

small talk

Region N-1's Newsletter

Late Fall Issue No. 2

Representing Arizona, New Mexico, Southern Nevada and Southern California



Regional Coordinator's Report

Well, it's been quite a few months since I "volunteered" to take on the role of Regional Coordinator. I had a chance to meet several of you in Nashua, which was a wonderful Houseparty. I've had a chance to meet several of the N1 state reps or get to know them a little through e-mail or over the phone. The leadership team now stands at 8, with Ginger Anderson, Valerie Greenberg, Betty Hodges, Lori Lehman, Susan Sheridan and Marilyn Taylor (in alphabetical order!) all acting as State Reps, Sheila Benjamin taking on the role of Welcoming Committee "Chair" (though she is the committee as well), and Jenifer MacLowry taking on the role of Newsletter Editor (without whom, you wouldn't be reading this!) I've appreciate the support I've gotten from the team as I try to find my way around these new responsibilities.

Many of you know, from the Houseparty, that I had a hip replacement in August. Thanks so much to all of you who sent well wishes through e-mail. I had hoped to make it to Southern California for the State Day there in late September, but wasn't yet ready to travel. Now that I see the report and pictures from Lori Lehman, I know I have to put this on my calendar for 2009! October brought us the annual show in Tucson, put on by the Tucson Miniature Society. There was a NAME table in the show room and I think Donna Henricks spent most of her time manning the table. Thanks to Donna and to the show organizers for giving us the space. The State Day in Phoenix is just around the corner and we'll report on that in our next newsletter. And there is a Regional Coordinator's retreat following that in Nevada City, CA. I'm hoping to come away with a lot of good information about how to make our region a really successful region.

So many of you provided good feedback and ideas and comments on the region at the National meeting. But don't save up all your new ideas and thoughts until we meet in Indianapolis in 2009! Feel free to call me or drop me an e-mail. I'd love to hear from you.

Janet Smith
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Club News

Report from Nevada

Currently the Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiast club members are working on making the Flower & Gift Shoppe that was featured in the Miniature Collector in March & April 2008. One of our members is making it in 1/2" scale and I am making it in 1/4" scale. We did not meet during the summer months so began this project in Sept. We worked on the painting of the outside of the building at our October meeting. We are having fun learning and using the coloring techniques described in the magazine. We will have workshops on making some of the flowers and gifts to be placed in the shops through the next few months to complete the project. Many thanks to Kathy LaPorte and Norma Kesling for gathering all the materials and getting the pieces cut for the kits for our members to begin this project.

Early this year the club members worked on 1" scale holiday scenes inside gingerbread gift bags one of our members picked up at the Dollar store last season. We all worked on them and each one came out wonderfully. I even had everyone make a mini version of the gingerbread gift bags to place inside their scenes, complete with tiny hutch and iced cakes.

During 2007 the entire club worked year round on completing the Hallmark Spellbook scenes in 1" scale. We had an article and pictures featured in the Miniature Gazette last year, showing some of the work that was completed with these Spellbooks. We had fun learning to use paper clay to create the stone and brick work used in the scenes. Many thanks go to Mel Koplín who designed and cut the various wood partitions that were made for the spellbooks. He also created and showed those members how to create their castle spiral staircase for some of the scenes. We had 3 street scenes and the rest were wizard room scenes. Each unique by the member who created their respective scene.

The Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts have been meeting at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church this past year and want to thank them for allowing us the opportunity to use their wonderful facility to meet and work on our projects. We have moved around the valley over the past 30 years, as places have become available to allow ample tables, chairs, work space, parking and convenience for our members to attend on a regular basis. We meet on the third Saturdays of each month, except for the summer months (June, July, August) and hold a party in December at one of our member's home. We are open for new members and invite visitors to attend our meetings if they want to on our meeting dates. We currently have only one "miniature" related store in Las Vegas, which is Dansey's Hobbies located on E. Charleston. They advertise in all the miniature magazines, so please contact them for directions and store hours if you plan a visit to Vegas.

For more information or questions about the Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts please contact Susan Sheridan at susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net or visit our club's website <http://communitylink.reviewjournal.com/lvrj/lvminiature>.

Susan Sheridan, President
Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts &
Nevada State Representative



Subject: Close up Ginger Bread Gift bag scene



Report from Southern California

This is "Micro" Nelson Co-chair of the North Orange County Miniature Guild (NOCMG) for short. This year our group has had a lot of fun with a great idea produce by Donna Jacques, a mini murder mystery. We have done a miniature motel room in a Victoria Secret bag, on the outside we added "What is" Victoria's Secret. Each month we have been making something that goes into the bag and the story that Donna has written each chapter per month coordinates with the item. In December we will find out "Who Did It!" This project has pushed our ideas on unique mini items, for example: a coin operating motel bed, a dresser that holds a TV and mini fridge with towels, and black mail photos. It has been a lot of fun I can hardly wait till it is finished. Our meetings are usually the first Friday of the month, come see what we are working on. Micro

Report from Arizona:

The Tucson Miniature Society held their annual show and sale on October 18 & 19, 2008. The show and displayed projects were excellent. Children's workshops were held all day for ages 10 to 16. The NAME table earned over \$90 from the sale of magazines and grab bags. We also had displays for both the 2008 and 2009 Arizona State Day projects. The Tucson Miniature Show benefits the Comstock Children's Foundation.

2008 Arizona Miniature State Day will be held on November 8, 2008. The event this year is hosted by the Desert MiniMakers club. The project is called the "Closet Bed". It is a charming vignette. Desert MiniMakers always put on a great State day event. Project information and pictures can be found on www.phoenixminiatures.com

2009 Arizona Miniature State Day project will be hosted by the Small World Miniature Club and will be a Castle Fireplace vignette. Project information and pictures will be posted after the 2008 State Day is over. The date will be November 14, 2009 and it be located in Glendale, Arizona.

Small World Miniature Club will be holding their Miniature Show and Sale in Phoenix, Arizona on Feb. 21 & 22, 2009. The charity to benefit from the show will be the "Desert Mission" which provides medical and dental aide to children and families who can't afford it. It is administered through John C. Lincoln Health Foundation. Small World Miniature Club has had a miniature show for over 30 years.

Ginger

An Interview with this year's Ambassador Award Recipient

Every year, at the National Houseparty, the Regional Ambassador Award is given to one member within each Region for outstanding efforts in promoting NAME and the public awareness of miniatures and the miniature hobby. This year's recipient is Southern California's Sheila Benjamin. I talked to Sheila about what miniatures have meant in her life and what winning this award means to her.

Janet: Hi Sheila! Thanks for talking with me. Congratulations on receiving the Ambassador Award! How did you feel when you got the call that you'd won the award?

Sheila: I was astounded to say the least. I also felt badly that I was not there. It was the 1st National that I had missed in about 20 years.

Janet: I've seen you at several NAME conventions. How long have you been a member of NAME and what has it meant to you?

Sheila: I have been a NAME member for 28 years (and a Life member for about 2 years). And that famous question "what does NAME mean to you?" Well being a member of NAME has changed my life. I am not sure I can explain that but I will try. First I would most likely be divorced if not for NAME. My husband is a tournament bridge player and I was a bridge widow. Now I travel all over the country for my own hobby. My 2 kids are grown now but when they were younger and I traveled I compared it to going to camp, too much fun without any responsibility. So back to what it means to me, I have friends and

acquaintances all over the country. Some I see only once a year, some I see once a month but all are the most generous and giving people I know. They come from all walks of life and are people I would never have even met if it had not been for NAME.

Janet: How did you get into miniatures in the first place?

Sheila: I was always very "crafty", quilting, sewing, refinishing furniture and there was a miniature store near where I lived. So in 1980 my husband wrote me a beautiful poem to go with a doll house that he bought me. The poem said we would work on it together. Well that never happened but when I went to pick up the doll house the clerk introduced me to NAME and encouraged me to join. I did and signed up for a Houseparty in Las Vegas. That was the best Houseparty, each time I went into the sales room I was overwhelmed. I would rush out to the Poker tables where my husband was playing and literally scooped the money off the tables to pay for my new miniatures. I think we should have another Houseparty in Las Vegas.

Janet: What role to miniatures or miniature related activities play in your life at this point?

Sheila: I am very lucky, most of free time is spent thinking about, doing, planning or communicating with others about miniatures.

Janet: I understand you're President of a couple of clubs in Southern California. What do you do as President?

Sheila: Well I am not really the president. We have 2 very unusual clubs. One is an open club held at my house on the 1st Saturday of each month from 9:30 to about 4. Everyone brings their own lunch. They also bring their own project, kit or what ever they want to work on. We have no rules, no dues, no board, no board meetings, so of course no elections. I have found too many miniaturists do not want to do the "kit of the month". They want to work on their own things. Some, like myself, only do 1", some 1/2" and those with really good eyes do 1/4". With a club like ours you get to do your own thing. We all help each other with directions to kits that are too old to remember what they were supposed to look like. Or we give each other ideas to make it better. Some come just to share what they have done or bought on a trip or talk about the trip. Some are too ill to do any miniatures but come just for the friendship. My other club is basically the same but we are closed and have only 12 members because we meet at each others house. Each member hosts the meeting once a year and must

provide breakfast and lunch to the other members. Other than that we all work on our own projects as the other club does. Having clubs like this lets people who work best with fabrics do so while others who love wood get to do their thing.

Janet: And I've seen that one of the clubs is called the "Unfinished Kits" club! Great name! Just how many unfinished kits do you have???

Sheila: Over the years my "kit" collection has gotten smaller. But I am still too embarrassed to tell you, sorry.

Congratulations, Sheila, on winning the Ambassador Award!

Spreading the Word

Did you get this newsletter from a friend? But want your own copy? Or do you want to receive this newsletter at a different address? If you're a member of NAME, and want to get a copy of this newsletter directly, let us know so we can update our records. Just send an e-mail to desertminis@gmail.com. And if you're not a member of NAME, but are interested in joining or renewing your membership, you can do so on-line at www.miniatures.org.

Check Us Out!

Did you know that Region N1 has it's own website?! Check us out at <http://minis-n1region.org>. The calendar is there, and we'll be adding more information and pictures as we receive them. Do you have a favorite miniature link? Send the link and a description of the site! Does your club have it's own website? Send the link and the name of the club! Do you have pictures from a local event that you'd like to share? Send them and a description and date for the event! Please send them to desertminis@gmail.com!

Report on San Diego State Day Pirates Hideaway

Our decked out hostess, greeted the early morning guests to the tune of Yo Ho Ho and a bottle fun. After coffee and rolls each table got started working on their cave. The cave was actually a big round fruit basket that was formed into a cave using paper mâché by each of the hostess. This was a lot of work, but well received. Each person then was instructed on how to dry brush the walls of the cave to their liking. There

was also an opening 3/4 from cave floor for opening of the sky and water. Gift #1 was presented - A telescope

Next, work began on the skeletons. Using hair dryers to help bend the limbs. The skeletons were very fashionably dressed. Kits were prepared for each guest. These included: hats, eye patch, earrings, peg legs, hook, boots, vests, pants, scarfs and instructions on how to make. It was a hoot to see the creativeness by all. Another kit was a flask. A gun and a toby drinking mug were also painted

Gift #2 - Sea shells and crustaceans

This was all done before lunch was served. Salad, Teriyaki Chicken with vegetables and rice made for a nice break. After lunch each guest received a parrot then had a gift exchange. Bring a gift get a gift.

Work continued on making a trunk. What are pirates good for without a booty. Glittery beads, gold and silver materials, pearls, goblets and jewelry findings made for perfect effect. Another gift of rats and money were pleasantly received.

The guests were shown how to make skull/candles from samples passed around. Didn't want the fire extinguisher going off and spoiling our fun. Continuing on, guests were given a cannon kit and assembled. They looked pretty amazing. Gift #5 - Navigation equipment. Surely pirates would never get lost! An ancient game called Mancala was given out, along with card, flags, maps and bags (small of course) for the money and other loot. It wasn't long before we had to depart, but to go away, one last detail a "pirate ship" to sail way. Remember that 3/4" hole with the sky and sea, this where the ship sailed from.

The day quickly faded away, but we had some laughs, fun, lots of new friendships and another TREASURED DAY. The hostess for the day were: Debi Cerone, Buff Greaney, Marlene Griggs, Jackie Hoefert, Leslie Hopwood, Jeannie Jesse, Lori Lehman, Gloria Osborn (Captain Pirate), Lynne Raudaskoski, and Diana Whitney. It took over one year of monthly meetings to put a day with the Pirates Hideaway State Day.

With Sunshine and Smiles....Lori L



Micro Nelson and Donna Jacques from North Orange County Miniature Guild



Pirate Plunder



Regional Calendar

We try to include all the regional events that are open to any members of N1 who are interested in attending them. If you know of other events coming up in your area, please send the date, description, contact information and the associated website address (if there is one) to

desertminis@gmail.com.

Nov. 8, 2008

"The Closet Bed" State Day in Phoenix, AZ
www.phoenixminiatures.com/index.php?inc=2

Jan. 20-21, 2009

Tom Bishop Show in Anaheim, CA
www.bishopshow.com/southernca.htm

Feb. 7-8, 2009

"Nostalgia in Miniatures" Show and Sale in San Diego, CA

www.sdminiatures.com/shows.htm

Feb 14, 2009

Miniatures West Fantasy Show and Sale in Culver City, CA

<http://www.miniatureswest.com/>

February 21-22, 2009

Small World Miniature Club Show and Sale in Phoenix, AZ

www.phoenixminiatures.com/index.php?inc=3

November 14, 2009

"Castle Fireplace" State Day in Phoenix, AZ

2009 National Convention News

OUR FAMILY REUNION being held in Indianapolis July 16-19, 2009 needs your castoffs. It is time to clean out your miniature workrooms, closet or other storage areas for kits, houses, furniture, etc. you have never finished, don't have time to finish or if you are downsizing. DONATE these items to our garage sale.

Bargains galore will be had. The more we have the better the sale and more money for the next houseparty. Please, if you can, put in small clear plastic bags and bring them to the houseparty or contact me and I will make arrangements to get your great castoffs.

My email is cindymcdaniel@hotmail.com and please put "Garage Sale" in the subject.

You do not want to miss this houseparty though. We have a newly remodeled hotel (and very reasonable hotel rates) and no parking fees along with a great city to see. Bring the family!

Miniature Museum Coming to Arizona

A new miniature museum is currently being built in Tucson, Arizona. It is called the Mini-Time Machine and is scheduled to open in late Spring 2009. The Museum has not for profit status and will house the extensive collection belonging to Pat Arnell. She has been an avid collector and crafter since 1979. Three

main galleries will showcase three categories of miniatures : Antique, Worldwide Artisans and Fantasy. The Museum will feature modern display applications including inter-active displays that invite the visitor to participate. Many of you have visited her collection when it was housed in a building on her property. You are invited to visit again. More information about the opening date will be available after the first of the year.

Best wishes,
Pat

"Missing" Dollhouse

The Whittier Historical Society in California recently viewed the 1993 full-length film "Secrets in the Attic" produced by AIMS media and directed by Diane Haack. The movie was filmed almost entirely in the Simon Murphy house, one of Whittier's historic homes. It features a dollhouse resembling the Murphy home, which we believe the producers commissioned from Miniature Town USA. Because the film-makers could not afford to purchase the dollhouse, the agreement was that they would lease it, and then return the house to the builders. The dollhouse was fully furnished and included four dolls representing the grandfather, grandmother, granddaughter, and grandson characters.

Does anyone know where this dollhouse is today?

Ann Farmer
Whittier, California

Note from the editor:

I'm very pleased to be able to send out this email newsletter. If you wish to submit an article please email it to me and it will be included in the next edition. Jenifer MacLowry
(jenifermacl@mindspring.com)

N-1 Representatives

Ginger Anderson

(ginnymini@aol.com): State Rep., Arizona

Lori Lehman (bigalandlori@aol.com): State Rep., San Diego and Imperial Counties

Betty Hodges (beachbetty@aol.com): State Rep., San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties

Marilyn Taylor (mmstu@sbcglobal.net): State Rep., Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Susan Sheridan

(susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net): State Rep., Nevada

Sheila Benjamin (sheilabenjamin@aol.com): Welcoming Committee Chair

Jenifer MacLowry

(jenifermacl@mindspring.com):

Newsletter editor

Janet Smith

(desertminis@gmail.com): Regional Coordinator

Please Help

We're short a state rep in NM and a state rep to cover some of the So. California counties, where Marilyn is covering a pretty large area. We could also use a co-webmaster for the website. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at desertminis@gmail.com.

Get Your Own Copy or Not.

How to get added to the e-mail list (or subtracted from it). If you've gotten this message and don't want to receive regional updates or newsletters, drop me an e-mail. If you got this from a friend and want to be added to our N-1 e-mail distribution list for newsletters and other NAME-related communication, let me know. If you haven't figured it out yet, you can reach me at desertminis@gmail.com. Janet

Check out the photos on the NAME website.
www.miniatures.org