



Quilters Above the Clouds

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Handbook

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Mission Statement

The purpose of Quilters Above the Clouds (QAC) is to promote an interest in and appreciation of the art of quilt making, share quilting information and education, encourage high standard of quilting techniques and designs, and provide quilted items to area non-profit agencies and individuals in need.

Introduction

Welcome to Quilters Above the Clouds (QAC)! New members are our greatest assets because they bring new ideas and broad experiences to our organization. This booklet attempts to make you aware of how our guild functions, what is going on each month, and how you can become involved in our mission and make new friends!

Contact Information

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QAC WEBSITE: www.Quiltersabovetheclouds.com
E-Mail: qac08wp@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Guild Membership Meeting: QAC meets on the 4th Friday of each month at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Mountain View United Methodist Church, 1101 Rampart Range Road, Woodland Park, Colorado
There are **NO** meetings in November and December.

Board Meetings: The executive Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:00am at the Mountain View United Methodist Church, in the multi-purpose room. All guild members are welcome to attend. The minutes of each Board Meeting are published in the QAC newsletter so that ALL members are aware of guild business.

Cancellation Policy: Because QAC values the safety of its members; meetings and other events will be cancelled when inclement weather threatens. Generally, if classes are cancelled for Woodland Park School District, the guild will not meet.

QAC Dues: New member dues are \$25.00 per year if paid by June 30. Dues for new members who join after June 30 are \$15.00. Renewing member dues are \$25 payable by January 31st. After January 31st a \$5 late fee will be assessed. The membership form is available on the website.

Directory: QAC maintains a directory for the sole use of its members who are asked NOT to share membership information with non-members or businesses. All members sign a permission form before their information is added to the directory.

Newsletter: The QAC newsletter is published once a month on the Monday before the regular membership meeting. The newsletter is available free via e-mail; there is an annual \$10.00 postage/printing charge for those who wish to receive it via USPS. The newsletter is an excellent source to locate the names of committee chairs and officers as well as information about upcoming events. Time critical information is sent out via an eBlast email.

SPECIAL EVENTS and ACTIVITIES:

Auction and Holiday Party: Holiday Party/Auction: During our annual Holiday Party an auction of various items donated by our members may be held to assist in our fiscal needs. These items include but are not limited to quilted items. These are auctioned via an auctioneer or a silent auction. A gift Boutique is also available where attendees may purchase what they wish from more donated items. Members invite guests to share the fun of this year-end activity. If a Raffle Quilt has been part of the year's agenda, the drawing for winner is accomplished at this event.

Business Meeting: A business meeting is held at each monthly meeting. It includes a report from each officer and committee as needed, as well as discussion on important guild decisions and events. During this time, announcements are made so members can plan to participate.

Charitable Causes: One of the main purposes of QAC is a charity mission providing quilted items to those in need or experiencing trauma with an emphasis on donations in Teller and Park Counties. Items are given to providers of emergency services, Social Services and other agencies. Of particular interest for QAC are the needs of children who have been removed from their homes, families in trauma, and women escaping domestic violence. Some members donate quilts in a variety of sizes for charitable giving while others create critter quilts. Critter quilts are small quilts that are wrapped around stuffed animals that have been donated to the guild. Our quilting group of charitable causes is called Angels. Angels meets at the Mountain View Methodist Church in Woodland Park at 10:00am on the second Tuesday of the month. Some months have a planned project, but members are always welcome to bring their own project and work on it while visiting with friends. If there is planned project, the Chairman will have guild fabric available. She will also provide quilting tools, irons, ironing boards, patterns and such. Members should bring their own sewing machine. Bring your lunch and have some fun for a good cause.

Library: The guild owns over 600 quilting books and patterns available for member use. The Librarian will have a selection at each meeting that members may check out to take home and use. The Librarian will help you navigate the outstanding collection of quilting information.

Membership Quilt: QAC is creating a unique quilt that reflects the interest of our membership. Each new member is asked to create either a bear block or a tree block to include in the quilt. These patterns are located on the QAC website, or copies will be at the monthly guild meetings.

Programs: QAC is fortunate to have an interesting educational schedule of programs. Our talented members present some programs; and quilters and artisans who are state or nationally recognized do other presentations. When non-members attend a program presented by an outside presenter, they pay a small admission fee to help defray the cost.

Workshops by our presenters are sometimes offered in conjunction with the programs on the following day. There is a cost for each workshop that is shared by those enrolled in it. By reading the newsletters, you will become aware of scheduled workshops and when registration is due. Guild members have first priority to sign up for each workshop and if vacancies remain, they are offered to non-members.

Each January, members are encouraged to bring an unfinished quilting project, called a UFO, perhaps one started many years ago, to show the guild. The goal is to bring it as completed project to the October guild meeting to share. This has become one of the membership's favorite programs!

Put & Take Table: Bring in items that you no longer need and share with others. These items might include quilting patterns or books, partially finished items, fabric bundles, etc. The QAC storage area is limited, so we cannot store large items or too many at once. Items not finding a home in a few months are donated to charity. PLEASE no magazines. Feel free to explore the table; you do not need to "put" in order to "take".

Quilts in the Aspen Quilt Show: Held the second Saturday of August at the Woodland Park Middle School, this is the main event hosted by our guild. Thanks to our member contributions, it is now considered one of Colorado's "Must See" quilt shows. We generally have 100+ quilts on display.

There are many tasks and all members are asked to volunteer in some way. At monthly meetings leading up to the quilt show, there are sign-up sheets for members to volunteer to do their part for the Quilt Show. There are even small jobs you can do at home or before the busy week of the Quilt Show if you cannot attend the actual event.

Several activities happen simultaneously during the Quilt Show. The Vintage Bed Turning always has a crowd of people who are fascinated by the beauty of old quilts and the stories that explain their history. QAC members provide demonstrations on quilting techniques while quilting vendors offer their wares for customers to consider. A Boutique is also offered where guests may purchase quilted items donated by our members. There is a booth where guild members can sell quilts. A small percentage of the proceeds go to the guild. The Boutique has proven to be an excellent fundraiser that supports the expenses of the guild.

Raffle Quilt: Each year members of the guild team up to make a quilt to be raffled off at the end of the year. Members sell tickets for a chance to win this stunning quilt. QAC values the caring, working relationship we enjoy with Mountain View Methodist Church to use their facility, so we do not sell tickets, exchange raffle funds, or draw for the winner on the Church property at their request. Since the Raffle Quilt travels to shops, other quilt shows and craft events, there is a need for volunteers to staff the QAC Raffle Table. The proceeds from the Raffle quilt help fund the programs, charitable causes and other educational activities in the community. If you are willing to help, please contact a member of the Raffle Committee, or one of the Board Officers.

Sewing Bees: We have several regularly scheduled sewing bees every month. Some are specific interest groups, such as applique and some are more general, such as Anything Goes. Come to a sewing bee, get tips or help on your project, and make new friends. Please see the website and calendar for more information.

Show and Tell: Members have a chance to share one of their projects—finished or still in progress! Some members bring an unfinished item on which they would like advice. Many members participate, so please bring only one (2 at the most) item each month.

Spring Social and Summer Picnic: The May and July meetings are special occasions designed to provide members with a relaxing and social opportunity to get better acquainted with each other. Members may be asked to help provide refreshments according to the plans made by the event committees. The summer picnic also features a Boutique. Please think about donating patterns, fabric bundles, rulers, etc. to the boutique. One lady's trash is another's treasure.

Teller County Fair: This is QAC's opportunity to share their creations with visitors to the fair during the last week in July. Members help receive entries, aid judges and create displays. Different members act as contact points to assist members who wish to enter or help with judging day, normally the last Wednesday of the month. Check your newsletter for the names of these members.