



# Cyber Friends Guild News

**Officers: President .....Spottedcow**  
 Vice President.....Beachdreams 2<sup>nd</sup> VP(Membership) ....Nana7  
 Secretary/Treasurer.....JudyTX

Volume 2 Issue 1

March 2005

## President's Message

We are off to a good start this year. We have 36 new members who have joined in 2005 and 11 new members that joined in the last couple months of 2004. I know I speak for everyone when I say Welcome New Members! We are so glad to have all of you with us.

DHelen has stepped in as our new swap leader. She has asked pelujilla and Quiltaholic to join her team in presenting some wonderful swaps for everyone to join. I understand the FQ Train is well on its way heading for designations all over the world delivering great FQ's and restocking at each stopover. Of course I am anxiously waiting for the train to make it to Rampy Ave.!

We have delivered six Remembrance Quilts this year and four are being worked on now. We have a "Just Because" quilt for Crystal (vbffl) being worked on now and one that was made for WisSis delivered in February. Thank you to all that helped with these quilts. I know the recipients can 'feel' all the love that is stitched into these special quilts.

At our March General meeting we voted to send Quilters Cache a check for \$100.00 as a donation to help keep Marcia's site up and running. The check went out Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and we received a gracious thank you.

We did our last Chat Bingo this month. Is there anyone who would like to take it over so we can continue playing once a month? If there

is, please email me or post on the Message Board.

The quilt show rules, categories, and entry form are being finished and will soon be posted. All the prizes are being sent to JudyTX so if anyone wants to donate please contact her for a mailing address. Last year's show was a great success and this year will be even better.  
 Janet/Spottedcow

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## Treasurer's Report

Report	for	Jan.,	2005
Ending bal.	12-12-04.....		\$1586.89
12-16 Dep.....	25.00		1611.89
12-21 Dep.....	95.00.....		1706.89
12-22 Ck. Prntg.....	10.75.....		1696.14
12-30 GuildDues & member dues for NQA			45.00.....1651.14
12-31 Dep .....	220.00.....		1871.14
<b>Bal. 12-31-04.....</b>			<b>\$1871.14</b>

## Report for Feb., 2005

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Bal. fwd.. .....			\$2104.95
1-18-05 Chgback-Ret'd check			.....\$ 5.00 .....
			2099.95
1-21-05			
Deposit.....	\$90.00.....		2189.95

1-26-05 Chgback-Ret'd check (+fee)  
 .....13.00.....2176.95  
 2-1-05  
 Deposit.....75.00.....2251.95

**Books were audited on Feb. 7, 2005.**

2-10-05  
 Deposit.....63.00.....2314.95  
 2-11-05  
 Deposit.....67.00.....2381.95  
 2-11-05 Char LaDronka  
 (R.quilts).....25.00.....2356.95  
 2-11-05 USA Parcel (ship R. Quiltsupplies  
 .....10.75.....2346.20  
 2-11-05 Raven Holbrook (vbffl's quilt)  
 .....25.00.....2321.20  
 2-17-05  
 HobLob.....72.86.....2248.34  
 2-18-05  
 Deposit.....10.00.....2258.34  
**The purchase at HobLob was for a bolt of  
 muslin and fab. to use for R. quilts.**

**Report for Mar., 2005**

	Credits	Debits	Balance
Bal. fwd 2-21-05			\$2258.34
Deposits...\$65.00.....			2323.34
R. Quilts (grannycharlie)			
.....	\$20.00.....		2303.34
Quilt Show Prizes			
.....	137.35.....		2165.99
Ending balance 3-20-05			2165.99

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## PENNY SQUARES

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, young ladies of good breeding were expected to learn the dainty arts of womanhood - china painting, beautiful penmanship, and needlework. Even little girls were expected to learn and usually practiced embroidery on "penny squares"

provided by their mothers who selected patterns from a catalog at the corner dry goods store. A square of white cotton with a stamped design cost a penny, as did a skein of red floss. If a young woman was diligent and worked hard she might finish enough penny squares for her own quilt.

Red embroidery on a white background has been done for centuries, especially on ethnic costumes of the European folk traditions. This first gained popularity after a bright red, colorfast dye was introduced in the 1850's. At that time, embroidery was only popular for decorating linens and home furnishings. Women's magazines were quick to offer embroidery patterns to their readers. One of these magazines was 'Godey's Lady's Book' which featured embroidery designs as early as 1848. When readers washed their finished embroidery, they discovered that the new bright red floss from Turkey did not bleed onto the white background. The recipe for the new "Turkey Red" floss was a well-kept secret and even today the original recipe is still a mystery.

Red embroidery, now known as 'redwork' was very popular during the Victorian era when almost everything was embroidered until there was hardly any room left for one more stitch. In 1855, the The Ladies' Manual of Fancy Work included directions for dozens of items from toilet cushions to pincushions, from pen wipers to hair receivers, workbaskets to book covers and the ever popular bed quilt. The crazy quilt rage of the 1880's also encouraged redwork.

Many of the redwork quilts were made as fundraisers for church buildings and good work projects. For a nickel or dime, donors could have their names stitched in red on the spokes of an embroidered wheel. These fundraiser quilts contained many wheels with hundreds of names as well as other decorative designs.

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Victorian women could purchase pre-stamped items for embroidery or designs to transfer with stamping ink or wax. The “Ladies Art Company” offered white linen pillow shams, ready-stamped for embroidery, in its 1895 catalog. Magazines also offered patterns covering every facet of genteel Victorian society. Themes on penny squares included historical figures, animals, flowers, household items, fruit and vegetables, children and nursery rhymes. Pictures had different meanings. For instance, a horseshoe was a sign of good luck; angels ensured the safekeeping of children; and each flower had a secret meaning. Children were often given penny squares to work on, especially when convalescing from an illness.

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**POLYESTER THREAD? YOU DECIDE.**  
 (The following information was adapted from an online article from Peggy Stillwagon).

Recent advances in fiber technology have resulted in a new type of polyester. In the past, due to its dull appearance, polyester lost out to other fibers, especially rayon. However, with the development of **trilobal polyester**, rayon thread may become a thread of the past.

In manufacturing trilobal polyester, the trilobal cross section of the fibers creates excellent light reflection, resulting in high sheen. If the desired effect is strength, durability, softness, and brightness, trilobal poly is perfect for the job.

The following are characteristics of trilobal poly.

**Brightness.** High sheen for attractive quilting and embroidery designs.

**Strength.** Stronger than rayon, which means fewer thread breaks. Polyester can be used at higher machine speeds than weaker threads, including rayon.

**Colorfastness.** Withstands chlorine. Durable to cleaning and laundering. More resistant to UV exposure than rayon.

**Controlled elongation (stretch).** Outperforms rayon and other polyester threads (such as spun polyester).

**Excellent wet strength.** Does not weaken in washings.

**Abrasion resistant.** Higher abrasion resistance than rayon means it does not wear out as fast.

**More stitch volume.** Has a slight 3D effect with less need for underlay or cord. Perfect for satin stitches.

**More resistant to chemical damage than rayon.** Ideal for industrial work-wear garments.

**More forgiving of poor adjustments or mechanical conditions of the machine.**

**Virtually lint free.**

**Brands:** Rainbows, Highlights, Living Colors, Nature Colors, and Super Brights threads are 100% premium trilobal polyester.

Polyester fibers recover quickly after extension and absorb very little moisture. Polyester is heat resistant (dryer and iron safe), with a melting temperature of 510 degrees F. In comparison, nylon melts at 350 degrees F. Polyester is colorfast, resistant to chemicals, and can be washed or dry-cleaned with most common cleaning solvents.

### **Is it OK to use polyester thread in a quilt?**

We have all heard the stories about polyester cutting the fabric. The stories we hear are mostly legends handed down from earlier generations. Back in Grandma's time, most of the available thread was cotton and the quilting was usually done along the pieced seams, or "stitch in the ditch." Times have changed and machine quilting has opened up a new world. No longer is quilting done only along the seams. Machine stitching can enhance the beauty of the quilt by adding intricate and complementary designs throughout the entire quilt. Machine quilting does not add stress to the quilt. The stress points remain in the piecing. Some say that polyester thread is too strong and will tear the fabric. If the fabric ever tears as a result of heavy use, most likely it will tear at the seams. The seams are the true stress points of a quilt, not the machine quilted areas. The solution is to piece with cotton thread, thereby matching the nature of the fabric fibers with the thread fibers. This equalizes the stress points of the quilt. Then, use other threads such as metallics, polyester, and 20 or 30 wt. cotton to decorate and enhance the quilt by creative quilting. If a polyester thread is used in decorative quilting, it will not tear the fabric under normal or even heavy use because there is minimal stress away from the seams. In conclusion, here's the rule: Piece with cotton and quilt with any. Happy quilting!

Teresa Stoller/Beachdreams

## **Tips for a Blue Ribbon From NQA Certified Judges**

- Quilt clean, neat and odor free
- All stray threads, lint, and animal hairs removed
- Color value (lights and darks) create contrast
- Design commands attention

### **Piecing:**

- Points on triangles and diamonds sharply pointed
- Intersections meet precisely
- Seam allowances pressed consistently and lay flat
- Stitching tension strong and even
- Thread color blends or matches fabrics

### **Appliqué:**

- Curves smoothly rounded, and points sharp without bulk
- Invisible stitches small, close, tight and even
- Dark fabric does not shadow through light color fabric
- Thread color blends or matches with applied piece
- Markings are not visible

### **Borders and Sashing:**

- Stay consistent in width
- Long seam lines are straight
- Lay flat without buckling or waving

### **Quilting Design & Quilting Stitches:**

- Fits and fills the spaces uniformly
- Complements the pieced design
- Beginning and ending stitches secure and unobtrusive
- Knots are buried

- Stitches uniform in size, and even back and front

### **Binding:**

- Corners diagonal, or sharp perpendicular abutment
- Corners smoothly rounded, or 90-degrees square
- Bias fabric not stretched or rippled
- Batting firmly and evenly filled to edge
- Stitches on back small, close, tight and even
- Thread color matches binding fabric

Janet/Spottedcow

## Product Review: The Tutto Machine-on-Wheels



Hauling your sewing machine to different classes can become comical, if not detrimental to your well being and that of your machine. It usually consists of dragging cords and flopping foot pedals and usually at least one broken needle in transit. Travel of any sort, even with rolling luggage, is a similar torture. You never know which is the “right” way to

roll the suitcase and usually wind up with a sore shoulder before you pass through security.

[Tutto’s Machine-On-Wheels](#) (MOW) is very sturdy despite its ability to fold down to about 3 inches high for storing. Inside has lots of pockets to store accessories, and it has straps to keep your machine from flopping around - no more broken needles. Furthermore, there is a nifty optional “buddy” case that you can strap on top of the main bag to accommodate a serger or just stuff you have to take along with you. Once you figure out what size would work best for your machine, the only difficult part is deciding which color you like best. The whole case is well padded to prevent shocks to the machine as it travels. This case doesn’t care which way you roll it, it just glides along with you. This is because it has 4 wheels instead of the usual two on most luggage. All four wheels will turn 360 degrees; they call it ‘four-wheel’ drive for your machine.

The buddy case is a roomy zipped bag in which a serger and/or tons of fabric can be stowed. The case can be secured to the MOW by the bungee cord from the MOW’s pocket, or it can be toted separately.

Numerous consumer and health conscious organizations have cited Tutto products for being outstanding products when it comes to luggage. Although it is not at a bargain basement price, the MOW is not considerably more expensive than other wheeled machine cases which aren’t nearly as machine or quilter friendly. For

those of us who like to look cute, one disappointment is that it is not available in adorable prints or tapestry. However, it is not ugly, and really has a cool high-tech look that emphasizes features and function.



The MOW can be purchased from the following places:

[http://webstore.quiltropolis.net/stores\\_app/Browse\\_dept\\_items.asp?Store\\_id=430&Page\\_id=17&categ\\_id=10003&parent\\_ids=0,1700](http://webstore.quiltropolis.net/stores_app/Browse_dept_items.asp?Store_id=430&Page_id=17&categ_id=10003&parent_ids=0,1700)

[http://www.tutto.com/selection\\_chart\\_mas.htm](http://www.tutto.com/selection_chart_mas.htm)

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### Tips for Better Blocks

- Pick your fabrics with a mood or theme in mind. Think about who the quilt will be given to, what colors do they like, what 'style' do they like.
- Most block patterns need contrast to "work". Avoid medium-medium combinations. Go for dark-light contrast.
- Keep your scissors or rotary blades sharp. Use them only for fabric.
- Measure twice and cut once.

- When choosing colors, lay them out and look at the whole group, with various colors in proportion to the block. So if there is only going to be a little bit of the red used, just put a little corner of red fabric on the table with the other shades. This prevents you from seeing too much of the color.
- Square up your pieces as you assemble them. A 1/8-inch error multiplied by 10 blocks is a 1.25-inch difference!
- Use the iron. Flat, crisp fabric is easier to work with. I also use starch.
- Use the same ruler throughout the project. Different rulers can be off slightly, just enough to really mess up your pattern. If you aren't sure, compare them side by side to see how they measure up.
- Try sandpaper "fabric grip" dots on the bottom of your ruler or template to hold it in place with minimum pressure while you cut.
- Hold your pieces, or pin them, as you sew so the layers don't shift and cause inaccurate seams.
- Always try to use a quarter inch seam allowance. Stick with the same seam allowance through the project.
- Take good care of your sewing machine. It really does need to be oiled, have the lint cleaned out, and the needle replaced on a regular basis. You'll be happier with the way the machine runs if you take care of it, and none of this maintenance

costs nearly as much as a repair or a new machine.

- Use the same sewing machine, or the same foot for all your blocks.
- When sewing around curves use a smaller stitch on your machine, believe it or not, this does work.
- When I have a major quilt to do I sew everything assembly line, place all your pieces in a stack as to how they are to be sewed and then just grab and go.
- Getting a perfect 1/4" seam allowance. Place your needle in the down position and measure 1/4" from the needle and then place masking tape on that measurement. Then all you have to do is line up your edge and go.
- Cleaning your machine -- Never use the canned air to blow out the dust. It has moisture and on some machines it will rust your mechanical parts.
- If you use the masking tape for your seam allowance and go to remove it and have some of the residue left just use a cotton swap and some alcohol to remove. Works wonders.
- Don't watch the needle. By the time the needle is in the fabric it is too late! Pick another "guide spot" ahead of the needle, or create one of your own.

Janet/Spottedcow