

In The Loop

February 2007

Dear Skein Lane Community:

January was a fun month and February looks to be the same! Workshops are underway, new ones are happening and a special guest, Helen Hamann, was with us. Maggi Jackson will be here this coming weekend the 16th - 18th, and there is still room to sign up. Lorna Miser will be joining us for workshops in April and May. And our fall retreat has been filling up.- we have two spots left. Check your calendar to see if you'd like to join us.

In mid-January I attended TNNA (The National Needlework Association) Trade Show for the West Coast held in San Diego. I flew down for one day...on one of those really cold days. It was clear, beautiful and 39 degrees when I landed in San Diego. And what a great day it was. One of the first people that I was planning to meet was Lorna Miser...and we met right away at the Great Wall of Yarn. Lorna is always exciting to see - charming and full of new ideas. Great news for Lorna and for all of us - she has just signed a contract for a book to be released in late 2008. More to come on that later. During lunch I had an opportunity to meet with Helen Hamann who would be teaching for us the following weekend. I then ran into Maggi Jackson. We came up with the idea to have Merino Wrap Kits here during her workshop and then available through the Studio. The yarn arrives this week and the kits will be available during the workshop and the following weeks. It is a stunning stole/wrap. There were many other wonderful friends and associates that I saw at the show. It was a worthwhile trip!

[Helen Hamann's](#) workshop and her techniques were inspiring. She is a native of Peru, an international knitwear designer and alpaca enthusiast whose designs have been featured in many magazines and catalogs. She showed us several designs in soft alpaca from her new book, [Andean Inspired Knits](#), released in September 2006. We walked away with a new appreciation of design and alpaca. We are envisioning knitalongs with two of her designs - *The Embroidered Yoke Wrap and Crocheted Cloche* and the *Bolero*. These will start up in May and June which should give us some time to be ready for the fall.

The wall of yarn is an opportunity to preview new yarns and even snip a piece to bring home. Lots of tempting yarns are on the market.

When I traveled to Tennessee and North Carolina for a long weekend in December, I had two memorable experiences that I would like to share. One of them was being delayed in the Charlotte airport for 3 hours due to fog conditions earlier in the day. And why would that be memorable? I was knitting away...what

else! And another woman sitting beside me struck up a conversation. She was a nurse headed home to Asheville...where I was headed...and as the evening wore on and my friends were delayed in arriving to meet me in Asheville...my new friend offered to "deliver" me to my friends...and along the way (after we arrived in Asheville) we stopped for dinner and it was one of the best seafood dinners that I've had as well as a delightful time. The other memorable experience was that I visited Paradise Yarn in Asheville. It was a yarn shop worth visiting and I saw a scarf pattern by Annie Modesitt that has inspired me to do another class. This class, [Ruffled Roses Scarf](#), will be offered on March 18.

I have a younger sister who lives in Idaho and she is having her third child. I couldn't wait to find out the sex of the baby before I began knitting another *Moderne Baby Blanket* from [Mason-Dixon](#). So, I decided to make each of her girls, ages 4 and 3, their own blanket. And I found out how "hot" the colors pink and purple are for little girls. While the blankets will be the same color I will arrange the colors differently and applique a flower on each blanket so the girls can quickly identify it as their own. And then there's the baby! Good thing I really like doing this pattern. It is such comfort knitting, quite portable and fun to see the colors come together.

As always I have many projects in process...and I finish many. Last month I finished the first of the many *Moderne Baby Blankets* - this one was for Adelle, who use to work for me, and her new baby boy. I am busily working on an [Oregon Vest](#) knit with Maggi's Irish Tweed. I want to have this done by the time Maggi is here on February 16. The back is done and half of one front...there will be lots of focused knitting this weekend! This project has a zipper and since I need a special length I will be ordering it from [YKK](#).

And lastly but not least, [Stitches West 2007](#) held in Santa Clara, is just days away. The market opens to the public on Friday, February 23 and will be open Saturday and Sunday. If you have signed up for classes, then you know that you will have a chance to preview the market on Thursday evening. For those of you who don't want to drive, Capitol Corridor provides a fun opportunity to take Amtrak. [Click here](#) for details and discount coupon.

Classes

Our [Knitting Workshops](#) began on January 2. There is drop-in space in the Tuesday and Thursday morning workshops. Just call 510.525.9276 to reserve a spot on a weekly basis. The Spring Knitting Workshops start up on March 20. Call now to reserve a space.

Socks continue to be an obsession for some us and we will continue on with more sock classes from [Vintage Socks](#), by Nancy Bush. We will also offer a [basic sock](#) class in March for those who want to learn to knit socks.

[Beginning Knitting](#) is scheduled for March 12 and 19. If you know someone

who is wanting to learn to knit just refer them onto Skein Lane Studio. We are happy to start new knitters.

Two specialty classes are being offered in March - [Ruffled Roses Scarf](#) and [Felting](#).

In our studio setting we have added consultation hours. If you need help you can either call or e-mail for free consultation. You can also schedule an in-person consultation appointment for a fee of \$5.00 for 15 minutes or \$20.00 per hour. We look forward to being able to help you with your knitting opportunities.

Guest Instructors

[Maggie Jackson](#) will be with us again this coming weekend - February 16, 17, & 18. . Maggie is a delightful instructor full of lots of tricks and humor and her designs reach out to the whimsical side as well to those of us who might be a little more conservative. I am looking forward to taking her classes. There is still room! Hope you can join us.

[Lorna Miser](#) will be with us for class offerings in April and May. Her class Easy Tips for Knitting with Hand-Dyed Yarns will be especially helpful after Stitches West because I know many of will most likely add some of those beautiful hand-dyes to our yarn collections. The other two classes in May also have lots of appeal - *Sleeves from the Top Down* and *Twisted Cord and Other Ties*

Special Events and Future Classes.

We are looking forward to a customer fashion show and a yarn swap. Both of these events will be scheduled for early spring. We will be scheduling a sweater design class when we all return from Stitches West in February.

Knitting Retreat

The dates for our fall [knitting retreat](#) have been confirmed. Mark your calendars for September 14-16 at Marconi Conference Center. [Chris Bylsma](#) is returning as our guest instructor. Be sure to sign up soon as the retreat space fills quickly.

Our [Einstein Coats](#) and [Log Cabin Afghans](#) are either completed or nearing completion. For those in progress, the knitalong is still open during the same time as we knit [The Nantucket Jacket](#). Join us on Saturday afternoons from 2-4pm. The fee is complimentary if the yarn was purchased from Skein Lane or \$5.00.

Customer Projects

Our [customer project page](#) is up and we will continue to add your wonderful photos. If you have photos that you would like to share, please e-mail to skeinlane@aol.com. Be sure to include details of your project, i.e. pattern, yarn and any tips.

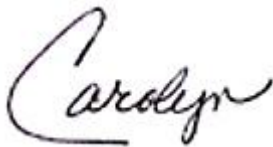
Yarn and Product Offerings

New sock yarn for our growing sock obsession has recently arrived in the Studio. Our new additions include [Aktiv Effekt, Fortissima, Step, and Trekking.](#)

For those of you looking for Eucalan for washing those handknit garments, we've just stocked our shelves. And we have a plentiful supply of Clover 353 markers described under our *Skein Lane Know How* section of this newsletter.

It's exciting that we have a small offering of yarn available in our studio. In addition to our sock yarns, we currently have Cotton Fleece from Brown Sheep, Deco Ribbon and Waikiki (in skein put-up) from Crystal Palace, and other miscellaneous yarns: Silke Tweed, Sock Yarns, and some Novelties...an array of yarn. Call 510.525.9276 or e-mail skeinlane@aol.com if you are looking for any these yarns. You might guess that I have stocked two of my favorites - the cotton fleece and waikiki- I've seen them knit together into a beautiful fabric.

My best and knit on!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn".

SKEIN LANE KNOW HOW

Sometime ago Anne, from Saturday morning workshop, inspired me to use my favorite knitting marker, Clover 353, for more than marking stitches on my needle. The markers are extremely helpful in acting as a knitting journal. In my [photo example](#), you can see five markers pinned to the side of the armhole and one is pinned away from that shaping. Here's what that "journal" is telling me. I have decreased five times on every other row and I have one decrease yet to do. Before I began the shaping I pinned on six pins and then moved them to mark where I decreased. No more trying to read the stitches to determine how many times I've decreased.

Do you have a knitting time-saver? Got a hot crochet tip? Share your know how with other Skein Laners! Submit your tip or other helpful hint for knit or crochet by email to info@skeinlane.com. If our staff chooses your tip for the newsletter, we'll mention your name with gratitude and even give you a prize.

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