

SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!

Classes are on Wednesdays and Saturdays in April: 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30, or 6-8:30. Check the calendar for April dates. Only 4 to a class.

Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Tuesdays and Fridays, and a couple of Sunday rentals only for right now. Check the April calendar for rentals on Sunday. 2 rentals times per day: 10:30-2 and 2:30-6. \$25/hr or \$85 for 3 1/2 hours. \$50 minimum. Plus \$5/bobbin for thread. Most quilts (double and smaller), even for beginners, will take about 2 1/2-3 hours. We will discuss what you plan to do on your quilt and will help you estimate how long it will take.



March 30, 2018

We celebrate Easter this Sunday. Some of us go to church, some of us hunt for eggs and some of us do both.

Now, Easter eggs and rabbits go together, of course. Have you ever seen the Cadbury chocolate ad where the various animals are vying to become the spokes animal for Cadbury? The lion, wearing ridiculous bunny ears, roars; the cat meows and clucks; the tortoise just crawls very slowly; the llama makes weird sounds while trying to cluck; and the pig sounds like he is backward sneezing while trying to cluck. And of course, none are as cute & cuddly as the white rabbit who just clucks and hops.

But how did we ever get to bunnies laying eggs/bringing eggs/hiding

eggs at Easter? As a kid, I remember dying eggs and then being excited on Easter morning to hunt down the eggs the Easter bunny hid around the house. But I'm not sure I ever really thought about why rabbits delivered eggs. They just did.

And then in 7th grade (okay, by then I was already clued in), I had to write an Easter story for English class. I had no clue what to write, but my big brother did and it was hilarious. I don't remember his entire story but it involved my dad having to hide eggs, dropping them and cussing up a storm. The plot essentially revolved around a little kid learning the true meaning of the Easter Bunny.

When I moved to Wyoming, I had friends in Colorado who hid eggs for their kids outside. That was new to me. Egg hiding and hunting were always done inside the house. So outdoor egg hiding meant hats, coats, gloves, boots and flashlights. And staying up past midnight to make sure the kids were asleep. The problem with hiding eggs outside in a rural setting meant the kids weren't the only "critters" hunting eggs. We didn't always find all of the eggs.

As the kids got older, the egg hunts became competitive and the adults joined the hunt. We hid eggs up trees, down gopher holes, under manure piles and in other hard to find and sometimes disgusting places.

And then the "Easter Egg" hunting became even more adult. I had another set of friends who held an Easter Beer hunt on their acreage at Buford, WY. You had to donate a 6-pack of beer to the cause. My friends hid the beer across several acres and the person who got the most points won a prize: canned beer was worth 1 point, bottles 5, craft or specialty beer 10, and anything found from a previous year was worth 25 points. And Wyoming being Wyoming, especially in Buford at the top of the mountain, it was always freezing cold and really windy for the hunt. It was worth it.

So while all of that explains how the Easter Bunny got to my house and the beer to Buford, how did the Easter Bunny get to the United States, in general? We all know that Easter is both a sacred and pagan tradition - spring being the unifying aspect. And we all know that spring impacts how all creatures multiply, especially rabbits, to put it delicately. And we all know that hens lay eggs which are a sign of new life. But it still doesn't explain the rabbit bit. So we need to go further back in time than my childhood.

Hundreds of years ago, some churches had their parishioners abstain from eating eggs during Lent and then allowing them to be consumed again on Easter. This in some ways sends a strange message, I think, and leads to the question, which came first the chicken or the egg or the Easter Bunny. I'm just kidding. But it does connect eggs with Easter. But not yet the hare.

And then comes the decorating of eggs, which eventually gets wrapped into the Easter Bunny tradition. According to History.com, in the 19th century Russian high society started exchanging ornately decorated eggs on Easter. And thus spawned the Faberge eggs, which were made during 1885-1917, most were for the Russian Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II who gave them as Easter gifts. So now we have both eating eggs at Easter and decorating eggs at Easter. But none of this explains how a rabbit got involved with decorating and delivering, let alone laying, eggs at Easter. Or why the Cadbury bunny clucks.

Apparently, the group that put the bunny into Easter was the Germans. In the 1700s, German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania had a tradition of an egg-laying rabbit, called the Osterhase or Oscheter Haws. This hare may have also acted like a Santa Claus with a nice & naughty list: Good kids got candy & toys, bad kids probably had to hide the eggs. The children would make nests for the Osterhase to lay its colored eggs. I say "its," because I think the Easter Bunny is actually male, so I don't really have a clue as to how he gets his eggs. Actually there is more to that story, but I suggest you look it up.

Anyway, the custom grew to include the Easter Bunny making home deliveries and including chocolate to boot. And baskets soon replaced nests. We now have egg rolling contests at the White House, an annual event started in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was president. We have egg tossing contests; we have jelly beans which are just miniature colored candy eggs; we have Peeps and Peep dioramas; Easter Parades with fancy hats and fun songs; and Easter Beer Hunts.

And to follow in this grand tradition, we are having a scavenger hunt at the store. I know you were all wondering where part of this story was going. Check out our Toad Toter sale (see below). Everyone will be able to participate, but the Tote Toters have first dibs from 10-3.

Happy Easter!



Blue Moon --Toad Toter Day!

March 31

Do we have a fun sale for the Blue Moon Toad Toters! Because this is the second (blue moon) full moon day of the month, we do special things for our Toad Toters. For those of you new to this, Toad Toters have purchased a bag with the shop logo on it--the Toad in the Puddle quilt block (get it?--Toad Toters). On full moon days, Toad Toters get 20% off everything they can stuff into their bag. (Unfortunately, I do not have any more bags for sale at the moment--I will get more in soon.)

Anyway, on Blue Moon full moons, we usually do something special for the Toad Toters. In addition to the 20% off, we are having a scavenger hunt. We still have fabric that costs less than \$9 a yard (\$8.99 & under). Any fabric that you find (not the "down the hall fabric" that's sale priced at \$5/yard) that is less than \$9, you can buy it for \$5/yard. Some of the fabric is easy to spot: the Kona cottons are all \$8/yard. But that's the only hint you will get.

The sale for the Toad Toters starts at 10 and will go all day. For everyone who does not have a bag, you can join the fun at 3 p.m.

We also have a special spring time gift for every Toad Toter sale. So come by on Saturday for a good time, a fabric hunt and a welcome to spring gift.

Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop!

April 20-21

The Ranch, First National Bank Building, Loveland, CO

Our theme for this year's quilt show is Modern Quilts and we are asking for your participation. Design your own modern quilt or use a commercial pattern that embraces the modern quilting movement. To participate, fill out an entry form and bring it to the shop with your quilt by April 2. Forms are available here, just ask me for one. Quilts will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 20 & 21. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$400 1st, \$300 2nd, and \$200 3rd, selected by Viewer's Choice. Quilts and prizes can be collected from me after the show.

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

Our challenge this year is cats & dogs! Big ones, little ones, funny ones, short ones, tall ones. Design your own project or use a commercial pattern. To participate, fill out an entry form (get from me) and bring it to the shop with your project by April 2. Wallhangings, totes or other interpretations of cats and dogs no larger than 60" X 60" will be accepted. Last year Tracy Wilson won! Can we take home the prize again this year?!!!!

Projects will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 20 & 21. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$150 1st; \$100 2nd; \$50 3rd, selected by Viewer's Choice. Projects and prizes can be collected from me after the show.

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

WHAT'S NEW!!

Clothworks:





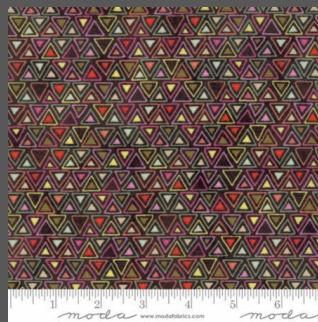
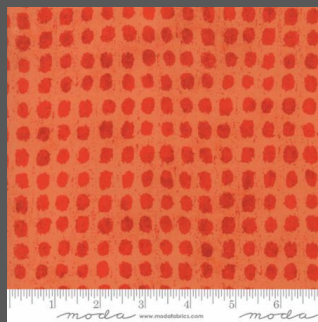
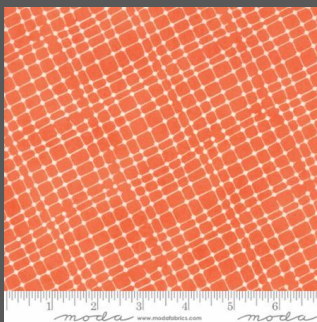
These last two are panels (just the turtle & pelican) that are only half shown above.

From Henry Glass:





From Moda:

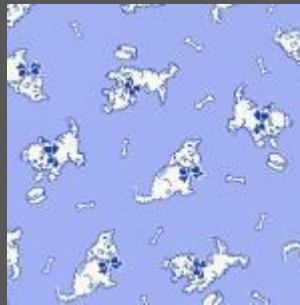


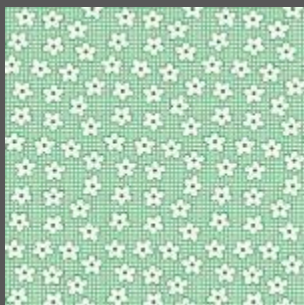
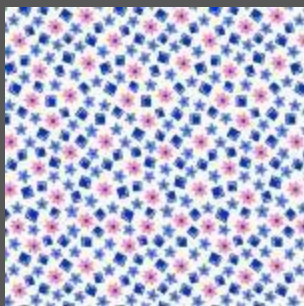
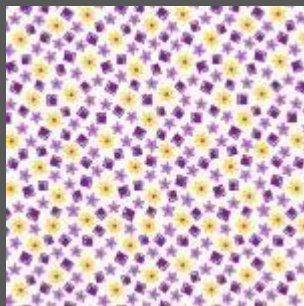
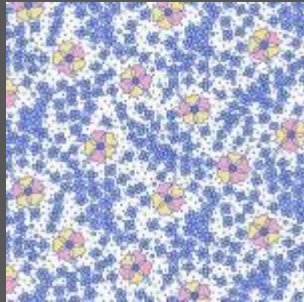
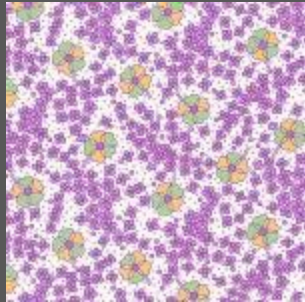
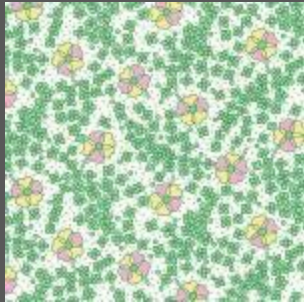


From Benartex:



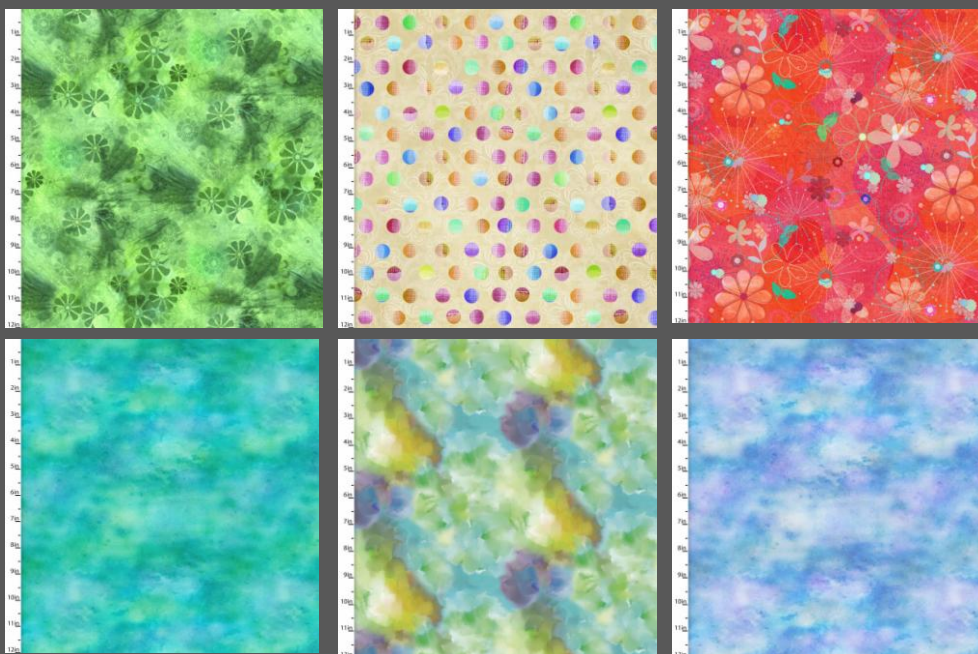
From Henry Glass, the Nana Mae 30s collection:

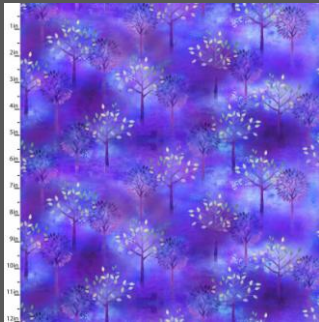
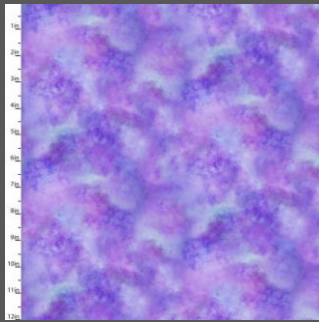
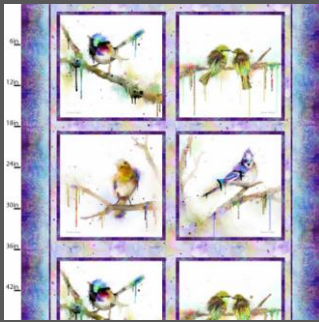






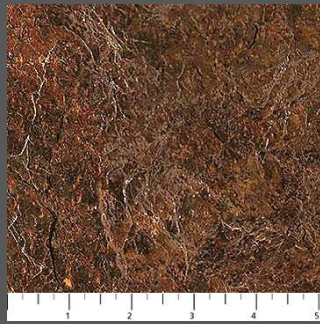
From 3 Wishes:





From Northcott:

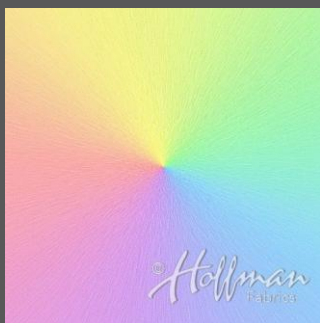




From Clothworks (the bolts are flannel and the precuts are cotton/flat):



From Hoffman:



From Elizabeth Studio:

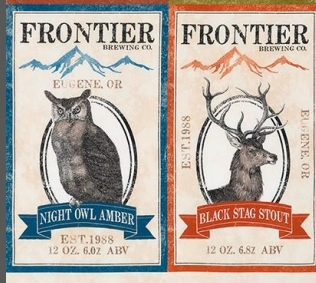
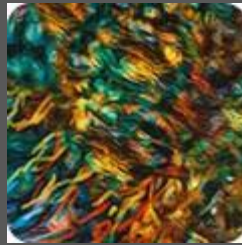




From M & S Textiles:



From Robert Kaufman:



Class descriptions follow the calendar, so keep scrolling. Classes are listed alphabetically.

March

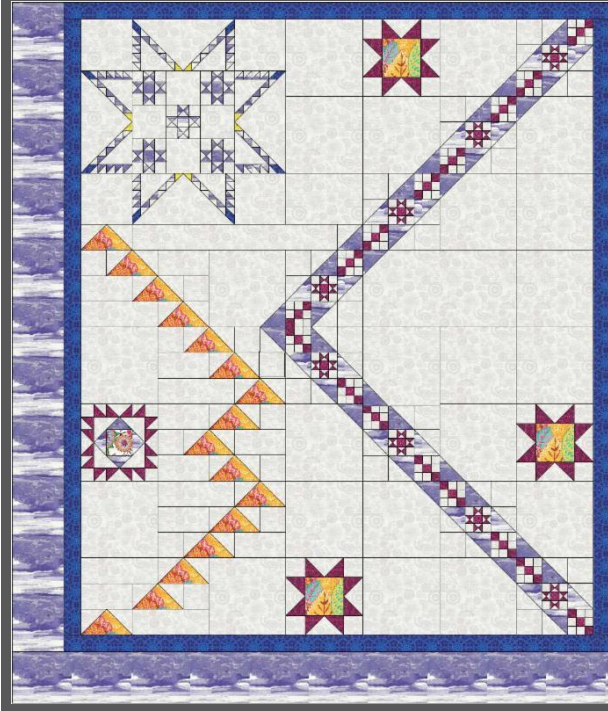
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30 FULL MOON	2 Long Arm Quilt demo10:30-1:30 (maybe)	3 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
4 CLOSE D	5 Long Arm Quilt demo10:30-1:30 (maybe)	6 Long Arm Quilt demo10:30-1:30 (maybe)	7 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 OR 6-9	8 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon
11 Beginning Quilt 1-4	12	13	14 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	15	16	17 National Quilt Day! French Braid10:30-5
18 Beginning Quilt 1-4	19	20	21 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 OR 6-9	22 Beginnin g Machine Quilting 1-4 and 6-9	23	24 Spider Web Quilt 10:30-4
25 Beginning Quilt 1-4	26 English Paper Piecing 1-4	27	28 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 OR 6-9	29 Beginnin g Machine Applique 1-4 and 6-9	30	31 French Braid10:30-5 FULL MOON BLUE MOON
Color of the month: Green						

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED EASTER	2	3 Long are rental day	4 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; 6-9	5	6 Long are rental day	7 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
8 Long arm rental day	9	10 Long are rental day	11 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6- 8:30	12	13 Long are rental day	14 Embroidery Club 10- noon Long Arm Quilt class 2:30-5:30
15 Long arm rental day	16	17 Long are rental day	18	19	20 Shop Hop	21 Shop Hop
22 Long Arm Quilt class 1-4	23	24 Long are rental day	25 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; 6-9	26 Paper Piecing 1- 4	27 Long are rental day	28 One Block Wonder Panel 10:30-4
29 Pillow Case Party 1- 4 FULL MOON	30 English Paper Piecing1- 4					Color of the month: Yellow

**Block of the Month First Sat of
month 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 "modern" quilt. Something new, something different. I will provide some other options as we explore the modern quilt world.



English Paper Piecing Club 4th (or last) Mondays 2-4 Barb Boyer \$20

English paper piecing dates back to the early 1800s. It is a hand sewing method that uses paper templates to help sew complex angles together, like hexagons. Any number of different designs can be made, including Grandmother's Flower Garden- this is the pattern I am STILL doing this year. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and the Downton Abbey free pattern.

**French Braid March 17 & 31 10:30-5 Sue Frerich
\$25**

Are you looking for a little challenge & new technique to learn? That results in a spectacular quilt? Then come learn how to do the French Braid quilt. Casca

ding colors make this a very striking quilt-and it really is easier

than it looks. Techniques learned include how to handle bias, color placement to create a great cascading effect, and, of course, how to French Braid!



Hand Applique/Back Basting Wed Jan 17, 10-noon 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!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

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. You can work on your own projects or you can join the project we are doing. This year we are following a purchased pattern called My Crazy Life. It is wool appliques on flannel backgrounds. Then we will explore a variety of embroidery stitches to embellish each block-4 six inch blocks per month (or whatever you choose to do), for a total of 48 blocks. 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. We will also discuss wool, felted wool, wool felt, various threads for embroidery, various techniques for the wool applique and setting options for the quilt.

Hand Quilting Wed Jan 31, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$25

Hand quilting is an art that should not be lost. By the end of Sandra's class you will be hand quilting with confidence. Everyone has at least one special quilt that calls out for hand quilting. And there is nothing better than the feel of a hand quilted quilt. Do yourself a favor and learn this art that connects us to our past -- our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Hunter Star, the easy way May 19 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$20 (Watch this date, it may have to change)

The Hunter looks complicated, but with the fast & easy tool, it's a snap. We are getting beautiful collections that I bought specifically for this class. If you are looking to learn a new technique, this is a great quilt for that.



Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Wed of each month, 6-8:30 Carol Moler

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. This year we are doing a knit along project involving 6" squares. Each month we will learn a different pattern (or 2), make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project-afghan, scarf, bag, etc. Join us & learn some new stitches!

Long Arm Quilting Classes Wednesdays in, March & April from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 or 6-8:30 and Barb Boyer \$30 (check calendar for times & dates)

In this class you will learn all about the Nolting long arm quilting machines: loading, threading, quilting. I'll demonstrate how to load and thread, set stitch length, change tension, wind and load bobbins. Then I will load a practice quilt onto the machine and show how to do hand guided quilting. Each student will be given at least 15-20 minutes of practice time. (Each class is limited to 4 students). You will be able to do free hand quilting plus you can practice following a pantograph. Any

quilter who wants to rent to machines must take this class first, regardless of whether you have experience on a long arm machine. This class is not designed to teach you everything there is to know about long arm quilting-it's just a start.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Feb-Dec. 4-6 FREE

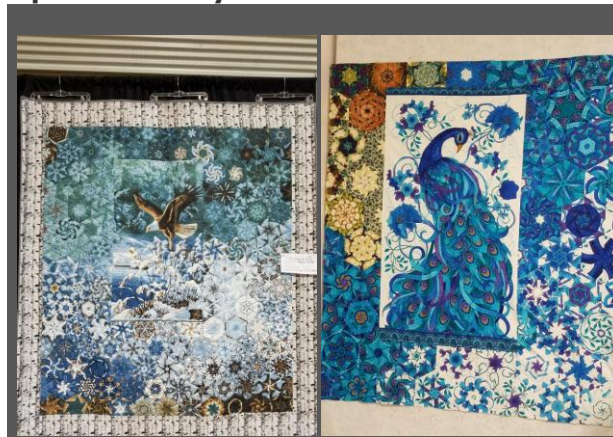
This year we are going to do the Great Pumpkin Quilt, a purchased pattern. It will start in February because we are still finishing last year's Holiday Houses in January. Starting in February we will work on the Great Pumpkin quilt. We will plan to do 2 blocks a month, and do the top banner section over two months. In class we will discuss use of color in the backgrounds and pumpkins. We will also discuss and learn various machine applique techniques to use on the blocks.



One Block Wonder Panel Quilt Sat April 28 & May 12 & 26 see calendar for times

\$30 Sue Frerich

For all of you who missed the class before, you don't want to miss this class-we won't have it on the schedule again for awhile. The technique is called One Block Wonder and you need 7 panels for the quilt. Sue used a beautiful eagle print (keep your fingers crossed, we may be able to get 1 bolt). But we have lots of interesting panels that would make a fantastic One Block Wonder Panel Quilt. (I'm looking at the Star Wars panels....).



The technique used is similar to a Stack & Whack quilt, but the difference is in how it is sewn together. This is truly a stunning quilt. You don't want to miss this class!

Pillow Case Party Sun. April 29 1-4 FREE

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!

Spoon Quilting Wed Feb 7, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$25

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).

Nolting Longarm Machines

Nolting has 5 main machines, each with different reaches: from 17" to 30" depending on the machine. They are sold with or without a frame, but after I saw & helped set up one of the steel frames this week, I recommend buying the frame. All machines, except for the Standard-- the most economical machine-- have a stitch regulator. I recommend a stitch regulator. All machines can be equipped with a computer and there are a couple of different ones to choose from. In addition, you can get an extended table base so that you can use rulers, you can get larger bobbins on some of the models and on the frames you can get hydraulic lifts to raise and lower the tables. In the coming weeks, I will print out more information on each model.

The best entry level machine is the Fun Quilter. It comes in 17", 20" & 23" reach. It comes with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The Pro Machine has the Intellistitch Turbo stitch regulator, single stitch option, standard speed control, needle up/down and customizable handles in the front & rear. The Pro Machine comes in 20", 24" and 30" reach with 10-12" of inside height. There are easy dials on the front to set stitch length and other options. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The NV Machine is the newest in the fleet of Nolting machines. This machine has a touch screen with progra

mmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



Nolting also has a commercial machine with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

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 use printed patterns and some vintage free patterns that you can embroider, embellish and color. Depending on the projects, 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 1, Jan 31, March 1, March 31, April 29

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.

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

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

Around the Block, 453 Vandehie Suite 120, Cheyenne, WY 82009