

small talk

Region N-1's Newsletter

Winter 2010

Issue No. 6

Representing Arizona, New Mexico, So. Nevada, El Paso, Texas, and So. California



Notes from the Regional Coordinator

Hello to N1! It's the start of a New Year and the beginning of our busiest show season. We've got shows coming up in San Diego, Culver City, Morro Bay and Phoenix...all in the next two months! I hope all of you are finding a local show and going SHOPPING! I know I will be. We had so many shows coming up that we sent out a special newsletter in December. Now we're getting back to our usual newsletter activities. In this quarter's newsletter, you'll find reports from several of our N1 clubs and notes about activities clubs are sponsoring later in the year. Jenifer is reviewing another book (I went right out and bought the book by Angie Scarr that she reviewed last time, "Miniature Food Masterclass" and it is wonderful!) There's a note about our upcoming State Rep/President's Retreat we're holding in April at the marvelous Mini Time Machine Museum in Tucson. There's an article about the National NAME day that is scheduled for October.

We are continuing to work on gathering e-mail addresses for all our N1 members to assure that everyone is receiving a copy of this newsletter. As usual, all club presidents are encouraged to print out copies of the newsletter and take them to their club meetings to share with those who may not have access to e-mail. If you've received notice of this newsletter from a friend, and not from me directly, please send me your e-mail address so I can get our records updated with your e-mail information.

Please keep in mind, also, that this is YOUR newsletter! We welcome contributions from anyone. So drop us a note to let us know what you are doing in your miniature lives including exhibits, shows, club projects, other miniature gatherings. You can send them to me (desertminis@gmail.com) or to our newsletter editor, Jenifer MacLowry (jenifermac@mindspring.com).

Happy Mini-ing!

Janet

Club News

The Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts

Happy New Year! The Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiast hosted a surprise baby shower for our member Corena Wickett. Her third child, a boy, so we gave a room box and everyone contributed furniture and accessories for it. Actually she needs another room box since she had so much furniture and items to place. She was happy and surprised with her gifts. We all had fun that day with her opening her gifts, and having a pot luck luncheon too.

The Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts held their annual Holiday party at the home of Norma Kesling for a potluck brunch and gift exchange. We had some really nice gifts this year. We also had two new members who experienced their first gift exchange and everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks again to Norma for hosting our party in her beautifully holiday decorated home. We all look forward to this event each year.



Plans for 2010, new projects are being discussed at our January meeting continuing work on the peddler paper mini project. Plans for another spring (April) Mini Sale & Trade Exchange which was a lot of fun last year. Cleaning out minis and mini related items that we don't use and finding treasures we can. Looking at the NAME Day project to do and to how best promote and make it a fun day will also be considered as a new project.

Photo of the Peddler Doll paper minis project the club is currently working on that we started in September. Norma Kesling completed hers and had it on display for us at our October meeting.

A photo of my quarter scale minis that I completed this past year. The Mini Shoppe, "Sunbathing" sunflower scene kit and two scenes from our quarter connection convention with souvenir and gift scenes filled with items from exchanges.





Here are the finished shops LVME worked on in 2009.

That's it for now. Best wishes for the new year!

Susan Sheridan, Las Vegas , NV

susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net

<http://communitylink.reviewjournal.com/lvrj/lvminiature>

The San Diego Miniature Crafters



The San Diego Miniature Crafters have put together a special contribution this past year. Miniature donations were gathered from members while Debra Cerone and Lynne Raudaskoski made a special roombox to be used as a fundraiser during a Tea Auction for "Hidden Valley House". Hidden Valley House is a safe haven for adults and children needing to escape from an environment of abuse: physical and/or mental. As a miniature group we want to share our hobby but also

help others with special needs. We were all thankful to the Hidden Valley House Auxiliary to allow us to donate in this way.

Jackie Hoefert

An important message from **San Diego Miniature Crafters**

I think most mini clubs are faced with the same challenge, how do we introduce more people to miniatures?

The San Diego Miniature Crafters are coupling that challenge with our desire to support worthy charitable organizations. In the past we have donated small amounts of money to charities that benefit children. Most of these donations were raised through opportunity drawings at our show. While we are always proud to support these causes, our donation was small and only a drop in the bucket for funds that are very much needed.

This year we are developing a project that combines these two challenges, mixing the desire for more charitable giving and introducing more people to miniatures by creating a miniature vignette that can be donated to a charity's auction. The vignette is more valuable than any cash we can give away, and by presenting information about NAME, our club and our show to display along with the vignette we share our love of miniatures.

These donations do not have to be complicated projects, perhaps a kitchen island with a sandwich and chips for a food bank, a fancy chair with a cat curled up for the animal shelter. Our first item was a room box with a tea party donated to an auction for the benefit of Hidden Valley House a local women's shelter. This auction was held as part of an afternoon tea and our donation was very well received raising more money than we would have been able to donate. We are keeping our ear to the ground for our next auction partner.

We hope to continue participating in local auctions, sharing our minis and promoting our craft...you never know where you will find a new miniaturist!

Leslie Hopwood, President

Announcing a merger...

Gold Coast Mini has combined with the **Miniatures Unlimited** of Santa Barbara. They will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. They have plans for making pull toys, having a big pot luck, and taking trips to tour miniature stores. We wish them every success with their future plans and hope to hear more from them in the future.

The North Orange County Miniature Guild celebrated its Christmas party with their annual exchange of gifts. This year the gifts were “kitchen stuff” to kick off 2010’s theme of “Anything in the Kitchen, Including the Sink.” The talent and imagination of our members leaves me in awe. Each item is a treasure.

Laura Crain helped us start off our new theme in January with a selection of tables and chairs to sand, paint and distress. We also had our second annual auction in January so that members could spend their Guild Bucks and add to their collections. Loads of fabulous items were donated and sold. The laughter and deal making made for a good time, even during fierce bidding wars.

In case you’re wondering about the Guild Bucks, at each meeting attending members can earn them through attendance, sharing completed miniatures, finishing that night’s kit, bringing in a new member, creating a kit to teach, and other incentives to keep our guild strong. They simply fill out a form and turn it in at the end of the meeting.

Finally, kudos to Joann Haugen, for not only finishing all of last year’s kits, but for artfully arranging them with the 2008



Christmas exchange treasures in an exquisite room box.

Jenifer MacLowry



Challenging Times for Non-profit Organizations

Being the creative thinkers that we are, NAME is planning for the future. The next three articles show you how one club is taking a more active role, how our great Region N-1 is moving ahead, and finally, how NAME, itself is finding a way to unite us all.

From San Diego Mini Crafters

San Diego Miniature Crafters (SDMC) has been meeting at the Allied Gardens Recreation Center for nearly thirty years. In that time we have been careful stewards of the facilities and have been very appreciative to have a stable meeting space at an affordable fee.

Like many cities, San Diego's financial circumstance has become extremely difficult and the city has instituted a new fee structure to offset costs. This new schedule raised our fees from \$72 a year to about \$2,000 a year. To add insult to injury, the city did not meet requirements for posting the changes and notices for public input, having the affect of our not being able to participate in the process and catching us unaware.

To further confuse things, the Recreation center instituted new 'operational hours' vs. 'non operational hours' with very different fees. Any one using the center before 2:00 on weekdays has to pay about \$40/hour, if you use the center during the after school hours, and if there is space available, fees are \$5/hour.

Perhaps the simple solution to our problem is to simply move our meeting to an affordable time. I don't see this at the top of our solutions. We are fortunate to have many charter members still active in our club of thirty nine people and driving too far is a hardship. After years of meeting at 10:00 am, work and school schedules have changed to adapt to our meeting time; changing too much will cause us to leave our senior members behind (bad karma!), our young members can't get home in time to get kids home from school and who wants to be on the freeway during rush hour?!

In addition to organizing our February show, preparing a club project under a glass dome, working on a new philanthropy project and welcoming five new members - we are taking on city hall!

We have had numerous meetings, including sitting with the council member for the area. Our efforts have uncovered some interesting circumstances, including the issuance of a Special Use Permit for the Kiwanis allowing them to continue their morning meetings, but not for us. We offered a proposal to the city council that would develop a volunteer group (modeled after the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol) to staff the center and allow groups to use the center at the 'operational hour' rate, the council has failed to respond. We are now a member of a sub-committee at our Recreation Council to examine how they might help us to stay put at the center.

If you are scratching your head about now, well we are too. We have a public facility that had nine groups using it during week, all but one have been chased out by too large a fee increase. The building now sits under utilized until after school. The San Diego Union Tribune wrote an article recently and took photos of Mini Crafters left in the parking lot and volleyball players on the court for the last time.

We want to stay in the Recreation Center, we are trying to work within the system and understand a need to reevaluate the fee structure, but to balance a broken budget on the backs of small groups using a neighborhood public building is a poor solution.

No one knows how this will turn out, although I am sure the City of San Diego considers themselves done with us. Perhaps stupidly optimistic, I am hopeful that reason will prevail and we will again be able to meet at our home of thirty years with every one in their familiar seats.

Leslie Hopwood, President



PHOTO BY EARNIE GRAFTON Trudy Rogers (right) held her miniature with her friend Gloria Osborn outside the Allied Gardens Recreation Center. Their group's fees would be nearly \$2,000 a year, up from \$72.

State Rep/President's Retreat

What is a State Rep/President's Retreat? It's a chance for the leadership team of the N1 region to get together to discuss how things are going in the region and how we can improve our member's experience of NAME and keep our membership and hobby growing and vital!

Date: April 17th, 9-5-ish

Location: The VERY AWESOME "Mini Time Machine Museum" in Tucson, AZ

Who's Invited: All State Reps, including those with Club/County/State Responsibilities and those with special responsibilities (Welcome Committee, Newsletter Editor, Webmistress) and all Club Presidents. If a Club President can't attend, they are welcome to send another volunteer from their club to the retreat. State Reps who are also Club Presidents can also send an alternate member of their club.

What Happens: We won't have a project for this retreat as we'll be spending time during the day enjoying the museum and exhibits. But we'll be working as well, discussing topics including:

- What's working and not working for clubs with respect to member retention, recruitment, satisfaction
- What additional support from NAME would help with respect to clubs
- Club President responsibilities, including annual reports, etc.
- State Rep responsibilities, who's continuing on, who's not and who should replace any retiring state reps
- Regional awards...should we have them and who should get them
- Regional funds and ideas for using what we have
- Newsletter and website contents and contributions and what we could be doing better
- What more can NAME do to support the state reps?
- What more can the RC do to support the state reps?
- What more can we do and can NAME do to support the hobby in general?

National NAME Day

October 2, 2010

What is the National NAME Day? The goal of the National NAME Day is to unite and involve all members of NAME by doing the same project on the same day at different locations throughout the US and internationally. This idea has been floating around for some time now, but there is now a confirmed date! A committee was formed at the RC Retreat in Indianapolis and a hutch project was designed.

Events, centering around this hutch project, will occur both nationwide and internationally ranging from large regional or state-wide events to small



local get-togethers. This will be a day for NAME MEMBERS only. We don't

often have local events for NAME members only so please keep this in mind. Each local group would determine how they would like to use the hutch.

One

group might want to rent a recreation room at their Parks Dept. and paint the hutch black and fill it with Halloween items and have a Halloween party complete with costumes. Another group might want to meet at a local shop and do a shabby chic hutch and focus on painting china, while another group might want to meet at a camp and do a whole weekend of woodsy themed things for their hutch. The great thing about this project is that it is extremely flexible, allowing for the excitement and individual tastes to shine through, while still focusing on a central idea.

Can we support this effort in N1? Our own Sheila Benjamin is part of the committee working on this. Maybe there are a few clubs who would like to have a special project day, or invite other local members who aren't involved in clubs to join in? Maybe there are individuals who would like get some friends together on the 2nd to work on this kit? There are preliminary plans to hold a "virtual" NAME day, where kits are sent out ahead of time and we gather in a chat room to celebrate the day together. If you're interested in hosting an event, let me know or contact Sheila (sheilabenjamin@aol.com) or another member of the committee for more information. If you are interested in participating in a "virtual" NAME day, let me know (desertminis@gmail.com). It would be nice to know how many people would find this option appealing. Janet

Events



Tom Bishop's January Show



were not disappointed. Many dealers returned after an absence, Susan Harmon Hatler, Jane Graber, Glenda Hooker, Karl Blindheim, and Sharon Cariola to name the few I noticed. All the usual great dealers were there as well, ready with new items or bargains to tempt every pocketbook. We returned Saturday and stayed the whole day. It was only when I got home and looked over the program that I realized I had missed several people I wanted to see. The time went way too quickly for me.

We went armed with umbrellas and raincoats on Friday night just in case. Nothing was going to deter us from the first of the onslaught of shows happening in the next few months. And we



Photos show Tom helping Lilli Ann Hamilton arrange her display, Susan Harmon Hatler all ready with her new line of kits, and Laura Crain with a small portion of her creative display.
Jenifer

February 6 & 7, 2010 - San Diego, CA
San Diego Miniature Crafters presents its 36th Annual
"Nostalgia in Miniatures Show and Sale".
Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd. San Diego
10:00 to 5:00 Saturday and 11:00 to 4:00 Sunday
\$7.00 Adult (\$1.00 off with flyer coupon)
\$2.00 Children from 8 to 12, Special table and class for children
Contact: Buff Greaney for motel information, coupon and class ages
858 748-1944 email: davnbuff@cox.net
For more information, see : San Diego--<http://www.sdminiatures.com/shows.htm>

February 13, 2010 - Culver City CA
Miniatures West Show
Radisson Hotel, 6161 W. Centinela Ave., Culver City, CA 310-649-1776
9:30 to 4:30 - One day only
Adults \$6.00 (discount with valid NAME membership card)
Children 6 -12 \$3.00 No baby strollers please.
Contact: Vicki Saltzman 949-858-5637
Pre-registered classes February 12 and 14
For more information, see: miniatureswest@aol.com

February 20 -21 - Morro Bay, CA
The Dollhouse Miniatures Show & Sale
Community Center, Morro Bay, CA
For more information: Mike & Cherrel Botkin 805 -772-7858 or
Imcinis@att.net, Linda Shearer 805-772-7202 or
SimplyHeart1@att.net.

March 13 - 14 - Phoenix, Arizona
Small World Miniature Club
32nd Annual dollhouse Miniature Show & Sale
Arizona State University West 4701 West
Thunderbird, Phoenix, AZ 85069
More info: www.phoenixminiatures.com
Pre-registered workshops on March 12 and March 15
See list of classes, photos and contact info at end of Newsletter

April 17, 2010 - Tucson, AZ
State Rep/President's Retreat
Mini Time Machine Museum, Tucson, AZ
Open to all State Reps and Club Presidents of Region N-1

June 12, 2010 - Albuquerque, NM
First Annual New Mexico Play Day
Albuquerque Mini Makers
One day workshop "Seasons of New Mexico" 1/2" scale porch scene
Cost \$50
Limited to first 35 registrants
For more information contact Jeri DeButy, jsdartisan@gmail.com or
(505) 301-4360

October 2, 2010 - NAME, USA and Canada
National NAME Day
For more information about hosting this event in your area contact
Sheila
(sheilabenjamin@aol.com)

November 13, 2010 - Glendale, AZ
Arizona Miniature State Day - project 1/12 scale "Patio Shop"
Small World Miniature Club
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 6300 W. Camelback Rd., Glendale,
AZ 85301
Limited to 75 participants. Send check or money order for \$65 made out
to **Small World Miniature Club**
Mail to: **Ginger Anderson**
515E. Carefree Hwy #113
Phoenix, AZ 85085
See a sample of the Patio Shop at our March 13 Phoenix show.

Three reviews of old books for a new year.

The Complete Miniature Quilt Book by Dinah Travis. Originally published in 1998, it is available new or used. If you love to quilt or if you just want to achieve the quilted look on your mini bed, there is a quilt for you in this book. Modern to traditional, Hawaiian to Crazy, hand sewn to painted or stenciled, quilts are available to match your talents. The directions are well organized, helping you plan, and include a clear list of materials needed. There are large pictures of each quilt and drawings of each design. Once you have completed your quilt you will find several directions for making beds (from double brass to crib), mattresses, blankets, and sheets as well as a quilt stand. Your next project just very well may be a quilt shop after reading this book!

Malice in Miniature by Jeanne M. Dams, A Dorothy Martin Mystery, published in 1998. This mystery takes place in a sleepy English town. Dorothy Martin is a retired American school teacher who conveniently is married to the Chief Constable of the town. There have been some missing items at the local Doll House Museum and Dorothy puts on one of her most outlandish hats and sets off to solve the mystery which now includes two murders. Stylishly told, loads of humor, escape to England and the world of miniatures – I personally couldn't ask for anything more, except a cup of tea. Great entertainment.

Among the Dolls by William Sleator and illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. This book was originally published in 1975 and was listed on a favorite read aloud list by Librarians. Best to find a used library edition for the fabulous Hyman illustrations. It is appropriate for children in third grade and up. Boys and girls like it as well as adults into their mini childhood. This is a great story of a young girl who mysteriously gets sucked into her own dollhouse and has to deal with some dolls with some very strange habits while trying to find a way back into her own world. The chapters are short with little teasers to make you want to read more. This book has stayed with me, I always check on the comfort of my mini beds and sofas, making sure the dolls are comfortable. You never know . . .

Remember to check with your **local book stores**, new or used, and support them before going on line to shop. Happy Reading!

Jenifer

Region N1 Leadership Team

Regional Coordinator, N1: Janet Smith (desertminis@gmail.com)
State Rep., New Mexico: Heather Cutting-Rayl (hcrsold@aol.com)
State Rep., Arizona: Ginger Anderson (ginnymini@aol.com)
State Rep., Southern Nevada: Susan Sheridan
(susanminispecialteas@earthlink.net)
State Rep., California: San Diego and Imperial Counties: Jackie Hoefert
(jhoefert@sps.com)
State Rep., California: San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties: Betty Hodges
(beachbetty@aol.com)
State Rep., California: Riverside, Orange, San Bernadino and Part of Los Angeles Counties: Nancy Robertson (nanrob9@yahoo.com)
State Rep., California: Santa Barbara and Part of Los Angeles Counties: Valerie Greenberg (valeriembishop@yahoo.com)
State Rep., California: Ventura and Part of Los Angeles Counties: Marilyn Taylor (mmstu@sbcglobal.net)
Welcoming Committee Chair: Sheila Benjamin (sheilabenjamin@aol.com)
Newsletter Editor: Jenifer MacLowry (jenifermacl@mindspring.com)
Web Mistress: Cynthia Howe (cynthia@cynthiahoweminiatures.com)

Workshop details for the Phoenix Miniature Show

2 of these projects are 1/48 scale and 2 of
them are 1/12 scale.

FRIDAY workshops March 13, 2010

_____ Christmas Cabinet (1/12 scale)
by Sue Thwaite (Ladybug) \$160
(limited to 10 people)

_____ Fabrique Shop (1/48 scale) by Luci Hanson
\$69 (minimum of 10 people)

(no photo available)



MONDAY workshops March 15, 2010

_____ Canopy Bed (1/12 scale)
by Nancy McEwen
\$85 (limited to 8 people)

_____ The Tischi Castle (1/48 scale)
by Luci Hanson \$69
(minimum of 10 people)
Lighted castle built around a tissue box
in the middle section. (No photo available)

Include name of workshop with
check or money order made out to **Small World Miniature Club**

Mail to: **Ginger Anderson**
515E. Carefree Hwy. #113
Phoenix, AZ 85085