

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

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**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Saturday, January 11, 2020  
**Place:** Home of Jim Homoki  
**Attendees:** Chuck Diljak, Steve Ascolese, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Bob Dennis, Mark Moritz, Paul Harbord, Andy Brusgard, JP Mikesh and Tom Casey  
Not in attendance: Ciro Compagno

Meeting started at 9:09 AM

**January 11, 2020 Motion Submitted and Approved:**  
**(2020.1.11.1) The GSD will contribute \$100 to the Chip Faulter Fund.**

**Reports were presented:**

President's Report – For the GSD 2020 election, Chuck will ask Ciro to be in charge of nominations since as past president he is never up for election. Jim W noted that the business meeting minutes lists who is up for election and those meeting minutes are part of today's secretary's report. For the meet in Park Ridge, Chuck contacted local members to arrange layouts for open houses. As a result, Jay Held will open his layout for the winter meet. Chuck's conversations with the members made him think about having an outreach to all members. We will address that during the membership report. Rather than Andy and Tom C calling members, we divide the membership list so each board member calls some members. The New Jersey Division is trying something new that we will see at our joint meet in the spring. They have event greeters who engage members as they enter the meet. It might be something that we consider as well. A discussion in the NER related to what divisions sponsor train shows. The RPM meet in New Jersey has been missing for a few years and Chuck asked if we could revive and sponsor it. We discussed several items that need to be considered for such an event. We will address it further as new business. Chuck mentioned the Chip Faulter Fund in honor of the late Chip Faulter former secretary of the NER. The fund's focus is getting children into the hobby. Chuck introduced promotional clothing for the GSD like shirts and hats etc. Two vendors for this service are CafePress and Queensboro. Talk about it under new business. That concludes the president's report.

NER REPORT – Chuck already mentioned the Chip Faulter Fund. Filling the opening for NER secretary is former GSD member and current Sunrise Trail Division member Mike Bowler. The NER still has an opening for Coupler editor if anyone is interested. It is a great opportunity but a lot of work. It is a quarterly publication and printed like a magazine. Also Jim Rizzolo's membership chair position is open. The NER has a booth at Springfield and needs volunteers. Work the booth for 2 hours and get free admission to the show. There is an NER meeting for division representatives at Springfield. Mark will attend the meeting that Bob D is organizing. Some US areas of the Niagara Frontier Region may join the NER. The NER convention in 2021 is in the Nutmeg Division and in 2022 in the Sunrise Trail Division on Long Island. The NER is moving forward with T-Trak modules and the GSD will be looking to build a couple. When we go to a venue like Springfield, the T-Trak modules assemble into a very nice layout. We can talk about it under new business and Chuck will be looking for somebody to lead it. NER is coordinating through Roger so that all divisions can have tax exempt forms. We can save a little money on the things we buy. END REPORT

Vice President's Report – Mark had nothing to report.

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed copies of the DRAFT minutes from the BOD meeting of 14 SEP 2019. Jim also distributed copies of the DRAFT business meeting for 4 MAY 2019. The board

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members read the minutes and had no comments. Both minutes were accepted as written. The business meeting minutes list board members up for election this year.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D said that right now we have around \$6700 in our treasury. For the upcoming make-and-take clinic 13 people are preregistered so far and Bob expects 12 more. He did not have a written report but Bob will send it to Jim W next week. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – Steve has certificates for the next GSD meeting. Chuck for Golden Spike, Tom W for Association Official and a Merit Award for cars. Andy will get Association Volunteer and he expressed his gratitude for receiving the Robert W Spate Public Service Award. Education and AP report was accepted.

Events Report - The Fall Meet on Staten Island had a low turnout and we discussed possible reasons including the location. We won't go back to Staten Island for awhile. There are some good layouts that were not open for the fall event.

WINTER - February 29 in Park Ridge, NJ. We discussed the setup and required supplies for the make-and-take clinic. Ron Klaiss told Chuck what supplies are needed. We will supply some items and tell the members what they need to bring. Bring some extra items to help those that forget something. We can supply paint, alcohol, glue, brushes and water bottle caps to use as pallets. Steve will shop for supplies and JP may have some brushes. Paul asked if we need a projector and screen. Chuck noted that we will need them for the meeting. We discussed having a camera and projecting the model assembly process video onto the screen. Whatever we decide, test the equipment before the actual event. We supply the projector and the lodge has a screen. JP will look into renting a camera and he has a projector that could connect to the camera. The lodge has plenty of tables and we can cover them with plastic tablecloths. Chuck will expand the supplies list to cover items needed for the make-and-take. Bob will bring donuts from Tim Hortons and that was well received. Paul said that there are coffee makers. For layouts, Jay Held will open his layout and two clubs will be open: The Garden State Model Railway Club in North Haledon and the New York Society of Model Engineers in Carlstadt. The Garden State club will have the current layout running and we will be able to see construction progress on the new layout in the building next door. (Former O scale club) For lawn signs, Mark will bring about 6 signs to the meet. He wants to have a recovery plan when he distributes each sign. The signs loaned to The Model Railroad Club were never returned and are probably lost. Mark does not want a repeat of that situation and wants better accountability. We are missing 4 signs – one with Dave Olesen and 3 with The Model Railroad Club.

SPRING MEET in Middletown NJ – We will not bring door prizes. Chuck will ask Tony Koester about doing a clinic possibly on his O scale modules. Chuck thought that it might increase GSD member turnout at the joint meet. If Tony is not available then we will need to provide a clinic. Chuck has a clinic on switch lists from JMRI and Fred has a clinic on making water with toilet paper. Chuck does not know if we have layouts in the Middletown area and will check the membership list.

SUMMER- We discussed the CNJ Museum in Liberty State Park but Ciro is not present to report. Therefore, we will remember it for the future. Instead, we will consider Morristown. Mark said that it is possible but he needs dates to check for availability. The timeframe would be in July but avoid the convention and the holiday. The national convention is July 12 through 18 in St. Louis. Mark will check on dates. The layouts that Mark plans to have are local to the Morristown area and include his own layout, the Morris Plains Model Railroad Club and layouts of Neal Multz and Steve Kay. For next spring Jim H has his own and is considering Father David Garretson. We must avoid the weekends with Mothers Day and the Orthodox Easter. The clinics at the summer meet depend on Tony supporting the spring 2020 meet. Available clinics could be Chuck's clinic and Fred's clinic. Jim W will check with Kai about when his clinic will be ready.

Chuck spoke with Mason Logie and Mason is interested in arranging some tours for us. Mason suggested Roadside America and the WK&S Railroad in Pennsylvania but they may be too far away. Other possibilities are the New York Transit Museum and the Brooklyn Navy Yard that has both

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standard and narrow gauge track. The museum trip seems more likely but requires coordination to get everybody to Brooklyn together. Since the museum is near the subway but the Navy Yard is not, they would be 2 separate trips. A date very early in June may be a good time for one of those trips. Bob D mentioned the Sterling mine with a barbecue and the ice cream social in Whippany. Chuck did not think that the ice cream social was very popular but the mine tour did very well. The mine trip was actually a GSD meet and not a special event. However, for 2020 we want to keep the summer meet in Morristown. Chuck will tell Mason about our interest in a trip to the Transit Museum in early June. Other trip suggestions included a trip to Steamtown or organize a bus to Springfield for the train show. FALL - Chuck wants to check with Ciro about the CNJ Museum in Liberty State Park. Bob D asked if we could put a note in the Whistle Post asking if members knew of venues for future meets. If somebody writes it up then Jim H would publish it. In summary, Chuck reports that we are in good shape for future event plans but it depends on if the CNJ Museum will be good for us in the fall. Winter 2021 will be back in Oakland and spring 2021 in Hillsborough. Orthodox Easter is May 2 and we want to have Father Garretson's layout open. Mothers Day is May 9 so we could have the meet on May 15. We are doing some long range planning to be prepared for our events.

Membership Report – Tom C noted that from the November report we have 210 voting members, 3 RailPass members and we make up 13.5% of the NER. He is looking at all divisions in the NER to determine how many voting members and the number of RailPass members they have. He is creating an account book to keep track of things. He posted all reported information on Dropbox. He also spoke about converted RailPass members who stay for years and then do not renew. He has not tracked the duration before they drop out but he could. Bob D suggested that we track how active the member is before dropping out. Bob will start sending Tom C the attendance data from our meets so that he can also consider activity. Jim W noted that we have no way of knowing if somebody simply moved out of the division. There is also a rerail report on people who have left for awhile and rejoined the NMRA. Chuck stressed the importance of personal telephone contact with members. It is how you know why a member leaves and how to prevent them from leaving. Divide the membership list by location and have the local board member call the members in his area. Chuck agreed that we should call our members to keep track of them. He really wants to know why we lose members and hopes that calling them will help. Contact the members and make sure that they know about our meets and perhaps convince them to attend those meets. Membership report was accepted.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H reported that Chuck sent some items. Jim W and Steve will provide content. Jim H noted that we have a couple of weeks to supply the articles. Jim H has one article about bridges by Rich Newmiller. However, after that article, Jim H will not have any future articles. Chuck reminded us that Jim H needs modeling articles or any articles of interest to our members. Jim H said that for the coming issue he will include something about Harold Werthwein and we will not be moving to the new format as discussed in previous meetings. The Whistle Post report was accepted.

### Old Business:

- Chuck outlined the Facebook places that we should interact with. Our GSD Facebook page is "NMRA Garden State Division NJ GSD" (@nmragds) and should mostly be used to announce activities and upcoming events of interest to our division. Similarly, the NER Facebook page is "Northeastern Region, NMRA" (@nernmra) and used to announce upcoming events of interest to the region. The NER Facebook group is "NER NMRA" and is where members should be interacting. Members can post what they have been doing. We don't want or need a Facebook group for our division when we can interact through the NER group. This promotes communication among the divisions and brings the members of the region together (across the divisions). Chuck recommends joining the NER group and posting or sharing items of interest to the membership. In the future we will lose contact information of members outside our division. Our Constant Contact list includes leaders in nearby divisions and they can pass the information to their members. Look

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for the local NMRA Facebook presence, follow the GSD and NER pages, join the NER group and be active in the group. The region is trying to build momentum on Facebook. We will keep the Facebook item as ongoing so it remains visible to the BOD.

- Clinic ideas - Chuck's challenge to the board with respect to the clinic ideas and leads should remain ongoing. With a clinic chairman, the leads could be passed to him. Steve is working on a clinic to use the Cricut machine to create control panels. His concern is that a demonstration would be difficult since the software resides on his desktop computer at home. He would need that computer to do a demonstration. Paul mentioned that Bob Savino had some clinics that he did in the past. Mostly done as PDF files, they need to be updated to PowerPoint. One example is a clinic called "Signaling for Dummies" and another clinic on wiring a switch machine. Sounds like we have some clinics to follow up on. Jim W mentioned an idea to have a clinic topic and have multiple presenters – each presenting their own part. It may be a way to introduce new or reluctant clinicians – multiple presenters each with limited content.
- Chuck said to leave open the item about the conference call to plan to call members that have the left the group. Chuck will arrange that with the committee members.
- GSD clinic chairman item is closed since Jim W volunteered. Add Clinic Report to the agenda.
- We already spoke about GSD lawn signs in general and for future meets – the item is closed now.
- Steve's next Whistle Post column will focus on the Golden Spike and the item will be closed.
- The item about Chuck and Paul meeting with local members will be closed since they cannot schedule it. Instead, as discussed earlier, the board members will contact our division members. Chuck made it clear that we should not limit our calls to members that are past due as done previously. Now he would like us to call and engage all members as a measure to improve retention. There was a discussion of how to divide the membership list into locations for board members. Chuck wants the list divided by the board members. The Call Contact List will be added to the agenda as old business. Bob D also reminded everyone to wear the nametags to GSD meetings and that a reminder should be added to the Constant Contact email.
- Without Ciro, the CNJ Museum item remains open and Chuck will contact Ciro about that.
- The item about modifying the Whistle Post is "IN PROCESS" since Jim H did not work on it lately.
- The GSD Web Site effort to create a new look will show status as "IN PROCESS". JP is developing ideas and still needs to collaborate with Tom W. Chuck advised JP that when he is ready to debut a screen we could have a conference call. It does not need to be only at a BOD meeting.
- Close out the item about the layout owner just over the NY border. Chuck made the contact directly.
- Recruiting initiatives including participating at JCRHS Train Show at Mother Seton High School in Clark on 8 MAR 2020. It is probably too late for the Clark show this year. We should begin planning for this in November and it will be tabled until then. We will plan to attend in March 2021.
- Files from the Erie Limited 2018 NER Convention. Chuck will get 10 flash drives and transfer the files to them. When we have our meet in February, he will give the drives to the BOD. We will keep them so that they will be available for a future convention. We expect to host a convention about every 5 years. The division benefits from hosting a convention, From our last time we know that we will need more people involved. For now the item about the Erie Limited files will remain open.
- We already discussed lawn sign management and we will keep that item open as well.

### New Business:

- We already spoke about the BOD making contact with the GSD membership.
- Chuck spoke of organizing an RPM meet or maybe one combining RPM and craftsman structures. We discussed ideas of how to make it happen. We need to find a venue with the right spaces to have clinic rooms and larger assembly areas for vendors and model displays. It could be an opportunity for us. The discussion turned to specific locations and one issue is proximity to a major highway. The group was confident that we could get the necessary clinics together and the models. We should assemble our ideas and have a discussion at our next meeting. Jim H said

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that the major items are the venue, lining up clinicians, advertising and obtaining door prizes. The drawings for door prizes are always a good way to wrap up the day. Bob D thinks that he could get the NER list of vendor contacts to get door prizes. For next time everybody should be thinking about an RPM meet with possibly craftsman structures. It is for any scale and could even include participation by the LDSIG. Chuck said that he would like to attend an RPM meet and Jim H suggested the RPM in Valley Forge in March or the NERPM in Connecticut in May.

- Are we interested in GSD clothing from an online CafePress or Queensboro apparel store? It would be for promotion and fundraising. Bob D suggested that we should do it since we already have the art work. Bob and Steve will look into it.
- **MOTION:** GSD will contribute \$100 to the Chip Faulter Fund. - MOTION PASSED.

The next BOD meeting should be in April. We could do it as a conference call since we are not hosting the spring meet. It will be Saturday morning April 18 at 8:00 AM. March 28 would be the backup date.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD