

QUILTERS ABOVE the CLOUDS – A Brief History

How did Quilters Above the Clouds come to be? It had its modest beginnings in the back corner of Woodland Park's Ben Franklin store back in the early 2000's. At that time Marybeth Wujcik worked at Ben Franklin's in the fabric department which was becoming known for a wonderful selection of fabric. Marybeth started a monthly group of women who met to make blocks, take challenges, show the results of their creative efforts, share helpful hints and just have fun! At some point some of the ladies started talking about having a quilt show and maybe someday forming a guild. In 2007, the quilt show happened. It was an outdoor affair called Quilts in the Gardens and was hosted by 2 ladies in their Woodland Park back yards. A small amount of seed money resulted from this show which was donated to help start Quilters Above the Clouds Quilt Guild.

A core group of women met throughout the fall to set up the structure of the guild, apply to the State for a name, create a Constitution and Bylaws, etc. The Charter officers came from this group and the first meeting occurred the last Friday of October, 2007 in the basement meeting room of the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. Twenty-eight Charter Members attended this first meeting, each paying membership dues of \$20 (the same as present day). It was decided to apply for non-profit status at this meeting and regular meetings were set to start on the last Friday of the month starting in January of 2008. Since nearly 30 women had the little Cultural Center meeting room filled to overflowing, the site of the meetings was moved to the Woodland Park Library's meeting room next door. Committees were formed, including hospitality, and we were off and running.

After a lot of paperwork, holding pattern phone calls, sweat, and tears, on October 17, 2008 we received notification from the IRS of our 501c(3) Non-profit Status retroactive to February 5, 2008 when we had first started the application process. We have remained an organization in Good Standing with the Secretary of State since our beginning.

Throughout the years we have made our selves known in many positive ways throughout the county and state, nationally and even internationally with our Quilts for Causes and our annual Quilts in the Aspens Quilt Show. This year we have become a member of the Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce. After 5 years as a guild we were able to apply for and obtain a Raffle License and our 4th Raffle Quilt will soon be seen in venues around the area. A member's quilt is now featured monthly at the Woodland Park Public Library.

After outgrowing the library venue with a membership close to 100, QAC now meets monthly at The Mountain View United Methodist Church on the 4th Friday of the month (January through October). Meetings begin at 1 PM and guests are welcome. A small fee may be required of guests if a major speaker /presenter if giving the program at that meeting.