

Meet This months CRQG Featured Member: Diane Johnson

- **How long have you been quilting?** I have been quilting for about 2 1/2 years.
- **What got you started in quilting?** I had always had a desire to learn to quilt but never had the time with raising a family, moving a few times, and holding down a full-time job. When I retired in 2004, I finally had the time to concentrate on some of the things I had always wanted to do. Quilting was first on my list!
- **Who taught you how to quilt?** I am a self-taught quilter. Once I decided to learn to do it, I purchased a Leisure Arts "how to" book and, with those instructions, hand pieced and hand quilted my first project. Shortly thereafter, I began to participate in Phyllis Schiwal's fiber arts group at the Woodie Fite Center. A multitude of quilters in that group were all members of the Cherokee Rose Quilt Guild and they provided the impetus to join the guild and to continue to learn new and more complicated techniques. What I didn't know before, they patiently taught me.
- **What are your favorite quilts to do, i.e appliqué, piecing, paper piecing?** I prefer piecing because it is what I know best. However, after the "New York Beauty" workshop we had this year, I have also learned to love the exactness of paper piecing. Appliqué is my least favorite skill. I have taken a few classes in the hope that I will learn to like it more as I learn to do it better.
- **What are your favorite colors to work with?** When purchasing fabric, I tend to gravitate toward the dark reds, purples, and blues. But I truly enjoy working with all colors.
- **Favorite fabrics, ie Batiks, floral, kid prints?** I love the look and feel of batiks!
- **Favorite Quilt shop?** The Red Hen in Marietta is a wonderland of fabric. I could spend days in there and never get bored. At the same time, I love the friendly feel of Qwiltz in Bowden. Now if someone would just open a quilt shop in Douglasville. . .
- **If you sew by machine, what kind of machine(s) do you use?** At home I use a Pfaff 7570, a gift from my husband, which I owned for 6 years before even trying it. When taking classes or sewing at guild meetings, I use a 1947 Singer featherweight.
- **What inspires you to make a particular quilt most often?** Fortunately or unfortunately, the picture on a pattern most often inspires me to make a particular quilt. That means I have sometimes tackled patterns that have really made me "stretch" my skills because I didn't have enough sense to avoid very difficult patterns.
- **Favorite quilting book or pattern?** My favorite quilting book is Better Homes and Gardens Complete Guide to Quilting. I use it all the time to review techniques and to learn new ones.
- **On average how many quilts do you make in a year?** I complete approximately 4 quilts and several smaller projects each year.
- **Do you quilt you own quilts or do you send them out?** I quilt my own quilts, most of them by hand. I am just now learning to use my sewing machine to quilt projects and hope to take a class in machine quilting soon.
- **What quilt related item are you working on right now?** Right now I am working on a Texas log cabin quilt that has been a major

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- **What other hobbies do you have besides quilting?** Reading and traveling are other past times I enjoy.
- **One way that quilting has changed your life?** Quilting has given me a greater appreciation for the hardships of the women who produced quilts from whatever materials they could find while providing me with a wide variety of friends who enjoy the same things I do.
- **Are you on any committees with the CRQG? If yes what committees?** I currently serve on the library committee and work with Phy Schiwal on the Quilt 'til You Wilt activities.
- **Feel free to tell us more about yourself and your family below.** After spending 38 years as an educator in Michigan, Texas, and Georgia, I retired from the Douglas County Schools where I served as principal of Bill Arp Elementary School. My husband Jack and I have 3 adult sons and one grandbaby who, fortunately, lives in Carrollton. We spend our summers at our lake house in northern Wisconsin.