

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

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, June 29, 2019
Place: Home of Bob Dennis
Attendees: Chuck Diljak, Steve Ascolese, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Bob Dennis, Mark Moritz, Paul Harbord, Ciro Compagno, Tom Casey, Andy Brusgard and JP Mikesh
Not in attendance: NOBODY

Meeting started at 9:15 AM

June 29, 2019 Motions Submitted and Approved:

(2019.6.29.1) Present the Ed Fraedrich Award to Mason Logie in 2019 for his support to the GSD.
(2019.6.29.2) Bob Dennis will purchase a system to print name tags with a cost limit of \$350.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Chuck welcomed JP to the board and he wants to have a web site discussion since JP may be helping us with our web site. That would be something for new business but Tom Wortmann is not here to discuss it in detail. However, we can start talking about it. For the record, Chuck wants to thank Mason Logie for organizing the High Line tour and John J Harvey fireboat ride. In addition to the planning and arrangements, Mason also led us on the tour as well as providing the commentary for the sights along the shore when we were on the fireboat. Mark mentioned that he will be providing a writeup on the Manhattan trip for the Whistle Post. The deadline will be discussed when we get to the Whistle Post Report. Chuck pointed out that he will be going on vacation and he would like to get some things done before he leaves. Most items relate to promoting the meet on Constant Contact and will need to be covered by somebody else unless we can get it done this week. Chuck will work with Mark to set up the email for Constant Contact. Also Jim H needs help proofreading the Whistle Post and Chuck will not be available. Chuck admitted that he will not complete his Golden Spike Award before the convention but he is determined to complete it before the end of the year. That concludes the Presidents Report.

NER REPORT – Chuck reported that an insurance issue is being resolved and the 2019 convention fall foliage train ride is still on. Future conventions: 2020 is in Westford, Massachusetts; 2021 is planned to be a joint venture between Nutmeg and Metro North divisions and in 2022 they want to get it out on Long Island with the help of the Sunrise Trail Division. The Niagara Frontier Region is thinking about redrawing their boundaries to only include divisions in Canada. There may be some changes coming and the NER may have some additions. Roger is still acting as treasurer for the region but does not want to be treasurer for both the convention and the region. However John Doering does not want to split those roles. For now the convention registrar will also be the convention treasurer. END REPORT

Vice President's Report – Mark discussed the lawn signs and he can account for all but the 3 that are with the Model Railroad Club Inc. He needs them back and Andy will go and get the signs.

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed a DRAFT of minutes from the last meeting of March 30, 2019. Two items were noted: One. Pier 66 not 26 and Two. In OLD BUSINESS “our Facebook” and not “out Facebook”. The minutes were accepted with the comments as noted.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D reports that we are in a very healthy financial position. As of May 31, Bob wrote off all the open equipment that we had on the balance sheet. Basically the projector and the screen and they are fully depreciated. Bob submitted the balance sheet and the income statement to Jim W for the records and they are available if anyone wants to see them. We are still transitioning from BCB Bank to Investors Bank with only a small amount remaining in BCB Bank until some checks clear. Most of our current funds are the result of the 2018 convention. Treasurer's report was accepted.

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Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – Steve is working with 2 members but nothing new to report. Mark had a question about the volunteer certificate qualifications. In general if you are on the board for 5 years, you have the 60 units to qualify. Other items that also qualify are: the 4H work, boy scout program, doing a clinic and opening your house for a layout tour. Andy recalled that we had planned to assemble a Constant Contact blast to the membership about the Achievement Program. We know there are members out there who can easily get their Golden Spike Award. Steve will prepare an item focused on the Golden Spike Award to be distributed by a Constant Contact email. Jim W suggested that Steve include the information that any member can sign the application – it is a simple process and no committee needs to inspect the layout. Ciro suggested that at our meets Steve should take the floor, introduce himself and promote the Achievement Program. Chuck noted that he will need to include Steve on the Agenda for the next meet. Education and AP report was accepted.

Events Report - SUMMER MEET - Jim W reported that the summer meet is scheduled for July 27 in Hope, NJ and that JP Mikesh is coordinating with the town to get the community center as well as preparing the maps. The layouts include Ed Suhy, Joe Valentine, Ted Pamperin and Dave Olesen. Dave is not on the NMRA membership list. Harold's may not be an option. For clinics, Jim Walsh will have a clinic on model railroad photography and Craig Bisgeier will be doing his clinic on 3D printing. Chuck is looking for pictures and descriptions to put in a Constant Contact email and Jim H needs them for the Whistle Post. Andy noted that if a layout owner is not an NMRA member, there could be insurance issues. If Dave does not renew his membership, we cannot have his layout included for our meet. Chuck discussed details of the maps with JP. Chuck will look for existing maps for all 4 layouts and update the equipment list and post it on Dropbox. Chuck pointed out that he will not be able to get the doughnuts as usual. He normally gets 4 dozen and JP will get them from Dunkin Donuts. Tom Wortmann still has the door prizes and Bob or Ciro will get the them from Tom.

FALL - Staten Island, NY. Bob D reported that they asked Tom Wortmann to get the Marine Corps League and the VFW is not an option due to road construction eliminating much of the local parking. However the Marine Corps League has raised the cost to \$250 – it had been \$150. Bob has looked for other locations but so far cannot find anything for less than \$250. He will look some more. Bob mentioned the date as October 26 but Mark had a conflict and he is a clinician for the fall meet. They will investigate other dates. The layouts that will be available are Steve Ascolese, Joe D'Agostino, Rich Martin, Tom Wortmann and Robert Schmidt. For clinics Mark has a Helix clinic and Chris Oliva will do a clinic but the topic is not known yet.

WINTER – in Park Ridge, NJ and probably in the February timeframe. Paul will check availability of the lodge for February 29 with the following week as the snow date. Chuck reached out to Ron Klaiss and he is willing to support a make and take clinic for a simple kit that he will design. Members will be told to bring the tools for construction but some glue will be supplied at the meet. That will be for the morning session and we will have layouts in the afternoon. Last time in Park Ridge, we had an ops session at the Garden State Model Railway Club and the New York Society of Model Engineers was open. We will look for member layouts in Bergen County. Some members may stay to finish the model instead. We also will use the large tarp to cover the floor. And the lodge will only cost \$100.

SPRING: The spring meet will be a joint meet with the NJD and we only need to supply is a clinic. We will be looking for a clinic. Chuck does have a 2 part clinic on JMRI OperationsPro but he will see if maybe he could give the first part.

Chuck also mentioned that he and Paul will be having a little local get together for members in that area. Have coffee and discuss if they want to do that regularly and what it should be. They are planning to do that in August. If this works, Chuck will be looking for other members of the board to do something similar. We are exploring ways to engage with members in a different way.

Ciro commented that last year he went to Liberty State Park and toured the CNJ museum. It is a nice venue and there are rooms that could accommodate functions. He asked if we would be interested in having one of our events at that location and there was a positive response. Chuck also asked if they

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had a historian who could provide a clinic or maybe we could have a tour. Ciro will follow up and get information about using that facility. Chuck noted that we would be looking at next summer.

Membership Report – Tom C noted that he sent out some data items to the board and he explained the content of those reports. Our membership has been fairly stable and as of May we have 213 regular members plus 6 with Rail Pass. Tom C. also referred to the membership committee established at the last meeting including himself, Mark, Chuck, Andy and Bob D to investigate the causes of why people drop out. He sent them a separate email with information about “Inactive, Expired and Withdrawn” members. Instead of sending files by email, Chuck insisted that Tom C use Dropbox to transmit the files. In addition, Chuck outlined the particular information and charts that he required to get an appreciation of our membership status and he had a sheet that illustrated the report format. This is what Chuck wants in the membership report at our staff meetings. A summary from the last report until the next meeting showing what happened to our membership: What new members we have joined? Who rejoined? Who converted from Rail Pass to full membership? How many have left the division? Also show at the bottom the trend for the last 13 months. This part should be reported with numbers as well as graphically in the upper right. Then Chuck wants to have a graph for each of the divisions in the NER. He wants to know if we are trending the same as the rest of the division. This data will use full members. Chuck wants that report for each staff meeting shared in Dropbox before we meet. Mark discussed the notion of having the local gatherings for members in our area. He asked about getting information on members who were local to him. Chuck said that he could provide a list of members 7 to 10 miles from Mark based upon zip codes. Andy noted that he addresses new members and those that are falling behind. He sends emails to members that 30 and 60 days behind on their membership. For new members he sends a welcome email as well as a regular mailing that includes our promotional bookmark. He also places a telephone call to those who have left our division. Andy related his difficulty in trying to contact people by telephone. When he does get through many people have similar responses like the cost, value or other interests. Chuck asked Andy to record the responses so that we can keep track.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H usually tries to get a draft out a month before our next meet but we are already past that. Jim needs columns and articles. Jim has been really busy and did not have a chance to remind us until now. He does have Chuck’s column and some other articles. Mark is preparing an article about the High Line tour and the fireboat cruise but he needs pictures. Jim H expects to have everything ready next week. Chuck introduced the idea of a makeover for the Whistle Post with a cover photo like a magazine. Chuck, Jim H and others had a discussion of a redesign for the Whistle Post. Jim H also needs a list of new members – we have not included a new member welcome in recent issues. Andy told Tom C how to extract the list to provide it to Jim H and list new members since the last time we featured in the Whistle Post. Jim H reminded everybody to send him the content for the Whistle Post.

4H Program - Bob D said he distributed participation certificates to our board members that helped. We completed the project for the 4H this year. Bob already informed Jan that we will be unable to continue supporting it. She thanked us for our help and Bob D and Paul will be judging at their fair in August. Bob has the models that the children built and he will be placing them on a layout that we will have for shows. Steve volunteered to help Bob do the placement.

Old Business:

- We still need somebody to monitor our Facebook and Chuck continues to search for that person. We have a Facebook page that we can follow. Besides a page, the NER also has a Facebook group and we are encouraged to join and you can interact with the group. The NER wants to have this group for the region and it is a group for all the divisions to use. This fosters communication throughout the region with interaction between the divisions.

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- We have quite a few clinics available now and we are in good shape. Chuck still wants to retain the need for clinics on old business so we keep clinics in mind. If we visit a layout, we may see something that would make a great clinic and ask the modeler to present a clinic on that topic.
- As he mentioned earlier, Chuck contacted Ron Klaiss about the make and take clinic. We can close the item since now it is part of the winter event.
- Chuck spoke to Tom Wortmann about the bad link and Tom corrected it. However, Steve updating the list is still open.
- Tom C provided the information to the committee but they have not had a meeting or teleconference to discuss the go forward plan for contacting the former division members.
- Chuck still would like to have a clinic chairman just to keep track and to be sure there are clinics to cover events. Chuck does call out at our meets looking for clinicians and the clipboard comes back with the same two names: Chris Oliva and Mason Logie. Chuck hopes that others would volunteer and that is why he wants a clinic chairman to help to guide that. Therefore, it should remain open until we can fill the position.
- The last item can be closed since Bob notified Jan that we will not be supporting the 4H next year.

New Business:

- Chuck mentioned the Ed Fraedrich Award and explained how the award is presented to a GSD member in recognition of service to the division. It was awarded to Bob Tumielewicz in 2014. Chuck would like to present the award to Mason Logie because he has provided great service to us especially with all the work he did in organizing and leading the High Line tour and fireboat ride. It is not awarded regularly and is based upon merit. We would like to present it at the fall meet on Staten Island.
 - **MOTION:** Present the Ed Fraedrich Award to Mason Logie in 2019 for his extensive support to the Garden State Division. Chuck made the motion and Paul seconded it - **MOTION PASSED.**
- Bob D discussed the concept of name tags for each member of our division. Members of the New Jersey Division introduced him to a system that works with special blank cards that are printed with an ink jet printer using standard ink jet cartridges. The NJD uses the system that costs around \$280 with 500 name tags and Bob would like to get the system for us. He would also like to get lanyards. The name tags could be printed at a meet after registration and given to those in attendance. If a member loses his name tag, he can pay \$5 for a replacement. The ink dries immediately and does not smudge. Bob will try to preprint name tags for members who regularly attend our meets. Then he can print the name tags for other people in attendance. Bob will set up and run the name tag operation. He would like to purchase the complete system with the printer, 500 blank cards and ink. Additional ink will be the only recurring expense for the system.
 - **MOTION:** Bob Dennis will purchase a system to print name tags with a cost not to exceed \$350. Paul made the motion and Mark seconded it - **MOTION PASSED.**

The next GSD BOD meeting will be hosted by Steve Ascolese on September 14, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD