

Northern Lights News

September 2013

• Northern Lights Collectors' Club, Minneapolis, MN

• Volume 22, Number 9

From the President ...

Hello All! Welcome to Fall!

The cool nights are here and the leaves on my new maple tree are beginning to turn. I can't wait to see what color it will turn out to be. This is my favorite time of year! I love the crisp air, the pumpkin patches, the fall festivals, and of course Halloween!

This is also the time of year when we, the Village People, start to get serious about the work ahead of us. It is time to begin planning the displays, breaking out the boxes and melting the Styrofoam! I hope many of you have had a peek at the new items coming in from D-56! The latest Village Delights magazine featured some of the Mid-Year introductions and I couldn't help but get excited. The Dickens

Village is getting a toy store which I will have to get for my market area. I am also excited about the public library! It will be a good partner with one of my favorite pieces from last year, Boz's Books! I also fell in love with the Bier Stein Booth for the Alpine Christmas Market! Snow Village is getting a whole line of Harley pieces and you can't miss the Chrysler Building for Christmas in the City! Let Carol know which pieces she needs to save for you!



I am also looking forward to going to the Northeast Gathering. The line-up of seminars looks great and I am hoping that the group that is going will bring home some good ideas for the club. It's not too early to think about next year. The Texas folks have begun planning the "2014 Region 8 Roundup" for next September 19 – 24, 2014. The hotel, The Omni Hotel San Antonio At the Colonnade, is taking reservations! The room rate is \$99.00 and the phone number is 800-843-6664 or 210-691-8888. Mention the Convention name to get the special rate before and after the gathering. The theme will be "Region 8 Reporting on the World of Villages".

I am focusing on our next three meetings and of course, our House Hop! We will need some volunteers to help run things so help out where you can! See the articles for the details!

Shirley

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Dates to Remember:

October 3..... 7:00 Meeting at Jeri's Hallmark
October 25-27 Northeast Harvest Gathering
October 31..... Trick or Treat with Lisa and Dan

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Thursday October 3 Meeting Everything Halloween!

During our October meeting we will celebrate Halloween with a **Team Vignette Challenge!** We will split up into teams to make Halloween vignettes! Each team will have their own Trick or Treat bag of stuff to finish their vignette! Who knows what will be in there; an eye of a newt, a witch's brew or maybe some Peeps Ghosts! Bring your **Hot Wire** tools and your **glue guns** but most of all bring your sense of **fun and creativity**. We want to get those display juices flowing!



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5KzKUjU3pl>

We'll also try some Halloween Trivia and how about some spooky treats! Do you have some special Halloween themed treats that you can bring along for the group? Let me know if you can!

Our business side of the evening will include nominations for our officer election in November, a discussion about our December Meeting/Holiday dinner plans, Girls night out at Gertens with a D-56 artist and of course, our House Hop!

October 5th and 6th! It's Hallmark Ornament Debut Weekend!

There will be over 100 new ornaments to see!
Come early to Jeri's Hallmark for the weekend specials and the best selections!



November 7th Meeting It's Chili and Display Contest Time!

If it's November is Chili time! We will hold our annual chili feed at the November meeting! Keeping with our tradition of the last several years we will also have our **fall display contest!** Your display can be any village, any season, or any holiday! You can also hook up with a friend and do the display together. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. (Remember that our October meeting is a warm up!) Make a nice holiday display that you can use at home in a corner or as a centerpiece for your holiday table!

The business side of this meeting will include **election of officers**, a recap of the Northeast Gathering by those attending and final plans for our December events and meeting. We will also get down to business on our House Hop by asking for an organizer and finalizing the date!

Don't miss the meeting or you will be a real turkey!



The scale of some add-on parts

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different sizes of the add-on pieces for our villages? This recent Department 56 Facebook post explains why there are so many different sizes of flags.

<https://www.facebook.com/Department56>

There has been quite a discussion on this and other collector sites about replacement flags. Attached is an illustration of an American flag and how different it can be depending on what piece it is used on. Many of you would like us to standardize the flags to make them more interchangeable with other pieces. The illustration shows with just four flags why this is hard to do. Snow Village is a larger scale than the other Villages so the flags are larger, and that includes the base. Standard sized flags would make it hard for our artists who, as you know do not use a particular scale when designing. While we try to have replacement flags for many pieces, it is not always possible. My storage space is limited and sometimes we simply cannot get flags from our factories. This is especially true when the piece has been retired.



Dues are Due

Thanks to all of you who paid your dues at the September meeting. For the rest of us, remember to bring cash or check to the October meeting. Or mail your dues to Mel.

Also, be sure to give Mel any updates to your personal info for Membership list.



Member News October Birthdays



Gerry McGraw	October 19
Nancy Rodriguez.....	October 26
Grim Reaper	October 31

If you know of any member news, please let Debbie know.



Cash Corner

Autumn is here...pumpkins, corn mazes and.....wait for it.....DUES! Last meeting we harvested \$140 putting our balance at \$2,105.66. So don't delay and as 'Guido the Enforcer' would say PAY! See ya at the meeting.

Your Treasurer, *Mel*



Be sure to support our Sponsor

Jeri's Hallmark
345 Willow Bend
Crystal, MN 55428