

JoAnn Tipton Knitter

Ever since a Campfire Girls leader taught JoAnn Tipton how to knit a dust mitt in 1957, she hasn't been far from a pair of needles and at least one skein of yarn.

"Knitting relaxes me," said the talented January Fiber Artist of the Month. "Once you get past the point where you let it frustrate you, it's really good for soothing your nerves."

Less than 10 years after she made the dust mitt, JoAnn knit her third sweater, the gorgeous turquoise one in her Fiber Artist display.

She has a glass-half-full attitude about knitting, something that new knitters or wanna-bees that are a little intimidated to try might note: "Even if you do the project badly, you learn something from it. If a hot pad is out of shape when you knit it, it will still keep your hands from getting burned."

Her favorite thing to knit is socks. She's done about a dozen pairs and continues to find them a challenge. "You can learn so many new techniques in one sock project – a new heel, a new cast-on, a new way to bind off."

JoAnn has participated for three years in Ravelry's Sock Madness, and she hopes more Always In Stitches knitters will join that fun in 2015. The blue and tan sock in her display is a pattern she received through that annual contest for designers and knitters from around the world who compete for bragging rights to say they were the fastest sock knitter. "The women from Norway can get theirs done in two days," she says with a tinge of envy in her voice.

Knitting is portable, and sock knitting is particularly portable, so you can take it anywhere – and JoAnn does.

"I've knit everywhere," she said. "While my cousin was having a mastectomy, when I'm selling tickets during the State Fair at the Coliseum (something she's done 24 years). Everywhere. Sock knitting is the most portable of all the crafts I've done."

If you'd like to see more of JoAnn's work, visit her on Ravelry, [shamrockknits](#)