

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

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**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Saturday, February 11, 2017  
**Place:** Home of Jim Fawcett  
**Attendees:** Bruce De Young, Jim Fawcett, Bob Dennis, Tom Wortmann, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Andy Brusgard, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, Anthony Piccirillo, Ciro Compagno, Mark Moritz and guest Bill Frankenfield

Not in attendance: Tom Casey

Meeting started around 9:45 AM

**No Motions Submitted at the meeting**

**Reports were presented:**

President's Report – Bruce reported the following:

The Hudson Valley Division is still interested in the 2018 convention and Walter Palmer is their POC. We have been helping Jan's modeling group and we have secured the 4H facility for the Spring meet. Once again, Ciro has accepted the position of election chair.

Vice President's Report – As GSD POC for the The Model Railroad Open House program, Jim F contacted Jerry Britton. Jim will be contacting 60 layout owners and providing the information needed for the program that helps to promote our hobby.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh distributed draft minutes for the last BOD meeting. Bob Dennis had a clarification about his year to year comparison - at this time. Minutes accepted with the clarification noted.

Treasurer's Report – For the period of January to December we are operating at a surplus mostly due to NMRA support. Other than that support we are breaking even. We have one CD left and have not renewed the 2 others due to the term ending too close to the 2018 convention and interest rates being low. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Bob Dennis also reported as the GSD director to the NER. NER participated in the show in Springfield MA in January and signed 13 new members – one for the GSD. Bob made contact with Bob Liota, president of MRC and they will support our convention in 2018. Bob Dennis is now the VP of the NER. Jim Rizzolo is the NER membership chair and Kevin Kotta is the nominating chair. Bob will continue as the GSD director for the NER.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce reported that 4 AP certificates will be awarded at the winter meet. In addition, the Mallery Awarded will be presented to Steve Ascolese.

Event Report - Brief disposition of our equipment and accounting for our lawn signs. We will need more signs for the 2018 convention as well as the Model Railroad Open House program for fall 2017.

**Winter event plans** – Meeting plus operating session on March 4 at The Model Railroad Club Inc in Union, NJ. Morning clinics, awards and boxcar challenge. Prizes for first place \$25, second place \$15 and third place \$10. Also allowing time for each participant to describe his project.

**Spring Meet** It will be at the 4H center in Bridgewater. It is a joint meet with the NJD and our annual business. The NJD is providing one clinic on static grass and we need to conduct a clinic. Bill F volunteered to do a clinic on lightweight, removable, foam scenery. We will need to arrange some layout tours. No coffee pot permitted at this location and we need to get containers of brewed coffee.

**SUMMER EVENT** Current plan is to have it on Staten Island at the VFW in Westerleigh. Bruce asked about an outdoor activity and Tom W and Bob D will look into something with the MTA. There are also

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other possible outdoor activities as well as several good layouts on Staten Island. Plan a date that does not conflict with the dates of the National convention.

**FALL EVENT PLANS.** Focus on a date that does not conflict with the many fall activities including the MER and NER conventions, Garden State RPM and The Model Railroad Open House program. Focus in the end of September or early October – ideally Sept 23 or Oct 7. Bill F suggested the Littell center in Franklin, NJ and he will check on it. Bruce asked Bill to get back to him in a month. It is an area that we have not been to since our event at the Sterling mine.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom C was not at the meeting but Andy reported some general membership information. He addressed the past due lists and indicated that 5 people are past due.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H reported that Tom W gave him an article about the last open operating session at the Ramapo Valley Model Railroad Club. Jim would also like an article from a member's perspective. He will contact Tom C. Jim Walsh submitted a modeling article. Jim H would also like something about the 2017 NER convention similar to the content on the MER convention in the last issue. Bruce asked about upcoming coverage on the boxcar challenge and considered that if we could get good video content we could put it on the NMRA You Tube channel. We could promote our division and the NMRA's boxcar shell program.

"Erie Limited" 2018 Convention Report - Our slogan is "Come ride the Erie Limited"

- Tom W noted that Fred and Bruce have been keeping him informed but other activities have not updated him. Tom must communicate his expectations of reporting from the groups. Some of us thought that reports would be made at the BOD meeting. Tom said that as a minimum, reports should be sent to him before the BOD meeting to make these meetings more efficient.
- Jim H reported that he has a good handle on the layouts in New Jersey but not sure about those in New York. However, now he can contact Walter Palmer to get information for the Hudson Valley Division. We will probably not include layouts on Staten Island.
- Railfan Events – Andy has contact information but it is too soon to book them. Tom W asked about Phillipsburg and made the point that now is the time for us to have all the contact information for all the events that we are considering. Mark mentioned the contact that he made for possible excursions for the convention. Tom W suggested making contact and find out the information about the excursions like minimum party size, cost and when booking is required.
- Is everybody checking the Dropbox?
- Our convention dates are 13-16 Sept 2018. The Sunday will include layout tours on the way home. Fred has a handle on the hotel.
- Tom W. needs to contact Al about the layouts and operating sessions.
- What about spots for railfans to take photographs? Bruce said that we already compiled that information for our first Ramsey meet.
- Chuck will be contacting MR, RMC, Model Railroad Hobbyist as well as Philly, Susquehanna and NJ Divisions of the MER and all the divisions in the NER. He will also do maps and has a template in Dropbox. If anybody has any suggestions or comments, let him know.
- The contests will be handles by the NER.
- Tom W discussed a Chinese auction with items donated by manufacturers, vendors, retailers and organizations. Tickets are purchased and placed in the container by an item which is awarded to the holder of the selected ticket. The Garden State RPM has been successful with this type of auction and it is more manageable than a silent auction.
- Jim Walsh is working on hobby shops and Tom W mentioned the Old and Weary in Tappan, NY – it should be on the list.
- Anthony is in charge of security and will have volunteers to focus on specific events of the convention like the auction and contest room with models and photographs.

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- For in-house layouts, the manufacturers have priority on space and we will give preference to layouts provided by the Hudson Valley Division before we seek out layouts from others. We have the option of using a clinic room for layouts and provide an introduction to operations similar to the Operation Roadshow. This is very popular at conventions when it is available.
- With the remaining 3 clinic rooms, we still have a good number of clinics – around 55 clinic slots. We will be scheduling clinics for 1 hour duration with 15 minutes between them. Thursday clinics should start at 3PM or later unless you have a make&take or modeling with the masters. The 3PM clinic should be something less formal like a hands on clinic where late arrivals would not be disruptive. Discussion of nonrail activities and attractions: trip to NYC, Ringwood manor state park and outlet center to the north.
- On dropbox Tom W included a list of volunteers other than our staff. If you contact them please be sure to clearly identify yourself and the committee you represent.
- The last thing is the list of jobs that Tom sent out. These are jobs that need to get done at the convention. Look it over and see what you want to do.
- Bill F can get audio system and video projector.
- Bruce noted that the clinics must work on a Windows computer.
- Visit the dropbox and become familiar with the contents.
- At the hotel we will have daily updates to keep attendees informed.
- Awards will be presented at our dinner and it will be a buffet.
- Andy said that NJ Transit requires that participants arrive by bus. We will negotiate the price and the NER pays.
- Convention registration will cover all the events and there will be time cutoffs for some events. There will be enough advance time that if an item does not get enough interest it will be cancelled and money refunded.
- Discussion of banquet speaker – a good one can be a draw for the convention. Something to think about.

### Old Business –

- We do not require an events chairman and Ciro's task is deleted.
- Task for Ciro and Tom related to Yahoo is ended. Instead, Ciro has new task to resolve the content on the Yahoo site and other GSD resources.
- The Facebook item is completed and Chuck should provide a report about the Facebook page.
- Bruce contacted Walter Palmer and Jan.

### New Business –

- BOD Elections – Ciro accepted the election chair position. He reported that all BOD members up for re-election will be running except Anthony. Therefore we have one open director position and the membership will be notified about the situation. Those interested must respond by until April 1. Jim H commented that our Constant Contact emails should all look the same. Tom W reminded us that there is a spreadsheet on Dropbox to help plan dates for events and save on repeated email traffic.

The next BOD meeting will be on April 22, 2017 and hosted by Jim Homoki.

Meeting adjourned around 2PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD