



# Small Talk

National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

Region N2, Summer 2024

<http://nameregionn2.org>

## Welcome to Your Incoming Regional Coordinators

A very big welcome to our new Co-Regional Coordinators, Ynez Fritsch and Frances Bigler! They will be sharing the position of RC for our Region N-2 area. They started their jobs on March 28, 2024, the day that the NAME Board approved them both to share the position. They've proven they can work well together while they've been volunteering in the two clubs that put on Sacramento's NAME Day and

the Sacramento Mini Sale. They both belong to the same four local NAME clubs (including those two clubs just mentioned), the only two NAME members that do so. Thank you so much for taking over the position, Ynez and Frances!

**Laura Seibert**

**SR for Sacramento/Central Valley/Sierra Foothills**

## From Your Regional Coordinator

I manned the NAME table at the Sacramento Mini Sale in Roseville on April 13, and I had a lovely time. We had a lot of attendance on that rainy day! We sold donated supplies and finished minis on behalf of our Region, N-2. We had a free area too. I had fun shopping this time. Our new Co-RCs, Ynez and Frances, were kind enough to spot the NAME table for me. I spent \$40! Last year I only brought \$5 with me, and I didn't let myself look for very long. I had a good long look around this time. It was great. I spent most of my money with a new vendor there, Aimee Laird from Benicia. She had 1" scale items and 1/4" scale items. She had plenty of Christmas items! I bought two 1/4" scale flocked reindeer from her, and a darling 1" scale tree to display on a table. I got home and put my new items where they're supposed to go, whether the scene is finished or only partly finished. What fun.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Egg Show this year! It was held on April 13 and 14 in Elk Grove, and I made it over there on April 14, the day after the Sacramento Mini Sale. It was so wonderful to make it there and look all around; recognize the vendors who've been there before. They had a new porcelain dollmaker there from Las Vegas! Maria Avneri was selling 1" scale baby dolls, as well as the adult dolls that work well combined with bigger eggs as their skirts (this was the Egg Show). I bought one of her 1" scale baby dolls. I love baby dolls, both with my miniatures and up as tall as 17" high. I also bought some no-hole beads and four canes to slice. I didn't have a cane with a teddy bear face yet, or a ladybug. Could I use ladybug slices when

finishing my Mama Ladybug's Laundry Day kit, maybe as part of a picture on the wall (I'm getting close to finishing that open book)? I bought another My Melody face (friend of Hello Kitty) and a different style of candy.

The Morgan Hill NAME Day will be September 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Ruth Heisch at [grouchybeartoo@aol.com](mailto:grouchybeartoo@aol.com) for more information.

The Sacramento NAME Day will be October 5<sup>th</sup>. It's \$35 to attend plus the cost of the kit, any scale (no cost of kit if you're bringing a NAME Day kit you already have from a prior year that you haven't finished). It'll be so much fun to attend a NAME Day Workshop. Sign-Up flier in this newsletter!

The Lodi Show (Miniatures in the Wine Country Show) was held on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Thornton-Hill, our past NAME President and our past RC, manned the NAME table for me. Thank you so much, Barbara! It sounds like it was a fabulous Show. (My husband's family rescheduled a family celebration for May 4<sup>th</sup> while I wasn't paying attention. We hadn't all been together since October. We had a delightful time.) The Lodi Show will be even bigger next year! I'll make sure not to miss manning the NAME table—and shopping—in 2025.

The Workshops for Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in San Jose are scheduled to appear at [www.goodsamshowcase.org](http://www.goodsamshowcase.org) on June 1<sup>st</sup>. I get to take one more Workshop at Good Sam in October. My first-ever Workshop there last October was wonderful! I so enjoyed my 1/4" scale shadow box class with Angela Kinnunen from Finland. I could choose either a Halloween

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or Christmas theme, and I went with Christmas. I loved that class. I finished my room box in February. I used a 1/4" scale Christmas tree I already had, one of my 1/4" scale treetop angels that I make (I taught how to make those treetop angels in a NAME Night Make it & Take it at Good Sam in 2022), and Julie Stevens' "Fawn" doll. I used the cabinet that came in a kit with Angela's workshop. In one of the two photos I submitted, you can see that I set my shadow box room box on a little gold table (1" scale size table). I hope to take either another 1/4 scale workshop in October, or a 1" scale baby doll workshop—maybe with a layette (if offered—I sew). Can't wait to see what's being offered on June 1<sup>st</sup>!

I am stepping down a few months early from my two-year term as your RC. I'm pleased to have almost completed a single two-year term as your RC. Ynez and Frances have already started and are doing great. There are a lot of parts to the job. I think two people sharing this position is a wonderful idea. I will still attend Good Sam this October and stay

several nights at the hotel. I'll help Ynez and Frances with NAME Night Saturday evening, October 12. I'll volunteer both Saturday and Sunday at the NAME table. Future years when I attend Good Sam I'll likely be up and back on that Saturday with Amtrak and Lyft, like I used to.

I will be staying on as SR for the Sacramento/Central Valley/Sierra Foothills area. I've always enjoyed this position. I made sure not to give away this role while I was RC, as I wanted to resume as SR once my time as RC was over. If I gave the role to someone, they might not want to step down when I was ready to do (only this role) again. I am so happy back as just SR again. See you around at the mini events, whether in person or online!

Joy, always joy,

Laura Seibert

**SR for Sacramento/Central Valley/Sierra Foothills  
(my goodbye as your RC)**



*Laura's roombox on a gold 1" scale table*



*Laura's 1/4" scale roombox*

## Create Miniatures

Reminding you again to check every week on the NAME Create site for activities, events, workshops, free demos, videos, games, challenges. And more.

In June, there is another workshop with Esther Marker. She will be doing a Tiffany lamp and instructing how to wire it to be a working lamp. Bonnie Helterhoff is teaching a 1" scale 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cart (part of a series of carts). July brings our 4th Camp Make-a-Mini. Debbie Young is bringing us a beautiful Arts and Crafts style Studio in 1/2" and 1/4". There will be Quick Minis kits to buy, some to furnish the studio. Then be ready for two amazing workshops coming up from Belinda McWilliams from South Africa.

Watch for news about the 2024 NAME Day. This year you will have your last opportunity to fill in any NAME Day Project you might have missed for the past 14 years since NAME Day started. Cutters are listed on the NAME website if you are missing specific years

**Barbra Thornton-Hill**

# Small Talk

## Good Sam 2024

We are joining the world of social media. I hope you have seen instagram, etc. postings by Rafael Acevedo. If you have a mini, maybe one you've exhibited at the show, send photos to me and I will send it on. Last year brought some young blood into miniatures with social media postings and influencers attending our show.

We continue to enlist talented dealers and teachers and in early June you will see the great workshops that Juanita Landa has put together.

A big thank you to those who consider "Good Sam" with the many generous donations we have received for the raffle, the auction and the white elephant. We are truly grateful!

As always, volunteers are what make us a great show! How about becoming one? Last year we had some very enthusiastic teens helping and seemed to enjoy it. Good service hours for their school requirement.

Follow the latest on [goodsamshowcase.org](http://goodsamshowcase.org).

See you in October

**Ruth Heisch**

## NAME Day in Morgan Hill—a Halloween Event

MiniCals and Through the Looking Glass will be hosting a Halloween themed event on Sept 28, from 9-4. The cost will be \$45. Lots of fun, food, gifts, auction and exhibits. Also shoebox sales open to attendees. We plan to be doing the hutch from 2010. If you'd like a different kit, we need to know by July 30 so we can order it, unless planning to order yourself. You're also welcome to bring an unfinished kit from another year. The cost will be adjusted. Whatever you choose to do, we need to know if you'll be joining us.

Please register by July 1, 2024 with Ruth at [grouchybeartoo@aol.com](mailto:grouchybeartoo@aol.com)

IF ANYONE ATTENDING OUR EVENT WOULD LIKE A KIT OTHER THAN THE HUTCH, or plan to order your own, please contact Ruth ASAP.

## MiniCals Workshops in Morgan Hill

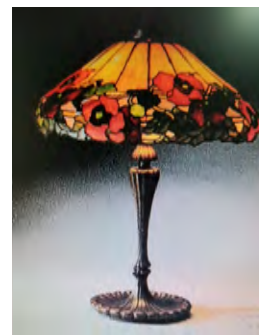
M&L Precision, 18655 Madrone Parkway, Morgan Hill

|          |  |                                  |
|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| March 16 | Spring Fling   | Pot Luck \$8 (table or no table) |
| April 20 | Tiffany Style lamp<br>\$65 or \$75 for electrified           | Juanita Landa, Instructor        |
| May 18   | Cottage Stove in 1" or 1/2"<br>\$25 Specify 1/2" or 1" ahead | Becky Seward, Instructor         |

*Bring lunch or purchase lunch at one of the nearby eateries for April and May*

Workshops begin at 10 am.

For more info contact Ruth Heisch,  
[grouchybeartoo@aol.com](mailto:grouchybeartoo@aol.com)





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## State Rep Reports

### North Central

#### Margaret Gordus

**Our Little Mini Club:** A few years ago Kathy and I were shopping at a place called The Doll Mercantile in Petaluma. We met a woman there who was also shopping. And she had a granddaughter with her—about 7ish. It happened she also lives in Healdsburg. She said her husband was wanting to build a dollhouse for the little one. I had a nice house still in the box that I had gotten at a garage sale in Paradise years ago. But I've never done a scratch build and it always felt like it was to BIG a project for ME! So I told this woman to come take a look at it if they might like to have it.

I got a note from her yesterday with these pictures. She said it took her husband two years to complete. She said it will be a “family heirloom.” I am SO THRILLED! This is just what I wish for ALLLL dollhouse—that they belong to a FAMILY.

—Margaret Gordus



*Pictures of the dollhouse in the box and completed*

### No. Nevada, Tahoe

#### Mary Ann Van Buskirk

### Sacramento, Central Valley, Sierra Foothills

#### State Rep Laura Seibert

**Itty Bitties:** The Itty Bitties have been busy learning various techniques and making things. We met at Sandra Dawson's house and LaVerne Munz, a former club member as a guest instructor. She taught us how to dress a ladder chair. We enjoyed having LaVerne spend the day with us, again.

In March, Fran taught everyone how to make quilts for different sizes of beds in 1" scale. We used fabric with a checked design or something similar, and a solid piece for the backing that we glued for the borders. We used a thin batting between the top and the backing. Then we used a needle and floss to tack all three thicknesses together.

In April, Ynez taught us how to use the pretty pleater to make drapes. Laura Seibert attended our club meeting as Name State Representative. Most of our club members have the pretty pleater and we were looking forward to learning how to make drapes. It was a fun activity!

—Fran Bigler



*Dressing ladder chairs taught by LaVerne Munz*



*Fran Bigler taught how to make quilts for a 1" bed*



*Drapes made using the pretty pleater, taught by Ynez Fritsch*

**Quarter Persuasion:** Our Quarter scale club continues to meet on Mondays at 11:00 am every week on Zoom. We lived so far apart and started meeting on Zoom during the pandemic and decided to continue on Zoom because we didn't really want to drive so far. We are primarily located the greater Sacramento area, ranging from Grass Valley/Nevada City to Rancho Murieta and even one

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## State Rep Reports

member in Santa Rosa, one in Belmont, one in Indiana.

We all work on our own projects and share tips, questions and answers during our meetings and we have been having a get together at least once a year in person for lunch in the Sacramento area.

—Barbara Thornton-Hill

### North Coastal

#### Sharon Ocheltree

**Redwood Small World:** Boy—do I have writer's block! Just can't get started on this. So here's what has happened in the last quarter.

For February, we met at Jean Scheffler's home in Eureka. Being Valentine month we enjoyed making

mini Valentine's Day cards for our dollhouse families. Jean had many Victorian printies and bits of colored papers. There were punches to decorate with heart shapes and flower pedals; many pieces of lace, ribbons and with other things to add bling. She gave each of us a very fine tipped pen to write our sentiments inside the cards. Templates were provided for envelopes so we could post the cards to our dollhouse friends. Beautiful Valentine cupcakes were served to enjoy, first with our eyes, and then with our taste buds.

March found us at Linda Scarpellino's new home in Cutten. She now has a large craft room for project work, big enough to seat everyone. She showed us how to make little water pitchers out of plain paper. She first handed out patterns for various sized scales. After assembling, painting techniques transformed the paper to look like realistic porcelain, or even antiqued tin.

They were quite impressive! Several yummy desserts were available. But I have to say, her chocolate caramel cake was the best cake I've ever tasted!

I hosted our April meeting in Korbel. It happened to be my birthday that day.

Almost everyone that came brought a birthday cake or dessert to celebrate and enjoy. My counters were full of sweets!

The mini project for the day was mini cookie baking. All the cakes were not enough sweets I guess. We played with polymer clay, tiny cookie cutters, pastels and various techniques for shaping and texturing. Itsy-bitsy chocolate chips, cherries, berries and nuts were customized to look like the real thing.

The finished cookies looked good enough to eat, but we were full of cake!

Hope you are all having a great time creating minis!

—Sharon Ocheltree

### San Francisco, No. Peninsula

#### Open Position

### Marin, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Solano

#### Barbara Thornton-Hill

**Wine Country Miniature Society:** This is the new NAME club in the North Bay area. It includes Sonoma/Napa/Marin/Solano county areas. We are meeting on the third Sunday afternoon of each month in Santa Rosa.

For our last two meetings we had a member demonstrate a technique which the others tried out and then we worked on our own projects. In March, we learned how to make stamps and to stamp foam to make rocks and bricks, and in April, we learned a fairly easy way to make stained glass windows in 1" and 1/4".

We are planning to have our own NAME Day at the October meeting and will be working on the NAME Club project in the next few months.

If you live in the area and are interested in joining us, contact Barbara Thornton-Hill, [bathca@gmail.com](mailto:bathca@gmail.com)

### East Bay, Tri-Valley

#### Open Position

### South Bay, Peninsula

#### Open Position

**Through the Looking Glass:** Through the Looking Glass is meeting each month and working on individual projects as well as sharing new techniques.

Lynne Hoffman coached us successfully through the beach chair kits she gave us from her trip to the Cape Cod Convention last summer.

Monya Johnson gifted us with unfinished wood sidetables at Christmas and we have all been working on applying our personal styles to her challenge.

Lori Rodriguez created a miniature traditional May Day Cone for each of us for our May First meeting. Then we had fun creating our own cones and filling them with tiny punched paper flowers and foliage.

Nancy Peters demonstrated using liquid paper stiffeners to create miniature accessories. We tried using the technique and draping tiny aprons, towels and folded fabrics- the results were amazing!

Juanita Landa taught making a special design California Poppy Tiffany Lamp at the April MinCals' Morgan Hill Workday. Juanita is a gifted teacher as well as a talented and creative miniaturist as she generously shared her techniques and materials.

Through the Looking Glass continues to work with MiniCals on our 2024 NAME Day Workshop. We have a theme and our creativity is bubbling with ideas for kits and gifts.

We will have more details soon!

—Barbara Adams



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## State Rep Reports

**Mini Attics:** Spring is here, flowers are blooming. Lured by eclipses and tulips, members have gone traveling. Those of us that have stayed home have been busy. Many of us are working on our NAME Day kits. Diane Phillips completed the charming garden section of her NAME Day project. Her theme is our club's 20th anniversary. Laura Johnson made wonderful celebration cakes for these projects. What a treat!

Diane Phillips, Carol Walls and Cindy Loman attended the MiniCals workshop to complete a beautiful electrified Esther Miniatures stained glass Tiffany-style lamp. The colors provided were to reference the California poppy.

Lynn Miller is working again on her NAME Day project from last year, which will be a 50th wedding anniversary box completed for 2026. White daisies and yellow roses were the flowers. A periwinkle blue background is the plan. So she has been working on masses of daisies.

The MiniAttics are thrilled with their new meeting facility at the Veterans Hall in Redwood City. In addition to a spacious room with lots of tables, there is also a cafe area where they can purchase a take-out meal for lunch or dinner. Minis plus food, with no house cleaning/hosting obligations makes for a pretty nice day. In addition, we still meet twice a month via Zoom, thanks to Carol Walls who sets up the meetings.

—Lynn Miller



Lynn's daisies



Mini Attics' anniversary cake made by Laura

**MiniCals:** The MiniCals have been busy hosting workshops in the last few months. We had a Tiffany lamp class in April with Juanita Landa and Becky Seward's stove in May. We are looking forward to more Catch-up sessions and new projects for next year.

We are working with the Through the Looking Glass club to host a NAME day event on September 28th. Our theme is Halloween based and we are using the NAME hutch project as the basis for display. Contact Ruth Heisch for more information on preordering a hutch kit at grouchybeartoo@aol.

Ruth Heisch provided group projects this year: a Christmas box with a clear lid for a mini scene and an inexpensive dresser as a "kit bash challenge." Finished projects were shown at the April meeting and judged by members for creative, most altered, whimsical and best all-around.

We were inspired by an article in the Gazette from a club that displayed a woman's trunk done by each member. Karen Laisure has cut part 1, the trunk itself, which we will build at May meeting. We will add a new part each meeting.

MiniCals was saddened by the death of founding member Liz Wrihgt. Liz, Ruth Heisch, Beth Stitt and Diane Piziali met at the home of NAME rep Marion Hall and formed the club in 1976.

We also mourn with member Judy Pick on the passing of her daughter, Jacie. Gone way too soon.

—Brenda Hough



Karen Laisure's Fairy Reading Library



Ruth Heisch's Kitty's Playhouse



Lynn Elliot's Halloween Display

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## State Rep Reports



*Judy Pick's A Child's Room*



*Ann Villalobos' Southwest Room Room*



*Brenda Hough's Hot Dog Vendor*



*The Original Inexpensive Piece*

**Wee Housers:** The Wee Housers members continue to work on their on projects. We'e hoping to have a summer meeting soon.

Rhona shares a beautiful tulip called Narcissus Albus 1601 from an IGMA Colonial Williamsburg Study Program in January. It was taught by Sherredawn Miller.

Laura has completed her NAME Day project, a scene to celebrate the Mini Attics' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She continues to work on her 2024 challenge, a jewelry shop. She is making flowers for an arrangement and lots of jewelry while making table gifts for national.

—Laura Johnson



*Rhona's tulip from a Williamsburg Study Program*



*Anniversary cake and gifts*



*This panel features the clock. How time flies!*



*The front of Laura's NAME Day project. It is waiting for the cat to come to the door.*

**Fresno**

**State Rep Barbara Fairbanks**

**Hawaii**

**Open Position**

# **Small Talk**

## ***Summer At Tahoe Workshop 2024***

### ***It's All About the Doors***

**Saturday, August 10, 2024**

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Lake Tahoe Presbyterian Church**

**2733 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe CA 96150**

**Please join us for a day of mini fun! This year's project is a Garden Patio/Gazebo made from hinged doors! You will receive a complete one-inch scale miniature kit to build your own outdoor getaway full of surprises! The day will include the project kit, breakfast, lunch, gifts, door prizes, raffle prizes and more!**

**We have limited space so please sign up soon!**

**Cost: \$85.00**

**Deadline: July 1, 2024**

**Make Check Payable: Diane Baumflek**

**1176 Margaret Ave**

**South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

**Phone: (530 )725-9938**

**Or email me at [mom2rusi@gmail.com](mailto:mom2rusi@gmail.com) for PayPal information or any questions**



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## NAME DAY in SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA Project: 14 years of NAME

Sponsored by: By Small Design

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024 Time: 10:00–3:00 **Space is limited! Sign up soon!**

Place: Governors Inn Hotel - 210 Richards Blvd. Sac., CA *Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee - \$35 + total for kits \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

You may bring your own kits if you have not completed them.

Please send your completed form and check to **Barbara Thornton-Hill at 102 Cardinal Way Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

**Deadline to turn in form is August 9, 2024.**

Questions? Call or email Barbara @ 650.380.2028 bathca@gmail.com

Frances @ 916.505.1505 fran\_big@comcast.net

Ynez @ 916.838.8153 nezytwo@msn.com

|   |          | Quantity | Cost of kit | Total |
|---|----------|----------|-------------|-------|
| <b>2010</b> - Cupboard/Hutch - 1"       | \$ 25.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/2"                                    | \$ 16.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/4"                                    | \$ 10.00 |          |             |       |
| <b>2011</b> - Work Center - 1"          | \$ 20.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/2"                                    | \$ 15.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/4"                                    | \$ 8.00  |          |             |       |
| <b>2012</b> - Alcove - 1"               | \$ 25.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/2"                                    | \$ 16.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/4"                                    | \$ 9.00  |          |             |       |
| <b>2013</b> - Cart for All Seasons - 1" | \$ 30.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/2"                                    | \$ 20.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/4"                                    | \$ 14.00 |          |             |       |
| <b>2014</b> - Cozy Corner - 1"          | \$ 22.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/2"                                    | \$ 15.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/4"                                    | \$ 9.00  |          |             |       |
| <b>2015</b> - Window Shopping - 1"      | \$ 25.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/2"                                    | \$ 15.00 |          |             |       |
| 1/4"                                    | \$ 10.00 |          |             |       |

*(Continued on next page)*

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|---|----------|--|----------------------|----------|
| <b><u>2016</u></b> - Going Bunkers - 1"         | \$ 20.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 12.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 8.00  |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2017</u></b> - Armoire - 1"               | \$ 20.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 12.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 8.00  |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2018</u></b> - Chair & Desk - 1"          | \$ 25.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 16.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 10.00 |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2019</u></b> - Crafting Table - 1"        | \$ 22.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 16.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 10.00 |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2020</u></b> - Craft Sink & Cabinet - 1"  | \$ 20.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 15.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 10.00 |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2021</u></b> - Tiki Bar (2 part kit) - 1" | \$ 22.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 15.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 10.00 |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2022</u></b> - Memory Box                 | \$ 25.00 |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
| <b><u>2023</u></b> - Three Sided Vignette - 1"  | \$ 20.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/2"  | \$ 15.00 |  |                      |          |
| 1/4"  | \$ 10.00 |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  |                      |          |
|   |          |  | Grand total for kits | \$ _____ |
|   |          |  |                      |          |

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## NAME Region N2 Calendar

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| May 18        | MiniCals Cottage Stove Workshop in Morgan Hill |
| August 1–4    | NAME National Convention                       |
| August 10     | Summer at Lake Tahoe                           |
| September 28  | NAME Day in Morgan Hill                        |
| October 5     | NAME Day in Sacramento                         |
| October 12–13 | Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures in San Jose    |

### Check the N2 Website

There are now more opportunities to get together and share our enthusiasm for miniatures online! Check out the calendar on our N2 website: [nameregionn2.org/events-calendar](http://nameregionn2.org/events-calendar) It's updated with online events, including workshops and sales. If you know of a miniature related event or have information/photos to share, please contact Carol ([namen2regionwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:namen2regionwebmaster@gmail.com)) to add it to the calendar page of the website.

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