

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, July 1, 2023
Place: Home of Mark Moritz
Attendees: Mark Moritz, Jim Homoki, Bob Dennis, Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Paul Harbord, JP Mikesh, Scott Gothe, Ed Bush and Jim Walsh
Absent: none

Meeting started around 9:30 AM.

July 1, 2023 Motions Submitted and Approved:

(2023.7.1.1) GSD BOD confirmed Mark's appointment of Ed Bush as a GSD director.

(2023.7.1.2) The GSD will give away 5 Door Prizes at each GSD meet.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Mark does not have much to say. Ed approached Mark about being on the GSD BOD. We have available space on the board and Mark appointed Ed as a director. He needs the board to concur.

MOTION: Confirm Mark's appointment of Ed Bush as a director on the GSD BOD. - MOTION PASSED

NER Report – The next NER board meeting is on July 9. The NER is working on the next NERx and Mark is responsible for the 4 round table discussions. NERx is in March 2024 and Mark will keep us informed.

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

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed DRAFT minutes of the BOD meeting of 22APR2023 previously by email. Jim also distributed DRAFT minutes of the last Business meeting of 13MAY2023 previously by email. With no comments or corrections for both documents, they were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D reported that from January to June we had -\$395.76. We had some software license fees of \$354 to pay. The winter meet netted us \$245 and \$25 for the spring dual meet. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – Mark said that Ciro is putting together his paperwork for Association Official and Ed is preparing for the Electrical certificate. Another member is going for Golden Spike and Electrical. We need to convene a committee to evaluate members' work for AP. Jim H has limited availability for the next 2 months. Jim W asked if Chuck was approached to participate and Mark said that he will ask. Ciro and others volunteered and Tom Wortmann will participate. Mark will compile a list of available volunteers and he noted that we will not need everybody at each evaluation – only a few. Ciro asked if an evaluator must have the specific certificate. It is preferred but not required. Bob D previously asked to be evaluated for scenery but he said that he will be selling his layout. The group convinced Bob to get evaluated for scenery before he takes s the layout down.

Events Report - **SUMMER EVENT** - July 22 at the Morris County Library in Whippany on Hanover Avenue. It has a built in audio/video system with a video projector. We can go there ahead of time to see if we can connect. Paul said that he will just need somebody from the library to show him how to start the system. We can also bring our own equipment as a backup. The library opens at 9:00 AM and the meeting will start at 9:30 AM. Since Covid is over, they now allow food and drinks in the library – we can have coffee and doughnuts . However, they have a policy of not charging admission – we could have a donation box. Mark said that we need somebody to get coffee and doughnuts and also a person to set up a donation box. JP will get the coffee and doughnuts and Bob D will set up the donation box. Clinics: Jim W is giving a clinic on enhancing layout lighting and Mark is presenting a clinic on building the Sparrows Point DL&W caboose. We have 5 layouts to tour – all within a few miles. They are the Morris Plains Model Railroad Club and the layouts of Mark, Steve Kay, Neal Multz

and John Montagna. Scott G reported that Morris Plains has a farmers market that day so there may be some issues parking in the area of the club.

FALL EVENT – It will be on Staten Island at Esposito Hall at the church of Saint Christopher – Saint Margaret Mary. It is sort of a catering hall. Ciro reported on the clinics for the event. He said that Marc Pitanza will give a clinic on the Staten Island Rapid Transit (SIRT) and opportunities to model the SIRT. Also Chris Oliva will present a clinic related to the SIRT operations. Chris works for the railroad. Bob D is working on getting us a tour of the shops in place of layout tours. Bob is working with Jim Thompson who is a motorman on the SIRT. Andy said that the MTA has an office that arranges tours at their facilities. Bob will check on details like parking and photography at the shop facility.

WINTER EVENT – We would like to have it in Park Ridge at the Masonic Lodge with a make-and-take clinic. Paul needs to validate the date. Our plan is to have the meet on the last Saturday in February – February 24 with a snow date of 2 March 2024. Bob D will call ITLA about a kit for the make-and-take. Bob spoke to Ron Klaiss of Mine Mount Models and Ron already agreed to do the clinic and would be using one of the shed kits.

SPRING 2024 – This will be a joint meet hosted by the NJD.

Operations Event at the Model Railroad club in Union, New Jersey. This is a special event and it is separate from our normal meetings. We need to determine a date. Andy will talk to Tim and have options on possible dates for our operations event. Mark asked Jim W to prepare a sheet to circulate at our next meet to get a list of members who are interested in participating in the operations event.

NJD Special Event - Mike Prokop of the NJD sent an email to Mark about a special event arranged by the NJD on August 5 in Hamilton, NJ. Mark will send a separate Constant Contact email to our members with the details on the NJD special event.

Clinic Report – Jim W reported that all the clinics mentioned in the events report are all the clinics that Jim has and he needs more clinics. He made an appeal to the board for clinics. Scott has a clinic that he is preparing and it will be available for Spring 2024. Ciro is also preparing a clinic on scratch building and controlling turnouts. He will be ready for Summer 2024.

Membership & Club Chair Report – Tom C spoke about the membership and the reports that he sent out by email. Andy noted that he has done 3 shows this year and put in 17 Rail Pass applications but he has not seen them all showing up on Tom C's reports. It takes National awhile to process those members especially with paper applications. Tom's latest information shows 184 voting members and 4 Rail Pass members for a total of 188 members. The average that we had for the last 12 months is 198. Tom also noted that our membership is pretty stable compared with the rest of the NER. We are always between 13 and 13.5 % of the NER. Andy added that for people who leave the NMRA, he has one simple question "How did we fail you?". There was a discussion of membership including the new Interchange.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H reported that material just started coming in this week. He says he will probably put it together on Monday. It seems to be a light issue and we have a short schedule this time. Jim W noted that he would be sending his column later in the day. Jim H is looking for articles – no page limit and on topics that would be interesting to our members. He is always looking for future articles. He still needs a cover shot for this issue. He noted that he wants top quality photos for the cover of the Whistle Post.

Door Prize Committee Report — Ciro reported that the inventory is up and we have a variety of items. It went well at the last meet. There was a lot of interest at the door prize table due to the selection of door prizes. Ciro said that he was able to increase the inventory by purchasing some items from Mike Prokop's white elephant table. They were new items. Bob D suggested that we limit the door prizes to 5 at each meet since we are buying the items for around \$10 each. We will display all of our items and give away 5 items selected by the winners.

MOTION: The GSD will give away 5 Door Prizes at each GSD meet. - MOTION PASSED

Old Business:

- Information about having a meet at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum - Summer of 2024. The last time that we went to the mine it was a GSD meet with no clinics because we had the tour of the mine. We still had layout tours. We had a lunch with a large sandwich at the tables after the tour. At that time the open layouts were: Tony Koester, Jefferson Club, Jim DeYoung's garden railroad. Ciro will follow up about having a GSD meet at the mine. This item will remain open.
- JP remote backup for our server - JP explained that he has our server and it gets backed up to a friend's server. He is building a system to back up the Garden State Division server at a remote location. He has the parts and needs to build the remote backup system.
- Report on commercial backup solutions and upgrade to Dropbox - Paul noted that he received our data requirements at the last BOD meeting but did not have the time to act on it. Bob D mentioned that we have the funds to buy a server. We could buy a server to backup the GSD server. Paul will check with Microcenter to see available server options and he will investigate upgrading our Dropbox account.
- Speak to Tim at Model Railroad Club about having an operating session - We already spoke about that.
- Speak to Ron Klaiss concerning a make-and-take clinic - That was already discussed.
- Mark will make an announcement at the next GSD meeting indicating that we have director positions open on our board of directors.

That completes the Old Business.

New Business:

- We already confirmed Mark's appointment of Ed Bush as a director.
- Mark would like to talk about the lawn signs. He said that for about 10 years he has been storing the signs and bringing them to meetings. He wants somebody else to take over responsibility for the signs. Mark noted that the process has been that the person who sets up the layout tour would provide the sign to the owner and was responsible for getting the sign back to Mark. Jim H reported that the sign he had was destroyed in a fire. Scott G volunteered to be responsible for the lawn signs. He will get the signs from Mark.
- Ciro will get Scott G and Ed B onto our Dropbox and he explained how we use Dropbox for our GSD business.
- Paul brought up an item. Apparently somebody in the town of Montvale is trying to start a model railroad club and held a meeting about it at the Montvale train station. Paul found out after the meeting and he noted that it is a half-mile from his lodge. Paul is asking the division's permission to reach out to the club and let them know that we are here if they need help. Paul will find out more about the club, their meeting and their plans.
- Ciro mentioned the old Guliver's Gate and the move to Staten Island. Jim H had visited the new facility that they are building and was very impressed with their workshop.
- Ciro also asked Bob D about getting new name badges for Scott and Ed.

That completes the New Business.

Andy will host the next BOD meeting at NYSME on Saturday, September 2, 2023. It will be 3 weeks before the next GSD meet.

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The meeting adjourned around 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD