



Starlight Express

Starlight Quilters Guild

www.starlightquilters.com

June 2012

Presidents Message

By Kim Cawthon

Anatomy of a Quilt Retreat

January: I let Donna talk me into signing up for the quilt retreat. I knew I had enough money in my secret sock drawer to cover the fee.

February: schedule a day of vacation for May 4

March: Time to pay up. No need to hit my sock drawer though.

April: A last minute change put travel in my schedule for May 2-3. I'll need to get up early on May 4 to pack

May 3: Got home from Atlanta. I transferred my toiletries and standard travel gear from my carry on to a BIG suitcase. I'll need the room for all my fabric.

May 4: The fun begins

7:30am: get up and hit the gym

8:30am: back home. Pack: clothes, fabric, iron, ironing board, cutting board, supplies, OMG – I nearly forgot my sewing machine. Spare batteries for my mini-otlilite and where is my extension cord? THANK YOU Grady, for my Grab & Go storage tote that holds all my tools and threads

9:00am: lug everything down to my car

9:15am: stop at Hen House and buy some munchies

9:30am: stop at Quilter's Haven: I need fabric for my round robin project. Not sure if I'll work on it, but I don't know when I'll have time to shop again.

10:00am: Finally, on the road. My Garmin GPS, Gertie, knows the way to Cedar Crest Lodge.

11:15am: I can't believe it! I'm nearly the last one to arrive. Everyone looks like they've been sewing for hours. With help from the group and staff, I have my car unloaded and in my place just in time for lunch

Let me take a break here to say this about the food: it was very good, beautifully presented and served. Lunch and Dinner always came with desserts. About the time you decided you hadn't eaten in the last hour a light snack would appear. There was a cooler in the sewing room set up with drinks and coffee and tea were only a flight of stairs away.

THE RETREAT: I decided to make a King size log cabin quilt for my bed using Jeanne Poore's method. I think I'll need close to 200 squares, so for the next several hours I cut strips. Everyone is working on something different. Susan is paper piecing as she will .



President message cont'd-

do all week-end. Rosie is working on a lovely applique quilt. LueAnne has Case IH fabric that she's using to make a tractor quilt for her great-nephew. Sue has a new grandbaby coming and she spends most of the week-end working on projects for that little girl. Donna has her 30's reproduction retreat quilt out and makes good progress. Janette showed up a bit after me having made a huge score at a fabric sale. She used some of it to make charity quilts. Carol and Jackie worked on so many projects that I could hardly keep up.

So many different projects, so much progress made and as you can imagine the room is never quiet. Sue tells story after story about her grandchildren, with one Grammy story topping the next. Carol shares stories about her mother and her group of hand quilters. Janette and Donna swap dog breeding/showing stories. Before the week-end is over, Donna has plans to buy a new Dalmatian puppy. I love listening to Rosie talk; she keeps me in stitches, and sometime tears. The week-end is one long gab fest with thread.

Donna and I go for a walk late Friday evening. Saturday, we celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Mock-aritas. Some of us take time out to watch the Kentucky Derby. Carol picked the winner, I'll HAVE ANOTHER. Nearly everyone walks down the drive late Saturday to view the Super Moon.

And then it was time to go home: Sometime during the week-end I had managed to make about 30 log cabin blocks and a Project Linus top: well, really, I convinced Rosie to make the top for me. I spent time with eight wonderful women. I stayed up well past my bedtime talking with my roommate. I was well cared for and blackberry free. The quiet drive home gave me time to ease back into my real world. I won't be able to go to The Barn this year. But I know for sure this will not be my last retreat.

Quilters Abbreviations-

PIPS: projects in process

SABLE: Stash Accumulation Beyond Life Expectancy

PIGS: projects in grocery sacks

OBW: one-block wonder

Suzy Scissorhands



Dear SQG Friends,
Spring Quilt Market is over, and boy am I glad. My poor old dogs, not to mention knees, just can't take 4 days of nonstop walking on concrete. No matter how much carpet they roll out, it's still concrete underneath.

For those who don't know, Quilt Market is held Spring and Fall to showcase the newest in fabric, tools, designs, books, etc. Shop owners attend to order stock for the next season. In the Spring they order for Fall; in the Fall they order for the next Spring. Schoolhouse Sessions are scheduled on the first day, before "market" officially opens. These 15 or 30 minute sessions are to introduce and demonstrate new products. The schedule is posted in the morning. Attendees scan through the list and pick the sessions they want to attend. Then it's like herding cattle with half the herd going one way and the other half going the other way. And it always seems that the next session you want to attend is at the opposite end of the convention center. With only 5 minutes in between sessions it's wise to not drink too much coffee that morning!

On market days, 1-hr seminars are held starting at 8:00 a.m., running until the show floor opens at 10:00. Once again I was foolish enough to sign up for an 8:00 class each morning. The first 3 days I was able to haul myself out of bed and arrive on time. The 4th day I said to heck with it and slept in.

One of my seminars was absolutely worth getting up for. The class title was "Fast, Fun, and Accurate Flying Geese." Each attendee got a special ruler called the **Quick Trim and Circle Ruler** by Creative Grids. The instructor, Karen Montgomery, showed us all the tricks this ruler can do. It cuts precise Flying Geese units (really!); it makes mitered corners on small projects easy as pie; and using precisely placed holes and a pencil, you can draw perfect circles from 2" to 22" in diameter. The ruler came with a handout explaining all of its magic tricks, and the Creative Grids website has great tutorials that show how to use all of their rulers. So often I attend these sessions and by the time I get home I can't remember how to use this remarkable tool I picked up, and because it didn't come with instructions it goes in the drawer with all the other unused "magic" tools (mainly rulers). But this ruler really works and I was able to remember some of the tricks from class. I used it to draw a circle for my table topper and then I made perfectly mitered corners on a placemat. I haven't made any Flying Geese, yet, but I'm confident they will be better than any I've made before. All of the Creative Grids rulers have grippy dots and/or lines on the back side, but you can turn them over to the slick side when you want to slide them along your fabric or for making those perfect circles.

Our local quilt shops all carry this brand of ruler and I highly recommend that you check them out. With the **Quick Trim and Circle Ruler** in hand, you'll soon have geese flying off your quilts.

Happy Quilting,
Suzy

Project Linus

Lea Robrahn & Mary Funk

Starlight members have made 323 blankets for Project Linus. Terrific! We are one of the most prolific groups in the area. While our blanket donations are up, the area donations are down. The needs are great, so keep making those blankets!



Kits are available at every Starlight meeting. Please take and make a kit. A few pieces of batting are available at meetings. If you need backing or more batting, please call or email Lea.

HOW TO PILLOWCASE A QUILT

1. Layout batting, backing facing up, top facing down. Pin along the edges only.
2. Sew the edges, leaving a gap for turning right side out.
3. Turn right side out. Press.
4. Sew the gap
5. **Sew 1/2" in from the edge all the way around.** This is a **requirement** from Project Linus.
6. Hand-tie every 6 to 8 inches apart or quilt with a straight line every 6 to 8 inches both horizontally and vertically.
7. Trim threads. Check for loose stitches and left-over pins.

*Remember, if you don't have time to make a quilt, we accept donations of clean child-friendly fabric, fleece and batting.

*Keep the Best Choice labels coming".

Fat Quarter Drawing- "We Need Round Things"

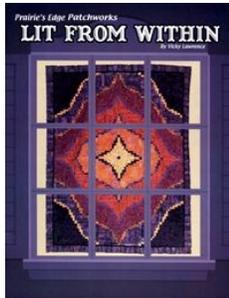


Quilters Wisdom

Mess with my fabric; I will rip your seams out.

June Speaker- Vicki Lawrence

Vicky Lawrence of Overbrook, Kansas, is our speaker for our June meeting. Vicky works at The Overbrook Quilt Connection and has designed many, many beautiful quilts, some of which you've probably seen gracing the walls there. She will lead a workshop, "Ballroom Bow Ties,bl" on Wednesday, June 27, at Harper's Quilt Shop in Downtown Overland Park. If you haven't signed up already, please contact Harper's

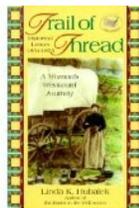


Library Corner—

Cheryl Tomson

Fun Summer Reading

Looking forward to time for a relaxing "beach read" this summer? Thanks to the donations of our many book-loving members, we have a good selection of craft-oriented fiction. Jennifer Chiaverini's Elm Creek Quilts series is terrific; you'll fall in love with the characters and want to see what happens next in their lives. Earlene Fowler names her mysteries after quilt patterns, such as "Fool's Puzzle" and "Broken Dishes". Joanna Carl appeals to our love for chocolate, with titles such as the "Chocolate Bear Burglary" and "Chocolate Puppy Puzzle". "Lover's Knot" by Clare O'Donohue left me wanting to read more of her books, as did "Threading the Needle" by Marie Bostwick. "Florabama Ladies' Auxiliary & Sewing Circle" by Lois Battle was a fun read. Linda K. Hubalek's "Trail of Thread, A Woman's Westward Journey" is an interesting piece of history, documenting the trek by wagon train from a woman's point of view. There's even "Help, I married a Quilter" by Mark Hyland to remind us of quilting from a husband's perspective. Be sure to check out our library's options for these and other cozy reads, and a continuing thanks to all of you who are sharing your love of reading as well as of quilting. Have a great summer!



2012 Quilt Show Update

Janice Craig & Kim Cawthon

"Every Quilt's a Gift"

October 20 & 21st at the Lenexa VFW Hall, 9550 Pflumm Road.

Quilt Show Planning is in full swing. We have almost all of our vendor slots filled. Show setup is scheduled for Friday, October 19th from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM (longer if needed). Please plan to bring your quilts to the VFW on Friday. Please be assured that this building has been smoke free for several years. There is no residual smoke smell and your quilts will be very safe. The hall is clean and bright, parking is excellent and the building is very easy to find near 95th Street and I-35. Show hours will be from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday and Noon to 5:00 PM on Sunday. Last year we had almost no visitors before noon on Sunday so we're starting a little later that day. We're looking forward to a great show this year! Thanks for your support.

Boutique News

Peggy Skaith

Hello Quilters! We are gathering lots of great items for the boutique, thank you all so much. We have organized two sew days at the Rosewood Place Senior Apartments in Lenexa, one on July 21st and another on August 25th. We'll be putting together kits, we will have several demonstrations of projects that you can then work on at home, and also that you can work on during the sew day. You can also bring your own projects and ideas to share. Contact Peggy Skaith at EspeciallyQuilts@att.net or 913-341-0525 if you have any boutique related questions.



Membership

Marilyn Carr

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Pat LaBar

May Attendance

Members	89
New members	1
Guest	<u>3</u>
Total	93



Tip- Cut leftover fabric into 2" wide strips and use them for scrappy Log Cabin blocks, Store them in two plastic silverware trays from the dollar store- Lights in one tray and darks in the other. It's easy to keep the pieces in order for quick assembly

Successful Sewing Your Attitude Toward Your Machine

We continue on our adventure into sewing successfully circa 1949, courtesy of the **Singer Sewing Book**.

The owner of an automobile realizes that the automobile is a sensitive instrument, that he or she must take care of it—have it serviced at regular intervals, oil it regularly, and keep it clean. Your sewing machine needs the same care. Always cover the head of your machine when it is not in use. Never allow it to be too near an open window or a warm radiator. *Does this mean that when I have a hot flash and radiate heat I need to stand away from my sewing machine?* Heat will dry the oil in the machine, and dust may clog it, in time doing it harm. If the machine is too cold, the oil in the motor cup may congeal and not work as freely as it should. If you use your machine in the laundry, cover it well so steam will not affect the mechanism. *Okay, they've got me there. Steam in the laundry room? Are we boiling our clothes? And what about steam from the iron?* Treat your machine with care. Respect it, value it, make it work for you. It can serve you for many years and do endless hours of work if you will show it even a small amount of real consideration. *Obviously all sewing machines are female! Right?*

Care of Your Machine

Treat your attachments with consideration for their value and usefulness. Put them away when you are through with them. *Someone's mom wrote this book!* Never allow them to rattle around in a drawer or to lie loose on the machine. *Who me?* Have a box to keep them in and put them away where you can reach them in an instant. It takes so little time to change attachments if you have learned how, and the more attachments you use successfully, the more you can accomplish, because there is an attachment for almost every detail in sewing. *Aren't you glad that most of today's machines have simple buttons to push instead of attachments?* Always lift the needle before you remove the sewing or an attachment. Pull the two threads back and cut them off ... never pull your needle out of line and thus blunt it. *Well duh!* Always be sure your needle is tight in its socket. Sometimes sewing spasmodically or jerkily (*just going to leave that alone*) may cause vibrations that loosen the needle, causing it to drop from position, so check it from time to time to see that it is in place and tight.

Take these little precautions. Respect your machine, its needle, its attachments, and its sewing speeds, so that all may better serve you. *Serve me what? Dinner? And will it respect me in the morning?*

Tune in next time for Your Position at Your Machine.

Tip- A binder clip works well for English Paper Piecing . The binder holds the hexagons together while you stitch.

Fons & Porter-Love of Quilting May/June 2012



SQG Fall Retreat!!

Donna Holloway

We have reserved rooms at The Barn in Valley Falls, KS from Friday afternoon (3pm), Sept 14th through Sunday (2pm) September 16th. Cost is \$185/person (double occupancy). Depending on sign ups, we may be able to accommodate more than 2/room (and thus the rate/person will be less).

Price includes:

- Five meals from Friday dinner through breakfast on Sunday (checkout is 2pm; lunch will not be served on Sunday)
- bright spot for unlimited sewing
- Room with bathroom; double occupancy

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required by the July Guild meeting, with final payment due no later than August 30th.

Make checks payable to Starlight Quilters Guild and either give to Donna Holloway during the next guild meeting; or mail to: Donna Holloway



Do you have a Birthday This Month?

Well, Happy Birthday! Please bring a snack or dessert for the Hospitality Table to share. Fellow SQG members will be deliriously happy to share your goodies! No doubt someone will beg for your recipe. This month's birthdays are:

Kim Cawthon
Cheryl Diebold
Sandy Fey
Jan Ketchum
Patty Morgan
Terri Oberle
Jeanne Poore
Freda Smith
Alex Thompson
Opal Yarnell



Tip- Fancy Filler--Keep a bag taped to your cutting table for fabric scraps. Next time you need cushioning or filler for a gift bag or mailing, stuff with these colorful pieces. Another green solution!

2012 Events Calendar

June 26– **Vicky Lawrence**, *Trunk Show*

July 21- Boutique Sew in

July 24– **Donna DiNatale**, *Confessions of a Quiltaholic*

August 4– Perry Sew Day

August 25- Boutique Sew in

August 28- **Bea Oglesby**, *It's Never Too Late*

September 14-16– Fall Retreat, The Barn, Valley Falls, Kansas

September 25– **Bingo**

October 8 & 9— “**The Art of Quilting**” Quilt show

October 23–**Barb Eikmeier**, *When This You See Remember Me*

October 27— Perry Sew Day

November 27– **Su Bunch of Piece Keepers**, *Keeping the Piece—The Sixteen elements of a Blended Quilt*



Advertisements

FREE! Post your AD HERE! If you are a guild member in good standing and would like to run your **FREE** ad, send your information to the newsletter editor. See back page for details.

Machine Quilting - Machine Quilting by Karen - Let me help you finish all those tops! Low pricing, full Longarm services – all over designs or custom quilting [913-638-4625](tel:913-638-4625) Karen Huffman or email me at karen7315@gmail.com

Machine Quilting. Custom Quilting by Peggy Skaith. especiallyquilts@att.net or 913-341-0525

Machine Quilting by Julia Day. Is your piecing ready to transform? Call for your consultation



Starlight E-site—the Yahoo Group

---Lea Robrahn

Starlight E-Site is an online club where Starlight members get together to share photos, links, documents or files, and have a message board to post items of interest. It sounds more complicated than it is. You can elect to read all information on the E-Site, which leaves your inbox less cluttered.

To join:

1. Send an email message to Lea Robrahn (remove spaces) leannieq@hotmail.com
2. You'll then be sent an invitation from Starlight E-Site
3. Join.

Communications-

Let us know of any concerns, deaths, triumphs, or if someone needs help with something. This way we know what is going on with our fellow members and can send cards, etc. Contact one of these members:

- Rosie Brinker---913-268-8819 or rosie474@aol.com
- Shirley Lewis---913-722-5486 or sll849@aol.com
- Barbara DeMack---913-485-3966 or barbstoys4u@hotmail.com



Tip-

Use a magnetic stand for cutting instructions. It makes it more convenient to have the instructions upright than flat on the table, where they always seem to be in the way. You can also use it on your sewing table to easily follow the instructions as you sew.

Fons & Porter-Love of Quilting May/June 2012



Blog-

For those of you who are interested in quilts, especially old quilts, Donna DiNatale has started a new blog that will talk about some of her quilts. She will include information about collecting and caring for quilts, old and new. She'd love to have you follow along and provide comments. Here is the link: <http://heartlandquilts.blogspot.com/>



"FIND US ON FACEBOOK" <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=106359079270>



Membership In-

formation: 2010 Membership, New or Renewal, \$25.00. Your annual dues bring the newsletter chocked full of information and

news of upcoming events to your e-mail or home; provide a lending library of quilting books available to members; and other benefits too numerous to mention!

Newsletter Deadline:

Articles are due the 5th of the month. E-mail your article to Margaret Welch at mwelch5@kc.rr.com (913-432-4515) and Lueanne Christensen lueanne@gmail.com (913-359-3969) .



NEXT SQG MEET-

ING! Tuesday, June 26, 2012 6:30 PM—Meet friends, gobble some goodies, bring some boutique items or tickets, sign up to volunteer!

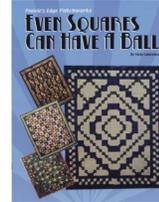
7:00 PM— **Vicky Lawrence, Trunk Show**

Meeting Date and Time:

Monthly guild meetings are held 6:30-9:00 PM every 4th Tuesday, January-October at **Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nell, Mission, KS**. The November meeting date is determined each year based on the Thanksgiving holiday. There is no December meeting.

Meeting Cancellation:

SQG meetings will be canceled if the Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes. Monitor announcements on TV and radio when bad weather threatens.



Remember to bring:

- Nametag
- Show and Tell
- Library Books
- Goodies (if it is your Birthday)
- Fat Quarter



Changes: If you have moved, changed your name, e-mail address or telephone numbers (home, work, or cell), please bring them with you to the next guild meeting or mail them to Starlight Quilters Guild, PO Box 9362, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

Starlight Quilters Guild
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