

TNNA is an interesting place for yarn lovers because it is the brutal mechanics of the industry laid bare, and much of the romance can get a little bruised in all the naked light of the business end of things. Yarn companies display their product for yarn store owners rather than the public, and many owners have built up an immunity to the yarn fumes because of their constant exposure, so they're looking for the extra strong stuff. The new, the soft, the colour, all must be irresistible for them to believe in it. However, the show seemed upbeat, and the smiles liberally and evenly spread among the stylishly dressed and comfortably shod on the floor. I think as a leading indicator for the country as a whole, the show's message was something like "steady as she goes."

There aren't any photos in my camera from the floor because that would be against the rules, but I do have a few examples of why I should always take my camera with me to things like this, even though my phone boasts a 3 megasomething capability. Here's [Spinning Loft](#) Beth, [Spunky Eclectic](#) Amy King, [Spritely Goods](#) Steph, and [Brooklyn Handspun](#) Marie in the lobby.

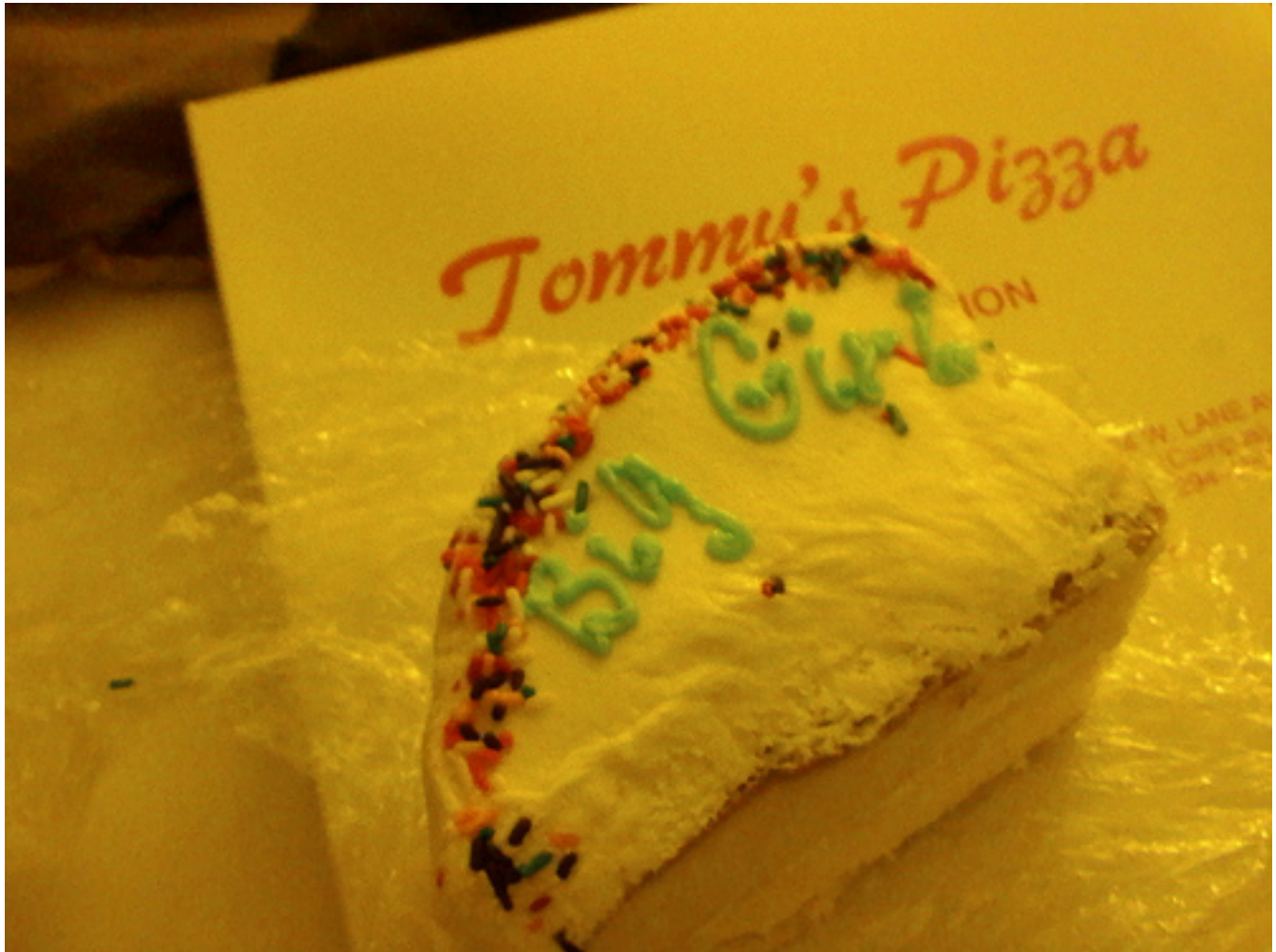


We also had fun catching up with Beth Casey of [Lorna's Laces](#) before the Buffalo Gold party. I liked Beth before I met her because I interviewed her about a year ago over the phone when I was

profiling Kate for Interweave Knits (fall 2008 issue, fyi). Beth has a great voice, like a late night radio DJ, and she answered questions and cracked jokes to the background music of yarn sloshing around in an enormous dyebath. In person, I bonded with her immediately because we are about the same height, and she told me where I could find great jeans just like hers (Gap, naturally). It's all about the inseam, baby.



I find TNNA physically demanding because food, water, and Jeni's ice cream are something one has to stop in the middle of everything to fetch, and so I ate hardly at all, and drank even less water, flirting with dehydration were it not for the whack of mediocre hotel coffee I fortified myself with both mornings.



We were so famished Friday night working in our hotel room until 2 am that Kate and I filched leftover "big girl" cake from her mom's cooler. We used a pizza box as our serving platter and considered how we could proceed without a knife. Before I managed to tear it apart with my bare hands, Kate found some dental floss to slice it with, so we devoured the thing with disputable politesse only to discover that it had a minty fresh aftertaste.

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One of my favorite voices from our Ravelry forum turned up in her freshly finished [Botanical Lace Cardigan](#), from the summer issue. Jocelyn ([jocelyng](#) on Ravelry) was all smiles every time we passed her sporting her cardigan in Cotton Fleece, and it's no wonder because it looks terrific on her. Here she is outside the [Buffalo Gold](#) party, where we hung out, a wee bit intimidated by the crowd inside, but had a lovely time chatting with people as they passed in and out with their drinks. I took a few pictures for people who wanted a record of their meeting Ysolda, and got to know NewSarah, who is taller than she looks in her Ravelry video, and every bit as charming as you

hope that she is for real. But so it is with so many of the yarn folk once you meet them in person: charming, funny, quick with a joke, and yes, ultimately susceptible to the yarn fumes, even after all these years.