



# Cablegram

Dale M Moore



## March 6 — Gretchen Schlomann from Fern Ridge Alpacas

Gretchen and Hal Schlomann are often asked how they got started raising alpacas. After discovering these fascinating creatures at a highway rest stop one fall afternoon, they began visiting farms and researching the alpaca industry and lifestyle. Intrigued to find their luxurious fleece makes wonderful yarn and clothing, they came to the conclusion that high quality fiber production is the sustainable future of the alpaca industry. In 2007 Gretchen and Hal purchased three pregnant females and boarded them at another farm. Two years later, they left city life and began developing their own herd. Their breeding program focuses on increased fleece density, uniform fiber, fineness, and maximizing the income potential from the fiber harvest.

In the farm store they sell alpaca yarn, roving, clothing, rugs, and other alpaca products made from the fiber of their own herd.

You are always welcome to stop by the farm when you are in the Puget Sound area. Gretchen and Hal would love to introduce you to their friendly alpacas and guard llamas, who will nibble treats from your hand. The farm is open most days, but a quick call or email will assure that you can get a proper farm tour.

Fern Ridge Alpacas farm is located just 3 miles from the Mukilteo- Clinton Ferry landing on South Whidbey Island.

— Paulette Hauck

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Looking Ahead:

April 3  
 Susan Anderson



Photo courtesy of Fern Ridge Alpacas

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## Membership Notes

Welcome to new members:

June Dickinson  
Sirkku Bingham

— Lisa Burlingame, Membership

## Library Notes, KAL

The latest KAL is any Elizabeth Zimmermann project, and the Seattle Knitters Guild Library has several of EZ books available to help and inspire you.

Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Knitting Workshop
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Spun Out 2, 3, 7, 17, 31
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Wool Gatherings 30-63 (missing #32)
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Opinionated Knitter
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Elizabeth Zimmermann's Knitter's Almanac
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Knitting Around
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Knitting Without Tears: Basic Techniques and Easy-to-Follow Directions for Garments to Fit All Sizes
Zimmermann, Elizabeth	Knit One, Knit All

— Debra Otto, Librarian

## Webmistress

Being SKG's webmistress gives the chance to show off web skills while maintaining and updating our existing pages.

Monthly updates include uploading the current month's meeting information with new date and subject on both our opening page and the page of events and uploading and linking the newsletter. The Google calendar that reminds the SKG board of events and meetings is also the webmistress' domain.

Annual updates include updating the list of the board of directors and entering their email addresses for the board contact addresses to forwarding mail to each of them from our ISP Fat Cow.

Tools of the webmistress are Dreamweaver and Notepad. The guild does not currently own or provide a copy of Dreamweaver to the webmistress.

— 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](mailto:editor@seattleknittersguild.org).

[www.seattleknittersguild.org](http://www.seattleknittersguild.org)

## My Local Yarn Store: Tricoter

My Local Yarn Store is a Cablegram feature which will hopefully cover all Seattle Area yarn stores over time. Seattle has many yarn stores. The only way to keep our wealth of brick-and-mortar stores is to patronize them and spread the word about our wonderful LYS's. If you would like to write about your favorite store, please contact editor@seattleknittersguild.com

Tricoter. 3121 E Madison Street, Seattle. 206-328-6505

Tue, Wed 10:00-5:30; Thu 10:00-6:00; Fri, Sat 10:00-5:00. Closed: Sundays, Mondays, and major holidays.

Accessible by bus #11, walkable from #8, convenient parking lot for drivers (additional parking in the back).

Tricoter is the only Seattle area store where almost all yarn is organized by color. The wall of yarn forms a beautiful continuous rainbow in all textures and types of yarn. You might find Kidsilk Haze next to Cascade 220 next to acrylic pompom yarn next to super bulky Rowan yarn (for real, I saw it in the white section). This store makes you approach yarn differently.

Since the yarn is organized by color rather than type, it is hard to say what exactly Tricoter carries. I did not see any sock yarn, though I encountered various superwash yarns suitable for socks. Labels that I saw lots of included Rowan, Sublime, Tahki, Katia, Filatura di Crosa, Madison (I believe this is their only hand dyed yarn if I don't count newer Trendsetter that is also hand dyed), lots of Noro, extra lots of Trendsetter, lots of novelty (if you need fun trim yarn, they have it) and a sizable amount of Cascade. While the rainbow wall leaves impression that no yarn is available in large quantities, the drawers underneath hide bags of extras. On my last visit I saw lots of sealed bags full of glorious single colors (I do not really mix colors. Like ever.) Besides sock yarn, the other type absent was laceweight. There were lots of fine mohair blends but nothing beyond that. There is also a large shelf on opposite wall full of sparkly yarn – interesting textures and labels I had never seen before.

Behind the counter is a large selection of cashmere and cashmere blends, this is the largest selection I have encountered in Puget Sound area. I petted some fingering weight ethereal cashmere that would make lovely lace and could choose among more than ten colors! Thicker and sturdier blends made me think of luxury handwarmers. I also spotted mink and yak beckoning from pretty baskets.

This store has a unique approach – if you are buying yarn for a project and they help you get started, they let you try out a yarn. As in, knit a bit with it, then unravel and not buy that ball if you don't like it (you cannot cut the yarn). Since I have always had a specific yarn in mind while visiting the store, I have not explored the how or why but I do know that a lot of "tried" balls end up in the sales bins. Large sales drawers are located at the back of the store under open yarn shelves and are marked with red stickers saying -30%. These bins can contain a lot of gems and not all of it is single skeins, strange colors or "tried out" yarn. I have sampled quite a few yarns that were out of my budget range via those bins. For more bargains, Tricoter has a Summer Sale in June and Winter Sale in February with 30% off yarn and discount tables for even more savings.

Staff is very friendly and often steers customers towards mixing colors and textures. They also offer finishing service – if you have a partial project, they will finish it for you (since I tend to like to finish my projects, I have not taken advantage of it but I hear it is quite a popular service). In addition, Tricoter offers beginning knitting classes and private lessons. There are three round tables for in-store knitting right up front by large windows.

Towards the back of the store is a display of knitting magazines and booklets by Rowan, Filati and a few French publications (in English). The store offers a small selection of books as well. Small back room houses a wide selection of Crystal Palace bamboo needles, Addi's circulars and a large selection of Lantern Moon in single points and circulars. Of course you can find most common notions like stitch markers and needles made by Clover.

Tricoter carries also a large selection of buttons. There are some children's buttons and a wide variety of more special ones to adorn a Sunday sweater or pretty a hat.

Why do I think it is worth a visit? I find that Tricoter is a bit spendier store but very inspiring in terms of color and texture. I think you should go just to see the rainbow of yarn!

# Recap



## Show and Tell



# Knitter's Calendar

- March 22-23, Fibers West, Cloverdale, British Columbia
- April 5-7, Vogue Knitting Live, Seattle
- April 5-7, Alpacalooza, Ridgefield, Washington
- April 13, Yarn train to Portland, Seattle-Portland
- April 18-21, Shepherd's Extravaganza, Puyallup, Washington
- April 19-20, Columbia Gorge Fiber Festival, Hood River, Oregon
- May 3-5, Whidbey Island FiberQuest, Whidbey Island
- May 11, Fiber With a Twist Spin In, Richland, Washington
- May 16-19, The LYS Tour, Seattle and Puget Sound area
- June 8-16, World Wide Knit in Public Day
- June 21-23, The Black Sheep Gathering, Eugene, Oregon
- August 9-11, Fiber Fusion at the Forks, Grand Forks, British Columbia
- August 19, Fibrations, Victoria, British Columbia
- September 28-29, Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival, Canby, Oregon
- October 5-6, North Olympic Fiber Arts Festival, Sequim
- October 20-21, Fiber Fusion, Monroe, Washington
- October 24-26, Seattle Weavers' Guild Annual Sale and Show, Seattle
- October 26-27, Knit City Fibre Festival, Vancouver, British Columbia
- November 10-11, FiberMania, Grants Pass, Oregon



## Seattle Knitters Guild Calendar

April 3	Susan B. Anderson
May 1	Kathleen Cubley
June 5	Kristi Gabrielse (Ana Cross Stitch)
July 10	Shibaguyz Shannon and Jason Mullett-Bowlsby
August 7	Ice Cream Social
September 4	Back-to-School Mini Classes, Charity knitting collection
October 2	Churchmouse Yarns & Teas
November 6	Knit-Along Fashion Show
December 4	Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Speakers are subject to change