



January 7, 2022

Have we come to this? Headline: National Parks with the best and worst mobile service. Because I, for one, am definitely choosing my next park adventure based on whether I can tweet out my pictures. Don't send letters. I don't think Twitter lets you post pictures. But I honestly don't know & don't want to look it up.

The United States has 63 national parks and more than 350 national park sites. The difference, you ask? Well, a National Park is typically big, hence the word Park. We've also got National Monuments that include landmarks, structures and objects of historic or scientific interest. There are National Preserves, that are like Parks, but aren't. On the Preserves you can hunt for wildlife and oil. And extract same.

There are National Historic Sites, which generally have one historical feature of note. There are National Historical Parks, which, I kid you not, are defined as: "applying to historic parks that extend beyond single properties or buildings." I love definitions that use the word to be defined as part of the definition.

We also have National Memorials which commemorate an historic person or event, but it doesn't have to occupy a site connected with the person or event. There are National Battlefields and National Cemeteries.

Then we get the National Recreation Areas, which are not parks, but look like them. Most of these Areas are big lakes or reservoirs, but not all. Some are parks. In keeping with NRAs are the National Seashores, National Lakeshores, and National Rivers, which include a national river and recreation area, a national scenic river, and a wild river.

We also have National Parkways, intended for viewing by car; National Trails, intended for viewing by foot; and Affiliated Areas that preserve other more indefinable things.

So, of course, when we visit, we must have up to date cellphone, wifi, 5g services. The article

I'm reading suggests that we need such service because if we spend a couple of days at a park, we certainly want the comfort of our digital devices so we can work remotely. Which is exactly why we went to the park in the first place.

I'm kidding.

But I know we can't live without all this digital stuff, despite the fact that we all have those memories of travelling somewhere remote, running into trouble (snow storm, running out of gas, highway breakdown), and managing not only to survive but to also solve the issue. All without a cellphone. although I'll admit, it would have been a whole lot easier if I had a cell phone at the time.

For example, I got stuck in Laramie at spring break, because I didn't leave a day early to beat the snow. 2.5 days later, I take the long way to Ft. Collins from Laramie (headed to New Mexico) because only the interstates were open. Around Wellington, my radiator blew. I managed to pull into a ranch yard, where a nice women gave me water for the radiator and showed me pictures of her kids barrel racing.

From there I got as far as the outskirts of Ft. Collins, where I had to stop at a biker bar to call a radiator shop & let the car cool down. About 100 yards later, I'm at a gas station getting more water. I spent the night with a cousin, but had to call my friends in Los Alamos to tell them I wouldn't make it that day. But I didn't have their number and it was unlisted. So I had to call my girlfriend's mom – didn't have that number either, but the operator did.

The next day, car all fixed up, I managed to get to Denver before the whole thing blew again. Rush hour traffic, over in the farthest right lane, I managed to cross traffic and hit the exit ramp that was right there and into the gas station right off the ramp. More water/coolant later, I traveled about 300 yards more and got stuck on top of the bridge crossing the interstate. The tow truck hauled me another 300 yards to another station that fixed me right up.

On to Pueblo, where, as I was getting off to get gas, I felt the familiar chug chug chug of a radiator about to die. I managed to get across the street to a mall with a Sears. And since they were closed for the night, I walked across the parking lot to a small hotel. Why there was a hotel next to the mall, I have no idea. For people like me, I guess.

So I got a room and had to make another call to my friend in Los Alamos. And of course, I didn't have her phone number. Didn't write it down. So I had to call her mom again.... The next day Sears fixed me up right and I made it to Los Alamos.

Clearly this trip happened way before cell phones were dreamed of. But honestly, I don't think it would have helped much. Except it would have stored my friend's number and I wouldn't have had to bother her mom. Twice.

So if you're planning on getting out & about this spring, here are the parks with the best & worst mobile service. Best: Gateway Arch, MO; Saguaro, AZ; Mt Rainer, WA; Cuyahoga Valley, OH; Indian Dunes, IN; Acadia, ME; Denali, Alaska; Great Smokey Mountains, N.C., Hot Springs, AK; New River Gorge, W.V.

Worst: Mammoth Cave, KY; Badlands, S.D.; Kings Canyon, CA; Big Bend, TX; Pinnacles, CA; Mesa Verde, CO; Crater Lake, OR; Lassen Volcanic, CA; Yellowstone, WY; and Sequoia, CA.

I bet you haven't even heard of some of these places. I suggest using your mobile devices.....

Reading challenge 2022

This list is compiled from other 2022 reading lists and some of my own invention. It is designed to make you hunt for your next best read, to read books out of your comfort zone, and to get you to try something different, something new. You never know, you may find your most favorite genre or writer when you expand your options. There are only 30 books – most lists have many more. (I started with 20, but couldn't stop). I'll provide suggestions in later posts, but you can generally find ideas on line; just search the category. These categories are popular.

1. A book published in 2022
2. Fiction book published before 1950
3. A book set on a plane, train or cruise ship
4. A book about or set in a non patriarchal society
5. A book with a blue cover
6. A book with numbers in the title
7. A book about a colorful U.S. historical person from the 1800s.
8. A book with a protagonist who uses a mobility aid
9. A book by a Pacific Islander author
10. A book that features a cat
11. Any book about Winston Churchill
12. A book that uses the word Left in the title
13. A mystery that doesn't involve cooking, baking, quilting, knitting or cats
14. A Newberry award winning book
15. A book involving a holiday that is not a mystery
16. A book best read around a campfire
17. A book with fall winter spring or summer in the title
18. A book more than 1000 pages. Just kidding. Just make it a long book.
19. A book with a tiger on the cover or in the title
20. A book with a misleading title
21. A different book by an author you read last year
22. A book with the name of a board game in the title
23. A social-horror book
24. A book featuring a man made disaster
25. A book set in Victorian times
26. A book about someone leading a double life
27. A Hugo Award winner
28. A book about books
29. A book with even numbered pages

Christmas Mystery Part 3

Christmas Mystery Step 3

Sewing Step Three

Take the one 1 ½" strip of color and two strips of background from bag 3. Sew a panel of background + color + background.

Cut apart into 3½" squares. You need four identically colored 3 ½" squares; pin together and place back into the bag. Place any extra 3 ½" squares into the remainder bag.

Then take the three 1 ½" strips of color and three strips of background from bag 3. Sew a panel of color + background + color. And sew a panel of background + color + background. Cut apart into 1 ½" segments. Sew back together to make a nine patch:

You need four 3 ½" squares for each block. Place any extra 3 ½" squares into the remainder bag.

For pattern below with pictures, see last week's newsletter.

Sew Steady Products

I am a dealer in the Sew Steady Products. The Sew Steady tables offer an expanded work area around your machine, flush to the machine arm. Advantages of this table include a large surface that is flush to your machine, giving you plenty of space to lay your blocks flat before stitching.

If your only "prep" surface is the tiny arm that only gives you about 1-2 inches before your fabric hits the needle, the Sew Steady Table is for you! Do I sound like an advertisement? What I can tell you is that when I teach classes and students are sewing long strips together, it is often hard for them to manage those strips when the only flat surface is the 1-2" surface right in front of the needle. The Sew Steady table (and it's portable!) offers up to 8 inches of a flat surface.

Also, the Sew Steady products can include a "grid glider" which is a slick (it's both slick and slick, if you get my meaning) surface that you adhere to the table and it helps your fabrics glide smoothly toward the needle. It also provides a "grid" with ¼" lines and a center line (for flying geese constructions) and other measuring lines. So helpful.

In addition, the Sew Steady Products include quilting rulers that can be used for machine quilting. With the large flat table, ruler use becomes easy (with a little practice).

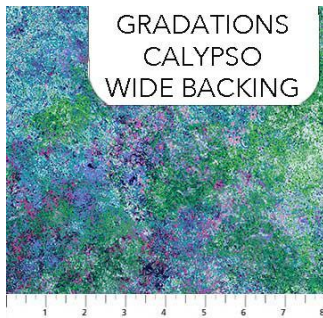
Each table is built according to the specs of your machine, which means the tables are custom ordered. You decide which table (size, extras) you want, you let me know your specs (I will work with you to get the right measurements), I'll place your order and in app. 3 weeks (it's custom made remember) you will have your table!

If you've never seen a Sew Steady table, come to the shop and see the table I have attached to my

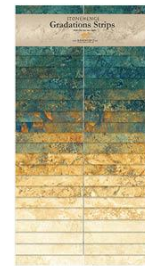
Bernina. It's wonderful!



What's New



Northcott



There are a couple more that I just couldn't get copied from the web site



BLUE PLANET
OMBRE
WIDE BACKING

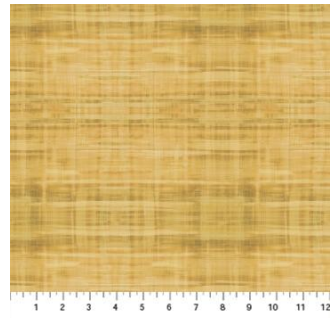


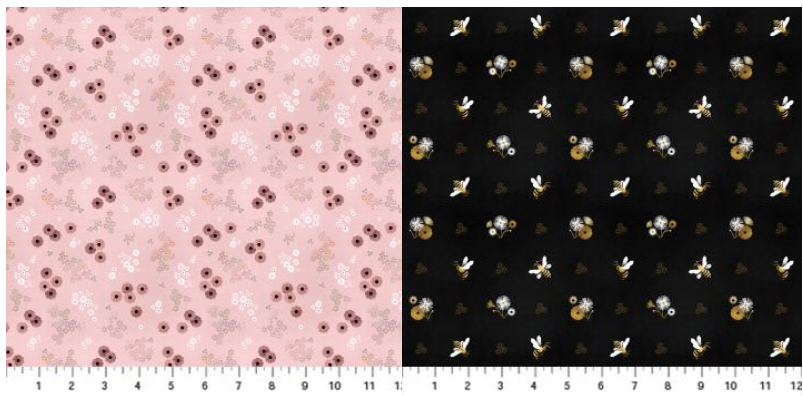
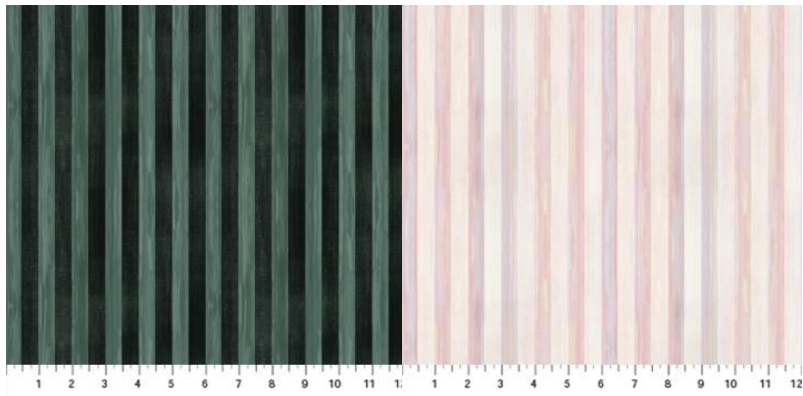
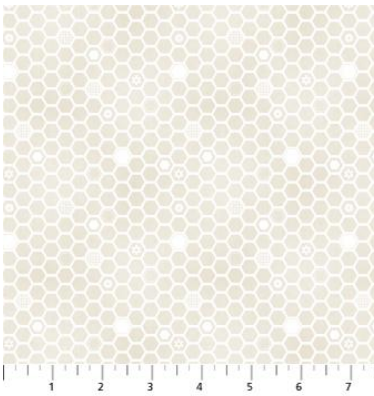
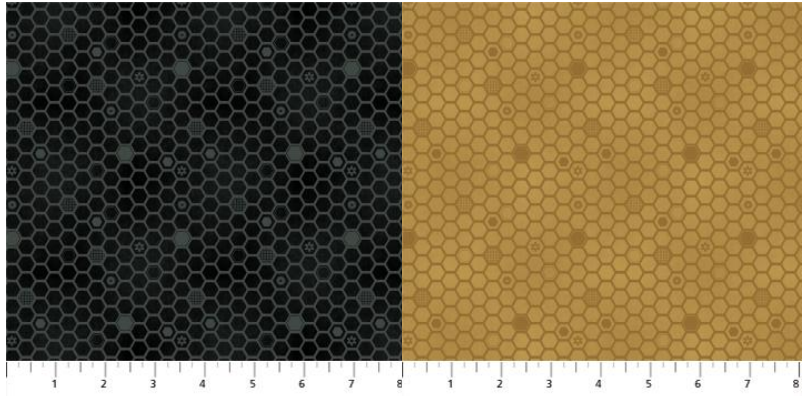
MIDNIGHT
OMBRE
WIDE BACKING



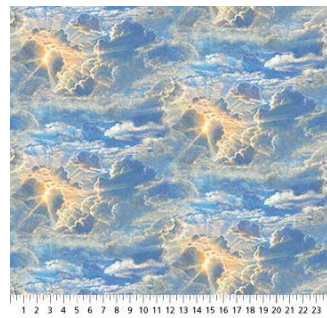


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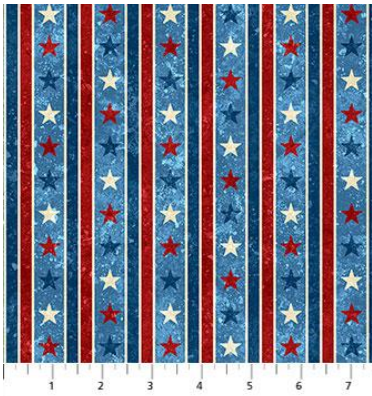


Northcott/Figo



From Northcott: Stars & Stripes





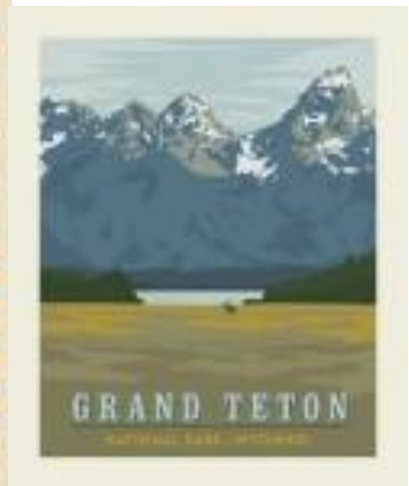
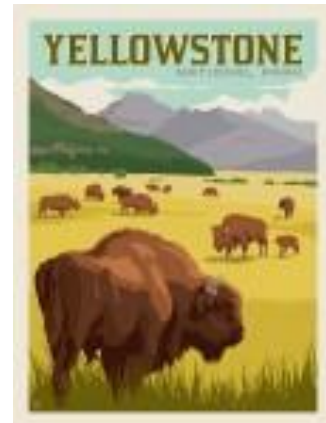


From Hoffman and Maywood





Riley Blake (the 3 juvenile prints are flannel)





January

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CLOSED New Year's Day
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand work Club 2-4	5	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 BOM 10:30 Northcott BOM tips and tricks 1-3
9 CLOSED	10	11 Hand work Club 2-4	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	13 T-Shirt Class 1- 4 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Embroidery Club 10-noon Paper <u>pieced</u> <u>gift bag</u> 1-5
16 CLOSED	17 MLWD Day Full moon Machine Applied	18 Hand work Club 2-4	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21	22 <u>Plaid Pigs</u> <u>10:30-4</u>
23 CLOSED	24	25 Hand work Club 2-4	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	27 T-shirt Class 10:30-4	28	29 <u>Plaid Pigs</u> <u>10:30-4</u>
30 CLOSED	31	Color of the month: Purple				

January classes

Machine Applied Binding Mon Jan 17 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

I will teach you how to cut and sew your binding, and then you will practice on your own project. Homework before class: Make sure you have a small project (30 X 30, but no smaller than 20 X 20) that is quilted and ready for binding. Also bring your chosen binding (you don't have to cut it prior to class). In class you will prepare your binding, then stitch it on. You will learn how to cut & press your binding, how to stitch it on the first side, how to miter the corners, and then how to choose a decorative stitch (or just a straight stitch) to stitch the binding down on the other side. Several different methods of machine applied binding will be discussed and shown.

Northcott BOM Tips & Tricks Jan 8 1-3 Barb Boyer

I will walk you through the first 6? Blocks, offering suggestions on cutting and piecing. I have a couple of different ways to do some of the parts on the blocks and some suggestions on cutting and sewing. If you have bought the kit and want some guidance, please feel free to attend. If you have not bought the kit, but are still interested, you can also come. Class is free.

Paper Pieced Gift Bag (hold over from fall) Sat January 15 from 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is a basic paper pieced penguin that goes on the front of a basic bag pattern. But if you've never done paper piecing this is a perfect way to get started. The book has other patterns that you can choose, so if you don't like penguins, you could substitute Santa. This is the cutest gift bag for the holidays and the greatest part! It's reusable!

Plaid Pigs Sat Jan 22 & 29 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

Plaid Pigs is a charming quilt that uses small, medium and large appliques pigs. I will teach several different methods for applique, including hand (basic stitches), machine (turned under edge), and raw edge (especially for the smaller pigs). You don't have to make your pigs plaid – they could be polka dot, stripes, flowers – anything you want. Putting the whole quilt together also requires a partial seam sewing, so if you have never sew a block together using partial seam, this is the class for you!

T-Shirt Quilt Thursday Jan 13 from 1-4 & 27 from 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

You will learn how to cut, stabilize and trim your t-shirts (first day). The second class will be all about designing and sewing your t-shirts together. Homework before the first class: Choose all your t-shirts and make sure they are washed. If you are confident, you can separate the front from the back at the shoulder seams. If you aren't, there is plenty of time in the first class. In the second class, I will help you design your quilt based upon your t-shirts – which means I'll help with all the math, provide options for getting both small & large t-shirts into the same quilt, and help you choose all the other fabrics (borders and sashings) to make your quilt special.

Nolting Quilting Machines



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

**Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 1-5**

**Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)
New Hours for Standard Time (starting Nov 7-March 13)**

**Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-5.
Check the schedule.**

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

