

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, January 22, 2022
Place: Home of Steve Ascolese
Attendees: Mark Moritz, Steve Ascolese, Ciro Compagno, Paul Harbord, Andy Brusgard and Jim Walsh in-person and Bob Dennis, Chuck Diljak, Jim Homoki, JP Mikesh and Tom Casey online

Meeting started around 10:10 AM.

January 22, 2022 Motions Submitted and Approved:

(2022.1.22.1) Add Article 9 to the Bylaws to define our policy for dealing with donations to the organization.

(2022.1.22.2) Change the graphics on the Paul Mallery plaque to match the locomotive on the Paul Mallery trophy.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – We have been working with the NER on NERx coming up on 21-24 March. Two of our members will be presenting clinics – Jim Walsh, Bonding and Filling and Scott Gothe, Signalling. Fred's layout will be featured with a video layout tour.

NER REPORT – Ciro covered the President's Report from the NER Board meeting of JAN 9. Ed O'Rourke reported that we have a new webmaster and the NER website is up to date. Mill City 2021 was a success. Train shows have resumed in the region and Ed has attended some. We will have a table at the Amherst train show in Springfield in January – contact Bob Dennis if you can help. The NERx will take place in March. CHALLENGES: Need to fill some committee positions: membership chair, audit committee, OPSIG chair, assistant treasurer, finance & investment committee, nominating and ballot committee. Membership committee proposal: NMRA has a matching fund of \$50 per year for any activity within a division that creates or holds a division event that qualifies as promoting a member retention program. What we do at our meets would easily qualify to meet the requirements. In addition, the NER will be matching up to an additional \$100 for expenses. The next NER board meeting is April 10.

Vice President's Report – We had no VP report – Jim was delayed getting into the meeting.

Secretary's Report - Jim W distributed DRAFT minutes of the BOD meeting of 2OCT2021 previously by email. There were no comments or corrections for the document and it was accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D reported that we ended the year with the same balance as the middle of the year. More recently we received \$174.54 from the region. We are pretty healthy financially. The treasurer's report was accepted. Bob will send the report to Jim W.

Education Committee and AP Chair Reports – Steve announced that Chuck will be receiving the 2021 Paul Mallery Award. To meet the physical requirements of the AP electrical certificate, Steve submitted acceptable video of his former layout. He still needs to complete the paperwork. Mark earned his Association Volunteer Certificate and it will be presented at the next meeting. Mark is working on Chief Dispatcher. Scott Gothe is working on Author. Tom Wortmann is working on cars. Steve also announced that he is stepping down as AP chair person. Ciro is working on his Association Official Certificate. Chuck submitted the AP column for the next issue of the Whistle Post.

Events Report - WINTER EVENT is on February 26 – five weeks from this meeting and the snow date is March 5. When Bob comes back online, we will speak to him about the make-and-take clinic. Mark

reported that Bob was planning to buy 25 kits that he will sell at the door on the day of the meeting. Previously we spoke about a virtual meet but you cannot do this make-and-take clinic at a virtual meet. You cannot get the kit into the people's hands unless you pay to mail them. The omicron variant has spiked and the cases are going down and things should be better by the time of our meet. Bob joined in and spoke about the make-and-take. The cost of the kit has gone up since the start of the pandemic – it is \$25 instead of \$20. The problem is getting the kits to everyone since ITLA only wants to ship to one location. For Bob to ship kits to everyone would cost another \$5 per person. Therefore, we are having an in-person meet and distributing the kits to clinic participants at the door. The retail price is \$39.99. Bob will get 25 kits and if there are not enough kits, then the board members would give up our kits. We will get 25 kits shipped to Bob and he will bring them to the meet. We will not need the tarp this time. But the tables will be covered with disposable table clothes. We will be setting the table arrangement when we get there .

Layout tours: during the last meeting Jim H agreed to call Jay Held. Jay was on the tour for the Winter 2020 meet. Also two clubs will be open: The Garden State Railway Club in North Haledon, the New York Society of Model Engineers(NYSME) in Carlstadt. Last time Jay Held had an open house for his layout but he may not be an NMRA member. We had a discussion of whether a layout owner could open his layout for one of our meets if he is not an NMRA member. There may be an insurance issue. Andy will check if there is an NMRA policy requiring that the layout owner is an NMRA member. Ciro will check if the NER has a policy

SPRING EVENT is a joint meet with the NJD and they are hosting. We only need to supply a clinic. They will arrange the venue and the layouts. Mark will contact John Gallagher, the new NJD Superintendent. At this time their website only indicates it as a joint meet with the Garden State Division in May 2022. For the clinic, it will be Kai or Ciro depending upon Kai's availability.

SUMMER EVENT: Andy said that Tim at the Model railroad club in Union offered their location for our meet whenever we need it. Andy will contact Tim about a summer meet. The lower attendance for a summer meet may work with their smaller meeting area. In addition we can have an operating session on their layout. The date should be in July since the National convention is in August. We will go for July 16. Andy said that the club has reopened for the public on Saturday afternoons.

FALL EVENT: Remembering that the NER Regional convention is in September, we should have an October meet – how about October 15. Mark asked JP if we could have an October meet in Hope, NJ. JP will ask at the town and we could even use the firehouse. Layouts in the area: Joe Valentine, Kai and maybe Dave Oleson.

Clinic Report – Clinics on hand include Kai Ebinger with a paper building clinic, maybe in the spring. The backup for the Spring is Ciro with a clinic on layout design using CADRAIL. Since it is a layout redesign, Jim W asked Ciro if he will include his reasons for redesign. Ciro said that he can include that and his layout plan also includes operations. For a summer meet at The Model Railroad Club maybe we could get a club member to present a clinic on operations and specifically their operations. It would also provide an orientation for us for the later operating session on their layout. Andy will check with Tim about a clinic about their operation.

Membership Report – Andy reported that at the NYSME show he picked up 10 new members. Beginning in January each year, he goes through the email list to make sure that that it is correct and current. He also checks to see that the members are opening our emails. Most years he sees problems with about 10% of the list. But this year there were more problems mostly from losing members and from changes in email addresses. Andy tracked down and resolved the problems. Membership is at 220 members. Andy arranged to get a table at the JCRHS train show at Mother Seton High School in Clark, NJ on Sunday March 6, 2022. Tom C already said that he will be helping us out at the show.

Jim H pointed out that some people who actually live in counties in the Garden State Division are being listed by the NMRA as members of the MER (NJD). It appears that the reason is that their zip codes are in Princeton which is in an MER county. This applies to some people living in Middlesex, Somerset

and Mercer Counties. Although the regions are defined by counties, the NMRA considers a person's location by their zip code and not the county in which they actually live.

Whistle Post Report – Jim H reported that he needs content since he has nothing yet. The main thing is getting a good cover photo from one of the club layouts and also a write-up on the meet. Paul will see what photos he has for the Garden State club. The columns are routine – he just pastes them into the format but the difference will be with the information relating to the meet. Paul will try to put something together about the Garden State club considering that they are working on a new layout. Bob D will create some content about the make-and-take clinic. Andy will include something about NYSME. Jim W asked Bob about clinic related photos. Bob responded that he has photos showing how the structure can be assembled in 2 ways. Jim H needs all the information sooner than later. He said that we usually try to get it out 4 weeks prior to the meet but we have been as late as 2 weeks. If you are looking to get sign ups for the make-and-take clinic, you want it out earlier. However it will probably not get done before Springfield. Mark will send out a Constant Contact email with the information about the make-and-take clinic and that email will go out first. Bob D will call ITLA to see if he could get 5 or 10 additional kits on consignment. We will sell them or Bob will return them. The only additional cost will be the postage. Mark will include Bob's email address so that people can contact him to reserve a kit. This can give him a count. For the Whistle Post, Jim H would like to see us expand the pool of contributors to the newsletter. He would like to see more content from more than just a few of us. Jim W asked Jim H if he put an appeal for content contributions in the Whistle Post. He has done it in the past but it may be time to do it again. Jim H also said that he could approach people who contributed in the past and see if they want to do it again. Mark likes the idea of putting an appeal in the Whistle Post to get some new content. He also reminded us that if we plan to submit content we need to provide it in the next week.

Old Business:

- Participation at JCRHS Train Show at Mother Seton HS – Andy already told us about his progress in getting a table at the show.
- BOD members outreach – This is ongoing since we should keep in touch with our membership. Andy noted that in addition to his report about members if anybody is making contact with members let Andy know.
- RPM / Craftsman Structures Meet: on hold - We are not doing anything with it because the Valley Forge RPM meet is returning in March 2022(third week). The meet is on for this year but Jim H is not sure about their future. He is going to the meet and will find out how the future looks. He also does not know about the group that previously ran an RPM in NJ. He will see them in Springfield and discover what their plans are. This item will remain on hold and on the list.
- GSD online apparel shop – This was held up while getting permission from National to use the logo. Bob D said that the current issue is that Café Press won't provide shirts in groups of less than 10 shirts. We must order at least 10 of one item. Sue Ascolese said that there are 2 other companies – Teespring and Threadless. They have no minimum. Buyers make selections of merchandise from the web site and they are printed on demand. Bob and Steve will work on this. The GSD merchandise is to promote the GSD and make some money.
- Plan for recording and tracking attendance at face-to-face meets – Andy discussed how this is working out. The process worked well at our last face-to-face in October. Now that it is working, we can drop it from the list.
- Plan for donated locomotives – Several locomotives were given as door prizes at our last meet and we will be giving some more at our next meet. There are not many left since the majority was given away as door prizes and some were sold. Jim H said that he updated the inventory list on drop box.
- Provide server information and logins for all BOD members – Several BOD members have not accessed the server while others got access. JP will send the information again.

- Bob D will put something together for the Whistle Post promoting the make-and-take clinic in February.
- Tom C - Send photo and bio to Chuck for new GSD website – Chuck said that he is still waiting for a photo and bio from Tom C and a photo from JP. They should be sent to those who take over responsibility for the website.
- Create documentation for the new GSD website – Chuck completed the documentation. Remove the item from the list.
- Final DRAFT change to GSD Bylaws for Donation Policy – Ciro drafted an addition to the Bylaws to address donations. Ciro read the content of the proposed Article 9 addition to our Bylaws.
- **MOTION:** Add Article 9 to the GSD Bylaws to define our policy for dealing with donations to the organization. - MOTION PASSED

That completes the Old Business.

New Business:

- Proposal for Paul Mallery Award Plaque - Chuck proposed that we change the locomotive graphic on the plaque to match the locomotive on the trophy. We had some pictures of the proposed new plaque to review.
- **MOTION:** Change the graphics on the Paul Mallery Award plaque to match the locomotive on the Paul Mallery Award trophy. - MOTION PASSED
- Transition of Chuck's Responsibilities – In May, Chuck will step back and cease being a member of the board. We need to assign people to replace him for Administration of the GSD website, Dropbox, Facebook and Yahoo email as well as the Achievement Program. We have our server but we will continue with Dropbox for now. Ciro volunteered for Dropbox. The following additional responsibilities were assigned:
 - GSD website – Mark and Jim W
 - Yahoo Email – Andy and Jim W
 - Facebook Page – Andy and Paul
- Steve will stop being chair for the Achievement Program and we need a replacement for that too. Mark will be the chair for now.
- We need a nominating chair for the 2022 elections. Jim W will send Mark the info on who is not up for election and therefore eligible to be the nominating chair.

That completes the New Business.

Our next BOD meeting will be 16 April 2022 at Ciro's home.

The meeting adjourned around 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD