

# KNIT TOGETHER

**Site covers knitting, crocheting and even a little bit of activism**

While I don't knit myself, I enjoy a good yarn as much as the next guy. So I was grateful when Caitlin, one of my co-workers, threw me a lifeline as I was tying myself in knots trying to come up with a column to go with the do-it-yourself theme of this week's Life&Times.

She recommended **Ravelry.com**. The site is a loose-knit community of enthusiasts dedicated to the crafts of knitting and crocheting.



**KEVIN O'NEILL**

*InSites*

The sign-in page features a whimsical illustration of wool-bearing creatures — and a dog — frolicking on a mountain of yarn. It's a good indicator of the personality of the site. These crafters are not a bunch of dour

grandmas sitting in rocking chairs. They're a lively, fun-loving group that laugh and learn together.

Ravelry is built around sharing projects. There are six main sections that let users explore different aspects of projects or spin tales for each other.

The My Notebook section is where users can save and share their own projects. They can include photos, patterns, instructions and materials that can be posted for others to use. They also can include tips to help other users tie up loose ends.

The Patterns section is a database of thousands of patterns for different projects. You can browse by category, such as booties or mittens, or by attributes, such as buttonholes or eyelets. A search field lets you look for specific characteristics. The patterns can be downloaded from numerous sources, some of them free, others for a price.

There's a Yarn section that lets you investigate and buy various types of yarn. For some reason, the thought of a yak-yarn sweater leaves me in stitches.

The next three sections — People, Forum and Groups — are all about community. This is where users share projects, ideas and stories. They can see what others have done or are working on, they can ask questions and about projects or techniques, or they can add to threads about humorous craft-related experiences, sometimes gently neddling each other.

Ravelry is utilitarian in design. Other than the sign-in page, there's not a lot of razzle dazzle. It uses understated type and thumbnail images in a tightly woven navigational pattern. Larger, good-quality photos are used for features and projects.

The site is not just about making booties for babies or attending the Long Island Yarn Crawl. Users created more than 8,000 "PussyHats" to help weave a web of support for the numerous women's marches around the world earlier this month. The site has many photos of women proudly wearing the pink symbols of unity.

**KEVIN O'NEILL** is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites and apps with him at [koneill@timeshamrock.com](mailto:koneill@timeshamrock.com).

