

The Fabric Shop

YOUR ONE STOP QUILT SHOP

Husqvarna, Pfaff and Singer Sales and Service

What's in the news!

*Check out the Machine Shop for the news about the Go cutter

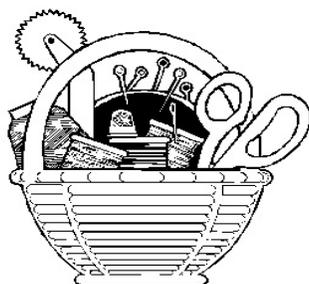
*Bottom Line Thread

*Open House

*See our list of upcoming classes- get inspiration, camaraderie and knowledge all in one place

*Check out the details for our retreat in October.

*The scoop on memberships



Just a Note

It's hard to believe, but 2017 is over. Hopefully we are all looking forward to the new year with great hope and looking back on 2017 with no regrets. With any amount of luck we, as quilters, have been able to cross off a few things from our UFO list and maybe put some of our stash to good use.

There are some great classes being offered this time around, and we have really put forth an effort to have some different and some challenging projects. We are also approaching the sign up of classes a little differently than we have in the past. This session we will be holding an open house, where the projects, supply lists, and sign up will all be available. You can read more about this in the class section of this newsletter.

We were very happy with the response to our first news letter, so we will continue to have one at least twice per year. One covering the Fall/Winter and the other The Winter/spring class sessions.

As many of you know we hold our annual retreat in October. This year we hosted a maximum capacity crowd. It was by far our best retreat to date. The camaraderie, inspiration and fun was better than we could have hoped. You can read more about the retreat later in the newsletter.

To close, we wish each and everyone of our customers, friends and family a most joyous New Year.

Thanks Marion and Iona

A Little Note of Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers who continually help us support our charities. We would not be able to do it without you. Here is a list of the charities that benefit from your efforts and the items that are donated:

Ronald McDonald House – children and teen quilts

The Janeway Neonatal unit – Premie quilts, buntings and toques

The network of nursing homes in central Newfoundland – wheelchair quilts

The central and western Newfoundland SPCA – kennel beds

If you would like information on sewing for one of these causes, please ask at the store when you are in or give us a call at 651-7467

Quilters are some of the most caring people on the planet and our quilters are among the best of them.

This time in the Machine Shop I would like to talk about the amazing GO Cutter. We held an event in the spring featuring this tool and it was a great success. A good many people who knew about the cutter came and learned new and exciting things. Others came and experienced it for the first time.

Here is a little description: The Go Cutter is a fabric cutting system that consists of the machine, manual or electric and a multitude of dies for purchase. It cuts down on cutting time for sure but it also cuts down on fatigue to the hands, elbows and shoulders. Everyone knows cutting out the pieces for a large quilt with a rotary cutter and a ruler can take an immense amount of time. It can also take its toll on you. With the Go Cutter there is no stress on the hands, elbows or shoulders.

The way it works: You place the fabric on the die (up to six layers), place a Go Cutter mat on top of the fabric and turn the handle, on the mechanical, or simply push the die into the cutter until it starts, on the electric. To be honest a mere description does not do it justice. The next time you are in the store just ask one of the staff for a demo. It is the best way to experience and see the value of it.

There are also some great deals on the cutting machines right now. There is a "Ready, Set, Go" starter set for the mechanical and a mail in rebate on the electric. Give us a call or come by the shop for more information.

Some Helpful Tips

- If possible, lay your batting out flat somewhere for a couple of days to allow it to relax before you quilt it, so you don't get caught in wrinkles or creases.
- Quilting can be good exercise too! Keep your ironing board well away from your sewing machine and get into the habit of getting up to press every seam as you sew.
- Make your quilt rod/hanging sleeve from a patchwork of all the fabrics used in your quilt Then, if you need to repair anything on the quilt top later, you will have a selection of the right fabrics to use.
- Look around you when designing patterns for your quilt, don't forget you can use everyday items to draw around. Plates, cups and saucers and even cookie cutters make great templates.
- To make it easier to maneuver your quilt when machine quilting, fold the bulk of the quilt into accordion pleats and clip together with bulldog clips.

Color Challenge

Pick two colors that you would not ever put together in a quilt. Cut four 5inch squares from each of the fabrics. Place one of each fabric right sides together and sew a quarter inch all around the outside edge. Cut the sewn squares twice on the diagonal, to make a total of 16 half square triangles. Press open and trim them (if needed) so that they are all the same size. Lay out the half square triangles in a way that pleases you. Preferably in a "broken dishes" style block. Pin and sew the squares into rows and then the rows together to form the block. Once you have it done, take a picture, post it on our facebook page with a comment about the block and the process for a chance to win a prize. Contest ends February 28th, 2018.

News Update

We are proud to announce that we are now carrying "Bottom Line" thread from Superior. This is by far my favorite thread. I purchased a small amount at a quilt show in Ontario, years ago and I was hooked.

This is a 60 weight thread (regular thread is 40) which makes it very fine. You can use it in your bobbin, for your top thread or hand work. It is an excellent choice for anyone doing needle turn applique or, micro-stippling, or English Paper Piecing. Whether you do your bindings the traditional way, with hand stitching on the back, or the more modern way, machine stitching, this thread is a must have. The weight of the thread makes it melt into the fabric for a fantastic look.

It comes in 55 colors, and cost is comparable to our Mettler thread. Be sure to check out our new addition next time you are in the store.

Open House

Mark your calendar. Our Open House will be held on January 18th, 2018 10am - 6pm and January 19th, 2018 10am - 3pm. This is an event you won't want to miss. The class samples will be displayed in all their glory. The instructors will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and you can sign up and receive your supply list at the same time. This is our first open house and we look forward to seeing our regular students as well as some new ones there.

Here is a run down of the classes:

Beginners Sew Fest:

This is a great class for anyone who has unfinished projects or wants to learn new techniques. The class is very student orientated in that you choose what you want to focus on. If there is a technique you would like to try but are unsure of how to start, this is the place for you.

Instructor – Kim Date: Thursday February 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.
Time: 1pm to 4pm Cost: \$40.00 + Supplies

Dance of the Dragonflies:

This is an unbelievably beautiful wall hanging using raw edge applique. The project uses Batiks and a background fabric that was produced especially for this pattern. It is a must see.

Instructor- Brenda Date: Friday February 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd
Time: 10am to 4pm Cost: \$60.00 + Supplies

Applique Techniques:

This has always been a very popular class. Learning the technique of Applique opens up a whole new world of quilting possibilities. Whether this is your first time trying it or just need a refresher, this class is a must. Please note this class will only be offered once during the winter/spring session.

Instructor – Kim Date: Saturday February, 10th
Time: 10am – 4pm Cost: \$20.00 + Supplies

Urban Pods:

If you have ever wanted to learn more about curve piecing this is the class for you. The Quick Curve Ruler simplifies the process and takes some of the terror away from using curved pieces.

Instructor – Pat Date: Wednesday February 21st, 28th, March 7th and 14th
Time: 10am to 4pm Cost: \$60.00 + supplies

Pineapple Crazy:

Create this stunning traditional quilt using the Creative Grids Pineapple trim tool.

Instructor – Brenda Date : Friday March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
Time: 10am - 4pm Cost: \$60.00 + supplies

Upcoming Classes Continued...

Page 4 of 5

Ultimate Travel Bag:

This is a detailed bag with lots of nooks and crannies to store your stuff. Whether you are traveling far or just around town this bag is sure to prove useful.

Instructor – Pat Date: Wednesday April 11th, 18th, 25th, and May 2nd

Empire Place:

This amazing quilt is entirely paper pieced. The foundation paper for it come pre-printed for accuracy and ease. It will prove to be exciting and challenging. Participants must have completed at least one paper piecing project prior to taking this class.

Instructor – Iona Date: Friday April 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, May 4th and 11th.

Time: 10am – 4pm Cost: \$90.00 + supplies

Free Motion:

This is always a popular technique class. Whether you are a new quilter or just need a refresher, this is a great opportunity to learn how to quilt your creations on your domestic machine.

Instructor – Pat Date: Saturday April 21st, 2018

Time: 10am – 4pm Cost: \$20.00

Sew Together Bag:

This little bag is great for carrying your quilting tools, cosmetics or other treasures. It uses zippers in a different way to create a really unique look.

Instructor – Paula Date: Wednesday, May 9th and 16th

Time: 10am – 4pm Cost \$30.00 + supplies

Periwinkle:

Create this colorful scrap quilt using the Missouri Star Quilt Company pattern, template and foundation paper. It is a great way to use up some of your stash, pre-cuts or scraps.

Instructor – Brenda Date: Thursday May 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st

Time: 10 am to 4pm Cost: \$60.00 + Supplies

Things You Need to Know About Classes

1. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$10 dollars to hold your spot
 2. A supply list will be available at the shop for you to pick up at least one week before the class start date. If you are unable to pick it up, let us know and we will email or text it to you.
 3. Here is a list of the things you need to bring to all classes: a sewing machine in good working order, the manual for your machine, thread to match the project, extra bobbins, extra sewing machine needles, pins, rotary cutter, ruler, scissors for both fabric and paper, marking pencil, pen and paper for taking notes, lunch if the class is a full day or a snack if it is a half day or evening class, and any items you have purchased for the class. ex. Fabric, pattern, specialty ruler. Most important of all your willingness to learn and your sense of humor.
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This year we have a few different things going on. Please check the list and descriptions below. I am sure there is something for everyone.

Block of the Month

We had such a large response to our Block of the Month and we know some people missed out because the kits were limited. So, we are offering a second colorway to begin the last week of January. The colors are very similar to the first quilt and the patterns are the same. It is a combination of piecing and applique. The colours are Aqua and white which is a bit more modern than past block of the months. The completed quilt is queen size and the 12 month program includes the fabric and patterns for the quilt top, setting triangles, borders and binding.

Cost \$19.99 per month.

Applique Block of the Month

This project will begin the second week in February and includes some very chilly friends. What better way to melt away the winter hours than to piece some unique snowman. There is a small amount of piecing as well, but for the most part it is Applique.

Cost: \$19.99 per month

Just a little bit about our retreat

Our annual retreat is held in October, at Twin Ponds camp. This past October was our second year at this venue and it was really great. Eventhough we had a capacity crowd there was plenty of personal space for sewing, socializing and eating. The lighting was great and the food was fantastic and plentiful. We always offer a retreat project, but it is not mandatory to take part in it. Many people brought UFOs to work on or a new project of their own. There is always an instructor available to help people over the prickly parts. There are always at least two classes offered at no extra charge. We always have such a good response to our retreat. We do have a waiting list at the store for those interested. If you would like to be on the list please contact the store at 709-651-7467 or send Marion a message on facebook.

The Scoop on Memberships

This is how it works- Membership fee is \$12 a year, basically a dollar a month. The renewal date is always in August but you can join at any time and the membership fee will be prorated, ex- if you joined in January the fee would be \$8. Your membership entitles you to 10% off of regular priced fabric all the time. However, if we have a sale you receive the sale price and then 10% off of that. There are also some special events throughout the year that are for members only. The best of these is the Annual Membership Tea. This is usually held on a Sunday afternoon and this year it was August 6th. Members are invited to come anytime during the afternoon and preview and preorder the new Christmas fabric. This, of course, means they get first dibs on it all. We also enjoy refreshments and there are always a ton of sales that day. At Christmas time our members receive coupons to be used in the following year. These are usually on things like, class fees, long arm service, notions and so on. If you would like more information on our membership program or if you would like to sign up, ask any of the staff at the store.

Thanks so much for reading our newsletter. We hope it brought you some great information and a little inspiration.

Marion and Iona

C and M Craftsstuff/ The Fabric Shop

126 Roe Ave

Gander, NI

A1V 1W8

709-651-7467