



September 20, 2024



“So you’re talking to rocks now?” Becca quipped. “Do they talk back?”

I could make a joke here, although..... Okay, I’ll do the joke. It’s too good of a set up.

‘Kinda like you?’ I shot back, laughing. Becca growled.

“You walked right into that one,” I told her, still laughing. “I never said I talked to rocks. I said the rocks were talking to the helicopters.”

“And some how that’s better?” Becca smirked. She does recover quickly.

“Well, you’ve complained about the low flying helicopters recently, and I told you that the helicopters were picking up emissions from the rocks that detailed what rare earth minerals were present. So in a way, the rocks are talking.”

I learned all of this at a conference in Laramie, sponsored by Wyoming School of Energy Resources. I attend because I need continuing legal education for my law license, and while I know very little about energy resources, the conference is fascinating sometimes. Like learning about talking rocks.

The helicopters are equipped with instruments that measure low level gamma energy contained in and released by the rocks. The scientists are currently surveying the Laramie Mountains and, by extension, southeast Wyoming to discover what critical elements, including rare earth elements, are present. The helicopters fly about 90 mph and are 100 meters off the ground. Right now they are not flying in the mountains because of hunting season.

“And no, they are not taking your picture,” I forestalled Becca’s next question. She looked disappointed. I suspect she was hoping for a Candid Camera moment in her future. “They aren’t taking any videos or photographs. And once they have all the data mapped, it will be made available to the public,” I told her.

“So is gold a rare earth element?” Becca asked. I could see where this was going.

“No, but from what I gathered at the conference, gold is one of the things that the helicopters will pick up.”

“So we might see a gold rush,” Becca said. I could see her little brain whirling.

“You are not going prospecting,” I told her. “But yes, the purpose of the helicopter survey is to identify where all these minerals and elements exist so that explorers, for lack of a better word, will know whether digging is feasible or profitable. And no, you are not going prospecting, young lady,” I hollered at her as she started for the door. “Get back in here, I have more to tell you.”

Becca reluctantly turned around, sat down and said, very politely, “Yes?”

“You know my mom collected rocks?” Becca shook her head and got up to leave.

“No, really. She brought back rocks as souvenirs, and made them into rock collages to hang on the wall. She also stacked the rocks on top of each other, and painted eyes on them to make rock people.”

“So she was into pet rocks before pet rocks became a thing,” Becca said, sitting back down again. “You know she also dug up little trees out of national forests to bring home and replant.”

“Yeah, I was always afraid we might get stopped by some state or federal authority and be asked to open the trunk,” I said.

“Did any of those trees grow?” Becca asked.

“Of course not. They were dead by the time we got home. But that’s not what I wanted to talk about.”

“You brought it up,” Becca countered.

“That was just to get you back in the house. No, I wanted to tell you about project Draco and Pele,” I said. “DRACO stands for Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations and is a program that plans to launch a nuclear reactor into space by 2027. This reactor, about the size of an oil drum, will be able to fuel deep space explorations.”

“Cool,” said Becca. “We’re becoming more Star Trekkie every day.” Clearly, not that interested.

“The company creating this is BWXT, a subsidiary of Babcock & Wilcox Enterprises Inc. The president of BWXT gave a presentation at the conference, highlighting the role BWX has had in the energy business over the years. In 1856, the company started designing water heaters. In 1953, they got into, what the president called, peacekeeping energy efforts. Also known as outfitting U.S. submarines with nuclear power.”

“Peacekeeping nuclear energy in military operations,” Becca wondered. “Sounds a little doublespeak to me.”

“I thought you’d like that,” I said. “It was his way of phrasing it,” I said. “I found that interesting. And then he went on to describe Project Pele, which is a nuclear option for the Department of Defense to harness portable power for the government that can last up to three years.”

“He’s talking about the zombie apocalypse,” Becca said eagerly. Now she’s excited.

“Well, it’s an acknowledgement, at a minimum, that the power structure could fail,” I said. “A news release from the DOD on March 22, 2021, stated, ‘The DOD uses approximately 30 Terawatt-hours of electricity per year and more than 10 million gallons of fuel per day—levels that are only expected to increase due to anticipated electrification of the vehicle fleet and maturation of future energy-intensive capabilities. A safe, small, transportable nuclear reactor would address this growing demand with a resilient, carbon-free energy source that does not add to the DOD’s fuel needs, while supporting mission-critical operations in remote and austere environments.’”

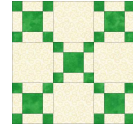
“I got it!” Becca said. “It’s just like what happened to Kevin Costner in the Postman, except in that story the government failed because it didn’t have an independent power source. Or the The Stand, or Station Eleven, or Cantic for Leibowitz, or Hunger Games or On the Beach, or.....” Becca trailed off, heading outside to....

Actually, I'm not sure what she's up to. At least it's not digging for gold.

That's a good thing, I think?



Nine Patch Challenge



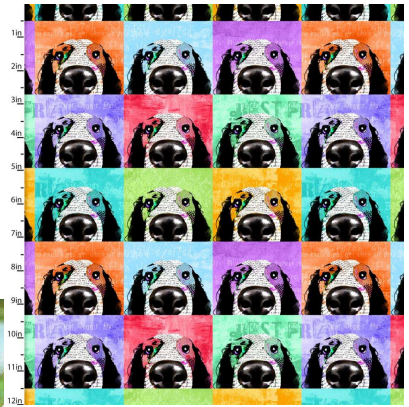
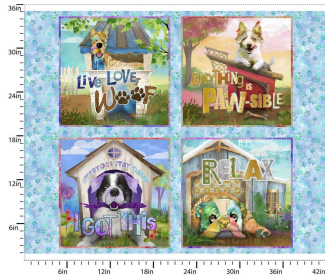
July 1-October 5

The summer scrap bag challenge is to make a quilt using the classic 9-patch block. Each bag purchased gets you one quilt. Each quilt finished from one bag gets you one entry for a \$100 gift certificate.

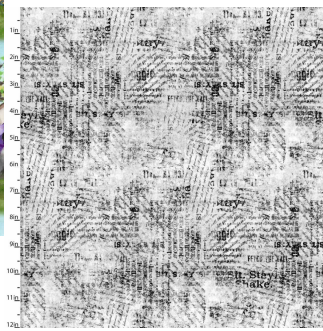
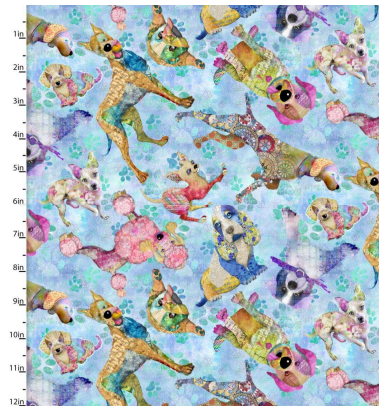
For purposes of this challenge, a 9-patch block can be any block that consists of 9 squares of a uniform size. So long as the block is based upon a grid that is 3 X 3, the individual squares can be a regular square, a half square triangle or a quarter square triangle unit. So blocks like the Ohio Star, traditional 9-patch, or Churn Dash are acceptable. You can add alternate blocks, like a plain block or a snowball block, in between your 9-patch blocks. You can separate your blocks with sashing. Or just piece your blocks together, so long as the result is clearly a nine-patch block quilt. Your quilt needs to be, at a minimum, 60" X 60" (Sorry I couldn't get the block images loaded better)



New Fabric

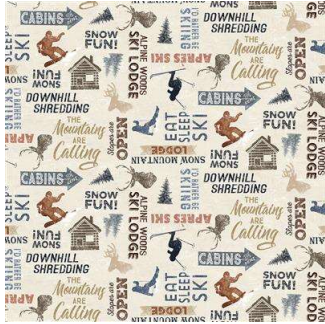


From 3 wishes



From Northcott



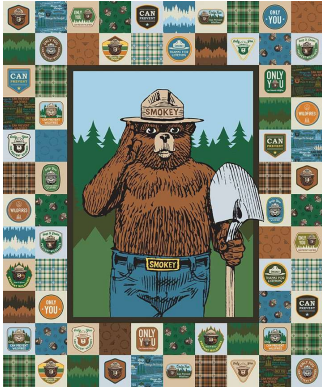


From Clothworks

Flannel

Flannel



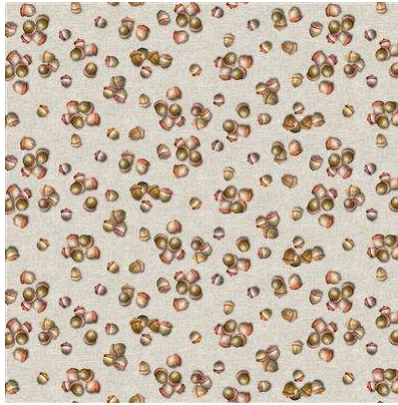


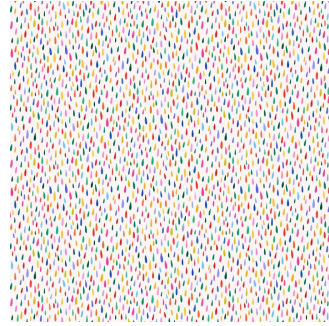
From Riley Blake



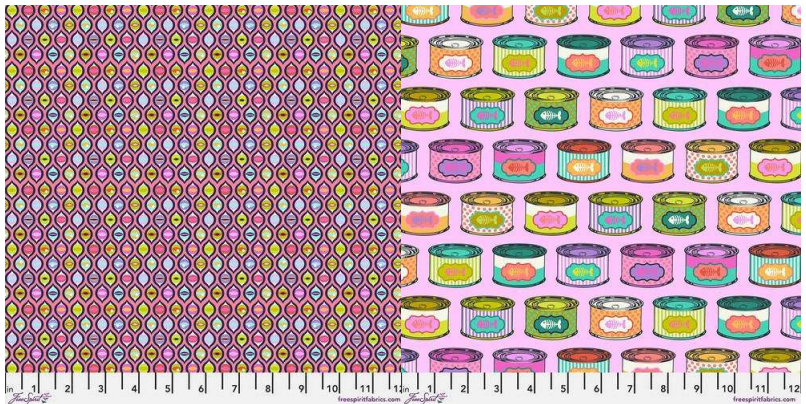
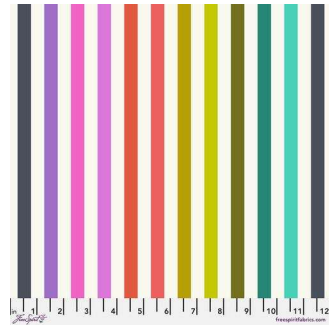
From Clothworks: Secret Life of Squirrels II

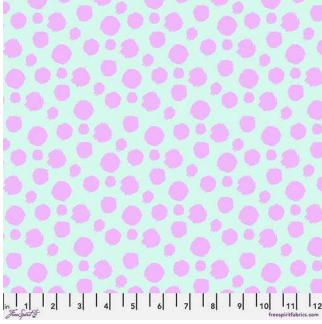






From Dashwood





From Tula Pink

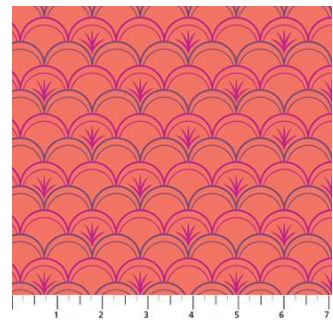
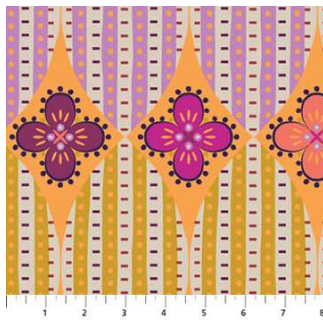
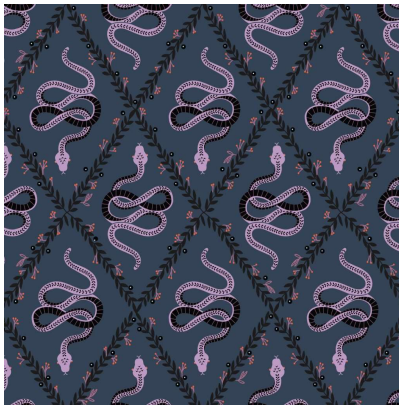


From Dear Stella



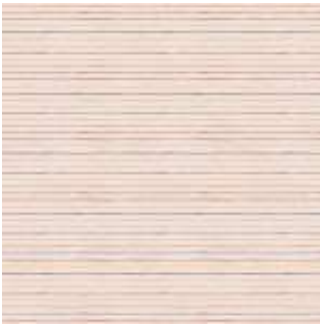


From Dashwood



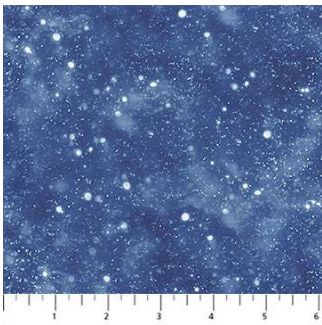


From Figó + rolls & squares



From Paintbrush





From Northcott: flannel, except for the 2 sports fabrics

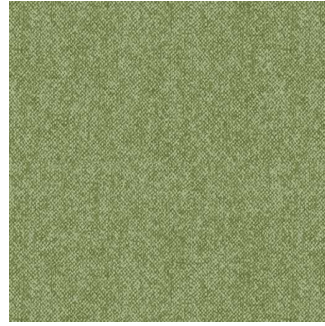
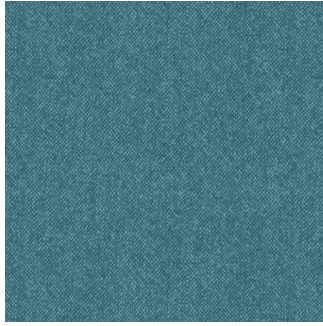
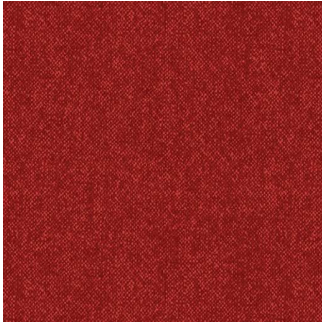


Yoy 7 remaining!"

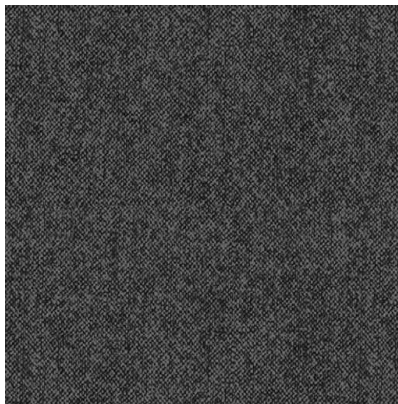
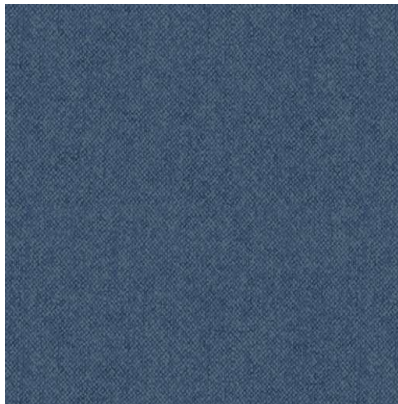
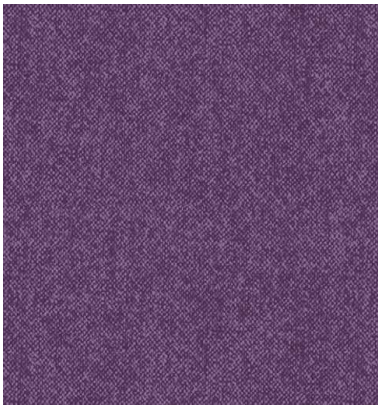


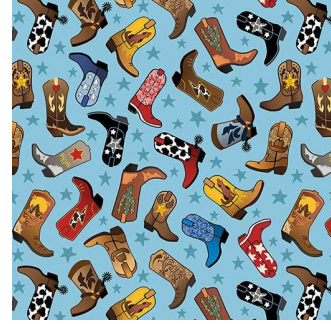
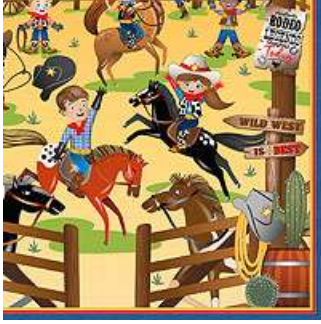
From Hoffman



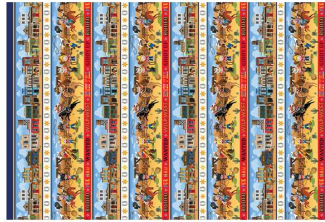


From Benartex Flannel





AS SHOWN 42" X 24"

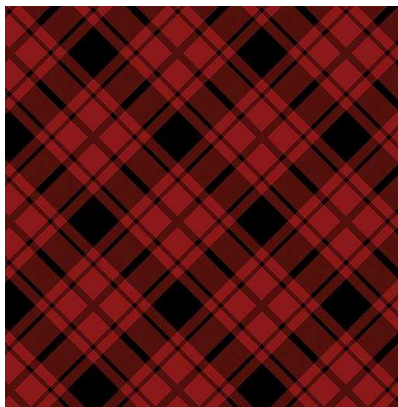


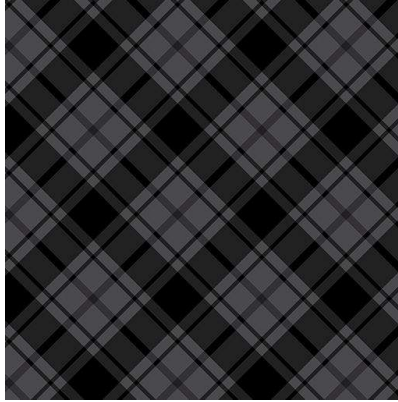
AS SHOWN 44" X 30"
*stripe runs parallel to selvedge



PANEL MEASURES APPROX. 18" X 27"

From Benartex: The fall looking ones are flannel

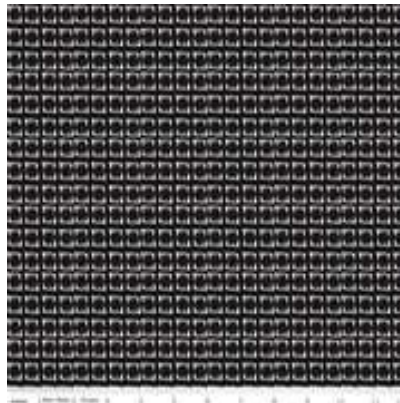




Y



From Clothworks



From Riley Blake. The blacks glow in the dark

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2 Labor Day	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4	5	6	7 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Cozy Flannel Quilt 1-5
8 Beginning Quilt 1-4	9	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	12	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon One Block Wonder Part I 1-4
15 Beginning Quilt 1-4	16	17 Hand work Club 2-5 Full Moon	18	19	20	21 Strip Quilts 10:30-4
22 Beginning Quilt 1-4	23	24 Hand work Club 2-5	25 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	26	27	28 Travel Bag Part I 10:30-4
29 Beginning Quilt 1-4	30					Color of the month: orange

OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hand work Club 2-5	2	3	4	5 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Lost Socks 1-5
6 CLOSED Beginning Quilt 1-4	7	8 Hand work Club 2-5	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	10 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon Jingle Pops Christmas Tree 1-5
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14 Columbus Day	15 Hand work Club 2-5	16	17 Full Moon	18	19 One Block Wonder Part II 10:3-5
20 Beginning Quilt 1-4	21	22 Hand work Club 2-5	23 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	24	25	26 Travel Bag Part II 10:30-4
27 Beginning Quilt 1-4	28	29 Hand work Club 2-5	30	31		Color of the month: green

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Purple					1	2 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
3 CLOSED	4	5 Hand work Club 2-5	6	7	8	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
10 CLOSED	11 Veterans Day	12 Hand work Club 2-5	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	14	15 Full Moon	16 Strip Quilts 10:30-4
17 CLOSED	18	19 Hand work Club 2-5	20	21	22	23 Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt 10 30-4
24 CLOSED	25	26 Hand work Club 2-5	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Black Friday Sale	30 Shop Small Business Sale

DECEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4	5	6	7 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Machine Quilting with your BSR 1-4
8 CLOSED	9	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	12	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Storm at Sea Part I 1-4 Full Moon
15 CLOSED	16	17 Hand work Club 2-5	18	19	20	21 Storm at Sea Part II 10:30-4
22 CLOSED	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27 Toad Toter Sale	28 Year End Sale
29 CLOSED	30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED				Color of the month: red

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates. NOTE: I will be doing a pillow case workshop in October on Thursdays in the afternoon. I will post the times and details soon.

Also, we did not include Machine Binding in the class schedule, but I will try to include it in November. Details to follow.

We may also do something special on Veteran's Day. So much to plan....

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 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 are sheep! From Crabapple Hill

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.

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: September 17, October 17, November 15 and December 14.

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 and Book of the Month

September orange; October Book of the Month; November purple; December red

September classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Sept 8

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.

Let's Strip! Quilts Sat Sept 21 and Nov 16 10:30-4 or 5 Jean Korber and Barb Boyer \$130

6 quilts, 1 book, every other month, 1 price for all 6 classes. (or \$35/class if you pick & choose). We did this last year, using one book and fat quarters, and the quilts were amazing. So we're trying it again, this time using 2 1/2" strips. Each class will employ different techniques, and we sometimes change things up a little. We want you to learn something new in each class. The book is Striking Strip Quilts by Kate Henderson. You'll have to find the book on line, as it is no longer being published. If you have trouble finding it, let me know. January's quilt is called Summer Holiday; March is Tulip Patch; May is Day Dream; July is Twinkle Twinkle; September is By the Sea Shore; and November is Heading Home (which uses a lot of flying geese so if you want a jump start on the quilt, come to the Let's Make flying Geese class on Jan 15).

Travel Tote Bag September 28 10:30-4 and Oct 26 10:30-4 \$50 Jean Korber

This is a bag you can slip over the handles of your roll along luggage. Perfect for traveling, perfect for traveling to class with your sewing machine on a roll along cart. The class has 2 parts: first preparing your fabric and figuring out the pattern—Jean will tell you what parts need to be constructed before you put the bag together. The second class will be assembling the bag, adding pockets, learning to put in zippers. She's also made a few modifications, of course, and she'll explain how to do all of that.

October Classes

Lost Socks Sat Oct 5, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

We all have a lost sock or two. This quilt celebrates all of the lost socks that no longer have a match. There are big socks and small socks and they are machines appliqued onto various backgrounds. You can make the quilt out of flannels, brushed cottons, wovens or regular fabrics. Make each sock unique and use all different applique stitches to secure them.

Jingle Pops Christmas Tree Sat Oct 12 1:00-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

The Jingle Pops are Hoffman fabrics famous 2 1/2" strip sets, done in golds or silvers. Or you can use your own strip set to make this delightful Christmas Tree quilt. Easy to do and done before Christmas.

One Block Wonder Parts I and 2 Sat Sept 14 1-4 and Oct 19 10:30-5 \$45 Jean Korber ongoing

Travel Tote Bag September 28 10:30-4 and Oct 26 10:30-4 \$50 Jean Korber ongoing

November Classes

Bison Wall Hanging Parts I & II, Nov 2, 1-5 and Nov 9, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

The Bison Wall Hanging comes from Wyoming pattern designer Sewn Design. The head of the bison is made in a crazy quilt style or from left over bits from your stash. The rest of the bison is created from one piece of fabric. The two pieces are then fused into place on a background. I'll show you how to "window pane" the bison, to reduce the amount of fusible needed for the quilt. Then the bison is secured using a machine blanket stitch—or any other decorative stitch. Part I is making the head and Part II is fusing in down and appliqueing in place.

Let's Strip! Quilts Sat Nov 16 10:30-4 or 5 Jean Korber and Barb Boyer \$130

March's quilt is Tulip Patch. You will need 25 assorted green strips for stems and 25 assorted strips for the tulips, plus background (and borders, if you want them). This quilt teaches different ways to use the 45 degree flip method for making flying geese-styled blocks.

Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt Sat Nov 23 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Krista has done it again with a great eloquent tree skirt. We love Krista Moser patterns because they go together so well and look like they are so complicated: Not. We also like offering her classes because the quilts use a 60 degree diamond ruler and we like to get as much use out of our specialty rulers that we can!

December Classes

Machine Binding with your BSR Sat December 7, 1-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Do you have a Bernina and you have the BSR (stitch regulator) and don't know how to use it? This class is for you. Jean will show you the ins and outs of machine quilting on your Bernina with the BSR. This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10" to 40", table runner, small wall napping, place mat, etc) that is ready to be quilted. When you sign up, we will tell you how to prepare your project so you are ready to quilt in class.

Storm at Sea Sat December 14 1-4 and 21 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt used to be intimidating—then a ruler was developed and now it's a breeze! We will work with Deb Tucker's ruler for the construction of the block. We will also talk about various color schemes, one of which includes coloring the blocks to make a heart appear within the design.



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

