

MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 10:00 am
Place: Home of Norman Frowley
Attendees: Andy Brusgard, Joe Calderone, Ciro Compagno, Chuck Diljak, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

Reports were presented:

President's Report

Norman provided open remarks. He briefly reviewed the intent of monies from National to Regional level (i.e., \$1 per member). This money is intended for National purposes; e.g., the Achievement Program and membership communications (e.g., Division website and newsletter), and not for a general fund. Thus, related Division expenses should be specifically accounted for.

The person that gives away the door prize during a GSD meet should announce the company or store that made the donation.

Secretary's Report

Ciro reviewed the 03/20/10 staff meeting minutes. Several editorial revisions were made. With revisions, the minutes were accepted. It was agreed future minutes would highlight open action items.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented a year-to-date financial summary. There was an open discussion on the reports. The lack of collection of the 10% commission for the white-elephant table activates for the Spring Meet was discussed. Tom W. donated four door prizes from the estate-related, white-elephant sales. Other individual sales went uncollected. Anthony P. will follow-up and ask other known individuals. All agreed a white elephant Coordinator is needed for future meets. Tom W. repaired and updated the GSD laptop. Tom W. will give Tom C. the laptop in October. Andy offered Tom W. to give it to Tom C. The Treasurer's report was accepted as amended.

Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman presented the reports. Several merit awards were given at the Spring Meet where several nice models were presented. The Division has been active in the Achievement Program. A very positive approach is being emphasized throughout the Region. Constructive feedback with positive attitude is very important. He will be giving a clinic "How to be an Effective AP Judge" at the upcoming Regional Convention. Certificate of Judge Approval program is ongoing.

Events Report

There was a group discussion:

- Spring Meet, May, hosted by The Model Railroad Club, Union, NJ:
 - It was a very successful meet with a record 47 attendees
 - Advertising of clinics proved to be very important
 - Timing of responses is important with three notices being ideal.
 - Tom W. indicated Ed Fraedrich's estate sale is done. The family has approached Tom W. and asked for the names of groups Ed belonged to for a possible donation. They presently have the Anthony's name and the Treasurer of his model railroad club.

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- Summer Meet, Sunday, July 10, Whippany Railway Museum
 - Norman will bring the ice cream scoops and a cooler with ice.
 - Bruce will bring food, ice cream, dry ice, cups and spoons, napkins. He will be there around 12:30 pm to cordon an area for the Division.
 - Everyone needs to bring tables and chairs.
 - Chuck asked Tom W. to take GSD group photograph for the Fall newsletter.
 - Tom W. will take general photos.
 - Roger Post, NYSME member, will likely be working as a train engineer.
 - \$3 event fee.

- Fall Meet, Saturday, October 1, Ramapo Valley Railroad Club, 11:00 am
 - Tom P. indicated two persons (guest) offered to give a clinic. Norman and Tom P. offered to give a clinic if needed. Tom P. will finalize clinics.
 - There will be an \$6 admission fee
 - There will be coffee, soda, bagels, cream cheese, etc. for this midday event.
 - Operating session, model judging, door prizes, and white-elephant table is possible if providers come forward. Norman will follow-up with Bruce to confirm the Operating Session.

Membership & Club Chair's Report

- Tom C. has been sending Andy the Regional membership lists. Andy stated the Hunterdon County members are still not on the Region list.
- Volunteers at the National maintain the list. Jenny Hendricks approves it.
- Andy indicated the division membership is holding steady around 254. This does not include the 12 Hunterdon County members.

Whistle Post Report

- Chuck stated the Editor's staff has been meeting monthly. The process is working out well. Summer issue is complete and awaiting the Richmond Harbor column. The plan is to publish the issue in a week. There will likely be a Whistle Post Extra for the upcoming Fall Meet. Photos may be needed of Ramapo Valley Railroad Club. He is presently working on the Fall issue.
- Norman indicated all photos should be e-mailed the Photograph Editor Tom W.
- Tom W. is taking photos and Bruce is writing the Summer Meet article.
- Chuck has added newsletter articles (non-meet related) to the NMRA Magazine Index.
- Chuck is looking for modeling tip ideas to include in the newsletter.

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Discussion of old business:

- Tom W. indicated he has some videos and wording that could be used for public events (e.g., Greenberg Train Show). He is waiting for the president's video, which Norman will provide. Tom W. stated the goal is to have it completed for the Fall Meet.
- Tom W. is waiting until the Fall to purchase a transportable, flat-panel monitor. A 32 in. size was suggested.
- Andy will follow-up with the National regarding membership package and promotional items to have available for the Fall Meet.
- Anthony will follow-up with Bob Dennis regarding the GSD cloth sign with grommets.
- Anthony's initial local vendor for a GSD badge failed. He will follow-up with another vendor and have sample badges within 2 weeks and provide Norman photos. Chuck will send Anthony the GSD logo. The goal is to have the badge available to all staff members for the Fall Meet.
- Ciro presented a large print version of the *NMRA Railpass*. Joe will follow-up with a local vendor to obtain a quote for a foam version.
- Tom W. received approval to write-up an e-mail to send to the membership requesting photos for the newsletter. Andy will send e-mail.
- Andy will continue working on developing a postcard to promote the Division.
- Tom C. sent Norman a suggested paragraph for Edward Fraedrich service award. Norman suggested it should be awarded by the Directors to a Division member for sustained (over a period) dedicated service in the Division. It does not need to be an annual award. Tom W. and Tom C. will complete final wording by the next staff meeting.
- Anthony will finalize the details for Model Railroad Day at Lake Mohawk planned for September 17. Anthony asked for any ideas for the event. One idea is to have activities for Boy Scouts to earn a model railroad badge.
- Anthony will update *The Paul Mallery Award* trophy to include the 2010 recipient. The award is presently located at The Model Railroad Club.

Discussion of new business:

- Ciro will send nomination of Andy for the Robert W. Spate Public Service Award by July 1, 2011.
- Chuck provided an overview and benefits of the private GSD Staff Yahoo Group. It is open and available. Chuck will re-send an invitation to the staff.
- Joe accepted the appointment of GSD liaison to the New Jersey Division.
- Tom W. will look into having the Winter Meeting at the Staten Island Marine Corp. League, and asking local members to open their home layouts.

Next staff meeting is at Joe's home on September 24th at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary