

A note from the Editor(Suzieque): This is the first edition of our new magazine, which features tales of happenings within our 'Hives'. Each hive has contributed to this edition of the magazine with stories of what has happened within the past year.

We hope you enjoy this new magazine and find it interesting. Please send your suggestions for improvements, things you would like to see and read about, things you 'don't' like about it, and, of course, what you 'do' like about it. Enjoy!

Quality Quilters

We are the Quality Quilters, made up of ladies from Ohio and Virginia. Our members are Kathryn1, Roberta, VAjoy, Pink-survivor, oldkate, TerryOH and spamby, our Queen Bee. We also had two other active members this year that have now moved on to other things. They were lorilei and twoboysgrammy.

We made three community project quilts this year. Every member participated in every project by making blocks and/or sending a few dollars to help with the cost of finishing the quilts. The three quilts were assembled and machine quilted by spamby and all three quilts were donated to Rachel's House in Bellefontaine, OH. Rachel's House is a non-profit provider of free emergency childcare for low-income families in the area. The first time a child comes there; they get to pick out a blanket, quilt or afghan to take home with them. The founder/director of Rachel's House told me that the kids just couldn't believe that someone is letting them pick out something and take it home with them. I really hope that the quilts we donated will help these kids feel safe and warm for many years to come.

We also have two other group projects that are in the works. We made churn dash blocks for a quilt that Pinksurvivor is finishing for a family that lost their little boy to cancer earlier this year. We hope that this quilt will give them some comfort through the hard times that lie ahead. The other project that we're working on is small quilts for a local animal shelter. I asked the members to send me a few scrap blocks, blocks that didn't turn out

right or blocks left over from other quilts. I received several blocks in all shapes and sizes. These are being assembled and machine quilted into small quilts for the animals at the shelter. We will have enough for over 20 quilts.

Throughout the year, we also did a few other activities. We had a Secret Sister exchange, a Fat Quarter Challenge, a FQ swap and a get together at The Door Mouse quilt shop in Bettsville, OH. We also have four members doing the Jane Stickle Civil War era quilt.

Thank you ladies for making this a great first year. I've personally really enjoyed being QB for our group and am looking forward to next year.

MMM

Have you ever received one of those 'getting to know you emails'? What's your favorite book; last time you cried & why; first car; least favorite day of the week? How many of you would answer the last question with Monday? I would not have back in January, but now, it is a day I look forward to...

'Someone help Diver with the door.' Thanks, it's sticking tonight.' Careful, don't drop the goodies!'

A small group of women that I had never met in person but 'knew' through HGTV's Quilting Message Board thought it would be a great idea to take this group of 'members', who seemed to share more than just a love for quilting, and create an on-line quilt guild. Two hundred plus women were placed in manageable sized groups – based on regions. Who knew back in February what had just been born...

'Hey, no crumbs on the couch Peggy.' 'I'm being careful.' 'Mandy tripped me! Who has the cookies?'

My email said I was in group 'R' or was it 'M' – I couldn't remember. But I finally found the right group and was welcomed in immediately. Some of the women knew of each other from the message board –



others did not. But no matter, everyone was friendly and excited about this new venture. We needed to create a mini-group, which meant a name and 'officers' but what and who?

'How are the Charity projects coming along?' 'Hey, Jewels has some news!' 'What did I miss?'

A name - well we were group M and we lived from Maine to Maryland. The suggestions started coming in and we knew right away that Maine to Maryland Madwomen Quilting fit us to a tee. Within days, Peggy had created a logo for the group and supplied everyone with labels for the upcoming charity projects. Beachdreams (Teresa/Beaches) became our instant Co-Queenbee with QuiltMarianne (Marianne/Quilts) as her Co-Queen partner. We needed a Charity and Social Concerns Coordinator – Jewels (Julie) volunteered for the role. And our first Charity project was under way. Then we decided that it would be fun to have our own newsletter – Divermom (Debbie/Diver) pulled out her pen. And with co-author Peggyinmaine (Peggy), we receive a newsletter every month! And somehow, Beaches convinced Spiderquilter (Sandy/Spider) to attempt the web page design. Everyone else promised to lend support anyway they could.

'Happy B'day month Grammy.' Did you golf this weekend, Nancy?' 'Beaches, how's the accreditation coming along?' 'Marianne, love your quilt!'

We have our structure and we have our roles. Now – how do we go forward as a group? How often do we meet and when? Meeting format? So many things to iron out. But these were not hard decisions to make or to agree upon. Monday night at 7

pm, we run through the agenda, and then to the good stuff – chatting with each other.

'Lizzyastro? From England? Kew!' 'Who has an accent?' Spider, what do you mean no chocolate?'

And we have lots to chat about. We run the gambit every week from our charity project, who's entered in the guild quilt show, to checking in on different family members. We have had many swaps, Siggy, Mother's Day, and now Christmas. Many of our members entered the Guild's Quilt Show. And, MMM donated many prizes for the various categories. We have not just met our charitable work obligations but have exceeded it with two formal projects and many informal projects under way. Kids are receiving quilts in both D.C. and Jersey. Blocks have been donated to Breast Cancer projects and the guild's Remembrance Quilts.

'Hey, Hunter's here tonight!' – 'oops, gotta go – Fear Facta is on.' 'Go Sox!'

We have formed more than just a mini-group. We have formed a friendship on so many levels. We have laughed with each other; celebrated new jobs and jobs restarting; created & celebrated Birthday Month instead of just a Day; encouraged each other through difficult projects and situations; supported each other through sudden loses and illnesses; and we look forward to our newest member arriving in January (Jewels' baby!). Some of us have met – even Lizzy from across the Pond came and met up with Beach. We not only share our love for quilting, but we share our lives, the happy and sad, the good and the not so good.

And, mostly, we share our time. My favorite day of the week – has to be Monday...

Quackers

You QUACK me up!! Familiar words heard at a certain Cybee group meeting! The Quackers have a lot of fun and share a lot of personal support and quilting experiences whenever we meet. Our group has 9 members (all original) and all

unique. We have had a great time over the past year getting to know each other and participating in several projects and activities. This year we had one member lead the making of not one but TWO quilt tops for Quilts with Love, going to our troops in Iraq. We made 14 blocks for the Spielman Cancer Center fundraiser and made an additional full size bed quilt top for the same group. Another member led a project that resulted in donating a quilt and a table runner to Good Earth Village, a non-denominational camp in MN. GEV holds an annual quilt auction to raise funds for the camp, which serves children and families, and we were pleased to support their activities. Knowing that most of us would be very busy with 'back to school' or holiday activities, we voted to do a "Secret Sister" swap for our final projects for the year. In this "secret sister" swap – each person had a secret sister that they exchanged fabric with. Then each sister had to make a project using the swapped fabric and on December 8th we will have a reveal of who each persons' sister was and what was made. The projects will be donated to a worthy community member or group of each members choice. In the fall we had a favorite season themed "strip swap" and a contest to identify who sent each set of strips. A Quacker prize was awarded to the best guesser.

Right now the Quacker QB is getting a lot of requests to line up more projects and activities for the year ahead. We are talking about doing a BOM of the month project and still seeking more ideas. We also do a birthday FQ shower to all our members. With our membership spread across 3 states, it is a dream of us all that we could do a quilt retreat together sometime. A few of our members have met each other and we hope in the year(s) ahead to have more opportunities to get together. In the meantime though, we will still just be meeting on line and quacking each other up!!

The T.A.G Quilters

represent three states. They are Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. Our name was formed from taking the first letter from each state forming the word "T.A.G". Quiltsfun is QueenBee for this

hive. Members the past year includes: gagal, helenmarie57, ljordan, taracotta, cmnsol, quiltsfun, zippybunsn, artcat4, bholland, stashbuster, and fabriclover.

Our first community service project was for the "Interfaith Outreach Housing" facility, which is located in Atlanta, Georgia. Their request was for a wall quilt to give a warm welcome to all who enter into their facility and a "feeling of home". The families who live in the facility are/were basically homeless/between homes upon their arrival. Their stay there was for about a year, giving them time to get their lives back together and on their feet then they would move on and giving someone else a chance for new leash on life.

Our second community service project was baby quilts for "Ronald McDonald House" in Nashville, Tennessee and Knoxville, Tennessee. Each member was to make a baby quilt using six 12.5" blocks and a "St. Jude" fabric as the focus fabric. Four quilts were donated to each of the two facilities.

Currently, we are doing a "Spring Swap" within our hive. We have seven members participating. Each member is to make two different blocks that remind them of spring. Fabric choices are to be pastel to medium tones. Blocks are due early to mid March 2004. We are not sharing what our blocks look like with one another in order to make the end result a surprise. When everyone gets their blocks back, they will assemble their quilts and share the layouts of the finished quilts. Quiltsfun is hosting.

We lost one member this year due to health issues and another to personal reasons with family matters. We gained two members in late July and August. They were Stashbuster and Fabriclover. We currently have a total of nine members in our hive including the QueenBee.

Stompin'Stitchers

How did I get into quilting?

I've always loved quilts and I'm an avid viewer of HGTV. One day I found Simply

Quilts and as they say the rest is history. I joined a local quilt guild but didn't find much help for a beginner so I joined the HGTV Quilting and Needlework message board. Thanks to the help and encouragement of all the quilters there I gathered enough courage to start piecing my first quilt. I am now a fabricaholic and totally addicted to quilting. But I'm not looking for a cure for this addiction!!!

Grannycharlie

The following is the story of my quilting history:

In 2001 the company I was working for at the time, closed down and moved to Mexico and I opted not to seek other employment but to be a stay at home wife. I had worked all of my adult life and didn't know what I would do with my time as my children were grown and out on their own.

I started turning on HGTV in the mornings and the first show I would see was Simply Quilts. They made quilting look like so much fun and so rewarding, and I thought it would be nice to try to make a quilt, I had a new grandbaby by this time, so I decided that my first quilt would be a small quilt to keep here for the grandbaby to use. The little quilt turned out pretty nice, so that one led to another one and before I knew it, I was hooked big time! The rest of the story is history; I've continued to make quilts, have learned machine quilting, have accumulated a great stash of fabric and am having the time of my life!

Houston's International Quilt Festival

I had the privilege of attending the International Quilt Fest in Houston this year for the first time. My Mother-in-law and I went together and we had a ball. I had to drive for 6 hours on Friday night to get there and we walked for 5.5 hours at the quilt show on Saturday and it was worth every moment. What inspiration we found among all those quilts. I've been a quilt maker for over 10 years now and she has been one longer than me and we were so impressed by the workmanship we saw in many of the quilts on display that we went home with a new found love of quilting.

We've both decided that we don't put near enough quilting in our quilts and vow to add more from now on (she's even going to undo some of her quilts and add to them now).

The quilts that inspired us the most were the pieced quilts, appliquéd quilts, and the landscape quilts. To see the artwork that the talented quilters had created simply with fabric and thread was way beyond anything we could do. The quilts actually stood up and told us a story, and every story was different. Some were very elegant, some were very funny, others were bold and others were soft. The different techniques that were used were amazing. Shadow work, trapunto, painted, thread painting, and on and on.

One thing that I learned was that I really like the quilts made with the vintage fabric's from the 30's and 40's. I had always seen these fabrics on a bolt or just a swatch by it's self and I was not attracted to them. But to see a quilt made from these fabric's, well I melted. I had to purchase a package of FQ's to make my own quilt. To me, they make the perfect children's quilt.

I strongly encourage everyone that has an opportunity to visit a quilt show to go and spend the time to exam each and every quilt you possibly can. The enjoyment you receive from seeing these quilts up close is unbelievable.

And while you're there, don't forget to shop for fabric to add to your stash! It's the perfect time to see and purchase fabrics that you can't find in your LQS.

I'm looking forward to driving for another 6 hours to return to Houston next year for the Quilt Fest! I hope to see some of you there too.

By: KFB

I started quilting in the late eighties; I was still working at the time. There was a lady named Nancy that owned a Bernina shop; she had so many requests from her customers that she began having classes on quilting. I said I could do that! For

several years I had been oil painting, I needed a change. I would rush home fix dinner, and off I would go.

The first quilts I made were Irish Chain, four twin to be exact (for the four grand-kids) from there we branched out and did a BOM Calendar Machine Appliqué. Then I put the quilting up for awhile and took up golf.

Nancy had to sell her shop because of her health, we moved to Hot Springs Village, AK and I connected up with Carolyn while playing golf and became very close friends and she got me into quilting again. I belong to the guild, and each summer there was a retreat at Ferndale, AK. There were teachers from all over. I enjoyed learning their techniques, some I can't do, like John Flynn's hand quilting.

We moved back to Central TX to be closer to the girls & GK's. I had started while in AK two "Grandmother's Garden" by Eleanor Burns. When finished I entered them in the Temple, TX quilt show, received first & second. Surprise! Surprise!

After the war started in Iraq, my friend Nancy contacted me to see if I would help her teach quilting to the GI wives. So every Wed. AM I drove to Killeen (15 miles) to help her. It was so up-lifting, some of those girls had never been around a sewing machine, others had one their MIL had given them, and they didn't how to use it. Nancy had several Bernina's she took. We had anywhere from five to fifteen every week. We used Nancy's church, so there is a nursery available. Those girls would see their finished project and couldn't believe that they had done it.

I want to learn everything I can, every technique; I have taken many lessons with well-known teachers. I may not use their technique, but at least I know how and use it when needed. I have taken many classes from Quilt University and that is how I found the CFQG site, someone at QU mentioned it, wish I knew who, so I could thank her for getting me into such a great group.

I have collected many books from different artists, if I made one quilt out of each book, I would have to live to be 200 years old.

Show Me Bees

Of the original nine members of this hive, seven are from Missouri, the Show Me State. We all agreed, even those from Iowa and South Dakota that the Show Me Bees sounded like a name we could all be happy with. Hence, the Show Me Bees were created under the leadership of Queen Bee Memaconnie.

Like all newborns, we have struggled to adapt. Now as we end our first year, we have grown to eleven members and have learned to share our love of quilting with each other and our communities.

Our hive has enjoyed sharing in two fat quarter swaps throughout the year. The first was a fruit/vegetable fabric swap and the second had a fall motif. Lots of pretties were added to our stashes.

Our first charity quilt was an 84"x 54" patriotic quilt composed of 12 inch blocks in patriotic colors made for MedeMo's "Quilts of Love" project for our service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each member of the hive created navy, burgundy, and tan blocks in their choice of patterns. Marla was a creative genius in putting the blocks together along with the sashing, border, and backing, and Dianne used her skills by machine quilting with a fancy stitch that matched the border. The quilt was given to Maggie in person (picture attached). We all hope that the quilt has brought comfort to the person who received our creation and made "home" seem a little closer in a far away place.

Our second charity project(s) were left to the discretion of each member, although some chose to join in a group project with our leader, Memaconnie. These quilts were donated to a charity chosen individually by the members.

It is always a pleasure to see one of our own succeed, and the Show Me Bees

would like to congratulate Dianne Ivie (Nana7) on her election to the office of Second Vice President of the CFQG. It is an honor to have a member of our group take part as an officer in the Guild, and we wish her all the best as she carries out her duties in the coming year.

For the hive's last activity of the year, our members will be joining together to open gifts during our December meeting in celebration of "The First Annual Holiday Show Me Bee's Gift Exchange" in the Guild Meeting Hall. I'm sure there will be plenty of Oh's and Ah's.

As we enter our "terrible twos," we will be under the leadership of MJinIA who promises to keep us in line with a "Trip Around the World" quilt in addition to our projects for community causes. We have started to form new friendships, along with our quilting connections, under Connie's leadership, and hope to strengthen these bonds in the coming year.

We join in wishing all of our Cyber Sisters, and their loved ones, a wonderful holiday season and much joy in the coming year



New from the Canadian North

Well Christmas is fast approaching and despite the fact that I live in Canada we have been blessed with some really nice weather. There is no snow yet in Ontario to build igloos let alone snowmen. I was joking around with a few that I was going to build an igloo and sit outside it and do some quilting and get a picture taken but you know what it hasn't happened yet.

This has been a year of learning in quilting for me. I attended my first quilting retreat in October, which taught me a lot of things that have come in quite handy. Sessions I took at this retreat were Lone star and friends and a machine appliqué class.

I also attended my first Quilt shop hop in Ontario this year as well. There were seven quilt shops involved and they sure saw me coming. I bought something at each store except one.

Quilting projects I have done this year was a baby quilt for my niece's son and a simple tied quilt for a little girl that lost a lot or most of her belongings in a house fire.

I just went shopping today and bought a book to learn how to make fabric bowls and boxes now as well. Other goodies I purchased included the much-wanted catch it bag. This one is in the shape of a frog.

Along with everything else this year I joined the online quilting Guild. I also joined two Quilting Guild's close by my home. Our Christmas dinners are coming up for this and we are making a Christmas stocking and exchanging them at our one party. I learnt how to do the Stained glass at the Guild in St. Mary's (Stonetown Guild) and am doing a cancer block for the Kirkton (Huron - Perth Guild) We have a table runner contest / project on the go yet that I have to get working on after Christmas.

This coming fall we are having the IPM (International Plowing Match) in our county and I have made a block for it, as well the theme is Routes to Roots. Hoping to get a quilt (Indian summer) done up and enter it in the plowing match as well.

I am including some pictures of what I have done. The first one is the Mariner's compass for the international plowing match challenge and the other one is the stained glass butterfly.



Patchwork Hive

The members in this group are fantastic. They are Momof3, OhioJan, Teddi, Cathy/OH, KyQuilter, Graciedonovan, Kaye, Rockytop and Bunnie.

We have done a couple of swaps using the Secret Sister method and everyone had fun. One of them was a tote bag swap and now we are finishing up on one for Christmas.

Our first charity was a challenge to get us started and everyone came through it for the better. Shriner's Burn Hospital was in desperate need of blankets and we helped them out. We ended up with 42 blankets for Shriner's Burn Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. They were not pieced quilts but half of them were quilted flannel blankets. Big THANKS to the group for helping.

Our second charity was for First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Fostoria, Ohio. We all made blocks and then we made a twin and baby quilt. The shelter was thrilled.

Some of the members of this group have also met in person; our first meeting was in Waynesville, Ohio at the Fabric Shack. We all spent money and had a great time. We have also met at a few quilt shows.

This groups loves to shop, I guess you can tell.

Charmed C's

Our Queen Bee is char77. She has done a great job of keeping us informed and does her best to keep us motivated. Our group formed shortly after the CFQG was formed. We have a lot of fun and have made a lot of new friends.

Our group consists of 12 members from Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Our PA members are: Crafty Cara, cell-wrangler, gina4, iamthequilted1, mary-quilting and momtat.

Our MI members are: Andylee, CeeJay, char77, lionpride, rachellouwho and terri911

Our first charity was the Women's Resource Center in Erie, PA.

Maryquilting volunteered to be the chairperson and delivered 27 quilts/totes/bears packages to them.

Our second charity will be to the DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We also donated 20 blocks to the Breast Cancer research quilt.

We have a website at CFQG and we have our own Yahoo Group page.

This is where we get together for our meetings. We try to hold these meetings every 3 weeks. We have found that we like to be able to talk to each other (A Lot!). We also have pictures at the Group page so that we may share what we have been doing with others.

Our group is also involved in a Secret Santa. Everyone had a name of someone in our group assigned to them of those that wanted to participate. We made a special gift for our "secret person" and all of us will be getting together at a later date. At the time, we will reveal ourselves to each other. We can't wait for our Secret Santa to be revealed!

We know that next year will be even more exciting and we will make a lot more friends!

Kindred Northwest Quilters

We are from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Canada have had a stellar year! We started out the year with 12 members. One of our members, Nise, has two daughters who also joined, bringing our number to 14. Her sister, Carrie, is also a member of the group! In September, we received notice that we had four more members, however, only two of them joined us and, despite repeatedly contacting the other two, we've yet to hear from them. With two or three with either family or work problems and thus unable to help out much at this time, we have 12 or 13 strong and steady members at this time. So we have come full circle!

When the KNK was first formed, I asked for help from the members. Sharon White/cabinqltr spoke right up and volunteered to be our Community Quilt Chairperson. Her enthusiasm and ideas has been the key to our success in this realm. She contacts everyone and we discuss what we want to do next, who wants to participate, what kinds of patterns we want to use, and what the deadline is to be. Then she makes sure we all have what we need to do the project and off we go! Early in the year, we did our first Community Quilts. We made two nap quilts for Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, OR. In the fall, we each made one or two large table toppers in fall fabrics for an assisted living center in Puyallup, WA. We have already gotten our project for spring planned.

For most of the time we've been a group, we have been having weekly meetings on Thursday nights. Attendance waxes and wanes as members have other plans or responsibilities, but there are usually at least 5 or 6 of us there. We discuss any business we might have or work out details on plans, but a good portion of the time is spent getting to know each other. There are quite a few comedians in our group and the "talk" is usually lively and filled with needling and fun. We have even assigned one of our members to

stay late and clean up the meeting room after meetings since we usually have snacks and sometimes things get a bit "messed up." Meetings rarely last more than an hour since a couple of our members are hooked on "Survivor" and it comes on at our one-hour mark!

Quite a few of us have had the opportunity and very good fortune to meet as some of us travel the Northwest. Even though most of us don't live too close to each other, some of us have relatives near other members or have looked up others on our way through their town/city. It has been such fun to meet for lunch or shop for fabric (what better way to bring CFQers together!!!???) We are planning on meeting at the very beginning of March 2005, at the SewExpo in Puyallup, WA. It is a huge Expo that many of us have attended before and thought it would be a perfect meeting place for us! Those who wish will be treated to a mini-shop hop in the afternoon and I'm sure there will be other gatherings after-hours. We are planning on bringing our blocks for our Spring Community project to Expo also so we can each see what the others have done and then form a work party to put them all together.

Nise has set up a photo site for the KNK group on Yahoo.com. Our group/community efforts are/will be posted there; the nap quilts and some of the table toppers are already there. There are also albums with pictures of the meetings some of us have had, and individual quilting accomplishments. Our address for the pictures is: http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/kindrednorthwestquilts/my_photos

Our latest group effort was making a baby quilt for one of our members. Dusti, Nise's daughter, is due to have a baby pretty much anytime now. We each made blocks and sandwiched the top to a Noah's Ark panel that matched the blocks. It was quilted and finished and sent off to Nise to give to Dusti when the time came. She couldn't wait and Dusti already has the baby quilt, ready to use when her baby arrives!

The Kindred Northwest Quilters

has become a close, cohesive unit of members who are there to help whenever needed, whether it be for a quilting project or a shoulder to lean on for each other. We are so happy to have found each other and to be connected in this way. We are all hoping to continue our efforts in the years to come.

Group members:

Michele Beckman	motqltr
Patti Cullen	pattilynn
Dusti Cummins	Dusti
Lynnae Dunham	timetot
Carrie Garner	clgarner
Joyce Grosche	Joyce
Christina McDonald	Chrissi
Denise McDonald	Nise
Judy Minami	JudyOR QB
Dana Moore	iquilt12relx
Dwynn Nichols	anninOR
Linda Smith	nuthatch
Sharon Stein	sewnso
Diana Swain	San
Sharon Wall	sharonrose
Sharon White	cabinqltr

Florida Sunshine Cybee Quilters-

The year 2004 was a year of many variables for the Florida Sunshine Cybee Quilters. It has been a year full of mourning the loss of dear loved ones; joy at the birth of new grandbabies; hope for friends who have graduated and are looking forward to new careers. Most of all 2004 has been a year of growth. Growth of our close friendships with each other, the closeness to be able to rant about a disservice done to another, joy about being able to share when someone gets a new machine, just to be able to email their buddies when their day hasn't gone the way they would have liked it to have gone that particular day. I guess one could say that our major accomplishment this past year has been the birth of so many good, close friendships. We may not be close in miles, but we sure are close as friends and feel and share each other's joys and sorrows.

We have a wide span of abilities and talents within our group. We have experienced, professional level quilters, advanced, intermediate, and beginner levels. And everybody is willing and able to pitch in and help when somebody needs advice or a shoulder to cry on because something isn't turning out as expected. Several of our group is doing the Dear Jane project along with the complete support of every member. Everyone is involved in at least one project at

all times and most, if not all, are projects being made for others. Many of us are learning to appliqué for the first time; some are hand quilting; some machine quilting.

Last spring, several of us were fortunate enough to be able to get together for a weekend retreat. Everyone had a wonderful time eating and visiting quilt shops.

Our emails are kept buzzing on a daily basis and if somebody doesn't 'report in', they usually get a call just to make sure that everything is all right. Several of us live in fairly close proximity, but most are scattered all over the state. It doesn't seem to matter. It is as if we were all close neighbors and keep in touch on a daily basis.

We gained one new member this year but, unfortunately, have lost several 'originals' for various reasons. We hope they are able to come back to us soon.

The Florida group has completed two charity projects in addition to several others, which were not required but to which most contributed. I'm not sure at this point what we will be doing in '05, but whatever it is, it will be done in friendship, humor, and compassion. That, my friends, is what it is all about.