

Quilt Guilds of the North Quarter

April 2026 springerrun@gmail.com P.O. Box 821 – Colusa, CA 95932

Grapevine Quilters of Mendocino County – Ukiah to Host Our April 25th Meeting

Next OGNQ Meeting Specifics:

Date: April 25, 2026
Time: Meeting starts at 11:00; doors will open at 10:00 for teachers and opp quilts
Location: Country Quilts and Crafts (our local quilt store!)
 1611 So Main Street, Willits
Lunch: \$15 each
 Catered by a local favorite lunch hotspot Loose Caboose

RSVP: Please RSVP as soon as possible; deadline is Friday, April 17.
 Email grapevinequiltersmendoco@gmail.com with total number attending.
 Please mail lunch money to –
 Grapevine Quilters
 PO Box 1825
 Ukiah CA 95482
 Checks should be made out to Grapevine Quilters.
 (Alternate payment option Venmo funds to Dee Pallesen)

Just In Case: Hotels in Willits: Creekside Inn, The Inn at Baechtel Creek, Best Western Willits

What Happened at Our October Meeting?

The Orland Quilters hosted our January meeting that saw over 50 quilters representing 22 quilt guilds from the North Quarter and beyond share the joy of another year of meeting and sharing all the information that our quilting world has to offer. Luch was a great hot potato bar with lots of assorted toppings, even slowly caramelized onion. Yum! The members finished the meal with a tone of homemade cookies. Always a crowd pleaser.

This meeting is always special as the new Opportunity Quilts made their debut. The room was lined with these amazing creations. Information on upcoming quilt shows, events and workshops and speakers was shared. A request was made that the information for the contact person for each guild to book Opportunity Quilts be made available. (Everyone: send me your info! ARLENE)

The program was, Tips & Tricks of how to motivate all of us to finish UFOs! Merri Caywood and Jan McClintock gave a rousing presentation on how to organize a UFO Challenge and raise interest in guild membership to finish those pesky unfinished objects. They really are from another planet as they seem to multiply all on their own! The discussion that followed was great. The guild presented each attendee with a handmade intricately braided bookmark. Lovely. Orland has set the bar high for the rest of our meetings in 2026.

Future OGNQ Meetings are as Follows:

2026

July 25 – Ocean Waves – Fort Bragg

October 31 – Oroville Piecemakers – Oroville

2027

January 30 – Ridge Quilters - Paradise

April – Quilter’s Sew-ciety of Redding – Meet the Teacher

July – Mountain Quail Quilters - McArthur

October – Scott Valley Quilters – Etna

Upcoming Quilt Shows and Events

April 20 – 22. Pacific Flyway Quilters, Chicken Coop Retreat – Colusa – held at Friends Around the Block Quilt Shop. \$150. Complimentary breakfast and full lunch.

RSVP Gail Russick (539)394-6962 or Grussick@gmail.com

May 1 & 2, Quilter's Sew-ciety of Redding - Shasta District Fair Grounds in Anderson. "Quilt America; 250 years of Creativity" and the challenge is "Stars and Stripes Forever". Friday 10-5 & Saturday 10-4. Ticket is \$10 and is good for both days.

May 2 & 3, Grapevine Quilters of Mendocino County – Quilts In Bloom 2026 Quilt Show - Ukiah Valley Conference Center in downtown Ukiah.

May 9 – Scott Valley Quilters - Bi-Annual Tea Party. 11am to 2 pm. Special guest speaker, Arlene Arnold, will present her lecture – "250 Years of Quilts, History and the Women Who Made It'. Location is Etna Methodist Church 137 Diggles St, Etna. Contact Michele at 530.598.2444 or Margo at 530.598.4234 by May 1. For reservations for this great event.

May 23 – July 4, Ocean Wave Quilters - "Quilt Walk" through Fort Bragg in preparation for our Quilt Show in June. Many of the local merchants hang quilts in their stores and there's a printed program which lists all the stores hosting our quilts.

June 2 - Quilter's Sew-ciety of Redding has booked Dana Jones from Colorado, she will be presenting a lecture on Tuesday night, Sept 1 and workshop Wednesday, Sept 2. I am looking for other northern guilds to pick her up and share. Linda Molter, 530-945-5531

June 6 - Grapevine Quilters of Mendocino County – Ukiah – "Celebrating 250 Years of Quilting in America". A lecture by Arlene Arnold, quilt historian and collector with quilts on display from 1770-2020. Veteran's Memorial Hall, 293 Seminary Ave. - Ukiah. 10:00-12:30.

June 25-27 – Quilting Sisters' Retreat – Colusa – Three days of open sewing, laughter, good food and new friendships. Contact Yvonne Phenicie yphenicie@yahoo.com or Arlene Arnold heritageoaksquilts@gmail.com

July 9-12 – Log Cabin Quilt Guild – Hayfork – Quilt Show during Trinity County Fair

Sept 3 – 7 – Mountain Quail Guild – Quilt Show at the Intermountain Fair – McArthur

Sept 5 & 6 – Mountain Quilt and Craft Guild – Brownsville – Country Store Sale

**Sept 26 & 27 Flying Needles Quilters Guild - Yolo County Fairgrounds, 1250 E Gum St, Woodland
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3:30**

Oct. 15-17: Orland Quilt Guild – Patchwork Retreat – Contact Merri Caywood at 530-228-2620

Oct 17 & 18 Ridge Quilters Guild – Paradise - "Celebrations in Paradise" Quilt Show. A key feature of the show will be our vintage-inspired patriotic Opportunity Quilt. In addition, we will highlight many of the celebrations that take place in Paradise throughout the year.

Looking for a Workshop?

April 22: Ridge Quilters, Paradise - Yvonne Phenicie will present a workshop featuring a log cabin wreath created using a new technique.

April 27: Ocean Waves, Fort Bragg - Yvonne Phenicie who will be sharing how to make "Ombre Bargello". Quilts.

May 9th: Quilters Sew-ciety, Redding - "Needle Turn Applique" taught by Karen Ottoboni! It is \$45 and will be at the Blue Iris Quilt Shop in Palo Cedro. This technique is Karen's specialty!

May 19: Ridge Quilters, Paradise - Merri will also teach a special class on table runners called *Triangle Frenzy* (you might see some at our Boutique!).

May 19: Sun Country Quilters – Red Bluff – Sweatshirt Jacket workshop with Janette Miller.

June 6 ; Quilters Sew-ciety, Redding - Workshop "Wensleydale Block" taught by Patt Thompson from "Friends Around the Block Quilt Shop. Cost is \$45 and will be at the Blue Iris Quilt Shop in Palo Cedro.

August 8; Quilters Sew-ciety, Redding - Laura Heine Collage workshop taught by Carol Martin of the Quilt Corral in Willows. The class is \$45 and will be held at the Sewing Room in Redding.

9/2/26 - Quilter's Sew-ciety of Redding has booked Dana Jones from Colorado, she will be presenting a lecture on Tuesday night, Sept 1 and workshop Wednesday, Sept 2. I am looking for other northern guilds to pick her up and share. Linda Molter, 530-945-5531

Annie's Star Quilt Guild – Chico

Annie's Star Quilt Guild has settled into our new home at St. John's Episcopal Church meeting room. We have plenty of room for our committees, members, and visitors. We will be doing a two-day sew-in retreat at Ord Bend in late April.

Spring has come to Chico in a serious way! Flowers, bees, and warm weather are here! But there's still enough cool weather to wear a quilted jacket some of our members made in our March workshop with Diana Karna.

Our fabulous Boutique crew will be at the Chico Farmers Market on the Second Saturday of the month, April through October. We will have our Opportunity Quilt there as well. This community presence will help us get the word out about our November Quilt Show. Come and say hello! The Boutique crew and Opp Quilt will also be at the Chico Art Festival, a two-day, outdoor event that is on Friday, May 8 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. & Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. of Mother's Day weekend, on the grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church. This is an energetic festival, with a Friday evening performance of fire dancers.

Our amazing Quilt Show Committee is working hard on our 2026 Quilt Show, which will be Nov 7 & 8 at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds.

We unexpectedly bid farewell to a very active, beloved, and long-time member, Peggy Arms. She was a bright light in our guild and will be deeply missed.

Carla Resnick, QGNQ Rep (I'll be taking over for our long-time, wonderful rep Sue Good, who hands over the thimble later this year.)

Chester Piecemakers Quilt Guild - Chester

Diane Morrow, rep

Flying Needles Quilt Guild of Yolo County

JoAnn Young, rep

Grapevine Quilters of Mendocino County - Ukiah

The Grapevine Quilters are busy planning several upcoming events. The biggest project we have going on right now is our annual quilt show – Quilts In Bloom 2026 is May 2-3, at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center in downtown Ukiah. We will be sending out posters and bookmarks soon. We hope you all can join us.

We are also working on a public event on June 6 with Arlene Arnold sharing 250 years of American Quilting, sharing 50 American quilts and the story of American quilting. This will be held at the Ukiah Veteran's Hall in downtown Ukiah; more information to follow.

And last, but not least, is our hosting of this group's Meet The Teacher meeting on April 25. We are excited to have you all over to our neck of the woods and hope you are planning to attend.

Other things going in our guild is that our membership is slowly rising, which is very exciting for us. We have continued to look for local grant opportunities to support the work of the guild. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County offers several grant opportunities a year and they have been very supportive of our guild over the last few years. We highly recommend looking in your own county for this type of opportunity. Thanks to these grants and other funding streams we have been fortunate enough to be awarded, we are slowly building up our education program again including holding classes, offering public events (like Arlene's), and collaborating with our local quilt shop to offer beginning quilting classes to the public.

Leanne Thompson, rep

Ladies of the Lake Quilt Guild

We are busy with several projects. A second round of teaching students to sew is successfully underway in Lower Lake. A second New York Beauty quilt has been commissioned from mostly silk neckties and members Kris Nelson and Lan Ali-Adeeb gave a very informative demonstration of the process followed by a workshop for the members who will do the blocks. Block of the Month and Secret Pal are also well underway.

The Guild now has a complete Executive Board doing a very nice job. Chair positions are starting to refill. The plan to skip a year of Quilt Show seems to be working well.

Susanne Scholz and Charlene Younker

Log Cabin Quilters

Here in Hayfork, we are enjoying the beautiful Spring weather while at the same time worrying about the lack of rain and snow. However, even while enjoying and worrying we are working on opportunity quilts as well as quilts to donate to the Trinity County Fair to raffle. We are also getting ready for our 3-day Spring Retreat. It will be held in our building on the Fairgrounds with a potluck on Friday night that usually leaves us with leftovers to enjoy for the rest of the weekend. For this retreat, we are each working on whatever project we want to. I will be working on a rag quilt for my daughter and if I have time, I'll start a second one for my daughter-in-law.

The Trinity County Fair is the second weekend in July, so we are starting to think about our quilt show. We already have found a few quilts that have been shared at meetings that we are really looking forward to displaying. Kathleen Anderson, one of our members, makes wonderful Linus quilts so we usually have a corner dedicated to Linus quilts which is a really enjoyable addition.

I'm looking forward to our next QGNQ meeting,

Diana Stewart, rep

Mostly Modern Quilters of Chico - virtual group

on Instagram @mostly_modern_quilters_chico

Cathleen Wolford, rep

Mountain Quilt and Craft Guild – Brownsville

We have had fun learning new things every month. We have learned to make bags, caftans, barn quilts and special fabric bowls. Coming soon we will learn watercolor painting.

We are excited about our Country Store the weekend of Labor Day in September. We have had some wonderful donations again this year and plan to share them with our community and our sister guilds. We are known for our very reasonable prices.

Victoria Davis and Leslie Collins, reps

Mountain Quail Quilters Guild– MacArthur

Our guild got off to a great start this year with 4 new members. We also relocated our meeting place to the Firehall in Cassel, CA, which is more centrally located for our far flung members. At our February meeting our speaker was Sharon Bauer, a guild member. Her topic was, “How to Manage Your Investment Portfolio”. Aka ‘How to Get a Grip on Your Fabric Stash’! She is a great energizer and I’m hoping for some great stories to follow. We are focusing on our in-house talent for the moment and had an update on Stripology cutting and precise sewing from Kaye Burns at the Marh Meeting.

Intermountain Fair in McArthur runs from September 3 to the 7th and our Quilt Show will be part of it. Come join us in the fun!

Happy Spring Cleaning and Quilting!

Pat Pell, rep

Ocean Wave Quilters of Fort Bragg

We just finished our Spring Quilt Retreat. We have been using the Albion Field Station as our retreat location. They have a large nicely lighted room where we can set up to quilt, chat, and share while enjoying the beautiful Albion River. A team which had started our 2027 Raffle quilt, used a design wall to organize the blocks and began to sew them together.

Our next class is April 27 with Yvonne Phenicie who will be sharing how to make “Ombre Bargello”. She will also be the speaker at our annual Appreciation Luncheon the day before.

Every year we have a “Quilt Walk” through Fort Bragg in preparation for our Quilt Show in June. Many of the local merchants hang quilts in their stores and there’s a printed program which lists all the stores hosting our quilts. Our quilts will be displayed May 23 – July 4, 2026. If you are in the area, come and enjoy this free quilt display. The Fort Bragg Quilt Show is June 27 – 28 with an entrance fee of \$10 – good for both days. We welcome quilt submissions from non-members (details can be found on our website at oceanwavequilters.com).

We continue to support local organizations with donations and, over the last few months have included 9 Community Quilts, 14 Warm Welcome (for newborns), 18 Dress-a-girl dresses, plus pet beds and port pillows (for cancer infusion ports).

We are excited to host the July QGNQ meeting (we can promise nice weather!). We’ll have the details in the July Newsletter.

-Nadine Schultz, OWQ President

Orland Quilters of Orland

Thank you all who came to the January North Quarter meeting in Orland. We had fun hosting.

Cyndy Wright and Merri Caywood are the new representatives to North Quarter, and we look forward to traveling and meeting with all the reps!

In January Orland's meetings are all about approving a budget and setting the programs for the new year. This year was no exception, and we had a brief demo about tissue dying.

Since our meeting in February lands on President's Day, we often spend the afternoon in a workshop, this year was focused on fidget quilts for memory care facilities. In March we were entertained by our own co-president Jan McClintock who delivered an enthusiastic, informative presentation on what to do with all those scraps!

Cyndi Wright and Merri Caywood, rep

Oroville Piecemakers Quilt Guild

Dorothy Welton

Pacific Flyway Quilters of Colusa

Pacific Flyway Quilters Quilt Guild presents
CHICKEN COOP RETREAT

April 20, 21, 22 — \$150.00

Held at Quilts Around the Block, Colusa

Ironing stations, cutting boards, lots of electrical and cell phone hookups.

Complimentary breakfast and full lunch.

Have fun and enjoy the camaraderie and inspiration of your fellow quilters.

RSVP Gail Russick (539)394-6962 or Grussick@gmail.com

Gail Russick and Joann Young, reps

Quilter's Sew-ciety of Redding, Inc.

Quilt Show, Quilt Show, Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2 Anderson Fairgrounds. We are so excited to bring this show to you. Along with what's listed in attachment we have 31 challenge quilts with the theme: Stars and Stripes Forever. They are gorgeous!

SATURDAY, May 9th we have a wonderful workshop " Needle Turn Applique" being taught by our past member Karen Ottoboni! It is \$45 and will be at the Blue Iris Quilt Shop in Palo Cedro. This technique is Karen's specialty!

SATURDAY, June 6 is the workshop called "Wensleydale Block" taught by Patt Thompson from "Friends Around the Block Quilt Shop. Cost is \$45 and will be at the Blue Iris Quilt Shop in Palo Cedro.

SATURDAY, August 8 is the Laura Heine Collage workshop taught by Carol Martin of the Quilt Corral in Willows. The class is \$45 and will be held at the Sewing Room in Redding.

September and October we are looking for help in sharing the cost of two great speaker/teachers: Dana Jones of Colorado speaking at the guild meeting Sept 1 and teaching Sept 2, and Jeanette Walton from Monterey speaking at guild meeting Oct 7 and teaching Quilt Worx Oct 8. Please call me if your guild would like to book them and share the expenses.

On March 3 we had a fabulous meeting with Arlene Arnold speaking on 250 years of quilt history. You need to hear this new program from her. Wonderful!

Looking forward to "Meet the Teacher" in Ukiah at the end of the month.

Linda Molter, QGNQ Representative. 530-945-5531

Ridge Quilters – Paradise

I'm looking forward to attending the April meeting (our Opportunity Quilt will be joining me) and seeing the various teachers who will be sharing the programs they offer. Recently, our guild enjoyed a wonderful trunk show presented by one of our own members, Audrey Giroux. She demonstrated her fabulous use of color and gave us a glimpse into how she selects her color combinations. Audrey followed this presentation with a full-day workshop on color theory that included many mini exercises exploring different color palettes. Everyone in attendance said it was one of the best workshops they had ever attended—you may want to keep her in mind for future programs.

Within the guild, we are ramping up preparations for our "Celebrations in Paradise" Quilt Show, which will take place October 17–18, 2026. A key feature of the show will be our vintage-inspired patriotic Opportunity Quilt. In addition, we will highlight many of the celebrations that take place in Paradise throughout the year.

Our boutique committee is busy encouraging members to create handmade items that visitors will want to take home. The Pick-a-Prize committee is coordinating a variety of themed baskets sure to tempt everyone, including baskets for gardeners, handymen, and children. A new exhibit this year will showcase a sampling of workshops that our guild has held over the past year. We hope this display will encourage local quilting enthusiasts to come see what we do and perhaps join our ranks.

We also have a wide variety of upcoming programs and workshops:

- April 21: Speaker Carol Montgomery will share how she has turned barn quilts into an art form.
- April 22: Yvonne Phenicie will present a workshop featuring a log cabin wreath created using a new technique.

- **May 18:** Speaker Merri Caywood will inspire us with a presentation about UFOs (UnFinished Objects).
- **May 19:** Merri will also teach a special class on table runners called *Triangle Frenzy (you might see some at our Boutique!)*.
- **June 16:** We will enjoy our annual potluck luncheon, always a wonderful time to visit and share an extended show-and-tell.

We hope to see many of you there!

Linda Brown, rep

Scott Valley Quilters

Happy Spring!

Scott Valley Quilters are having fun.

We recently had another successful Quilting Retreat. Two days of sewing, eating and games. We made enough log cabin blocks for two Rockside Ranch Quilts!

New members joined us to add to our numbers. We welcomed Leslie Tharp, Cecily Shaw Scala and Laurie Sweezey. Lots of new quilters to learn from our seasoned members.

Preparations for our Bi-Annual Tea Party are under way. Our own President Arlene Arnold and her '250 Years of Quilts, History and the Women Who Made It' presentation will be our featured speaker. We are requesting reservations for this great event. Date is May 9, 11 am - 2 pm. Location is Etna Methodist Church 137 Diggles St, Etna. Contact Michele at 530.598.2444 or Margo at 530.598.4234 by May 1.

A new fabric challenge has begun, two yards of fabric to 'Snip, Rip, Pass and Drop' . Come to the Tea Party to see our creations! There are some very beautiful and innovative designs this time.

Our guild has decided to provide quilts for Foster Children in our area. So far 40 quilts are ready to share. Rockside Ranch is receiving quilts as well as Crystal Peak Youth Ranch. Quilts are being produced and shared in our valley.

See you at our Tea Party soon!

Michele Estrada, President

Shasta Lily Quilt Guild - Mount Shasta

Maryann Robertson, Rep

Sun Country Quilters of Red Bluff

2026 got off to a good start with our traditional Friendship Tea back in January. Along with delicious refreshments, games were played while members turned in their membership renewal forms for another year of quilt fun and education.

In February, Arlene Arnold came to talk to us about the California Heritage Quilt Project. She brought along several beautiful antique quilts and some fun stories too. She is always an interesting speaker and hopefully inspired some members to fill out forms to submit some of their quilts.

Our program speaker for March will be Ashley Coffey talking about scrap quilts, my favorite kind! We will also be having another "New 2 You Table" that night with donations of all kinds of quilting and sewing items. Then we take time at our break to browse through the items and find some "new" things that we can take home. It is a fun way to get new ideas from others and maybe find a perfect chunk of someone's leftover fabric. Also, a way to give new life to an unused gadget.

In March we kicked off our 2027 Quilt Show Committee Meetings. Thankfully, our past quilt show chairperson, Cathy Warren, has agreed to take on this vital position again with the help of Patty Lingenfelter. Now we can begin contracting with vendors and selecting a theme for our April 3 & 4,

2027 Quilt Show. We are pleased to announce that Trisha Tooker will be our Featured Quilter for the show. She is famous for teaching us all the fundamentals of quilting and her art quilts and miniatures are amazing!

April is our guild's 32nd Anniversary of its beginning way back in 1994. We will celebrate with some delicious homemade cake at our meeting! You will have one last chance at the April "North Quarter" meeting in Ukiah to purchase a ticket for our Opportunity Quilt which will be drawn on April 27, right before we unveil the new quilt for 2027. The new quilt was also donated by guild member, Kathy Osburn. She does beautiful work and is so generous to share her skills with our guild. We will be busy selling tickets for the new quilt at the Tehama District Fair, April 30 to May 3rd, and at the Redding Sew-Ciety Quilt Show that same weekend.

Our May meeting program will feature Janette Miller, followed by a Sweatshirt Jacket workshop on May 19, a week earlier than normal due to Memorial Day. So far, this workshop is not yet full if you are interested in joining us. At the end of June, we will celebrate our country's 250th birthday and 150th birthday for Red Bluff! We have been issued a special challenge to make small patriotic quilts and will spend a day sewing (and snacking) together, while we choose the challenge winners.

Plans are also being made for the end of July when we will welcome our Affiliate Members to our guild meeting. They will provide a "Show & Tell" all about what they do in their shops and businesses. More on that in the next newsletter...

MaryAnn Crain, writer

Sutter Buttes Quilt Guild of Sutter

We started out the meeting with the passing of the gavel from Vivian Riley to Diana Tatro as the new president of the guild. From there we went on with the usual. After business and show'n'tell and of course our lunchtime snacks, we had a workshop/demo on how to make and apply continuous bias binding on our quilt. I'm not into bias binding because I don't make anything with curved borders. Sometimes the fabric for the binding creates a great look by using bias binding. You'll have to try it sometime.

Because we have a shortage of people willing and able to machine quilt the many tops turned in to community service, we have started a new project – making rag quilts that don't require quilting or binding. This will speed up the process of getting quilts finished for the near future, and hopefully provide time for the unfinished tops to get finished and delivered to their intended recipients.

We have been having "After the Meeting" sew days. It will be interesting to see what new techniques will be shown coming up.

Come join us and see what's going on at the guild.

Sharon Easter, Rep.

Valley Quilt Guild of Yuba City

Early in March we put on our 43rd Annual Quilt Show at the Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds. It was the best we have had since the Covid epidemic and was enjoyed by all who attended. Our exit poll indicated everyone loved the show, the people, the quilts, and everything else you could think of. One of the highlights of Sunday was the presentation of the Quilts of Honor given to local veterans and first-responders. Colleen does a great job with the presentation and has some of us in tears because it is such an emotional event.

We had a good selection of baskets for our raffle. Among the many items was a sewing machine. Still don't know who won it, and I don't know who won the opportunity quilt either. Maybe this information will be in the next newsletter.

Upcoming speakers include Linda Wagner in April speaking about "Borders" and in May we will have Karen Bolan speaking about "Piece Curves and Play with Transparencies". Those both should be very entertaining.

We are looking forward to the trek to Ukiah. The trip should be beautiful with all the spring flowers in bloom. Hope to see you there.

Sharon Easter, Rep.

Happenings at Springer Run

What has been going on at Springer Run, is that I have been raising a litter of English Springer Spaniels! Yes, Hannah and Huck had a litter on January 8 at midnight and finishing up in the very wee hours of the morning. Adrenalin is a wonderful thing. It keeps you going for 38 hours no problem. You see after the puppies are born you must stay awake for another 24 hours to make sure that mama dog gets used to them and doesn't lay on one and smother it. After that you sleep very lightly in the recliner for 5 days just to make sure everything is fine. I set up a 4'x8' pen in the living room and a 4'x4' pen in the bedroom. Yes, in the bedroom. It's so nice to sleep in your own bed. But boy, are those puppies loud! For the next 3 weeks there's a lot of waking up and making sure the squealing puppy to moved and hooked up to the milk bar, so everyone gets some sleep.

The delivery went alright after I got the first pup out. You see, he decided to come out backwards. Instead of a little nose I was presented with two tiny back paws and the tip of a tail. The sack had already broken so he needed to get out of there, but I had to work with Hannah's contractions. Half of him was out and I could hear him making little puppy noises in the birth canal. I decided one final push, and he was coming out before he aspirated any fluid. Hank Williams made it and grew into the pick of the littler. He now lives outside of Reno and shares the space 11-year-old springer, Waylon Jennings.

I strive to put quality Springers out into the dog world. This time I was the only breeder within a 500-mile radius that had a litter. It's wonderful to pair up the right pup with the correct person seeking one. The puppies also have a say in the selection. They have to go to the person willingly or I call off the transaction. The big bruiser, Sherlock, now lives across from Mather Air Force Base with a man who had tears in his eyes when I said, yes, this is your dog. The smallest female is growing up in Cool with a couple that had always had Springers. Dottie will grow up in Colusa with a man that had looked for several years for another Springer when his past on. When saw my AKC listing he started yelling at his wife that there was puppy in Colusa! He called, met Dottie, she placed her head on his shoulder, and I said she is yours. Through tears he told me he is fight blood cancer and wanted a puppy to help him through it. He will make it with Dottie right beside him.

Not all people who contact you for a pup are the right fit. I had a terrible encounter with a man that just insisted that Dottie was going with him and he would "make" he hunt this season. Dottie couldn't stand him and hide behind some screens and then ran into the house. I told him that this pup was not for him. He continued to insist that she was going with him because he had driven all the way from Susanville to get her. I told him that it wasn't a fit and I knew there was no way I would ever sell him one of my pups. She would not have had a great life. I asked him to leave. He wouldn't. I realized that all the grown dogs were between me and him, so I informed him that my dogs are trained to hunt and protect me. Leave now! He stood and considered his options. Huck is very big and he loves to protect me. I could see this guy weighting the odds. Seventy-two pounds of protector dog vs. him. He finally left cussing the whole way.

The last pup, Freckles, will be living with two quilters! Jeff and Betsy live in Orange County and will pick her up in a week. I will miss her, but she will have a wonderful home, and I get to see her in June when I go down to speak and teach at the Orange County guild. I asked to stay with them so I will get to play with her.

I love my breed, English Springer Spaniels. I try hard to raise smart, loving, healthy pups. When I was growing up the Springer was the dog of choice in my area. As open ground has been planted in orchards the cover for quail and pheasants has decreased and water retrievers have taken over the favorite dog spot – labs. Now my Springers are an unusual breed here. That's fine. When I drive through town there are three Springers hanging out of the car windows with ears flapping and smiles on their faces and on the faces of everyone who sees them.

