

The Vermilion Bay Light

The Monthly Newsletter of The Vermilion Bay Yarn Company

YOUR Local Yarn Shop

2100 Verot School Road, Suite 8

Lafayette, Louisiana 70508 337.216.4564

www.vermilionbayyarn.blogspot.com

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Make this in
Classic Elite
"Firefly"



A word from Jason about the Knitting Cosmology

One of my nerdier attributes is an almost unbridled passion for the Classics — ancient Greece and Rome — languages, art, architecture, and culture. It fascinates me, this stuff. There's much enjoyment in picking up a Latin copy of *Aeneid*, Virgil's breathtaking epic poem recounting the conclusion of the Trojan War and the founding of Rome. Lifting, sublime language describes amazing people, their loves, trials, and triumphs — all arranged on the page in a precise, almost mathematical order, from the poetic meter to the accuracy of the Latin grammar. It's complicated, but utterly awesome. Classical architecture too. Think about the monumental public architecture in our Nation's capital — much of it is Neo-Classical whose hallmarks are order and proportion. Logical. It's not random. Folks often ask me how it is that I look at distressed fiber work and puzzle out what's wrong, then go about fixing it. It's cosmology: the intrinsic order that exists in all created things from atoms to elephants. It's a matter of finding the order in the disorder and rearranging a few things. So what's the Knitting Cosmology? Usually we think of space travel or stars and planets when we hear that word. *Kosmos* is Ancient Greek for "order". We get words like "cosmetology" and "cosmetics" from the same root. For example, the application of make-up, cosmetics, literally, "creates order". Knitting (as well as crochet and any fiber art) is orderly and logical, and to some extent even predictable according to its own rules. Anyone who's ever made lace knows that if you subtract stitches, you must give them back elsewhere. Balance. Cables? The logical, orderly movement of stitches from one place to another, or the manipulation of sets of stitches to create shapes that move across a background. Garment shaping: symmetry, just as the human body is, more or less, symmetrical. The Knitting Cosmology is geometric. A sock heel: a rectangular flap that covers the back of the foot with a heel that's worked symmetrically from the center of that rectangle in short-rows to create a triangular cup. Coming to recognize the Knitting Cosmology is one way of building your confidence in fiber art. As you work your pattern, regardless how complex it may be, search for the order that governs it. What is the logic of its construction? How does the shaping operate? If it's lace, pay attention to the increases and decreases and observe how they balance. When shaping garments, watch how contours are created with various decrease and increase operations. The cosmology is quietly at work in your stitches, unassuming, but all-important. When you pick up your fiber work, be a "proactive" fiber artisan. Avoid simply going through the motions and following the directions. Think about why you're completing various operations and how they function in your pattern. The Knitting Cosmology is what makes your work beautiful and exciting. Discover it!



Knitting Cruise!



Looking for an interesting, unique vacation?

Consider the Knitting Cruise and join folks from many fiber arts communities throughout the Gulf Coast for a week-long adventure! Participate in project and technique classes on sea days! Non-fiberers spouses and significant others will enjoy the trip as much as you! Contact Jane Hebert to reserve: janetotrvl@aol.com.



Ask Stuart

Q: Is it really necessary to make a gauge swatch before I start my husband's sweater?

A: No, it's not. Make it easy on yourself! Next time you go clothes shopping, do this: take the first dress you like off the rack. Don't look at the size, and don't even try it on. If the stars are aligned, the display model of your fabulous new frock may just have happened to be your size. Gauge (the ratio of stitches per inch) is important for a correctly fitting garment. Sure it takes a few minutes to make up a little sample swatch to measure, but this is what gives you the confidence throughout the creation of the garment, so that the thing will fit whom it's supposed to fit. If your husband's chest is 44" and your gauge is small, and comes out only to 32", he's not going to wear the sweater. Not because he doesn't like it, but because he can't breathe in it. Perfect time for this question too. Sounds like you need to take the Gauge Monster class this month at VBYC. Sign up, honey. Your man likes the things you make....as long they fit.



dream BIG!

Sometimes bigger is better. It just is, and that's why there's Southwest Trading

Dream Big. It's a big hank of big yarn. One hank will make a small garment, a single scarf — on a size 15 needle. It's practically a project in a hank. Add to that that it's machine washable. Dreams do come true!



Tree Hugger

The yarn sensation of the season is Lenpur Linen from Rowan. The plant fiber from trees called "Lenpur" added to linen — a plant fiber invented way back when God was a boy — create for you an amazingly soft, workable yarn that you'll enjoy to knit or crochet and love to wear. The yarn has a terrific sheen and great drape. Get ready for the compliments you'll get!

Not just Pima.

This is *Ultra Pima*. One of the finest cottons around, this DK weight yarn. We are all familiar with the fine quality of pima cotton. Put all those great things together in one yarn and add a silky glow and you get the ultra yarn: Ultra Pima. It's beyond anything you've imagined in a cotton yarn. Ultra Pima is a go-anywhere yarn: great for casual wear, perfect for dressy garments and accents. With 220 gleaming yards per hank, it's what you need for your next spring/summer sweater.



When we were kids...

We collected them in mayonnaise jars on balmy summer nights. That jar glowed like a lamp if the hunting was good. Fireflies. Classic Elite Yarns brings us a terrific summertime classic named for the magical nighttime luminaries of our youth. Light, airy, soft and shimmery. A linen blend perfect for our muggy Louisiana summers. Catch a firefly!

SPROUT!



From Classic Elite. It's worsted weight cotton, which means larger gauge, larger

needles, a quicker finish. Besides that, Sprout offers you a pleasing texture and amazing softness. Colorful sprout. It's the season for cotton, and Sprout is ready for you! Happy and cheery shades for your springtime disposition!

Awesome lace.

We've used our share of lace yarn over the years, and this stuff is among the best. Ideally, a good lace yarn is very fine and very strong. Combine strength with softness and the result is Classic Elite Silky Alpaca Lace: Alpaca plus silk, the stitch definition you need for expert lacework in a terrifically soft fabric. You can easily double this yarn to create a larger gauge with excellent results.



Terra.

Made of bamboo and cotton, Southwest Terra was practically created for our humid, hot Louisiana summers.



Indisposed?
We Ship!

Acadiana fiber folks demand soft yarns, and when the temperatures get warmer, it's a matter of cool fabrics that look great. Terra will help you achieve the great summer look you demand. Easy to work, great to wear.

New Life!

Recycled silk and cotton make this blended color way DK from Rowan a top pick for spring and summer. It's called "Revive". Reuse it.



Amy Butler Design

Springtime and Amy Butler! Knitters and crocheters in Acadiana have been raving about the fabulous Belle Organic cotton from Rowan and Amy Butler. As well we should. The soft, cool colors of this fantastic yarn and the outstanding designs of the Butler collections pair well with our South Louisiana joie de vivre. Cool and classy, sensible and sassy. Consider this lovely top knit up in color way "Indigo". Make yours in a lighter shade for the warmer months. Whatever color you select, you'll be distinguished in your confident, easy-going sophistication. Celebrate!



Bring it.

*Power suit redefined.
"Monroe" in red
by Namaste.*

CLASSES IN MARCH

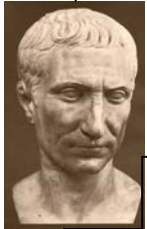
Saturday, Mar 12, 10:30am: Gauge
 1:30pm: "Greenbriar" Fair Isle Hat
 Saturday, Mar 19, 10:30am: "Vision" Shrug
 Saturday, Mar 26, 10:30am: Sophia Shrug



Be Square.
(shapely attitude, classy closure)

Men's Knit Club

Monday Nights at VBYC, 6pm. Socks, sweaters, lace, hats, afghans...just a few of the projects on the needles at the moment. If you're a guy who knits, bring your gear and join the club. If you know a guy who knits, tell him about Men's Club. If you know a guy who probably should be knitting, tell him to stop in.



Size matters.

And that's why there's gauge. Fitting knit wear and crocheted garments to the human form it's intended for isn't a crap shoot — or at least it shouldn't be, especially when ten balls of Rowan All Seasons Cotton, a couple weeks worth of work, and a new wardrobe are at stake. Gauging your fabric is as important as the knits and purls, the doubles and the chains. But it's also one of the most illusive topics in knitting literature. Gauge Monster is the classic VBYC technique class that reveals the secrets of gauging your fabric, selecting the proper yarn for your project, and understanding the differences of yarn weight. Saturday, March 12 at 10:30.

From the gods' distaff...

Is spun the most ambrosial yarn. Indian Sari silk — vibrant, bold, gleaming — explosive color in a worsted weight strand of impeccable softness. The queen of silks.



Fair Isle Madness!

Yes it's a hat. The little "Greenbriar" hat with the cool color pattern. The technique is called Fair Isle, the process of carrying ("floating") yarns on the wrong side to create colorful grooviness on the right side. Colorwork is a challenge, but it's also quite rewarding. Challenge yourself to the colorwork and reward yourself with the accomplishment! Make the little hat. Saturday, March 12, 1:30pm.

You like it? Then make it!

Among the many amazing designs in this season's Rowan Magazine is this adorably elegant and just plain fabulous shrug made in Kidsilk Haze. The gentle drape of the band and the interlocking back loops accented by simple lace work have drawn many of us under its spell. It's a must make and must wear this season. So, to take away the fear of commitment, there's a project class especially for this awesome design. No worries, all questions answered, complete project support. Make the shrug. It's fabulous, just like you. Saturday March 19th, 10:30am.



Sophia Shrug

Spring is perfect for shrugs: not a wrap, not a jacket, not a sweater. A little something for cooler mornings, a rich accent to your already awesome look for the day. "Sophia" is a simple design with a million-dollar look. Delicate (but uncomplicated) lace edges the garment and sweeps up into a wide collar. The shrug is a perfect "first garment" for beginning or intermediate knitters. Select your yarn today and sign up for the project class. Saturday, March 26th, 10:30am.



Useful Tip: From time to time, wooden needles may develop a dull tip or get nicked or scratched in knitting bags (or occasionally get nibbled on by pets). Little blemishes may be smooth to the touch, but snag your yarn. Refurbish these spots by gentle filing using an Emory board.



**Make
 A
 Statement.**



Sunday afternoons are best spent at Tea. VBYC: Sundays, 1pm-5pm

Knit Café

Every Tuesday Night at VBYC is Knit Café!

From 6pm-8pm bring your fiber projects and relax with friends!



Required Reading

Spring / summer Vogue Knitting and the Rowan #49 are available now! Both contain page after page of this season's finest designs in knitwear and crocheted garments. Use them to plan out your fiber projects for the warmer months!

