



Around the Block
QUILT SHOP

April 22, 2016

Reprint from March 9, 2012

NASA needs a better publicist. You see, there is this football-field-sized asteroid that will almost, but not quite, hit Earth in February 2013, and the doomsayers are predicting the worst. So NASA has stepped in to calm everyone down. But I can tell you that while NASA might be able to measure trajectories they don't know the first thing about writing. I don't have to read the doomsayers blogs to be scared: NASA's reassuring press releases are horrific enough.

For example, NASA says "the near-Earth asteroid 2012 DA14 won't slam into our planet next year." Now that's comforting. Using terms like "near Earth" and "slam" certainly has a calming effect on me. But what is more troublesome is the end of that sentence. "Next year." NASA didn't say this asteroid will never slam into Earth. It just won't do it next year. Okay, take deep breaths.

Here are more comforting words from NASA: The asteroid "will give Earth an uncomfortably close shave on Feb. 15, 2013, coming nearer to our planet than the satellites we've lofted to geostationary orbit. But 2012 DA14 poses no real impact danger on that pass, according to NASA scientists." Stay calm.

Let's talk about the name of this asteroid first. 2012DA14. That means they just discovered this thing in the last 2 months-last month to be precise as it flew by heading toward the sun. I remember reading some report last year from a NASA dude who said they knew where all of the near-Earth asteroids were. And that none of them posed a threat. Clearly they missed this one.

Okay, back to the statement: This asteroid will come within 12,680 miles of Earth which is closer than many of our satellites. That's less than a round trip around the world-or about a flight from South Africa to Hawaii. The geostationary satellites hover farther away at 22,245 miles. The Space Station flies at 240 miles up. Just so you know.

Finally the end of that statement: "Poses no real impact danger on that pass." That pass. That's a hint. Yes, this asteroid will fly by again in 2020. NASA states that there is a slightly higher risk of collision on that pass, but they are going to "nail down" the trajectory, "which will in all likelihood reduce the 2020 risk estimate to zero." Isn't that a great statement? I think they are banking on the fact you don't read the word "estimate" in that sentence. Read it again.

And NASA wonders why we get worried. NASA blames the internet and uninformed people making speculations. But for me, it's the scientific statements that worry me. These guys should know what they're talking about and when they start talking in circles, I wonder what they're not telling me. NASA objects that the terrifying blog entries (probably a bit like this one) hit the internet before NASA can "vet the claim and publish their official, less-terrifying statement regarding the asteroid's trajectory." I like that. "Less terrifying." NASA's doing just fine in the scare mode, thank you very much.

And just in case NASA gets the trajectory wrong, they do have contingency plans in place. Like bumping it with a space probe sometime before 2020, a move that they call "doable." Okay, stop laughing. We've all seen the movies and know how that's going to turn out. And if -- when-- that fails, because it wasn't "doable" enough, NASA has assured us that the asteroid will probably fall into the ocean or onto unoccupied land. And besides, NASA says an asteroid this size hits earth only every 700 years or so. Now that's comforting. 700 years ago the world had about 6 billion less people and no electricity. "Humanity has survived innumerable such events." That's NASA's quote, not mine. And that's supposed to be "less terrifying" information than what the scary doomsayers are predicting.

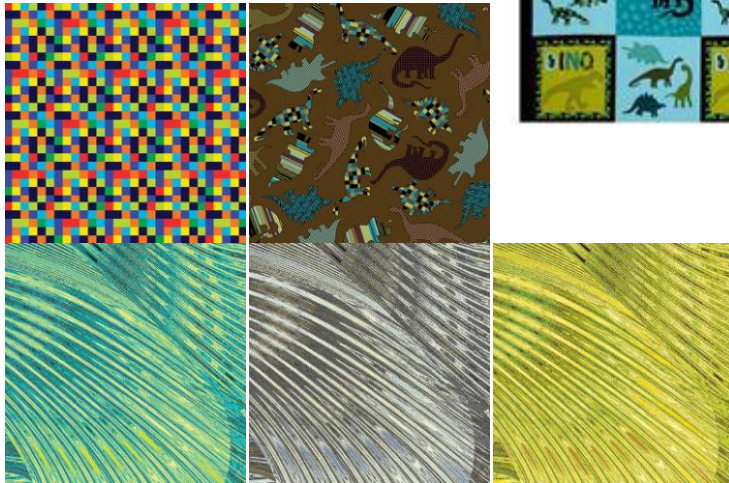
Conclusion:

The asteroid will come close to earth next February, but we won't know how close until it slingshots around the sun to head back our way. Which is when we can nail down its trajectory. Or not. And if it doesn't hit us on this pass, in 2020 it's got a greater chance of hitting us. But not to worry. We'll either push it out of our way or let it wipe out part of humanity when it lands. These comforting words are brought to you straight from NASA.

I say, make more quilts

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Benartex:



From Moda:



April Classes and Special Events

Bertie's Year & Companions last Friday of the month, 1-4 \$20, free if you buy the kit
Bertie's Year & Perfectly Pieced are small wall hangings, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel).

Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments. The patterns are by Bonnie Sullivan, and you can do any of the series-she has a spring, summer, fall & winter Bertie's, plus the original, and plus the cats. You choose. Class is ongoing-because we need the time to get the embellishing done!

Friday Nighters Fri. April 29 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

May Classes & Special Events

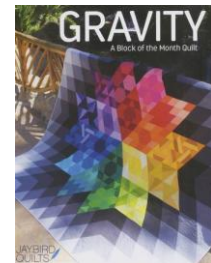
English Paper Piecing 1st & 3rd Mondays ongoing

Block of the Month Sat. May 7 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year we're making a red, white & blue quilt-patriotic theme, if you like.

Postponed until this fall Gravity \$25 Barb Boyer

Gravity is a "color wheel" styled quilt made with the Hex N More and Sidekick Rulers. We have limited kits available, and we also have Hoffman 10" squares & strips that can be used to create the blocks. Each month we will do 1-2 blocks. Quilt should be ready for Christmas!



Ornament Club 1st Sat of the month, 1:30-3:30 Free, if you buy that month's kit

Each month we will feature a different pieced ornament. Some of the ornaments can be used as gift tags & gift card holders. You can pick & choose which ornaments you want to make-each ornament will be displayed prior to class. You can make the March ornament & skip the April ornament, for example. Kits are limited, though, so if you are interested in a particular kit, be sure to sign up for that month & let me know.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Jan-Dec. 4-6 \$10 for the year (plus patterns or kits)

This year we are doing various table runners/ door banners/small wall hanging celebrating each month. Some of the quilts are long & skinny, some square, some round. Most of the quilts will be kitted.

Knit Pickers' Club Thur. May 12, 6-8:30

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit.

If you are in the Monday knitting classes, you can work on your project and get help, if you need it.

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. May 14, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

(Club normally meets the 2nd Sat. of each month from 10-noon)

This year we're still doing birds-state birds. We will have between 40-50 birds (some states use the same bird) for you to stitch. Various setting for turning the birds into a quilt will be provided. Color suggestions for the birds will also be offered. As a bonus, you will get the state outlines, state flowers, and other patterns to compliment the birds. You can join anytime.

Lace Houses, block of the month Sat. May 14 1-3 Kathy Sconce ongoing.

Christmas Row Quilt 3rd Sat of the month, starting May 21, 1-4 \$20 Barb Boyer

Each row uses a different pieced block. There are log cabins, stockings, wreaths, ornaments, snowmen, trees, houses, bells, and stars. Each month we will piece a different row. There are 7 rows (2 rows use multiple blocks), plus a pieced border. You should be able to have the quilt done by Christmas!

Postponed to May 22: Pillow Case Party Sun. FREE 1-4

If you've never made a pillow case, or just want some time to sew a pillow case, this class is for you. This is a great mother/daughter styled class and pillow cases make great presents!

Bertie's Year & Companions last Friday of the month, 1-4 \$20, free if you buy the kit

Bertie's Year & Purfectly Pieced are small wall hangings, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel). Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments. The patterns are by Bonnie Sullivan, and you can do any of the series-she has a spring, summer, fall & winter Bertie's, plus the original, and plus the cats. You choose. Class is ongoing-because we need the time to get the embellishing done!

Friday Nighters Fri. May 27 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

Postponed to May 28: LOTP: Churn Dash Sat. May 28, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

We are highlighting Little House of the Prairie fabrics this Spring, and this is our 4th quilt. This is a perfect quilt for scraps. This quilt uses the Churn Dash block and a modified Hold in the Barn Door block for the center of the quilt-which is on point. The Flowers collection from Little House makes this a perfect old fashioned looking quilt-and Mary was tall enough to actually use the churn, so she was able to help her mother churn the butter.

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2	3	4	5	6 Open Sew1-4	7 BOM 10:30-11:30 Ornament Club 1: 30-4 Monthly Minis 4-6
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Lace Houses 1-3
15	16 English Paper Piecing 2-4	17	18	19	20 Open Sew1-4	21 Christmas Row Quilt 1-4 Full Moon
22 Pillow Case party 1-4	23	24	25	26	27 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	28 LOTP: Churn Dash: 10:30-4
29	30 Memorial Day	31	Color of the month: Neutrals- whites/beiges			

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. We provide free vintage patterns, and this year we will have free patterns of girls with hats, that you can embroider, embellish and color. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

Knit Pickin' Club

This is another get-together class to sit & knit, work on our projects, share information and get some help. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, but mainly we'll sit & knit (or pick).

Toad Toters

On full moon days (as noted in the calendar) you will get 20% off all purchases (not otherwise discounted) that you can fit in your bag. You must bring your bag to participate.

Full Moon Days: January 24; February 22; March 23; April 22 , May 21.

Discount Policy

We will honor only one discount -- whichever is largest. You can't combine a 10% with a 25% discount to get a 35% discount. On this we can't be bribed.

Color of the Month

January purple; February red; March green; April yellow, May neutrals .

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!