

Minutes for Feb 23, 2021

On February 23, 2021 the Rigid Heddle Study Group held its 5th meeting via Zoom. The group has 17 members, 11 of whom attended this meeting. The roster is updated and included with these minutes.

Attendees:

Lynne Roy, Facilitator; Mary Anna Swinnerton, Coordinator; Ginger Kaldenbach, Organizer.

Randee Frommer, Barbara Kracher, Sharyl McCulloch, Lynn Owens, Kay Parkinson, Linda Pedersen, Marsha Phelps, Sandy Prock

Ginger led the group through a short tutorial on use of the Zoom buttons and settings.

She also updated the group on latest developments for the COSW Guild meeting. Due to weather circumstances the postponed February program will be held on March 17, 2021.

Ginger also asked the group to consider a possible future RHL workshop (either in person or Zoom) and mentioned that the Portland Guild will be hosting speaker/weaver Deborah Jarchow from California at an up-coming workshop. If the Study Group desires a RH workshop in 2022, Deborah's travel expenses from CA should make it reasonable to host an in-person workshop for COSW. The group should let Ginger know soon if they wish to schedule a 2022 workshop, and whether they prefer in-person or Zoom. Deborah will also be teaching at ANWG 2023 (RH Jump Start and Double Heddles). (Information about Deborah can be found on her website, www.deborahjarchow.com) Sandy mentioned Deborah also does classes on Craftsy.

Agenda Items:

Following our chosen instruction book, Inventive Weaving on the Little Loom (Syne Mitchell), this program focused on yarn and color choices. Members were also asked to watch two recommended videos:

Kelley's Rigid Heddle Weaving - Class Part 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9laOPmpDdFo>

It leans more towards choosing colors and using stash, but has a couple good tips in it for those of us less experienced; about 8 minutes.

Choosing and using yarns in weaving, part 1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_jKrY5zzro

Mary Anna welcomed everyone, and shared her personal journey in weaving, including starting her own business weaving all kinds of chair seats. She stated that her business worked well, but she is very glad to get back to working with soft fibers.

Lynne Roy called on each attendee to provide thoughts and experiences re: our program topic:

- 1. Barbara - although she didn't learn anything new in reviewing this section of our book, she appreciated the two videos, especially the detailed descriptions.**
- 2. Randee - info about her vest (pictures coming later in meeting), the hand-spun and art yarns she uses.**
- 3. Sharyl - experiences with plant-based yarns as warp (tend to be slippery) and recommended them highly, IF were mixed with wool (especially alpaca/Tencel) so they would hold on to weft yarns better. She also said she will be using nettle combo yarn soon and realized that some plant-based yarns may not hold the dye as deeply.**
 - a. Lynne and Barbara re: regarding various dyeing products and use of roving, suggested local sources for locks/roving.**
- 4. Ginger - shared her shawl (8-shaft) that combined Merino/silk yarn with Tencel to make the shawl less slippery.**
 - a. Randee re: chenille, recommended using it with cotton.**
- 5. Kay's tip - use of rubber band to stabilize heddle during weaving.**
- 6. Linda Pedersen - enjoying "manipulating stitches", especially as supplemental warp (explanation of term), and shared a pic of a Peruvian Diamond Runner pattern. When doing supplemental warp and adding yarn, recommended an Ashford blog where the unused portion of the "extra yarn" hangs off the back of the back beam.**
- 7. Marsha - re: experimenting with various yarns and colors.; currently weaving three scarves in the same colors/different patterns for friends to commemorate up-coming Alaska trip.**
- 8. Sandy - re: broken or knotted warp thread: When the warp is put on the loom, throw the warp with the knot or any extra warp over the back, similar to when you have a broken warp thread, and keep going - saves time. Re: use of complimentary colors works well with heavier (DK, Worsted) yarns/knitting yarns, but with very light warp yarns such as 8/2 cotton, sometimes the colors can get muddy. Also recommended the "Master Yarn Chart" from Handwoven Magazine.**
 - a. Re: using Chenille yarn -may look "fat", but has strong core; it's just the core that is used for calculating Sett. Ginger agreed, recommending that the cores be wrapped tightly together when making a yarn Sett wrap. Sandy then shared power point presentation**

showing coned wool warp yarns (less processed) and wool knitting yarn, before and after finishing.

9. Lynn Owens, a new member - shared her background and learning to weave in Argentina. Told the group of her experiences there, especially observing and working with native weavers.
10. Mary Anna - showed Kay's slide showing the "rubber band" technique; Randee's slide of her vest. Mary Anna shared her own experience with weaving scarves, experimenting with different size heddles using the same yarns and showing examples in three pictures. She also shared a quick way to do samples on the loom, via picture, to test yarn weight and color combinations. Marsha uses a cardboard piece, notched at four sides, to do a quick hand sample with yarn needle.
11. Lynne Roy – re: Different types of fibers (plant versus protein/animal fibers) require different types of dyes to get good color results.

LOOKING AHEAD - MEETINGS ARE HELD MONTHLY ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY (except for December), 1:00PM – 2:30PM.

The next meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

- **Mary Anna Swinnerton, Coordinator; Sandy Prock, Facilitator.**
- **Subject: balance of chapter 2 of our study book, with emphasis on winding, weft yarn, spreading headers, and types of shuttles.**
- **Randee suggested we all learn the screen sharing technique for Zoom, so we can show our own pictures/slide shows.**

Future Assignments:

- **April 2021 meeting: Mary Anna Swinnerton, Moderator; Sharyl McCulloch, Facilitator (Randee will provide Minutes)**
- **Those wishing to share work at the next meeting are asked to email them to Barbara Kracher (bkracher@hotmail.com) and Linda Pedersen (wepedersens@gmail.com) at least one week prior to our study group meeting. in addition, Barbara and Linda P will continue to put slides in Power Point that members send them.**
- **Members are asked to consider future workshop (usually priced around \$80 per person via Zoom) including speaker and topic (discussion covered in above comments).**

**Sharyl McCulloch
Member
Rigid Heddle Loom Study Group**