

Around the Block

QUILT SHOP

February 29, 2016

It's always amusing when scientists get into trouble. These guys are really smart but they can make really dumb mistakes. For example:

Scientists finally discovered gravitational waves. Okay, that's not the dumb part. But you first have to understand a little bit about gravitational waves in order to appreciate the dumb part of this story.

Now gravitational waves are really important. And really hard to describe. Let's just say gravitational waves are produced when two black holes collide. Based upon the laws of physics, lots of complicated math and Einstein's theories of relativity which are a means of measuring things that can't be seen (like gravity), scientists have known for a long time what gravitational waves should look like. Think of a rock thrown into a pond creating rippling waves. But because it was still all a theory accompanied by complex math equations, it was possible they really didn't exist.

And then last September scientists heard a gravitational wave. It went "chirp." Seriously. Big sound detectors in Washington & Louisiana both recorded it. It was the sound made when two black holes collided about 1.3 billion years ago. Gravitational waves were produced (rock in a pond concept) and last September it was heard.

But the information was kept a secret until February 11, in part so that the scientists could validate the results.

And here's the dumb part of the story. I know you've been wondering.

Scientists placed an embargo on the story, wanting to control the news so that everyone would get the story at the same time. They figured the news would rock the science world and, for fairness sake, wanted everyone that was important to know at the same time.

So about 15 minutes before announcement time, scientists who worked on the project had gathered for a celebratory party, complete with a cake with a gravitational wave graph piped on top with icing. And in walks a NASA research assistant, who works at the Goddard Space Flight Center, with a cell phone and Twitter account. Everyone was taking pictures, she said, so she thought the news was out. She took a picture and tweeted it to her friends. You know, the type of friends you'd meet on the Big Bang Theory. Other scientists. And press.

So the world found out about gravitational waves, confirming part of Einstein's Theory of Relativity, via icing on a cake, 16 minutes



Erik Ryan (@erikryan) · February 11, 2016
Cake for #LIGO + Gravitational Waves at @NASAGoddard today!

before the story was set to go live.

But that's not the dumb part of the story. Well, it was not a smart move on that researcher's part to jump the embargo deadline and announce to the world, via a cake, that Einstein was right. Although given the fact that Einstein's theory also involves concepts like time and dimension, perhaps it's a tad ironic that the embargo time and the tweet time were not in sync.

But the dumb part is: This is the second time she's made the same mistake. In the same way.

In 2013, she tweeted another cake top that revealed, prior to press time, an observation about the Saturn moon Titan. So at least she's consistent in her mistakes, although I bet her employer will either quit inviting her to parties or take her phone away from her. Last week I consistently tried the same process over & over, hoping for a different result. But I think that's the definition of insanity, actually. Relatively speaking, that's something different entirely.

Update on the dogs: Well, Cassidy has learned how to use a claw hammer. I'm convinced that's how she pried off part of a fence slat in order to escape the wind in the back yard. What she doesn't realize is that the wind is actually windier on the other side of the fence. And she hasn't figured out that it is less windy in the garage. She also hasn't learned how to hold the nails so that she can hammer the fence slats back into the gate. Sigh. So I now have more paneling on the inside of the gate, thanks to a friend. Soon I will have the whole inside of the fence repaired with paneling. It makes for an odd look, but the dogs haven't figured out how to pry the paneling off. Yet.

And for all you discerning individuals out there, the March calendar is now in the newsletter. Sorry about that.

Springtime in the Rockies 2016 Apron Challenge! Viewer's Choice Prizes Awarded!



Our theme for this year is all about aprons! Big ones, little ones, funny ones, short ones, tall ones. Design your own or use a commercial pattern. To participate, fill out an entry form and submit it to a participating quilt store by March 25. Aprons are due to the store by April 2. Aprons will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 8 & 9. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$75 1st; \$50 2nd; \$25 3rd. Aprons and prizes can be collected from your participating shop after the show.

A few rules: Apron must be made by entrant. Apron must be made within the last 6 months.



WHAT'S NEW!!

From Free Spirit:



From Moda:



Great Pumpkin Pattern has arrived!



From Anthology:



From Blank:





February Classes & Special Events

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. Feb 26 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2016 -- 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.

LOTP: Bear's Paw Sat. Feb 27, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

We are highlighting Little House of the Prairie fabrics this Spring, and this is the second quilt for this year. You can make the quilt in 2 colors, plus border, or make each Bear's Paw scrappy using fabrics from the entire Little House collection. This quilt in another traditional quilt, and it is the other quilt that is mentioned in the series of books.

March Classes and Special Events

Spoon Quilting Wed. Mar 2 1-3 \$25 Sandra Freeburg

No more sore fingers! Learn to Spoon Quilt, with a special spoon quilting tool. This tool helps you keep your stitches tiny and even without pricking your finger. Need to have basic quilting skills (rocking motion quilting).

Beginning Quilting ongoing Sun. 1-4, Mar 13, 20

OR

Wednesdays: 6-9 Mar 2

Block of the Month Sat. Mar 5 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.

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.

English Paper Piecing 1st & 3rd Mondays ongoing

Knit Pickers' Club Thur. Mar 10, 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. Mar 12, 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. Mar 12 1-3 Kathy Sconce ongoing.

Wrapsody Purse Sat. Mar 12 4-6 Sue Frerich ongoing

Back Basting Wed. Mar 16 1-3 Sandra Freeburg \$25

Back basting is a template free method of needle turn applique. No slippery freezer paper or chalked lines on top that never seem to get turned under quite right. This method is especially great for traveling, because your pieces will be basted onto your background -- no need for pins to get in the way. This class is great for beginners and all levels of appliquers. Don't let hand applique frustrate you. It's really easy and relaxing!

Beginning Machine Quilting Wed. Mar 16 6-8:30 \$25 Sue Frerich

Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt your name!

NATIONAL QUILT DAY! MARCH 19

STAY TUNED FOR SPECIALS TO CELEBRATE THE DAY!

Wheel of Mystery Sat. Mar 19 10:30-5 \$20 Sue Frerich

Curved piecing is all the rage right now. This traditional quilt, sometimes called Winding Ways, uses plastic templates for easy rotary cutting. Learn how to sew the gentle curves to create this beautiful quilt, & it can be made from your scraps!



Beginning Machine Applique Wed. Mar 23 6-9 \$25 Barb Boyer

So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

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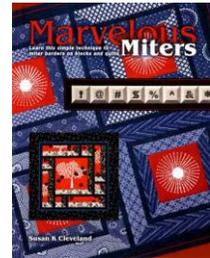
LOTP: Flying Geese Sat. Mar 26, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

We are highlighting Little House of the Prairie fabrics this Spring, and this is our third quilt. This is a perfect quilt for scraps. We will use the No Math Flying Geese Ruler which makes 4 blocks at a time-and let's you choose from 12 different sizes. And because it is "Flying Geese" there are few tricks to getting the blocks to come out just right. You will be an expert in this method by end of day.



Attic Window Quilt Wed. Mar. 30, 6-8:30 \$20 Barb Boyer

Learn the basics of Y-seam construction in this Attic Window quilt. We will work with 2 scenic panels to create a wall hanging that will look like you are seeing through a window-appropriate, right? We will also talk about mitered borders (because it is the same technique). We will use Susan Cleveland's Marvelous Miters book because her method is the best & most accurate that I've ever used for attic window construction.



February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Back Basting Applique 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	4	5 Open Sew1-4	6 BOM 10:30-11:30 Binding demo 1-3 Monthly Minis 4-6
7 CLOSED	8 English Paper Piecing 2-4	9	10 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	11 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	12	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Lace Houses 1-3 Wrapsody Purse 4-6
14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15 BJ Designs 10:30- Morley Moose & friends Presidents' Day	16	17 Hand quilting 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	18	19 Open Sew1-4	20 Jelly Roll Race 2-6 Wrapsody Purse 10-2
21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22 Full Moon English Paper Piecing 2-4	23	24 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	25	26 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	27 LOTP: Bear's Paw 10:30-5
28 Beginning Quilt 1-4	29	Color of the month: Red				

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Green		1	2 Spoon Quilting 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	3	4 Open Sew1-4	5 BOM 10:30-11:30 Ornament Club 1:30-3:30 Monthly Minis 4-6
6 CLOSED	7 English Paper Piecing 2-4	8	9	10 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon Lace Houses 1-3 Wrapsody Purse 4-6
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14	15	16 Back Basting Applique 1-3 Beginning Machine Quilting 6-9	17	18 Open Sew1-4	19 Wheel of Mystery 10:30-5 National Quilt Day
20 Beginning Quilt 1-4	21 English Paper Piecing 2-4	22	23 Beginning Machine Applique 6-9 Full Moon	24	25 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	26 LOTP Flying Geese 10:30-5
27 CLOSED	28	29	30 Attic Window quilt 6-8:30	31		

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Yellow					1 Open Sew1-4	2 BOM 10:30-11:30 Ornament Club 1:30-3:30 Monthly Minis 4-6
3 CLOSED	4 English Paper Piecing 2-4	5	6	7	8 Shop Hop	9 Shop Hop
10 CONCERT	11	12	13	14 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	15 Open Sew1-4	16 Drunkard's Path 10:30-4
17 Machine Applied Binding 1-4	18 English Paper Piecing 2-4	19	20 Mastering Curves & Free Motion Quilting 1-4 & 6-9	21	22 Full Moon	23 LOTP Churn Dash 10:30-5
24 Pillowcase Party 1-4	25	26	27 Mastering Curves & Free Motion Quilting 1-4 & 6-9	28	29 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	30 S.O.S.Quilts 10:30-5

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!