



Around the Block  
QUILT SHOP

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June 21, 2024

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Did you see the sun yesterday? Probably not. We had weird weather all day. The prediction was for tornadoes and all day it seemed like something was off. That impending doom feeling. I couldn't figure out whether it was because I was anticipating the late afternoon storms or because it was just a really weird day. And it's happening again today.

It was also the longest day of the year—summer solstice. So it was unfortunate that we didn't get to see the sun all day long. It was also the shortest night and the fullish moon was out and about most of the night, in and out of more clouds.

“What are you yammering about?” Becca said, trotting in from outside. Becca really needs to get a better hobby. Her current one of always interrupting me is getting annoying. Becca is my red mini-Australian Shepherd. Her fur bleaches in the sun to a brassy tomato red color. I once worked with a red head at a swim pool who coated his body, including his feet, in baby oil the first week we were open. After one day in the sun, Harold looked like Becca all over. The poor guy couldn't wear shoes for a week. To our credit, we did warn him.

“I'm talking about the first day of summer,” I told her. “And that the sun wasn't out much.”

“I thought we were just getting out of winter,” she said. “You know it was 36 degrees Tuesday morning? Or maybe that was Wednesday. I think the heat came on in the house early this week. How can it be the first day of summer?”

“Well, it has to do with the tilt of the earth. On June 20 the earth was tilted as far as it is going to tilt toward the sun. That gives us the longest day. It's all down hill from here.”

“You mean that was it? Summer's over? You haven't even gotten the swimming pool out of the garage. You know, “ she whispered, “that stray cat uses the pool as a bed. You're going to have to disinfect it before I get into it.”

“You've never used that pool in your life,” I told her. “One of a number of things I have bought for you over the years that you don't use. I don't know why I try.”

“You love me,” Becca said. “Get over it.”

“Hmph. Anyway, back to the summer solstice. In some European countries, the summer solstice marks the middle of summer. It really depends on when summer temperatures start to arrive.”

“So summer, as a season, is not dependent upon astrological events, like solstices,” Becca said.

“You are so wise for being so small,” I said.

“Size matters not. Look at me. Judge me by my size, do you? Hmm? Hmm. And well you should not. For my ally is the Force, and a powerful ally it is.’ I’m channeling Yoda,” Becca explained.

“Well, oh little wise one, did you know that the summer solstice typically marks the one-month countdown to the Summer Olympics? Or that the word solstice comes from the Latin word ‘sol’ meaning sun and the word ‘stitium’ meaning stopped. Ancient people thought the sun stopped on the solstice and then went backward.”

““Always pass on what you have learned,” she murmured.

“Okay, enough with the Yoda quotes. You must be watching the new Star Wars series on Disney.”

“To be Jedi is to face the truth, and choose. Give off light, or darkness, Padawan. Be a candle, or the night.”

“Okay now you just sound like a bad Elton John song.”

“Well you brought all this up. Why are we talking about this, anyway?” she asked.

“Well, it’s summer. I like summer. I had great summers as a kid. I lived on a lake, where we went swimming almost every day. My friend had a row boat and we would row across the lake, or if it got too hot, we’d get in the water and push the boat across. We’d also row the boat to the other end of the lake to pick water lilies.

“We’d ride our bikes all around the neighborhood. Sneak into yards to pick green apples, find all the candy stores in people’s basements, locate where all the ponies might be and try to sneak rides. We played Barbie Dolls, shot fireworks across the lake on the 4<sup>th</sup>, had picnics. It was fun.”

“Did you have a dog?” Becca asked eagerly.

“No. I kept dragging them home but mom made me drag them back. My girlfriend had one, though. Tippy. Tippy followed us every where. We even gave her a bath one day on the front lawn.”

“Brave dog,” Becca muttered. “In the end, cowards are those who follow the dark side.”

“Enough, all ready. The solstice is also a time for celebrations, celebrating the beginning of the growing season, lighting bonfires to ward off evil spirits.”

“Stop right there. No bonfires. Have you seen the pictures coming out of New Mexico?” Becca demanded.

“Right. No bonfires. But I could braid flowers in your hair. That also wards off evil spirits.”

“I don’t think so. Why don’t we just drink some wine and toast the fact that we haven’t gotten any hail from any of these storms breezing by,” Becca said.

“That reminds me. Did you know that a 2,000 year old funerary urn was unearthed in Spain a couple of years ago and they just figured out this week that the urn contained not only cremated remains but also wine. The oldest wine thought to exist.”

“Okay, we’re not drinking grandma,” Becca said. “Why on earth would someone do that?”

“Well, it might make the afterlife a lot more enjoyable,” I said.

“You will find only what you bring in,” Becca intoned.

“All right miss Yoda. Why don't you go outside and stare at the sky. We've got more storms coming in. If you see something funky, let me know. We can hide in the bathroom.”

“The dark side clouds everything. Impossible to see the light, the future is,” Becca said as she dutifully trotted outside.

Sigh. She's just impossible sometimes.

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## Winner of the Scrap Bag Challenge

Sorry it has taken me so long to post the winner. We had 15 quilts from 8 quilters, which was an amazing turnout. The quilts that were shown at the months' block of the Month were spectacular. Everyone who participated deserves big rounds of applause. I will get the next challenge underway soon. Give me another week to get myself back on track.

So the winner, and newly minted quilter, is Katherine Joerschkedalton! Katherine, when you're in next, I will give you your \$100 gift certificate! Congratulations!

Calendar for June-August is displayed below. Some of the classes are self explanatory, like Machine Binding and Machine quilting. The Sew Spring Quilt is the In the Beginning quilt, now hanging by the register, that we kitted. We still have 2 kits left. I am teaching it over several different days: June 8, June 29, and August 3 and 10. We may not need all those classes, but the summer schedule got a little whacky.

I'm teaching a paper bag log cabin quilt, where I'll teach you the basics of making a scrappy log cabin. It's a great class for color confidence. You will need a bunch (3-4 yards) of dark & medium fabrics cut into 1 1/2" strips (by any length) and the same amount for lights. Choose one color for your center square--you'll need as many center squares as you do blocks. The size of the quilt and setting of your blocks, will determine how many blocks you will need, but 1/4 yard for the centers will be enough.

For the Machine Binding class, you will need a small quilted project (20" X 20" - 40" X 40", and it doesn't have to be square, just something within those dimensions) ready for binding. Choose your binding fabric, **but don't cut until class!**

For the Machine Quilting class you will NOT need a project. I will supply the materials for you to practice on. You will need a machine that you can either drop or cover your feed dogs AND a hopping or darning foot. If you have a walking foot, you can bring it, but you don't need one.

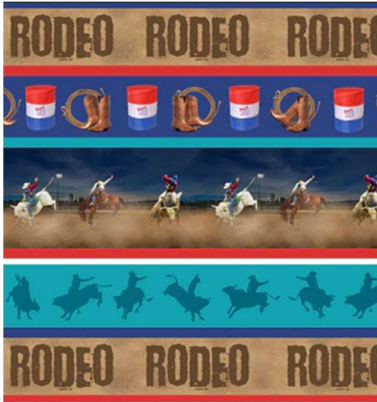
We have a couple more classes to set in August. So we'll keep you posted.

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## New Fabric

Some bad news about the Bucking Horse & Rider fabric. The "chop" that is used to make the horse & rider had to be replaced. I don't know if you are aware of how batiks are made, but typically the print is hand stamped on the fabric. The stamp is called a chop. So remaking the chop took time, then Ramadan hit, which is a month long religious celebration observed in Bali. So the BH&R fabric won't arrive until July. Sorry.





From Kennard & Kennard

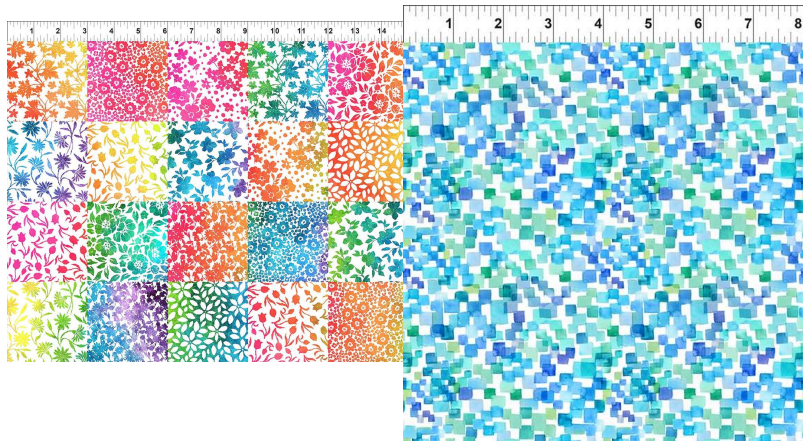
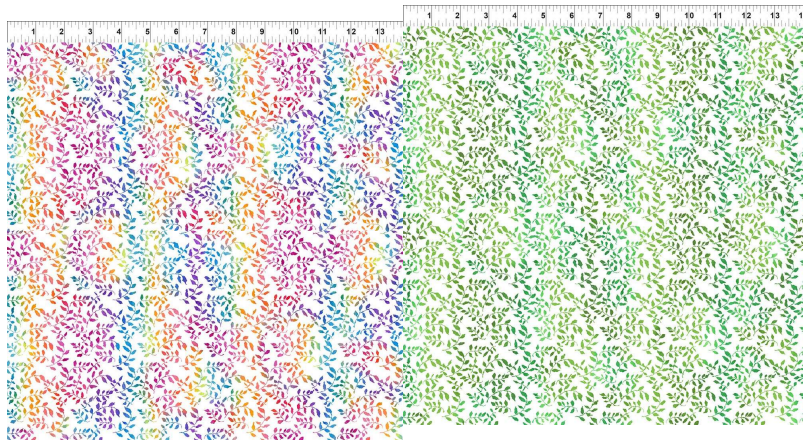
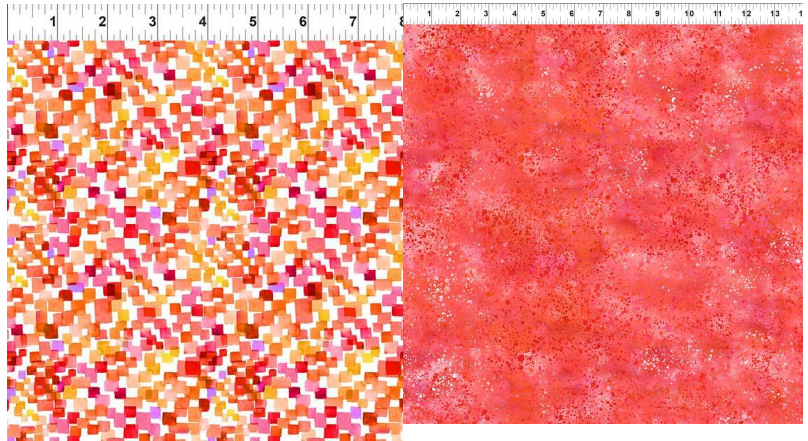


From Alexander Henry





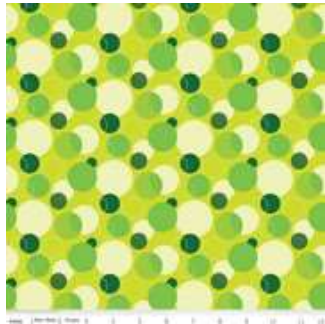
From In the Beginning: **We've made 6 kits: \$175. 4 are sold.** If you are interested, don't wait too long. We have enough fabric to make 1 more kit, maybe 2. We will have a class this summer to teach the blocks & the applique.





From QT--some good panels for one block wonder class in the fall

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From Riley Blake, the green plus 10" square packs

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From Hoffman

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From Riley Blake

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## JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 T-shirt Quilt Part 1 1-5
2 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Hand work Club 2-5	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
9 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	10	11 Hand work Club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Quilt as you go: Triangle Log Cabin 10:30-4
16 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	17	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21 <b>Full Moon</b>	22 Machine Quilting 10:30- 2:30
23 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	24	25 Hand work Club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	27 Long Arm Rental Day	28	29 Sew Spring Quilt 10:30-4
30 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4						Color of the month: blue

JULY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Hand work Club 2-5	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 BOM 10:30 Machine Binding 1-5
7 CLOSED	8	9 Hand work Club 2-5	10 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	11 Long Arm Rental Day STATE QUILT Meeting	12 STATE QUILT Meeting	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon STATE QUILT Meeting
14 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	15	16 Hand work Club 2-5	17 Long Arm class 10:30	18 Long Arm Rental Day	19	20 Strip Quilts 10:30-4 Full Moon
21 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	22	23 Hand work Club 2-5	24 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	25 Long Arm Rental Day	26	27 Paper Bag Log Cabin Quilt 10:30-4
28 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	29	30 Hand work Club 2-5	31			Color of the month: Christmas

AUGUST 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: blacks				1 Long Arm Rental Day	2	3 BOM 10:30 Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
4 CLOSED	5	6 Hand work Club 2-5	7 Long Arm class 10:30	8 Long Arm Rental Day	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
11 Shop Is now open 1-5!	12	13 Hand work Club 2-5	14 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	15 Long Arm Rental Day	16	17
18 Shop Is now open 1-5!	19 Full Moon	20 Hand work Club 2-5	21 Long Arm class 10:30	22 Long Arm Rental Day	23	24
25 Shop Is now open 1-5!	26	27 Hand work Club 2-5	28 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	29 Long Arm Rental Day	30	31

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 ... 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 are sheep! From Crabapple Hill

**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.

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**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 2-5, 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.

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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). 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 2-5.

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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.

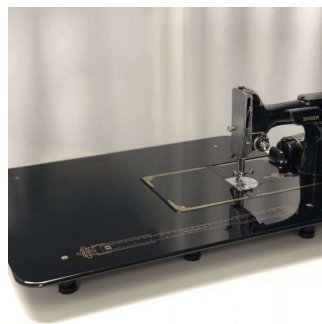
Full Moon Days: June 21, July 20, August 19

**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**



**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 needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

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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)

