



e-shuttle VOLUME VIII, number 2
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Welcome to the **34th Edition** of the AVL e-shuttle!

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1. The New AVL Continued ... Letter from Bob Kruger

Dear AVL Weavers,

With the past five months under my belt here at AVL, I continue to enjoy all of the challenge and excitement this place has to offer. AVL is truly becoming a labor of love for me and I expect it to continue growing so for some time to come.

My goal in this letter is to let you get to know me a little better, including my vision for this company. As a quick biography:

I am a Southern California boy, having been born and raised there. For those who understand the North/South California rivalry, you will know that moving to Chico has taken some adjustment. For example, my wife and her parents (all Northern Californians) are spending great efforts in converting me, even attempting to brainwash

me on the local sports teams. I can probably be convinced to follow the 49ers since we lost our football team a few years back, but they will never turn me against my Angels!

Pam and I are blessed with two beautiful girls. I feel quite fortunate to be able to raise them in the much smaller though still quite cosmopolitan community of Chico. You can't beat Los Angeles for many things, but raising children is clearly not the area's strong point.



Outside my immediate family, I also take great pride in my massive extended family down south. As an example of its size, our yearly family gathering on Catalina Island literally overwhelms this small community. We typically have upwards of 200 at the special dinner!

Lastly, I am an avid car guy. My second favorite hobby (Guess what my new favorite hobby is!) is restoring early model Mustangs.

AVL is a great company filled with many quality people. Our strength has been great loom designs, enabling faster, better, and easier weaving. I firmly believe that this contribution does and will continue to set us above the others. I envision AVL improving its ability to serve our customers through new and improved products and services. We aim to continue modernizing our manufacturing systems. More specifically, we are planning on achieving predictable 6-8 week lead-times, and are working towards industry leading quality. You have probably already noticed vastly improved customer communications, which we will continue. You should even expect to see a few product innovations from us in the upcoming months! AVL can and will continue being an important contributor to the weaving world. It is

my goal to better position this company for that future.

As always, if you want to talk to me directly, please feel free to call me at 530 893-4915 x233 or email me at bkruiger@avlusa.com.

Best regards,

Bob Kruger
President & Owner AVL Looms, Inc.

2. Warping Wheel Idea

Here's an idea for another use of the Warping Wheel from Trudy Otis of Montpelier, Vermont:

Dear AVL Folks,

You might get a whole lot more sales of the Warping Wheel if you make it known that it can also be used to wind warp CHAINS. I've wound warps the way you describe for the wheel and then, instead of winding it onto my sectional beam, I just pull the warp off and chain it as I go, take it to my non-sectional beam and wind it on with a raddle. Thought you'd like to know. It's very efficient and very easy to change colors across the warp. I've done sixteen 15-yard scarf warps this way and it's very easy.

Trudy Otis
Montpelier, VT 05602

3. Meet the Big One ... AVL's Biggest Loom Ever

Ever Introducing the newest (and biggest) loom in the AVL Galaxy of Stars. The AVL Professional Dobby Rug Loom now comes in a fifteen foot (4.5 meter) weaving width. This is a mostly steel loom that weighs over 3,000 lbs. (almost 1400 kgs.). The loom is available with either eight or twelve harnesses and can have a Compu-Dobby if so desired.

4. "Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance" Exhibition at Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City

Ever wonder what an artificial heart graft, the Mars Rover, and a forty-story skyscraper all have in

common? Well, wonder no longer: the Cooper-Hewitt Museum has a wonderful new exhibit on high tech textiles that opened April 8. If you can't make it to New York City before the exhibit closes on October 30, then take the virtual tour at <http://www.cooperhewitt.org/>.

It's an extensive look at what folks are doing with textiles in the 21st Century. You'll be amazed at what is being woven and knit these days. Make sure you check out the Palmhive® knitted camouflage for tanks. The structure and texture is something that only a multi-layer weaver could truly appreciate.

5. Introducing Bridget Elmore

The newest member of the AVL Customer Relations team is Bridget Elmore who joined AVL last month. Bridget brings extensive experience in fine art printmaking and has worked for a number of years within the printing and publishing industry, but she is a weaving novice. She's already in love with the process, though, and is looking forward to learning more about it from all of you. Bridget will be covering the Eastern portion of the United States and Eastern Canada.

6. AVL Weaving School Grows and Expands

AVL's lead weaving instructors Jannie Taylor and Sue Luna are in the process of overhauling our Academy of Higher Weaving (a.k.a. The AVL Weaving School). An all-new set of offerings will be held for the first time in June.

"[Basically AVL](#)" (June 20th and 21st) is a two-day intensive look at YOUR AVL loom and how it works.

"[Basically Structure](#)" (June 21st through 23rd) is an all-new class on complex structure that is a wonderful example of the changes Bob Kruger is making at AVL. He has authorized a special run of Workshop Dobby looms especially for this class. The looms will be pre-warped and ready to weave. Each will have a different structure on it for you to explore. A more detailed course description follows.

Best of all these, classes are adjacent to one another so one could take both. Call A.S.A.P. for details.

Basically Structure Course Description: This class is designed for the multi-shaft weaver who wants to enhance their understanding of weave structure through hands-on experience. We use WeavePoint and WeaveMaker software and the AVL Workshop Dobby Loom (WDL) to provide a unique learning environment. Sixteen and twenty-four shaft WDLs, threaded to a variety of weave structures, will be available for weaving samples. At least four structures will be covered and may include unit weaves, lace weaves, twills, satins, and doubleweave. The various structures will be defined, examined, discussed, and woven to gain a fundamental understanding of each weave. Once a foundation is firmly established, students will be guided through creating and weaving their own designs. All materials and equipment will be provided including all drafts used in the class and access to a computer running AVL

weaving software. Students may bring their own laptop computer if they desire. Skill Level: Intermediate -- some software experience is desirable. Class size is limited to eight students. Three-Day Workshop 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (1 hour lunch break) Price: \$495.00