

**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Sunday, September 11, 2022  
**Place:** New York Society of Model Engineers  
**Attendees:** Mark Moritz, Jim Homoki, Andy Brusgard, Paul Harbord, and Jim Walsh  
Absent: Bob Dennis, JP Mikesh, Steve Ascolese, Ciro Compagno and Tom Casey

Meeting started around 9:30 AM.

### **No Motions Submitted at the Meeting**

### **Reports were presented:**

President's Report – We had a request from National to look at a collection in Pompton Plains as a possible donation. When the owner gets out of the hospital, Jim H and Mark will go to check out the collection. Then Mark will report to us on what they want to do and how we can get involved. Mark also reported that an updated At-Risk policy was released before the convention.

NER REPORT – NER board meeting will be on October 2 and therefore nothing to report yet.

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

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed DRAFT minutes of the BOD meeting of 25JUN2022 previously by email. Jim had also distributed the DRAFT minutes of the last business meeting of 7May2022. 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 word that he will send the report later.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – From the last meeting, Mark learned that Christina Zambri is interested in working on AP certificates. Mark sent her email but did not get a response. Andy suggested using her NMRA marketing email address. At our last division meet, 2 people approached mark about working on AP certificates. Mark provided them with his contact information and asked that they contact him after reading the requirements. Mark was not contacted but he will follow up with them after he gets the latest membership list.

Events Report - FALL EVENT: October 8 at the Firehouse in Hope, NJ - Clinics by Bill Schaumburg talking about a salt mine and Dave Olesen on his CTC installation. Jim W noted that he already posted the meet information on the website. However, for privacy concerns he does not report layout information on the website – the layout information is distributed at the meet to attendees. For the fall meet we have the layouts of Tony Koester, Joe Valentine, Dave Olesen and Ted Pamperin. Mark reviewed the situation with the signs. Ted has a sign and Dave can get a sign when he comes to the meet to present his clinic. Jim H can give Tony a sign when he attends Tony's operating session. We are all set for the Oct 8 meet – Mark will send out the Constant Contact email and Jim H will have it in the Whistle Post.

WINTER EVENT: Library in Oakland, NJ. Mark spoke to Fred who contacted the Library. We can use the library for our meet but since the library does not open until 9:30, we will start the meet at 10:00. When is the meet? At our last BOD meeting, we discussed having the meet on February 25 with a snow date for the following Saturday, March 4. Mark will contact Fred to confirm those dates. For clinics, Jim W will check with Chuck to see if he has a clinic available. Jim will also see about possible clinics from Rich Newmiller and Angela Sutton. For layout we have Fred's, maybe Chuck's and Paul will check with the Garden State Railway Club in North Haledon. The last time we were in Oakland we also had Tim Moses and Cedar Crest (Bob Smith). Jim H will contact Tim and Jim will also speak to Dave Ramos. Mark and Jim W will speak to Chuck at the upcoming NER convention.

SPRING MEET: We are hosting this year and we usually go to Hillsborough. Mark asked if we should return to Hillsborough this year. Jim H replied that it would be Hillsborough or Old Bridge since it is near the border between the divisions. We are looking at the Old Bridge library and Ciro forwarded information from Steve Ascolese about the library. Mark will make contact. Usually the joint meets have a large turnout and 76 people attended our last one at the Info Age Museum. For that reason we need a good space and Hillsborough can provide that space. To consider Old Bridge we must be sure that it can provide enough meeting space. When mark contacts the library he must find out if it can accommodate 76 people. If not, we will be going back to Hillsborough. What about a date? It is usually in May – we will try for May 6. Mark will call the contact for the Old bridge library and see what he says. Mark will notify Jim H if we need to go back to Hillsborough.

SUMMER IDEA: What about Summer? We had been speaking about going to the mine but the last time we visited the mine, Tony was on the tour and we just had Tony's layout for the fall meet. We did have layout tours for the last meet at the mine but the clinics were replaced by the mine tour. It would be good to go to the Morristown area – we need to speak to Neal since he suggested a venue there. We have not been in that area for many years and we can return to the local layouts of Mark, Neal, Steve Kay and the Morris Plains club. Mark and Jim W need to speak to Neal about a Mt Tabor facility that he mentioned to us previously. We can go to the mine for a future summer meet.

Clinic Report – Jim W only has the clinics that he mentioned for the winter meet and does not have any other clinics right now.

Membership Report – Andy does not have much to report about our membership since during the summer he has less access to the information. However, he has been sending out the monthly reports. He has been in contact with Steve A about making the phone calls that Andy had been making. We are down to 205 members as of August. With respect to dividing the membership list for BOD member contact, Andy has not done that yet. Andy mentioned that the NMRA has a Facebook group for Division and Regional leaders and they are thinking about having a membership drive to add new members. Andy responded that before we do that, we should focus on retaining our current members. Andy also said that at the national level they are developing a questionnaire to send to members who joined for 6 to 9 months and did not stay. The purpose is to find out why they left the NMRA. Retention is a good place to start since we need to retain old members rather than just attracting new members. He said that he has been exchanging emails on the subject. In addition, Andy reported that a few members had their memberships expire but never received a timely reminder.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H has the main article about the layouts and clinics, Jim W sent a photo of Joe Valentine's layout. Jim W and Paul will send Jim H available photos of Tony's layout or Ted's layout. Mark asked for photos for the Constant Contact email. Jim H mentioned that Mason may be putting together an article and Jim H will follow up with Mason. Jim W will provide photos and a write-up about our last meet. Jim H plans to put the Whistle Post together next week.

Old Business:

- BOD members outreach – Andy has not done this yet. Leave it on the list.
- RPM / Craftsman Structures Meet: Jim H did speak to Ted Dilorio who is very open to working with others. We could run the RPM meet and Ted could help. It would be for November 2023. The meet would require a facility with enough space to have clinics, vendors and model displays. We need to run 3 clinics at the same time. Mark summarized that we need to decide if we want to do it, figure out when it would be and find a venue. Last time we spoke about the Morristown Armory as a possible location. November would be a good time but you cannot use high schools because it is football season. The previous Garden State RPM had the meet in early November. It is time to look into it. Mark will check into the Morristown Armory. Jim H noted that finding a venue is the main thing. We should be able to line up clinics.

- GSD online apparel shop – We were supposed to make an announcement at the next GSD meet. There was no announcement because Bob has not determined if we are going to do it. Previously we spoke about offering a limited selection to the members to see if there was interest. Paul will check with his club and find the details of how they get their shirts.
- Contact Ed Suhy - Ciro made several attempts but was not successful – remove item from list.
- Bob D - submit the receipts to NMRA National for fund reimbursement for the winter make-and-take clinic. – Leave this item until we hear from Bob D.
- Mark contacted Fred about the Oakland library – remove the item from the list.
- Paul did not call Hawthorn library but he will call and get information for future reference.
- Apply for NER matching fund program for Winter make-and-take. This is for Ciro and it will stay on the list.
- Find out how we would arrange a meet at the Sterling Mine. This is still open.
- Print 4 or 5 copies of the Whistle Post for the next GSD meet. Keep it on the list.
- JP is making arrangements for a remote backup of our server. Mark asked Paul about looking into it. Paul did look into it and reported that it was not viable financially and JP is working on a backup location. Paul will look into commercial backup solutions and an option to increase our Dropbox capability.
- Announcement about Amazon Smile – leave it on the list.

That completes the Old Business.

New Business:

- Jim H asked about getting new members on the board. We have open spots on the board. We currently have 6 directors and 4 officers. Jim W will check the Constitution and Bylaws to see how many board positions are available. Mark suggested that we make an announcement about having open director positions. If 2 responses, one will be full two year term and one for a one year term because we need to keep the elections balanced. We should also have that announcement in the Whistle Post.

We need a date and location for the next BOD meeting. Andy said that NYSME is always available and Paul said that he could get the Masonic lodge. Since our next GSD meet is February our next BOD meeting will be in January. Avoid the weekend of Springfield on January 28 and 29.

Next BOD meeting: Saturday January 14 or Sunday January 15 – location TBD – 9:30 AM start. Jim W will email the board members to get preference of Saturday or Sunday and solicit for locations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD