

The 2007 M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention

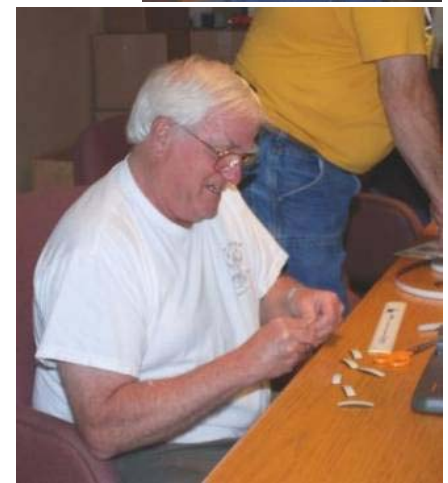


The 9th Annual M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention has gone the way of scrap booking and memories. It's hard to believe yet another convention has come and gone. It was a lot of work, and a **LOT of FUN!**

With the convention only 2 weeks away, we received the fateful phone call telling us that renovations were complete, our brand new hotel rooms were waiting, but the Fire Marshall had denied the use of the convention space! Certainly this was an unforeseen thing. Those of you involved in construction or event planning know that when the Fire Marshall says the space is not ready for public use, you best be finding another place for your upcoming event. You can only imagine the thoughts going through my mind during that conversation.

I was being told that our convention was being "upgraded" to a better hotel, they were sure I would be pleased, and oh yes, "Please drop by and take a look at the property this afternoon". Well, dropping by wasn't an easy thing to do since it was Wednesday afternoon and I was in Atlanta. It was apparent we had no choice but to accept the "upgrade", so we began preparing our list of questions and concerns. The hotel worked with us until all questions were answered, and we began preparing our communication to the convention attendees. After the website posting, many emails, and many phone calls, we were confident that all attendees were aware of the change and were now booked at the Best Western Lake Buena Vista Disney Resort Property. A few of our Florida members went by the hotel and gave us good reports. That was great to hear since we would not see the hotel until the Saturday before the convention.

With the door prizes collected, centerpieces complete, all printing done, personalized items in process with Master Foods, menus selected, events scheduled, and the Saturday morning M&M'S® World Store event finalized, we loaded our truck and trailer and headed for Florida. We were greeted by several members who helped unload the trailer and "load" the registration room.



VOLUNTEERING - I'm not sure these "volunteers" knew what they were getting in to!

Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, the "volunteers" gathered in the registration room for "work parties".

We had shirts to fold, auction paddles to be glued, door signs to be laminated, name badges to be separated and placed in their holders, among other things. We also learned that our magnetic "Open Signs" would not stick to the doors. After much laughter, the guys finally determined that the hinge was the only metal part of the door! So that's where the "Open Signs" would go. Membership pins and personalized plastic flyers or Frisbees® were among the items delivered for us at M&M'S World Orlando® Store. Assembly lines work really well to put the packets together. Amidst the laughter, the group did a great job and we got all the packets put together! We were now ready for Registration to begin! The Volunteer sign-up sheet was posted and we **ALWAYS** had plenty of volunteers!



***Thanks
for ALL
the help!***



WELCOME PARTY HIGHLIGHTS Thursday evening brought the Welcome Party. - Attendees were greeted with centerpieces, games, snacks, and cups imprinted with the convention logo. Only a few of the imprinted cups remained, as almost everyone signed up to attend. It was a time to play some games and socialize. Tracy Kelly completed the "Challenge" game and Linda Gill was the first to find all 10 items in the birdseed bottle! ***Good Job Ladies!***



Friday's Auction brought the fun we have come to expect at such events. The auction featured a variety of items, including a stand-up of Ralph's cousin "Shrek"! The resemblance was un-canny.

Thanks to Doug Hofmeister for stepping forward to be the auctioneer and the members that ran the auction. Attendees went home with new and different items for their collections. And in what has become a club tradition, it's not as much about the winning bid, as it is about the great fun we have as a group. All's fair when it comes to bidding in the M&M'S® Collectors Club Auctions!



The Bingo Party included special 2007 convention “Bingo” cards based on the five M&M’S® Brand Characters in their “older” configuration. Each column matched the character’s color.

We had several members try their hand at calling the games. We didn’t know we had such talent in the group!

And, we found out that Doug Gill is a professional Bingo caller! We caught him a few times saying things like “O75”, when we all knew it was really “Yellow 75”!



Thanks to some additional door prize donations by the members, we played until everyone had a “bingo” and won a prize! I don’t think they do that at those professional Bingo games...

If you missed the M&M’S® Milk Chocolate Candy Pretzel Snacks, they were yummy!

Some players seemed content to just eat the Mega M&M’S® Milk Chocolate Candies that were used to cover the cards. In the end, we all had **“BINGO”** and a great time!



YEAH ROAD TRIP!



Saturday's Bus Trip To M&M'S World Orlando® Store

included spending lots of \$\$.

We began our morning waiting for the buses at the hotel. The buses arrived and we loaded up for M&M'S World®!

Upon arrival, we gathered under the M&M'S World® Store entrance for our group photo. And then the M&M'S World® truck arrived to much shouting from our group!

As it turns out, the new Ron Lee statues were delivered that morning!

The store opened and we were treated to a continental breakfast, character visits, hours of shopping, laughter and signature opportunities with world renowned sculptor Ron Lee.



**Special thanks to John Storms, Kathy Fleck, & the Orlando M&M'S World® Staff - WONDERFULL JOB!
(Rumor has it we spent over \$22,000!)**





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Saturday Evening Brought the Farewell Banquet

Several volunteers helped get the room set up, door prizes in place, and the last two colors of the personalized cups in place. For those couples that attending the Welcome Party and the Banquet, you now have a 4 color set of the cups! All the yellow and green cups were used at the banquet. Hopefully you also now have both the yellow and orange plastic flyers.

Masterfoods allowed us to order minimal quantities of the personalized cups (60 each white & purple, 65 each yellow & green), plastic flyers (100 each yellow & orange), and tote bags (144), leaving only a few tote bags to be used as door prizes in the future.

A special thanks to Brian McNally for all his hard work getting us the membership pins and the convention items. His team's artwork on the shirt was fantastic! And speaking of artwork, Ralph's rendition of me & Dennis at Planet M™ was too funny. We greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness behind our gifts. They hang proudly in our home, right beside the signed Red stand-up!



By all accounts, the meal was excellent (well, except that we didn't have any coffee afterwards☺). After the card game was played, all the door prizes were given out (again, thanks for the donated prizes that allowed *everyone* to win), the raffles were won (congrats to the winners!), centerpieces won (we're glad you liked them), gifts distributed, surveys completed, goodbyes and wishes →

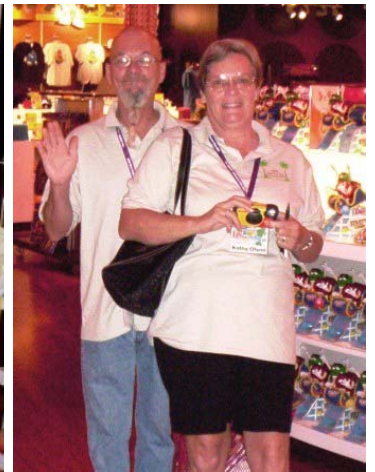


for safe travel shared, the room was quiet and reality set in. The 2007 convention was OVER! As hard as that was to believe, we had to now begin the clean-up, pack-up and long journey home as we reflected on the great time we had.

Thanks again to a GREAT volunteer team that helped from the moment we arrived, until the last things were packed in the trailer and we headed for home. We wouldn't have made it without you.

What a FANTASTIC club we have! We had a great time being the chairpersons for the 2007 M&M'S® Collectors Club Convention.

- Dennis & Wanda Taylor





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