

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

---

---

**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Saturday, April 7, 2018  
**Place:** Home of Chuck Diljak  
**Attendees:** Bruce De Young, Paul Harbord, Tom Wortmann, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, Jim Fawcett, Tom Casey and Anthony Piccirillo.

Not in attendance: Ciro Compagno, Mark Moritz, Andy Brusgard and Bob Dennis

Meeting started at around 8:55 AM

**No Motions Submitted at the meeting.**

**Reports were presented:**

President's Report – Bruce said that his list of things to do before leaving is getting shorter. He confirmed that Jim Homoki has what he needs from Bruce for the next Whistle Post. He already passed many things on to Chuck. Anything else that he has to talk about will be covered with the convention.

Vice President's Report – Jim F mentioned a Facebook issue that occurred on Jan 20. He received a complaint about some inappropriate content on our Facebook page. The questionable material was taken down. We must keep the page for model railroad content only. There was a discussion of using Facebook and maintaining control over content. We need somebody to monitor our Facebook page.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh distributed the draft minutes for the last BOD meeting (7JAN2018). Jim F asked about getting the minutes earlier and Jim W will try to do it. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Due to Bob's absence, there was no treasurer's report presented.

Education Committee and AP Reports – There are no certificates in the works but Fred is about ready to submit his Volunteer paperwork.

Event Report - **SPRING EVENT** – The Spring event is hosted by the New Jersey Division (NJD). Ciro is in touch with them. We need to provide one clinic and Chuck is doing the clinic. We did not come up with any layouts for open houses in the afternoon and we do not bring door prizes.

**SUMMER EVENT PLAN** – Bruce found the private loft in the Lone Eagle Brewing Company in Flemington as a good location for the Summer event. Bruce is working out the details and the cost but it will cost around \$300. It is very close to the Flemington station for the Black River and Western Railroad so we only need to park once to cover the meeting, lunch and a trip on the railroad. It may be more costly than usual but we are not having a fall meeting because of the convention. If we have the meeting on a day when the railroad is running steam, it will be a draw to improve attendance. In the area there are also remnants of structures left over from the railroads that operated there. We need to find out if they are running steam on June 23 or 30. If they are running steam, then we all agreed to pay the cost of Lone Eagle. Our backup plan would be to have the summer event in the Wayne area but it is currently being considered for the next winter event. Jim H will get a telephone number to contact Jan to inquire about the Black River and Western. If the Flemington plan works out then the Wayne area will be the location for the winter meet.

Bruce recommends that if you are looking for possible meeting locations in an area, check with the town clerk.

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

---

Membership & Club Chair's Report – Tom Casey recently sent out emails with membership information from the February report. In summary, we are fairly stable with a membership of around 230. We are a little less than 14% of the NER. The numbers do not reflect the 17 new members signed up at the World's Greatest Hobby show in March. At that show, we signed up 47 members – 17 for the GSD. The Rail Pass is now covering 9 months and costs \$19.99 and we still pay \$9.99 of the fee. Tom Casey will check to see if the NER membership numbers include the 2 new divisions. The NMRA is interested in retaining membership and are mostly concerned about recent members. The NMRA will pay divisions that execute programs for member retention. There was a discussion of things that could be done to welcome new members to give them a good experience in the NMRA and an incentive to remain members. Andy already sends them a welcome email and we need to make them feel welcome at their first GSD meeting. Fortunately any GSD or NJD member signed up at the World's Greatest Hobby could be invited to the same meet since we have a joint spring event. We were also fortunate to have a great location at the entrance to the World's Greatest Hobby and saw everybody entering and leaving the show.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H reported that the Whistle Post is almost done. Jim really needs information on the layouts. Tom W asked about content on the convention. Jim said there is a call for clinicians, an ad for the convention in the back but no particular stories. Tom W will write a story to promote the convention. Bruce suggested emphasizing the tours at the convention. Chuck has been providing articles to the Coupler and is looking for some pictures for upcoming articles including a photo of the Bergen Light Rail or the Hoboken Terminal. Bruce reminded Chuck that for future Whistle Posts, he will have a regular column.

4H Program - The modelers should have their buildings completed through the roofing. Now they will mount each building on a sheet of foam that Jan will supply. Bruce suggested that they could have an additional session with the structure and it would focus on weathering the structure. He noted that we have April, May and June and the scenery should not require all those sessions. Jim F asked about figures – they could paint figures. We will need 2 volunteers for the April session. The weathering could be with Pan Pastels and maybe a little dry brushing on the roof. Maybe Jim Rizzolo can support the April session and somebody from Staten Island. Bruce and Chuck will start contacting some people including Roger, Jim R, Joe D'Agostino. Also we need to maintain contact with Jan and find out if she has any trees. The plan is a weathering session and then 2 weeks of scenery. Then the project will be completed.

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

- Tom said that the main web site is completed and will not change. That is the main site and from there are linked files that can be changed. On Dropbox he has a folder called "Web" and it contains those files. We can edit them as required. Change the content of the file but not the filename. Let Tom know when you edit the file.
- Bruce said that we need to know information about registration (weekly or every other week) so that we know how to focus our publicity. Tom has been asking but we have not gotten that information yet.
- Tom W has been getting questions about the convention and many are asking about when the schedules will be posted. He told them that it will be late – like July or August. Bruce said that it is pretty typical for the schedule to come in the last 2 months.
- Bruce now has descriptions for 41 clinics. He also has some promised clinics – 2 from Craig Bisgeier, one from Bob Hamm and one from Stuart. That will give us 45 clinics for 55 time slots. Some clinics will be duplicated but Bruce would like another 3 to 5 clinics.
- Fred asked when do we need to have everything ready for the printer. Chuck will be working with Bob Dennis on that. Chuck said that the nonrail booklet is almost done.

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

---

- Tom W asked Jim H to contact the Kingston Model Railroad club about opening on Thursday for people coming down from the north.
- In the next few days, Bruce will determine if the N scale T-TRAK club can use the tables that we have available. He will also coordinate with the other modular groups.
- Bruce said that we need to approach Dave Insley and tell him that we need a commitment from the NER to provide regular updates on the registration information.
- Work in Progress clinics will be:
  - Tom W giving his trash clinic
  - Bruce will demonstrate weathering with pastel pencils
  - Chuck will be doing his clinic on coloring bricks
  - Jim H will present his real glass windows clinic.
  - We will need another one and Jim F will approach Ted Dilorio about doing a clinic.
  - The Works in Progress clinics will go from 2 to 3:30PM on Thursday
- We should also be getting information from the hotel indicating how many rooms have been reserved.
- AUCTION discussion:
  - The NER is supposed to have many donations from manufacturers for the auction. It will be a Chinese type auction and there are even tickets.
  - Tom does not know the exact details but there are 2 people in the NER who know. Tom will get back to them to check.
  - Bruce asked about the possibility of having a white elephant table.
  - There should be room in the auction room for a white elephant table and security would apply to all the merchandise.
  - People selling tickets for the auction could also take payment for the white elephant purchases. We need to work out the details of how it will operate.
- Contest room staff will take care of their room.
- In the hallway, there will be some groups occupying the space including **Funaro and Camerlengo**, O&W historical society and Andy's group.
- We had a discussion of Exhibitors Passes for anybody coming in only to make a display and not participate in the rest of the convention.
- Chuck was concerned about the Gulliver's Gate trip because we are required to put money up front. His concern is that we have a good number of registrants before the deposit is due. Bruce was optimistic with the trip being on Saturday and that we have a clinic about Gulliver's Gate. He must be sure to schedule the clinic before Saturday. We may even benefit if we can increase the number for the trip as a result of the clinic. We will need to check the details.
- Fred is working the final details concerning the tables and waiting to see if the T-TRAK group will be able to use the tables that are available for their use.
- Tom W plans to have brochures for the nonrail tours available for distribution – placing them in sitting areas at the hotel. He has volunteers getting those brochures when they become available - closer to the season.
- Tom also asked who is responsible for filling the welcome packages? He needs to find that out.
- Chuck said that we will need 3 computers and 3 projectors. Bruce offered that we have ours, the NER has one and we definitely need one more. Maybe when we are at the joint meet, he will see if he can borrow one from the MER in case it becomes necessary. However, he hopes that the NER has more than one. We have one good screen of our own and hopefully, the NER has a screen.
- We need to get out on the internet for one or two clinics but it should be available at the hotel.
- Bob contacted Chuck and was interested in getting 6 to 8 acrylic sign holders. We agreed to have him order 6 of them.

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

---

---

- Chuck described and circulated a draft itinerary for the banquet. He has assembled a slide deck for the banquet including an idea to have a photograph of the winning model for each category. Of course those model photos will be inserted at the last minute.
- For the banquet, some seating will be reserved and the rest will be filled in by the attendees by signing up.
- The monthly convention conference call is the last Wednesday of the month.

Moving to remaining old business:

- Lawn signs – We authorized Bob to buy new signs but do not know the status.
- Tom C will work with Chuck after the meeting to attend to his gmail account and set up his Dropbox.
- The IT committee has determined that we will use Dropbox for storage of the items that were on the yahoo site. A short discussion of Dropbox followed.
- For Whistle Post due dates, Tom W removed the incorrect information from the web site. The dates are in the Whistle Post and people should work with the editor.

New Business –

- Status of the 2018 GSD Elections – Ciro is not at the meeting but does anybody know what is going on with the election? There is one open seat since Fred will run for the balance of Chuck's Term. Jim Rizzilo may be running for Tom W's seat.
- Chuck wanted to recognize Tom W's great job of taking over the convention web site at the last minute. However, we really need to have somebody to support him so that we have a backup. We need to have redundancy in most of our positions – somebody to work with the person, help him and step in when needed

The next BOD meeting will probably be in early June – we need to include Hudson Valley members. After that, we will have one more meeting before the convention and maybe have it at the hotel the week before.

Chuck recommends having a meeting right after the convention on Sunday morning to discuss what was good and what was not so good.

Meeting adjourned around 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD