

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

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Saturday, March 14, 2015
Place: Home of Anthony Piccirillo
Attendees: Ciro Compagno, Bob Dennis, Bruce De Young, Tom Casey, Jim Fawcett, Tom Wortmann, Jim Walsh, Anthony Piccirillo, Mark Moritz
Not in attendance: Joe Calderone, Andy Brusgard, Jim Homoki

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM

March 14, 2015 – THERE WERE NO Motions Submitted.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – Ciro pointed out that this is his last BOD meeting as President and thanked the BOD. He will help Bruce and Jim Fawcett through the transition and will continue to help the division.

Vice President's Report – The health of an organization depends on people volunteering Bruce is thinking about bringing in new directors. If we make a past president position, we could benefit from having Ciro available and still have new directors. Bruce asked If we make a new past president position, can it be done by the by laws or do we need to do it in the constitution?

Secretary's Report - Copies of minutes of last meeting were distributed and corrections were identified. Minutes approved with noted corrections.

Treasurer's Report – We are up \$800 from last year mostly due to the \$600 from the NER. Winter meet was well attended but down from last year - 85 people last year to 58 this year. Bob gave the secretary a financial report. His CD request was rejected by the institution because it was for existing customers only. Our financial trend is steady. We filed with IRS and State of NJ - the mailing address for the GSD is Anthony's address.

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

Education Committee and AP Reports – Several people have applied for AP certificates Fred Dellaiacomo should be getting Scenery and Electrical while he is working on another. Bob Dennis will get Electrical and his Volunteer certificate. Bruce is working on Civil and expects to get his MMR by the time of the National convention. Ciro should work on his Electrical certificate and Joe D'Agostino needs to do paperwork for Electrical. Bruce also suggested that Bob Dennis submit his scratchbuilt track items for merit award.

For Education activity, Bob Dennis has helped 15 scouts to get merit badges. Mark asked what happens after the scouts earn the merit badge. There is no additional program related to model railroading to follow on from the Boy Scout merit badge. Bruce mentioned Jan at The Big Little Railroad Shop and the 4H scale modelers and model railroad group. Model railroad clubs have programs with youth including field trips and there used to be a railroad day at Lake Mohawk

Event Report – **Worlds Greatest Hobby show** in Edison, NJ. We have tickets so that None of our volunteers should need to pay just call Bob and he will get you in. We have coverage for the complete show. Remember that the purpose of being at the show is recruitment. We will have regular Rail Pass applications from the NMRA and we will hand out copies of the NMRA magazine. There will also be a laptop computer playing a slide show onto a large computer monitor. We will print out and distribute

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copies of the Whistle Post, have our new retractable banner and a banner skirting the base of the table. Ciro said that his expectation is that we represent the GSD and NMRA and work actively to recruit. Remember to wear our GSD name badges. Ciro reported that on the web site for the show is a map showing the location of the exhibitors. Tom Wortmann has the list of supplies and materials for our participation in the show.

Spring Meet on May 9 – a joint meet with the NJD. Our business meeting and elections will take place at the beginning of the meet. Tom Casey is the Election Chair. Ciro asked Bob Clegg for a clinician. Bob Nalbhone is speaking to Ciro. Jim Fawcett will present his styrene backdrop clinic. Jim Homoki should take home the GSD lawn signs at the WGH show. Tom Wortmann will buy door prizes – find out how much he is authorized to spend.

ACTION: Jim Walsh will check to find the APPROVED MOTION that authorized the spending and find the dollar amount of the authorized door prize purchases.

Summer Meet – So far, August 1 is good. Harold is 94 and he has an excellent operating layout. Bruce and Jim Fawcett will visit him today. Harold is concerned about fitting visitors into the layout. Tom Wortmann asked about including Tony Koester's layout and have a rolling meet. We need to work out the logistics.

MER Convention – We will be supporting this convention since the NER is not having one this year. Bob Dennis noted that the NER BOD has not had a meeting since last year. We are contributing clinicians and layouts for tours.

Garden State RPM meet – Jim Fawcett suggested that the dates may move to 21 & 22 November. There were comments that those dates may have conflicts. Our disposition right now is that we are waiting to get more information about this meet.

ACTION Jim Fawcett continue to follow up with the GS RPM so we can make a decision. Next year we will need 3 meets – winter, summer and fall – spring will be a joint meet.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom Casey reports that we have 228 members: 222 regular and 6 Rail Pass. Tom emailed reports to the BOD and he is tracking the February report showing 228 members. In tracking the Rail Pass members – He found 3 additional Rail Pass members that had rejoined. 48% joined up for another year and for the long haul we have a 1/3 retention rate – similar to the rate in previous reports. The membership for the GSD is a trend similar to the NER. For us, we lose about 1 member a month. We need to continue efforts to engage our membership and potential new members. We need to continue to think of ways to recruit. Anthony asked if the benefits of membership are communicated. The NMRA web site outlines the benefits of joining. Bruce pointed out that only about 40 of the 228 GSD members are active enough to participate in our division meets. Mark Moritz suggested that we should be on Facebook so that we can engage young people. However, we would need a board member to maintain the Facebook page. Ciro noted that he started the Twitter account for communication and to move into social networking but we do not have an individual to work the Facebook account. Bruce pointed out that a Facebook page, like a web site, needs to stay fresh so that people continue to visit – this requires continual updates. Bringing in new people grows the hobby and the NMRA but Bruce reminded us that there are many model railroaders who are not in the NMRA. Based on the retail market and magazine sales, only about 1 in 10 are in the NMRA. We need to convince them to join and increase the NMRA membership. Some other ways to engage the public are through local cable channels and You Tube.

Club Report - Bruce gave Tom Casey some information on additional local clubs. These could provide additional layouts for our layout tours.

ACTION – Tom Casey will check with the clubs to get permission to publish the information on the web site and in the Whistle Post

ACTION – Bruce will check to see if NJIT or Stevens have model railroads

Whistle Post Report. – provided by Jim Homoki by email:

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The next WP is about 80% done. A photo from Tom will complete that article, I need a clinic from the NJD, then Ciro's column and a few more layout photos will pretty much finish it

Old Business –

- Election - Tom Casey reported that we have full slate of candidates: President - Bruce De Young; Vice President - Jim Fawcett; Secretary - Jim Walsh; Treasurer - Bob Dennis; Four director positions: Anthony Piccirillo, Jim Homoki, Mark Moritz and Ciro Compagno. This is final so far, since there were no additional responses from the call for nominations – due 1 April to members@nergds.com.

ACTION - Tom Casey to set up forwarding for members@nergds.com to his email mailbox

- The action concerning the Past President position is still open but Tom Casey reached out to other division presidents to get information if they have the position. He will report more next time. In general, the position keeps the past president on the board but still allows for new board members. Bob Dennis will contact the NER to see what they have.
- During a discussion of updating the Welcome CD, Mark Moritz noted that some new computers do not have a CD drive. He suggested sending out an email with a link to the Welcome CD content on the website. This idea is being considered for the future editions of the Welcome CD. A new CD will be created after the election.
- Directory of Whistle Post Articles – This is ongoing and growing.
- Description of Events Chairman for email to BOD and/or membership – This is still open.
- List of approved motions for the GSD – This is ongoing and moved to Excel and Jim Walsh distributed printouts of the Excel file with the Motions.
- Jim Walsh to work with Joe & BOD to design an award plaque for Chuck. Jim will put a draft together and run it by Ciro and BOD for concurrence. It needs to get to Newton trophy soon in order to have the plaque for the Spring meet.
- Ciro to work with Bob Dennis to archive yearend financial statements for 2013 and 2014. This is an open item.
- Andy to check supply of NMRA materials and contact National to get additional items. Andy completed this.
- Bob Dennis to email the under bed layout instructions and materials list to Andy for printing handouts for the World's Greatest Hobby Show. This is still open.
- Tom Wortmann to update the WGH show volunteer schedule and send it to BOD. This was completed.
- Ciro to approach Chuck about making the maps for the spring meet working with Jim Homoki. This is open.
- Tom Wortmann to research and start a GSD Flickr page. Link it with GSD website. This is still open.
- Future Motion for GSD sponsorship of the 2015 Garden State RPM meet will depend on decision about that RPM meet.

New Business –

- Bob Dennis reported that \$135 collected at the Winter meet was donated to Make-a-Wish America in memory of Mel Ponton. Bob thanked Tom Wortmann for sending the donation.
- The NMRA plans to limit guests to 3 visits to events and to comply we need to keep a record with our sign-in sheets.

ACTION – Bob Dennis will adjust the sign-in sheet to record NMRA members and non-members

- Ciro asked if we need the gsdtrains@yahoo.com general email address. Tom Wortmann said that we need a general email but to use a new one questions@nergds.com

ACTION – Tom Wortmann to work with Andy Brusgard to forward the gsdtrains yahoo email to questions@nergds.com. And that email will be forwarded to Ciro.

ACTION – Ciro will work with Tom Wortmann to move yahoo group photos to the nergsd site.

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- Anthony congratulated Ciro on his run as division president and he and the BOD thanked him for his service

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Next BOD Meeting 28 JUN 2015 at home of Mark Moritz – At 9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD