

# Quilt # 58

**QUILT NAME:** “Heavenly Star”

**LOCATION:** **Country Rhoads Alpaca Farm** – Deb and Jerry Rhoads met Dave Oaks at the [Almelund Threshing Show](#) in August 2013, and Dave soon began to work on a custom 8 ft. by 8 ft. barn quilt for the Rhoads’ well maintained barn. This was the largest quilt square Dave had built at that time. It was installed in October 2013, and is easily spotted from County Road 9, north of Center City. The Rhoads’ barn is estimated to be at least 105 years old, according to Alyssa Auten, an associate with the Taylors Falls Historical Society. When the barn roof started to collapse, the Rhoads decided to preserve the structure. They are thrilled to once again have creatures sheltered in the barn, and Deb enjoys spinning alpaca fiber into yarn.

34145 Oasis Road (County Rd. 9)  
Center City, MN 55012

**ARTIST:** David Oaks, Stacy MN

Dave Oaks started “Barn Quilts by Oaksy” shortly after he retired. He really liked seeing folk art “quilt squares” attached to barns and wanted to pursue his creative interests. Dave has a part time job, and in the summer helps relatives farm, but he started building, painting and installing custom quilt squares at a few barns throughout the county. An article in the October 10, 2013 Chisago County Press highlighted some of Dave’s work (including the Rhoads’ barn quilt). A few months later, his dream of a self-guided barn quilt tour in Chisago County started coming to life when he was contacted by the local Foundation to be a partner in the development of a Barn Quilt Trail along the Highway 8 corridor.

Dave is a craftsman with an eye for artistic design! He built and painted 5 large 8 X 8 quilt squares specifically for the Swedish Barn Quilt Trail, and a few of his custom designs are included on the Quilt Trail brochure and web site. Dave is also the guy who cut marine grade wood and primed each of the quilt squares that local artists then painted for the barn Quilt Trail. He added a seal coat before installing them, to ensure that the barn quilts will last 6-10 years. Quilt squares are meant to hang on the exterior of a barn, but this project shows that you can customize any sized space with a “barn quilt.”

*If you are interested in a custom quilt, please visit [www.barnquiltsbyoaksy.com](http://www.barnquiltsbyoaksy.com).*