come up with some answers for you. Come prepared to have a lot of fun! Also, some of our fiber producers will again have things to sell, if you want to shop a bit.

July Meeting

Spin-In at Dee Dee's Cabin in Pierpont Springs

(Directions on last page)

Date: July 12

**Time: 9:30 goodies and chatting
no meeting just fun!**

Members attending, please bring your wheel, chair, and a potluck item to share. Ice tea, silverware, plates, etc. will be provided

Please carpool.

A dear friend and good weaver has moved on to the great looms in the sky. Sandra Stage, one of our early members passed away. She will be dearly remembered and greatly missed.



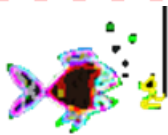
2014 Meetings



- August 9: **Carding Machine Demonstration** presented by Nancy Reimer & friends
- September 13: **Show & Sale last notes**
- October 25 – **Show & Sale**, no regular meeting
- November 8: **Wool Dying Day** presented by Lindsay Dion and DeeDee King
- December 13: **Christmas party**



- Do you Facebook? HWOTV has its own Facebook page. Go check it out! If you have pictures you would like to add, send them to Judy Trimble. She's our Facebook Administrator.
- **Squeekie Wheels** – the spinning group of Guild members meets the 1st Wednesday of each month in Porterville at Sierra Hills Retirement Community located at 2500 W. Henderson Ave from 10am-3pm, bring your lunch or get it there (\$7). They also meet on the 3rd Friday of each month in Exeter at the at Capella's Coffee House, 10-3ish.
- **Kawaeah Konnection** meets on the second Wednesday at 10:00 in Three Rivers at the Presbyterian Church. Visitors always welcome!



FISHING FOR INFO... with Lynda Bass

As with many of us, I do not just weave. I started with fiber by way of crochet and sewing. Then I learned to weave, in college. By way of Donna Whitney, when I first got to Bakersfield, I learned to spin. By way of the late Helen Frankel, I finally learned to knit. I love spinning, but after the beautiful fiber is spun, how to use it? Being able to use it means we need to know what we have and how will it best serve our needs.

To weave with your handspun yarn it must be strong and consistent to use as warp. Plying will often help to get you there, though there are people who use singles for warp. Often, though, spinners use their handspun yarns for weft and then they do not need to be as consistent or strong. So depending on how you want to use your handspun fibers, you need to be able to see how they measure up. I found at one of my favorite knit sites, some spinning info. Here it is for those of us who are still stuck a bit in the middle, between spinning beautiful yarns and using them to weave or knit.

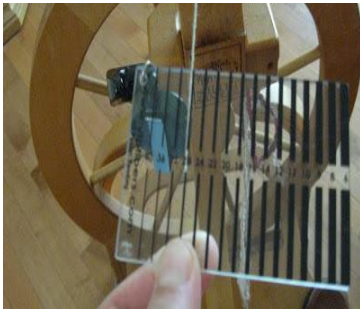
A Spinner's Compass: Measuring and Documenting Your Yarn

Here are the basics on measuring your yarn and some simple ways to keep track. I spun four ounces of BFL/silk from **Into the Whirled**, woolen into a 2-ply, as my test yarn.

Length: Depending on how accurate I need my length measurement to be, I either use a **niddy-noddy**, a yardage counter, or figure yardage by weight in order to figure length. With both the niddy-noddy and the yardage counter, there is an amount of pulling or placing the yarn which can distort the length; with a weight measure, there is less distortion, but the measurement is limited to 10 yards. The niddy-noddy I use is a **Schacht** set at the 2-yard mark. I wind the yarn off of the bobbin onto the niddy-noddy before I set it. I also have a **Mama Bear SwiftNCount** with a built in yardage counter that I wind yarn onto fresh from the bobbin, and a **Schacht yardage counter** when I wind from a swift into a cake after the yarn is finished and set. To measure by weight I weigh 10 yards (if the yarn is inconsistent or very bulky, I use more) on a digital kitchen scale, figure the one yard weight and multiply by the weight of the entire skein. My digital scale is one of the most

versatile tools in my kit.

Here are the lengths I got: Niddy-noddy: 205 yards; Schacht yardage counter: 195 yards; Mama Bear SwiftNCount: 204 yards; Kitchen scale: 200 yards (*10 yards weighed .20 ounces. I multiplied by 5 to get the 1 ounce yardage, 50 yards. I multiplied 50 by the 4 ounces in the skein for a total yardage of 200.*)



Width: The three ways I measure the width of a yarn are: a **WPI tool**, with a **Spinner's Control Card**; and a **sample yarn**. The first two of these measurements can vary a lot depending on how firmly I pull on the yarn while I'm measuring. I have a love-hate relationship with WPI gauges, I love them in their gorgeous variety, but I am terrible at consistently wrapping as I'm working on a project. I use my **Spinner's Control Card** more, especially while I'm spinning for consistency in my singles. I lay my yarn behind the card and visually gauge its width in the space between the black lines. It's quicker for me and I can find a reasonable, repeatable tension. I usually measure the yarn just pulled straight from

when it starts to ply back. I always keep an index card with yarn samples of my project. On it I have an unfinished single, an unfinished plied yarn and a finished plied yarn. The quickest way to make sure that I am on track is to measure my singles on the bobbin next to my singles on my index card. I hold them side-by-side and visually check.

Density: When I really need to be exact in my spinning, especially when I am duplicating a yarn already spun, I check the density of a yarn or *grist*. Grist gives the measurement of a yarn in length to weight. There are two ways I measure grist: with a **Yarn Balance** and with a digital kitchen scale. A Yarn Balance is a little fiddly, but accurate. Using a Yarn Balance involves getting a length of finished yarn to balance over the arm of the Yarn Balance, then measuring it and multiplying by 100. The Yarn Balance gave my yarn a measurement of 800 YPP. A digital scale is a quick measure. Using the same 10 yards I used to measure length, I multiply the single ounce yardage by 16 to get yards per pound. My yarn was 50 yards per ounce or 800 yards per pound (YPP).

Twist: Without twist, there would be no yarn. Yarn is just fiber and twist. I measure twist to keep the hand of my yarn consistent. The longer I spin on a project, I have a tendency to put in more twist, so a lovely soft drapery yarn can end up hard and wiry. I measure twists per inch and twist angle to keep my yarn feeling and behaving. I use twist angle most frequently with my singles. I have a twist angle gauge, or sometimes I make one especially for a project. To make a gauge, I use a larger index card and protractor. I line up the long edge of the protractor with the long edge of the index card and mark the 0 point. I mark the card in 5- to 10-degree increments then connect the marks to the zero point with lines. To measure twist angle, lay your yarn across the card and match the twist to the closest twist angle line. Things that I use to help see my twist angles are strong light, a magnifying glass and a double-pointed needle or a tapestry needles to help follow the twist in the yarn. I use twists per inch or TPI most frequently while I'm plying. It's a quick check to make sure I'm keeping my ply twist consistent. To check TPI, all I use is a ruler and a magnifying glass, if I'm measuring singles or very fine yarn. I lay the plied yarn next to a ruler and count ply bumps. I divide the number of bumps by the number of plies and get twists per inch. If I am measuring quickly on the fly while I'm plying, I just measure ply bumps.

Keeping track of all of the facts: For a long time I didn't keep track of my fiber or yarn information. I was sure it didn't matter or that I would remember. That was sheer folly.

Before I spin: I gather fiber information, all of it: type of fiber, colorway, who I bought it from, a sample of the unspun fiber. Sometimes I even include the receipt. I write down the whys and hows of this project. What am I spinning for: a specific project; to learn or practice a skill; to sample colorplay? As much as I can think of.

While I spin: I put spinning and plying information written out on a hangtag that I attach to the wheel I'm using. I include my wheel set up and whorl size. Don't forget to include the wheel you're using, because the hangtag will come off the wheel. I wrap yarn samples on an index card. I wrap my unfinished samples around the card; I find they untwist otherwise. I use a hole punch and hang finished yarn samples off of the card.

After I spin: I make sure all of the samples are clearly marked; sometimes I even rewrite my notes. When I

have multiple samples for the same project, I make doubly sure to mark the one I end up using in some special way with a star, a check mark or all caps otherwise I won't recognize it. Even 1 week later, the samples start to all look the same.

Storing it all: I have two ways that I store my samples depending on the size and number. Either in a zip top plastic bag or a box. Zip top bags are quick, easy and cheap. I have them in multiple sizes and often store individual sample sets from a project that had multiple samples in smaller bags then put them all together in a bigger bag. I also use mailing boxes for storing samples. They are great for projects that have a ton of samples or samples that can get really tangled in a bag like very fine yarns, silk or super fuzzy yarn.

I used to be a never-measure spinner and my yarn always seemed to get lost. Since I took the time to learn how and when to measure (and figured out the measuring short cuts) I feel like I know my yarn better and I can almost always take my yarn exactly where I want it to go.



Do you have a.....

DeeDee needs demo people and small looms for show and sale. Does anyone have one or both items? It could be an inkle loom, a weavette, a potholder loom, a rigid heddle, a pin loom, tapestry loom, or what have you. I would love to have members demonstrate on their little looms, or have them for display purposes. I think the public would be very interested in weaving on a small portable scale. Please contact me (Dee Dee King 559-338-0322) if you have a loom and want to demonstrate. More info to follow in next newsletter.

For Sale -

The time has come to find new homes for Jeanette Barton's looms. Attached are pictures of the looms that are ready to be moved. Both are good sturdy looms in good working condition. The asking prices are:

40" Counterbalance 4 harness (make uncertain) \$400

27" 4 harness Le Clerc Nilus (6 treadles) Handy tray on top of castle \$650

Bench and/or stool also available





As you can see in the pictures, the back beam on each loom can be folded forward in order to save space when not in use. If you are interested in either of these looms, please contact me (Nikki) at 561-4048 and I will get in touch with Jeanette's husband, Jim. He is spending most of his time with Jeanette so he's not easy to reach by phone. I will try to answer any questions you may have about these looms.

Items for the newsletter need to be received by Karen Dennis by the 25th of each month. E-mail is knjdenni@att.net or phone 559-561-4705 (please leave message or call back number).

Directions to DeeDee's cabin: From Highway 65 turn east onto Highway 190. You will pass through Porterville. Continue on to Springville. Go through Springville, bearing right by the white barn east of town. Stay on 190 approximately 15 miles until you see Pierpoint Springs resort. It will take you about 40 minutes to climb the hill past Springville; it is a very windy road. Just opposite the Resort is Pierpoint Drive (turn left) then bearing left again onto John Lewis Drive. Follow John Lewis around to 439 John Lewis - you are there! You can park up on the cul-de-sac (paved) or pull down into the yard to park.