

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

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Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
Date/Time: Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 9:40 a.m.  
Place: Home of Jim Homoki  
Attendees: Joe Calderone, Ciro Compagno, Andy Brusgard, Bob Dennis, Bruce DeYoung, Chuck Diljak, Norman Frowley, Jim Homoki, Roger Oliver, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Casey, Tom Wortmann and guest member Jim Fawcett.

Reports were presented:

## President's Report

Norman provided opening remarks. The recent New Brunswick meet was the most successful Fall Meet to date with about 40 attendees. It drew people from the New Jersey Division, Pennsylvania and Upstate New York. The New Brunswick facility was very good. The home layout tour was a success. The keys to success for future meets are: good facilities around the Division, food, clinics, repeated advertisement with photos, home layout tours, etc. He stated the need to keep this in mind going forward. There are more attendees each event and it is growing.

Norman stated when the BOD attends meets; we should wear an NMRA denim shirt with nametag that identifies us. It shows individuals outside the Division we know what we are doing, and are organized. Bob Dennis will provide any need nametags for BOD members. He briefly mentioned the possible venue at the Madison Hotel for the GSD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. The recent issue of the NMRA magazine offered retractable banner displays for us to consider. Norman stated there should be a position description (i.e., SOP), on how a person performs their job. This can be shared with a person accepting a new position. This will help the transition process and minimize any surprises. He suggested a 6 to 12 mo. project to complete SOPs.

Norman indicated everyone is doing a great job, we are moving forward at each meet, and he hopes it continues.

## Secretary's Report

Ciro distributed the draft September 2012 GSD meeting minutes, and asked the BOD to respond to him individually with any needed revisions. There was general discussion and a couple of clarifications made. The final approved version will be sent the BOD, and webmaster for the GSD website. Bob motioned to accept the minutes as reviewed. Tom W. seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

## Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented a brief financial summary. BOD suggested revisions:

- Display gross income and expenses versus net numbers (i.e., using profit centers)
- Add an additional page comparing income to expenses for each category
- Provide a separate summary of income and expenses for each meet

Anthony will revise the financial statements to reflect these suggestions by December 9th. Joe motioned to accept the report as corrected. Bob seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

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## Education Committee and AP Reports

Bruce presented his three judged HOn3 models for the 2012 Paul Mallery Trophy Award. This was the only model entry with a total score of 139 points. The BOD reviewed and accepted his entry. Norman announced Bruce as recipient of the 2012 Paul Mallery Trophy Award.

Bob will contact Bob Nalbone and confirm the Paul Mallery Trophy Award is located at The Model Railroad Club in Union, NJ.

Once confirmed, Anthony will update the metal placard on the award with Bruce's name. Anthony will also have a separate wall plaque made, which will be presented at the upcoming Winter Meet.

## Events Report

Bruce indicated the approach of having local BOD members organize the Division Meet has worked very well. The Summer and Winter Meets are good examples of this. Jim H. agreed this is a good approach. Joe indicated this is the process in the New Jersey Division. Norman stated this was always the intent of the Events Chairman position: to coordinate the process with help from local BOD members.

Bruce asked if we can purchase more GSD home-layout signs each year, and to make them two sided. Bob will have the existing signs printed on the opposite side. Tom W., Bob and Ciro will hold the GSD signs and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner for the upcoming Winter Meet.

Ciro presented the GSD Equipment & Supply List spreadsheet used for the recent Fall Meet as a good track tool to prepare for a meet. He suggested the Events Chairman use this spreadsheet for future meets. Joe agreed it was a good tool.

Winter Meet, Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Marine Corps League, Staten Island, NY

Because of the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy, the venue was changed to the Marine Corps League. Also, the tour of the Staten Island Railway Clifton Shops is presently not available. There was a general discussion on the home layout tour (2:00 - 5:00 p.m.), clinics, door prizes, static modules from the Staten Island Society of Model Railroaders, etc. Ciro will email the updated revised supply & equipment list. Jim H. will pick up all remaining GSD supplies and equipment held by Bob Tumielewicz. Tom W. motioned to spend \$60 to buy door prizes. Unused door prizes will carry over to the next meet. Bob seconded. No further discussion. The expenditure was approved. Chuck and Bruce will buy \$60 worth of door prizes from The Big Little Railroad Shop, Somerville, NJ.

The rules when using this facility are similar to last year. The event must run between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; GSD is responsible for full cleanup and policing the private parking lot; bar area is off limits; league members may join; leftover 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 deposit may be required, and returned if found satisfactorily clean. Home layout owners would leave

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when the morning session ends to prepare for their open house. The remaining GSD staff members are asked to help cleanup.

Summer Meet, Saturday, June 29 or July 27, 2013, GSD 50th Anniversary.

Roger shared a recent experience at Rod's Steak & Seafood Grille at the Madison Hotel in Morristown, NJ. This was a three course, early bird, pre-fix dinner for \$25. Roger provided Norman the Banquet Manager's contact for follow-up.

There was a general discussion about the program, venue and the importance of having a good draw for the membership; e.g., guest speakers, modeling display and local manufacturer's table:

- Tom W. will follow-up by letter with Tony Koester to confirm his interest and availability.
- Norman and Joe indicated it is important to confirm the venue before we invite manufacturers. This determine the size of the room, availability of tables, etc. before making contact with guests. A minimum of 40 persons, and at most 60 persons, are expected. Joe recommends a parallel effort to search for a public hall with catering if the hotel/restaurant venue does not work out. Guest speakers and manufacturer representatives would have a complimentary meal.
- Jim H. will follow-up with the Madison Hotel banquet manager in the next 7 to 10 days, and send details to Norman.
- Anthony will follow-up with Pub 66, former Lackawanna Train Station, Dover, NJ in the next 7 to 10 days, and send details to Norman.
- Norman will share the details with the BOD. He also asked any alternate public hall should also be researched in the next 7 to 10 days.
- Joe recommended having regularly scheduled conference calls to finalize plans. He will arrange the first conference call on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.
- Norman indicated plans should be finalize by March <sup>1st</sup>.
- Tom W. stated an invite/announcement should be sent to all NMRA Officers and Directors. Tom W. will create an invite and announcement lists.

### Membership & Club Chair's Reports

Tom C. summarized his efforts with the NER membership lists, and raised a growing concern about privacy. Norman stated that it is not a privacy issue when shared with the BOD only. Joe indicated the list was very helpful in planning the home layout tour for the New Brunswick Fall Meet. Tom C. will send the latest membership lists to the BOD only. Andy summarized his email follow-ups using the 30 and 60-day past due lists. Tom C. will send Joe the new member list so it can be added to the newsletter.

### Whistle Post Report

Joe summarized ongoing activities that include:

- Received articles to date, Chuck's GSD history article, GSD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary car advertisement, needed Winter Meet layout pics, using two column pages, etc.
- The deadline for the Winter issue is January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Joe will add to Winter issue the proposed slate of BOD candidates for the 2013 election.

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- Chuck will create a template for a planned GSD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary flyer. Material will be developed over time.
- Norman will write one or two paragraphs announcing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Then, Joe will add the anniversary logo onto the first page.
- Joe will contact the NMRA magazine editor to solicit any article or announcement of the GSD creation in 1963. In addition, confirm if the GSD was the first Division created in the NMRA.

### Discussion of remaining old business

1. Tom W. summarized the recent NMRA border changes, which is now based on state counties not postal zip codes. The result was the losing three members to the New Jersey Division.
2. Tom W. will contact individuals that committed to buying the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cars to confirm.
3. Anthony made three wooden plaques made for Micro-Mark, The Big Little Railroad Shop, and The Model Railroad Shop to thank them for their ongoing support and door prize donations. Tom W. suggested three officers present to the individual. Anthony and Andy will present the plaque for Micro-Mark.
4. Ciro will send the finalized Paul Mallery award rules to Bruce to process.
5. Joe will create a GSD survey and information form asking who would like to open their home layout for an event. Joe will add survey and form to a future newsletter.
6. Bob will create a postcard to promote the Division to Norman. Andy will email Bob the website to create the card. Once ready, Tom Piccirillo previously committed to inserting postcards in Micro-Mark packages to be shipped.
7. Chuck and Jim made contact with the North Haledon and Rocky Hill clubs, respectively, to maintain a relationship, and advise the GSD is interested in future participation.
8. Bruce (topside only) and Tom W. will continue to create and send the GSD Welcome CDs directly to Andy. Andy will send a new CD to all new members since January 2012.
9. Roger will provide Joe a website that provides 5 yr. of future model railroad events to help with the newsletter.
10. Jim H. presented the contract for The Jersey Central Chapter Railroadiana & Model Train Show. The next show is Sunday, March 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Mother Seton High School in Clark, NJ. The cost is \$40, which includes an 8 ft. table with chairs, and two admissions. The request for power is first come first serve, and is important. Norman motioned to participate in this show with power. Bruce seconded. There was a discussion of power versus no power at the table. Bob amended the motion to participate in this show with or without power. Ciro seconded. There was no further discussion. All approved with the exception of Tom W, who abstained. Expenditure was approved. There were several volunteers to attend the show.
  - ✓ Jim H. will create a schedule with morning and afternoon shifts with a minimum of two volunteers per shift.
  - ✓ Ciro will send Jim H. a sample show schedule.
  - ✓ Chuck will request additional NMRA promotional items for this show including NMRA magazines, which are given away.
  - ✓ Norman will bring lights and his laptop.

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- ✓ Norman will work on modeling task.
  - ✓ Andy will research a place that makes retractable banner displays, and report to the BOD for approval. He will need GSD graphics.
11. Roger will visit the GSD Officers Yahoo Group to obtain GSD flyers, and leave at various 2013 model railroad related shows.

Discussion of new business

- Roger gave a summary of individuals in the NER and The Model Railroad Club that are very active with the Boy Scouts of America. Anthony will research getting Boy Scouts more involved with the GSD.
- Jim H. noted a few potential clinicians: Bryan Bussey of Eastern Seaboard Models and Mitchell Dakelman. Brian gives an excellent clinic on innovative tooling and modeling building. Mitchell Dakelman offers a good video collection for a fee. Jim H. will confirm Mitchell's fee.
- Andy, the Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the slate of candidates for the 2013 election:
  - President (2013) – Ciro Compagno
  - Vice President (2013) – Chuck Diljak
  - Secretary (2013) – Robert Dennis
  - Treasurer (2013) – Anthony Piccirillo
  - Director (2013 - 2014) – Joe Calderone
  - Director (2013 - 2014) – Bruce DeYoung
  - Director (2013 - 2014) – Jim Fawcett
  - Director (2013 - 2014) – Jim Homoki
  - Director (2013 - 2014) – Tom Wortmann
- Roger will not be running for NER Director for New Jersey in 2014. He advised any potential candidate could work with him in 2013 or 2014 to understand the position and its responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned around 12:30 p.m.

Next staff meeting in March to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary