

Exciting news!

We are launching a new web page! This is a soft launch.

Michelle Gess is the inspiration behind this new look. She has done all the work. And I am learning. So for now, you can click on this link to see what we're up to. Let me know what you think.

<https://sites.google.com/view/aroundtheblockquiltshop/home>



January 17, 2025



Things to worry about when it gets really, really cold.

Iguanas falling out of trees in Florida. Not what you thought I was gonna say, huh?

Remember those signs on mountain highways that said, Watch for falling rock? Even as a kid, I thought those signs were wrong. You can't watch for rocks falling. You can only really pay attention to fallen rocks: ones already on the ground.

Although, recently, down in Custer County Colorado, a phone camera caught the side of the mountain falling down. And falling. And continuing to fall. I mean, it went on forever. It was impressive. And in that case, a sign asking you to watch for falling rock

would have been appropriate. Just google Colorado Custer rock slide and you'll find it on various sites.

But iguanas are different. Coconuts, on the other hand, are more like falling rocks. You really can't "watch" for them. By the time you look up and spot a falling coconut, it's probably too late. That's why the signs on coconut trees just tell you to beware of falling coconuts, which suggests you shouldn't sit under the trees. Although, walking through a palm grove can even be dangerous: if you hear a rattle of something zipping through palm fronds, you probably shouldn't look up.

Falling iguanas, on the other hand, might be a little easier to navigate, assuming you can spot them in the trees, and then avoid walking underneath them. But they tend to be camouflaged. And they live in the tree tops, where it is sunny and warm. Normally.

Iguanas are cold blooded; so when it gets cold, like it's going to in Florida, they lose their grip on tree branches and tend to pass out when the temps drop. Thus, watch for falling iguanas. And because these guys can be as big as 5 feet long and weigh 25 pounds, if you get hit, it might feel a little like getting tackled by a pro football player.

Iguanas are much like older people, who also tend to lose their grip when it gets cold. Older adults have less muscle and thinner skin, which means less insulation for the body, decreased blood flow to extremities which increases blood pressure around vital organs. We lose our grip, get lightheaded and tend to fall, and then have to rely on the alert alarm calls: Help, I've fallen and can't get up. Iguanas don't wear Apple watches. Maybe it would help.

Batteries also fail in the cold. If you own a keyless car, remember to take the remote inside at night. Otherwise, the battery on the remote might be either drained or too cold to start the car in the morning. Ask me how I know this..... Don't leave the phone in the car overnight, either. Same reason. And while we're on the subject of cars left out in the cold, don't leave plastic bottles of pop in the car. Pepsi bottles can tolerate below freezing. They'll explode below zero.

Keeping the house a little warmer in these extreme temperatures is also helpful. Wyomingites know all of the basic cold weather routines for the house: Open cabinet doors to let in heat to the pipes, keep jugs of water for refilling toilets in case the power goes out. I fill the bathtub so I have water for pets. And make chili, with lots of green chili added for extra heat.

If you haven't added cold weather supplies to the car, where have you been living? Oh, that's right. It was 51 yesterday. But make sure you put the extra hats, scarves, coats, socks, gloves and boots in the car. Candy bars, easy to eat food, and water (which can freeze but is better than exploded Pepsi all over the car) are also essentials, even if you only travel around town. My car usually has a quilt or two, as well.

If you've lived here for a while, you know all this stuff. But not everyone has. I overheard a conversation yesterday where a young man was complaining (only slightly) to his sister about having to live with grandma. She keeps the house cold, but apparently sits in front of some kind of fireplace that she keeps lit. So she stays warm, but the fireplace sucks all the heat out of the basement where the young man is staying. Keep in mind this was yesterday's conversation. It was 51 degrees. And he thought the basement was cold. I gathered that the young man was recently moved to Cheyenne. He may be sleeping with grandma tonight.

While it's not going to get spit freezing cold this weekend, it may be cold enough to freeze water balloons. Spit freezing cold was chronicled by Jack London in *Call of the Wild*. He talked about hearing the spit crack as it froze before it even hit the ground. That's about minus 40 or below. We're not going there this weekend. But it will be cold enough to freeze water balloons.

Add water to a balloon—don't fill completely. You might want to add some air to make the balloon rounder. Add some food coloring and set it outside tonight. You might have some interesting lawn decorations by morning.

I am ready for this cold snap....although I do need to take the Pepsi out of the car. I have green chili chicken enchiladas, wool socks and slippers, a flannel backed quilt, pellets for my pellet stove and a cat for my lap. I've also been known to wear a wool hat to bed.

Stay warm everybody.



### **.Spring Challenge**

I know, winter just got here, but this challenge will end on May 3, so spring. We're looking forward.

There are two parts to the challenge, but you don't have to participate in both parts. First, we are going to be making the Potato Chip quilt block. This block is all over the internet and it has been around for a long time, under various names.



The first challenge is to make a potato chip block quilt that is 50" X 60" (minimum size, you can make it bigger). Instructions will follow. You can set these blocks any way you want. I'm showing the quilt with simple 2 1/2" sashings and posts, a 2 1/2" inner border and a 5" outer border, but I will provide additional settings in the coming weeks.

Your quilt top must be finished by May 3.

The second part of the challenge is to make a block for sharing. You can make as many sharing blocks as you like. Each time you bring a block to share, your name will

be put into a drawing. Depending on how many blocks we receive, we may have several winners. Each winner will receive a grouping of blocks that you can turn into a quilt! For example, if we get 48 blocks, we will have 4 winners of 12 blocks each. If we get 12 blocks, we'll have one winner.

The pattern starts with 2 ½" pieces. You need 18, 2 1/2" X 4 1/2" rectangles for each block. Note: Some of the potato chip blocks use 2" strips. You are welcome to use that size, but for the blocks you turn in, you must use 2 ½" strips.

Click on the link for the pattern:

[Spring mystery 2025](#)

## **BINGO!**

**We're starting another game. The bingo challenge is to encourage you to finish projects, learn new things, take classes and buy a little product from ATB.**

### **Bingo Rules**

1. You get the original card for free. This card is set up with the harder squares appearing in only one column or row. For the most part.
2. Extra cards are \$1. Beware: The additional cards are randomized. Which means you may get a card with easy rows....or hard ones.
3. When you have completed a square, in order to get credit you must bring in the item, with your card, and I will stamp your square.
4. No teams. This is not a collaborative effort.
5. Contest will run from January 17 through July 1.
6. Quilt tops are acceptable for all squares requiring a block or quilt to be done, except for the Finish 2 quilts square and the Give a quilt as a gift square.
7. One quilt top, quilt or block cannot satisfy multiple squares. For example, the quilt that is used for the Finish 2 quilts square, cannot also be used for the Put a binding on

a quilt square. If you use both batiks and florals in an ATB BOM block, you can only count that block as one square: either using a floral, or using a batik or doing a BOM.

8. Quilts and blocks must have been started no later than January 1, 2024. You can dig back that far in your unfinished pile of projects, but go back no further.

9. Free classes count toward the Take a class from ATB. So attending a BOM or the Free Embroidery Class or the Hand Sewing group on Tuesdays, will count as one class.

### **Prizes**

**Anyone who completes a row or column or the traditional X on the card will get a fat quarter. I know, not great incentive, but....**

**If you complete 2 rows you get 2 fat quarters, 3 rows, etc. Per card. Maximum # of fat quarters, per card, is 4.**

**Now for the big prize**

**If you fill every square on the card AND you are the first person to turn in your card, you will receive a \$100 gift certificate.**

**I will also have 2 more “consolation” prizes for the second and third place finishers.**

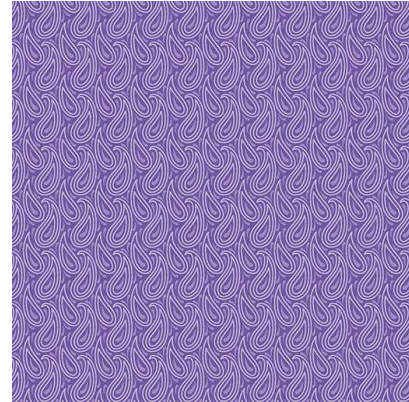
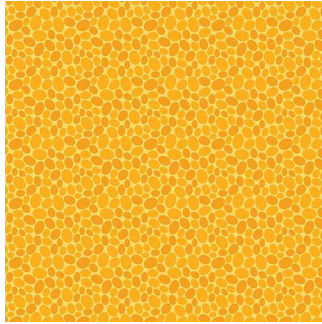
**I have also provided a link to this information. [Bingo Game](#)**

# ATB B I N G O

Finish a quilt top using a panel	Take a class at ATB	Make a BOM from ATB	Share fabric with a friend	Learn to use a new ruler
Make a block or quilt using florals	Use batiks in a block or quilt	Take another class from ATB	Put a binding on a quilt	Finish a flannel quilt top
Buy border fabric from ATB	Finish an ATB Mystery or Challenge quilt	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	Make a foundation pieced block	Put a label on a quilt
Give a completed quilt as a gift	Buy a pattern or book from ATB	Finish 2 quilts, including binding	Add embroidery to a block or quilt	Take another class from ATB
Make 10 flying geese	Make another BOM from ATB	Buy backing fabric from ATB	Make a pillowcase	Complete a Christmas project

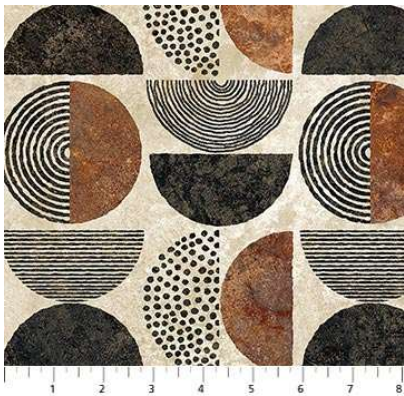
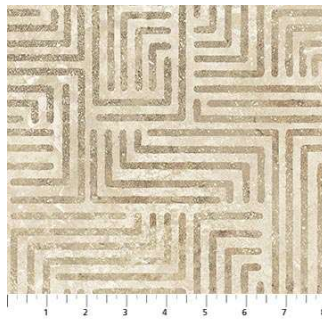
allbingocarrs.com

New Fabric



From Benartex, the first image are 10" squares, 42 pieces

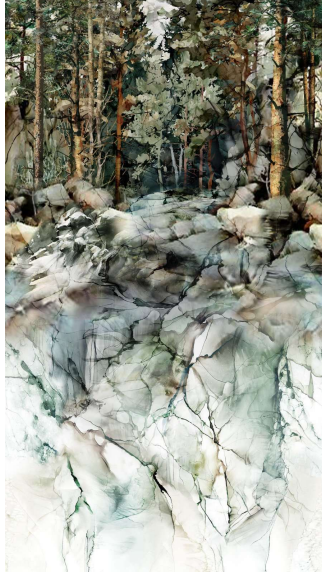
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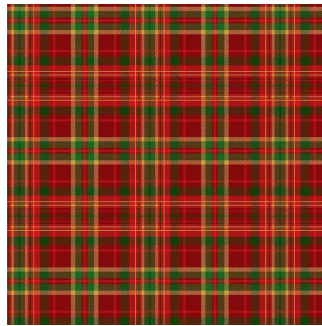
Northcott





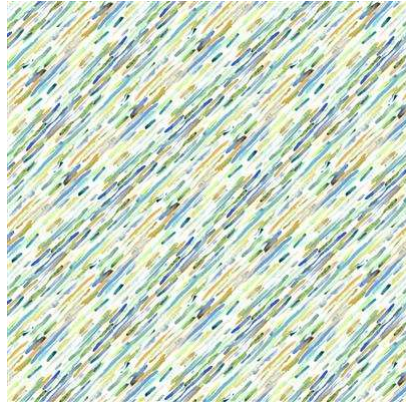


From Northcott (second image is also in wideback)

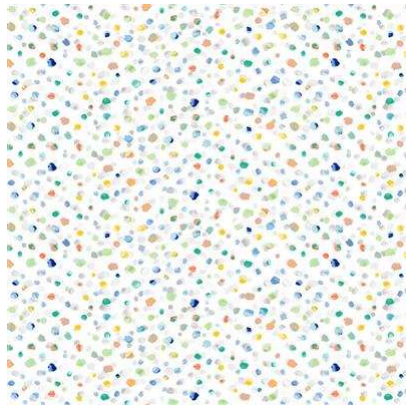


From Marcus Bros and Timeless





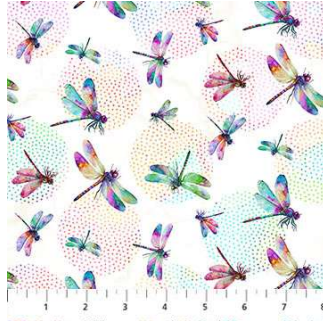
From Clothworks

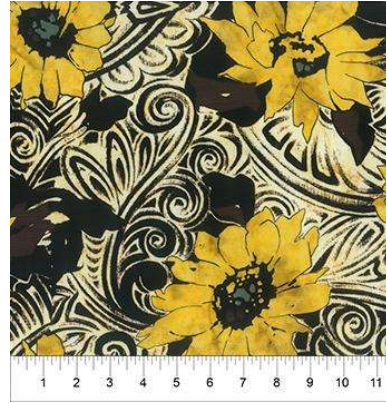
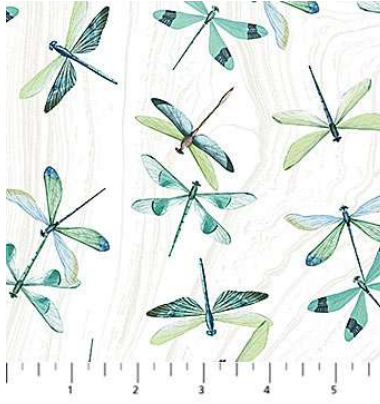


From Michael Miller



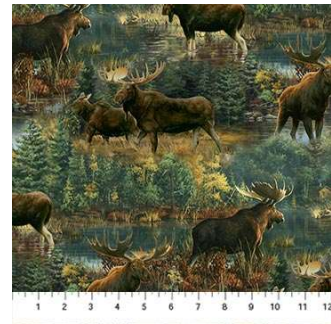
From Northcott



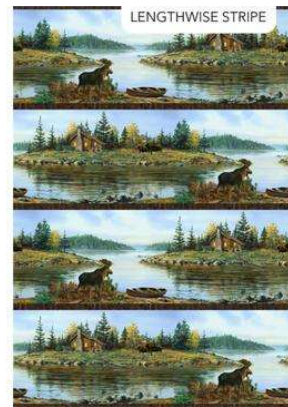


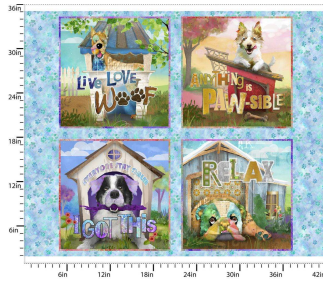


From Quilting Treasures

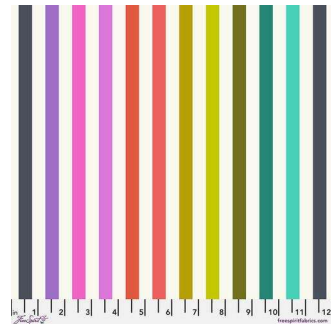
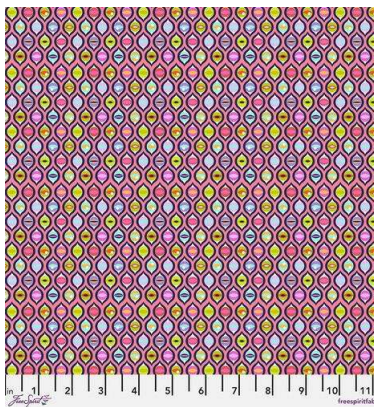
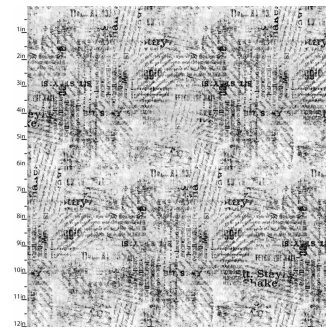
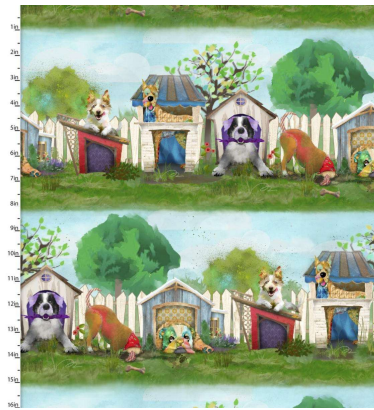
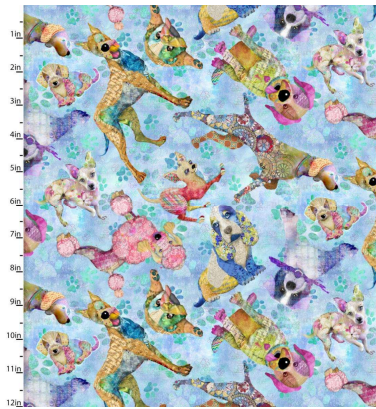


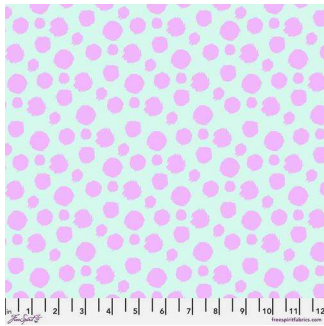
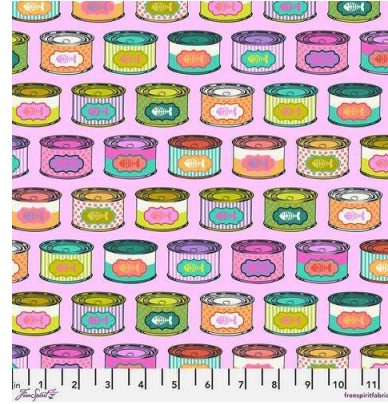
From Northcott





From 3 wishes





From Tula Pink



Full Moon Days: January 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday  
NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday) NOTE: These did not get onto  
the calendar

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		CLOSED	1 CLOSED	2	3	4 10:30 BOM <u>Pillow Case</u> Party! 1-4
Pi5 CLOSED	6	7 Hand Sewing club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers 2-5	9	10	11 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Flannel Snowballs 1-5
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand Sewing club 2-5	15	16	17	18 Delectable Mountains 10:30-4
19 CLOSED	20	21 Hand Sewing club 2-5	22 Knit Pickers 2-5	23	24	25
26 CLOSED	27	28 Hand Sewing club 2-5	29	30	31	



# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Machine Binding 1-4
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon
9 CLOSED	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 Counterpoint Part 1 10:30-4
16 CLOSED	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 6 Quilts, One Book 10:30-4
23 CLOSED	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Tennessee Waltz Part 1 1-5
2 Beginning Quilting 1-4	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Merry Snowmen 1-4
9 Beginning Quilting 1-4	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 <b>NATIONAL QUILT DAY</b>
16 Beginning Quilting 1-4	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 Counterpoint Part 2 10:30-4
23 Beginning Quilting 1-4	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	29 Cats in PJs 10:30-4
30 Beginning Quilting 1-4	31					

## 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 ... come in January and find out!

**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, which is Modern Herbal Block of the Month by Sewn Wyoming.

**Knit Pickers' Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday)

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 and Book of the Month**

**January dogs and cats; February red; March green; April blue; May flowers**

## January classes

### **Delectable Mountains Sat Jan 18 \$45 Barb Boyer**

From the book *Scrappy & Happy Quilts, Limited Palette, Tons of Fun* by Kate Hendersen. The book is out of print, but you can find it on used books sites, like Amazon. To make the mountains, you will also need the Creative Grid Ruler, 2 Peaks in One, and a special ruler for the largest mountain will be provided in class. The mountain block is a form of a “kite” construction. You will learn how to use the templates to create perfect mountains.

## February Classes

### **Machine Binding Sat Feb 13 1-4 \$45 Jean Korber**

This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10” to 40”, table runner, small wall hanging, place mat, etc) that is quilted and ready for binding. In class Jean will show you how to cut your binding, press it, and stitch it down (DO NOT CUT YOUR BINDING IN ADVANCE), how to stitch it down & miter the corners and then how to apply decorative stitches to the edge. In class you will cut your binding, stitch it to your project, miter your corners and then stitch it down by machine on the other side, using decorative stitches.

### **Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber**

The pattern is by Mountain Peak Creations. The quilt provides large spaces to showcase fabrics. Follow the pattern for fabric amounts. While the quilt has few parts to sew, it is tricky to get things lined up properly. We will show you the easy way to keep the quilt square and perfectly pieced. No special rulers are required.

### **6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.**

6 quilts, 1 book, every other month, 1 price for all 6 classes. (or \$35/class if you pick & choose). This is our third year doing 6 quilts out of one book. This year the book is a

Christmas book, but don't be fooled. Our sample quilts include a Halloween quilt, a dog quilt, a wildlife quilt, an autumn flavored quilt, a star quilt (the Christmas quilt) and a dragon quilt. We want you to learn something new in each class. The book is Simply Modern Christmas by That Patchwork Place. This is another out of print book so look for it on the used sites, like Amazon. The first quilt we will teach is Argyle. 2 is Coming Together, 3 is Joy, 4 is Funky christmas, 5 is Snowball Games, and 6 is Peppermint Float

### **March Classes**

#### **Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Mar 2**

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.

#### **Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer**

This is a classic quilt design that incorporates the 54-40 of Fight block and a snowball block. The result? The quilt will look curvy, but it's all pieced straight. Pattern will be given out in class. You will need the 2 Peaks in Once ruler by Creative Grid. Yardage needed for a 61" X 70" is app. 2-3 yards of the focus fabric for the center squares, 1 ½ for the stars and 1 yard for the 4-patch squares. Border app. 2 yards.

#### **Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45**

Pattern Merry, Merry Snowmen by Bunny Hill Designs. The applique in the sample quilt is done with wool. We will teach both wool options, traditional needle turn or or finished edge applique, or raw edge applique. Skill level: Confident beginner

### **NATIONAL QUILT DAY SATURDAY MARCH 15 DEMOS AT NOON**

**We will have a special sale for National Quilt Day. We will have demos and other activities going on, TBA.**

**Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber ongoing**

**Cats in PJs Sat March 29 10:30-4 \$40 Barb Boyer**

This is an Elizabeth Hartman Cats in Pajamas pattern. Follow pattern instructions for fabric amounts. And think creatively about fabrics for the cats and for the PJs. Footballs, stripes, dogs, plaids, ballerinas—anything you can think of for cute PJ fabrics. And the cats can be all different colors, and some may have different tail and ear colors, as well.

#### **April Classes**

**Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer ongoing**

**Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing**

**Fanfare Sat April 19, 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber**

Fanfare pattern by Krista Moser required. Follow pattern instructions for fabric requirements. You will also need the Creative Grid 60 degree triangle ruler, 8 1/2" size. Skill level: Intermediate

**6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.**

The second quilt we will teach is Coming Together.

#### **May Classes**

**T-Shirt Quilt Sat May 3 & 24 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer**

So you've got all these t-shirts and want to turn them into a quilt? It's easy, but you need the right tools. The class is taught in 2 parts: First, preparing your t-shirts, and second, designing your top—which is where I come in, because I can help with all of the math that might be involved.

**Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing**

**Drip Drop Sat May 17 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$45**

The quilt is in Graphic Quilts book by That Patchwork Place. We have copies. Templates will be provided for the curved pieces. Follow fabric requirements in the book. Skill level: Intermediate



Normal Shop Hours:

**Monday-Saturday 10-5:30**

**Sunday 1-5**

**Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)**

**New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 5-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](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)

