

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

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, January 17, 2015
Place: Home of Jim Fawcett
Attendees: Ciro Compagno, Bob Dennis, Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, Jim Homoki, Jim Fawcett, Tom Wortmann, Jim Walsh, Anthony Piccirillo
Not in attendance: Bruce De Young and Joe Calderone

Meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM

January 17, 2015 - Motions Submitted and Approved.

(2015.1.17.1) GSD to purchase MS Publisher for Whistle Post editor Jim Homoki

(2015.1.17.2) Club coordinator duties were returned to Tom Casey

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Ciro decided that he will not be running for president again. He offers to run for vice-president unless someone else steps forward for that position. He will still support the division as a director and help with the transition to the new president. His new responsibilities at work leave him with less time for the hobby and lately he has not had any time for his own layout spending his hobby time on the GSD. Bruce was not present but Ciro related that Bruce would step up to be the next president. Election and winter meet will be major topics later in this meeting.

Vice-President's Report – There was no report since Bruce was absent.

Secretary's Report - Copies of the minutes of the last BOD meeting were distributed for all to read. The Minutes were Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Dennis reported that the finances remain unchanged – comparison to last year were almost identical. Very little activity to report – projector screen was purchased and receipt presented for Malery trophy items. Bob mentioned that he found an investment opportunity – CDs in a bank that will accept small amounts with an interest rate for short periods of time. He plans to place around \$2000 in two CDs one for 6 months and one for a year. Continue to roll them over. At the WGH show we will have a double space – we will get one space for free and need to pay for second space and electricity. Total cost around \$110. Ciro asked about year end statements and if they were uploaded to the yahoo group.

ACTION Ciro will work with Bob Dennis to archive the yearend financial statements for 2013 and 2014 on the yahoo group.

The Treasurer's Report was Accepted as submitted by Bob Dennis

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce was not present but Jim Walsh displayed the updated Mallery trophy and plaque for Howard Lash as the 2014 recipient.

ACTION - Andy will follow up with Howard Lash to inform him that we will be presenting the award to him at the winter meet.

Jim Walsh will create certificates to present to clinicians at our division meets. Ciro provided the file and information to Jim.

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Event Report – **Winter Meet** is February 7, 2015 at the Marine Corps League on Staten Island. Tom was able to secure the facility for \$200 and he has lined up 3 layouts. There are 2 clinics planned and plenty of door prizes. We have use of the coffee pot there. Ciro mentioned the GSD meet Equipment and supplies list.

ACTION - Ciro to give Tom Wortmann the Material and Equipment List to be filled out for the upcoming meet.

The make and take clinic is dead due to issues of announcement timing and instructions
World's Greatest Hobby show in Edison on March 28 and 29 – setup on Friday- Bob Dennis said that we will have a double space with electricity. Two booths to feature 2 under bed layouts – one completed and running and the other to be built at the show. To support the show, we will have the retractable banner set up and Jim Homoki will bring other banners to the Winter Meet for consideration. Bob has track on the layout that is built but not on the one to be built and no trains for either layout. Bob would like to give them away. Anthony will donate a train for the show and will bring it to the Winter Meet. Tom Wortmann asked about a monitor and Anthony said that he will donate a 19 inch flat panel monitor. Bob also passed around the materials list and instructions for the under bed layout. We will also need handouts and materials from the NMRA.

ACTION - Andy will check his supply of NMRA materials and contact National to get additional items. Ciro asked for old issues of the NMRA magazine or Scale Rails to hand out at the show. He requests model railroad magazines only and preferably ones from the NMRA.

ACTION - Bob Dennis to email the under bed layout instructions and materials list to Andy for printing. These are needed to be distributed to the public at the World's Greatest Hobby Show.

Ciro asked about the schedule and coverage of our members at the show. Do we have enough to staff the tables and provide relief? Tom has a schedule but only 4 people are signed up. Some other people told Tom that they would also volunteer for the show

ACTION - Tom Wortmann will update the WGH show volunteer schedule and send it to the BOD.

Spring Meet with the New Jersey Division - Jim Homoki reported that the meet is Saturday, May 9 in the multipurpose room of the Hillsborough Township Municipal Building. There is no cost but some submissions are required including one for insurance. Jim will check if previous insurance submittal from last year is still good. Jim and Ciro will work on the required documents. Ciro will coordinate with Bob Clegg to get the NJD clinic topic so that we can arrange for a different subject. Jim Homoki is working to arrange layouts as well. Ciro asked if we want to try the Make and Take option for the afternoon. Jim Homoki observed that one of those clinics is good to fill in time during a two day meet but not for one day. Tom Wortmann noted that Sunrise Trail conducts one as a completely separate event once a year and not part of a meet. It was agreed that if we have a Make and Take it will be an independent event. In summary, the spring meet will include our annual business meeting and have 2 clinics in the morning. Ciro reminded us that we are taking the lead on this meet – therefore coffee, donuts, utensils and related items, also projector and screen and door prizes. He will coordinate with Bob Clegg with those details especially the clinic topic, description and clinician's name. As usual, we will have separate sign-in tables.

Summer meet - Our idea was to go to Harold Werthwein's house and work around that concept. Jim Fawcett had been in contact with Harold's friends who liked the idea. However, we will need to identify potential dates but watch out for conflicts with the National and MER conventions. Making contact with Harold is still an open Action Item.

Ciro raised the general issue of maps for GSD meets. He said that it used to be that Chuck always volunteered to do the maps and did a great job. More recently, without Chuck handling the maps it has been spread around to different people and not as consistent. With our upcoming meets, will we have one person do maps or have the person coordinating the event make them? The opinion was to have one person do the maps. However, for this Winter Meet we could reuse previous maps. Ciro has the files and can send them to Tom Wortmann.

ACTION - Tom Wortmann to update the 2012 winter maps for the upcoming Winter Meet. Send them to Ciro and he can take care of printing.

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What about the spring meet – we should see if Chuck can do it.

ACTION - Ciro will approach Chuck about making maps for the spring meet working with Jim Homoki.

MER Fall 2015 Convention – We are supporting the convention and Ciro has already responded to a request for potential home layouts within an hour drive of the convention site in Mount Laurel, NJ. He also offered assistance for clinics. We will support this convention and the Garden State RPM meet and forego a regular Fall GSD meet. Jim Homoki mentioned that the convention will need support through various volunteer activities such as help at the registration desk, monitor a contest room – basically physical support.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom Casey had nothing to report and indicated that membership is slowly decreasing. Andy said that our membership is down again and currently at 230.

Ciro will continue to offer a free 6 month rail pass to anyone becoming a member at the GSD meets. At the World's Greatest Hobby Show we will be offering the normal rail pass to the general public. Tom Wortmann suggested that we get a Facebook account but we would need somebody to maintain the page. Tom also suggested that the GSD get on Flickr.

ACTION - Tom Wortmann will research and establish a Flickr page linked with our GSD website.

Andy reported that he has 12 GSD Welcome CDs left and will need a new supply soon. The ideal time to make new ones is after the new election.

ACTION - Andy to work with Bruce and Ciro and update the GSD Welcome CD.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim Homoki admitted that there is quite a learning curve with Publisher and displayed the nearly complete (95%) Whistle Post. One difficulty is that he needs to stay late at work because he does not have Microsoft Publisher on his home computer.

MOTION - The GSD will pay for Jim Homoki, the Whistle Post Editor, to have Microsoft Publisher on his home computer. One license for \$70. The motion was approved.

Jim needs more information on Joe D'Agostino's clinic.

ACTION - Tom Wortmann to provide title and description for Joe's weathering clinic.

Jim also needs descriptions of the layouts – 3 or 4 lines for each layout. He wants to get the newsletter out next week. He passed the draft around.

Tom Wortmann discussed our free ads for businesses that support us. However, since Micro-Mark no longer supports us, the ad will be removed.

Old Business –

- **ELECTION** - Ciro will be speaking to an individual about the possibility of becoming a director. This will fill all open positions for the election. However, the upcoming Whistle Post will still be soliciting for anybody interested in running for director in the election. Ciro circulated a call for nominations example for the newsletter. Jim Homoki will put together the writeup. The Whistle Post will list the 3 director positions up for election – Jim Homoki, Anthony Piccirillo and one open director position. Interested parties will contact the election chairman, Tom Casey, by April 1, with their name, address, telephone number and email address.

ACTION - Jim Homoki will include the call for nominations in the Winter issue of the Whistle Post. Tom Casey will be the recipient of the nominations and will share it with Jim and the BOD.

- Directory of Whistle Post articles – Ciro pointed out that this has been started and is ongoing. It is a new web page on the GSD site with links to the articles and he invited us to check it out.
- Description of events chairman position for BOD and email to the membership – still open
- Research possible dual meet with Metro-North – Bob Dennis indicated that Metro-North is interested in having a dual meet with us but the place where they meet is very far from us – Hyde Park
- Work with Anthony and compile a list of approved motions for the last year – Completed, the list was distributed at the start of this meeting

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- Check if the RPM/LDSIG/OpSIG meet sponsorship was open ended – Jim Walsh reported that the last time we had that motion it was for a specific event and we would need a motion to sponsor a future one. We must keep it in mind later in the year when we cosponsor and participate in the 2015 meet – now called the Garden State RPM meet. That is an open item.
 - Check if breakup of Club and Membership roles was by a motion – Yes it was by a motion
- MOTION** – To give back Club coordinator duties to Tom Casey – Motion Passed
- Work with Joe Calderone and BOD to design an award for Chuck – We gave Chuck a paper award last spring but we would like to give him a plaque but stay clear of the wording on the paper award. The old award was a Certificate of Appreciation to Chuck “... in recognition of valuable contributions to the Garden State Division”

New Business –

- Tom Wortmann has an issue with the fact that our meetings are having problems getting into publications and barely gets into the bulletin. He wanted to know who is responsible? Ciro said that in the past he used to send the information into a few magazines but it was difficult when they need around 3 months notice. He asked what is the value to us? Tom said that we should at least get the info into the NMRA magazine. Right now nobody has the responsibility to do it. The NER coupler gets the information from our GSD web site. Ciro asked if there is value for us to be in the press if we have the time. Ciro asked if we should get our meeting announcements and all agreed that it was a good idea. Ciro will take that responsibility.
- Anthony said that he wants to get back to the Boy Scout merit badge program. He noted that Bruce is now a merit badge counselor and Anthony plans to become one too. He will be assisted by Jim Walsh who will also get involved in the program. Bob Dennis indicated that he is a counselor now and works with a Boy Scout troop.

ACTION - Tom Casey to research for past president roles and responsibilities – come up with some ideas and maybe check to see what other organizations do.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

Next BOD Meeting 14 MAR 2015 at home of Anthony Piccirillo – At 9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD