

**BOD MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NE REGION,
NMRA**

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Place: Telephone conference call
Attendees: Bob Dennis, Steve Ascolese, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, Andy Brusgard, Ciro Compagno, Jim Fawcett, Tom Casey and Jim Rizzolo.
Not in attendance: Mark Moritz and Paul Harbord

Meeting started at around 7:30 PM

June 5, 2018 Motions Submitted and Approved:

(2018.6.5.1) GSD will reimburse a member hosting the Staff Meeting.

(2018.6.5.2) Reimbursement to a member hosting a Staff Meeting will not exceed \$50.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Chuck does not want to shake things up because so much is going pretty well with membership, our growth and how we do our meets but there are things that we could improve. He wants event responsibilities defined better. We often struggle planning our next meet and determining who has the responsibilities. The NJD does well having their meets at the same locations every year spread around in their division. Chuck thinks about doing something similar with a two year rotation. For example, Fred D and Chuck are setting up for the winter event in the Wayne/Oakland area. Spring is our joint meet with the NJD and Hillsborough was a good location. In summer, we could do a rolling meet but he is not sure. Every two years we could go out to Staten Island and Ciro and Bob D could organize it. For even years, for winter, maybe we could go back to Scotch Plains. Spring is in Wall with the NJD hosting. For summer, Morristown was good. Fall could be in Franklin with Jim W in charge. A person leading at a location organizes the event including layout tours and/or local activities. We also need to do more on clinics. Jim F is the clinic chairman and that is still a good idea. However, all of us need to be thinking about clinics because we always seem to be struggling to get clinics and Chuck wants to make sure that we always have quality clinics. He would like us to think about something we each could present or if we know somebody else who is willing to present something of interest to the membership. The BOD members have an assignment for the next time to report on an idea to present or of a topic somebody else would present. We must emphasize quality clinics – they provide value to the members coming to the meet.

With Tom W leaving the board, we need somebody in charge of the door prizes. Tom W will continue to support us on the web site but we do need to have a backup. Somebody could update the website or support Tom W and learn about the site. He would like to have redundancy for the Webmaster role. Tom C must use Dropbox. The membership rosters are all PDF and Excel files. Chuck would like the GSD full membership file in Excel and posted on Dropbox by Tom C and Bob D and Jim R need the full NER list. When Tom C gets the lists, he should distribute them and put them on Dropbox.

This meeting is by telephone but Chuck would prefer that it was done in person. What would help in getting a place for every BOD meeting? If it is the cost of hosting, should we provide some payment to the host? Reimbursement will be up to some limit. Even though Bruce and Tom W are not on the call, Chuck wants to thank them both for their service – we would not be where we are without them. Chuck welcomes new AP Chairman, Steve Ascolese, and our newest BOD director Jim Rizzilo.

Vice President's Report – In the last meeting, Jim F brought up a Facebook issue and he is still concerned about how the inappropriate content was posted. Andy said that most days he checks our Facebook page and did not see the content – it must have been removed before he checked the page. Jim F also concurs with Chuck's comment about the clinics but he pointed out that we should not always depend on the board for clinics – we need to get our membership involved. Seek out people who may be suitable for providing quality clinics.

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Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed the DRAFT minutes of the last BOD meeting on 7 APR 2018 previously by email and the minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Dennis presented the Treasurer's report. We are still financially healthy. We have not needed to lay out any money for the convention – it was all provided by the region. Profit/loss for this year – we spent \$77.50 more than we took in. That includes the money we spend for the membership drive. If accepted, Bob will send a copy of the report to Jim W. Jim W asked Bob if he received the check for the convention book ad Jim W sold to F&M Hobbies. Bob said that he receive it. Chuck asked about the ad sales for the convention book. Two ads sold – F&M and another one. Jim W has cash for the other one. Bob's Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports –Steve sent 2 SOQ's in to Bill Brown for Volunteer for Jim W and Fred. Also the civil engineer for Chuck. Since we are not going to have a Fall division meet, if the certificates come in time, they will be presented at the convention. Ciro asked about the Paul Mallery award. It is presented at our winter meet. The Mallery year ends with the NER convention. Steve's report was accepted.

Event Report - SUMMER EVENT – The Lone Eagle Brewing Company in Flemington will open up for us at 8:30 AM and the meet starts at 9:00 AM. Because of the timing, we will not set up the coffee maker and must get coffee (Box of Joe) from Dunkin Donuts. Chuck updated the task list for this meet on Dropbox. He cannot pick up the doughnuts and coffee. We need about 2 dozen doughnuts. Chuck asked Jan if any of the volunteers on the Black River and Western (BR&W) would be willing to give a clinic. She and two other people mentioned Shane Blische who will be presenting a clinic that will be a bit longer than our usual clinics. The historical presentation usually runs 90 minutes but we are trying to get it down to 70 minutes. He will be giving the first clinic and Chris Oliva will present the second clinic on N scale lighting fixtures. This clinic may also be at the convention in September. In the afternoon, the BR&W will be running steam at 1:00 and 2:30 PM from the Flemington station. Also, after our meet, the brewery will be open for sampling some beer. There are several restaurants available nearby. Also shopping outlets. Advanced tickets are available for purchase online and are recommended for the steam trains. Info will be in the Whistle Post and a Constant Contact email will go out. No layout tours planned for the afternoon. Maps for the meet will be limited to the restaurants in the area. Equipment needed for this meet will be laptop, projector and screen. Cost is around \$150 or \$175 – much less than the normal \$350. Considering that we do not have a fall meet, it is worthwhile. The winter meet is probably in March 2019 and Fred and Chuck are scouting for locations in the Wayne area and have some layouts in mind.

Spring meet is a joint meet that we will be hosting and Chuck is hoping to have it in Hillsborough if Jim H can arrange it. Chuck will send the BOD his idea about meet rotations. The main point of the plan is to be more prepared for meets. Ciro suggested that we can have the fine tuned schedule on Dropbox similar to the current supply list. We can also include the layouts for the area to further prepare.

Membership & Club Chair's Report – Tom C has the NER April report but did not break them out the way he normally does. He has a task from the last meet to take a look at the NER list and check the new divisions. Bob D mentioned that the Eastern Canada Division will replace the Maritime Division and pick up some area of the defunct Allouett division. The Lakeshores Division is already listed.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H distributed the DRAFT Whistle Post and depending upon feedback, it is ready to go. He will give us a day or two to look it over and then send it out. The next issue will be different because we do not have a meet. It will be all about the convention and include the usual columns. It will be a last minute promotion of the convention. Bob D said that he could provide a report of the trip to the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders in Canada. The NER was there trying to solicit membership for the Eastern Canada Division. Jim H noted that for regular contributors, earlier

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submittal of the material is better for him. If people have items for the Timetable, send them to him. He will not be doing exhaustive research to track down every little event. Chuck asked Tom C about the information that he often reports in his listing of swap meets. Tom C noted that the upcoming schedule is fairly light. He will provide the listing to Jim H for future issues of the Whistle Post.

"Erie Limited" 2018 Convention Report - Our slogan is "Come ride the Erie Limited"

- Tom W was not on the call but Chuck did get some latest numbers and placed the information in Dropbox. We have 97 registered, 71 attending the banquet, 18 for Modeling with the Masters, 52 going to the reception, 22 for the "Make and Take" clinic and 11 signed up for Gulliver's Gate. 24 people are from the GSD and 3 from Hudson Valley.
- Chuck has an email ready to go out in the middle of the month. Originally it was to feature the Paulinskill Viaduct but Jim W reported that parking is prohibited without a permit and the location posts "No Trespassing" signs. These control measures are in response to vandalism at the site and on the structure. The permit must be obtained in advance and is good for two years. However, we don't want to be responsible for somebody getting ticketed or towed because they neglected to get a permit. Chuck will replace a picture of the viaduct with one from the Rogers Locomotive Works in Paterson. For nonrail he will have the Great Falls National Historic Park also in Paterson. The email also features NYSME, the Bowser clinic and tour of the zinc mine.
- Andy pointed out that with only 11 signed up for Gulliver's Gate, he could downsize the bus to a van but Chuck said we committed to 30 for the tour. Chuck worked with the facility to customize our tour to include a behind the scenes tour. We have until 5 days prior to cancel and Chuck anticipates a Go/No Go decision by August 31. Depending on the bus used and assuming we meet the 30 minimum, we could add people to the tour up to the capacity of the bus. This assumes last minute interest from a Gulliver's Gate clinic earlier in the convention.
- Jim H asked about Operating sessions. Chuck received an email indicating 60 requests and 37 requesting two or more sessions as of May 15. Bob D said that he received an email from Al asking what layouts he wanted to operate.
- Chuck reminded us to plan some time for volunteering at the convention like working the information tables, security in the auction room and similar activities. We need people to help out – Jim W will be taking pictures. Have fun at the convention but remember that we are the hosts.
- Andy asked about identifying the staff personnel and explained how it is done at some conventions that he worked. Printing shirts or vests must be cleared through the committee. An alternate would be to have different color name badges.
- There was a question about progress of the clinic schedule. Bruce is attending to it and he has been working around people's schedule preferences. Chuck said that he will need it by the end of the month for the printing of the convention book. However, he plans to put something on the web site sooner than that. There will be one clinic that will be doubled. Jim H wants to assemble the open house schedule but he admits that the clinic schedule is more critical.

4H Program - Paul, Fred and Chuck did the last session but not all the modelers attended. They may end up with 1 or 2 dioramas. They put down all the ground cover on the dioramas and it was a good session. The last session is on June 18 and they will be building a tree to go onto the diorama. Chuck thinks that he, Fred and Paul go again to maintain continuity for the modelers who were not there last time so they can finish their dioramas. The club needs two volunteers to be judges on August 8, 9 or 10. Last year Bob D and Paul judged. Jim R and Bob D will go on August 10. Chuck will send a note to Jan and copy Bob and Jim R. Ciro is available August 9 and 10 and volunteers as a possible judge.

Old Business:

- Bob D will purchase new GSD lawn signs primarily for the convention. Bob noted that Chuck was going to help with the design and it is needed before the signs are ordered. Chuck will get the design pretty soon.

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- We already covered the old business related to the two new divisions of the NER.
- For monitoring our Facebook, Andy currently does this. Chuck is an administrator but he is not a frequent Facebook user. If anybody else is a frequent Facebook user, Chuck would like to add them as administrators. Christina is also an administrator but it is not her job to administer our division's Facebook. She mostly reposts NMRA items but she does monitor our pages. We should remove Ron as an administrator since he is no longer a member. Andy will look into it. We still need somebody to maintain our Facebook presence.
- Jim H called the Kingston Model Railroad club. He explained what we want but needs an additional contact with them. He must find a contact other than the club telephone number. The club did say that they will be open on Sunday. Jim H will try to make contact at their next Thursday session to work out the details and get additional contact information.
- Chuck spoke to Bruce about the T-Trak group. Fred gave Bruce the information about available table sizes and Bruce will finalize with the T-Trak group. The item is still open.
- Jim F contacted Ted D about doing a works in progress clinic but Ted will not be able to do a clinic.
- Now we have another slot for a works in progress clinic. We should be OK with 4 clinics.
- The acrylic sign holder item is also closed.
- We need information about donated items for the auction. Jim R had some information. The items are coming slowly and Jim R did not hear from Peter Higgins who will contact certain people on the list. The donations are being sent to Jim R but so far Jim has not received any. Jim R will contact Peter. The auction is an opportunity to raise money and we need the information about the donated items to plan the table space. It affects our plans for a white elephant table or hospitality space.

New Business –

- Chuck needs a new door prize chairman for the division. Purchase items that are not scale specific. Use NMRA partners or shops that supported us in the past. Jim H volunteered.
- Jim Walsh will send an email with the BOD Motion that set the door prize budget.
- Should we reimburse hosts of the BOD meetings? We should provide some amount to get more people to volunteer. We want to eliminate cost as a reason for not hosting the meeting.
 - **MOTION:** GSD will reimburse a member hosting the Staff Meeting,
 - Tom C made the motion and Fred seconded it – MOTION PASSED
 - **MOTION:** Reimbursement to a member hosting a Staff Meeting will not exceed \$50.
 - Tom C made the motion and Andy seconded it – MOTION PASSED
- Chuck brought up the issue of clinics as discussed earlier.
- Chuck reminded us about the web site. If anybody has any web skills, we are in need of help. Somebody to learn about how Tom W has our web site and to help him. Or somebody may have new ideas and tools to use to support our web site. Whatever way we go, we do not want to change our web site name. Solicit for help on our web site and the WP but coordinate with Tom W.
- Jim W is working on the BOD and Staff contact list. BOD plus Webmaster and AP Chairman.
- Jim R suggested a formalized mentorship program for new members at the meetings. It is part of an effort to retain new members. Jim R will put something together for the BOD to review.
- Ciro noted that the joint meet was our 6th time and suggested mentioning it in the Whistle Post.

For the next meeting, Chuck prefers meeting in the convention hotel at the end of August if that is possible. Fred will know by the end of June. Bob D will be the backup if the hotel is not available.

Meeting adjourned around 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

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Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD