

Newsletters in June 2012

[A boat load of Quilters!](#)

June 18, 2012

Ahoy there my friends. Bruce and I just returned from a fun filled Alaskan cruise with 50 quilters.



Thirty of those quilters were from Australia. We all know how much fun those Aussies can be! I had students from the UK too. I love teaching for [Quilt Seminars at Sea](#). Kim and Amy make all the arrangements and everything goes like clockwork.

Classes are only held when the boat is at sea. When we are in port, then we go play with all the rest of the passengers. There is an optional Open Sew or Sew Social almost every night. This year, Seams Like Home Quilt Shop in Anchorage provided us with brand new Bernina's in the classrooms and a quilt shop for all of our supplies on board. Sue Nickels, Stevi Graves and Karen Combs were the other teachers. If you have ever dreamed of cruising with people who are as much fun and passionate about quilting as you are... JOIN US! Husbands and non quilting friends welcome. If you are coming alone there will be lots of other quilters for you to hang out with. We are like our own little community on ship.

Next year the cruise is to the Western Caribbean. February 10 -17

with me, Kimberly Einmo, Mary Sorensen and Karen Combs.



E mail me if you have questions or go to www.quiltcruises.com. I have heard unfortunate stories from quilters who have signed up for cruises with inexperienced planners. Make sure you are going with some one who has been doing this for a long time like Kim and Amy. (Our classroom at sea with a 360 degree spectacular view)

Other news. Last month, I told you that Audubon's Christmas won a 1st place award in Paducah this year. Recently I found out that it won Viewers Choice too. Most of us value that award above all others. When your quilt hits a home base with so many you are truly honored. AQS has asked me to consider publishing patterns for all of the panels in this quilt. Many of you wrote and asked me if I would be making a pattern and I said no. I have reconsidered and decided to take a couple of months and devote them to making all the panel patterns. So stay tuned and I will let you know when they will be available later this year.

Time for the Tip of the month.

I want to pass on some techie tips. So many people have smart phones and I pads these days that I thought I would share some of my favorite quilting apps. The first one is *Quilt Shops* and it is free!

Quilters Club of America helped develop the info contained in this free iPhone app for quilters. Enter a city, state or zip code and search, or let the app do the work to find the shops nearest your current location. Once you find a shop that sounds interesting, you'll be able to pull up more information about it, including its Web site.

The app also has a feedback feature -- report new shops or shops that have closed or changed locations.

The second is one I heard about from my fellow awesome teaching pal Kathy Wylie. www.kathykwylie.com

Adobe Ideas \$9.99

This app allows you to take pictures of a block with your I pad and then add a drawing layer to it. I use it to audition possible quilting designs. Look at this Monkey Wrench block (made by Geri Parker). On top of it- I drew a possible quilt design. It is a great way to be able to visualize how the design might look. You can even draw the lines in color for thread colors. One of the best ways to get better at free motion quilting is to doodle your designs several times before putting needle to fabric. It trains your hand- eye coordination to that particular pattern. So use this program to doodle feather designs while on the plane or anywhere you carry your I pad. A stylus



helps for drawing.

Student Work- there are a couple new pictures of Student quilts in the student gallery on my web site. Take a look. They are wonderful! Please keep them coming. I love to share them with everyone. Next month I will be in CA. Napa Valley Quilt Guild and the Country Cross road Quilters in Modesto.

hugs Kathy