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## Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

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May 2006                      VOLUME 21                      NUMBER 5 est. 1982  
Box 70045, Londonderry Post Office, Edmonton, AB T5C 3R6

**General Meetings:** Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month: 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at McClure United Church, 13708-74 Street, Edmonton. Workshops are held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There are no meetings or workshops during July, August, and December. Meeting only (no workshops) in January (assuming temperature is warmer than minus 25C.)  
Admission: \$2.00    Membership: \$20.00



### Upcoming Club Activities

**Workshops:** The next workshops are June 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Bonnie will do a sweet potato plant, and on June 13<sup>th</sup>, Bonnie will show you how to do an artist's paint set, made from the lead covering from the tops of wine bottles. Bonnie will provide the lead, so don't feel you have to drink several bottles of the stuff in order to take part in the workshop!

**General Meeting:** The next general meeting will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Not only is this the annual general meeting, when elections are held, but it is also our annual "Garage Sale", so bring any minis you bought in a fit of enthusiasm and now don't know what to do with, and any extra items you have made for yourself, or for sale. Food will be provided by Karen Duke, Luba Barnes, and Judy Mitchell. Cream will be provided by Karen Jones.

### Printable of the Month – Victoria Day

In honour of Queen Victoria's upcoming birthday on May 24<sup>th</sup>, your printies for the month are a photo of the Queen (for turn of the century settings), two photos of the Queen with Prince Albert (which you might use if your setting is early Victorian), and an advert celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.

### Minis On-Line

It may be worth your while to check out Miniature-U, at <http://www.miniature-u.com/> whose motto is "Bringing a World of Knowledge to your Fingertips". Their mission is simple - to provide individuals who are interested in miniatures the opportunity to create through online classes and workshops.

Miniature-U hosts a wide variety of interesting and fun classes taught by experienced and well known instructors who are knowledgeable in various techniques and styles in several scales (1:12 and smaller). However, Miniature-U is more than that, it is a community of passionate like-minded individuals from all over the world who seek to educate and inform miniaturists regardless of their skill levels. Classes not only educate students on the project they are taking, but also supplies students with a large repertoire of techniques that they can apply to future miniature projects. Unfortunately, their upcoming June 24 on-line class on making a ¼ inch retro kitchen in Avocado or Harvest Gold required registration by May 1<sup>st</sup>. New classes start in the fall.

Their website also includes a number of tutorials that can be downloaded. At the moment, tutorials are available on:

- Making a Market Stall/Midway Stand
- Creating a Black Forest Cake or a luscious Strawberry Shortcake
- Making Steaks and Roasts for your Butcher
- A Lil' Lion Halloween Tutorial (which includes dressing a child doll as a lion carrying a Halloween treat bag, as well as instructions for creating a scene within a pumpkin (purchased from Michaels).

You can also subscribe to a newsletter and sign up for monthly club activities. Great for cold winters.....

## Hints and Tips – A Primer on Glues

At the two recent Brook Tucker Workshops, we were introduced to a number of new glues, which were imported for us by Luba Barnes (Thank you, Luba!) I thought I'd write all down all the glues we used, and what we used them for, in the newsletter before we all forgot .....

<u>Glue</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>Aleene's Tacky Glue</b>	Best multipurpose white glue, used for furniture, construction, etc.	Brooke refuses to use Sobo or Velvee, and recommends that anyone who uses them should throw them away!
<b>Krazy Glue</b>	The "Original" only, please! It is an ethyl cyanoacrylate which is an EXTREMELY fast bonding single component adhesive. It works best on smaller surfaces, using a very small amount of glue. It bonds INSTANTLY with a colorless and transparent bond that is VERY STRONG.	Several "dots" of Krazy Glue added to a Tacky Glue surface provides a fast "stick". Krazy Glue can turn crystalline over time, and shatter, but by the time this happens, the Tacky has cured and holds the bond tight.
<b>Grrrip</b>	Best fabric glue, in Brooke's estimation.	Very sticky, but allows you lots of time to take apart and refold those tricky pleats.
<b>YES Glue</b>	Best glue for wallpapering. This is actually a book-binder's glue, so it does not soak into the paper.	Should be thinned down with warm water – the rule is "thin with thin, thick with thick". In other words, if you are sticking wallpaper to a wall, a thin syrup is required (paper is thin). If you are gluing a rug to the floor, use a very thick glue.
<b>Slow-Zap</b>	Very High Viscosity Formula. Super Thick and Super Strong. Allows part positioning for approximately 30 to 40 Seconds. Use ZIP Kicker to accelerate cure time.	Usually used to strengthen a long thin joint that has been set with Tacky Glue (like joining two walls, or wall to ceiling). Run a bead down the back side of the work, and add one puff of Zip Kicker to solidify immediately.
<b>Zip Kicker</b>	Forces immediate cure of Cyanoacrylate Glue. Best accelerator for ZAP and ALL other Super Glues. Expands Gap Filling Capacity. Solves most tough to bond material combinations.	Do NOT store anywhere near Krazy Glue, Slow-Zap or Zap-a-Gap. Even fumes are enough to solidify your glue right in its bottle!
<b>Zap-a-Gap</b>	Superior Gap Filling Formula, Medium Viscosity, Allows approximately 7 to 10 seconds for part positioning, average of 20 seconds for curing, works on OILY surfaces, use ZIP Kicker to accelerate cure time	Similar to Slow-Zap, but can fill minor cracks as well.

Here are some other tips and tricks for glues, reprinted from "The Miniaturist's Workbench, Volume 1", 1982, a small booklet compiled from Nutshell News.

- Absolutely ideal for dispensing small quantities of white glue are used surgical syringes and they can be purchased very inexpensively. As a safeguard, grind off the point, and place a swab of wet cotton in the cap to prevent dried glue from plugging the tip. Or you can stand the tip in 1/4" of water between uses.
- Extend the nozzle of your glue bottle – it makes getting into corners much easier. Clean out the body of an old ball point pen with a pipe cleaner, cut off as much as required, then force it onto the existing nozzle. Plug with a round toothpick between uses.
- Before nailing hinges into miniature furniture, apply a very small amount of epoxy glue to the hinge area. Allow hinge to set firmly before driving in nails. This keeps hinges firmly anchored before and after nailing.
- Brooke Tucker was quite taken by the fact that our Krazy Glue bottles did not have a stand, but did have a child-proof container. To make your own stand, to prevent knocking over the bottle while working, attach an aerosol can lid to your work area with double sided tape and set the bottle in the small inner ring.
- If your thumb and forefinger become stuck together with one of the super glues, just roll a pencil between them to gently peel apart. Do not use a razor blade or knife! Adhesive remaining on the fingers can be removed with nail polish remover.

## **Brooke Tucker Workshops – Report**

The two Brooke Tucker workshops were held on May 2,3 and 4 and May 6 and 7, 2006. There were 22 registrants in the “Soft Victorian” class (1<sup>st</sup> photo) and 19 registrants in the “Skills My Teacher Taught Me” workshop (2<sup>nd</sup> photo). A reception was also held for Brooke on May 5 so that all the club members could meet Brooke, even if they were not registered. Here are the photos (thanks to Luba for sending them).



## Dollhouse and Miniature Shopping Tips

Or, How to get more minis when your spouse says, "You have too many!"

*There are better ways to deal your miniatures rather than hiding them from your significant other. Most of our significant others are happy that their miniaturist is enjoying herself at home rather than going out. But if you feel the need, you could always try these lines.*

*You give him a big hug and say, "Honey, you're right. I'm going to give up miniatures as a hobby". Instead, tell him "I'm going to"...*

- Join a political campaign and spend my nights phoning people and arguing politics. If we're lucky, we can throw parties for candidates right here in the house!
- Spend my nights working out at the gym down the street. I've met the instructor and he's real cute.'
- Spend time getting seriously involved with people. Are any of your friends available?'
- Raise Irish Wolfhounds. I'll turn the family room/basement into a breeding kennel.
- Get a hound dog and go out nights owl spotting. Also, I'll need a really beat-up pickup truck.'
- Take up indoor gardening. I'll start by growing pot in the basement.'
- Take up oil painting. I think I'd be really great with nude models!
- Travel the world on \$5.00 a day. Boy, I'm really going to miss you!
- Get a new hobby down at the bar around the corner. I'm going to work on becoming a serious drunk.'
- Get in touch with my inner self – let me know when you find yours....
- Start a company organizing people's belongings for them. Can I practice on your garage/study/workshop?
- Get a motorcycle. Gee, you'll look great in leather!'
- Become a vegetarian. Trust me, you won't miss meat at all!
- Start my own webcam... perhaps I'll call it "Your Doll's House", or "Mini-Nights with a Maxi Gal"?
- Start a religion, for fun and profit. Here are your beads. Now bow down and worship me.'

*Hopefully, when your spouse realizes all the OTHER things that you could be doing (many of which would make the two of you eligible to be guests on the 'Jerry Springer Show), he'll be glad that you're just "playing with dollhouses".*

# Have a Great Victoria Day Weekend!!!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON-LINE AT: <http://www.camacdonald.com/MEE/>

Contact Tina (487-8943) if you have something you want to sell, or to place an ad or an announcement.