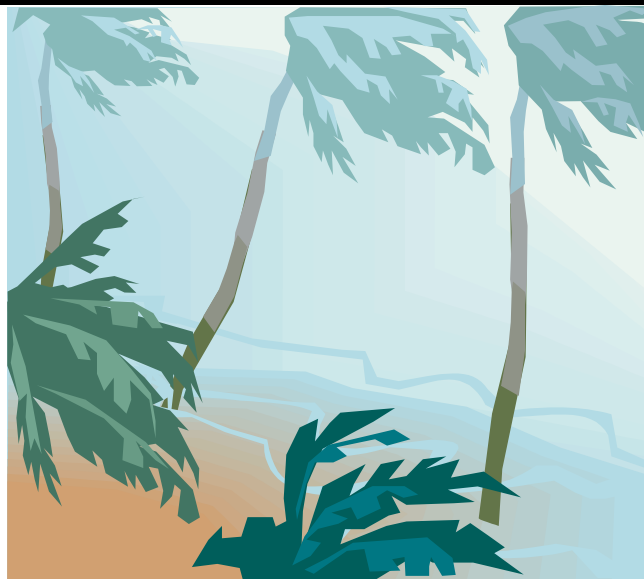


Homespun Harbor News

November December 2005

SO MANY NEEDS

Like us, we are sure you watched in horror as Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Then Rita, and now Wilma. We rushed to donate to our favorite charity. But beyond the dramatic pictures are human stories. Stories of loss, despair and hopelessness. As quilters, we are in a unique position to offer something not only useful, but filled with comfort as well. Beyond donating money, we felt we had to DO something! Most of us couldn't actually travel to the destruction. And even if we could, we are not sure what we could offer. So we decided to do what we do best - QUILT!. We offered Project Hope. We put together quilt kits. Two 1 1/2 yard pieces of fabric and batting. Basically it would make a crib sized quilt. More than adequate for a child, and big enough for a lot of teens and adults to cuddle up in. Our primary focus was children. We look at our grandchildren and cannot begin to imagine how frightened and lost they would feel in the same situation. We put together close to 300 kits, and are delighted to say all but about 20 are gone! We have shipped 26 boxes to Houston, Paducah, Baton Rouge, and several locations in Mississippi. The youngest quilter we know of is 10, and the oldest is 97! They came back from individuals, quilts, sewing groups, Girl Scout Troops and 4H Clubs. The labels on these quilts touched our hearts. We also asked our quilters to go through their closets and pull out those "extra" quilts that we all have. The response was beyond our expectations! And one very generous customer came by with BOXES of sheets, pillowcases, afghans, and quilts! We have to share a very touching story. One of our online customers lives in Louisiana. She offered to help distribute some of our quilts to Katrina victims in her area. We got a note from her, and while her family had survived Katrina quite well, Rita demolished the homes of 22 of her family members! We had 3 boxes on the way to her at the time. So the quilts became a little more personal. Another personal story goes back a long way. College friends from MANY years ago lost everything to Camille. The mother just lost everything in Pass Christian, Mississippi to Katrina. She is in her late 70's and is with her children in Tennessee. When she heard about our Project Hope, she wistfully said to her daughter-in-law that one of the things she felt most sad about was losing her favorite quilt in the storm. We sent her a beautiful lap quilt made by Julie in Gilroy. Joyce's thank you note says it all:



An All Too Familiar Sight

"Thank you for the beautiful quilt. It is so very nice of you all to think of everyone at this time. Brings a whole basketful of sunshine. Thank you so much. I have a niece named Glenna and my mother's name was Glennis." Can't you just see this elderly Southern Lady smiling? (Continued on Page 2)

So Many Needs Continued

We also got a beautiful note from Father Jerry A Mattingly, Pastor of the St Joseph Catholic Church in Starkville Mississippi:

"Your box of beautiful quilts arrived yesterday, just in time to be added to a large load of supplies, gifts, goodies and special needs that will be delivered to the Gulf Coast tomorrow. Our Parish has adopted St. Alphonsus Parish in Ocean Springs, MS. St. Alphonsus is distributing donations like yours to their local hospital as well as to their parish and Catholic School. The quilts will probably be the first pick when they see how lovely they are! There is no doubt that each one was created with much love and concern. The devastation is indeed horrible but knowing that there are caring people like you is a wonderful comfort We like to think the people in Mississippi are kind and caring but it seems as though "The Quilters of Homespun Harbor" are great too! Bless you all"

And here is an Email from Tina in Louisiana:

WOW! You've got some really productive quilters up there. There's nothing more comforting than a quilt as far as I'm concerned, and there's a definite need for bedding. And this bedding comes with a great story of how two people met over eBay (there's got to be an eBay commercial in there somewhere--ha!). Would definitely welcome anything you can send.

Husband's immediate family has started cleanup, but they won't be able to save their homes. The water got as high as the kitchen counter. When they went in this past weekend, the upholstered furniture was looking fuzzy from the mold already growing on it. Can save anything that was stored higher than 4 feet off the floor, but everything else is unrecoverable. And still they're lucky compared to aunts and cousins further south. Some of those homes were washed away completely. Incredible.

Everybody's just taking it a day at a time. Many are not returning to rebuild. One of Ron's sisters is taking her 17-year-old daughter and moving to Michigan (man, we she moves, she moves!). Other sister has talked about Tennessee. Third sister lives in Mobile - where the weather report I just saw is predicting that the next storm is possibly going to hit! Predicting landfall by Thursday. Hopefully, cold front that's moving thru here will push it off toward Florida. Not that I wish it on Florida, of course, but we've had more than enough this year!

These notes are just examples of how all of us have touched the hearts of people in their time of need. Strangers until a disaster connected us. It is a shining tribute to the human spirit. And a tribute to the quilters that shop at Homespun Harbor! Dennis and Ghleanna want to express a great big thank you to all who gave their time and hearts and hope. We will be continuing to offer the kits through the end of the year. Hopefully the need won't continue to grow.

Web Site Is Up And Running Again and Really Cool!

As some of you may have noticed, our Web Site was not updated in the last month. It seems the nature of technology is that you are always playing catch up! We bit the bullet and hired a computer guru to update and expand the site. You might not see a lot of difference (except for the fact it is current!) but it is so user friendly we no longer will see it as a chore! Check often for new fabrics received.



November Special—Trains Planes & Automobiles 25% Off!

Our special this month is Things That Move People. If it has a wheel, an engine or a sail, it is 25% off. This includes Motorcycles, Fire Engines, Trucks and Boats. And don't forget bicycles and dirt bikes!

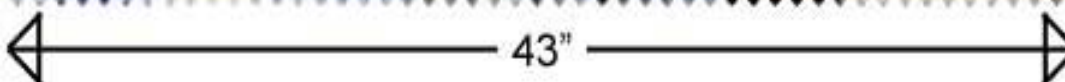
What's New



Adorable or what? These are reproductions of the old Singer Train cases from the Tin Box Company. They are nice sized. 6 1/2 long, 4 1/2 wide and 5" high. A perfect gift for any sewer, especially any owner of a Featherweight!



South Sees Imports has released another Monterey Bay Panel. This one has Seals, Sea Otters, Killer Whales and Pelicans. We also received 2 bolts of the original Monterey Bay Panel much to our surprise! Visit the website for a complete picture of What's New at Homespun Harbor!



Tips

When you are doing hand quilting or sewing, here is a way to keep the needle with the thread. Cut a little piece of the thin peel and stick magnetic strip. Stick the strip to the top of the spool. Just put the needle on the strip, and you will always have it handy. If you are anything like us, this will cut down on constantly losing those needles!

When you are working on a project that requires a lot of strips, try this. Get something like a large book. Open it up so it stands upright. Place your strips over it in the order you want to sew them. Close the book or prop it up until you are finished. This way you only have to lay them out once.

Another way to keep your quilt rolled when machine quilting. Try using shower curtain clips. They are a little bit smaller than regular bike clips.

Another way to keep your ruler from slipping is to place a small strip of non-slip shelf liner on the underside of the ruler. It is nice and thin so it won't distort your measurements.

If you find your thimble doesn't fit comfortably because it is too big, try using a rubber finger tip underneath it. Cut the fingertip to a small band. It will really help the thimble from slipping around.

Here is a great way to get a design wall, And it is portable! The flannel backed vinyl tablecloths are perfect! Pin the tablecloth flannel side out to the wall. Gently rub your blocks to help adhere them. You can then sew in order. If you don't finish, simply roll the tablecloth up. Your design will stay put! Plus, this is a good way to transport the quilt for classes/retreats.

Seems simple, but often we struggle for no need. Raise your cutting table (and you sewing table) to a comfortable height by placing books under the legs.

When doing appliqué, try using a rounded toothpick to turn under the seam allowances. If they just won't cooperate, use a little water-soluble glue (Roxanne's Glue Baste It works great)

Here is a great portable ironing surface. Get a cardboard fabric bolt. (Trust us, we ALWAYS have these available.) Pin or tape a towel around it. Perfect for travel ironing boards for classes and retreats.

We may have said this before, but it warrants saying again. Put RED ribbons on your good scissors This tells your family DO NOT TOUCH UNDER PAIN OF DEATH! Put green ribbon on scissors you don't care about and that your family can use for whatever.

Birthday Club



Don't forget! We have a Birthday Club!

Let us know your birthday month . We will put it on file. Just before your birthday month, we will send you a postcard. Any one day in your birthday month, you will get a 25% discount on anything and everything you buy! This is much better than a whole BUNCH of candles on a cake!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Christmas is Coming

Do people always ask you what you really want for Christmas? And is your response "Oh, I really don't need anything." That is not a bad response, because it cuts down on odd shaped fruit bowls and the latest greatest useless kitchen gadget. If you love to quilt, then you always need something. This year maybe you should tell the "elves" that a Gift Certificate to Homespun Harbor would be the perfect gift! They get the joy of giving you something that will make you happy, and you get the joy of picking the perfect fabric for that next project.

Jim Shore Fantastic Figurines

Jim Shore has come up with wonderful quilting themed figurines this year ! Here are some samples.



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The Last Stitch

Is that the perfect name for a longarm quilter or what? We would like to announce the opening of The Last Stitch, owned and operated by Anneke Wheaton. She is using a brand new Gammill Quilting system with a Statler Stitcher. The Statler Stitcher is a computer software program combined with hardware which will operate a longarm quilting machine and can stitch almost any design! Think of the possibilities! The system maintains a constant stitch length and can determine the pattern size, block size, stitches per inch and the number of repetitions of the pattern. The only downside of this machine is it doesn't wash dishes! And here is something else really cool - Anneke will attach the binding after she has quilted those o' so large quilts! All you do is hand sew it on the back and attach your label! Tada! And for you hand quilters, there is no longer the need to find 9,000 square inches of floor space to baste the quilt together! She can prepare your quilt so you can get going on something you love to do! And, you can park your car in the garage again!

At this time Anneke can quilt tops up to 108 inches wide. Hopefully in the near future she will be able to accommodate those King size quilts. She has a beautiful collection of fabulous thread colors and has 80/20 batting available. To make this even easier, you can make an appointment to meet with her at the shop. You can then make the decision together on the best quilt design for your masterpiece. She can also drop the quilt off when it's finished for you to pick up at your convenience. We are really excited about this! We know Anneke as a quilter and a friend. She is an extraordinary quilter, and a fun, happy and enthusiastic person. Now one less excuse not to have that Last Stitch!