
Friends and Company

Rubber Stamping and More...

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www.friendsandcompanyblog.typepad.com

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What's New?

Greetings Everyone!! I think it is safe to say to everyone "Happy Summer". Weather seems to be cooperating and lots of BBQs are getting cranked up. Hard to believe that the 4th of July is just around the corner. Half of 2010 is now history Does anyone, besides me, wonder where it all went? Many of you know Kayla, my niece, who has now started her second year of college with the summer schedule. She was only 7 when we started this business. Just where did it all go?

Although we are calling it our "summer schedule", there are tons of classes being offered and a couple of BBQs of our own thrown into the pot. Should be a busy summer so do check it all out. We do hope to see many of you throughout the summer as classes evolve and events take place. We all need to keep our creative spirits nourished along with all the great "stuff" that summer has to offer.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 13-year, YES – 13-year anniversary in West Seattle. Save the 18th of September as a day of celebration, fun, and frolic. The WOWZA wheel will, of course, be part of the celebration along with lots of demos, make-n-takes and other great "stuff". It will definitely be a milestone that you won't want to miss.

The economy has definitely touched our lives here at the shop.

We know that it has for many of you as well. It is our hope and desire that better days are yet to come for all of us. Being a member of the Paper Connection helps us tremendously each month so we are grateful to all of you who continue to be members. We have said it many times before and we'll say it one more time. Thank you very much for all that you do. Come visit and sit a spell. We love to get caught up on what is happening!!

"New" Stuff including Accessories. Because of the economy, our cash flow has been less than desirable so arrivals are slower and more sporadic. Your patience is much appreciated. We are hoping beyond hope that things will improve and we'll be on our way soon.

We did receive a boatload of the Magenta Cat of the Month stamps through March of 2010. More are expected but probably not before August. At that time, we will likely place a full fledged order with Magenta so if you have any "wish list" items, please let us know.

Karen Lockhart just released 9 new images for summer and they are expected to arrive soon. You can check them out on her website www.lockhartstampcompany.com Let us know what you think. We would love to hear from you.

As always, paper continues to be a passion and we are always on the

lookout for more. The Paper Connection is key to making sure we have lots on hand which include many just released designs. The SKUs' are growing in Issaquah (about 600 now) and West Seattle has stabilized at about 1,500 SKUs. Now that is a lot of paper!! Speaking of paper... here's one heck of a SALE!! Check it out!!

Paper Sale

Now thru 3 Jul 2010

30% off for everyone!!

40% off for Paper Connection members!!

50% off for Paper Connection and Passport members!!

Valid at both locations.

Now that's a deal!!

We recently received a ton of the new folders and mats for the Cuttlebug, including 12-inch mats to accommodate the new and longer "things" that Provo is beginning to make available. We would call them "pretty cool" so do check them out. These are currently located at the Issaquah location but one of these days they promise to share them with West Seattle. If you know what you want/need, we

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are happy to transport them to the West Seattle location.

New stickers from Sticker King have also arrived. These inexpensive gems are fabulous for many projects and are very affordable. We love them and know that you will as well.

The Paper Connection

Many of you already know that The Paper Connection is one of our lifelines. We totally appreciate your memberships and hope that you will help us grow and introduce friends to The Paper Connection who would also enjoy being a member. Because this is a reduced version of our normal newsletter, we are not elaborating on benefits but if you need more information please check in with us at either of our locations.

Important Dates

1 Jul-Paper Connection Pickup
9 Jul-WS Street Festival
10 Jul-WS Street Festival
10 Jul-WS ATC Trade
11 Jul-WS Street Festival
11 Jul-Dex Club Meets in ISS
11 Jul-WS Closed
25 Jul-BBQ WS - Noon-2:00 pm
1 Aug-Paper Connection Pickup
1 Aug-DEX Club Meeting
14 Aug-WS ATC Trade
22 Aug-BBQ ISS - Noon-2:00 pm

Carolyn's Corner

Dear Carolyn – I am giving some consideration to having some designs manufactured for me. I really like them and they are my own art so I would love to have them especially for personal use. If it is possible and feasible, I would also like to make them available to the general public but I can see that as a huge expense. Any advice you would have would be greatly appreciated. Ruby

Dear Ruby – Well Ruby, the first step I would consider is having your designs made as custom rubber stamps for your personal use. There are companies who specialized in custom work. Some printing firms, as an example, might

offer this service. Let your fingers do the walking and get the yellow pages out. Having them custom made first would allow you to see if the designs are workable and exactly what you want before going to all the expense of turning them into rubber stamps suitable for the public. It is a costly endeavor, however, it may be just what you have in mind. If this is the case, I would encourage you to connect with a manufacturer who is willing to work with you. Marketing is extremely important so be sure you consider who your audience is before going to all of the expense. Don't forget to let your friends play with your custom designs to get their input. This could also be an important step. There is a ton that needs to be covered while pursuing this endeavor but this column is way too short. I would encourage you to connect with others who are manufacturing for the public. Most of these folks are more than willing to talk about it and pass on whatever advice they might have. First and foremost, proceed slowly so that you get exactly what you are looking for. Best of luck and let us know what you decide. We love promoting new companies and always wish them well.

Dear Carolyn – I love taking classes but my husband is currently unemployed so it really is not in the stars at this time. Other than magazines, what ideas might you have for keeping me artistically challenged. Katherine

Dear Katherine – Wow!! That is a loaded question. My very first thought is to get together with an instructor that you enjoy. From there, barter. Yep, good old fashioned bartering. Make cookie and/or cupcakes for an upcoming birthday party in exchange for a class. Again, cook several ready to go meals in exchange. Do handy work or housework in exchange for a class. The list is endless really

and it can be a win win for everyone. Attend free demos, free make-n-takes, or volunteer at your local rubber stamp and/or scrapbooking store. Think about these as possibilities. It'll keep you challenged to come up with meals also. Very fun!!

Class Notes

You will see for yourselves that the July and August 2010 summer schedule is chock full of fabulous, fun, and technique filled classes. We continue to offer a \$20.00 class coupon for any 2010 Passport member who completes 12 classes. This includes class packets as well, and, yes, this coupon is valid with every 12 classes attended. If you are new to classes and need to see our policies, please check in at either location. We'll be glad to help you.

Other Stuff!

o A Review on Parking. Please remember that the parking lots in West Seattle are limited to three hours and street parking is limited to two. It appears that parking enforcement has been very active of late so please be careful when you park. Street parking on Sunday is unlimited but the lots continue to be monitored. Issaquah offers a large parking area with lots of spaces (Yeah!!). We do not want unhappy folks because they got a ticket so.... make certain to pay attention to where you can park or not park while visiting West Seattle.

Tips and Things!!

O When dry embossing, place a piece of wax paper over the area you want to emboss. This makes the stylus tool glide making it much easier to emboss.
O Host a magazine trade. Saves money and lets you see way more magazines than you can afford.

HAPPY STAMPING!!

Until the next time,
Take Care – Doris