

## MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

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**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 9:30 am  
**Place:** Home of Tom Piccirillo  
**Attendees:** Andy Brusgard, Joe Calderone, Ciro Compagno, Bruce De Young, Chuck Diljak, Tom Casey, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

**Reports were presented** (open items are **highlighted**):

### President's Report

Norman provided opening remarks. Last Board meeting of the year. He thanked everyone for their efforts this year. It takes a group effort to make it work. We tried new things this year – some things worked and some did not. We need to keep trying different things to move the Division forward. Division operations are similar to a restaurant. Patrons are served. If they do not like what is being served, they are never coming back. It is important to make a good impression every time. It is important a GSD event have something to offer and enjoy. We cannot afford to lose interest and attendance.

### Secretary's Report

The September meeting minutes were distributed. Norm asked to include details for motions, second motions, discussions and voting result in meeting minutes. The recent flat panel monitor expense approval was discussed as an example. Norm motioned to accept the September minutes amended with motion details. Tom P. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. September minutes, as amended, were accepted.

### Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented a financial update. **He will rework the caboose, and rename it "Ed's Caboose". It will be ready for the January Winter Meet.** The Paul Mallery Award Trophy was reworked and is completed. He has the 2010 plaque. There was general discussion regarding the intent of money to the Division from the National (i.e., \$1 per member). This money is intended for AP and membership communication, and not the general Division fund. Thus, related Division expenses need to be separated from year to year for accounting purposes. Norm motioned to accept the report. Bruce seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Treasurer's report was accepted.

### Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman provided a summary. He gave Division AP Chairpersons throughout the NER a DVD of his clinic and presentation given at a recent Regional Convention. The 2011 Paul Mallery Award recipient is Tom P. Norm clarified the intent of the modeling award "year", and the current discrepancy in the current rules. There are other smaller discrepancies that need to be addressed; e.g. median versus mean scoring method. **Norm proposed to amend the award rules to remove discrepancies at a future Board meeting.** There was a general discussion about the Fall Meet and ways improve attendance. Suggestions include surveying the membership, access to a church or public hall, home layout tours, etc. There was a general discussion about mailing a color copy of the Whistle Post Newsletter Extra to the general membership to promote the upcoming Winter Meet. Andy motioned to send copies. Bruce seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Expenditure was approved.

# MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

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## Events Report

There was a group discussion:

- Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, Saturday and Sunday, November 26 & 27, Edison, NJ.
  - Bruce gave the GSD banner to Bob Tumielewicz.
  - A new 30 x 60 in. GSD banner will be displayed.
  - Bruce advised to engage in a modeling activity to draw public interest.
  - Bruce indicated minimal coverage will be provided.
  - Ciro gave Norm GSD handouts to bring Saturday morning.
  - Ciro will bring the NMRA Railpass sign.
  - Norm advised to come early in the morning when vendors are setting up.
  - Norm advised to spend as much time as possible at the table.
  
- Winter Meet, Saturday, January 21, 2012, Marine Corps League Clubhouse, Staten Island, NY, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Home layout tours: 2:00 – 5:00 pm.
  - Home layouts will open in the afternoon. Owners will need to leave when the meeting ends to prepare. The remaining GSD staff members are available to cleanup room.
  - Ciro briefly cited other requirements summarized in the September meeting minutes.
  - Home layout owners will post an outdoor GSD sign.
  - Tom W. and Ciro will produce home layout tour maps, which will be available the morning of the meet at the facility.
  - Table will be available at no cost to sell items. Donations are accepted.
  - Andy will bring his 50-cup coffee urn. Tom W. recommended early set-up (as early as 8:00 am).
  - Bruce will bring coffee, cups, spoons, plates, sugar, etc.
  - Tom P. and Norm summarized two planned clinics and one contest.
  - Ciro will follow-up with Marc Pitanza for needed brief clinic write up and photo for Tom P.
  - Tom P. will provide 15 small prizes for the planned contest by Norm.
  - Bruce suggested Norm give his planned contest first so Norm can begin model judging earlier.
  - Tom W. accepted the position as Door Prize Coordinator. All door prizes should be coordinated with Tom W.
  - Admission ticket can be used for the door prize.
  - 50/50 raffle ticket is separate.
  - Show-and-Tell will be available.
  
- Spring Meet, May 2012, The Model Railroad Club, Union, NJ
  - Bruce will work with the club to finalize a May date.
  - Afternoon operation session or home layout tour will be determined.
  
- Summer Meet
  - Bruce indicated Black River Railroad in Flemington, NJ is not suitable location. There was a general discussion on other possible venues.

## MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

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### Membership & Club Chair's Report

Tom C. received an updated membership roster from the National via the NER. He will e-mail the latest membership roster next week.

### Whistle Post Report

Chuck is presently working on the Winter 2012 issue. For the first time it will use a landscape format to improve electronic viewing. Bob Dennis is submitting "My First Model Railroad Regional Convention" article. Photos are available on the GSD Officers Yahoo Group posted by Ciro. Chuck needs AP article from Norman, Richmond Harbor article from Ciro, and approved September meeting minutes from Ciro. Chuck is planning to publish the newsletter in early January 2012 before the Winter Meet. For Spring 2012, Bruce has reworked and will submit Tom C. article about swap meets. Chuck announced his resignation as Director and Editor of the newsletter due to personal reasons. The Spring 2012 issue will be his last issue. Chuck offered to assist the new person, and help get up to speed as quickly as possible.

### **Discussion of remaining old business:**

1. Norman asked Ciro to draft a GSD Bylaws amendment, to include this duty for the Secretary, for review at the next Board Meeting. Status: Open
2. Anthony will send National a check for \$75 for the NMRA Diamond Club. Status: Completed.
3. 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. Status: Consensus was to delete this action item.
4. Bruce will explore Black River Railroad in Flemington, NJ, or New Hope & Ivyland Railroad in New Hope, PA for a possible 2012 Summer Meet. Status: Completed.
5. Tom W. will purchase 25 in. monitor. Status: Tom W. presented an 18 in. monitor donated by a GSD member followed by a general discussion. Tom P. motioned to accept the 18 in. monitor. Ciro seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The 18 in. monitor was accepted. This cancels the previous Board approval for a 25 in. monitor.
6. Joe will share a NJ Division form asking who would like to open their home layout for a division event. Status: Joe will customize form for the GSD and send to Norm for review. Anthony P. and Tom W. offered to help mail the form. Logistics will be finalized later.
7. Norman asked Tom W. to finalize morning and afternoon Winter Meet timeline, and provide to Andy and Bruce for flyer development. Status: Winter Meet schedule finalized. Whistle Post Extra replaces the flyer.
8. Norman asked Tom P. to develop clinics. Status: Completed.
9. Tom C. went through the 30 and 60 days past due list. He noted about five individuals that Norman, Tom P. and Tom W. (Staten Islanders) agreed to follow-up with. Tom C. will advise Andy the need to 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. Status: In progress.
10. Tom W. sent Andy a brief write-up to e-mail the membership requesting photos for the newsletter. Andy will send e-mail. Status: Completed.
11. Andy will send proposed postcard to promote the Division to Norm. Once ready, Tom P. will insert given copies of this postcard in Micro-Mark packages to be shipped. Status: Open.

**MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION,  
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12. Tom W. and Tom C. will send final wording for Edward Fraedrich service award and provide to Norman by the next staff meeting. Status: Norm presented the final wording. Tom C. motioned to accept wording, as amended. Tom W. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Wording was accepted. Status: Completed.
13. Anthony will update The Paul Mallery Award Trophy to include the 2010 recipient's name. It will be presented at the Winter Meet. Status: Completed.
14. 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. Status: Open.
15. Norman asked Tom W. to coordinate with Bruce on developing material for the GSD welcome CD. Status: Open.
16. Joe needs to appoint at least one other member to serve on the Nominating Committee that is not up for election. Status: Bruce is assisting. Completed.
17. 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. Status: Completed.
18. 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. Status: Completed.
19. 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. Status: Tom W. motioned to ask Rich to resign as Director in accordance to the Bylaws. Tom C. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion was accepted. Norm will speak with Rich during the upcoming Greenberg Show. Status: Completed.
20. Door prize Chairperson position was approved. Position activities and responsibility were discussed. Status: Tom W. accepted position.

**Discussion of new business:**

1. Logistics of purchasing envelopes, printing, labeling and mailing the Whistle Post Extra newsletter were finalized.
2. Ciro proposed to purchase a second easel for the GSD signs and clinics. Ciro motioned to purchase one. Tom W. seconded. There was no further discussion. Purchase was approved.

Meeting adjourned around 12:00 pm.

Next staff meeting will be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary