

Cablegram



Do you love the knitted Hedgehog? Come May 5th and Meet Debbie Radtke

Please mark your calendar for our next monthly meeting:
May 5, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Our guest is Debbie Radtke, pattern designer for Fiber Trends. Debbie's the creator of those knit and felted hedgehogs, geckos, squirrels, owls, penguins and flamingos. It's an understatement to say that Debbie's toy patterns have been well received by the knitting world. At last count there were over 1,000 adaptations of the Hedgehog pattern on Ravelry! We'll find out how she began designing animal knits — and maybe discover what she's likely to come up with next.

Debbie will discuss her approach to her animals, and even bring some of her "mistakes" to give us an insight into her design process.

We'll have some of her animal patterns on hand to purchase for those of you who want to try your hand at making a hedgehog, gecko or squirrel.

Many of us have made some of Debbie's creations, and you are heartily encouraged to bring them along for show and tell. (We'll have a "regular" show and tell as well.) — *Mary Berghammer*



More of Debbie Radtke's designs



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Looking Ahead:

June 2: Jody Grage

July 7: Susan Strawn

August 4: Summer social & Anna Nordstrom

September 1: Sivia Harding

See back cover for more info

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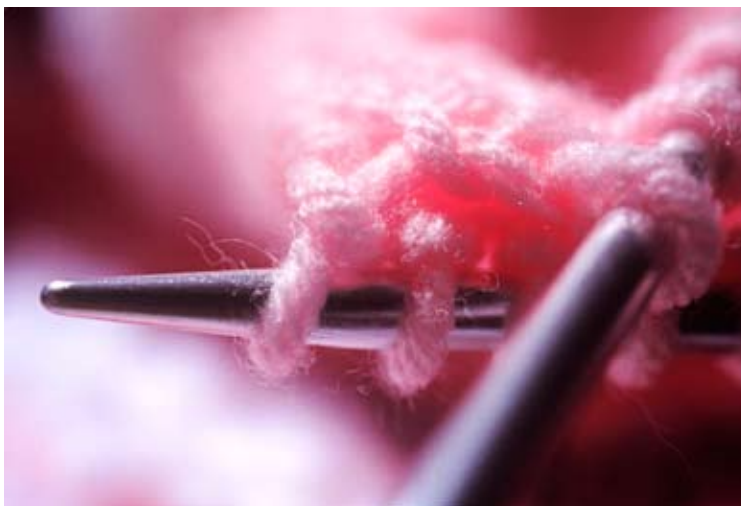
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What's coming in June

Our speaker for the June 2nd meeting is Jody Grage, who will discuss: "Going for the Gaugeless: A variety of approaches for knitting garments (including the Seamless Cocktail Coat) that bypass stitches per inch." Last year at show-and-tell, Jody presented her version of the Seamless Cocktail Coat designed by Virginia Woods Bellamy, using Virginia's patented "number knitting" from the 1940s. We had several requests for more details, and we're fortunate to have Jody present them, and, well, any other knitting topics she finds interesting, because Jody is one of the most interesting knitters we know!

Hospitality

What's in a Name?

Hospitality Chair Christina Cheng has made name tags for all of us. Pick up your SKG name tag at the door of each meeting. At the end of the evening, simply return it to the front table for your use next month! You'll never have to worry about remembering a name tag again, and we'll all get much better at putting names with faces of our fellow Guild members.

—Mary Berghammer



Christina Cheng

Newsletter Reporter

**KAREN JO
GUSTAFSON**



Notes from the Board

With the Guild running smoothly and programming scheduled for the rest of the year, I would like to take the time to say "Thank You" to our wonderful Seattle Knitters Guild Board members. They give us the gift of their time and energy. The Guild you know and love could not run without them. I am amazed time and time again by their wit, resourcefulness and

humor. When you see Debra, Mary B, Kathy, Lizbeth, Christina, Margarite, Devorah and Karen Jo at the next meeting, please give them a special "Thank You". They are a pretty remarkable group of women. — *Terri Peña*



Terri Peña



Kathy Hightower

Membership Notes

Welcome to new members Brenda Radford of Seattle and Eileen Hershberg of Bainbridge Island (eileenwh on ravelry) and returning members Betsy McCarthy of Vancouver (BetsyMcCarthy on

.ravelry), Phyllis Daum of Woodinville (pdaum on ravelry) and April Lindner of Seattle. Join us, become a member. The SKG membership form is available on our web site: www.seattleknittersguild.org/join.html *Kathy Hightower*

Knitter's Calendar

- ☛ May 14-16, Traditional Shetland Spinning & Lace Knitting 2010, taught by Elizabeth Johnston of Shetland, Scotland and Martha Owen, the John C. Campbell Folk School Resident Knitter/Spinner from Brasstown, North Carolina. Whidbey Island, WA. Contact wendy@wendyjsundquist.com 360.221.7721
- ☛ May 20-23, 2010 LYS Tour, Your favorite Local Yarn Shops are joining together for the fifth straight year to bring you four, fun-filled days of * Discounts! * Freebies! * Prizes! * Extended hours! www.lystour.com
- ☛ May 21-23, "Takkin' your makkin'" - Fair Isle Knitting From Shetland, taught by Elizabeth Johnston of Shetland, Scotland and Martha Owen of North Carolina. Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA. Contact wendy@wendyjsundquist.com 360.221.7721
- ☛ May 23, Musk Ox & Glaciers Alaska Cruise, Knitting with Lucy Neatby and Donna Druchunas, www.craftcruises.com
- ☛ June 10, Bermuda Cruise, Knitting, Crocheting & Beading with Lily Chin & Joyce Renee Wyatt, www.craftcruises.com
- ☛ June 12, Knit in Public Day. Save the Date. More details for SKG location next month.
- ☛ June 18, 19 & 20, Black Sheep Gathering, Lane County Fairgrounds — Eugene, Oregon, <http://www.blacksheepgathering.org/index.html>
- ☛ June 25–28, Acorn Street Retreat, Sleeping lady Retreat Center Leavenworth, WA The retreat is a weekend of relaxing, knitting, stitching, socializing, resting and energizing away from work. www.acornstreet.com, 206.525.1726
- ☛ July 4, Canada & New England Cruise, Knitting with Leslye Solomon & Jill Deal, www.craftcruises.com
- ☛ July 9, Baltic Cruise, Knitting & Beading with Chris Bylsma & Chrissy Day, www.craftcruises.com
- ☛ August 14, Scotland, Ireland & England Cruise, Knitting with Sally Melville & Beth Brown-Reinsel, www.craftcruises.com
- ☛ October 22, Australia & New Zealand, Knitting & Crocheting w/ Jenny King and Lily Chin, www.craftcruises.com



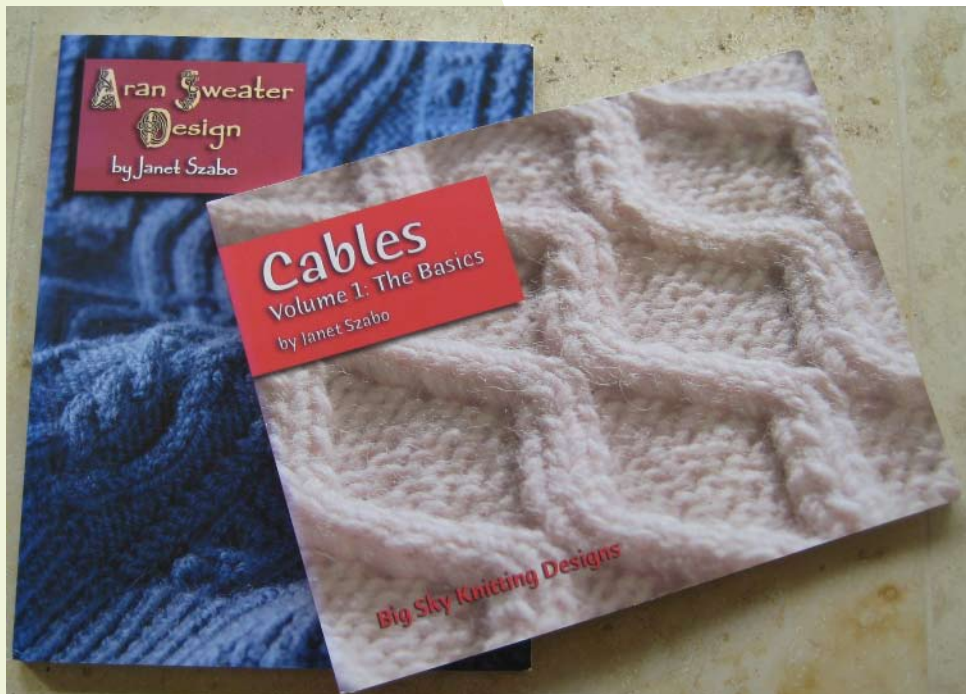
April's Fiber Frenzy

For those amongst us who knit themselves into a corner by acquiring so much yarn they didn't know what to do; Fiber Frenzy comes to the rescue. Thank goodness for another successful Fiber Frenzy! Many people came early anxious to stake out their favorite spot setting up their table to attract the most attention or just see the most foot traffic. Just as many potential buyers arrived ahead of schedule to check out the wares available, from hand-dyed yarn to a new shawl or sweater, patterns, and more knitting books than I knew existed! Since I'm new to knitting and this being my first Fiber Frenzy, I just wasn't certain what to expect at the meeting. One thing is for sure, with as much fun as I had and the many people and projects I got to see and photograph; I look forward to each guild meeting with more excitement than ever. — *Jeremy Vanburen*

EDITOR NOTE: Thanks goes to Jeremy for pitching in during my absence to take all these great photos of the SKG frenzy.







Book Review

Aran Sweater Design and Cables Volume 1: The Basics

by Janet Szabo, self-published under Big Sky Knitting Designs

Although these two cable-related books by Janet Szabo have been out since 2006 and 2007, you might not have heard of them. When her previous finishing book received praise from editors but no contract to publish due to a perception that the topic was ‘too boring,’ Janet decided to go the self-publishing route. She continued that method for *Aran Sweater Design* and then *Cables Volume 1: The Basics*. Maybe they’re not flashy and the great majority of the photos are black and white, but they’re nicely laid out, user friendly and full of useful information. And I found when I researched references on cable knitting through on-line sources that Janet has a reputation as one of the cable knitting experts and these two books get included among the best on cabling.

In *Aran Sweater Design*, Janet starts with brief and pithy sections on the history of Arans and what elements define them, then covers key issues in constructing one such as a chart of the differences between woolen and worsted-spun yarns and the effect of two versus three-ply yarn on stitch definition. Next she launches into a section on cables themselves, including another chart of the varied abbreviations used in three common references and what they mean followed by short discussions of 14 different categories of cables plus four other families of stitches often used in Aran sweaters.

The section on creating a design covers a lot of issues in choosing cables and other stitches that will work together for a combination that satisfies both the eye and the needs of the process of knitting. Janet manages very understandable explanations of the golden ratio and Fibonacci

sequences and how they can make your design process easier. She gives equally useful reasoning for the effects of row repeats, vertical placement, cable orientation and other factors on your final design as well as a nice bit on the whys of cable splay and how to avoid it. In *Putting It All Together* we review the uses of a swatch, decide on a body type, and then learn how to coordinate all the possible parts of an Aran sweater — body, ribbing, sleeves, and saddles — to make a cohesive looking garment. Part One ends with a section of tips and techniques relevant to Aran knitting.

In Part Two Janet covers issues of actual construction of an Aran, starting with bottom up or top-down, in pieces or in the round and top-down done neckband first or body first and with or without saddles. Then she covers construction options for several styles with nice schematics: dropped-shoulder with or without saddles, peasant-sleeve (AKA square set-in sleeve) with and without saddles, set-in sleeves also with or without saddles and with a standard or shallow sleeve cap, raglan sleeve, vests, T-sleeve (both sleeves and top of body in one piece done cuff to cuff), and wide saddles. Janet ends with four project patterns, a vest, two pullovers and a cardigan (with color photos!), so you can see how she puts it all together. Or in case you’re now overwhelmed by all the information and options she’s given you and just want to knit a sweater.

Appendixes include book and software lists, a worksheet for measurements, a key to chart symbols for the stitches used in the sweater patterns with nice large icons as in the charts themselves, and a decent-sized index.

Cables Volume 1 makes a good companion to *Aran Sweater Design*.

The vast majority of it is a cable stitch dictionary but with more information on the stitches and **how** to do them than you usually get. The cables first get broken down into two through eight-stitch crosses plus some unusual constructions. Within these chapters they're further divided by structure such as 1/1 Knit Crosses, Twist Versions or 2/2/2 Reverse Crosses. For each type and any subsets, we get descriptions of the stitch structure then a series of black and white photographs with explanatory captions showing how the stitch is made. The stitch dictionary entries for that category follow before we move on to the next type. Black and white photos of both techniques and stitches show



plenty of detail clearly. As in the design book, stitches are both written out and charted in large, easy to read charts. The final chapter gives guides for creating your own cable stitch patterns either by altering an existing pattern or starting from scratch.

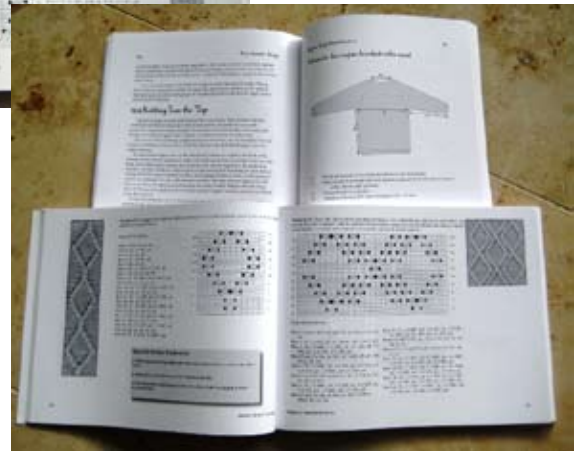
Much of the short opening Fundamentals chapter before the stitch dictionary sections repeats information from the *Aran Sweater*



Design book. The two pages on fixing mistakes, mostly photos and captions, differs in the newer book with clearer photos on laddering back and addition of a method of cutting and grafting to correct a miscrossed cable caught too late for other fixes. The eight pages of chart icons contain many more than appear in the design book for the many more stitch patterns here. At the back of the book are a nice bibliography of books on cables and stitch dictionaries and a pretty good index for a book of stitches.

The layout of both books is similar and very user-friendly. Chapter titles and section headings use a slightly decorative bold font while the more traditional font of the text looks clean and is easy to read. Pages have plenty of white space between sections and in margins for easy reading but not so much as to feel padded to make a longer book. Type size, which varies a bit by use, runs larger than usual. The paper is heavy and semi-gloss. In all, they feel like well made paperback books. Though the same size and shape, *Cables Vol. 1* is bound along a short end so is longer than other books on the shelf.

At just under and just over 200 pages, these fall on the thinner end in my collection. But the density of information and



usefulness falls at the upper end. Janet sells them through her web site BigSkyKnitting.com and as a third-party vendor on Amazon. I'm pretty sure I bought mine at Weaving Works so do check yarn stores with large book selections. *Cables Volume 2* is in the works and 3 is planned but a recent contract for Fiber Trends to carry Janet's patterns has delayed the books. Fortunately *Volume 1* and the Aran design book should keep most cable knitting lovers happy for quite a while.

— Karen Jo Gustafson



Karen Jo Gustafson

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Notes From Your Editor

April 10th and 11th I was in the Oak Harbor High School spinning yarn for socks along with several other SKG members. Amelia Garripoli, owner of the Bellwether presented What Makes a Good Sock? and Spinning Color for Sock



Yarns for the 39th Annual Whidbey Weavers Guild Spin-In. Check out this faux cable yarn. Whoo Hoo!

— Margarite Hargrave



Seattle Knitters Guild
(Est. 1985)

Meetings every first Wednesday of the month 7pm

Wedgwood Presbyterian Church
 8008 – 35th Ave. NE, Seattle
 (NE corner of 35th and 80th)

Visitors always welcome. Parking available in the lot behind the church or across from the south side of the church on 80th.

Dues: \$22 per year,
 \$11 after July 1

Library cart open 6:30 to 7pm
(Only members may check out books.)

Cablegram is published monthly. Submit stories and photos to editor@seattleknittersguild.org by the 2nd Saturday following the meeting.

www.seattleknittersguild.org

Member Meeting	Topic
June 2	Jody Grage — “Going for the Gaugeless: A variety of approaches for knitting garments (including the Seamless Cocktail Coat) that bypass stitches per inch”
July 7	Susan Strawn — Knitting Nation: Pictures, Patterns, and Stories of American Knitting. Susan is the author of Knitting America and is currently a member of the faculty of Dominican University in Chicago teaching fiber arts and history of fiber arts