

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, April 16, 2022
Place: Home of Ciro Compagno
Attendees: Mark Moritz, Jim Homoki, JP Mikesh, Ciro Compagno, Paul Harbord, and Jim Walsh in-person and Steve Ascolese, Chuck Diljak, Andy Brusgard and Tom Casey online
Absent: Bob Dennis

Meeting started around 9:30 AM.

No Motions Submitted at the Meeting

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Mark said that for the President's report, what he wants to speak about is covered in various topics to be discussed later at the meeting.

NER REPORT – Jim H attended the NER board meeting about a week before this meeting. One big item discussed had to do with the donation email sent in the last few days. The Hub division is getting together donations and there was some discussion if it should be in the NER Coupler as well. The question is if we should be promoting fund raising for outside organizations no matter how worthy the cause may be. This particular one involves fund raising to support a live steam group in Poland that has taken in some Ukrainian refugees. The NER decision is that they will follow what National does on it. The NER meeting also covered the upcoming conventions. The NER reported on the success of NERx thanks to the efforts of Chuck Diljak from our division. Other GSD members contributed as well. Jim W and Scott Gothe gave clinics and Fred Dellaiacono provided a layout tour.

Vice President's Report – Jim H had nothing to add.

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed DRAFT minutes of the BOD meeting of 22JAN2022 previously by email. In addition, he sent out the DRAFT minutes for the Annual Business Meeting of 1MAY2021. There were no comments or corrections for the documents and they were both accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D was not at the meeting but he sent a Treasurer's Report. It shows that we had a net outflow of \$184 for the year. It is mostly due to the make-and-take clinic and Bob still has some of the ITLA kits to sell. When they sell, we will be down to \$34 on the year. We are in good shape financially. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – Mark has had no requests for any evaluations for the achievement program. He asked the board members if they knew of anybody needing to have something evaluated. Mark will make some calls to people who are working on AP certificates. He mentioned that Jim W and Scott Gothe are working toward Author. Mark is working on Chief Dispatcher. Later this year, Ciro will earn Association Official.

Events Report - SPRING EVENT: The Spring event is a joint meet with the New Jersey Division on May 7 at Camp Evans. Mark spoke to John Gallagher, the NJD Superintendent. The NJD clinic will be on backdrop painting and photography. Ciro will present a clinic on CADRAIL layout design. There will be 3 or more layout tours. One of the layouts will be Thom Radice's civil war era layout. The layouts will be announced at the meet.

SUMMER EVENT: July 16 - Andy said that The Model Railroad Club in Union will host the meeting and they are willing to have an operating session after the meeting. Andy will also check with Tim about them doing a clinic on model railroad operations focusing on the operations at the club. Jim W reported that Kai Ebinger will be doing a clinic on making paper and card structure models. Ciro asked

Andy to find out how long they expect the operating session to run. Since we will be participating in the operating session, we will not have any layout open houses.

FALL EVENT: Firehouse in Hope, NJ on October 8. One clinic will be by Bill Schaumburg. He is interested in presenting a clinic and Hope, NJ is close to where he lives. We will need a second clinic and home layouts. Dave Olesen is in Hackettstown. Jim H says that it depends upon his layout being up and running since he has been installing a CTC system and related wiring. Other layouts in the area: Joe Valentine, Tony Koester, Ed Suhy and Ted Pamperin. Ciro will contact Ed Suhy. Jim H will contact Dave and Ted. Jim W will contact Tony Koester. Chuck noted that Dave Olesen is not currently a member and would not be covered by the NMRA insurance. Jim H will also talk to Dave about being a member.

WINTER EVENT: Date and Location – We are thinking about February and options include Oakland Library and Hawthorne Library. Other locations for consideration are Morris County Library or Morristown Armory. For the date – end of February - February 25 is the last Saturday in February and the following Saturday as a snow date – March 4, 2023.

Clinic Report – Considering the clinics just discussed for the meets, we need one more clinic for the Fall meet. We have no more available clinics. Jim W asked if anybody has a clinic or ideas for a clinic. He will look at the clinics in NMRA Edutrain Resource. Chuck mentioned that Rich Newmiller has a new clinic – check Chuck's email note about it.

Membership Report – Andy reported that with the start of the digital magazine, the RailPass trial membership will only have the digital magazine. He signed up new members at NYSME last week and all of them will be getting the digital copy. This also applies to the Junior members. Andy just got the membership report for March but he has not been able to go through the report yet. We have been doing well with recruitment tables at events like the JCRHS Train Show at Mother Seton High School and the NYSME show.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H reported that he needs more information to finish up this issue including descriptions of the clinics. Jim W will forward info for Ciro's clinic and Mark will provide the info for the NJD clinic. Since Thom Radice is on the layout tours, Jim H will speak to Thom and get a photo from him for the cover. The other layouts will be announced at the meet. Jim H noted that he got the regular columns.

2022 GSD Elections – Ciro is the election chairman since he is not up for reelection. He has the slate – it is uncontested. We will have the business meeting and we waive reading of the reports. Then we will have the election. Ciro will take over, present the slate and then he will cast a single vote for the slate. Then Mark will close out the business meeting.

Old Business:

- BOD members outreach – Mark called Jim Espaillat and invited Jim to a work session at Mark's home. Mark suggested that we continue this effort to enhance the value of membership to the GSD members.
- RPM / Craftsman Structures Meet: on hold - They just had the Malvern meet and it went well and there is no need for us to plan an RPM meet at this time. There will be a meet in Springfield, Massachusetts in June – the NE RPM. Jim H spoke about the Valley Forge (Malvern) meet this year. Registration started slowly but picked up closer to the event date. Attendance this year was 20% less than normal. Jim H said that they had a good number of people. At this time it sounds like they will continue to have the RPM on alternate years. Jim H spoke to Ted Dilorio about having something in this area on the off-years. Ted probably will not move ahead with an RPM meet. Therefore the November date for the NJ RPM meet is open. You need 6 to 8 months to plan, so we would not be doing it for this year. We should consider it for 2023 – probably in November. We

could start it as an RPM. See if some craftsman structure vendors would be involved with the possibility of transitioning it to a combined RPM/Craftsman structures show.

- GSD online apparel shop – It was on hold until Steve recovered. Mark will speak to Bob Dennis about the status and alternative companies for our shop.
- Status of donated locomotives – JP indicated that we have about 20 locomotives left. Jim H suggested that we try to get rid of them at the next meet since most GSD members have already seen them but we will have the NJD at our next meet. With new people seeing the locomotives, we may be able to get \$5 for each of them and maybe we can get rid of them all. Take this item off the list.
- Provide server information and logins for all BOD members – already done – take it off the list.
- Send photo for new GSD website, Leadership Page – JP & Tom C. Take a photo of JP at this meeting and get a photo from Tom C.
- Post Approved Revision of GSD Bylaws with Donation Policy – New Donation Policy needs to be uploaded to the website. Mark mentioned that we should also address the new policy at the business meeting and note that it is in the updated Bylaws.
- Check NMRA policy about layout owners - It was checked and determined that the owner does not need to be an NMRA member but they must be told that they are not covered by NMRA insurance.
- Contact Tim at the Model Railroad Club – Andy already checked and confirmed the meet with the op session. He will check about them presenting a clinic.
- Check for venue in Hope, NJ – DONE: remove from list.
- Status for future Valley Forge RPM meets - DONE: remove from list.
- Appeal for content in Whistle Post - It was done in the last issue – drop this from the list.

That completes the Old Business.

New Business:

- Backup for Server - Ciro noted Dropbox still exists and all the files are still there. He transferred all the files from Dropbox to our server. We will keep all our files on the server and use Dropbox for current events. Therefore we will continue with Dropbox for active items and archive files on the server. Dropbox will have an events folder and BOD contact information. Ciro asked about backup for the server. Paul will get information about hosting our server in the cloud or having a backup. JP is getting help with the server from Rich Gademan and his email is RICHRMG@RICHRMG.COM.
- Application for matching Funds – There is an item that came from National some months ago and the way they presented it required the application submission prior to the event. It is for matching funds for membership development. Ciro noted that he helped the Metro North Division with their application and it was after the fact. However, you must get the application approved before you can apply for the matching funds. It would probably be ideal to submit the application before the event but it is possible to apply afterward. The benefit amount had been \$50 but it was increased to \$200. Bob D will submit an application for our winter make-and-take event. The benefit is offered once each year and for the first 50 divisions to apply. The NER is also interested in operating a similar program. Chuck said that it will be managed through the membership chairman. Ciro is not sure if the NER program is completely defined and he will follow up on it.
- Jim H raised an issue about NERx. He was interested in the attendance and viewers of NERx. The number of live stream viewers seems low but the number of viewers on YouTube shows many more views. Jim H wanted to know what Chuck thought. Chuck said that NERx is consistent with NMRAx with a core group of around 100 people during the live stream. Then many more people watch it later on YouTube. Facebook has low attendance during the live stream and most people access it through YouTube. Jim H also observed that while National has been moving to the digital magazine, the NER is promoting their printed magazine. NER is one of 3 regions that still offer a paper version of their newsletter.

We need a date for the next BOD meeting. Our next GSD meet is July 16 and one month before would be June 18 or June 11. There were conflicts with those dates and June 25 was also mentioned. We will have an email and use DOODLE.COM to survey possible dates and see the best date for the group. Ciro will send the email with the survey link. He will also ask for volunteers to host the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD