

June class schedule is out! See below. July and August are almost done, as is the fall schedule. We are still making sure dates are correct.



May 12, 2023

What is rain?

I bring this up because we live in a high arid desert (one s only, two ss means you're getting something sweet to mess up your A1C levels) and we don't see rain often.

Oh, I'll admit we get snow. That's just cold rain. And we get thunderstorms that produce hail. That's just really cold rain. But we just don't get these water logged days of constant dribble, which makes mud out of the driveways – I have ruts that are threatening to sink my Subaru and as a result puts mud all over the under carriage of the car, which puts mud marks on the back of my pants because it's really hard to get out of a car without touching the edges.

It also creates wet dogs and soggy cats. And they come in out of the rain at night after being out all day. Remember Monsters, Inc. and the Wet Dog Odorant Mike borrowed from Sulley? Add mud to that mix and that's my house.

The puddles in the parking lot are deep enough to seep through the holes in my tennis shoes. Normally, holes are not a problem, unless the little toe starts getting stuck in it. But extra aeration generally just keeps the feet cool. Now, because of the puddles – and you just can't walk around them – the feet get wet. And if you're wearing wool socks, wool + water = wet dog smell.

Rain also causes things to grow. Which means in a matter of days, grass will be higher than my lawn mower likes. And in several weeks, which is what it's going to take to dry everything out, I'll need a machete to get through the weeds before I can even contemplate mowing. And the riding lawn mower is outside, getting wet. Which is okay, but the seat is foam and tends to absorb moisture like a sponge and, well, you just don't want to run out of gas partway through mowing and have to go to the gas store without changing. People might wonder.

Now, I'm not complaining. Well, I am, but when you live in a desert environment you never complain about moisture. Until it piles up in feet rather than inches, or it lasts for days on end and brings other joys like severe lightning strikes (which did hit town on Wednesday) and hail, which, fortunately, hasn't yet arrived, in car damaging size. That happened in Colorado.

So what is rain? Rain comes from water droplets that gather in clouds and when heavy enough gravity brings them to earth. Warm air has more water than cold air. As warm air cools, droplets form, get carried up by wind, form clouds, get heavy and fall as rain. If the drops are tiny, it's called drizzle, and it's been drizzling all night and day – so far.

So now you know. So what can you do in the rain? As a kid, during summer rains in Omaha, it was fun to run around and stomp in puddles. Swimming in the rain is fun and you only get to do that if you are swimming where there aren't lifeguards pulling you out of the pool, because the guards don't want to get wet. Gene Kelly danced in the rain and got thoroughly soaked. If it's been really dry, mowing in the rain is great because you don't kick up any dust. And if you get on the mower before it starts to rain, your butt stays dry.

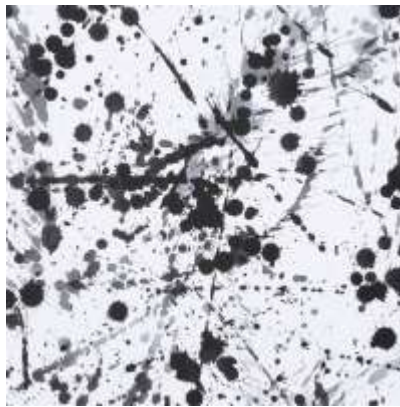
Most of the time we stay inside and go stir crazy. We think fondly about having snow days or rain days, where we can spend quality time with our sewing machines, cuddle in a chair with a quilt and a good book, sip tea or hot chocolate and watch the rain or snow come down. Generally, though, we just get restless with cabin fever and moan about being trapped inside.

So enjoy the rain and all it brings, from flowers, to grass to mud. To musty odors and tracked mud. To moisture warped doors and sticky salt clumps. To flooded basements and dirty cars.

Just be grateful it's green.

What's New

Bucking Horse & Rider fabric is in! I won't put in pics because you know what it looks like, I hope. 3 bolts of small BH&Rs and 4 bolts of large. Not that many bolts, so if you're looking to do projects sometime in the future, get it now because it won't come back until next May.



Alexander Henry



From Riley Blake





From Michael Miller
The two florals are overwide, and
the bundle is actually 2 1/2" wide
strips in Fairy Frost--the bundle
just shows the colors better





From Riley Blake



A...And leave in the sun,
But avoid the sun.
B...Beware of the Buffalo,
Who starts you? Buffalo.
C...In for Canada, Canada, Canada,
Beware of the Buffalo who
starts you.
D...For Dots, no one now,
Beware of the Buffalo who
starts you.
E...For Easy—work is so
if you see Buffalo.
F...For Fun, which they enjoy,
Who starts you? Buffalo.
G...For Girls—good ones think
Beware of the Buffalo who
starts you.
H...For Home, where all is bright,
If Buffalo's head is bright.
I...For Men—play it so—
Beware of the Buffalo!
J...For Jolly—your head so
if you see Buffalo.
K...For Knees; all women know
What starts them from home.

O...For O'clock, bright as new,
Made so by Buffalo, too.
P...For Pat that loved the Buffalo,
Beware of the Buffalo who
starts you.
Q...For Queens all around—
Who starts you? Buffalo.
R...For Red, which all may know,
Who starts you? Buffalo.
S...For Sorrow—just the thing
For crying up to Buffalo and
home.
T...For Tide—such are they
Who start Buffalo every day.
U...For Umbrella of copper or tin,
Beware of the Buffalo who
starts you.
V...For Village, you should know
Beware of the Buffalo who
starts you.
W...For Women; who can know
How to start Buffalo.

Y...Beware
of the
Buffalo
who
starts
you.
Z...Beware
of the
Buffalo
who
starts
you.



From Clothworks





From Michael Miller

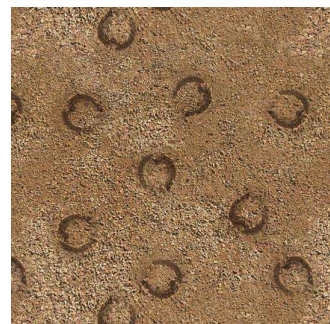
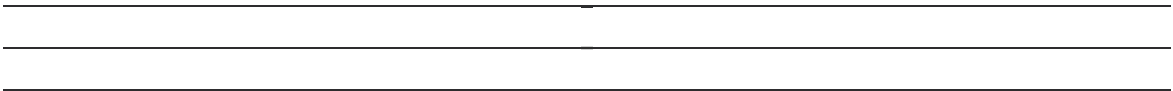
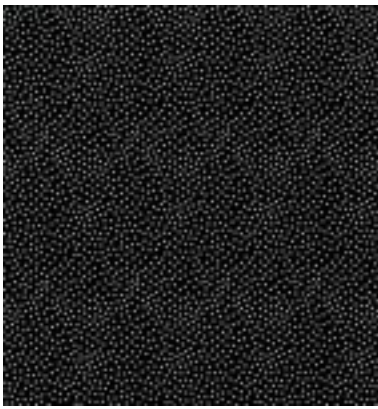
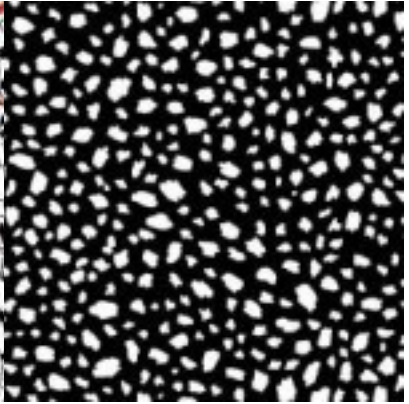


From Windham





From Michael Miller



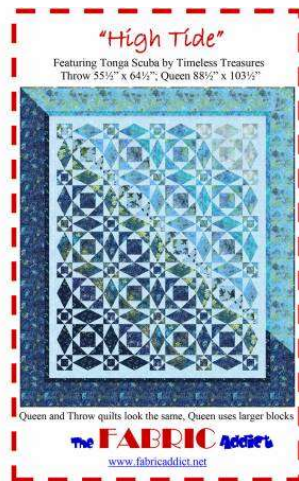
From Kennard & Kennard



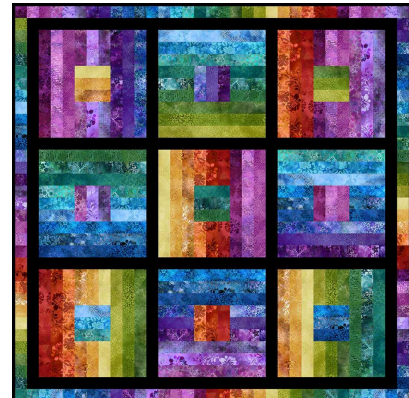
PANEL SIZE APPROX 24" x 44"



Spring Newsletter



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Class Pictures of some of the quilts: Storm at Sea (High Tide); Shakespeare in the park; Two Scoops, Prism; Happy Stripes (Striper); San Marcos, English paper piecing bag (one of several options); Exploding Hearts.

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

Ongoing Classes & Clubs

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 the challenge will be Starry Skies. Challenge #1 is to use at least 25 different fabrics in the quilt – should be easy. Challenge #2 is to choose backgrounds for the blocks that aren't the typical cream/white neutrals that we generally use. Instead, we will mix it up a bit, using both traditional backgrounds for some blocks, and then choosing "colors" in both light and dark fabrics for other blocks.

