

## **FIREHOUSE SPINNERS**

By Wendy Ferrier

In 1995, several spinners began meeting monthly at Marge Bentley's house. (Nita Coates, Barbara Ramsey, Pat Oetken and Wendy Ferrier joined Marge.) This group continued until Marge's death. These same spinners were joined by Shirley Owen, Jan Dodge and others and met at Freeland library beginning in 1996.

Lois Fisher and Mary Chapman joined Susan Lott and Janine Moden at Susan's. The group discovered the availability of Race Road Firehouse (1996 or 1997), began meeting there, and put out an open invitation. These groups coalesced becoming Firehouse Spinners.

The size of the group has fluctuated over the years but the enthusiasm and the camaraderie stay high. Now, in 2008 there are often around fifteen spinners who meet on Thursday mornings but the total complement must be in the twenties. The group often includes new spinners and those who come for an introduction to spindling or spinning on a wheel. The original monthly meeting has expanded to meetings every Thursday except the first when WWG meets. These gatherings now include the official meeting of The Islands section of the Northwest Regional Spinners' Association (NWRSA) and the WWG Dye Group. These are natural offshoots and are predominantly people who belong to WWG and find it convenient and rewarding to spend Thursdays in these pursuits.

There are no requirements for admission, and there is no structure. However a volunteer agrees to make coffee and bring snacks, and occasionally someone alerts the group to a special opportunity or requests help for a project e.g. the Spin-In. Firehouse Spinners has evolved through genuine pleasure in spinning and each other's company.