

Intro to Ravelry Groups and Forums

More than just patterns, Ravelry is an online community of fibre artists. After you've set up your profile you can begin to browse Groups on Ravelry. Groups can be created by any member of Ravelry and range in topics from cat lovers to knitting designers to Ashford spinning wheels.

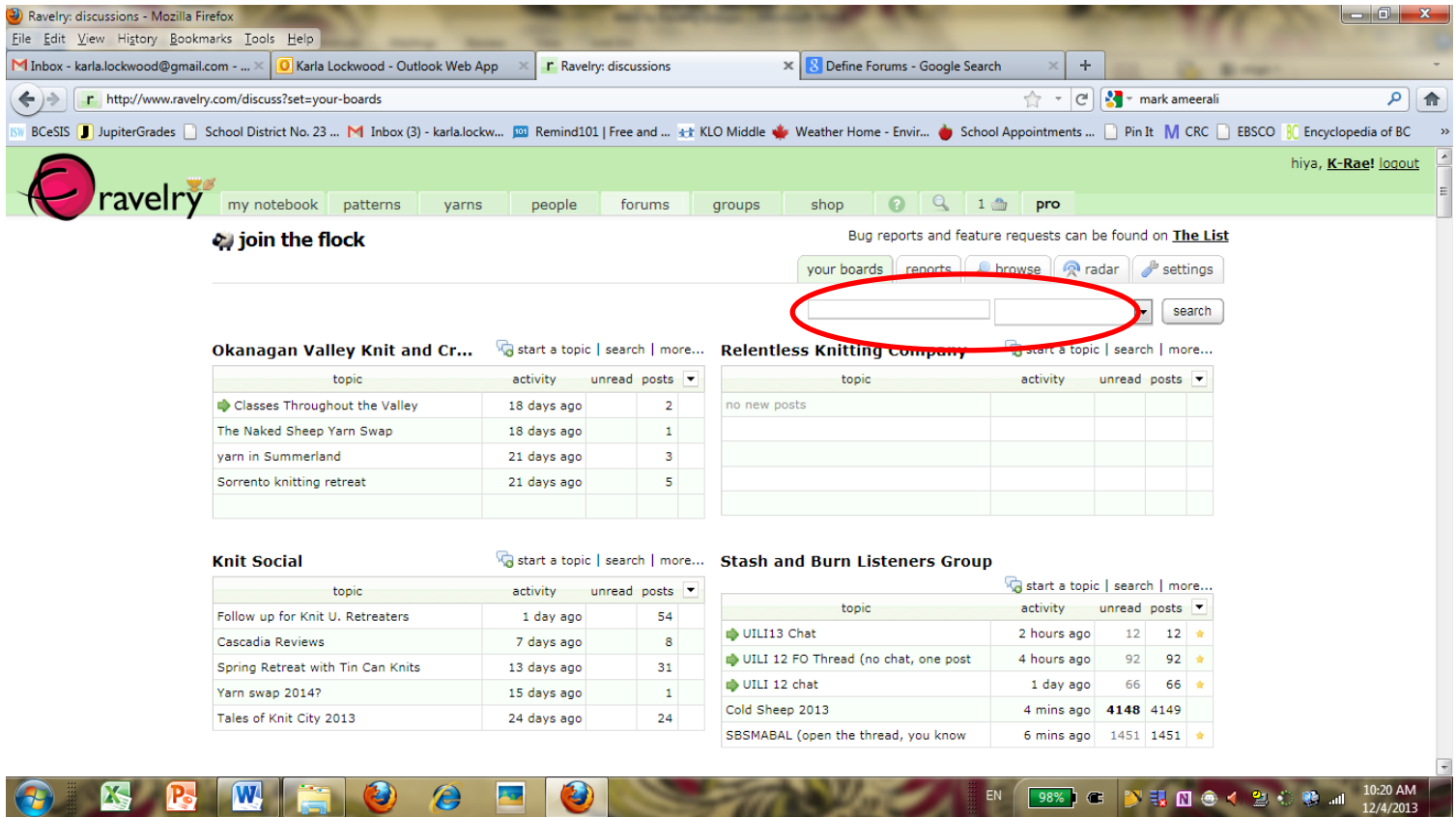
Click the 'Groups' tab at the top to get started.

The screenshot shows the Ravelry website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for 'my notebook', 'patterns', 'yarns', 'people', 'forums', 'groups', 'shop', and 'pro'. Below this, a grid of 53 group icons is displayed, each with a unique logo and name. To the right of the grid is a search section titled 'search groups' with a search box and a 'search' button. Below the search box is a section titled 'need help finding groups?' which lists several options: 'find people that are in your city, state or country', 'browse groups by location', 'browse categories for groups that match your interests', 'browse groups by category', 'search tags to find topics that interest you', 'search by tag', 'join a swap', 'search all swaps', 'search -alongs by craft', and 'start a new group and invite people to join'. A red circle is drawn around this search options section. The browser's address bar shows 'http://www.ravelry.com/groups' and the user is logged in as 'hiya, K-Rae!'. The system tray at the bottom shows the date and time as '9:35 AM 12/4/2013'.

Ravelry gives you many options to find groups. You can search key words or look for groups that are more specific to your interest. These are things like location, swaps and craft alongs. Have fun browsing!

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With every Group there is a Forum. A forum is an online avenue where questions can be answered and ideas shared. By clicking on the forums tab at the top it will take you to a page that looks like this.



The screenshot shows the Ravelry forums page. The browser address bar is <http://www.ravelry.com/discuss?set=your-boards>. The user is logged in as 'hiya, K-Rae!'. The navigation bar includes 'my notebook', 'patterns', 'yarns', 'people', 'forums', 'groups', and 'shop'. Below the navigation bar, there are several forum sections:

- Okanagan Valley Knit and Cr...**

| topic | activity | unread | posts |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| Classes Throughout the Valley | 18 days ago | | 2 |
| The Naked Sheep Yarn Swap | 18 days ago | | 1 |
| yarn in Summerland | 21 days ago | | 3 |
| Sorrento knitting retreat | 21 days ago | | 5 |
- Relentless Knitting Company**

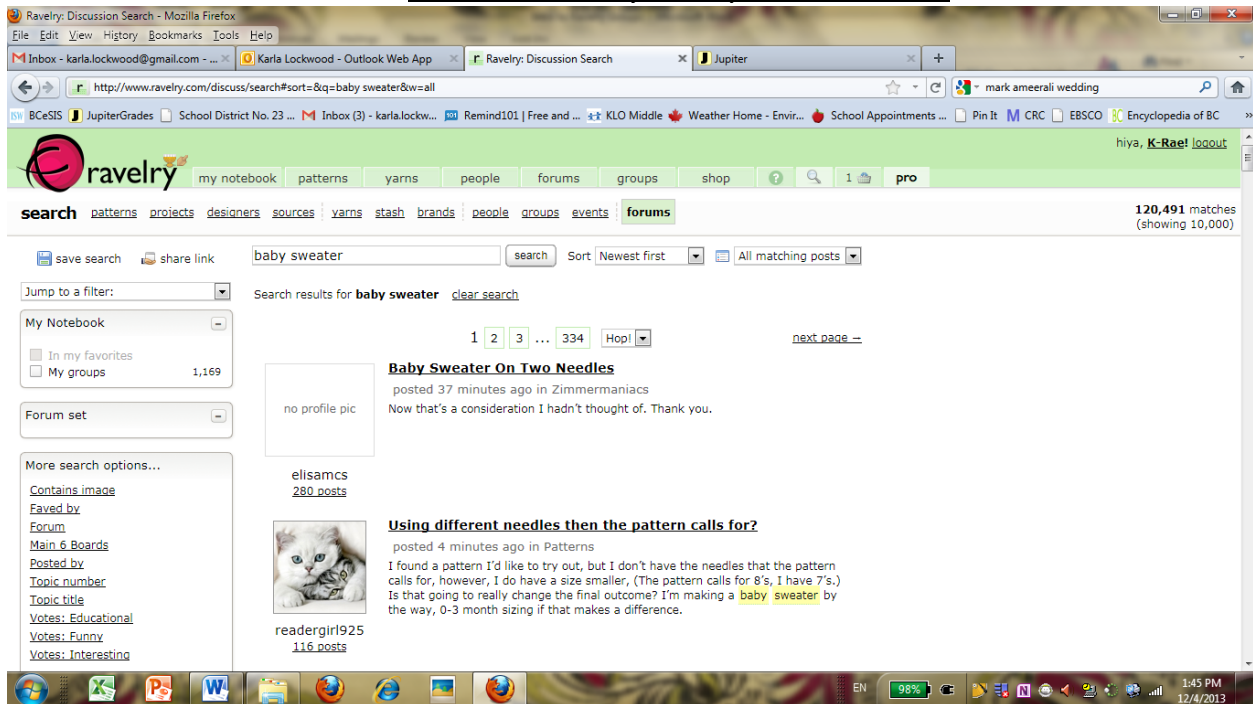
| topic | activity | unread | posts |
|--------------|----------|--------|-------|
| no new posts | | | |
- Knit Social**

| topic | activity | unread | posts |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| Follow up for Knit U. Retreaters | 1 day ago | | 54 |
| Cascadia Reviews | 7 days ago | | 8 |
| Spring Retreat with Tin Can Knits | 13 days ago | | 31 |
| Yarn swap 2014? | 15 days ago | | 1 |
| Tales of Knit City 2013 | 24 days ago | | 24 |
- Stash and Burn Listeners Group**

| topic | activity | unread | posts |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| UILI13 Chat | 2 hours ago | 12 | 12 |
| UILI 12 FO Thread (no chat, one post) | 4 hours ago | 92 | 92 |
| UILI 12 chat | 1 day ago | 66 | 66 |
| Cold Sheep 2013 | 4 mins ago | 4148 | 4149 |
| SBSMABAL (open the thread, you know) | 6 mins ago | 1451 | 1451 |

If you have a question it's likely already been answered. Use the search box on the top right and select "all forums" from the drop down menu. I searched 'baby sweater' and got over 120 000 matches. Using the search tool is another great way to find Groups with common interests to your own.

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If your question is not answered or it's more a question for a specific group, click on the Group name where you would like to post your question. Once in the specific group page you will see avatars and ravelry names of other members, projects they've shared with the group among other updates along the right hand side of the page. Scroll through the threads and see if there's an appropriate place to post your question otherwise click on 'start a topic' and ask it by starting a new thread.

