
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More...

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M-F 10:00a.m.-7:00 p.m. Sat 10:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun 12:00 noon- 4:00 p.m.

Volume 5 Issue 2

March/April 2005

What's New?

Greetings Everyone! What an explosive start we have already had for 2005! We remain extremely busy not only with the day to day operations at the shop but also with the work involved in planning the schedule of events for 2005. It promises to be a very fun and creative ride so keep posted. Teaming up with our neighbors is proving to increase your fun, our fun, and also their fun. A Garden Party is scheduled for April so stay tuned for details. We also have a confirmed date for our annual Triathlon so check that out as well.

Distribution of our newsletter in its new form appears to be working much better than we had anticipated. We are very happy that the avenues we created for obtaining the newsletter are working for you as well. One easy solution for anyone with a hardship or lack of computer or for whatever reason is to provide the pre-addressed and pre-stamped envelopes. We will continue to offer this alternative for as long as it continues to work for you. So far so good!!

Although we should be thinking "winter" the weather is calling out for spring!! The daffodils in the flower box in front of the shop are in full bloom. The shuffling and excitement in the neighborhood all point to the arrival of spring also. Lots of great classes are planned and we are sure that there is something for everyone!! We are also showcasing clubs that are forming and expect that these will

continue to grow so check out the class schedule to see for yourselves.

We can never thank you enough for your continued business and support here at the shop. The friendships we have formed are of utmost importance and are extremely valued and cherished. We are so glad to have you as part of our overall "team" and hope that we will see much of you throughout 2005. It's already proving to be a fabulous year!

"New" Stuff. Lots of our manufacturers and distributors recently attended the Craft and Hobby Association's (CHA) annual gathering in Atlanta. CHA is composed of hundreds of craft booths all promising to bring us lots of new and fun stuff. We are only beginning to meet with our representatives who are only a week out of the show so lots of new stuff will be showcased sometime in April. For now, here is some of what is going on at the shop.

A recent announcement from Duncan Enterprises stated that our beloved PSX (formerly known as Personal Stamp Exchange) would be closing. Duncan's intent was to keep their adhesive line and sell the PSX line but they were apparently unsuccessful at that time in finding an adequate buyer for PSX. We have since learned that PSX has been bought by Inkadinkado with Dimensions as the parent company. K&Company is also owned by Dimensions but will remain a

separate entity. We are thrilled to have this news and hope that it will put some of the concerns some of you have expressed to rest. PSX has always been a mainstay in the stamping world and we are sure that they will continue to support our endeavors with the same high quality work as they always have.

Hero Arts has introduced its new 2005 catalog which has many new and fun rubber stamping designs. A recently received order included many of these great designs. We can always depend on Hero for their great designs and low costs!

The new designs from Penny Black are fantastic and lend themselves well to many different techniques available on the market today. Check out the class schedule for some of these techniques. A whole series of classes is being offered using this great line of stamps.

We will soon be seeing rubber stamps from K&Company which we expect will be hot, hot, hot. Their new paper catalog is out of this world so we are excited to see some new and exciting papers adorning our shelves.

There is always lots of trade "gossip" so stop by and pull up a cup of tea. We always enjoy talking about what is going on and learning from you as well. Stop in often to see for yourselves!!

O *Accessories and More.*

More and more accessories are hitting the marketplace than ever before. Lots of new, improved, and fun stuff is already surfacing

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and CHA vendors have barely broken down their booths!

Rumors about Tim Holtz are springing up everywhere. Most recent is that he is introducing his own line of papers in two different sizes. Lots of other "stuff" is on his agenda as well so stay tuned for this one!! We can hardly wait.

Our recent introduction of some fun and whimsical yarns has been very successful. So successful you might say that the shelves are running bare. It is our plan to continue to carry these products and maybe include some other new and fun ones as well. As a point of information, the third Thursday of each month has been coined "Knit Knight" at Coffee To A Tea. This is a no host group whose intent is to knit, sip some coffee or tea, and have a fun and energizing night of knitting. If you are interested, just stop in. The fun begins at 6:30 pm.

We have recently received some very classy stickers from the Penny Black line. These were introduced at "A Night In Paris", but, since that time, new ones have also arrived and include a great sheet with a boating theme perfect for those hard to make male cards. More florals introduced at CHA are also on their way. In addition, we have introduced some great stickers from the Stamping Station located in Layton, UT. These stickers are postage sized and include themes such as China, Italy, France, Mexico, Hawaii, England, and Japan. Great for use with collage or as stand alones.

Some things that we should not forget about include:

- Several new designs using the Creative Cutter.
- Bottle caps in different colors and designs. These are HOT!
- Lots of scrapbook charms.

- Clear buttons in an assorted 45-piece pack that can be colored with permanent ink for embellishing a card or scrapbook page.
- Glue Dots in four different sizes used for attaching tidbits and embellishments.
- Dry Embossing brass templates with many different designs.
- Crafter's Pick Ultimate Glue.
- Lots of new papers including Stardream in text and cover weights. Also, a very cool find of 12 x 12-inch fabric paper whose colors are gorgeous. Excellent for book and/or journal covers just for a start!

There is lots more so stop in soon! Accessories arrive frequently so if we are missing something that you need do let us know.

Important Dates

- 1 Mar-Paper Connection Pick Up Date
- 17 Mar-St. Patrick's Day Anything "Green" at the shop-20% Off
- 18 Mar-Punch Balcony Bash
- 19 Mar-Auntie Amy Rubber Stamp Convention in Portland, OR
- 20 Mar-Auntie Amy Rubber Stamp Convention in Portland, OR
- 24 Mar-QuicKutz Club Mtg
- 27 Mar-Closed Happy Easter
- 1 Apr-Paper Connection Pick Up Date
- 8 Apr-Garden Party w/Coffee To A Tea
- 21 Apr-QuicKutz Club Mtg
- 22 Apr-Punch Balcony Bash

Newsletter Delivery

Just a reminder that we are no longer mailing the newsletter. The newsletter has proven to be a valuable resource so we want everyone to continue receiving it so here's how:

- Pick up from the shop.

- Print from the internet i.e., www.friends-n-company.com
- Provide us with 5 legal size #10 envelopes that are pre-addressed and pre-stamped and we will place your newsletter in the mail for you. Renewal of this method will be required each year.
- Paper Connection members will automatically receive a copy in their monthly boxes.

The Paper Connection

"The Paper Connection" has already exceeded our expectations and we can hardly wait to see membership grow in 2005. If you are looking for some fun and some surprises or for just something different, "The Paper Connection" may be what you are looking for!

So, exactly what is it all about? The Paper Connection is an innovative, fun, and perhaps unique approach to owning paper and is made up of club members who just love paper, love getting packages in the mail, or simply do not have access to some of the rich, vibrant, and high quality papers now available on the market. The club consists of membership with monthly dues of \$19.95 (plus tax and shipping). Each month, members receive a mystery package delivered directly to the address of their choice full of fun surprises and "stuff" which is all about paper. Membership also includes bonus items that will enhance your paper collection each month. Minimum membership is six months. Members receive a membership card valid for a 10% discount at Friends and Company on all stocked paper products during the time of membership. Sound appealing? More details are available at the shop, so do stop by or call to check it out.

Carolyn's Corner

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Dear Carolyn – The purpose of my letter is that I am so overwhelmed by the scrapbooking and rubber stamping industries that I hardly know where to start. My interests lean towards scrapbooking because I love photography but I also love the rubber stamping aspect. I don't have the time to devote to such creations as I have seen in most retail stores. Any suggestions you might have for combining my interests in this industry would be appreciated. Thanks for your help. Ginny

Dear Ginny – Thanks for your letter. I can certainly relate to your dilemma and, although there are lots of approaches that are possible, my first tendency is to point you towards a smaller sized scrapbook that could incorporate all the things you love or things you might learn to love. Instead of trying to complete one big scrapbooking project with multiple pages, consider something smaller like on the lines of a 6-1/2-inch x 6-1/2-inch journal instead. Lots of great papers are already cut to size to fit these and you can certainly personalize them with lots of your own photos as well as with rubber stamps, stickers, embellishments and lots more stuff. Most retail stores carry some type of journal and many of the accordion style have become extremely popular and are much easier to give away than something you have spent months and months on. The bottom line, Ginny, is that your involvement can be to whatever degree you wish to take it. Once you have mastered a smaller project, you might find that larger ones are less intimidating and that you actually like them since you are likely to use more photos in a larger project. Most folks pick one over the other, but rubber stamping and scrapbooking go very well together. Most of the products can be crossed over and are easily

interchangeable. Considering both as areas of interest will undoubtedly enhance any of your creative endeavors. As a parting thought, learn to keep it safe and, most of all, keep it fun. Hope this helps.

Dear Carolyn – I love the idea of using alphabet stickers and alphabet rubber stamps in many of my projects but I am bored with the same ones over and over again. I really can't afford to be constantly buying new ones so I was wondering if you had any suggestions for bringing a spark back into my work without all the expense of new stuff. What was once a lot of fun has become mundane and ho hum. I love your column and have read all your letters and responses on line at the Friends and Company website. You have always had great suggestions for other people so I look forward to hearing from you. Stephanie

Dear Stephanie – First of all, thank you so much for the nice compliment. I love making people happy and handing out suggestions that can be useful and fun. I am certainly fortunate to have an outlet that allows me to do just that!

I personally love working with a host of stickers and alphabet rubber stamps for many of my projects. If you recall in my last column, there was some discussion on mixing and matching to any degree desirable. Although your concerns are not exactly the same, keeping those options in mind is a good start. When it comes to lettering, a ton of options are available. For example, stamp the letter "A" on light blue paper and then cut it and mount it on a darker blue. Cut your paper into a square or make it round, or make it weird, or make it whatever shape you like. Continue with your project until you have all the letters

desired. Mounting it sort of gives it a shadow look. You could also crop the letters closely to get a true shadow affect. The same can be done with alphabet stickers so do keep that in mind. Another approach might be to use a marker pen with a large tip to add dots all over the lettering. Using a stylus, you could create and add texture to your lettering by rubbing it against something with character and interest. Add a button or two as an embellishment to create interest when using the letter "O". Use an eyelet or grommet to dot an "I". Punch your letters out in different colors and combine different colors into one word. Add stripes, circles, or anything that appeals to you. Good grief!! I just realized that someone could host an entire class on just the basics of lettering. I think I need to look into this. Stay tuned!! In the meantime, I hope this helps.

Round It Up **Fundraisers**

Because our 2004 fundraisers were so successful, our staff, along with lots of input from you, has decided to keep the "Round It Up" concept as a perpetual giving jar. This is an extremely painless way of helping where help is often desperately needed. It is amazing how it can add up by simply tossing your change into the jar.

Beginning with March collections, The Sweet Willie Foundation will be the recipient for such donations for approximately three months. If you are interested in more information on this foundation, we are very happy to provide it to you. Larger donations are also gladly accepted and are tax deductible!

With your help, Friends and Company donated a total of \$150.00 to Network Services. As you may

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recall, this organization provides help for the homeless in the local area. A huge need for mattresses was identified so we are very happy to make such a contribution in that direction. Many thanks to all of you who "rounded up" your purchases.

SENIOR NEWS

Our senior classes continue to offer a variety of techniques and lots of fun and camaraderie. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. with pre-registration required. The fee per class is \$10.00. All other class guidelines apply.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

- 2 Mar-Friendship
w/Diane Walter
- 9 Mar-Embellishments
w/Lindy Combs
- 16 Mar-All Occasion
w/Doris Goulet
- 23 Mar-Easter
w/Diane Walter
- 30 Mar-Bottle Cap Fun
w/Doris Goulet
- 13 Apr-Creative Stuff
w/Lindy Combs
- 20 Apr-Cards That Move
w/Diane Walter

FRIDAY CLASSES

- 11 Mar-Easter Fun
w/Sandy Huff
- 25 Mar-Just for Him
w/Sandy Huff
- 8 Apr-Thinking of You
w/Sandy Huff
- 22 Apr-Punch Fun
w/Sandy Huff
- 29 Apr-Just For Fun
w/Doris Goulet

Class Notes

Our class lineup for March and April 2005 is very exciting and presents many opportunities for fun and getting some spring projects started. All levels of rubber stamping are presented so there is something for everyone. Please

make note of the following guidelines:

- Receive a class discount of 10% off your purchase the day of class. Excludes already discounted or sale items, magazines, and holds.
- Pre-payment required on ALL class registrations. No exceptions.
- Acceptable payments are cash or checks which need to be made out directly to the instructor.
- Class cancellations require a 3-day notice for a full refund. Classes exceeding 3 hours in length require a 5-day notice. Other cancellation policies are noted in the class description.
- Should you become ill or are unable to attend for any reason, you are encouraged to send a friend or pick up your packet at your earliest possible convenience.
- Class packets must be picked up for unattended classes within two weeks of the scheduled class. Unclaimed packets will be donated.
- Most classes require cutting. If you have a favorite pair of scissors, please bring them. If you have an OTT light and want to use it in class, please bring it also. Bringing other items to class unless specified could result in the loss of your own tools so please refrain if possible.

We appreciate your becoming fully aware of these class policies and your understanding their need.

Other Stuff!

o A Review on Parking. Please remember that the parking lots are limited to only three hours and street parking is limited to only two. This also includes Sundays. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but lots are monitored.

Our very kind friends at Village Woodworks have given us the green light to use their great store as a walk-through from the old Penny's lot. For those of you not familiar with this lot, it is directly

behind the shop. This will save many steps and makes accessing our store easy from the back.

Exchange Policy. We will very gladly exchange unused items within 30 days of sale but a sales receipt must accompany your request. No returns or credits are allowed. We are sure that you understand the necessity for these policies and will support them.

Happy Birthday

Receive 25% off on any one rubber stamp as our special gift to you for your birthday. This offer is good only for rubber stamps we have in stock and can be used any one time during the entire month of your birthday. We will continue to verify your special day with your driver's license or other appropriate ID. Don't forget to change the batteries in all your fire alarms.

Tips and Things

- Have electrical needs? Contact Michael MacDonald, the shop's electrician at (206) 762-1183. Our new lights never cease to amaze us!! Have you noticed our new "night lights"?
- Need a perforator for making faux postage? Check out the new addition to the shop. Rents for \$10.00 per hour with great results.
- Lose your newsletter or want to refer a friend? Our website is at www.friends-n-company.com
- Love making and sending wildcards but hate paying extra postage? Complete your project as planned and slip finished wildcard greeting into a regular envelope requiring normal postage. Could not be any easier!! Great idea for square envelopes also.

HAPPY STAMPING!!
Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris