**Rocky Road to California: Block of the Month – July 2017**

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10 ½” square (unfinished)

Use two shades of the same color that read as solid (for example, pale green plus dark green, or yellow plus gold, or red plus pink, etc.) and white or white-on-white for the background. Mike Ellingson made this smart-looking block for the 2016 raffle quilt.

**Fabrics and cutting:**
Pale shade of a color:
- Cut 2 squares – 3” x 3”
- Cut 2 outer border strips – 1 ¼” x 9”
- Cut 2 outer border strips – 1 ¼” x 10 ½”

Dark shade of the same color:
- Cut 6 squares 1 ¾” x 1 ¾”
- Cut 2 squares 3 ½” x 3 ½” for HSTs (generous HSTs—trim to 3” x 3”)

White or White-on-white:
- Cut 6 squares – 1 ¾” x 1 ¾”
- Cut 2 squares 3 ½” x 3 ½” for HSTs (generous HSTs—trim to 3” x 3”)
- Cut 2 inner border strips 1” x 8”
- Cut 2 inner border strips 1” x 9”

**Instructions:**
Make 4 half-square triangles (HST). For 2, put a dark square and a white square right sides together (RST).

Draw a line diagonally on the wrong side of the white square. Stitch ¼” on each side of the line. Cut on line. Press seams toward the dark. Repeat for 2 more HST blocks. Trim each HST to 3” x 3”.

Using 2 dark 1 ¾” x 1 ¾” squares and 2 white 1 ¾” x 1 ¾” squares for each, make one four-patch block. Square it to 3”. Make 2 more four-patch blocks using the remaining 1 ¾” squares.

Top row: sew together the light 3” square to the white/dark 3” HST, and then sew those to a 4-patch block with the dark fabric in the upper left corner (see diagram for correct color placement).

Middle row: Sew together a white/dark HST to a four-patch (dark in upper left corner). Add a dark/white HST to the right side. Add this strip to the top row.

Bottom row: Sew a four-patch to a dark/white HST; then add a light 3” square to the right end. See diagram for correct color placement. Add to top 2 rows.

Square up to 8” x 8”. Add 1” x 8” white border to top and bottom. Add 1” x 9” strips to sides. Square up to 9” x 9”. Add 1 ¼” x 9” strips to top and bottom of block. Add 1 ¼” x 10 ½” strips to sides. Square block up to 10 ½” x 10 ½”.

**BOM Guidelines:** Each person may enter up to three blocks each month. Please include your name, address, and phone number on your block(s). Make it simple—stick your mailing label on the back of each block and add your phone number. If you have scraps left over, consider including them with your block, pinned to the back or in an attached baggie, for the winner to use in a border or other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the July 6 or 8 meetings, you may mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive before the drawings. Address: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc., 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. If we have enough blocks, we’ll draw at both the Thursday and Saturday meetings. If we get only a few blocks on Thursday, we’ll do one drawing on Saturday. You need not be present to win. We’ll call to notify winners. Blocks may be mailed to the winner or picked up at the MQ office or at the next meeting.