

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

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**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Sunday, June 28, 2015  
**Place:** Home of Mark Moritz  
**Attendees:** Ciro Compagno, Bob Dennis, Bruce De Young, Tom Casey, Jim Fawcett, Tom Wortmann, Jim Walsh, Anthony Piccirillo, Mark Moritz, Jim Homoki  
Not in attendance: Andy Brusgard

Meeting was called to order around 9:35 AM

**June 28, 2015 - Motions Submitted and Approved**

**(2015.6.28.1) Change GSD bank accounts from Santander Bank to BCB Community Bank**  
**(2015.6.28.2) Move to Constant Contact for our email and authorize up to \$250**

**Reports were presented:**

President's Report – Bruce did some outreach to neighboring divisions. He visited both the Susquehanna Division to the west and Metro North Division to the north. Each division would be sending at least a carload of members to our August 1 meet.

Vice President's Report – Jim had nothing to report but he presented Bruce with his MMR number 555. Bruce said that he will be submitting his MMR write up for the August 2015 issue of NMRA magazine.

Secretary's Report - Copies of minutes of last meeting were distributed and corrections were identified. Anthony asked about the limitation that guests can only come for 3 meetings and he was told that it was for insurance purposes. Bruce suggested that our sign in sheet record NMRA members from other divisions as well as guests. Minutes approved with noted corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Dennis reported that since our last meeting in March, we incurred \$254.45 in expenses and we received \$533.54. He discovered a new bank offering a free account as well as 1.5 APR on CDs for a reasonable period. Bob presented a plan for opening several 14 month CDs with staggered starting times at the new bank, BCB Community Bank. The bank is FDIC insured and operates in New York and New Jersey. He also suggested that we close our account at Santander Bank. The Treasurer's Report was Accepted as submitted by Bob Dennis

**MOTION** – Approved – Move GSD checking and savings accounts from Santander Bank to BCB Community Bank. Signatories on the accounts: Bruce De Young, Bob Dennis and Tom Wortmann. Note that two signatures are required on all checks.

NER Board Report – Bob Dennis reported that the board has not had a meeting since January. In response to inquiries, Bob discovered that a meeting would be called if there was something to discuss. Bruce asked if there was a person responsible for lining up future NER conventions but Bob did not know of anybody at the time.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce reported that the NMRA magazine is now up to date with AP Certificates in our division. Bruce is going to Staten Island for 2 people for Civil Engineering.

Event Report – **Summer Meet** – Bruce and Bonnie visited Bangor and went to the restaurant to provide our latest estimate of 50 to 70 for August 1. They can handle 70 in the back room. We will be meeting at 11:00 at the Broadway Pub. Chuck is preparing maps and Bob Dennis can bring the retractable banner and a canvas banner. The museum is free, a short walk from the pub and it will be

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open early at 11:00 AM. Bruce visited Ed Suhy's layout and will return to address some issues to make it ready. Harold and Tony are also ready. Bruce will contact Andy this week to send out an email announcement for this meet.

**MER Convention** - in Mount Laurel. Bruce said that he was contacted by the chair for the contest room and they need volunteers. Bob Dennis and Tom Wortmann stepped up to volunteer. Bruce suggested that attendees get their hotel reservations as soon as possible.

**Garden State RPM meet** – Jim Fawcett thought that the dates had moved to 21 & 22 November but he saw the new flyer and it is showing November 14 & 15 – he needs to check on this. Jim noted that we should get more recognition for the GSD at the meet. There was discussion about information that would be required from them for our insurance.

**ACTION** Bruce will send an email to Ted Dilorio on behalf of the GSD and request the information.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom Casey distributed sheets with membership information. He indicated that our membership is starting to rebound. Full members are up to 230 – a level not seen since March 2014. When the rail pass holders are included, the membership number goes to 241 – a level last seen in February 2014. Tom tracks rail pass holders to see their patterns and we now have 11 rail pass holders. From past experience, about half will renew for a year and about one third will remain full members. In studying rail pass holders and members who joined as full members from the start ( back to June 2010), not much difference between rail pass holders and those who joined as full members. Full member retention is 37%. Since July 2014, 16 new members have joined – some may be due to GSD recruiting at the World's Greatest Hobby Show. Anthony introduced an idea to increase membership participation and meeting attendance by using direct mail marketing. There was a discussion of social media and facebook. Bruce suggested that we should try to find a social media coordinator.

**ACTION** – Anthony will ask his granddaughter if she will be the social media coordinator for the GSD.

**ACTION** – Anthony will also put together a cost proposal for a direct mailing to increase meeting attendance and membership participation.

Bruce emphasized the need for us to welcome new people who may attend our events. In his upcoming column in the WP he addresses many of the benefits available with our NMRA membership.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim Homoki related that the next WP is nearly complete. All he needs is timetable content. He will send it out for proofing some time in the coming week. Then it will be done. Jim noted that an article around 3 pages including photographs is a good size.

### Old Business –

- Directory of Whistle Post Articles is continuing. It has value and Bruce suggested that we publicize it in the Whistle Post to promote it to the membership. This item can be removed from the list
- A description of event chairman will be used to fill the position. A short discussion determined that it is still needed and therefore it remains open.
- List of approved motions has moved to an Excel spreadsheet and is updated after each BOD minutes is approved. Since this is institutionalized it will be removed from the list.
- Archive year end financial statements for 2013 and 2014 was completed on 4/12/2015.
- The GSD Flickr page is complete with a link on the GSD website.
- Tom Casey's research into past president position remains open. Bruce researched practices of other divisions and he found that the position of immediate past president is very common. That person stays on the board until the current president retires and takes the position. It is not intended to keep every past president on the board – only the most recent. The goal was to create openings for new people to get on the board. Ciro noted that the NER has that position. For us it would be created through the Bylaws and approved by the BOD.

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- Update the GSD welcome CD – It is important that we welcome new members. Bruce gave Tom some new CD's to be recorded with the new updated content. When these are used up, we will consider what to do for the future in welcoming new members.
- Tom Casey to contact new clubs and get permission to publish their info. This is still open.
- Jim Fawcett following up with the Garden State RPM. Leave it on list for a report at the next BOD meeting. The motion to sponsor the Garden State RPM also remains open.
- Bruce contacting NJIT and Stevens remains open.
- Tom Casey and Tom Wortmann email item is complete. Also complete is members@nergdsd now forwarding to Tom Casey's email account.
- Bob Dennis completed the adjustment to the GSD sign-in sheet on May 9, 2015. It now records NMRA members and non-members.
- Forwarding of email for gsdtrains@yahoo.com to questions@nergdsd.com which is then forwarded to the president (pres@nergdsd.com). This was completed 6/15/2015.
- Ciro to work with Tom Wortmann to move yahoo group photos to the nergdsd.com site. Still open.

### New Business –

- Andy has requested that we move to Constant Contact for a cost of \$200 per year for 500 members. It will be used for the event announcement emails to our membership

**MOTION** – Approved - Move to Constant Contact for our email and authorize up to \$250.

- Tom Wortmann mentioned the passing of former GSD president Tom Matthews. Bob Dennis and Tom attended the wake in Walden, NY and gave a mass card from the GSD. Tom read a thank you note from Jane Matthews, Tom's widow.
- Tom Wortmann reported that the GSD has a PayPal account. We will leave it on the web site and set up to allow anybody to use PayPal to pay for events or make donations.
- Bruce wanted to discuss creating redundancy for key positions. There are many positions that several people could step into but a few positions that nobody could support. He indicated that two such positions are the webmaster (responsible for our web site) and communications director (responsible for getting out email to the membership). Bruce suggested that we put an invitation in the Whistle Post asking for volunteers for two positions – Assistant Webmaster and Assistant Communications Director. Interested parties should send email to pres@nergdsd.com.
- We have our summer meet planned and instead of a fall meet we are attending the MER convention. Now we need to plan the winter meet. We need somebody to come forward with the location, set up clinics and layouts. We could all help with the clinics but the big areas of focus are location and layouts. We need to plan early enough to get the information out in the fall. Mark mentioned Morristown and the Whippany Railroad Museum and the locomotive rebuilding shop in Morristown. Bruce thought that it may make a better summer meet. Jim Homoki mentioned that the Jersey Central chapter of the NRHS meets at the Morris Museum. Mark said that there are plenty of places in Morristown for the meeting. Since we met in Ramsey in the Fall of 2013 we could go back there for our winter meet and repeating the layouts should not be a problem. Bruce will contact the people in Ramsey for the winter meet.
- Also ahead is the spring meet that will be a joint meet with NJD – it is their turn to host. Ciro continues to be a liaison with NJD on the spring meet. Let us know as soon as they pick a location. We need to do a better job at getting attendance up at NJD hosted joint meets. All agreed that the Hillsborough location was great and we discussed the possibility of using that location again. There may be an issue with finding new layouts. Bob Dennis suggested something different for the afternoon by bringing in some modular layouts. Bruce noted that the Black River and Western is not far. Perhaps we could have an excursion instead of layouts.

**ACTION** – Ciro will speak to Bob Clegg to see if he is interested in having the meet in Hillsborough.

- Tom Casey distributed a list of upcoming events in the area.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

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**Next BOD Meeting 7 NOV 2015 at home of Bruce De Young – At 9:30 AM**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD