

## *Newsletter #92, Month of April, 2010*

The Quilters II Newsletter is published monthly during the off season. Submissions for publication in the newsletter can be made either through the Newsletter Submission form located in the Members Only section of the website, or directly to [confuqua@gmail.com](mailto:confuqua@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month. The newsletter will then be placed on the website as soon as possible thereafter.

The purpose of the newsletter is to reduce the amount of announcements and related discussion at the regular meetings.

### **From the Editor**

Thanks to Billie for keeping us informed during the season via the newsletter. I will be taking over for the summer so if you have some info/news and don't want to do an article yourself, send it to me at [tabfull@aol.com](mailto:tabfull@aol.com) and I'll put it into my spiel. Remember that the newsletter will be once a month now.

While you're on our website to read the news, do check out the great presentation Mary Adams and Elaine Vanier did for our quilt show. Very professional looking. Speaking of pictures, we need a photographer for next season ... we'll even buy you a camera to use. We're looking for photos to put into our scrapbook ... photos of great quilts and us having fun. Also on the subject of pictures, we now have the group photo so you can contact Anne Herman for your copy ... \$5. for the small and \$10. for the larger one. Or contact Beth Arens, the photographer directly. We spent some time at the last meeting identifying everyone in the picture and that will go into our scrapbook for this year ... a valuable record.

Bev presented the new block of the month for April and it's a great block, looks pretty easy, but an excellent addition to a quilter's repertoire. If you don't have the pattern yet, ask Bev for it. Also Pat Davis is collecting all the BOMs and putting them together in one of the pattern books. If you would like to see them, ask her.

The new coordinators met last week and went over their plans for next year. It was a productive meeting. Lynn talked about some of the items on the questionnaires she distributed. We're always trying to improve the way we do things so that everyone is comfortable but there are a lot of us in season and we aren't going to be able to please everyone all the time. If you have a problem or a suggestion, don't grumble, talk to one of your coordinators.

Lots of folks are leaving in the next few weeks so if you've been waiting for the room to clear out, the coast is clear. We will be starting our Wednesday workdays soon and all are welcome to join us.

FYI: Susie Weaver's new email address is [sweaver13@cox.net](mailto:sweaver13@cox.net).

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Tip from Machine Quilting Unlimited:

Decorative and metallic threads used in machine quilting often can be a struggle. To keep the thread from breaking, here are a few things to try.

- \* Use a Top Stitch needle. These needles have larger eyes.
  - \* Change the needle. Needles can have microscopic burrs or rough spots that can tear or shred the threads.
  - \* Loosen the tension.
  - \* Be sure the thread is coming off the spool correctly. Cross-wound threads (the threads are wound back and forth in a diagonal) should be pulled from the top of the spool. Use a vertical spool holder for these threads. Stack-wound threads (these are wound in a straight spiral, with the threads lying evenly next to each other) should pull from the side of the spool. Place stack-wound threads on a horizontal spool-holder.
  - \* Use a separate thread spool holder from behind the machine. Sometimes having a longer length of thread allows the twist to straighten out more, and results in fewer problems.
  - \* A lubricant can be added to the thread. If you have an older machine, with metal tension plates, you can run a bead of lubricant down the thread spool. But be aware, newer machines use silicon tension plates and the lubricant can interfere with their action. It's better to add the lubricant AFTER the thread leaves the tension plates. Place a small piece of moleskin (sold at pharmacies for corns, etc.) on the machine above the needle so that the thread runs over it as it heads for the needle. Soak the moleskin with lubricant. The thread will be coated as it passes over the moleskin. Note: My favorite lubricant is Sewer's Aide.
- In some cases, you can run a second thread along with the decorative thread. I often use a very fine monofilament thread, but you can also use a fine polyester thread, such as Bottom Line.
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Tip of the Week from The Quilt Show online: [Recycle Your Cutting Mat](#)

Do you have an old, warped cutting mat that is no longer useful for cutting large pieces of fabric? If enough flat area of mat remains, here's a way to recycle it. Thanks to TQS member, chockfullofjoy, for sharing this clever idea for using a section from an old mat as a mini ruler and as a way to protect your sewing surface.

1. Cut a flat portion of an old mat with a rotary cutter. Lots of elbow grease and pressure are the key.
2. Bend the mat until it snaps along the cutting line.
3. Place the cut, flat portion of the mat directly in front of your sewing machine.

According to chockfullofjoy, this handy "new" measuring mat was especially useful for sizing up Star blocks for the 2009 BOM quilt. Added bonus: The mat also protects the surface of her sewing table.

*Adrienne*

### **From the Members**

Thank you to all the Quilters 2 quilters for making the 2009/2010 season so successful. We have distributed 183 quilts, 93 pillows, 91 placemats and 4 doggie blankets to 18 charities this year.

Our request for making larger lap to twin size quilts was heard. We were able to give 61 quilts in the larger sizes, 56 in the medium size and 66 in the crib to wheel chair size. Wow...you guys are great.

Pictures of these wonderful quilts are in the albums. Be sure to check them out to see all the beautiful quilting.

As you know Sharon Kowalick will be taking my place next year, so if you have any suggestions for new charities or ways to improve the distribution process, please share your ideas with her and give her a helping hand.

Thanks again for a great year and you all have a wonderful summer....see you next year!!

***Julie Young***

P.S.: We had pillows for every quilt with just a few left over for a start for next season! Thanks for the help in the pillow workshops.

