

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, April 22, 2023
Place: Home of Ciro Compagno
Attendees: Mark Moritz, Jim Homoki, Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Paul Harbord, JP Mikesh and Jim Walsh
On Phone briefly: Bob Dennis
Absent: Andy Brusgard

Meeting started around 9:30 AM.

April 22, 2023 Motions Submitted and Approved:

(2023.4.22.1) GSD BOD confirmed Mark's appointment of Scott Gothe to replace Steve Ascolese as a director.

(2023.4.22.2) GSD BOD approved the Door Prize Committee and appointment of Ciro Compagno as the Chair

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Mark spoke about items that we need to follow up. There is the Ops Session proposal from our last meeting. Andy was going to contact Tim at The Model Railroad Club but Andy is not present. We need to determine if we want to have an operating session at the club sponsored by our division.

NER Report – NERx was March 20-23, 2023 and it was successful. The Tuesday night session included Jim W's clinic on his static grass applicator and a layout tour by Steve Kay. NERx will happen again next year and planning will begin shortly. Steve Perry of the Sunrise Trail Division is looking for clinics for the NER convention in October sponsored by Sunrise Trail. Mark would like to make a list of people who gave clinics in our division over the last year or so. We can contact them to see if they are interested in presenting a clinic at the convention. We identified Rich Newmiller, Angela Sutton, Bill Schaumburg, David Olesen and Bob Nalbome as possible clinicians. Steve Perry is very interested in Arduino clinics. The convention is October 5-8, 2023. We discussed who would be going to the convention..

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

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed DRAFT minutes of the BOD meeting of 14JAN2023 previously by email. There were no comments or corrections for the document and it was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D was not present at the meeting but he dropped off his report for the first quarter earlier in the morning. The report includes expenses for the meet and the Quickbooks total software annual license fee of \$200.00 and the net income for the quarter is -\$367.12. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – We were planning to go to Bob D's layout and check it for the Scenery AP Certificate but it was cancelled. It will be rescheduled whenever he can do it and judges are available. Before that happens, Ciro will go and look it over. Ciro has met the requirements of Association Official and he will be submitting the paperwork. Mark needs to contact Christina Zambri about her intentions for the AP. Ciro mentioned that when Bruce DeYoung was AP chair he would conduct judging of models after division meets.

Events Report - **SPRING MEET** - May 13 at the Hillsborough Municipal Building. Clinics are Joe Valentine's sign clinic and Building a Fine Scale Miniatures kit without the kit by Ralph DeBlasi. The

layouts are Jim H Newark Terminal, Pacific Southern Club in Rocky Hill, Bill Chapin and Rich Newmiller. Jim H will write up the layout descriptions in the Whistle Post and send the information to Mark for the Constant Contact email.

SUMMER EVENT – Location is the Morris County Library in the Morristown Area. There will be no fee to use the facility and we cannot collect any money. We will not have any coffee or doughnuts – no food or drinks in the facility. Mark indicated that it is a nice facility with plenty of parking. He will finalize plans and find out if we need to bring our audio and video equipment. The date is July 22. Clinics: Jim W will do a clinic about some layout lighting enhancements on Joe Valentine's layout. Mark will present a clinic on the 3 caboose kits that he built. Mark could offer his lessons learned. We will have 4 Layouts: Mark, Neal Multz, Steve Kay and the Morris Plains Club.

FALL EVENT – Bob D was successful in getting a local church in Midland Beach on Staten Island. He related the details to Mark who was OK with the venue. Ciro related some information he received from Bob D. The date is September 23 and the venue cost is modest. We have some options for layouts but Bob made 2 contacts concerning other activities for the afternoon. Bob is trying to get a group guided tour of the Clifton Shops of the Staten Island Railway. Tom C suggested finding out if photography of the facility is allowed. Bob D is leading the effort to secure the tour. For clinics, Ciro will follow up with Mark Pitanza and he will also ask Chris Oliva about presenting a clinic. Bob D called in later in the meeting and reported some additional information about the fall event. The venue for the fall meet is on Staten Island – Esposito hall on the corner of Midland Avenue in Midland Beach and it has a large parking lot for the church with space for 50 cars. There is also plenty of parking on the street. The facility has one big hall space and a couple of classrooms and a kitchen for coffee. Tables inside with electricity. The space holds about 150 people. We must supply our own audio /video equipment. Reserved for 23 SEP 2023. Bob is working on getting access to the Staten Island Rapid Transit Workshop for a tour of the shops in Clifton and he is hoping that we could take a train down to the yard in Saint George or Tottenville. He will find out the answers to his requests on Tuesday night (3 days after this meeting)

WINTER 2024 – We would like to have it at Paul's Lodge and maybe have another make-and-take clinic. Last meeting Bob D was talking about possibly another ITLA structure – the elevated railroad structure. Bob also intended to speak to Ron Klaiss at Springfield about doing another make-and-take clinic but Bob did not get the chance to speak to Ron. Jim W noted that he spoke to somebody at Allentown from Todd Architectural Models in Chatham, NJ. He spoke about a possible future make-and-take clinic. Although they make mostly larger scale structures, they introduced HO scale at Springfield this year. Bob D will want an HO model for any future make-and-take clinics.

Clinic Report – Jim W mentioned that he is running out of clinics. That is why Jim suggested that Mark do a clinic of lessons learned from building those caboose kits and why Jim will also put together a clinic for the Summer Meet. He asked if anybody else at the meeting had some clinic ideas. Ciro may have one but it is not ready yet. It would be about hand-laying turnouts and turnout control.

Membership & Club Chair Report – Andy was absent from the meeting and Tom C had nothing to report. Jim H started a discussion about club members who are NMRA members and those who are not in the NMRA. Jim H suggested that NMRA members in clubs try promoting the NMRA to the other club members. Jim said that he will invite all the Pacific Southern club members to the spring meet considering that their club is on the afternoon layout tours.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H has most of what is needed for the next Whistle Post. He just needs to put it together. Mark asked for some pictures for the Constant Contact email. Jim H also has content for a cover photo.

Operations Event – Andy was going to speak to Tim at the Model Railroad Club but Andy was not at this meeting. Is there anything else that we could discuss like maybe the date for the event? We all agree that it should not be during the summer. Mark suggested January or February of 2024 since that

will be after the club's holiday show and before the spring. This will be a separate operating session on a Saturday and not part of a regular GSD division meet. Ciro will contact Tim and figure some dates that will work out for the event. At that time of year, we must avoid the weekend of the Amherst Railroad Hobby Show or the Super Bowl. We also have our winter meet at the end of February.

Old Business:

- GSD online apparel shop – Last meeting discussion was that Bob D would bring some samples to the meet to see if any members are interested in buying them. We will drop this item.
- Information about having a meet at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum - Summer of 2024. Jim W noted that he visited the web site and they are currently active. Ciro will check into it. This item will remain open.
- Print 4 or 5 copies of the Whistle Post for the next GSD meet. Ciro is already doing it and will continue doing it for future events. This will be added to the spreadsheet for our meets and dropped from this list. Ciro will also set up the equipment list for our next meet.
- JP remote backup for our server. JP has the parts and needs to build the remote backup system. Mark asked the question: "Do we need a commercial site or can we back it up on our own remote server?" Previously, we could not assess the cost because we did not have the size of the data to be backed up. Ciro indicated that he recently (day before this meeting) supplied Paul with the size of the data requirements. We have 2.75 GB on Dropbox and 1.48GB is being used. Our archive is on JP's server. There was a discussion of if we wish to backup onto a cloud based commercial service. Much of our data is on Dropbox. Chuck removed the convention information from Dropbox and archived it on JP's server. It is available when we need it. JP's server also has the current content of Dropbox. However, since the convention files are not on Dropbox, they have no backup. JP said that the server is backed up on his friend's server. At a previous BOD meeting JP explained the situation. JP's server is our main archive and his friend's server has the backup of that. However, JP wants to build a server to back up his main server. Ciro discussed how he has been copying files to JP's server and that he plans to continue that process with new or modified files.
- Next item is for Bob D to make an announcement about Amazon Smile but the program has terminated. Take this item off the list.
- Jim W – identify Steve Ascolese's latest term. Steve was elected in 2022 for 2022-2024. Mark is appointing Scott Gothe to finish Steve's term. The board approved Scott's appointment.
- **MOTION:** Confirm Mark's appointment of Scott Gothe to replace Steve Ascolese as a director. - **MOTION PASSED**
- We already discussed how much data we need to back up. Completed
- Andy – Speak to Tim at Model Railroad Club about having an operating session. We discussed this and Ciro will be contacting Tim.
- Bob D was going to speak to Ron Klaiss concerning a make-and-take clinic. Bob did not get a chance to talk to Ron Klaiss at Springfield about a make-and-take clinic. Bob will follow up with Ron. This item will remain open. The make-and-take clinic would be at our next winter meet – end of Feb 2024. As a backup, Bob mentioned ITLA's elevated railroad structure. If Ron agrees to a make-and-take clinic at the winter meet then maybe Bob can do one with the ITLA kit later in 2024.
- Mark will make an announcement at the GSD meet that we have director position openings on the GSD board.

That completes the Old Business.

New Business:

- Clinics for the NER convention in October already discussed.
- Preparation for elections at the May meet - Discussion of the upcoming election and the candidates on the ballot, process of nominations as well as confirming that current board

members are interested being reelected. They are still interested. We also reviewed the election process at our Business Meeting.

- Door Prizes - Ciro noted that we have been inconsistent with our door prizes. Sometimes we give away many door prizes and other times we have fewer prizes. Also the quality varies and sometimes there is nothing that anybody wants. Some of the prizes should be on a free table like they have at the New Jersey Division (NJD). Ciro outlined how we used to get donations from local hobby shops or get some good deals from them. We received some quality prizes but we we have not done that for a long time. One generous supplier was the Big Little hobby shop but it went out of business. Ciro proposed that he would handle the door prizes for the GSD. We could try to engage other hobby shops in the area. JP noted that we have some hobby manufacturer's in our division like Atlas, MRC and East Coast Circuits. Jim H asked what we want to achieve with the door prizes like how many would be distributed a meet. Ciro responded that we want to improve the quality of door prizes and probably have fewer handed out. Ciro considered 40-60 attendees and how many prizes to give away. For 20% of 40 attendees we would have 8 door prizes, 10 for 50 and 12 for 60 attendees. 1 in 5 chance of winning a door prize. How much should we spend on our door prizes? Ciro presented an example of 40 attendees and 8 prizes. The cost would be \$40 for \$5 prizes, \$64 for \$8 prizes. These would all be purchased unless some were donated. However, quality door prizes would cost \$10 or more. Ciro suggested that the door prizes be a variety. Half would be HO scale and half would be multi-scale such as tools, scenery or books. When we receive future donations, we would assess the items and put some in the door prize inventory, some on the white elephant table and some on the free table. We should start a free table where members could discard items that they no longer want. At each board meeting Ciro will present the inventory of door prizes. We will add that to the agenda. In the future, when Ciro needs more inventory, he would request approval of the funds to purchase door prizes. Ciro asked about the cost of door prizes and we agreed on \$10 as the cost for each prize. JP reported that East Coast Circuits donated a door prize. Ciro will prepare a plan and procedure for managing and awarding the door prizes and provide it to the board. We will have a door prize committee and it will have a report at our BOD meetings. Ciro is the chair of the committee and JP is a member of the committee.
- **MOTION:** Approve the Door Prize Committee and appointment of Ciro Compagno as the Chair. - MOTION PASSED
- Jim W said that Kai Ebinger would like to see another works in progress session and Kai is willing to give a clinic on a toilet paper water technique. We would need about 5 clinics for the event and Jim H added that we should have 6 clinics lined up.

That completes the New Business.

Our next BOD meeting will be 1 July 2023 at Mark's home.

The meeting adjourned around noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD