

## BUSINESS

# Yarn Garage owner will lead a trip to England

■ *Yarn Garage owner Steven Berg likes offering unique opportunities to his customers*

By EMILY ZIMMER

Staff writer

Steven Berg is an artist and knitting is his medium. As an artist and small business owner he likes to share his talents and inspirations with others. That's what keeps people coming through his doors all day long at the Yarn Garage.

The Yarn Garage is a busy Rosemount shop located on 145th Street. Throughout the day dozens

of people stop by the shop hoping to get a few tips from Berg. While he's glad to do it, it keeps Berg very busy. In fact getting him to sit down for more than a few minutes at a time in the store is impossible.

Wanting to offer clients a more intimate setting and a unique knitting opportunity, Berg started offering tours. Last year he took a group of 20 to the Caribbean.

This year Berg will take a group of 15 to northern England for seven days Sept. 4 though 11. During the excursion knitters will have the opportunity to pick Berg's brain while getting to experience exciting locales.

The trip to northern England will be a unique opportunity for Berg's group. They will visit the

less touristy areas of England and get to meet and knit with people who live there.

"I wanted something real authentic," said Berg of planning the upcoming trip.

To get the authenticity he wanted Berg partnered with Andy Tatham, owner of Black Swan Explorations. Tatham specializes in English tours, specifically in northern England, where he grew up.

The group will arrive at the Manchester International Airport on Sept. 4 and then will head to Holmfirth. Tatham said Holmfirth is a beautiful village and that people with the group should enjoy seeing the countryside.

While site seeing will certainly be part of the trip

Tatham centered the tour around knitting and related places of interest.

The most exciting leg of the trip, Berg said, will be taking part in the 30th anniversary celebration of Rowan Yarns an internationally known knit company. Berg said the company is known for its fashion forward designs.

During their time at Rowan knitters with the group will get to attend workshops led by some of the top designers in the world.

"It's not a chance you get very often," said Berg.

In addition to Rowan, knitters will visit Smedley's Mill, a 200-year-old knitwear factory; the Chatsworth House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire; and Quarry Bank Mill, a

working museum that shows the use of a water-powered cotton mill.

Throughout the trip Berg will give seminars. To get an authentic knitting perspective Berg said he will invite knitters from the villages they stay in to join them.

Each knitter will do a trip intarsia project. Berg said they have been asked to come up with a pattern that means something to them. Intarsia is a knitting technique used to create patterns with multiple colors. For example Berg is making a skull and crossbones pattern using green and black yarn.

Knitters of all skill level have signed up for the trip Berg said. Even a few non-knitters will tag along. Special outings have been planned for them.

While planning a big trip like the English tour can be difficult, Berg said he enjoys offering it to his customers. It also gives him the opportunity to get out and do something different.

Berg is already planning his next trip. Next summer he plans to take a group to South Africa to visit the Be Sweet company. The company trains and employs South Africans who would otherwise be unemployed because of the country's depressed economy.

For more information on the Yarn Garage and Steven Berg visit [www.yarn-garage.com](http://www.yarn-garage.com). For more information on Black Swan Explorations visit [www.blackswanexplorations.com](http://www.blackswanexplorations.com).

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