

## Suzanne Schmutzler Sticks to Her Knitting and Wins Big at LA County Fair

By ALISHA GOMEZ

(October 8, 2002) When Suzanne Schmutzler isn't on the job at MTA, she's doing what she enjoys the most – spinning fine yarn and knitting beautiful baby garments and other pieces.

In fact, she's so good at these ancient arts that she won a first place Blue Ribbon and a second place Red Ribbon for two of her projects at the LA County Fair.

"For a couple of years, my husband had been telling me I should enter something in the fair and I kept saying 'no, I don't think so'," says Schmutzler, a construction contract administration manager.

However, this year her husband, Ed, an MTA construction inspector, dared her. So, she entered for the first time – and was absolutely blown away with the competition results.

Schmutzler's baby layette set, which included a sweater, bonnet and baby socks won the Blue Ribbon. Her knitted throw took a Red Ribbon in the afghan category.

"In the spun items, they look for consistency in the production of the yarn as well as the techniques of the knitting," she says.

### Intrigued with spinning

Schmutzler first saw women demonstrating spinning at the fair a year ago. She was so intrigued that she located a class and got started.

"I was very impressed with the tranquility I saw the ladies had while spinning," Schmutzler says. "It seemed like they had found nirvana and I just said, that's for me. I've got to try this."

She bought her first spinning wheel from a gift catalog, knowing nothing about what she was getting.

"It's lovely to look at, but it doesn't spin very well," Schmutzler says. "I

Suzanne Schmutzler won blue and red ribbons at the LA County Fair for her work in spinning and knitting. PHOTO BY ALISHA GOMEZ



Spinning knitting yarn from fleece is a task Suzanne Schmutzler enjoys after a hectic day at the office.



bought my second spinning wheel from a woman in Ramona who sells spinning wheels, fleece and books on spinning and dying."

Schmutzler teaches knitting at noon every Thursday at MTA Headquarters for any interested MTA employee. The group, known as MTA-OK or Mostly Talented Advocates of Knitting, meets at a designated conference room.

For more information, contact Suzanne Schmutzler at [schmutzler@mta.net](mailto:schmutzler@mta.net) or Deloris Douglas at 922-4253 for the weekly conference room location.

And the baby layette set? It's going to be a gift for her 14th grandchild – Cassidy Schmutzler – who was born Sept. 23.

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