

## Spring Class Schedule

The Spring Schedule will come out next week -- the calendar first, and then the next week will be the explanation of the classes. EMBROIDERY CLUB MEMBERS: We will be discussing our projects for the new year in class next week (Sat. 14). Everyone who is doing the Gardener's Alphabet -- we will continue to support this project. For those of you who want to do something different, we will show you what options we're thinking about. If you have ideas, please bring patterns & ideas so we can discuss.

## Shop Small Business Saturday Sale continues Sat. Dec. 7

Come in, pull an ornament off the tree, and find out what your percentage discount is (or a free fat quarter). Plus, it's the last Finish Your Quilt sale: Backings, Bindings, Battings are 20% off. **But you must bring your finished quilt top to the store for show & tell.**



## Travel, Explore, Cruise, Quilt!

We are sailing with Princess Cruises on December 29-2020-January 8, 2021!

Traveling on a ship during the holidays is one of the most fun things to do. The ship will be beautifully decorated, New Year's will be celebrated at sea and there is bound to be free champagne everywhere you look.



Cost right now is approximately \$1769 per person for an interior cabin, which includes a class fee (\$100) for the projects we'll be doing--plus

ones do not have to pay the class fee nor do you if you choose not to join us for classes. We will also be given a package of amenities from the Travel Company and Princess. The more people who sign up, the more amenities we will be able to receive (mainly in the form of on board credits). The amenities, however, will change depending upon when you sign up. From now until the 10th of December, amenities include \$105 on board credit, a bottle of wine (\$32) and a specialty dinner (\$29). This package will change after the 10th, but those who sign up early will be able to choose which package they want. The earlier you make your deposit, the more choices you will have.

We board in Ft. Lauderdale with port stops in Falmouth, Jamaica; Cartagena, Columbia; Cristobal, Panama; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; Grand Cayman Islands. Plus, of course, cruising in and out of the Panama Canal.

Airfare is separate and we may want to leave a day early, Dec. 28, to fly to Ft. Lauderdale. I will work with the travel agency on getting packages for air and hotel. However, you do not need to opt into those packages and can make travel arrangements yourself. I plan to go a day early and will stay overnight at a hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. I will tell you whether I will go with the package provided or will do my own thing. This cost does not include travel insurance, which I encourage you to get. The travel agency works with a great company, so we can work through it if you want insurance.

If we get more passengers, it is possible the price may go down. Also, upgrades are available to rooms with a view, but I do not have those prices yet.

Classes: The main project we will work on is a Mola. Molas are reverse appliques, mainly done by the Kuna Indians. I'll bring examples of some of their work and I'll have kits for a small ornament for you. We'll talk about the Kuna culture, their artwork, and their needlework. I will also provide one knitting project, details to come. I will supply the pattern, you just need to bring some scraps of wool yarn. I will also provide one more project, tba, that will memorialize our cruise to Panama.

**Deposit Deadlines - These amenities expire 12/10.**

**Deposit of \$100 by 12/10/19 and receive**

- 1. regular amenities (dinner, wine, etc)**
- 2. 50% off class \$100 fee; plus fabric and pattern to make a small carry bag for the ship.**
- 3. Additional OBC (on board credit) of 3% of cruise fare or \$50 whichever is more**

**Cabins, other amenities, and on board credits will continue to be available, so if you're still deciding, there will still be time to decide.**

**Deposits are nonrefundable.**

If you are interested in an upgrade to a room with a view or better, please email me. I have a list of prices from the travel agency that I will share. If you are already a Princess member, please give me your Princess number when you give me your deposit so you can get credit.

I'm excited!

December 6, 2019

"So when are you going to make my advent calendar?" Becca asked.

"You've been watching Hallmark Christmas movies again, haven't you," I accused her. She didn't even attempt at looking guilty.

"Well, it's a cool idea and I've seen the ones specifically for dogs that contain treats and toys. You sew. You can whip one up in time for Christmas."

"You are supposed to start the advent calendars on December 1. It's now December 6," I reminded her. "And even if I did make one, I doubt it would be ready any time soon."

"So long as it's before Christmas," she said, "because it doesn't matter if we start on time. I can just open up a whole bunch of boxes all at once, which means more treats." Her logic was a bit off, but instead of challenging that, which I knew would be a convoluted & nonsensical conversation, I asked instead, "What do you mean by 'box'? Advent calendars open 'doors'," I said.

"You know, you watched it, too. Don't lie. You'll get on the naughty list," she said. Clearly she's been watching too many Christmas movies. "The show about the town's hidden time capsule that no one knows where it is, except two old people in town who have kept the secret, and it's not really a time capsule but a big wooden advent calendar with boxes and not doors, and ....."

"Becca, take a breath," I said. "You actually...." I decided not to ask her

if she had watched it all the way through. That would have sparked another long recital of details that I didn't want to get into. And she's right, I did watch the show, but mainly because I was intrigued by the concept of a big wooden advent calendar that also functioned as kind of a time capsule for the town.

The basic premise of the show worked and was relatable: Fifty years ago the town got hit by a terrible storm that cut them off from the rest of the world, or at least the rest of Vermont, for 3 weeks or more. A little like us this past Thanksgiving. Anyway, since they didn't have anything else to do, they built a wooden advent calendar. Of course, who wouldn't. And then they hid it, to be opened 50 years later. If you're smart, you'll see where this is going. How do you find a lost time capsule that no one has found for 50 years? You make sure that two people who helped create it are still alive and still living in town, because they began to drop clues to help the town figure it out.

Okay, I can buy the premise. I mean, you have to have a reason for the story arc. But you know you're in a poorly made movie when a good portion of the movie consists of playing Christmas songs while you watch the town people 1) making cookies, 2) ice skating, 3) decorating, 4) greeting people happily on the street, 5) making lovey dovey faces among the half dozen couples....and on and on. That means no dialog, just happy smiling sappy faces. Actors don't have to learn any lines that way and the film crew just has to shoot a bunch of easily captured activities.

And then, and there is always an "and then," one of the activities is building snowmen. Only this show was not filmed in Vermont in the winter. It was filmed in Burnaby Village Museum, in Burnaby, British Columbia in September. The "museum" consists of a cozy hamlet depicting British Columbia's early history and it was 80 degrees. So that meant fake snowmen.

I am betting that no one on the crew had every built a snowman or even watched the cartoon Frosty the Snowman. There was no attempt to even make the snowmen look like they were made out of snow and the kicker came when the male lead picked up a huge head, all by himself, and placed it on top of the body - and you could see the head jiggle back & forth while the actor is trying to steady it still. So not snow.

Right now, I'm watching a 12 foot drift in my front yard not melt. I can't put the dogs out there because they'd walk over the fence. It took a guy on a big tractor on Sunday more than an hour to dig me out of snow. So I know snow. Those tv movie snowmen weren't even mashed potato faked snow. It was as bad as fake snow piled around green leafed deciduous trees.

And you know what is even worse? When I looked up info on this film, I saw on the Hallmark site that you can buy gifts based around the props used in the movie. I can't believe that it never occurred to me that Hallmark would stoop to this level. I wanted to buy the fake snowmen, but they didn't have those for sale. Probably because they weren't supposed to be fake and even I know a snowman will melt if you mail it. I've watched Frosty the Snowman.

"Enough, already," Becca interrupted. "What about my advent calendar? If you make one with doors instead of boxes, I can open it with my paw. I won't even need you to get my treat."

"Tell you what. Why don't you write another letter to Santa and ask for a calendar. Who knows what he might bring you."

"You're going to have to write it. Teeth marks won't work to describe an advent calendar," she said. "And you've got to mail it now. Right now." She started turning in circles.

"Calm down, Becca," I told her. "We've got time."

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## It's time to think about Shop Hop!

Our theme for this year's challenge is flashback to the 1960s. Beatles, peace signs, hippies, tie dye, long hair, rock & roll, being hip or being square. Make your own project around a 1960s theme, using a commercial pattern or one of your own creation. Wall hangings, totes or other interpretations of a 60s theme no larger than 60" X 60" will be accepted. Projects will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 17 & 18. **Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$250 1<sup>st</sup>; \$200 2<sup>nd</sup>; \$150 3<sup>rd</sup> as picked by Viewer's Choice.** To participate, fill out an entry form and submit it to a participating quilt store with your project by April 13.

I will have the forms available later--or just ask me to print you one. For now, it's time to start thinking of what project you want to do! The prizes are big this year!

## WHAT'S NEW!!

Notions are in, including new patterns, books, thread, rulers, blades, pins, seam rippers, -- all sorts of stuff! There's a lot here--patterns & books. But don't forget to scroll down to see all the new fabric!

From Michael Miller:



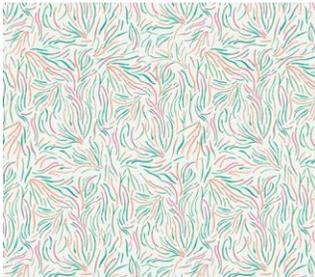
From Northcott:



From Moda:



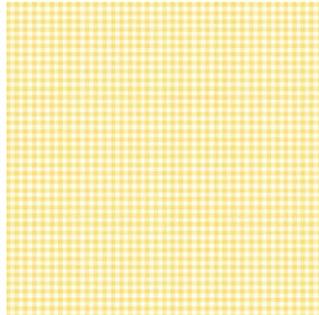
From AGF:



From Riley Blake:



From Andover:

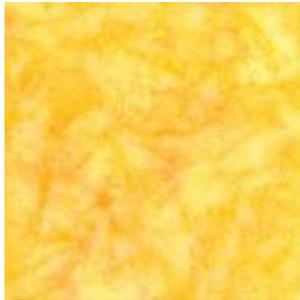
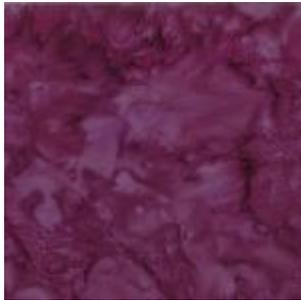
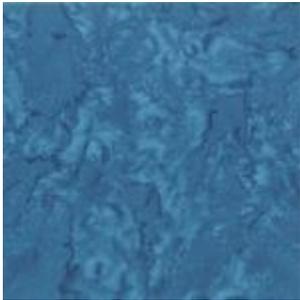
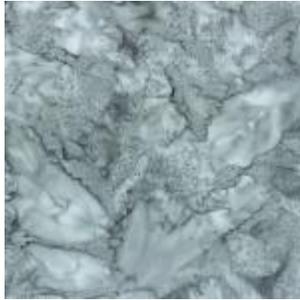
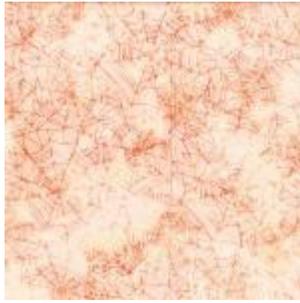


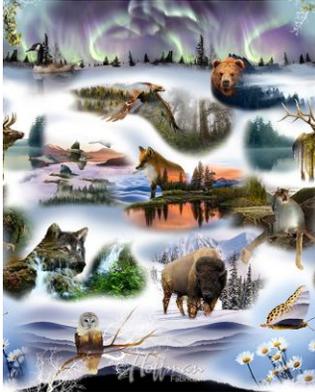
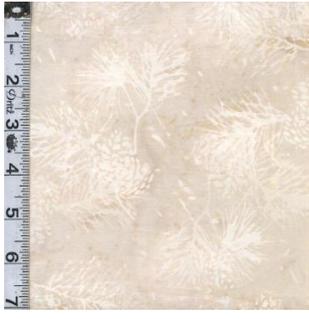
The 10" squares of wool also include tans & browns. I also have 10" squares of colors, called the Jelly Bean colors. Couldn't find pictures.

I also have a bolt of black wool.

From Hoffman:

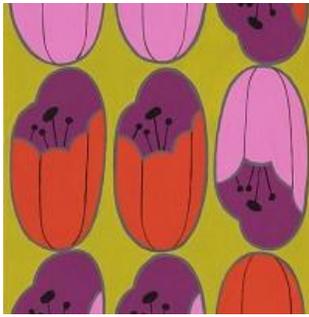






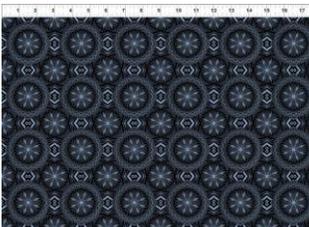
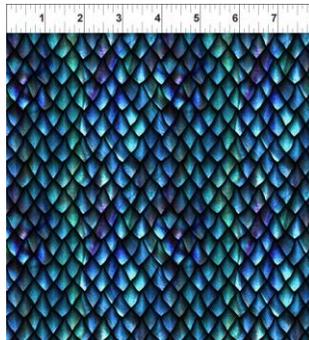
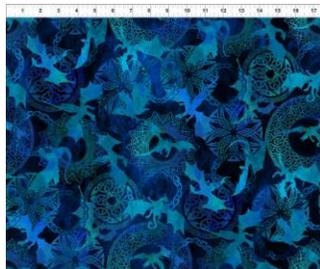
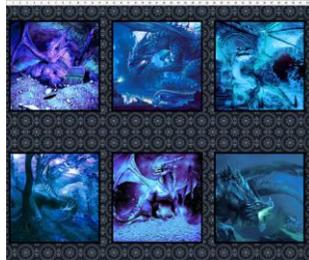
And more. I couldn't grab all the pics. We have about 30 new Hoffman batiks.

From Alexander Henry:

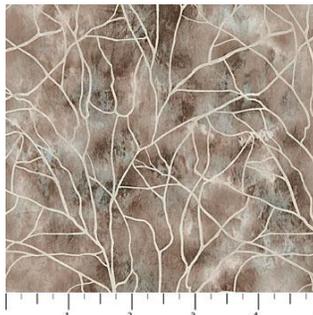
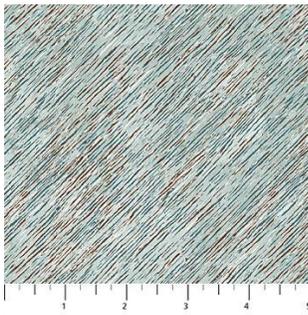
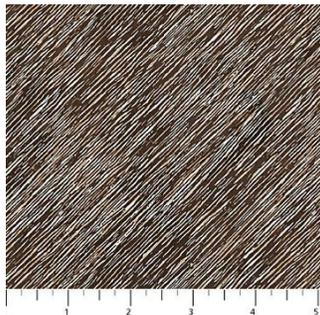
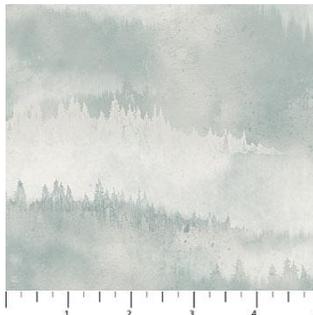
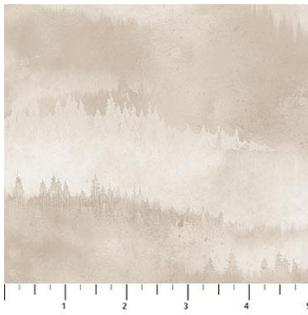


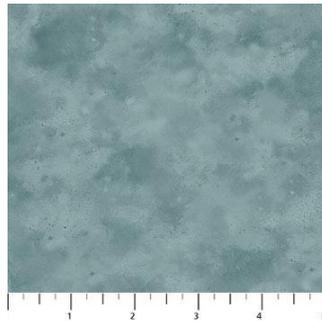


From In The Beginning: (Note: I do not have the orange/flame dragons in. If I get the reorder, it won't come until after the first of the year.)

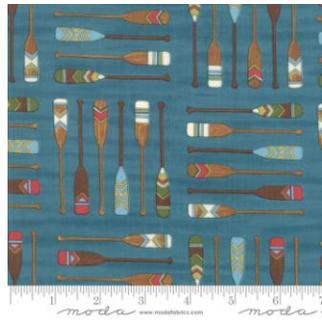


From Northcott:





From Moda: NOTE: WE HAVE KITS USING THIS FABRIC. VERY CUTE. ONLY 4 LEFT.

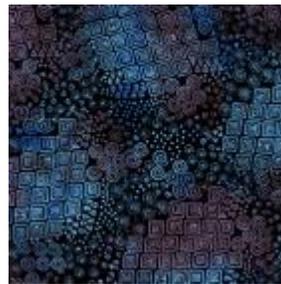
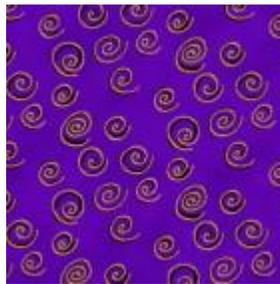


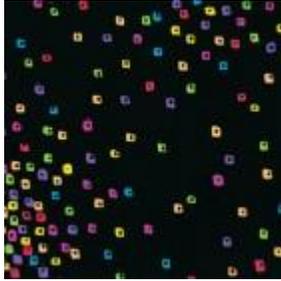
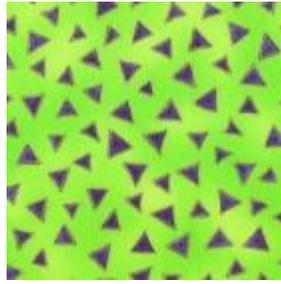
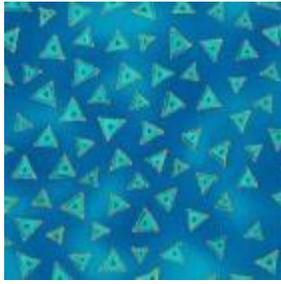
kit



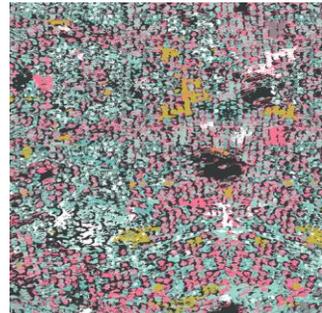
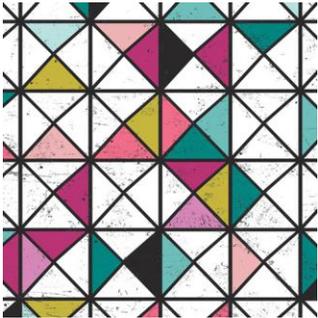
Note: some of these are flat, some brushed, and a couple of them I have in both flat and brushed.

From Clothworks:





From AGF:



From Robert Kaufman:



we got fat quarter bundles of the woven linens and Elizabeth Hartman's new collection called Adventure. And we got 3 of these kits of her newest pattern.

## **SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!**

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

**Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Tuesdays and Fridays, and a couple of Saturday and Sunday rentals. Check the calendar for rentals. Generally, there are 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.**

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

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# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Closed	2	3 Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	4 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	5 Dragon Quilt 10:30-4	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7 BOM 10:30 Gravity 1-4 Long Arm Rental Day 3-6
8	9 Intro to Wool Applique: Ornaments 1-4	10 Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	11 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30 Knit Pickers' Club 3-7	12 Christmas Stockings 10:30-4 Full Moon	13 Open sew 3-7 Long Arm Rental Day	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Triangle Frenzy 1-6
15 Traditional Binding 1-4	16	17 Hand work Club 2-4 Long Arm Rental Day	18 Credit Card Holders 1-4	19	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21
22 AccuCut 1-4	23	24	25 Closed <a href="#">Christmas</a>	26	27	28
29	30	31	Color of the month: Christmas			

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

## Ongoing Classes & Clubs

**AccuCut Rental Sept 21, 4-6, Oct. 19, 4-6, Nov 16, 4-6, Dec 22, 1-4 \$10/30 minutes**

We have an industrial size AccuCut cutter with several dies: strips, squares, triangles, rectangles. Sign up for time of the AccuCutter to change your stash into usable strips, squares, rectangles and triangles. We will rent to machine in ½ hour intervals (you can get a lot cut in ½ hour).

**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 black & white + one color quilt. The challenge, if you choose to accept it, is work within the black & white palette (plus one color placed where ever you like). For the color choice, we are drawing paint chip cards, covered in newspaper so you can't see what color you're getting. But...if you don't like the color you've drawn you can 1) swap with a neighbor, or 2) draw a new color. And if you just can't bring yourself to work in neon green and no one will swap with you, you can just choose your own color.

**Hand Embroidery Club 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Gardner's Alphabet Quilt Block of the Month by Crabapple Hill. We will explore a variety of embroidery stitches for each block each block (2 letters per month), plus we will learn how to color with regular crayons to enhance the 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.

**Knit Pickers' Club 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of each month, 3-7 Carol Moler**

We are changing up the Knit Pickers' Club. We're going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we'll start earlier in the day at 3. For those of you who work, we'll still be knitting >till 7. 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. We work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. And we are working on a group project meaning everyone does the same pattern. Each month we will learn a different pattern, make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project Afghan, scarf, bag, etc.

**Long Arm Quilting Classes Wednesdays from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 Barb Boyer \$30**  
(check calendar for specific 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.

## **December Classes**

### **Binding Sun Dec 15 1-4 Barb Boyer \$20**

You'll learn how to accurately cut your bindings, whether bias, cross or straight—and when to use which one. You'll learn how to cut, the sew, join (so easy) and hand stitch part. Bindings so easy peasy you'll wonder why you were ever nervous about putting on the binding.

### **Christmas Stocking Thur Dec 12 10:30-4 \$20 Barb Boyer**

Learn to make pieced Christmas Stockings just in time to hang for Santa's arrival. These stockings can be as simple or complex as you want to make them. We'll talk about different lining and cuff options.

### **Credit Card Holders Wed Dec 18, 1-4 \$20 Barb Boyer**

Make a fast, easy credit card holder that is lined with that special stuff that prevents hackers from stealing your info. Two fat quarters will make several card holders, or you could use a fat quarter and our cork fabric, to make an extra special card holder.

### **Intro to Wool Applique Mon Dec 9 1-4 \$20 Barb Boyer**

We will make some small ornaments, using a kit. You can make either mittens, stocking, or credit card holders. You will learn various methods for wool applique and will learn several embroidery stitches for the embellishing.

### **Triangle Frenzy, back again for the holidays Sat Dec 14, 10-6 \$20 Barb Boyer**

This table runner uses a 10" border stripe and a 12" 60 degree ruler to cut large triangles then spin them around to arrange them in a swirling pattern. Simple & easy to do. You may even be able to make 2 during class.

# **quilting 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.

## CLUBS

### **HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB-FREE!**

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.

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### **Hand Work Club-FREE!**

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4, join us to just sit & hand stitch, crochet, bind, or knit group. Bring what you're working on, sit up at the table in front by the window and work on your projects for awhile. You can get advice & suggestions from your fellow quilters and share your experiences about your projects.

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### **Knit Pickers' Club FREE!**

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). We are discussing trying to do a group project-meaning everyone does the same pattern. Each month we will learn a different pattern, make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project-afghan, scarf, bag, etc. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 3-7.

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### **Block of the Month Club FREE!**

First Saturday of the Month, 10:30-11:15. Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block.

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**Toad Toters Club**

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: September 11, October 13, November 12 December 12.

**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**

August blacks, September orange, October green, November flannels, December Christmas.

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](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)