

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

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Sunday, January 7, 2018
Place: Home of Ciro Compagno
Attendees: Bruce De Young, Bob Dennis, Tom Wortmann, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Chuck Diljak, Ciro Compagno, Mark Moritz and Andy Brusgard

Not in attendance: Jim Fawcett, Tom Casey, Fred Dellaiacono and Paul Harbord

Meeting started at 9:30 AM

No Motions Submitted at the meeting.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Bruce's main focus is on the transition from him to the next President. He reported that with the pace of his transition to Michigan, he will be gone from New Jersey sooner than he thought. He spoke with both Chuck and Jim F. and Chuck will run for president. Bruce will still be supporting the convention and organizing the clinics with Jim's help and he will certainly be in New Jersey for the convention. Bruce brought some GSD items that he had in his home including two boxes of boxcar shells that we used for the contest. He will also pass to Mark and Jim W the box of material for the 4H modeling club. Bruce stressed that a deadline is looming for getting the convention registration form finalized. He passed to Tom W and Chuck the information and costs for the zinc mine tour and the modeling with the masters program.

Vice President's Report – Jim F was absent but on his behalf, Bruce spoke about last November's Layout Open House program. Although Jim had been working on it, at the last minute we were not included in the tours. Some people in Virginia will now organize the program and Bruce recommended that we wait to hear from them. Jim will report what happens.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh distributed the draft minutes for the last BOD meeting (17SEP2017). The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported through the end of the year, we had a profit of \$459.13. We primarily break even but get an increase from funds received from the NER and he reviewed our assets. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce reported that we were second place for awards in NER last year. In the works is Chuck's Civil Engineering AP Certificate. Chuck is also working at replacing Bruce as our AP chair.

Event Report - **WINTER EVENT** – March 3 at the Fulton Friendship Lodge in Park Ridge, NJ. We have no layouts and no clinics but will have an afternoon operating session at the Garden State Model Railway Club in North Haledon, NJ. Chuck will work with Jim H to make a list of members for Bob Dennis to call to find layouts that could be open. For clinics, Tom W may have his glue clinic, Chuck may do a scale house clinic or Bruce may do a clinic on gas stations. We will coordinate the meeting responsibilities through dropbox. Bob Dennis said that we could only find about 3 lawn signs and he will purchase 40 new ones.

SPRING EVENT PLANS – Joint meet with the NJD and they will host. Ciro will coordinate with them.
SUMMER EVENT PLANNING - Bruce checked locations in the Flemington area and found a few sites. One location that is convenient to dining and the Black River and Western Railroad is a microbrewery but it could cost \$250. The date will need to be late June or early in July. We need the summer meet as our last chance to promote the convention to our membership. The Black River and Western could

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be offered as the afternoon activity. Bruce will follow up on the microbrewery and then pass responsibility to somebody who will be in New Jersey.

Membership & Club Chair's Report – No Report since Tom C was absent.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H. reported that it is about a month away and he needs articles and information about the upcoming meet and something about the convention. Jim has an article from Chuck and Jim Walsh will be providing another Tools and Tips column. Ciro noted that we will need an announcement concerning the election asking for interested nominees. Once again, Ciro will serve as the election chair. While on topic of election, Bob Dennis said that he will be running for VP in the NER and will not be the New Jersey member of the NER board. The new governance of the NER will have that board position taken by the GSD President or his designee. Bob noted that the NER board meetings are conducted by telephone. He reminded us that the Lakeshores Division is now part of the NER and that the Eastern Canada Division is reactivated and joining us as well. For the Whistle Post Bruce will be providing material about the fall meet and the recent conventions There was a photo of GSD members at the MER convention and Ciro has a picture of our GSD group at the NER convention.

4H Program - Bruce introduced the project this year and reviewed the steps involved in the next few months. Chuck and Bruce started with the group in November and gave them siding material to attach For January, finish siding the walls, trim them, cut out the window and door openings, paint or stain the walls, windows and doors and install the windows and doors. In February, assemble the finished walls and connect the roof support pieces. By March, Bruce will provide the parts for the subroof and roof material. Mark, Jim W and Anthony will cover January and Ciro and Jim H will do February.

World's Greatest Hobby – Christina had arranged with Peter Steinmetz at the national level to have an NMRA presence at the World Greatest Hobby Show. He will have a booth that is shipped from show to show and coordinate with a local contact. Bruce is our local contact and he is contacting Christina to find out the status. We will need coverage for that weekend of March 10 and 11 to recruit new members and promote the convention. Bob Dennis will also need volunteers to man the booth at Springfield. For two hours of time in the booth, he will provide free admission to the show. Jim W also announced that he will make a point of calling into the podcast Model Rail Radio to promote the convention.

Moving to remaining old business:

- Lawn signs – we found 3 signs. We are buying new signs to replace the missing ones. DONE
- Bruce: Contact Clark Kooning/Peter Youngblood about Modeling with the Masters.COMPLETE
- Bruce: Check the Flemington area for a location for our summer event. This is COMPLETED
- Tom C: Set up gmail to receive GSD email and Get on Dropbox – Chuck suggested that at the next BOD meeting we help him set up the gmail at the meeting and then get him on Dropbox.
- Bruce: Make inquiries about a banquet speaker for the convention. We had a discussion about Bernie Kempinski and how he would be a great banquet speaker. Bruce will contact Bernie.
- IT Committee Report on moving files from Yahoo: Chuck favors Dropbox and Tom W agrees. Before we migrate to Dropbox for storing our files, Chuck wants to document the problems people are having with it and resolve those issues.
- Tom W to update website to agree with due dates for the Whistle Post – Tom asked Jim H if he has the information digitally and if he could send it. Jim will send it to Tom.

“Erie Limited” 2018 Convention Report - Our slogan is “Come ride the Erie Limited”

- Tom W is concerned about how Bill F is doing with the Erie Limited web site since we need it soon
- Our big focus is getting that registration form finalized and Tom W suggests that we need to consider tours that require a bus. We could offer 2 tours: New Jersey Transit and Hudson-Bergen

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Light Rail. A combined tour would take all day but one is preferred and the light rail was chosen. It includes a ride on the light rail and a tour of Hoboken terminal. Since there is no time on Friday to do the zinc mine and light rail, they could be offered at the same time and people will need to choose one or the other.

- Bruce suggested that layouts near the zinc mine be open after the tour. That would be Friday afternoon
- There was a question of how to handle the op sessions on the registration form. Should there be a commitment fee? It would only be necessary if “no shows” are an issue. Al should know about it.
- Discussion of a one day pass. Bob Dennis will discuss it at his next teleconference with the board.
- Tom W said that he still needs donations from vendors and was told that there is a person in the NER who has all the contacts for getting door prizes. That is Peter Higgins with those contacts.
- Bruce suggested to Tom W that the only person who should direct us to anybody in the NER is Dave Insley.
- Bruce Watson offered a list of clinics and clinicians to Bruce but it is an Apple format and he cannot convert it. Chuck requested the file and he will try to make the conversion.
- Bruce recommends making contact by telephone besides or in addition to email.
- Chuck suggested that we need a timeline to be working to and have regular phone calls.
- March 3 after the division meet we could meet
- Bruce brought up the modular layouts – we need to use our largest room for the modulares. We can have 4 modular groups if 2 of them work together. South Jersey Free-mo and Philly Area Free-mo should connect together. We could give them half the room since they are the ones to run op sessions. A quarter of the room will be for the small modular setup from Hudson Valley. The rest will be an N scale group that is T-track and therefore requires folding tables. They also want exhibitor type passes. Bruce is not sure if we can get the required tables or the passes. If this will not work out – we may need to use another N scale modular group.
- Bruce asked Bob to find out if the convention ever gives passes to exhibitors
- Bruce is in good shape with clinicians but he could still use a few more clinics and Jim F has another 6 or 8 clinicians
- Clinic scheduling is flexible except for the works in progress clinics that will be on Thursday afternoon. There are some issues with scheduling due to clinician interest in other activities.
- Jim H needs to organize the op sessions to get them on the form. He has 15 on his list and 11 confirmed which is very good.
- Jim H also said that for layout tours, there are 28 possible layouts but 6 are not confirmed
- Bruce mentioned an idea he had about giving lifetime achievement awards to George Sellios and Bob Van Gelder since they recently retired and have made big contributions to the hobby
- We will need 3 projectors and 3 laptops for the clinics
- We need to have the hotel room rate on our convention web site \$129 + tax with full breakfast
- Remember the monthly convention teleconference is the last Wednesday of the month

New Business – none

The next BOD meeting will be on Saturday, April 7, 2018 and hosted by Chuck.

Meeting adjourned around 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD