



Around the Block

QUILT SHOP

Check out the summer schedule. A few things have changed for May: Friday Nighters is moved up a week. Mod Dogs, Machine Applique, Jelly Roll Race and Binding for Beginners have been added to the schedule. I don't have all the descriptions written out yet, but most of the classes are self explanatory. And I think I have left out a couple of classes, but I'll fill in the blanks as I remember. Most of the classes this summer use precuts and quick techniques. After all, it's summer and we want to spend time outside, but we still have quilts to make!

May 5, 2017

My brother keeps me up on important cultural events that go unnoticed by most people. We get focused so much on health care reform, international politics, missile launchings, and where Trump is spending the weekend, that we miss some of the more understated news events. Like the awarding of the 2016 Darwin Awards.

I'm sure most of you are aware that Darwin promoted a theory of natural selection in which the strongest within the species live and reproduce, while the weakest die out. In 1985, give or take, a Usenet news group (think pre internet) started posting items on the bulletin boards about individuals who had taken themselves out of the gene pool by doing something incredibly stupid, resulting in death or sterilization. Now, I'm not here to make fun of death-it's creeping up on all of us. But, for some, it happens faster than it should. According to Wendy Northcutt, who wrote a series of books on all of this, "In the spirit of Charles Darwin, the Darwin Awards commemorate individuals who protect our gene pool by making the ultimate sacrifice of their own lives. Darwin Award winners eliminate themselves in an extraordinarily idiotic manner, thereby improving our species' chances of long-term survival."

You can check it all out on the Darwin Awards web page. And while there is no real panel that selects each year's winners, Northcutt applies five criteria when determining who should win a Darwin extinction award: 1) Inability to reproduce not caused by natural causes; 2) Excellence, or as Northcutt puts it "astoundingly stupid judgment." In order words, something really ridiculous; 3) Self Selection-do it yourself bad judgment; 4) Maturity-meaning old enough to know better; and 5) Veracity. This last is often difficult to determine, and the folks that award the Darwin Awards fact check as much as possible and require documentation when possible. But myths do creep in.

What I find amusing in the 2016 awards is that each place winner was a man

. Technically, honorable mention went to a man & wife, but I think he was driving. Now, don't send letters. I realize women do silly things, but in your spare time google "why there are more women than men" and you will find a hilarious collection of photos of men doing things that could land them a first place Darwin Award.

Anyway, here are the 2106 winners:
8th place: a man stuck his head through an 18-inch sewer grate in an attempt to retrieve his keys. He got stuck and drowned in 2 feet of water.



7th: a stockbroker in San Francisco, who totally zoned when he ran, totally zoned running off a 100-foot cliff.

6th: A man dug an 8 foot hole in the sand for protection from the wind on a beach. He put a beach chair at the bottom of the hole. The hole collapsed and buried him under 5 feet of sand. Rescue workers using heavy equipment took one hour to dig him out.

5th: A man fell through the ceiling of a bicycle shop he was burglarizing. He had a flashlight in his mouth to keep his hands free. When he hit the floor, the flashlight rammed into the base of his neck. Makes you wonder if his mom ever warned him about running with scissors or walking with a fork in his mouth.

4th: A man bet friends he would put a revolver with 4 bullets into his mouth and pull the trigger. He won the bet.

3rd: A man pulls up to a firearms store with the intent to rob it. Can you see where this is going? It gets better. He had to side step around a cop car to get inside. The guy gets in the store, announces a hold up and fired a couple of wild shots in the air from a target pistol. See I told you, it gets better. And better. Of course, not only do the cop and clerk return fire, but several other customers in the store shoot the guy. In all, 46 expended cartridge cases were found, from 7 different weapons, and 23 of those rounds entered the robber. No one else was hurt.

Honorable Mention: A husband/wife team were bored driving around a 2 a.m. So they lit a stick of dynamite intending to throw it out the window. Note to self: Make sure the window is open before you light the dynamite.

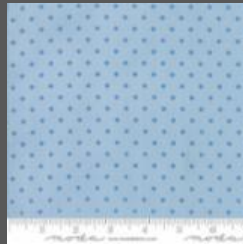
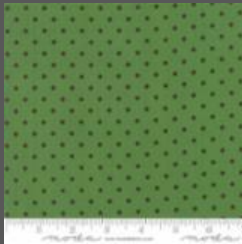
Winner: A zoo keeper fed his constipated elephant 22 doses of laxative, plus other foods guaranteed to loosen things up. Then, while performing an olive oil enema, things loosened up and the zoo keeper was buried...well, I'll leave that to your imagination. But just to be clear, because I don't want to be accused of delivering "fake news," this elephant story actually began to be circulated in 1998 and should be classified as an urban myth rather than truth. But it does emphasize the point, and was probably the origin of the saying, that....happens. If you get my drift.

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Alexander Henry:

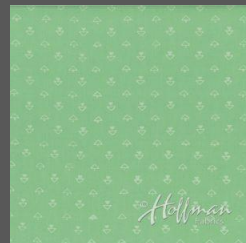
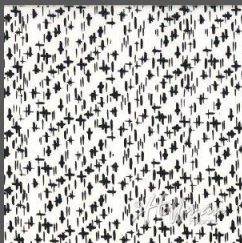
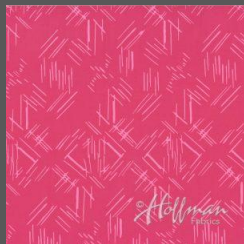
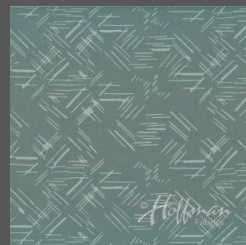
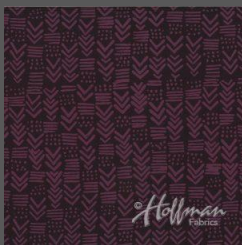
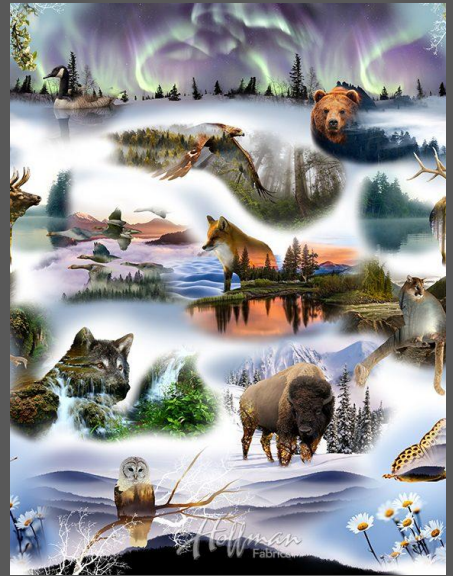


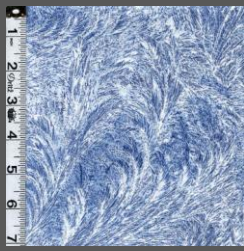
From Moda:



From Hoffman:



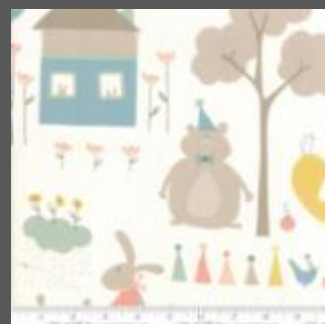
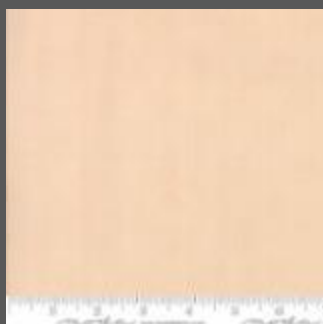
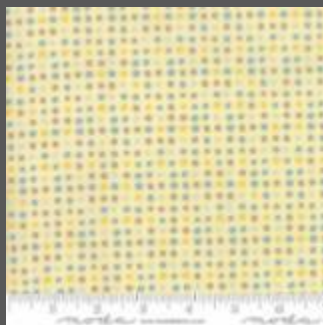




From Red Rooster:

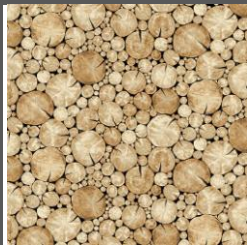


From Moda:

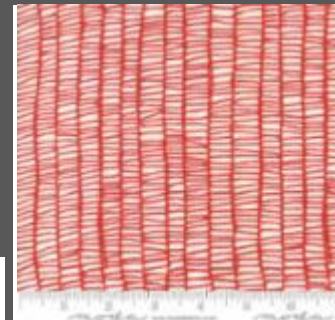




From Benartex:



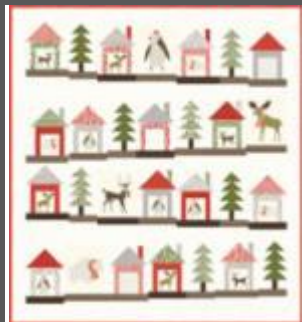
More from Moda: just precuts right now. Bolts should arrive later.



fabric to come

we have layer cakes, charms & jelly rolls now.

fabric to come, goes with the animals



Fabric to come. We have jelly rolls, layer cakes & charms now.

This is a kit



May Classes and Special Events

One Block Wonder Panel Quilt Ongoing Thurs May 4 & 18; OR Sat May 20 1-4

Block of the Month Sat. Apr. 3 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 basket quilt. Each block will be a different basket. The challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to use plaids!

Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1st Sat of the month, OR 1st Mon of each month
Feb - July 1-4 \$25

Eleanor Burns has designed 12 quilt blocks, plus various pieced borders to go with each block, that celebrate 12 famous women, including Martha Washington, Harriot Tubman and Eleanor Roosevelt. Come learn their stories and piece their blocks, using traditional fabrics or make it modern and celebrate today's rising stars from designers like Tula Pink and Kathy Dougherty.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Feb-Dec. 4-6 \$10 for the year (plus patterns or kits)
This year we are doing Holiday House, pre laser cut. Each kit will be app. \$40. These blocks can be made into a quilt, or kept separate as individual wall hangings.

Binding for Beginners Wed. May 10, 2-5 \$20)
Learn the standard, basic, tried & true method to put binding on quilts. You'll learn to cut and sew on a binding--so bring a small project to work on. You'll learn cutting techniques for bias and straight of grain binding. How to stitch it on, make the corners and the simple way to join the ends. Since this is the standard, every day kind of binding, you'll learn how to stitch it by hand on the back--but we'll talk about other methods.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Thur. of the month, 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.

All Things Halloween! 2nd Fridays every other month. 1-4 \$20/per class Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich
We will do 5 Halloween projects this year, including a full sized quilt, a table runner, an ornament, and other fun projects. You can pick and choose which projects you would like to do or sign up for all of them and get 1 class for free! **Third project: to be decided.**

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE (but see below) Kathy Sconce
(Club normally meets the 2nd Sat. of each month from 10-noon)
Starting this fall we are doing barns. If you want to participate, there will be a COST. The patterns is \$20 + \$12 for printing. Each month, I will print the barn on Transfer Ez for you. Bring your fabric and supplies (floss, hoop, scissors, etc), and we will sit & stitch on the blocks during class. Fabric requirements will be provided in the first class.

Fat Quarter Fun Sat. May 13, OR Mon May 15 1-6 \$20 Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich
Every other month we will make a quilt using fat quarters (plus additional fabrics for borders). Three of the quilts will be from the same book, and the last 3 quilts will come from another book, maybe 2 books. Each quilt will employ a new cutting or sewing technique, just to keep it interesting! We will have limited kits of each quilt. We will offer these classes twice--pick your day, Saturday or Monday. **May's quilt is strip pieced cut apart block & sewn back together. Intrigued?** Books shows it done in blues, and that's how we've kitted it!

Machine Applique Wed. May 17, 1-4 \$25

You will learn the basics of machine applique: statin (zig zag) stitch and the blanket/button hole stitch. You will learn how to get in and out of corners, points, and around curves. We will talk about different kinds of threads, fusibles and decorative stitches.

Mod Dogs Mon. May 22 (or June 10) 1-5 \$20

This simple. modern quilt uses a jelly roll and fun background fabrics. You can piece the backgrounds, or use a "cheater" fabric. This is a great way to learn basics of fusing (the dogs are fused) and machine applique. Quick & easy quilt and uses precuts. What could be better!?

Jelly Roll Race Mon. May 29, 10:30-5 \$20

Read, set, stitch!. Using 1 jelly roll you can make a great quilt for a college student heading off to school in the fall. If graduation is in June, you can even present the quilt, all done, ready to go. It's that quick. It's a fun day of sewing, and I through a few extra things into the quilt, just to make it interesting.

Friday Nighters, 2nd to last Friday of the month 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 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 One Block Wonder 10-5	5 Open Sew1-4	6BOM 10:30-11:30 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
7 CLOSED	8	9	10 Full Moon Binding for Beginners 2-5	11 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	12 All Things Halloween 1-4	13Embroidery Club 10-noon Fat Quarter Fun 1-6
14 Mother's Day	15 Fat Quarter Fun 1-6	16	17 Machine Applique 1-4	18 One Block Wonder 1-6	19 Open Sew1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	20 One Block Wonder 1-6
21	22 Mod Dogs 1-5	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Jelly Roll Race 10:30-5 Memorial Day	30	31			Color of the month: Neutrals-whites/beiges

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 State Shop Hop Begins	2 Open Sew1-4	3 BOM 10:30-11:30 Get R' Done-Stitch Your Bindings Down! 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
4 CLOSED	5	6	7 Beginning Quilt 1-4	8 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	9 All Things Christmas 1-4 Full Moon	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Mod Dogs 1-6
11 Beginning Quilt 1-4	12	13	14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15 Take 5 10-30-5	16 Open Sew1-4	17 Wildlife Quilt 10:230-5
18 Beginning Quilt 1-4 Father's Day	19	20	21 Beginning Quilt 1-4 Row by Row Begins	22 Take 5 10-30-5	23	24
25 Beginning Quilt 1-4	26 English Paper Piecing 2-4	27	28 Beginning Quilt 1-4	29	30 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	Color of the month: Brown

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1BOM 10:30-11:30 Get R' Done-Stitch Your Bindings Down! 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
2 CLOSED	3 Jelly Roll Race 10:30-5	4 X-Block Flag 10-3 <u>Independence</u> <u>Day</u>	5 Beginning Quilt 1-4	6	7 All Things Halloween 1-4	8Embroidery Club 10- noon Fat Quarter Fun 1- 6 Turning 20 Full Moon
9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Fat Quarter Fun 1-6 Turning 20	11	12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14	15 T-shirt 10:30-4
16 Beginning Quilt 1-4	17	18	19 BeginningMachine Quilting 1-4 or 6-9	20	21 Open Sew1-4	22 T-shirt 10:30-4
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Color of the month: Blue
30	31 English Paper Piecing 2-4					

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Open Sew1-4	5 BOM 10:30-11:30 Get R' Done-Stitch Your Bindings Down! 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
6 Beginning Quilt 1-4	7 Full Moon	8	9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	11 All Things Christmas 1-4	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14	15	16 Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	17	18 Open Sew1-4	19 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 1: Disappearing Sun quilt 10:30-5
20 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 2: Reappearing Sun quilt 1-6	21 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 3: Solar Eclipse quilt & road trip 8-5	22	23	24	25 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	26 Counterpoint 10:30-5
27	28 English Paper Piecing 2-4	29	30	31		Color of the month: Black

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: Jan 12, Feb 10, March 12, April 11, May 10.

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/beiges/whites.

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

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer

Around the Block

307-433-9555

www.aroundtheblockquilts.com