



Sierra Mountain Quilters Newsletter

Next meeting **December 1, 2016**

Oakhurst Community Center

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Brief Business meeting at 6:00, dinner follows

Program: **Holiday Party and 2017 Installation of Officers**



December Meeting

December 1:

The annual Holiday event will be a catered dinner of pasta dishes, spring garden salad, and garlic bread prepared by Willow Creek Catering of North Fork at the Oakhurst Community Center main building.

Program: A Parade of Quilts (show & tell, mystery quilt reveal and challenge quilts) and 2017 Installation of Officers. Toys for Tots donations (unwrapped toy or a cash donation) will be greatly appreciated.

Quilts, and our Mystery Quilt reveal. Also, we will have another memorable SMQA slide show created by Donna Baxter.

Do you have a special Christmas Quilt we can display as background for our speakers? I will bring two quilt racks for display purposes. Give me a call if you have a seasonal quilt that would look beautiful as a backdrop.

Have a Very Merry Christmas!

Betsy Blum smqa2012@gmail.com 641-8027

A Note from Betsy

Our annual Christmas dinner is going to be a wow! Eighty members have signed up and we are going to be treated to a delicious dinner by Willow Creek Catering of North Fork. Unfortunately, by the time you receive this newsletter ticket sales will be closed.

Dessert – December birthday members – would you please bring Christmas cookies to share? Please and thank you.

I can hardly wait to see the display of quilts by our members. We have lots of space (and it will be quieter) to enjoy Show and Tell, the Challenge



Looking Ahead...

January 5: Cuddle Quilts Sewing

Sierra Mountain Quilters Association

General Meeting, November 3, 2016

President Chris Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Oakhurst Community Center. Chris welcomed everyone and led the flag salute. Chris thanked the greeters Bev Williams and Sally Walker, and thanked Susan Campbell for setting up the refreshment table. Chris wished a Happy Birthday to those who have a November birthday and thanked them for bringing refreshments for the meeting. The following were recognized for November wedding anniversaries: Sally Walker/39th and Diane Martin/42nd.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

The General Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2016, were approved by motion of Nancy Swanson and seconded by Mel Peters.

New Business:

- Diane Martin, Nominating Committee Chair, made sure that all of the members had a ballot; and she advised of the nominees for 2017: Chris Hudson/President, Laura Fisher and Penni Simily, 1st Vice President, Sharon Stull, 2nd Vice President, Sharon Cox, Treasurer, and Margie Williams, Secretary. Diane asked if there were any nominations from the floor – there were none. Members voted and the ballots were collected to be counted by Diane Martin and Donna Baxter, with results announced later in the meeting.
- Betsy Blum, 1st Vice President, advised of the Christmas dinner plans for the December 1st meeting and noted that she will need a final head count by November 17th. She showed the Mandala sample by Sheila Collins for the March 2017 program.
- Trudy Kinsel, 2nd Vice President, held the drawing for the table runner challenge and advised that the December challenge is a “holly, jolly Christmas.”
- Betsy Anne Youngholm, Cuddle Quilts, noted a correction to the newsletter for the Sunday Scrappers She stated that 120 cuddle quilts have been distributed this year, along with wheelchair bags and burp cloths. She read thank you notes that were received from Heath Care and Wellness and the Bass Lake Victim Witness Services. She still needs another sewing machine for sewing cuddle quilts at the January meeting.
- Jean Richter, Librarian, reminded the members that books are available for checking out, and she advised that Lissa Metzger brought in donated books.
- Chris Hudson noted there is donated fabric for the taking available that was not suitable for the cuddle quilts.
- The Treasurer’s report was approved as printed in the Newsletter and filed for audit.
- Jullie Vasquez, Membership, noted there are 61 members and four guests present. She reminded everyone to turn in membership dues for 2017. The door prize drawing was held.
- Laura Ashley Spencer announced that \$2,721 in raffle tickets for the opportunity quilt has been received. PJ Grant commended the “super star” members for attending and selling tickets for the opportunity quilt at various venues. She advised of upcoming events that are available to show the quilt and sell tickets: Holiday Shop Hop in front of Bear Paw, North Fork Bazaar, and the Road to California. Patti Spinelli advised of a 12” x 12” mini quilt challenge open to members for the Quilt Show with a theme of “A Stitch in Time.”
- Chris Hudson asked if anyone is interested in leading the mystery quilt for 2017 to let her know.

Diane Martin thanked Pat Pfankuchen and Donna Baxter for their participation on the Nominating Committee. Diane advised of the ballot results for the 2017 Board: President – Chris Hudson; 1st Vice President – Penni Simily; 2nd Vice President – Sharon Stull; Treasurer – Sharon Cox; and Secretary – Margie Williams. Diane asked that the survey/program questionnaires be left on the table and she will collect them and write an article for the newsletter on the results.

Chris Hudson noted that Show and Tell is scheduled for the Christmas Dinner this year. Show and Tell was held.

The meeting was recessed at 6:54 p.m. for refreshments; and was reconvened at 7:10 p.m. Chris Hudson advised flyers are available for the upcoming quilt show in Sacramento and the quilt and art and textile show in Modesto.

Betsy Blum introduced Sonja Campbell of Studio Art Quilts Association. The members met in smaller groups and critiqued the mini quilts that were in the trunk show that Sonja brought. The “best of show” was selected and presented by each group and an overall piece was voted on from those.

The next general meeting is December 1, 2016, when the Christmas party will be held.

Respectfully submitted by Margie Williams, Secretary

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December Birthdays

Flynn, Shirley A.	12/4
Lloyd, Rhonda	12/4
Martin, Diane	12/13
Austin, Deborah	12/15
Browder, Diane	12/16
Brown, Helen	12/18
Ward, Diane	12/18
Simily, Penni	12/19
Reynolds, Cathy	12/20

*Please bring Holiday Cookies for sharing at our
December meeting
We wish you all a very Happy Birthday!*

November New Members

Armstrong, Irene

40217 Old Stone Gate Court
Oakhurst, CA
Home: 559-647-6342
Unicorn54usa1@sti.net
DOB: 5/25

Teri De La Torre

52905 Balsam Drive
Oakhurst, CA
Cell: 831-728-2027
DLTCTERI@aol.com
DOB: 2/10

*Please add these new members to your
directory.*

December Holidays

Dec 17	Wright Brothers Day
Dec 21	December Solstice
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 31	New Year's Eve



Teri De La Torre



Irene Armstrong

For Sale

Alto's Quilt Cut 2 New. Never been used; was opened for inspection only. \$250 OBO cash.
Contact Toni43177@gmail.com

Amenities

Cards were sent to:

Melanie Dimoree

Contact **Linda Miller** if you know a member who would appreciate us thinking of them. 683-6007

Treasurer's Report

by Sharon Cox
October, 2016
(Checking Account)

Balance Forward (9/30/16)	\$ 6,468.54
Deposits	\$ 992.00
Expenses	\$ 985.70
Bank Balance (10/31/16)	\$ 6,474.84
CD:	\$18,134.99
Savings:	\$16,869.78

Quilting Circles

December 2016

by Marian Romero

Bits & Pieces will meet at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 7 at Time for Tea for our Christmas get together. Remember to give Mel your order/money by Thursday, December 1. Also remember to bring your silver 6 1/2" squares.

Footloose meets once in December and we're doing it up big. Our annual Christmas party is hosted by Sally on December 12 at 4 pm. Contact Lynn for any input on food assignments. Bring a small gift for the White Elephant exchange and be prepared to have a wonderful evening with friends.

Material Girls will meet on Saturday December 3 for our annual Christmas gathering at Rhonda Lloyd's home.

Sew Thrilled members will meet Wednesday, December 7 at Donna Baxter's home for our Christmas gathering. Contact Linda Pennington for information.

Sunday Scrappers will have their last meeting of 2016 on Friday, December 9 from 10:00 am to noon at Betsy Anne Youngholm's house. We will be back to our regular twice a month meetings in January. Please call Betsy Anne at 559-536-6532 if you have any questions about this circle or if you would be interested in joining us.

Thursday Thimbles will be gathering at Betty Fish's home on December 17 for our Christmas party.

Tuesday Strippers The Tuesday Strippers will meet December 13 at Danna Austin's home.

YoYo's are going to enjoy Christmas celebration in a favorite Chinese Restaurant in Fresno on December 12. Discussion of fun, lots of laughter and sharing of recent retreat mischief. Did I hear mention of shopping at Hobby Lobby or/ and a quilt store? Just plain mischief!

Women's Art Our group is designed for friendship and helping each other to become better quilters. Bring your own projects to work on and share; lots of room for machines. We provide cutting and ironing stations. This month technique is: Free Motion. We shared free motion books and knowledge. It was a great success and fun for all levels. Thanks to Laura and Sue for helping us beginners. We meet on: December 15 9:00 am to 12:00pm at the Oakhurst Library's community room. Refreshments provided by Rhonda Dewey. New SQMA members are encouraged to join us for help and friendship. December's lunch will at the Cool Bean/Pizza Factory 12:10 pm to whenever. Contacts: Rhonda Dewey, 683-8816, or Constance Peterson 641-6979



December Birthstone

The wearing of birthstones is thought to bring good luck and good health. Astrologers long ago attributed supernatural powers to certain gemstones.



The December birthstone, **turquoise**, is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune and success, and it is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evils spirits.



Monthly Mini-Quilt Challenge

Trudy Kinsel

A random drawing will be held each month for quilts brought in.

December- Have a Holly Jolly Christmas
The mini-quilt should be no larger than 36" on any side.



2017 Elected Officers

Results of the November election for our 2017 Officers:

President:	Chris Hudson
1st Vice-President:	Penni Simily
2nd Vice-President:	Sharon Stull
Treasurer:	Sharon Cox
Secretary:	Margie Williams

2017 Membership

Attached to this newsletter is the 2017 Membership Form. Please be aware that if you renew with a check, that check will not be deposited until after January 1, 2017.

Please renew early to have your name in the 2017 Directory.

Thank you,
Jullie Vasquez

Mysterious

2016 SMQA Mystery Quilt

Reminder: Bring your completed 2016 SMQA Mystery Quilt top to our December meeting to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to Bear Paw Quilts and More!

And this is the "rest of the story," a continuation of the Mysterious article from the November newsletter. (Have you ever sent your rough draft to the newspaper editor instead of the final article? I have -- blush, blush!)

You might be surprised to find out that this year's mystery quilt pattern was designed by a man, a very young man. When I asked Doug Leko of Antler Quilt Design in a recent email how old he was when he designed the Mysterious pattern, he replied that he was 16 years old. He is now 22.

I first used this pattern when making a commissioned quilt for my brother-in-law and sister-on-law. When I saw the six different layouts and the potential to make this a scrappy quilt, I knew it would make a great mystery quilt!

When I approached Doug months ago about using this pattern as a mystery quilt, he said that we are not the first guild to use it as a mystery quilt, though it was not published with that intent.

Thanks for your patience with me as I've done my best to rewrite the instructions to work as monthly clues for a mystery quilt.

It has been my pleasure to work alongside you on the 2016 Mystery Quilt.

Sally Walker

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Chris's Comments...

December is here already!!! Just where did this year go??? I hope you all had a wonderful and 'thankful' Thanksgiving Day celebration with family and friends.

I recently held a 'get-together' with some of our members that joined in 2016. Eight were present, which included one that will be joining us in January 2017! We had a great time, getting to know each other, however we definitely missed the six ladies not able to make it. We talked of a future meeting, such as the one we had, just to 'check-in', so hopefully all will be able to make it the next time.

As our membership grows, I would like to insure we are all making every effort and taking time to meet these lovely ladies, and welcoming them into our group. I know our meetings go quickly, with little time to actually socialize, but who's to say that's the only time you can reach out to our newer members? One of the main feedback items, checked on our recent survey, was *"Would you like to have activities that help members get to know each other better, to help new members feel invited and included?"* If we want/expect to have an active, enthusiastic and involved group, we all need to embrace our new members, and take the time to get to know them. From my experience, "newbie's", as we fondly refer to our newest members, are always anxious to be included, have great ideas, an interest in and love of quilting. Some have more experience than others, but all look forward to being active and involved members.

We all need to be more aware at our meetings, to insure we aren't 'glossing' over terminology, unfamiliar to some of our newer members. After all, how can we expect these ladies to "get involved" if we don't take the time to explain what it is they are getting involved with and/or volunteering to do?

January 2017, I will be establishing a "Suggestion Box" that will be available at every meeting. I know it isn't always easy for a new member to speak up at a meeting, and for that matter, it isn't easy for some of our more 'seasoned' members! The purpose of this suggestion box will be to afford all members the opportunity to ask ANY question, and make ANY suggestion. I'll either address the questions at a future meeting and/or in the Newsletter. No need for a name, unless you'd like.

In closing, I'm hoping to see many of you at our Christmas dinner, however if you are not able to make it, I want to take this time to thank you for your support this past year, and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



CUDDLE CORNER

Thanks to all the Guild members for helping the SMQA distribute more than 150 cuddle quilts this year. In 2017 we will be adding the Ronald McDonald House and Hinds Home Hospice to our list for distribution. In addition to the children we "cover" at Valley Children's Hospital, there are siblings staying at the Ronald McDonald House with their parents who could use a little comfort as well. Hinds Home Hospice is putting together some information on the numbers of people, both children and adults, they serve in our area of the mountains in their Home Hospice Program. They were very pleased to know that we are thinking of their patients.

As we enjoy this holiday season with family and friends, don't forget cuddle quilts in 2017. Our January meeting will be Cuddle Quilt sewing and we will have a new pattern ready in kits to sew and to take home with you. We need a few more people to bring their sewing machines that evening, so please contact Betsy Anne if you can bring yours.

We will also be setting up a monthly Cuddle Quilt Sewing at Bear Paw again this coming year, so watch for that schedule in the newsletter.

If you have any questions about our Cuddle Quilt Program, please contact Betsy Anne Youngholm at 559-536-6532.



Thank you Oakhurst Giftworks for the lovely flowers provided for the snack table at our meetings.

SMQA Password

At the first of the year, the password to gain access to the secure "member's only" part of the SMQA website will be changed. The password will be given out at the January meeting, but if you need access to the roster before that time or are unable to attend the meeting, feel free to contact Sally Walker at 683-5316 or sallyjwalker@gmail.com. We may send an email blast with the password at the first of the year. The password is not published in the newsletter, as it is available to non-members.

2016 Survey Results

Submitted by Diane Martin

This past year with SMQA has been fantastic. We had great workshops, presentations, and activities. We are all grateful to Betsy Blum (and her assistants) for the effort and time it took to make SMQA so eventful for the past year. As we know and appreciate, it takes careful planning and coordination to make the plan come together!

The SMQA Board welcomes suggestions at any time, but it is also happy to have received so many from the survey completed this Fall. The following is a report of those survey results.

What SMQA Members Want

Of the 53 responses collected, each of the following top three topics was selected by over half of the respondents:

1. Machine Quilting (patterns, techniques, do's and don'ts)
2. "Get to Know You" activities to help new members feel invited and included
3. Learning specific techniques and/or types of quilting)

Each of the next three topics was selected by approximately one third of the respondents:

4. Have an expert quilter provide tips for picking the perfect fabric combinations and color choices
5. Wearable quilted clothing, handbags, accessories (handbags preferred)
6. Sewn Gift Ideas - presentation or workshop

Each of the four remaining topics was selected by between 4-12 respondents:

7. Fiber Art presentation or workshop
8. Fabric dyeing or design
9. Beginning quilter workshop that covers most of what you need to know to get started (Tips & Tricks of Quilting)
10. Sewing Machine Care (including Featherweights)

Specific Techniques and/or Types of Quilting

SMQA members identified many suggestions regarding a desire to hear about or learn specific techniques. In fact, nineteen different techniques were identified! The most frequently mentioned

technique was **appliqué** (machine, hand, and reverse). The second most mentioned technique was **scraps** (what to do with them). **Paper piecing** and **Trapunto** were also suggested by several respondents. The following is a complete list of the specific techniques or types of quilting suggested by members:

Appliqué	What to Do with Scraps
Trapunto	Embellishments
Getting Points to Match	Art Quilts
Hand Quilting	Hand Embroidery
Binding	Curves
Quilts from Photos	Free Motion Quilting
Borders	EQ Design
Kaleidoscope Quilts	One Block Wonder
Landscape Quilts	Paper Piecing
Quilts from charm squares, jelly rolls & layer cakes	

Suggested Speakers:

SMQA members also made suggestions for speakers or workshop instructors including the following:

Bonnie Hunter	Debbie Maddy
Cindy Wiens	Patty Cramer
Diane Archibald	Janet Paehlics (Tenaj Creations)

Additional Suggestions

Finally, along with praise for the programs and activities in 2016, members had some additional suggestions, including the following:

1. Four workshops max. More guest speakers on a variety of topics and trunk shows.
2. Do something for National Quilting Day (3rd Saturday in March) - It's good publicity for the Quilt Show.
3. Have more Fabric and Pattern exchanges or sharing.
4. Let's play Strip Poker again!
5. Have Quilt Trips.

Once again, thank you all for your suggestions! If you have any additional ideas or if you think you might be able to present, teach, or lead an activity described above, please let the Board know. Let's share the wealth of talent we have in our guild!





Sierra Mountain Quilters Association 2017 Membership Form

Your membership dues support the many functions of SMQA including: meetings, speakers, workshops, newsletter, website, quilting retreats, circles, Biennial Quilt Show and fellowship.

Membership: *(Please circle one)*

Individual Membership: \$25

Family: \$35

Please Print Clearly

NAME: _____

Day of Birth: *(Month/Day)* _____

ADDRESS:

Street Address _____

Mailing Address *(if different from above):* _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

PHONE: *(please ** preferred number)*

Home _____ Work _____

Mobile/Cell _____

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⇒ **E mail** _____

Check box if this is a new email address or a corrected address (refer to our directory).

Email: Newsletters are delivered via email. If you don't have an email address and can't access our website at www.sierramountainquilters.org to view the newsletter and you are unable to have a friend print a copy for you, it can be mailed to you.

Note: Please mail your check to SMQA, P.O. Box 1359, Oakhurst, CA 93644. Your payment will be deposited in January, 2017.

November Show & Tell





Sierra Mountain Quilters Association

P.O. Box 1359
Oakhurst, CA 93644

sierramountainquilters.org



facebook.com/SierraMountainQuiltersAssociation

**REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME
BADGE AT THE NEXT MEETING!**

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Chris Hudson
First Vice President	Betsy Blum
Second Vice President	Trudy Kinsel
Treasurer	Sharon Cox
Secretary	Margie Williams

*Board Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth
Monday of each month at Yosemite Bank Community
Conference Room.*

Send Newsletter submissions to lpenni@sti.net
Deadline is 20th of each month.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amenities	Linda Miller
Big/Little Sisters	Donna Pike-Baxter
Circles	Marian Romero
Cuddle Quilts	Betsy Anne Youngholm
Historian	Donna Pike-Baxter
Hospitality	
Librarian	Jean Richter
Membership	Jullie Vasquez & Helen Brown
Newsletter	Linda Pennington
Parliamentarian	Kathy Millhollon
Quilt Show Chair	Constance Peterson & Donna Baxter
Webmaster	Sally Walker