



July 30, 2021

I haven't found my Olympic sport yet. You know what I mean. Which sport could I do in the Olympics. And don't pretend. You think about that, too. We all have Olympic dreams.

Let's just get ones I can't do out of the way first. I can't row. My knees don't bend like that. And I think I would spend more time in the water rather than in a boat the width of my cell phone. Actually, I think my butt would flow over the sides of the skull, so that wouldn't be a pretty sight.

We can remove gymnastics from the list. When I was a kid, I could do what's called a walkover (kind of a one leg at a time handstand). I think I saw one gymnast do that maneuver to get on top of the beam. It was beautiful, then she did a harder stunt and fell off the beam. I could do a couple of other things, like a front flip, but I could never figure out how to do a back flip.

Which brings me to diving. My dad always said that divers belong on a trampoline, so I never really learned to dive or bounce or do tricks on a tramp (I was a swimmer, but I'll get to that in a minute). I did have to dive one summer to get points for my swim team.

Holly and I were recruited (it's my brother's doing, he was the coach) for the 11-12 age group and we consistently took 3rd and 4th place. Meaning last (as in no points) or second to last (meaning 1 point). I could do the basic dives (obviously not very well despite having an Olympic caliber diver for a coach-not my brother. His friend. Remember dad said divers belong on a trampoline). But I couldn't do things in pike position because I couldn't figure out how to lift my hips up. I'd wind up doing cannonballs instead. And I could never learn how to do a half gainer, essential a front dive with a simple half twist. I could do the movement on land, but in the air I got lost

and landed on my butt. Called a cannonball.

I also learned how to play tennis, but never learned how to handle the spins. I had a great serve and a decent backhand and forehand, and I played on my high school and college teams. But women didn't play sports, other than track & field, when I was in school. And I didn't do track because I was a swimmer and everyone knows swimmers can't run. Or that's what I told myself.

I did learn how to play ping pong. Now ping pong and table tennis are two entirely different sports. We had a ping pong table in the basement, but when my dad took me to see an exhibition of Chinese "ping pong" players, I knew that what I called ping pong was not what those guys were playing.

I might have been able to be a roller skater, but my parents never bought me real skates. I had the ones that required a skate key to clamp them onto your shoes. So it's their fault I'm not in the Olympics. Let's not talk about the fact that I can't stand upright on the new fangled rollerblade skates. And while my cousin left her skateboard at my house one summer, I never figured out how to stand upright on it, so no jumping off ledges and landing on handrails for me.

Which bring me to cycling. You'll get the transition in a minute. Now I was a decent bike rider. I rode a fat tire bike to keep my knees in shape and I could peddle fast enough that rollerbladers and earnest runners could blow right by me on the Greenway. I do remember going really fast (about 27 mph, which is about standard flat peddling for skinny tire Olympic racers) downhill during a Ride for Sight bike ride, and thinking to myself that if I blow a tire, I'm dead.

I did do mountain biking a couple of times, and after watching the guys in the Olympic course slide over boulders, jump over boulders and slide around curves, I've decided those guys are just nuts.

Now I did swim and was good. I've talked to my brother about it, 'cause he swam too and was really good, as to why we didn't head down an Olympic path. And I think the answer is: I don't think I could spend that much time in a pool practicing with only myself to keep me company.

I did learn how to synchronize swim. I was taught by a Jesuit priest at Creighton University. I might have been able to continue in the sport, but Father Hasbrock had a stroke and by the time he took up coaching again, from a wheel chair, I was about ready for college. Which was unfortunate,

because he took a young team to some age group finals (years before synchronized swimming became a sport at the Olympics).

I also learned water polo one summer and enjoyed that immensely, but, again, women and sports weren't big in high school and college. A little club volleyball and half court basketball, plus track and a little tennis, were it.

The sport that I would really like to compete in - and you can do it as an old person - is dressage. But, and I'll blame my parents again, they never bought me a pony when I was a kid, so learning to ride came late in life. I did ride the entry level dressage tests on borrowed horses as an adult. But the big reason I didn't pursue this sport is because I couldn't afford the equipment: a \$300,000 horse. Plus trainer. Plus truck. Plus trailer. Plus barn. Plus..... I did almost run away to learn to ride the Lipizzaner horses, when they came to town for a performance. But chucking the law for a horse didn't really seem sensible. Plus, and there is always a plus, that kind of life would be grueling.

So I think the answer as to why I'm not and never will be in the Olympics is because it is a lot of hard work. Almost anyone can get good enough if they practice enough. Talent plays a part, but it's the hard work, the many many hours of practice, the mental discipline, and the inner strength to persevere. And, sometimes, you just have to be a little nuts.

I hope you are enjoying the Olympics because these athletes are just awe inspiring and worthy of our attention and praise.

Even my kittens are paying attention. This morning they were watching gymnastics and they started bouncing, rolling around, doing somersaults as though it were a floor exercise routine.

Long Arm Classes

Classes on the long arm will start up in August. I will teach on Wednesdays in the afternoon. Class size will be limited to four and you must be vaccinated and we will still be wearing masks for this class. We just have to get too close to each other for too long of a time period, so out of an abundance of caution, masks will continue to be required. Class fee is \$35.

WHAT'S NEW!!

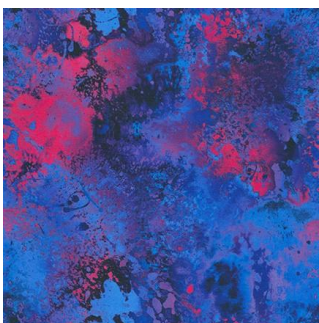
From Hoffman:



From Art Gallery:



From Robert Kaufman:



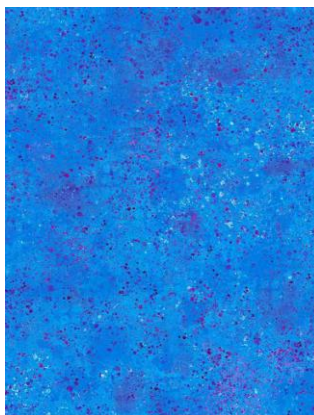


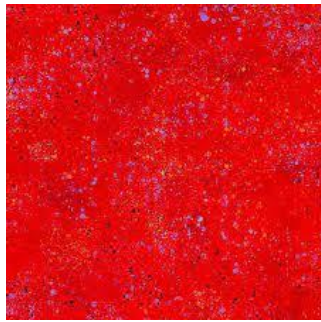
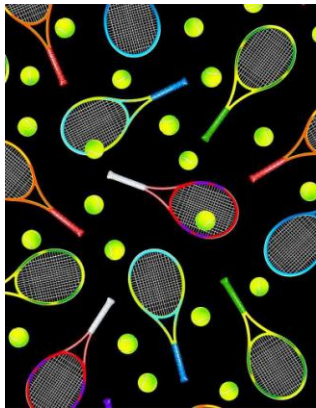
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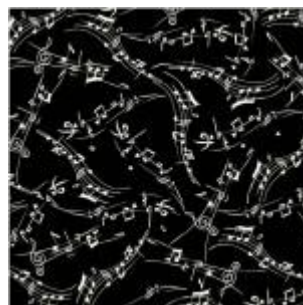


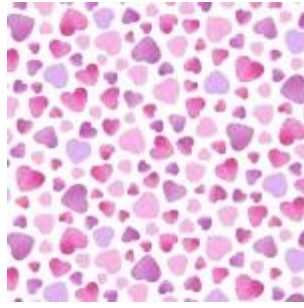
From Timeless Treasures:



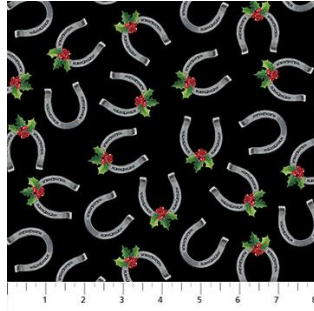
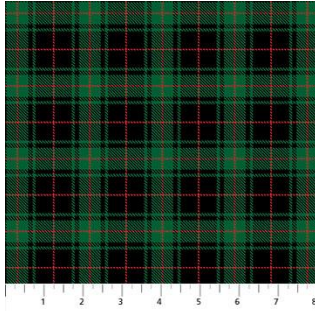


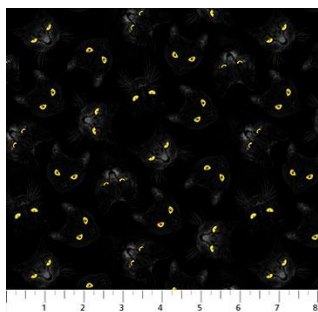
From Michael Miller:





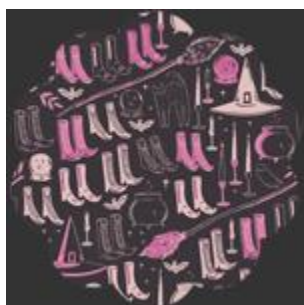
From Northcott:





cat's eyes

From AGF:



From Timeless and Windham:



glow in the dark

From Wilmington:



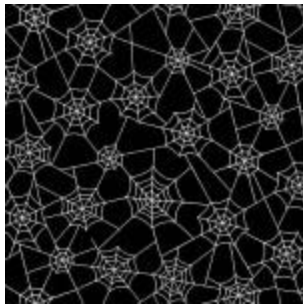
in strips, 5" & 10"
squares

in strips, 5" & 10"
squares

In strips

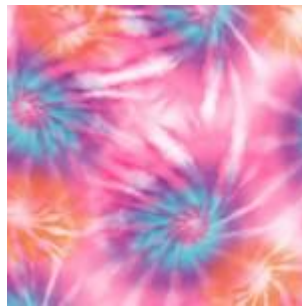
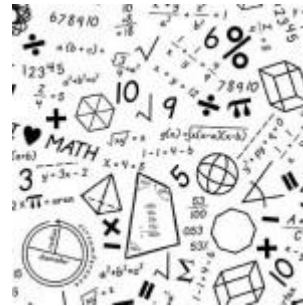
From Michael Miller:

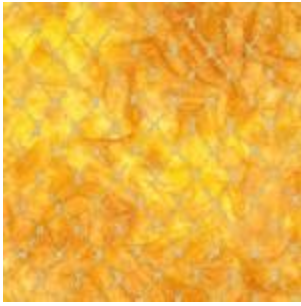




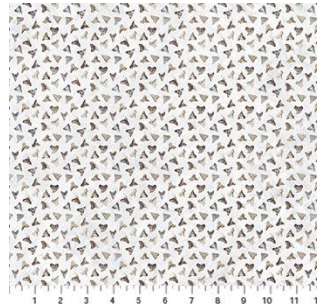
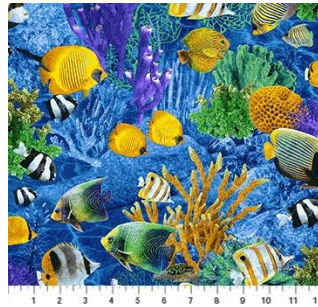
glow in the dark!

From Michael Miller:

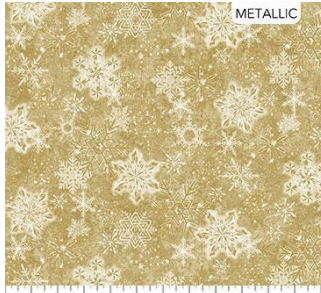




From Northcott:



shark teeth



August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Closed	2	3	4	5	6	7 BOM 10:30 Hunters Star 1-5
8 Beginning Quilting	9	10 Hand work Club 2- 4	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	12 Quilt show	13 Quilt show	14 Embroidery Club 10- noon Quilt Show
15 Beginning Quilting	16	17 Hand work Club 2- 4	18	19	20	21 Hunters Star 11-5
22 Full moon Machine Applied Binding 1-4	23	24 Hand work Club 2- 4	25 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	26	27	28 BQ Quilt 11-5
29	30	31 Hand work Club 2- 4	Color of the month: blacks			

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates. Explanations of classes will be out soon--most are self explanatory. NOTE: One Block Wonder Panel class only has 2 more openings.

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 houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn - as many as I can squeeze in!

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. We will be starting Crabapple Hill's Snow Days. This is an embroidered and pieced block. So we will help you through the piecing, tracing and embroidery.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 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 2 and go to 5. 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 may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. By summer, we may extend the knitting time into the evening.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-4
This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch. During covid, we sit 6 feet apart and wear our masks, but at least we can share our projects, get a little stitching done and just enjoy the companionship.

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 2-4, 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 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). 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.

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: June 24, July 23, August 27

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

June, blue; July Christmas; August blacks

**Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 1-5
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)**

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.

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