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Hello All You Wonderful People,

Okay! I know you are wondering why I haven't gotten a newsletter out before now. It's been very difficult lately.

December 2nd – John fell on the ice while bringing in the Christmas decorations. It was the last box and he got too cocky and didn't watch his step. He got up – carried the box on into the garage and came in and told me he thought he pulled a groin muscle. He lay down and we did the things that we thought we should do. He started using a cane to keep from putting all of his weight on it.

About three (3) weeks later I suggested that we make a doctor's appointment to see if we were doing the right things since it didn't seem to be doing too well. That doctor had an x-ray taken and said he had fractured his hip and we needed to make an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon.

We couldn't get an appointment with the ortho for another two weeks. When we went in – he looked at the previous x-ray and said “Well, you need a complete hip re-placement. WOW!!

He set up surgery for a week later - January 21st. John went into the hospital – after I worked his little butt off trying to get the paints caught up before he was going to be off work for a couple of months – and came through the surgery with flying colors.

He's home and is down to using a cane – but still can't make paints for a couple of weeks. He's doing GREAT!!

In amongst all of this – my Mom (Ada Branch) died on December 22nd. A lot of you know her from both Artex and Cameo. She was a wonderful painter and was always in the fashion shows.

If it hadn't been for her help and encouragement, I could never have gotten this far, this fast, when I bought the Company and brought it up here to Michigan. She made sure that I knew that she was behind me 100%. She was right there for me emotionally, mentally and in every other way.

Those of you that have contacted me during this period of time to find out why you haven't gotten a newsletter already know all of this. And I want to thank you for your support and understanding at this time.

Now we will try to get back on schedule - eventually. Some things will be put off for a while since I am so far behind. I just couldn't sit down and concentrate on anything for a while there. Now I'm playing catch-up. Don't give up on me – I will get it together soon.

Let's deal with 'shipping'.

As of January 1, 2008, all orders from outside the Continental United States will be paying the complete shipping cost for their orders. I will find the least expensive way to ship it – but you will have to pay the shipping. I will put it on the invoice. If you pay with a “US Funds” check or money order, you will have to wait for a shipping amount to send it, or send the total for the invoice and I will send you an updated invoice showing the shipping and you will have to send that separately. I know most Companies do this all the time, but I thought I could get away with a ‘flat’ shipping rate. It isn't working. (Sometimes I will be able to get you a rate that is less than you are paying now.)

Those of you inside the continental US will stay with the present ‘flat’ rate shipping cost.

Now I'm going to do something a little bit different. I'm going to change the names of some of the paints that I have already put in the Line in the last year or so.

I noticed that folks were getting confused when I put the word “Ice” in the names of some of the regular paints. They thought that if it said “Ice” that meant that it was a Sparkle Paint. When John made the same mistake as he was getting ready to mix an “Ice” paint that was not a Sparkle, I decided that I had to do something. So what I am going to do is go back and re-name some of the paints. The numbers will be the same – the colors will be the same – only the names are being changed to protect you against confusion.

Instead of the word ‘ice’ I will use the word ‘pale’. So - 144 is Pale Pink, 180 is Pale Blue and 189 is Pale Aqua.

If the word ‘ice’ is in the name, it now means that it is Sparkle Paint. The only name change in the Sparkles is that 162 will be called just Blue Ice. (It's shorter and easier to write on the paint bottle.) Even though all Sparkle Paints don't have the word ‘ice’ in them – using the word ‘ice’ in the name means that it is a very pale, pale Sparkle Paint with just a hint of color in it. That makes it great for highlighting.

Let's get to the material prices now.

I have had to raise the price of material. These price changes are long overdue. I am including a new “Linens” page. Be sure to look at the new prices on the materials and make your customers aware of them.

I, also, raised the price of the Mini Flag (P322) to \$5.25.

The new Quilt pages are enclosed. There are twelve-piece quilts and six piece quilts. Be sure that your customers get a copy of these pages. Quilts are really coming back.

Think about setting up quilt classes with some of these. They will need to buy the set and all the paints that are used to paint them.

If you know how to quilt – make the last session an actual quilting class.

You could teach these classes in after school 'latch key' classes, or continuing education classes, or in a senior's complex, or in the prison systems, or maybe a weekly workshop in your home or mobile home community. Think about it. I want you to make money and have fun. One way to make money is to help others have fun.

New Paints

We have two (2) new paints this month. John got them mixed and bottled before he went in the hospital.

190 – Antique Gold

300 – Pink Ice (Yes, it's a new pastel Sparkle Paint)

IK – this increases the IK price to \$277.17. (This kit includes 1 of each paint in the Line and nothing else.)

January & February Quilt Blocks

I am starting two (2) monthly quilts right now. You can buy the first and second one at the same time.



Boy-01



Boy-02



Girl -01



Girl-02

Order in: ones=\$2.50 (1 quilt block & 1 transfer) {or} sixes=\$15.00 (6 blank quilt blocks & 6 of same transfer)

(There are various hats along with the main transfers on these patterns. You can use these on the in-between strips or place them at the bottom and top of the quilt blocks.)

The prices of the quilt blocks have gone up so the new prices for your monthly quilts have to go up too.

One (1) block will be \$2.50

Six (6) (remember that these are all the same 6) will be \$15.00

Be sure to adjust your class prices to show these increases.

That's all for now – will write more later. Just wanted you to know what's happening around here and all the new things and prices.