



The Goose Story

In the fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter flying in a V formation, you might consider why they fly that way.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately behind, enabling the followers to fly further for longer. The whole flock, by flying in a V, has at least a 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own, according to scientists. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. Quickly, it gets back into line to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing formation and another goose flies point. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot and falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or it dies. Only then do they launch back into the air to catch up with their flock.

Quilt Co. chose the Flying Geese quilting block as its emblem to emphasize the 'co-operative' nature of the group. If we share a common direction and sense of community, we will be helped along by the strength and enthusiasm of our fellow quilters. We will take turns doing the tough jobs, pass on our knowledge, applaud our successes and lend support to our friends.