

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

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2600 ATTENDED FIRST KNIT & CROCHET SHOW IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

In comments on traveling to the recent Knit & Crochet Show in Portland, Oregon, Portland blogger Mary Mooney wrote “I almost felt sorry for the other MAX riders. There they were this morning, bound for God knows where, doing God knows what, when they noticed something strange: a lot of absurdly happy people started getting on the train, most of them clutching bags. The happy people started nodding knowingly at each other, opening their bags, showing off their knitting/crocheting/spindling and talking steeks, roving, warp and alpaca. It’s possible the other MAX riders thought they’d stumbled into some strange cult, and in a sense, they had: they’d run into people headed for the Knit & Crochet Show at the Portland Convention Center...” Her post appeared in *The Oregonian* (newspaper) K2TOG knitting blog for September 12 -- the debut of the first Knit & Crochet Show in the Pacific Northwest.

More than 2600 knitters and crocheters gathered at the Knit & Crochet Show to browse and shop for high-end and popular fibers, patterns, notions and accessories at scores of booths, to enroll in skill-stretching classes, and to mingle happily with like-minded souls. Many who came were originally unacquainted with the two show sponsors (Crochet Guild of America and The Knitting Guild Association) and their offer of national memberships and benefits. So, they signed up at the Show to start receiving member magazines and online resources – in company with more than 15,000 crocheters and knitters worldwide. “The Crochet Guild of America (CGOA) and The Knitting Guild Association (TKGA) hold their conference member meetings, award presentations and a host of classes by top national instructors in conjunction with the Knit & Crochet

Shows,” said Event and Association Executive Director Penny Sitler. “Because of CGOA and TKGGA sponsorship, all CGOA and TKGGA members enter free wherever the Show is held.”

The Oregonian blogger commented on the local hand-dyed yarn on display, plus “a surprisingly large selection of exotic fibers, including some buffalo.” She also liked the “lace weight fiber and sparkle (beads, knitted/crocheted into garments, used in shawl pins and knitterly jewelry and more)”. Exhibitor John Novak of Village Spinning & Weaving in Solvang, California had a steady stream of customers at his cash register, and Marilyn Burnside of Foxyknits in Los Angeles expressed great satisfaction with the sales at their booth. Authors Larissa and Martin Brown, Doris Chan, Jenny Dowde, Edie Eckman, Margaret Fisher, Melissa Matthay, Laurie Sharp, Laurie “Camano Made” Wheeler and Janet Szabo were on hand for book signings on the Show floor. The Save The Children booth traded on the charity of those attending. Their slogan of “knit one, save one” refers to their goal in partnership with Warm Up America Foundation to engage knitters and crocheters in providing newborn caps, clothing and other support for the “four million babies who die each year within the first month of life in poor countries.”

A full schedule of activities kept everyone pleasantly occupied. More than 1300 class tickets were bought by those intent on improving their knit and crochet knowledge and skills. Two fashion shows provided inspiration for new knit and crochet projects. Many who attended participated in the “World’s Fastest Crocheter/Knitter” time trials. It was announced that this year’s Precious PalsSM (stuffed animals with hand knitted and crocheted outfits), collected by The Knitting Guild Association, will go to Houston area children affected by recent hurricane Ike. The Saturday evening banquet was replete with awards, memorial moments, door prizes and the close of the Silent Auction bidding.

Designers donated crocheted and knitted gloves and mittens to the Show’s Silent Auction, which garnered \$468.50 in final bids for the non-profit Needle Arts Mentoring

ProgramSM (www.needleartsmentoring.org), a nationwide project of the Helping Hands Foundation, Inc. The mentoring program teaches needle arts to boys and girls in more than 180 communities in 32 states across the country. Silent Auction mitten and glove contributors were Abundant Yarnworks, Sandra Benward, Lily M. Chin, Fiber Rhythm Craft & Design, Margaret Hubert, Melissa Matthay and Myra Wood. An additional \$364.50 in bids was collected in support of The Knitting Guild Association's Memorial Fund, which provides scholarships for those interested in enrolling in various TKGA courses.

Photos from the Knit & Crochet Show and CGOA/TKGA conference activities will be posted for viewing at <http://www.knitandcrochetshow.com/gallery.asp>.

Show attendees reported that they had a great time and hope the Show returns to Portland soon. Local Sonia Rahm said the "event was wonderful. I will look forward to future events." Ray Irwin circled all the evaluation "smiley faces" to register his thoughts on the Show. Pamela Woodberry traveled from Texas to attend and expressed her pleasure that, "Portland is a wonderful conference city."

Supporting Show sponsors included industry wholesalers and manufacturers of fibers and related crochet and knit products: Caron International, Coats & Clark®, Lion Brand® Yarn, Tahki Stacy Charles and Universal Yarns. Coats & Clark provided complimentary Teach Me 2 Crochet/Knit™ sessions throughout Show hours for anyone wishing to learn.

Dates and locations of 2009 Knit & Crochet Shows will be announced soon at www.KnitandCrochetShow.com. The Knit & Crochet Shows are produced by Offinger Management Company (Offinger.com) of Zanesville, Ohio. Those interested in exhibiting can contact KnitandCrochetShow@Offinger.com or write: The Knit & Crochet Show, 1100-H Brandywine Blvd, Zanesville OH 43701-7303.

Photo Number 1

Caption: “Recently, more than 2600 knitters and crocheters gathered at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, to buy yarns and related items at the first Knit & Crochet Show in the Northwest.”



Photo Number 2

Caption: “Local hand-dyed yarn complemented a large selection of exotic fibers, including some buffalo, at the first Knit & Crochet Show in the Northwest, held earlier in September at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland.”



Photo Number 3

Caption: “At the recent Knit & Crochet Show in Portland, students surrounded instructor Annie Modesitt to get a clearer view of a special knitting technique.”



Photo Number 4

Caption: “Students at the recent Knit & Crochet Show in Portland began work knitting up their Fair Isle lesson on circular needles.”



(Note to Editor: High resolution JPEG photos are available – contact djohnston@offinger.com.)