



From the President

Hi, Everyone!

I hope all you North Pole collectors are happy! This is just your type of winter! When the snow on the sides of my driveway is too high for my snow blower it's time do some type of ritual to bring Spring on! Does anyone know of one? Certainly you native Minnesotans must have something up your sleeves that can help. Do the gophers have to see their shadows or something? Well maybe we shouldn't mention the Gophers this year!

I want to thank everyone who was with us last meeting. What a great turnout and a great send-off for Robin and John. They were truly touched. I hope to make a trip over to Robin Lee's this weekend before they officially turn over the keys to the new owners on Tuesday. Hopefully, I will have some news when we meet next week. If you have time, stop by one more time and let them know how much it meant to us to have them support our club!

We did have an officer's meeting last month. We came up with some tentative plans for our next couple of meetings. Some of the information you will find here in the newsletter. We also discussed a fundraising idea that I will share with you next Thursday. Tom is also working on a possible outing with some of our friends in the other clubs.

Our March meeting is going to be held at Diane and Mel's house.

See the enclosed article for more details.

I hope many of you took advantage of Melinda's offer for free styrofoam. If you are still thinking about it, you should contact her directly. I hope we will hear soon about their new location!

Hope to see you all next week!

~shirl

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Dates to Remember:

March 3rd: NLCC meeting—

at Diane and Mel's house!!

September 29th-Oct. 2nd, 2011: Arizona Gathering

Northern Lights Movie Night!

March 3rd!

Diane and Mel will be hosting all of us for a Northern Lights Movie Night at their Golden Valley home for our March meeting. Come along for some popcorn and soda pop! We we'll be showing a display tips video as well as some other surprises! There will even be some door prizes provided by Melinda. The coming attractions (short business meeting will start at our normal meeting time (7 pm) and then it's on with the show!

Directions to Diane and Mel's will be sent via separate e-mail to Northern Lights members.

Christmas Village Blog

Hello,

I would like to invite you to visit my blog about Christmas Villages:
www.christmasvillagefun.blogspot.com.

For years I collected alone, slightly village-addicted, pitied by my long-suffering family and friends. But then I started to write a blog! Jazz in the City. Play-Doh in the North Pole. Whaling in Nantucket. I found I had a list of topics longer than my attention span.

I welcome those who would like to spin tales with me in a journey to the land of villages. History, trivia, Charles Dickens, Claus, mouthwatering recipes, links to music and video, and Christmas cats all have a place in my blog-world.

Here are some of my recent posts:

1. Depart 56 Celebrates St. Patrick's Day
2. White Horse Bakery: An Homage to English White Horse Hill Drawings
3. Nantucket: Whaling and the Sea Shanties that Tell the Story—including links to sea shanty music
4. Hi-De-Ho Nightclub and Cab Calloway—including links to Cab singing on Sesame Street and in a Betty Boop animation!
5. Making Memories with "Crayola Polar Palette Art Center" and "Play-Doh Sculpting Center"

I am just starting to let people know about my blog. My purpose is to create a point of communication among like-minded villagers, even those with display-obsession issues.

Please pass the site on to others who might find it interesting and enjoyable. If you have a newsletter or a website, could you please publish my link? Also, if you have (good-hearted) suggestions, please let me know! The site is still evolving.

Chris Brosterhous

www.christmasvillagefun@blogspot.com

Northern Lights Peep Show!

April Meeting

I knew that title would get your attention! During our April meeting we will attempt to put together our very first Northern Lights Peeps Dioramas! Yes, I am talking about making something interesting with those marshmallow sticky, sugary candies! Now you might think I am crazy but the idea started right here in St. Paul. The Pioneer Press has been running a Peeps contest for 8 years and each year it is getting bigger and bigger. The Washington Post and the Chicago Tribune have now joined in the fun. Take a look at the "peep shows" on the following websites to see all the fun folks are having with their food!

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/gallery/2010/03/29/GA2010032903934.html?sid=ST2010032904380

www.chicagotribune.com/features/peeps/chi-peeps-2010-ugcpg.0,3414912.ugcphotogallery

You can even do a search on Peeps Dioramas and get a group of websites with instructions on how to get started! There is even an official Peeps website with fan club!

We will attempt to make a display using some Peeps along with some D-56 houses etc. Start to think of some ideas. If you have something specific in mind, send me an email so I can get some supplies to fit the theme. I have actually saved some Christmas Peeps for just this occasion. They should be "ripe" enough to stand up to anything by April. If we are successful, we will take some pictures and enter the Pioneer Press contest!

Here is another challenge! Make a diorama of your own and bring it to our meeting to share! Get crazy with it! I can't believe how creative some folks get! Everything from politics to sports to literary works have been depicted in these dioramas! I just know we are going to see plenty of Green Bay Packer Peep shows. Maybe we should sum up the Vikings season by showing some injured and melted peeps outside of a mock Metrodome complete with a deflated roof! I know at least two people in the club who could come up with a few ideas about what to do with a Peep wearing number 4! This could turn out to be therapeutic!

Shirl

Just some thoughts about Robin Lee's Hallmark...

The other day, Shirley asked me if I remember how long Robin Lee's has sponsored the Northern Lights. I have to admit, I couldn't tell you how long that's been. I do know that's it's been quite a number of years that we've been blessed with Robin and John's gracious sponsorship of our club.

The Northern Lights didn't have a sponsor when B.J. and I joined the club. It seemed like it was paralysis by analysis on that order. The thought was, that we either needed to let every shop in the entire metro sponsor us—so that the different shops wouldn't get angry—or else we wouldn't have a sponsor at all. It became particularly noticeable, though, in our dealings with the the D-56 clubs in the area that we needed the type of support that those clubs enjoyed.

When we first were sponsored, Robin Lee's was one of a handful of sponsors. While some of those other shops didn't work out for us, it seemed like the Friendship Shop in Saint Louis Park and Robin Lee's Hallmark were absolutely solid. Jane Crawford, owner of the Friendship Shop died some years ago now and her husband, Larry sold. But, though it all, Robin and John have been right with this club and the others they sponsor.

The Northern Lights owe Robin Lee's Hallmark a debt of gratitude.

Thank you so much, Robin and John.

—Diane

Shirley also asked if I had photos of John and Robin. I actually do have a classic of Robin—from a Robbinsdale High School annual. Won't divulge the year. Decided not to run it ;)

(But I might bring it to the meeting!!)