

**Meeting Minutes of Garden State Division, Northeastern Region,
NMRA**

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 10:30 am
Place: Home of Joe Calderone
Attendees: Joe Calderone, Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

Reports were presented:

President's Report

Norman provided brief open remarks. To prevent any misunderstanding of future Board Meeting dates, Norman asked the date of the next General and Board Meetings be added to the GSD website and newsletter. He asked the Secretary to send a minimum of two meeting reminders to the staff; e.g., 6-8 weeks and 1-2 weeks. Use of the calendar event feature in GSD-Officers Yahoo Group may be an effective way to automate meeting notices. He asked Ciro to draft a GSD Bylaws amendment, to include this duty by the Secretary, for review at the next Board Meeting.

Secretary's Report

The June meeting minutes was distributed. Norm proposed to accept the minutes. Tom P. seconded. There was no discussion. One abstained and the remainder were in favor. Minutes were accepted. Ciro had no further comment.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented an update financial summary. There was an open discussion. Anthony will send the National a check for \$75 for the *NMRA Diamond Club*. Anthony will follow-up and ask known individuals that participated in the white-elephant table in the past Spring Meet to give their 10% commission. Norm proposed to accept the report. Tom P. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman provided a summary. He indicated there has been limited division-level AP activities with no new merit awards since the Spring Meet. The reason for the quietness is unknown. On a region level, it has been relatively more active. Since the Spring Meet, over 20 AP Certificates awarded across the Region.

Events Report

There was a group discussion:

- Summer Meet, ice cream social, Sunday, July 10, Whippany Railway Museum
 - As a new event for GSD, it was considered a success.
 - Food and local attractions are needed.
 - Event turnout was limited to staff and their friends and family.
- Bruce should explore Black River Railroad in Flemington, NJ, or New Hope & Ivyland Railroad in New Hope, PA for a possible 2012 Summer Meet.
- Fall Meet, Saturday, October 1, Ramapo Valley Railroad Club, 11:00 am
 - Andy needs to send meeting notice ASAP.
 - Staff should be there around 10:00 am for set-up.

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- \$6 admission.
 - 3 clinics, door prizes, and white-elephant table.
 - Model judging (contact Norman in advance by e-mail). Tom W. will add to website.
 - Tom C. stated operating session will start sometime after 1:00 pm.
 - Norman will bring bagels, cream cheese, two spreads, ice cream and coffee.
 - Norman will bring his PC laptop for clinics.
- Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, Saturday and Sunday, November 26 & 27, Edison, NJ
 - Bruce should coordinate schedule for staffing the GSD table.
 - General discussion on the pros and cons of using a monitor at GSD meets and public events. Expenditure was reviewed and approved.
 - Tom W. will be purchase the best 25 in. monitor money can buy.
 - Tom W. shared his research regarding videos. A demo version of the GSD video was previewed.
 - General discussion of the GSD video content, length, speed, etc. The basic question is: should the video be a commercial or infomercial for a public event. Video was reviewed and approved (with several needed minor editorial enhancements).
- Winter Meet, Saturday, January 21, 2012, Marine Corps League Clubhouse, Staten Island, NY, 10:00 am
 - Tom W. discussed the rules (shared with Bruce) when using this facility. Event must run between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. GSD would be responsible for full cleanup, policing the designated parking lot, bar area is off limits, league members may join, left over food and beverages would be donated to the league, no use of kitchen facilities, no use of any outdoor facilities. By agreeing to these rules, there is no cost to the GSD. A \$200 check deposit may be required and held. The check will be returned to the GSD if found satisfactorily clean.
 - Four, possible five, Staten Island home layouts will be open in the afternoon for meet attendees. Layout owners would need to leave when the morning session ends to prepare for their open house. The remaining GSD staff members would be needed for cleanup in facility.
 - Joe indicated the single largest draw to NJ Division Meets is the home layout tours.
 - Home layout maps should be provided at the facility.
 - Joe will share a NJ Division form asking if a home layout owner would like to open their layout for a division event.
 - Norman asked Tom to finalize morning and afternoon time frames, and provide to Andy and Bruce for flyer development.
 - Norman asked Tom P. to develop clinics.

Membership & Club Chair's Report

Tom C. distributed copies of the latest membership roster. He indicated majority of the Hanterton County members are now on the roster. There a large of members that are 30 and 60 pays past due. The exact reason is not known. One reason may be a registration lag time by National. Tom C. went through the 30 and 60 days past due list. He noted about 5 individuals that Norman, Tom P. Tom W. agreed to follow-up with. Tom C. will advise Andy the need to

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contact the rest of the individuals on this past due list. Tom C. has also provided Andy the new member list. Andy then follows up with a welcome letter.

Whistle Post Report

Ciro read Chuck's report. Fall 2011 issue will be published this week, need Richmond Harbor column, and photo tips on the photo page themed page will be a new feature. Tips will be provided by Tom W. Winter 2012 issue will have Part 2 of Norman's South River Model Works article, Tom P. photo with Dave Frary, NER convention coverage, and photo theme is trackwork. October editor's meeting is planned. Tom P. motioned to accept the report. Tom W. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Report was accepted.

Discussion of remaining old business:

1. Andy will follow-up with the National regarding membership package and promotional items to have available for the Fall Meet.
2. Bob Dennis is completing the GSD vinyl banner with grommets.
3. Bob Dennis is completing GSD staff badges. There is no cost to the GSD.
4. Tom W. sent Andy a brief write-up to e-mail the membership requesting photos for the newsletter. Andy will send e-mail.
5. Andy will continue working on developing a postcard to promote the Division. Once ready, Tom P. will insert given copies of this postcard in Micro-Mark packages to be shipped.
6. Tom W. and Tom C. will send final wording for Edward Fraedrich service award and provide to Norman by the next staff meeting.
7. Anthony will update *The Paul Mallery Award* trophy to include the 2010 recipient.
8. Tom C. will make contact with the North Haledon and Rocky Hill clubs to maintain a relationship, and advise the GSD is interested in a future meet.
9. Norman asked Tom W. to coordinate with Bruce on developing material for the GSD welcome CD.

Discussion of new business:

Election 2011 - per the GSD Bylaws:

1. Norman appointed Joe as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
2. Joe needs to appoint at least one other member to serve on the Nominating Committee that is not up for election.
3. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting including at least one name for each elective office per Article 7 of the Constitution of the GSD.
4. Ciro will send Joe Article 7 of the Constitution.
5. The Nominating Committee shall provide the names of the candidates to the editor of the *Whistle Post* for publication in the issue preceding the January 2012 Annual Meeting.
6. Officers up for election in 2012:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
7. Directors up for election in 2012:
 - Tom Casey (2012-2013)
 - Andy Brusgard (2012-2013)

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- Tom Piccirillo (2012-2013)
 - Chuck Diljak (2012-2013)
8. Anthony P. will follow-up with Richard Ross to determine if he is still interested in being a GSD Director. Then, provide Norman an update.
 9. Tom P. motioned the President to appoint a Committee Chairperson to coordinate all door prizes and donation activities. Joe seconded. Position activities and responsibility were discussed. All were in favor. Tom W. did not accept appointment by Norman. Position remains open.

Tom W. motioned to adjourn the meeting. Anthony P. seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Next staff meeting is at Tom Piccirillo's home on November, 19th at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary