

CLUB

They clean so others can sew

By Sue Truax

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Sewing machines — like all electric tools — work best when cleaned regularly.

Marilyn Zenz supervises the all-woman crew of sewing machine cleaners at Rip 'N' Sew Club in Sun City West.

Zenz is lucky because she has an experienced crew. Kathy Gundersen gets the gold star for cleaning the Janome sewing machines. She cleans at least half of the club's 17 machines the first week of every month year-round, Zenz said. Sometimes, Gundersen does all the machines by herself.

"She's been doing that for at least 18 years," Zenz said. "I usually have two cleaners each week for the 12 months. If not two, always one for sure. I have three to four subs that fill in sometimes. One cleaner cleans the classroom machines and one cleans the front room machines, or some weeks, the two cleaners will help each other on the machines. How-

ever they want to handle it."

The written instructions for machine cleaning list 10 steps for doing the outside of the machine and four steps for the inside. Many of the cleaners know the instructions by heart.

Sue DeLucia has cleaned the sewing machines for many years. DeLucia and Gundersen clean together during the first week of May through October, Zenz said.

For many years, Suzanne Somers and Jean Sinchak have cleaned the machines during the fifth week when a month has five weeks.

Some cleaners are winter visitors, so they clean the months they are here.

Joan Hardy, troubleshooter for the Juki sewing machines before the club purchased the Janomes, will clean the fourth week each month starting next year.

"Some drop out so I am always getting new cleaners every year," Zenz said.

But she's grateful for Gundersen, who helps Rip 'N' Sew start each month with clean sewing machines.



Kathy Gundersen cleans Rip 'N' Sew's sewing machines the first week of every month. She uses a Swiffer duster to remove foreign objects, thread pieces and other debris. After dusting, she wipes the thread-holding area and the exterior of the whole machine with a cloth treated with Goo Gone. The product lets the cleaner know if anything sticky has been left on the sewing machine. The treated cloth also is used to wipe away anything sticky. Gundersen also uses micro brushes to clean inside the bobbin holding area. She uses a vacuum to remove any accumulation of dust bunnies. (Submitted photo)