



State Reps Needed

In This Issue

State Representatives s

Regional Coordinator's
Report

News From
Around the Region

Calendar of Events

Pictures from National

Your Regional Team

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(Continued on page 2)

I know that all of you are probably tired of hearing this...but we still need three more State Representatives! Last issue of the newsletter had the front page with the duties of the State Representatives. As far as this newsletter editor knows...we did not get any people who volunteered for these much needed positions.

So what does this all mean? It means that the people in the Sacramento area, North Bay/Napa/Sonoma and also the San Francisco area are not being represented in the newsletter or at any of the meetings where regional information is discussed.

It means that if someone wants to find out about NAME in their area (and they live in any of these three uncovered areas) they don't really have a representative to talk to who really understands their area.

I took over editing this newsletter because I had been a NAME member for 30 years and felt like this might be a way for me to contribute to NAME without committing myself to too many hours a month.

My hope would be that one of you thinks about it and contacts Ruth Heisch or Diane Piziali (our Regional Co-ordinators) and offers to help in one of these much needed areas. Please...think about it seriously!



Your Regional Team

(Continued from page 1)

State Reps

North Coast

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From The Regional Co-Coordiators

The Unity Day that I have been mentioning in the last couple of articles is officially called National Name Day and for NAME members only. Look for photos of the committee's finished products in the March/April Gazette. It is time to start planning our locations for the event the first weekend in October 2010. If you or your club would like to organize a workday for this event, please let us know. We will help you get the ball rolling. It will work somewhat like a State Day or Mini weekend. You are free to make it what you'd like. We'd like to have them in several locations in the region. They can be as large or small as you like. It is a Hutch chosen by the committee and each location may choose to fill it however they like. It could be a garden, toy, kitchen, ME, or maybe a holiday theme. Anything goes!

Today, Nov 8, I was part of a panel /roundtable about miniatures at the Los Altos History Museum. I was joined by Barbara Stanton and her beautiful miniature oil paintings, Blurette Maloney and a display of her wonderful buildings and Shelley from Shelley Miniatures in San Carlos. Our job was to get the word out about miniatures. We had a short Q & A and I believe we may have picked up a couple new NAME members. "It's a Small World" will be on exhibit until the end of January. It shows different collections in different scales and there is a

railroad layout of Los Altos in the 1930s. Stop by and take a look!

We hope you were able to attend the "Good Sam" show. The new location was quite a hit with the dealers as well as shoppers. We were pleased with those of you who came to visit us at the NAME table and introduced yourselves.

Check out the calendar for upcoming events. March 27 is the date for the second annual "Spring Fling" Pot Luck & Flea Market. Come and visit us there. Once again we will be the two in the silly hats!

Congratulations to Karen Sesody, a member of Through The Looking Glass, and the winner of our NAME fundraiser, the beautiful Christmas Bear box.

Last, but not least, remember those superstars and folks you've worked with who deserve recognition. We will be looking for nominees for our Regional Awards in the spring. Drop a note about them to your State Rep or to us, your Regional Coordinators.

Happy Holidays
from Ruth &
Diane



Your Regional Team

(Continued from page 2)

North Bay/ Napa/ Sonoma Open Position

Temporarily is:
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Welcome Committee Chair Open Position

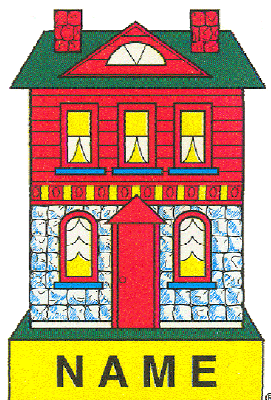
Regional Website
[www.nameregionn2.org/
namen2.html](http://www.nameregionn2.org/namen2.html)

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Pictures, Pictures, Pictures From the NAME National 2009



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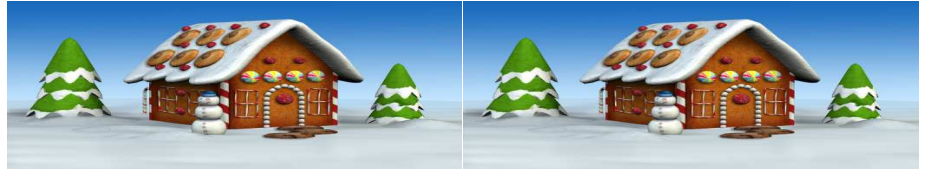
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MARY ANN - 530-573-3409 - WORK 530-541-0891 - HOME

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.summerattahoe.org
MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: Mary Ann Van Buskirk
2639 Lake Tahoe Blvd., So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

E C ditors orner



Hello miniaturists!

It is hard to believe but this issue marks my two year anniversary of being editor of this newsletter. How time flies when you are having fun! So we are going into winter again. Short days, more darkness, the Holiday time for many. What gift is this winter for you? For me I hope that the longer times of darkness will allow me to work on my miniatures. I keep saying that I will make it a priority but it never seems to happen! Do any of you have this problem with time? I work full time in a challenging job and many times I just want to vegetate in my recliner and not have to think about things. Making minis (at least for me) involves some thinking. So I end up playing on the computer, watching TV, talking to my husband and my dog, Sadie. And the minis pile remains the same size. I'm planning on retiring in 16 months and am hoping that retirement will give me more time to work on my minis. I've figured out that I have a LOT of building to do if I want to finish all my kits before I die...I'm guessing that I need to live to be 125 years old in order to accomplish that. So, what about you? What are your plans for this winter. What benefit will you have from the long darkness?

Cary sent a thank you to all the Regional Team, thanking them and all the membership for having the NAME membership go above 5000 again! That is exciting news, especially in this economy. NAME is certainly an organization that gets more members by current members talking up NAME in their community. I'm so proud to be part of this organization and so proud of all the good work that is done by NAME members through out the US and the world! Keep up the good work! Maybe we can reach 6000 by the end of 2010...who knows!!

Yours in Miniature, Leslie Swager

Showcase of Miniatures (Good Sam Show)

The Party's Over...and it was a super weekend at our new location, the Doubletree Hotel San Jose. Thanks to all who supported the show with your presence, your help, your exhibits, and your pocketbooks.

We are looking forward to being at the Doubletree Hotel again next year. The Hotel Management and Employees gave us, on the Committee, all of the help that was needed, plus. Yes, there was some challenges that will be worked out before next year's show.

The 35th show will be October 9th and 10th, 2010, with workshops on the 8th. Our best chance of returning there in 2011 will depend upon how many people stay at the hotel. If you are from out of town, please consider the \$89.00 room rate and perhaps share with a friend. Dealers will be expected to stay in the hotel.

A huge thank you to all who donated all of that great stuff to the White Elephant Sale at the Good Sam Show in San Jose last October. Everything was sold to many happy and enthusiastic buyers from Pat Carter.

For more information go to www.goodsamshowcase.miniature.net or call Joan Hammon at 530-888-6348, or Email at hammono@att.net.

See you on the show floor! Joan Hammon

News From Around The Region

State Rep's Reports

North Bay/ Napa/ Sonoma
by Cary Yerves



In My Humble Opinion. . .

Things have been really quiet miniature-wise in the North Bay for some time. We did have a mini flea market in Rohnert Park in early November, but that's about it. I am so envious of those of you have clubs and people to "play" with. So with nothing really newsworthy to report, I guess I'll share a few comments and observations about the miniature world.

It certainly is no secret that for most of us the recession is, contrary to what the government would like us to believe, far from turning around. I read an article that said that California is among the 10 hardest hit states, and that our lawmakers will need to cut another \$4-5 billion in January 2010. This means most Californians, are still keeping a tight rein on our spending. Unfortunately many of the miniature artisans don't seem to get that.

Over the last decade many talented new people have appeared on scene. Seeing the prices that some other established artisan's work is commanding, they burst onto the miniature scene with big hopes

of making a killing in the miniature market. Unfortunately, what they don't realize is that many of these other artists have spent many years perfecting their craft and have worked to attain the status that justifies their prices.

Now I am not saying that the quality of these newer people's work isn't great, but as yet, most have not established a name for themselves. And even so, many forget that we are still in that recession and very few are willing to spend the type of money they are asking. This becomes even truer given the availability of workshops, classes, etc, many of which can even be found for free online. More than ever, we are hearing the "I can make that myself" assertion. Even established artists have come to realize that in many cases they need to lower their prices if the hope to make the sales and see any kind of profit.

Most of us are not "collectors" who are willing to pay whatever price for a piece, no matter how artistic. I read an article in one of the miniature magazines where an artist made this statement: "There are two different sides to miniatures; the hobby side and

the art side. I am definitely part of the art side." That is all well and good, and a noble goal to aspire to, however, most of us are a part of the hobby side, and not art collectors. So if you intend to profit from making miniatures, it would be in your best interest to seek out only the collectors or evaluate your prices.

I was so disappointed with the Good Sam show this year, because, in my opinion, (and I'm making sure I stress my opinion) there were so many high end dealers that many of us felt left out. I am not a big buyer but I usually spend between \$200 and \$400 at a typical show. Sadly, I spent \$48.00 at this year's Good Sam. And it wasn't that I couldn't find things I liked, it was that I couldn't afford things I found. I have never had this experience before and it was truly disheartening. As an example, I found a lovely little split-leaf philodendron (a houseplant, to the botanically challenged) and it was priced at \$95.00. I have purchased plants from artisan Mary Kinloch when she was producing, and that was much more than I would have paid for any of her plants, all of which were of a much higher quality.

State Rep's Reports (cont.)

I have made miniatures to sell myself, and I always priced my items based on what I would be willing to pay. Anyone who has done any form of hand-crafting (and that is what this is, no matter what fancy label you try to put on it) will tell you that you cannot charge for your time. That is an investment you make for the love of what you do. Those who feel they must charge for the time they put into making something are doomed to fail. Hopefully, someday soon, some of these artisans will start to realize that they are not making the big money they had hoped and will reduce to prices. The other option is that they become discouraged and quit producing, and in that scenario, everyone loses.

Okay, so that's my opinion for this issue. Hopefully next time we will have more news to report and less of my opinions. In the meantime, see you around the region!

North Coast
by Jo Anne Grundhofer

WOW!

It's time to share with all of you again. The Redwood Small World club has been very busy. The County Fair in Fern-

dale was a great success. We had two people working on projects, showing people how it is done for 10 of the eleven days of the fair. We work from noon to four each day, it was great fun.

In September we planned our displays for the libraries (the main one in Eureka for October and the branch one in Ferndale for October, November, and December). Today, November 4th we will remove Eureka's and move on to Ferndale to change things out for November and will change again for December.

In December, our meeting will have a Christmas party with exchange of gifts -- \$5 spending limit, but when we make the gift the value will be much more.

Six of us are busy working on our Christmas Trees for February at River City Rendezvous. We are all getting excited and can hardly wait for the big day.

The other activity we are working on is our annual play day. It will be held on March, again at Scrapper's Edge in Eureka. The project is to be a quilting room or shop and the box will be a quarter of a circle so anyone could do three more rooms and have a circle of rooms. Mine will probably fit

into a corner, somewhere.

The members of our club that went to the Good Sam Show all had a great time.

I think that's enough for now. Must get to those libraries!!

Happy minis to all,

Joanne Grundhofer

Northern Nevada
by Mary Ann VanBuskirk

TAHOE MINIACS

Wow, what a summer for Tahoe Miniacs, Club 952! We had a great state day on August 28th and 29th - making storefront vignettes. In addition, we were told that our club had won the NAME N2 Region Club of the Year Award! We were so excited and thrilled. Thanks to everyone responsible for this award.

Not wanting to rest on our laurels, we are busy planning next year's state day. Luci Hansen has designed us a new, unique roombox with attached frame and plexiglass. The participants will build an old time saloon complete with furnishings.

State Rep's Reports (cont.)

We are calling it "Last Deal at Deadwood" and tentatively, it will house a bar, poker game table and a faro table (designed by Cary Yerves), along with other accessories.

Dust off your spurs and climb back in the saddle again to join us in beautiful Lake Tahoe for a fun-filled state day. There will be a prototype pictured soon on our website at www.summerattahoe.org. We are in the process of acquiring larger space to house the workshop, so actual location is not listed yet.

CARSON CITY CLUB

The gals in Carson City are busy planning a 1/4" workshop for next June. Contact JoAnn Jacot at jacot@clearwire.net for more information. These gals meet every month on a Sunday and do fantastic projects. Looking forward to hearing more about the workshop.

Mary Ann VanBuskirk



San Francisco/
Oakland
Open Position



No Report Received

Fresno
by Barbara Fairbanks

I don't know about all of you but I cannot believe that we are in Fall now. What happened to Spring and Summer. The days have gone by so fast!!!

Richard and Carol Menze-Guimond, Glendon Davis, Kayanne Yung, and myself had a wonderful time at Salt Lake City Houseparty. There was something to do all day and into the evenings and it was very well planned. The souvenirs were great! Glendon won a Houseparty Helper. We are so thankful to Carol and Richard for driving the donations (all 19 boxes) to SLC and then bringing our winnings and purchases home. It made the flight so much easier on the rest of us. For me, the highlight of the trip was seeing friends again that I only see at mini events.

We were only home for a few days when we were off

again to Good Sam. Carol, Glendon, Kayanne, and I had a great day. Of course we each bought a lot, got new ideas for projects, and ended our day at Baskin-Robbins.

The Fresno club members are busy working on the Brambly Hedge room boxes. We are also enjoying building the round tables brought home from SLC. We all worked hard on the Houseparty Helper donated to SLC and it sold a lot of tickets. The lady that won it is from N1 and sent a really nice thank you note.

Joan McLeans wishes were for her things to be donated to NAME. We took her Gypsy Wagon to Good Sam for the silent auction as it was too big to take to SLC. Don't know what it brought in but when we left the top bid was for \$360.

The Visalia club is missing Judy Lewin as she has moved to Chicago to be near her daughter and granddaughter. I understand she is settling into her new home next door to her family. We all wish her well.

Enjoy your holidays and get lots of time to mini.

Barbara Fairbanks
minimage1@aol.com
559-875-2357

State Rep's Reports (cont.)

Shasta/Trinity
By Margaret Gordus

Sacramento
Open Position



Our Little Mini Club

Our last meeting was devoted to making tote bag favors for a workshop. We have also been busy trying to catch up on our "UFOs". Our next club project is a front window & door for a "shop" in a picture frame.

Four members attended the 'Good Sam Show in San Jose, and had a good time taking the train out of Sacramento with other miniature groups.

Carlene and Liz went to Tahoe State Day in July and had a great time. Billie and Kathy went to San Francisco for a show. Our new gals are really getting into the Miniature world.

Margaret had the privilege of having Jack, Ethel and Lynn from Folsom Fiesta committee for lunch, and seeing Margaret's miniature room boxes.



**Margaret
Gordus**

No Report Received

South Bay/Peninsula
By Laura Johnson

The last few months have been a busy time in N2. A number of our members attended the Smaller Scale Houseparty in Salt Lake City. In addition to wonderful workshops, souvenirs, Houseparty Helpers and centerpieces, it was a nice time to catch up with members we don't see very often. The committee did an excellent job.

Also in October, the Good Sam show brought us together again. It was a great show in a new venue. The dealers did well and I heard a lot of comments about the high quality of the merchandise. It was fun to man the NAME table and talk with those who stopped by. We even got a few new members.

Finally, there was a mini day at Shellie's Miniature Mania. As I wasn't able to attend, I'm including this from

a member of the Mini Attics: In observance of National Miniature Day Shellie's Miniature Mania in San Carlos had an all-day event including refreshments, gifts and a great workshop where guests made a miniature, miniature workshop. There were several work stations where phases of the project were completed. When you finished one phase, you moved on to the next station. These stations were manned by the Mini Friends who also conceived of the project, assembled the kits and taught at each table. There were approximately 45 people there including a number of children who successfully completed the project.

This was also a celebration of Shellie's 33rd year in the miniature business. We are all grateful to Shellie for her support of our hobby.

The Mini Attics are planning to construct the Shotgun House which was in the last issue of Miniature Gazette. They will be doing it as a club project; members are presently assembling the materials required so they will be ready to go after the holidays

The Wee Housers are getting ready for the Miniature

State Rep's Reports (cont.)

Picnic on November 14. Last year's was a great success and we hope it will be even better this year.

Happy Holidays and Happy Miniaturizing!

Laura Johnson

East Bay/Tri Valley
By Jennifer Rich

It's hard to believe that all the miniature events I mentioned last time have all come and gone. My only regret is I didn't make it to the CHAMPS show this year. It's a wonderful show so I hope that a lot of you were able to attend. I did drop some flyers for it off at our local doll shop (that sells miniatures.) Hopefully a few of their clients were inspired to go.

A number of us from the area were at the NAME Small Scale House Party in Salt Lake City and we all had a great time. One thing I would like to mention is that The Miniacs of San Francisco made and donated tote bag gifts but for some reason they only listed my name in the booklet. It was a group effort and wanted to say how much I appreciated them doing it.

If you have never been to a House Party or National Convention do try to go to one. Ac-

tually there is one coming up in Seattle called "Merry Old England, Now and Then", in July of next year. It might sound a long way off but it will be here before you know it. According to the flyer I have it says registration opens up February 2010. Check out the NAME website for the exact date.

Right after the House Party was the Good Sam Show in it's new location. I have to say I miss the downtown area but once you are at the Show you forget all about the location.

In a couple of weeks some of our group will be attending the 30th Bay Area Miniaturists' Pot Luck and Flea Market.

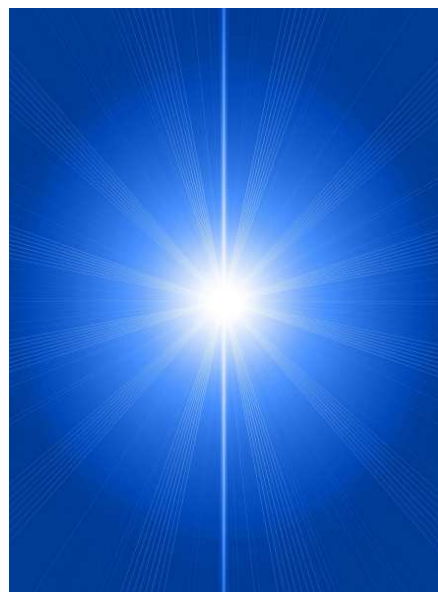
I was thinking it might be nice to get a group of miniaturists together to make a donation gift. A few years ago The Miniacs of San Francisco made a porch scene that we donated to the CHAMPS show as a raffle gift. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Both The Mini Dreamers (in the East Bay) and The Miniacs of San Francisco currently have openings for members. The contact information for both clubs is located on the NAME website.

Please also contact me if you would like to start a club

in your area, or just meet other miniaturists.

Jennifer Rich



More Pictures, Pictures, Pictures From the NAME National 2009

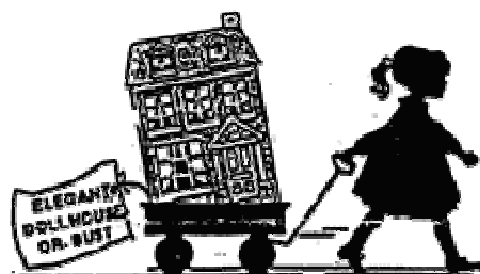




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Regional Calendar of Events

March 27, 2010

Annual Spring Fling Pot Luck and Flea Market

M-1 Small Scale Regional Houseparty

Somewhere in Time
Rochester, NY

July 15-18, 2010

2010 National Convention
Merry Olde England, Now and Then

August 28 & 29, 2010

17th Annual Summer at Tahoe
State Day

October 2, 2010

National NAME Day



N.A.M.E.

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