

Willow Woods Quilt Guild

Newsletter August 2025

Meets the Second Saturday of each
month at Elks Lodge
26584 Highway 18,
Rim Forest, CA

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Month at a Glance

Upcoming Events for August and
Beyond:

- The next meeting will be Saturday, August 9th at 10:30

Special items to bring to the next
meeting:

- Show & Tell items! What have you been working on?
- Any UFOs you have completed
- Around the world blocks
- Your 2025 Dues \$40
- Something to work on if you are staying for Sit and Sew or the supplies for the August-project

President - Pat Duebbers

Greetings Everyone!

The Quilt Show is rapidly approaching. We will need to spend some time at the meeting to work on a few items related to the show. Kelli let me know that we have an empty shop to accept display quilts and organize the auction quilts on Friday, September 19th. It is not the site used last time, but is across the street. Please let us know the number of quilts you will display, this Saturday. I will have the forms that need to be filled out when you turn in your quilt on the 19th.

If you are participating in the Small Quilt Challenge, the quilts will need to be turned in at the September 13th meeting. I will need to finalize plans on displaying the small quilts, a few days before the show.

Any auction quilts you are donating will also need to be dropped off at the September quilt meeting. There are forms that need to be filled out, and as a group, we will need to decide which quilts can be purchased before the auction. We also need to agree on a price. If you are storing auction quilts from last year, we need them brought to the September meeting. If you can not attend the September meeting, please let me know and I will make arrangements to pick them up before the 13th.

I want thank Malia and Darrell for snacks last month. This month Julie Dunn is providing treats for us. I also need to thank Julie for the fun "Project Bag" demonstration. I went home and finished my bag. Today, I ordered a few more zippers and more vinyl to make a few more bags. It was much easier than I thought. I'm attaching a picture of my finished bag. If you made a bag, please bring it to the meeting.

It was thoroughly impressive seeing Darrell's "Quilt Journey." Wow! Darrell might be relatively new to quilting, but he is a very talented man, not only in quilting, but woodworking and cooking. Nancy Novak will be sharing her "Quilt Journey" with us this month.

Also, if you made one of the "Around the World" blocks, please bring it. We will be putting the blocks together this month. I'll get it quilted and it will be in the auction.

Happy Quilting,
Pat Duebbers



Secretary - Trisha Skalnik

Willow Woods Quilt Guild
Meeting Minutes of 7/12/25

President Pat D. called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. 12 members were present. July birthdays were Tonee, Judy, Bonny.

Secretary Report- Trisha- June minutes approved by Pamela A., 2nd by Pat D.

Treasurer's Report- Balance similar to last month.

Challenge Quilts and UFO Update- Don't forget to send Jen your list of UFO's to be entered in her UFO drawing at the end of the year. Julie D. won last year, finishing 10 UFO's.

A new "Small Quilt" challenge (12" x 12" minimum, 18" x 18" maximum) which will be displayed at the quilt walk. The quilt does not have to be square.

Pamela shared her purple quilt on corners with the Sharon Craig Pattern.

Wondrous Wildlife Quilt Walk Update- Time to finish some quilts! If you have an auction quilt to donate, please get it to Pat D. soon. August is preferable, however, auction quilts will be accepted at the September meeting.

Display quilts- be sure to let Pat know if you will be bringing some quilts to display at the show, quantity and sizes. There are 60 auction quilts currently. Flyers are now available. Please take some and distribute them in the community. Guild decided not to display a quilt in the library. Sign up for the quilt walk positions. Judy to obtain the key to the staging room. Banners need a date.

Members Quilting Journey- Darrell shared his story and showed us some quilts, highlighting his friend's highway patrol retirement quilt. Nancy will be our celebrated member in August. Main points to focus on for future meetings include how and when you began quilting, skills you want to improve or expand, and future interests.

Thank you, Malia for snacks. Darrell is scheduled for next month.



Secretary - minutes cont. - Trisha Skalnik

Show & Share. What have you been working on? (See pictures)

Meeting adjourned at 11:55. Julie Dunn's program, creating zippered pouches scheduled for the afternoon sewing (and they are adorable!).

Respectfully submitted, Trisha Skalnik

Challenges - Jen Lanak

UFO Challenge

As requested, we will be having another UFO challenge for the year. So please send me your UFO list via email. I have not received many lists so far. So don't delay if you are considering participating. As a reminder, your list is totally up to you. You can put as many or as few as you like. Whenever you complete a UFO on your list, you will be entered into a drawing for a prize at the end of the year. Good luck!

Small Quilt Challenge

Our new challenge is to create a small quilt. The only requirements are that it is at least 12" x 12" and no larger than 18"x18." These small quilts will be displayed together in one area of the quilt walk. Below are some pictures of small quilts on display at the Virginia Quilt Museum. Small quilts can make a huge statement and provide a nice contrast to the larger quilts we will have on display.

Book Club - Trisha Skalnik

Mini book club- Some quilting members have expressed interest in a mini-book club. The World's Fair Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini (2025) will begin in November (after the quilt show). A few minutes after each meeting, we will discuss characters, storyline comments, author messages, general opinions or any additional issues regarding the book. Some members were overwhelmed at the task of reading a book in the short term, so perhaps four chapters per month?

If you would like to begin reading sooner, please do. Trisha will lead the short discussions. Please join us!

If you have questions, contact Trisha

What Have You Been Up To?

Darrell Harris

Hello fellow quilters, wow do I need to work on my sewing skills! Sylvia came up Tuesday and we mounted the cop quilt on her long-arm and like I told Pat, my sewing skill needs a lot of work. I thought I did okay with it but several missed seams and some not so straight sewing lines. I'm thinking that after quilting some of that goes away.

Everyone should be enjoying our amazing weather, I am.

Pat Duebbers

For the last ten months, I've been working on a Tula Pink quilt project. Each month I received a packet of fabric and instructions for the blocks to be made from it. The first month's packet included all the foundation paper piecing patterns and a book. We started with 4 1/2" blocks. We then made 6 1/2" blocks and 12 1/2" blocks. Only the borders were not paper pieced.

I'm not sure I would do another one of these. It seemed bit expensive when I added up the monthly fees. Also, it is not original. There are probably 100's of them, exactly the same, out

there. It was a learning experience (i know paper piecing now!) and I love the colors in the quilt.

Most importantly, it was a shared experience with two friends.

Pat Duebbers



Pamela Abell

Greetings Quilters!

I just finished re-organizing my stash over the last 3 months. Not surprising, but I found layers of modest quilting purchases I made that were stuffed or crammed wherever they would fit with no rhyme or reason. I also had scrap bags from other quilters' leftovers, also stuffed away. Not much was in a convenient place and a lot was hidden from view and forgotten.

I set the timer for 15-20 minutes when I got home from work and stopped when the dinger went off – that takes discipline for sure. Stopping on time helped me make steady progress with no feeling of overwhelm. That also allowed me space to make commonsense decisions about how to maximize my space, which changed over time as I learned what I had.

I did several things that truly helped organize tools and materials:

I bought a 6-drawer tall, narrow dresser from the thrift store and designated each drawer to a single purpose since my tools/supplies were scattered all over. I made one drawer for:

- Binding and hand sewing tools, needles, bees wax, take along binding bag
- Sorted UFO blocks by color in gallon bags as basis for new quilts
- only warm colors together - red, yellow, brown, orange
- cool in a separate drawer - blue, purple, burgundy
- Home machine quilting items, hoop, and patterns
- Snap lid containers of pre-cuts and scrap squares by size, HSTs, triangles, etc.
- Extra small containers and used zip bags by size in the very bottom

Then I tackled the large plastic fabric storage bins and decided to keep 4 big bins side-by-side on the floor, for long yardage. I will never move those again because they are too heavy. Lighter containers for colors etc. that I can handle more easily are placed on top of those or on shelves. I also donated (not so good for me and perfect for someone else) fabric to the guild last meeting.

And I labeled everything so no more hunting. Those simple steps have streamlined my productivity and enjoyment. I have almost completed 2 quilt tops after not sewing much for the

last year.

I just did the math and during that 90-day period, I spent 22.5 hours organizing the stash. Working for only 15 minutes at a time seemed effortless and the results are well worth it. It was also a new pattern for me. I have always had a job and then would do the marathon project sessions on the weekend.

At first, I didn't feel like I had made much progress – baby steps versus the hours-long “big effort” pattern. I also learned to take out only what I could process in 15 minutes and not leave an unfinished mess on the floor when the timer went off. And it felt so good to run across a tool or block that I could immediately file in the dresser drawers.

I am so very happy to have Phase #1 done and am sure that refining the new storage will keep improving.

Pamela

Julie Dunn

I shared a quilt at the last meeting, and some people expressed interest in the pattern. I have attached the picture I used and some of my math.

The paragraph below is something I shared with the desert guild I belong to, and I thought this guild might like it too.

Also, if you are looking for something to do on Monday, August 4th at 4:00 pm, I will be co-hosting Cozy Strip Club with my daughter Jess. We will be doing a demo of the pattern Star Struck. Fix yourself a cuppa or a cocktail and join us. Here is the link to their page: <https://cozyquilt.com/pages/live-shopping>. They can also be found on Facebook. I hope you'll join us. I've had a sneak peek at the pattern and it is beautiful. (wink)

Thanks,

Julie



August Workshop - Owl Softies - Trisha Skalnik

Greetings, quilters. Ready for a fun project?

For the August program, we will be creating a cute pair of owl characters that will help us when we are quilting. Mine are named Ollie and Poppy. When you are quilting, they are proud to hold your fabric so it doesn't pull down on the table while you are stitching. They are also very good listeners and keep you company during those long days or nights you are at your sewing machine.

Supplies to bring:

- plastic or vinyl template sheet, permanent marker, scissors (not quilting scissors)
- 2 fat quarters for the owl bodies (flannel is nice); 4 if you choose larger owls
- fabric pieces (scraps) for the owl clothes
- Felt for the beaks and feet (eyes if that's a preference)
- Scissors for fabric cutting
- Accessories for dressing up the owls (buttons, eyes that roll, etc.)
- Lentils, beans or crushed walnut for inside "stuffing" (gives it the weight it needs)
- Sewing supplies (pins if you prefer for sewing)

The owls are approximately 5x8 and 6x7. The magazine patterns have larger owls-18" high

The pattern is "Hoot 'n' Annie" Owl Softies, Pattern by Annie (www.byannie.com).

There are also a couple different sized owls with outlines available from a couple of magazines that were shared by Tonee recently Quilt Mania (2013) and Primitive Quilts and Projects (2017).

Thank you, Tonee.

Looking forward to creating some cute owls and having some fun.
Trisha



Photos from the July meeting - Trisha Skalnik











