



# STASH

April 19, 2017

## PINE BELT QUILTERS 2016-2017 Officers

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### President:

**Connie Hitt**

philliphitt@gmail.com

601-731-3729

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### Vice President:

**Susie Jackson**

susiejackson39421@yahoo.com

601-943-5359

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### Treasurer:

**Missy Lee**

Lee.martha@gmail.com

601-847-1347

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### Secretary/Newsletter:

**Linda Flanders**

newsletterpbq@comcast.net

601-544-0345

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### Membership Director:

**Ellen Hall**

ehall962@comcast.net

601-264-1542

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### Website:

www.pinebeltquilters.com

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### Blog:

www.pinebeltquilters.com

## Quilting Forum



Connie Hitt opened the meeting with a thought for the day and a prayer. Then we went right into our program, a quilting forum. The moderator was Tina Dickens and the panel consisted of Martha Ginn, Ellen Cox, Ella Lucas and Jo-Anne Evans.

It was an interesting program with lots of interaction with the audience. Varying opinions were aired on a great many topics and some new information was passed along.

The very first question was about the pros and cons of prewashing fabrics and the answers were from one end of the spectrum to the other. Ella says if you don't prewash you will be sorry. Jo-Anne doesn't prewash. Ellen does because of allergies. Martha doesn't prewash fabrics for wallhangings because they probably won't be washed. With such a diversity of answers, it looked like this was going to be a very long meeting.

After washing do you press your fabrics? Do you use starch or sizing? Most of us do use starch or sizing. Many prefer sizing because it is less likely to attract insects when your quilt is stored. It was recommended that you stay away from any treatment containing corn because it tends to attract bugs.

On the question of steam or no steam when pressing blocks, most agreed they don't use steam because of the possibility of stretching or distorting your fabrics/blocks.

What is the best size for a baby quilt? What is the best size for a veteran's quilt? Mary Nell (chairman of Children's Quilts) says at least 36" wide by 40" tall. They like 40" x 45" or 45" x 50" because it makes the best use of rolls of batting. Quilts for the veteran's home should be about twin size. That's the size of their beds. Additionally, that keeps the quilts from being too heavy. Quilts for the women's center can be larger.

What do you use to mark your quilts? There are a wide variety of markers on the market and some tried-and-true methods which were used back-in-the-day. Clover makes a chalk marker with a rolling disk on the end. It makes a fine line and comes in about four colors. Hera marker leaves no visible marks on your quilt top. Blue painter's tape is good for straight lines, and leaves no marks. A very fine mechanical pencil with a soft lead applied very lightly is an old method. A thin sliver of soap makes a good line, but the quilt should be washed after it is quilted.

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Use anything that will work, but remember to test before committing to using it on the quilt. The ever popular “blue marker” must be tested to make sure it can be removed from the fabrics used. The quilt should be washed after quilting.

Mitered or butted corners? Many feel that a butted corner or one with cornerstones is stronger. Ellen uses Jinny Beyer’s method when she miters a border. She says if you follow the simple directions, you can’t go wrong.

Should you adjust your sewing machine’s tension when quilting? Most agreed, you should do a test. Set the pressure, change the stitch length, try a different foot. But the most important part of this exercise is to write down the new numbers after you find that perfect setting.

Why do some block designs have multiple names? This has been going on since the beginning of quilting. Many times the names differ from one area of the country to another.

How do you prevent bias edges on squares? Don’t immediately cut off the selvage edges from your fabrics. It is an easy way to tell if you have lengthwise or crosswise grain. Way back when, our mothers and home economics teachers taught us to pull a crosswise thread to find the straight of grain. Some fabrics are not printed straight. If that is the case, you may have to work with the print rather than the grain of the fabric. Some fabrics are not wound onto the bolt straight. If this is very bad, you may not be able to return the fabric to a straight grain. Many swear by using spray starch to control the stretch.

What size needles should you use for piecing and quilting? While many quilters don’t pay any attention to the size of the needle used for either piecing or quilting, some feel that you should use a lighter weight needle for piecing and a heavier weight needle for quilting. An 80/12 is a good all-purpose piecing or quilting needle. You may want to go down to a 70/10 when you have gained experience. Or you may want to go up to a 90/14 if you are having trouble with needles breaking or bending. What you don’t want to do is use a needle that will leave tiny visible holes in your fabrics. This can be especially obvious when quilting batiks.

Most quilters in our group do not block their quilts. To block a quilt, you lay it flat on the floor or on any pinnable surface large enough to hold the entire quilt (carpeting, cardboard, etc.) Lightly spritz or steam the quilt, working from the center to the edges and from one side to the other side, measuring, straightening and pinning the quilt into place. Allow to dry before removing the pins.

How do you prepare a quilt for a longarm quilter? Make sure all your seams are pressed in the direction you want them to go. Make sure the backing is at least 3" larger on all sides. Make sure you get rid of all stray threads on both sides of the quilt top. They can become trapped between the top and the batting. You can use a REALLY FINE crochet hook to remove threads caught between the batting and the top after the quilt is quilted. Make sure to remove all cat hairs.

How do you reduce the bulk in the corners of your bindings? Patrick Lose has a wonderful technique. You can get a PDF copy of it at his website [www.patricklose.com/instructiondownloads.htm](http://www.patricklose.com/instructiondownloads.htm). Under Tips and Techniques. It is



*Crossing Stars friendship block*



*Joe Bingham with the 41 children’s quilts he completed this month*



*Results of last month's workshop with Betty Allen*



each side of the border and working the fabric in as you go. Do the same with the top to bottom measurements for your side borders. Adding Borders: Machine Minute by All People Quilt has nice clear instructions on You Tube.

Dianne McLendon had packets for the Crossing Stars friendship block (*See photo on page 2.*)

Mary Nell Magee told those making children's quilts to hold out a quilt for the Parade of Children's Quilts if we have to. She wants more than five entries in this year's parade.

Joe Bingham reported receiving 26 pillows, 23 blankets and six mother pads.

Betty Herring took in 12 walker totes and six catheter bag covers.

Don't forget to start collecting items for the June meeting, our annual Quilters' Garage Sale.

listed as "Coveted Corners" binding tips. Ellen Cox showed us this method as one of her snippets last year.

How do you prevent wavy borders? Before cutting your borders, you need to measure your quilt from side to side. Take a measurement at the top, at the center and at the bottom. Average these three measurements for your **top and bottom** border dimension. Find the center of the quilt and the center of the border. Pin the top border and the quilt matching the center. Then continue finding the centers of

## Upcoming Area Quilting Events

May 5-6, 2017. . . . . 10:00AM-5:00PM  
**2017 Festival of Quilts: Springtime in Mobile** (300+ quilts)  
 Azalea City Quilters' Guild  
 Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Rd., Mobile, AL, 36695  
 (right off Schillinger Rd. near Cracker Barrel and  
 between Grelot and Airport)  
 For more information:  
[www.azaleacityquiltersguild.com](http://www.azaleacityquiltersguild.com)  
 or E-mail: [robojo2@aol.com](mailto:robojo2@aol.com)  
 or Phone: Bonnie Johnson (251) 343-5406

June 16- 17  
**Smoky Mountain Quilters Show (37th Annual)**  
 Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee  
 Knoxville Expo Center, 5411 Clinton Hwy., Knoxville, TN 37921  
 For more information:  
[www.smokymtnquilters.com](http://www.smokymtnquilters.com) for  
 competition and **entry forms May 8, 2017 deadline**



Pine Belt Quilters Newsletter  
1041 Poplar Road  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

## May Reminders

Carolyn Daley  
Gloria Green  
Sally Henderson

May Birthdays:  
Sharon Richardson  
Jean Robertson  
Marietta Johnson

Bonnie Bolt  
Betty Herring

**People with birthdays in May please remember to bring a small gift (quilt related) to be used as a door prize. It should be wrapped or bagged.**

The program for May 10 will be “Tips, Tricks and Stories” with Kathy McNeil from Washington State.

The May 11 Workshop (2nd Thursday) will be “Landscape Quilts” with Kathy McNeil.

The May Fat Quarter Lottery fabric is yellow.

Membership directories were distributed at the February meeting. If you did not pick up your copy, please see Ellen Hall at the May 10 meeting to receive your copy.