

small talk

Region N-1's Newsletter

Spring 2011

Issue No. 11

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



Regional Coordinator Report

Spring time is here and the warmer days will be close at hand and hopefully inspiring you to be more creative with your miniatures.

Region N1 Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 30 in Las Vegas, NV. It is limited to 30 people. State Reps and Club presidents get first priority to attend. We are meeting to plan some goals and activities for our Region and how to best meet our members' needs and promote new memberships. There will be a half scale *Cupcakery* workshop provided to the attendees. I will be providing instructions with supplies and tools for this project to the region after the retreat, so clubs can use as a club workshop if they like.

We are still in need of your help with our region. One is a replacement for the Welcome Coordinator, as Sheila Benjamin is looking to step down and also someone to help be Newsletter Editor, Jenifer MacLowry has been doing the online newsletter for the past two years, she would like to take a break from it. Both positions are very beneficial to our region, helping in communications to welcome new members and to all current members on what is happening in our area. Please let me know if you are interested in stepping into these positions and or if you would like to recommend someone to this position. It would be much appreciated and very important for our regional progress.

State Reps and Club presidents: this is a reminder to begin work on and to complete this year's annual reports. Club presidents need to get their reports to their State Rep by May 15 and State Rep reports are due to Regional Coordinator by May 31. This is early notice and an email will be sent out to remind you. NAME needs these reports for the nonprofit status for budgeting and tax purposes. We really need your help in providing these reports.

As a volunteer I understand the time and commitment it takes to fulfill the duties I step into. I work a full time job along with my family obligations and life has a way of sending us some lemons which we can turn into lemonade to make it easier on ourselves. I appreciate each of you who are our region's State Reps, Club presidents, newsletter editor, welcome coordinator, web mistress and NAME members for your time and commitment to help our Region. You each provide and communicate the fun of the miniatures hobby. Friendships and new friends can come from sharing your experience in making and or collecting miniatures. The responsibilities to a position can help you grow as a person and to learn even more on having fun.

I hope that each of you continue to share your expertise or experiences in what you know or create in miniatures with others. Miniatures have a way of capturing current or historical styles or special moments or themes in three dimensions in scale to represent a small history of our lives.

Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

Susan Sheridan, contact me at ssheridan@clear.net, 702.876.5637 home phone
Regional Coordinator N-1

Region N1 Leadership Team

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State Rep., California: Riverside, Orange, San Bernadino and Part of Los Angeles Counties: Nancy Robertson

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N.A.M.E. Board Report

from Janet Smith, R.C. Liaison

Highlights from the January board meeting (Unfortunately, I wasn't there as my doctor had grounded me due to a case of bronchitis, but I understand it was a good meeting and much was accomplished.)

1. We are looking into hiring some part time help to assist Kim and Toni with some of the secretarial aspects of their job and are looking into hiring someone to do the cleaning of the office (as this really shouldn't be part of their jobs.)
 2. Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.
 3. We discussed our current investments and discussing moving these into different funds/CDs such that all of our current monies are covered by FDIC insurance. We discussed the financial ramifications of having no Regional Houseparties scheduled for budget years 2012-2013 or 2013-2014 (none were currently scheduled.) We are on track, financially, for this fiscal year. (During the meeting, an application for a small scales regional houseparty in 2014 in Greenville, SC was approved!)
 4. We continue to struggle with the current reporting available through our systems to accurately track existing member counts. However, these do seem to be dropping and we spent time looking at recruitment possibilities. We also have picked up two more business partners recently. Business partners are listed on the web and we should support our business partners whenever possible.
 5. Office Systems work has begun and is being led, from a technical perspective, by Tom Walden. Many thanks to Tom for offering his services to NAME in this fashion.
 6. The 2011 project for NAME Day is being developed.
 7. All NAME clubs are now renewed or have been identified as inactive or disbanded. We currently have 257 active clubs. **Highlights from the February board meeting**
 1. The nominating committee for next year's elections has been approved.
 2. We updated our policies on membership types to reflect our current membership levels (e.g. individual, family, lifetime, etc.)
 3. We are looking into ways to allow members to renew their membership through the website using paypal.
 4. The Charlotte houseparty logo has been approved.
 5. A regional houseparty in Lexington, KY was approved for 2013.
 6. Most of the work on the RC/SR manual has been completed
 7. We're planning to set up an on-line survey about the NAME website. We would appreciate input from everyone on what you like and what you would like to see.
 8. We discussed the NAME boards that were purchased for regions to use at the NAME tables. Things that have been purchased before are lost.
 9. We reviewed our fundraising efforts for the year, including gazette raffles and opportunities coming up at Cleveland (If you're not planning to attend, you should!)
 10. We're working on "bookmarks" to give out to advertise NAME and for a public relations sheet.
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Receive this Newsletter online!

Note from Sheila Benjamin, Welcome Coordinator pro tem

I would like you to remind anyone who is not getting the newsletter online (if the club president gives it to them, a copy gets mailed, a friend passes it along), it means NAME does not have a current email address for them. If they would send their new or updated email address to me I will make sure that the next issue they get will come directly to them. My email address is sheilabenjamin@aol.com. At the moment we have just under 75% of email addresses for our region. It would save us money if we could move that figure up to over 90%.

Club News

Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts

submitted by Susan Sheridan, Vice President



Hello from the Las Vegas Miniature Enthusiasts!

The club is currently working on making 1”

scale leather round topped trunks taught by Janis Fuji and Laura Bloch. This will be completed at the March meeting.

Plans are to work on a project from the Dollhouse Miniatures magazine making the Spice of Life scene which will take several meetings to complete starting in May.



The Region N1 Retreat will be held in April and the LVME's will be helping host this event as well.

Expect to have a nice gathering to help our region plan some activities in the coming months.

Pictures from the last few meetings can be viewed at <http://www.PictureTrail.com/minispecialteas>

Minis in Paradise Scottsdale, Arizona

Submitted by Robert Ravenwood

MINIS IN PARADISE meet the first and third Thursdays of every month. Our theme for projects in 2011 is two-fold. We are doing pieces for a workshop/garage and also for a Japanese teahouse/garden. We have had some great ideas so far and as we get further into the year we

have new ideas pop-up. So far we have made a gazing globe for the garden, a bamboo plant and a workbench with pegboard (for the tools). Our upcoming projects will include a ladder for the garage and a tea service for our teahouse.

The bamboo plant was very fun and we thank **Nancy McEwan** for joining us that evening to teach the class. Nancy has great energy that she brings to her teaching. Everyone had a really fun time.



Our first project of the year was not connected to our themes but everyone was so excited that we did it anyway. In the November 10 issue of *AMERICAN MINIATURIST* magazine there was an article entitled “*Making a mini java maker*”. The instructions were pretty straight forward, so we made them and had a great time with some pretty good results.



Along with the fun we also had some distressing news in December. Our good friend and club member **Peggy Stoker** was taken to the hospital with pneumonia and was in very grave condition. It was not clear for a while if she was going to recover, but thanks to the medical staff and their excellent care she went home in early March. She still is not 100% but is improving daily. We can't wait to have her back with us at our meetings!

Happy mini-making!

Mini Empire Miniature Club submitted by Nancy Robertson

The Mini Empire miniature club of Upland/Claremont is working on 'Le Shoppe' by Luci Hanson. We are working on this project during our monthly meetings. The shop can be anything you want it to be. There are three of us that are doing fabric/quit shops, a flower shop, a jewelry shop, and several of us haven't yet decided on what type of shop this will be, but we are all having fun helping each other with how to finish the exterior of this little shoppe. Then another fun part, putting everything inside your shop. Look for photos in the next edition of *small talk*.

Central Coast Miniature Club submitted by Betty Hodges

The Central Coast Miniature Name club meets at the home of Betty Hodges once a week on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 5:00. We have been learning new techniques. Beading is one of them. Our trees are now covered with beaded ornaments. Another fun project has been making hats and hat related items. We have used them in displays for the annual miniature show and are now planning a hat shop that will be auctioned at the show next year.



Janet Smith recently taught our club how to make a pie and tomatoes with seeds in 1/48" out of fimo! It was the first time we had experienced such a small scale. It was so much fun!

We also hosted a NAME table at the Central Coast Miniature ← Show.

↓ Our auction project this year : 1/2" *Itty Bitty Baby Shoppe*.



We also attended the Seattle Houseparty, visited the White House at the Reagan Museum, took classes at the Good Sam show, had mini Retreats at Pine Mountain, and spent the day visiting the home of a friend who has a fabulous dollhouse.



What fun we had at our annual Christmas Tea! We invite anyone who will enjoy our activities to join us when we can. Our goal is to show our friends how much fun being a NAME member is!



Your Club's article and photos could be **right here** next quarter. Won't you please take a moment to take a few photos and write up a brief or not so brief account of what you have been up to in the delightful world of miniatures? Just email me and I'll do the rest. By sharing you give others encouragement and new ideas. See the last page of the Newsletter for directions on how to submit an article. The editor

Mini-Imaginations, Torrance Submitted by Jenifer MacLowry



Mini-Imaginations miniaturists have made some headway on their current project which is based on the indoor/outdoor scene on the cover of the May 2002 *Dollhouse Miniatures* magazine. In February we placed the faux bricks on the outside walls and stuccoed the walls. In March the door and window were framed, I need to hide mine from my brother, the building inspector, as he is famous for telling me my building skills are not “up to code.” I look forward to completing the project and getting to the “decorating phase” where my skills exceed my brother’s. Many

thanks to Lesley Jacoby and Linda Knapp for preparing the kits and figuring out all the information “between the lines” of the original project.

NOCMG Fullerton, California submitted by Jenifer MacLowry

In February we made a delightful potato plant from kits put together by Joann Haugen from Willie Wiswell’s vast supplies of minis. In March Laura Crain made a Dragonfly laser cut toy box available as a kit. Mine went together quickly and now awaits painting. However, as you can see the stuffed animals have already made themselves at home. In April Judy Meyer will have Teddy bear kits made from pompoms. Thanks to all three of our members for not only preparing the kits but for donating the proceeds to our club.



As we continue to explore the world of toys, a doll’s trunk and a doll’s house are planned for future meetings.

Thanks to new submitters, Betty Hodges and Nancy Robinson, for sharing information about their clubs. Seasoned submitters, you are always appreciated. -ed.



Spring Read submitted by Jenifer MacLowry

One of the most interesting and mildly eccentric miniaturists of the last century was Tasha Tudor. She practiced living a simple life, as her ancestors would have in the nineteenth century and then she used it for creating her wonderful books, illustrations, and miniatures. Of particular interest is a book about her miniatures, *Tasha Tudor's Dollhouse*, by Harry Davis. In this beautifully illustrated book we are taken step by step into the building of an unusually detailed dollhouse that is now on display in Williamsburg, VA. It houses treasures that have been accumulated for over 80 years and show the story of a wonderfully human imaginary family from the 1830s. What is also unique to this collection is that the scale is not one of the usual miniature scales, it is much larger, 1/4 the size of human size. Because of this, the objects are even more detailed than usual, much of it modeled after Tudor's own house and contents. If you want to step back in time 180 years ago to life in New England, you may want to check out this book. Look for it in your local library or on line under used books. You also might wish to google Tasha Tudor and read about her life and work.

Upcoming Events

Region N-1

- * April 30, 2011 Region N-1 Retreat and half scale workshop "The Cupcakery" to be held at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church parish hall 6670 W. Cheyenne, Las Vegas, NV 89108. For information contact Susan Sheridan at ssheridan@clear.net or <http://www.name-n1.org/>
- * May 14, 2011 Miniature Flea Market St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 120 E. J Street, Benicia, CA 10 AM to 3 PM. Free Admission
- * May 21 - 22, San Diego, CA Miniature, Doll, & Teddy Bear Show & Sale. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Road. Info. Florence Lambert (858) 454-4959 email: bsticht@gmail.com

California State Day

- * April 30, 2011, Sacramento, CA N-2 California State Day - "A Conservatory Garden Room"
Info: Karen Sandvick (530) 666-1837

Convention and Houseparty Dates and Locations

- * July 21-24, 2011 Cleveland, OH National Convention 2011 *A Song in My Heart*
- * May 3-6, 2012 Portland, OR Small Scale Houseparty: *Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall ~ Celebrate Them All*
- * July, 11-14, 2013 Tucson, AZ National Convention 2013 *At Night In the Museum (where miniatures come alive)*



MINIATURE FLEA MARKET

Good buys on Vintage and new to used doll house miniatures

Saturday – May 14th, 2011

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 120 E. J Street, Benicia, CA

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Cooper's Dollhouse Studio

(707-745-9411)

and

Benicia Mini Magic NAME Club

Free Admission

Bag lunches will be available for purchase



x = Cooper's Dollhouse Studio

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION INFO

The N-1 Newsletter is published quarterly.
All members of N.A.M.E. are welcome to send in contributions.

Submissions for the Winter Issue are due by December 1st.

Submissions for the Spring Issue (2011) are due by March 1st.

Submissions for the Summer Issue (2011) are due by June 1st.

Submissions for the Fall Issue (2011) are due by September 1st.

If you are late in submitting, send it anyway. This editor is generally late, too.

The editor welcomes articles containing news about club activities, events, displays, et cetera. Please keep club reports to between 50 and 150 words and no more than about three pictures.

The editor needs to occasionally change font size and move things around to make things fit. So, no PDF files, please. Articles may be submitted by email to jenifermac@mindspring.com

Don't worry if my spam monitor sends you a message. Just follow the annoying directions and send. I do check it regularly.

Events, updates, other timely information, and past volumes of the newsletter may also be found on the Regional Web Site <http://www.name-n1.org>

Kindly remember that your region relies solely upon volunteers and has no budget for mailings. You are encouraged to share this newsletter with your mini friends who do not have access to the internet.

Information and opinions contained in the N-1 Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts or its regions. The facts as presented in each article are verified insofar as possible, but any opinions are strictly those of the individual authors.