

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

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Sunday, September 17, 2017
Place: Home of Mark Moritz
Attendees: Bruce De Young, Tom Casey, Bob Dennis, Tom Wortmann, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, Paul Harbord, Ciro Compagno, Mark Moritz, Andy Brusgard and Bill Frankenfield.

Not in attendance: Jim Fawcett

Meeting started around 9:40 AM

No Motions Submitted at the meeting.

Special Erie Limited 2018 Meeting

Prior to the regular meeting, this special convention meeting included Dave Insley (NER convention chair), Gerry Covino (NER convention registrar), Roger Oliver (NER convention treasurer) and Walter Palmer from the Hudson-Valley Division. The meeting provided a status on the plans, allowed for collaboration and communicated the responsibilities of the NER and GSD.

- Registration Form – The registration form should have sufficient information to support registration - additional information would be available on the website. We do not have everything locked down yet, especially extras that would require a bus trip. These need to be locked down early so that they can be included on the registration form.
- Prototype tours – Andy described the possible tours of rail facilities including NJ Transit, Hudson-Bergen Light Rail and New York City Grand Central Terminal. Also, the Whippany Railroad Museum has caboose tours on Sunday. Bruce mentioned the Boonton Restoration facility and the Zinc mine as nearby tours that did not require bus transportation.
- Operating Sessions and Layout Tours – 8 or 9 layouts for operation and 25 layouts for the open houses. Jim H wants to lock in ops layouts first so that they can be advertised. He tried to keep the locations to within an hour drive. The distance could be more if the op session is on the way to the convention on Thursday or on the way home on Sunday
- Modular Layouts at the hotel – there are enough of these layouts but a check on their configurations and hotel dimension will determine the configurations needed for the convention.
- Clinics - there are 50 clinic slots and Bruce expects to have them mostly filled after the 2017 fall conventions (MER and NER). An optional and extra cost item will be the National Modeling with the Masters program – it will be scheduled on Thursday before the regular clinics begin. It should break even on cost but could attract some attendees to the convention.
- Vendor Sponsorship – Dave Insley introduced an idea of a program that is being considered but the details are still being developed. He suggested it as something to consider.
- Convention Handbook – there is no required format for the convention book and it is our call. We can have one book or two and any size that we want. Roger advised that if we offer an advanced copy of the layout book, you should price it well.
- NER Annual Business meeting will be on Sunday 8-10 AM

Some general advice was to lock in the extra offerings so they can be added to the registration form and included in the advertising. Sometimes these items may be an incentive for earlier registration. For expenses that Roger is to reimburse, make sure to have your receipts. Dave and Bruce discussed promoting the convention at division meets throughout the NER and Dave suggested getting in the national magazines in the late spring or early summer. The Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield will be a good opportunity to promote the convention.

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For the BOD meeting the following reports were presented:

President's Report – Bruce reported from the meeting at National that the museum in California is locked in and the member discount program has started. He noted that the program has had limited exposure and that we need to promote it better. It should be part of our marketing and retention efforts.

Vice President's Report – No report since Jim F was absent.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh distributed the draft minutes for the last BOD meeting (11JUN2017). The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that for the period of January through September we had a profit of \$236.50 and he reviewed our cash balance and CDs. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce is waiting to get Jim Fawcett's Volunteer Certificate back from National and we have Anthony's Golden Spike.

Event Report - **FALL EVENT** - Saturday, September 23 at the Franklin Firehouse in Franklin, NJ. We should coordinate responsibilities through the Excel file on Dropbox and some of them were discussed and assigned at the meeting. We are still trying to locate all our GSD lawn signs. We need to do a better job of collecting signs after our events. Bruce said that we should get new ones since we will need them for the convention.

WINTER EVENT – March 3 at the Fulton Friendship Lodge in Park Ridge, NJ. Parking on the right side of the building and up the street and entry through the front or side door. Bruce needs a photo to use to promote the event.

SPRING EVENT PLANS – Joint meet with the NJD and they will host. Ciro will coordinate with them.

SUMMER EVENT - Bruce will check for locations in the Somerville area. The date will need to be early in the summer to avoid conflict with the NMRA national convention or our NER convention. Probably at the end of June or early in July. Bruce mentioned that the Black River and Western has been running steam every weekend and we should find a meeting location close to the railroad so that it could be an afternoon activity. We need a summer meet as a great opportunity to promote our convention.

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom C reported that we have a total of 224 members as of July and we are down 6 members over the last 3 years. Rail Pass tracking shows about half sign up for a second year and one third are still members after 4 or 5 years. Bruce is hoping that the member discount program will improve retention. Bill F started a discussion about programs to attract younger members. Bruce noted that 3 main outreach programs are the Boy Scouts merit badge, 4H Clubs and youth focused activities of 100% NMRA model railroad clubs. The latter one is the most effective at getting young people into the model railroad hobby and the NMRA.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H. reported that the latest Whistle Post may have been our largest to date. For our next issue Jim has an article from Chuck and Jim Walsh will be providing another Tools and Tips column. Bruce will be providing a write-up for the upcoming division event and suggested that is the responsibility for the person who locates and organizes the event. Tom W suggested that starting with the next issue, we need to have articles about the convention. The first one will be a general announcement of the convention and identify the web site for more up to date information. Subsequent articles will have more detail about the convention. For the first one we will need pictures with captions including a shot of the outside of the hotel. Jim H would like one more article – the deadline is the middle of February. Jim also asked Tom W to change the GSD web site list of Whistle Post deadlines to match the information indicated in the Whistle Post.

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

- The Erie Limited web site will be ready when NMRA National activates the links to the 2018 regional convention web sites. The links will go up on Monday and our web site will be ready. The address is erielimited.org We also have erie-ltd2018.com The main page will have general information about the convention. As more details become available, there will be links from the main page.
- Tom W discussed marking the clinic rooms. If there are no sign holders on the doors, we will need to use easels. We will provide our own easels.
- In a short discussion of the convention book, Chuck suggested that it may be 2 books: a handbook and a layout book and they will be 8.5” by 11” format. Chuck explained that for layouts he will have the map, the address and the QR code to scan and the electronic version will have a link to Google Maps. The book will also group layouts with maps for certain areas.
- Tom W also emphasized that we need to advertise in all the magazines and get the info out to other divisions We will have convention flyers at all our division events. We also need a one page press release to send to the other divisions for their newsletters.
- Bill F will create a Facebook presence specifically to promote the convention.

4H Modeling Club – The program will start in November – 3rd week of November – week of Thanksgiving. There will about 7 sessions each one for about an hour on the third Monday of the month. We are planning to have a simple scratch build project spaced out over the sessions.

Model Railroad Open House Program – Scheduling is this week and the Rocky Hill club may be on the schedule for an open house. When scheduling, the owner picks the day and time but the coordinator tries to group the layouts in the same location into the same timeframe.

Old Business –

- Concerning the information on the GSD Yahoo group, Ciro asked where can we keep our legacy information? It cannot be kept on Dropbox but we need to put it somewhere. Bruce appointed an Ad Hoc IT committee of Ciro, Paul, Chuck, Bill F and Tom W to research options and come back to this group with recommendations of what to do with information on the Yahoo group.
- Paul noted that the club will host an operating session as part of our March 3 winter event.

New Business – none

The next BOD meeting will be on Sunday, January 7, 2018 and hosted by Ciro.

Meeting adjourned around 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD