

NAME MONTHLY SPECIAL EVENTS – 2008:

As the new Special Events Chair for NAME, I (with suggestions from a few other friends) came up with the idea of a special event of the month. I hope you will all participate and try to do this one thing each month? Remember our motto of “Only through sharing.....” and this is a great way to give some focus to our sharing.

Please email, snail mail or telephone me with information about what you did and the results. I'm including a few questions each time to help you know what to report. If you contact me with your name, report on your event, and your contact information by the 15th of the month following the special event, your name will go into a drawing for a special kit or gift in the scale of your choice for that month. There will be a prize for each month's event so you can get into 12 different drawings if you want. If you want to tell about your experience on the NAME Online Group, that will also count as reporting to me and I'll pick up your name from that posting to go into the drawing.

RULES of the Prize Drawings:

1. The deadline for reporting on your experience is: the 15th of the following month of that event. (for example, if you take a mini to breakfast/lunch in November, you have til Dec. 15th to notify me of your experience and get into the drawing.
2. You must be a member of NAME to qualify for a prize. (this is a NAME sponsored activity)

You can contact me at the following:

Barbara Thornton-Hill
13703 N. Bloomfield Rd.
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-265-5704

bathca@earthlink.net

JANUARY: Organize your Roundtable type kits.

How many times have you sworn you're going to organize these and figure out what you have? Let me know what kind of system you used to organize your kits. Others have the same problem and if you have a way that works, maybe it would work for someone else too?

Now, if you are one of those rare mini achievers who has completed all your kits OR already have them organized, let us know how you've organized them. This is the time to be the envy of the mini world, or at least you'd be envied by me.

FEBRUARY: Complete at least 5 small roundtable kits.

Now that they are all organized, why not make up a few. Which ones did you complete? How does it feel to get some done? Do you have a place for these completed items? How will you store them now that they're done?

MARCH: Teach a mini project to a child (any age, probably 4 to 18)

This could be done with a grandchild, your child, a friend's child, the girl scouts, the boy scouts, at a school, recreation department program, etc. etc. Do you need an easy idea to teach? Look at our Gazette's. There have been plenty of projects there that children could do.

Sometimes, kids can have fun making furniture and scenes out of what we might consider junk?

Was this hard for you? What kind of response did you get from the child(ren)? What kind of project did you do?

APRIL: Clean and organize your tools.

It's time for Spring Cleaning so go through your tools. Clean and condition all your paint brushes, scrape the glue off your tools, sharpen anything that needs it, replace your old worn out sandpaper and emery boards, oil your saws, etc, etc.

Now don't you feel ready to work with all those nicely cleaned and organized tools. Please share any tips you have on care of the tools, how you organize your tools (are they in jars on your workbench? hanging from pegboards? In drawers? In a tool box? Do you keep more than one set of tools like one to travel and one to work with at home? Let us all know about your experience with tools this month.

MAY: Post to the NAME Online Group or contribute to the Gazette.

If you haven't already joined the online group, do it now. Read what other members have to say, see what activities are going on. There are projects, discussions, tips, swaps and getting to know others with this interest in common. Try posting an entry. Let us know how you like it. Go to www.name@miniatures.org to sign up for the group.

If you don't have a computer and are not online savvy, try writing a little article for the Gazette OR send in a project to share. Let us know how that was too. After all, sharing is our motto.

JUNE: Finish a project.

Yes, yes, I know you completed some roundtable kits a few months ago but now it's time to tackle one of those bigger projects. You must have something that is almost done that you could pull out and finish this month. Let us know how it feels to complete that "UFO" that probably has been nagging at you for weeks, months, years??? Maybe it's just completing one room in your dollhouse, or a vignette, or a whole roombox. Whatever it is, get to it this month. Wow, that will be a wonder if I can do it too!

JULY: Plant a Seed.

Okay, I don't mean a plant seed. I mean an idea, a new interest. Invite a friend to do a small mini project with you or take a friend to a show or workshop. It can be a mini friend or a non-mini friend. Did you or your friend develop a new or renewed interest in minis? Tell us what you did and about your experience.

AUGUST: Donate some minis.

Well, you've got a lot of your minis cleaned out and organized by now so I'm sure you have some that you cannot use and maybe not even be able to sell or you don't want to bother selling them? How about donating them to your local State Rep or Regional Coordinator for the Grab Bags. Grab Bags are a great source of extra funds for your region and a what you don't want may be just the right treasure for someone else. Let us know what you did with your donations.

Of course, you might have some very nice minis you have no use for any more also. They are great donations for fundraisers in your region, Houseparty Helpers, other workshop helpers, etc. Contact your local reps who will be happy to come and get them, I'm sure and if they're not, let me know and I'll direct you to a source.

SEPTEMBER: Learn a new technique.

It's back to school for the kids and for those of you who are teachers. None of us are exempt from learning something new so sign up for a mini workshop, class or something where you can learn a new technique or two. Please share it with all of us.

OCTOBER: Exhibit a Mini.

This month is officially "National Dollhouse and Miniatures month". Get those minis out there and exhibit them. How about your local library, your gym, the beauty parlor, a restaurant, etc, etc?? This is a good time to get those minis out there and let people see what we do. Be sure that the place you choose to exhibit has adequate security so your mini doesn't get damaged or stolen. If they have a glass front cabinet or other enclosed display area, that would be the safest. In a restaurant, they might consider displaying something in that glass area below the cash reg

NOVEMBER: Take a Mini to Breakfast/Lunch and share with either mini-friends or non-mini-friends.

The idea is that people tend to see what you have at your table and stop to look and ask questions. A perfect opportunity to give out mini info and if you happen to have a NAME brochure with you and a local contact person, pass it out and encourage people to get involved if it seems appropriate.

Let me know what kind of mini you took with you and friend(s) and what kind of attention did you get? Any interest from a non-miniaturist?

DECEMBER: Gift a Mini to a non-miniaturist.

You must have a small roombox, vignette, single mini item that is a great display item. Give it to someone who is not a miniaturist. What was the reaction? What did you give? Did your friend, relative have any interest in learning more about the mini world?