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, which is Garden Belles. Each block features a lady in vintage costume, in the garden, or similar outdoor setting. These are old fashioned ladies in dresses, which offer all sorts of stitchery creativity.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

Come join our Knit Pickers' Club. We knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, from 2-5. The Club is open to all skill levels and, despite the name, includes crocheters as well. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. We may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. We can even help you get started—teach you the basics.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-5

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch.

May Classes

One Block Wonder Saturdays May 6 noon-5 & 20 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

If you haven't tried making a one block wonder quilt from panels, you are missing out on a spectacular quilt. This quilt uses 7 panels; 6 are cut into triangles and the remaining panel is incorporated intact into the quilt. You will learn how to accurately stack your 6 panels, cut them apart into strips, which are then cut into 6 identical triangles. After piecing your half hexagon units, you will design your own quilt. Jean has great tips and suggestions on how to make this quilt, how to incorporate additional fabrics into your quilt, and how to evaluate what panels make the best One Block Wonder quilts.

Shakespeare in the Park Sat May 13 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt is made up of stars and Snail's Trail blocks. The pattern is an old time favorite from the legendary Judy Martin. It is a classic quilt, one of those on the bucket list of "to do" quilts.

Quilt #5, CHANGE: SSEARCHLIGHT: Fat Quarter Favorite Quilts Sat May 27 10:30-4 Jean Korber & Barb Boyer \$35 (or \$120 for all 6 quilts)

The fifth quilt is called Searchlight. This quilt takes 15 fat quarters plus background. You'll learn the "square in a square" technique plus a unique way to make pieced corner triangles. It's a speedy version that doesn't involve cutting triangles!

June Classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun June 4

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Laura Heine collage quilts Sat June 17 10:30-4 Jean Korber \$40

Create your own.....cat? scarecrow, owl, elephant, sloth. Choose any one of Heine's patterns, bring a pile of fun fabrics (flowers, feathers, various designs) and learn how to create your own collage quilt, using fusible fabric pieces. If you can operate a pair of scissors and an iron, you can do this quilt!

Make Your Own Grocery Bag Sat June 3, 1-4 Barb Boyer free with purchase of fabric

As you know, we no longer provide bags of any kind for your purchases. So what better than to make your own cloth bag that's reusable and shaped like a regular plastic bag that you get at the grocery store! These are easy to do. You can add elastic if you want to roll them up. They work great at the grocery store because they are sturdier and can hold more stuff without fear of breaking. You will be able to make several bags, or at least get several cut and at least one sewn during class.

Quilt #6, Organized Chaos: Fat Quarter Favorite Quilts Sat June 24 10:30-4 Jean Korber \$35 (or \$120 for all 6 quilts)

The last quilt is called Organized Chaos. You can work with 22 fat quarters or 11 half yard cuts for a little less chaos. Jean has a great way to keep the chaos organized as you put the interlocking looking blocks together.

Shakespeare in the Park Sat June 10 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt is made up of stars and Snail's Trail blocks. The pattern is an old time favorite from the legendary Judy Martin. It is a classic quilt, one of those on the bucket list of "to do" quilts. This is the second session of the class. We will work on the second block that makes this quilt. If you already paid for the class in May, this is part 2 (no extra charge, of course). But if you missed the first class, you can catch up in the final class, as we will go over all the parts that make up this quilt.

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.

Hand Work Club FREE!

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-5, 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 a while. You can get advice & suggestions from your fellow quilters and share your experiences about your projects.

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).

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.

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: January 6; February 4 (observed); March 7; April 6; May 5; June 4

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 whites, June blue

May 2023

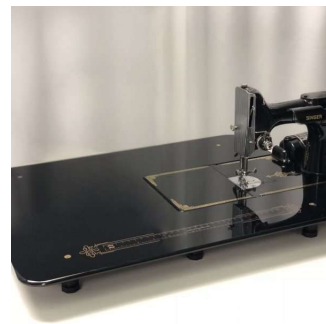
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day	Full moon	BOM 10:30 One Block Wonder noon-5 \$45
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Embroidery Club 10-noon Shakespeare in the Park 1-5 \$35
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CLOSED Mom's Day		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		One Block Wonder 10:30-4

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Shop Is now open 1- 5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day	6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #5 10:30-4 \$35	
28	29	30	31			
Shop Is now open 1- 5!	Open Sew 10-4 \$10	Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30		Color of the month: whites	

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Long Arm Rental Day		BOM 10:30 Full moon Make Your Own Grocery Bag 1-4 <u>Free</u> , with fabric purchase
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		Embroidery Club 10-noon Shakespeare in the Park 1-5 \$35
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Laura Heine <u>\$40 10:30-4</u>

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Beginning Quilting 1-4 Dads' Day Shop Is now open 1-		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #6 10:30-4 <u>\$35</u>
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1- 5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Color of the month: blue



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 Winter Time (starting Nov 7-May 22)
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

