

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

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**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 4, 2018  
**Place:** Telephone Conference Call  
**Attendees:** Chuck Diljak, Steve Ascolese, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Fred Dellaiacono, Mark Moritz, Paul Harbord and Andy Brusgard.  
Not in attendance: Ciro Compagno, Tom Casey, Jim Fawcett and Bob Dennis.

Meeting started at 7:34 PM

**No Motions Submitted at the meeting.**

**Reports were presented:**

President's Report – Chuck stated that the convention was very successful but we don't know yet about how we did financially. Chuck expects to find out during his next conference call with the NER. The survey results were positive. Chuck said that we will talk about the Mallery Award at this meeting. We will also discuss the board structure and vacancies – we need to determine what we should do. There is much marketing activity going on in the NER and Dave Insley is leading it. Dave observed how successfully we used Constant Contact to promote our convention and would like to use similar marketing techniques. Chuck is involved in some of the marketing activities similar to the work he did for our convention. At the NER there is talk of revamping the web site and having a presence on Facebook. Chuck is hoping to leverage NER website work and apply it to rebuilding the GSD's website. Tom Wortmann did a great job over the years but it uses older technology and we may do better moving to more recent developments for web sites. To support the 4H program, we need volunteers to help out since we all agreed to continue with the program for 2019. For events, we started work on some meets and we will have more about that later. We also have a licensed tour guide for NYC in our membership and we may plan a future event involving a tour. On Dropbox, we may be removing non-board members from our Dropbox account. Although we are having this meeting by telephone, we really need to be face-to-face and we should definitely do that for our January meeting. Chuck also mentioned the activities schedule for our next election.

Vice President's Report – We skipped the Vice President's Report since Jim F was absent.

Secretary's Report - Jim W had distributed a DRAFT of minutes from the last meeting of August 25, 2018 by email during the week before the meeting. There were no comments on the draft and the minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob D was not on the call and Chuck did not get a report from him. Therefore we passed on the Treasurer's Report.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Steve A reported on one candidate for the Paul Mallery award. It is Richard Newmiller, MMR and he is in our division. He was the big winner at our convention. There was a short discussion of Rich Newmiller being on our roster. He was on the June 2018 roster but not on the latest roster. Chuck noted that he lives in Plainsboro. Jim W asked Steve to find out how Rich Newmiller wants his name to appear on the plaque and trophy. Andy and Jim W discussed how to get the trophy plate engraved.

Event Report - The Winter meet is in Oakland on 23 FEB 2019 but the facility will not open until 9:30 AM so the meeting will probably start at 10:00 AM. Fred thinks that we can have the room until 1:00 PM. Chuck noted that since the library was recently remodeled they will limit eating to a designated area and food and coffee will not be permitted in the area of the meeting and clinics. Coffee will be brought in by boxes from Dunkin Donuts. We have one clinic: Richard Newmiller will give a clinic on his

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East Broad Top yard office. It was a stone structure and his model was made of hydrocal with individually stained stones. Richard will also be doing a clinic at our spring meet in Hillsborough. It will be about the glass factory model that he won with in Mahwah, NJ. We still need one more clinic for the winter meet. Chuck reminded us that we still need to be thinking of future clinics. Fred offered a clinic for winter that he has been working on about modifications to a mountain scene on his layout. He has many pictures and he has the Powerpoint started. The clinic may be about 30 to 45 minutes. Mark is considering a clinic about how he built his helix. This may be for the summer meet. Chuck is working on a clinic about JMRI for operations. Jim W is planning a clinic about photography ("Getting the Picture"). Jim may present his in the summer too. Layouts for the winter meet: Fred, Chuck and maybe Cedar Crest. Also reach out to Tim Moses in Butler. Andy suggested putting out an email about the Golden Spike as a way to engage the membership about their layouts. Chuck will reach out to Tim Moses and asked Paul about the club in North Haledon. Paul will ask the club about opening for the winter meet on February 23, 2019. Steve suggested that due to the delayed start of the meeting, the layout tours should start later. Push back the start by an hour. The layouts may need to be open until 5 PM as well. The library room will be set up for us and we will bring in boxes of coffee. There is a nearby Dunkin Donuts. We discussed how much coffee is needed for the meeting – 2 boxes of regular and 1 box of Decaf. Steve suggested 1 box of regular, 1 box of dark roast and 1 box of decaf. Fred asked how many tables do we need set up. We need registration table, white elephant table, door prizes, bring and brag, clinician table – 5 tables. Andy suggested 6 tables and Fred will check to see how many he can get.

SPRING MEET: Can we have it in Hillsborough? Jim H asked for dates for him to check availability and he will see if he can reserve it. The date would be in May and Chuck noted that we want to avoid Mother's Day weekend and Memorial Day weekend. Jim H will check the availability for the other dates in May. Jim noted that Ciro was asking about him coordinating with the NJD but it is not necessary at this time. Jim H just saw Bill Grosse and they are ready and will have someone for a clinic. Chuck spoke about layouts and Jim H identified some Father David's, Bill Chapin, Jim H, Joe Calderone and maybe the Pacific Southern. Chuck thinks that 5 is a good number of layouts. Jim H will contact the layout owners for open houses for the spring meet.

SUMMER & FALL MEETS Chuck had not finished working on the plan for future meets that he discussed previously. He still needs to send it out. For summer, he originally thought that it would be a rolling meet but it might not work out for all the membership. It could be posted as a question to the members at the winter meet. Chuck asked the board members what they thought of having a guided tour of the highline in New York City. The BOD was in favor of the idea. There was a discussion of logistics, meeting places and what the tour would cover. Chuck also mentioned the possibility of a Gulliver's Gate tour. He needs to speak to Mason Logie to work out the details. Chuck also noted that for our regular summer or fall GSD meet, we may want to go back to Staten Island. For now we have the winter and spring meets planned and we will plan the others when we have more of the Staten Island members of the BOD in attendance at the next staff meeting. Ciro had volunteered to host the next BOD meeting at his home on Staten Island.

Membership Chair Report – Andy sent out the membership report on the first of the month. We did not get any new members and we had a couple of members behind and Andy sent them emails. Chuck said that since Tom C no longer gets the reports from the region, Tom C will need to get them from Andy. Andy will forward the reports to Tom C.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H said that we need to get him the articles. He knows what is going on with both the Mallery and AP. We need a meet wrap up and an article for the upcoming meet. He is planning to publish in January 2019. Andy suggested that we could put out a Whistle Post Extra that could feature the holiday shows and open houses. Chuck could put in something about what is planned for next year. Chuck asked Andy to send him any club meet information. Paul indicated that the hi-rail layout in Patterson will be open. Mark will provide information for the Morris Plains club and

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Jim W will provide information and dates for the club in Jefferson. In the Extra, Chuck will highlight the clubs, the Golden Spike and some of the things that are planned for next year. Chuck summarized that Jim H is planning for a Whistle Post in January so he needs Chuck's column, Steve's column and Chuck is preparing a convention write-up.

4H Program - Bob D had the idea to populate the Timesaver switching layout with buildings assembled by the 4H modelers. The first meeting of the club will be November 19. The club meets on the third Monday of each month with some exceptions – no meeting in December. However, starting in January we will meet with them each month until around May or June. Chuck has a spreadsheet in Dropbox for people to indicate when they want to volunteer their time. From the last staff meeting, we all agreed to continue to support the 4H and he expects that to mean we will volunteer some time to show these young people how to model. Bob D will kickoff the effort on November 19 and it would be good for somebody to be there with him. Fred and Chuck will be going down for a session. Chuck will send out an email with a link to sign up on Dropbox. Chuck expects everybody to sign up at least once. Chuck also mentioned that this is a very rewarding experience and the children really benefit from it. Chuck suggests that it is always best to have two people from our group at the session. It makes the session run much better. Chuck will send out the link.

### **Old Business:**

- We still need somebody to monitor our Facebook – Andy is doing it right now. Chuck announced that if you go to the members-only part of the NMRA web site in the area of clinic videos they posted 3 separate videos about social media. Here you can learn more about social media. Also Chuck noted that the Northeastern Region is setting up on Facebook. During Chuck's last marketing teleconference with the NER there were discussions of whether divisions need to have a Facebook page as well as the NER. Andy suggests that the local page has a great value to the members in the division providing much helpful local information. Chuck will pay closer attention to discussions of Facebook during meetings to determine the best benefit for our members.
- New plan for locating and scheduling GSD events – Chuck does not have it worked out completely. He will get back to it and complete the plan. This item is still open with Chuck.
- Chuck's challenge to the board to come up with clinics. Chuck was glad to hear that a few of us have been thinking about clinics and now we have a few for upcoming meets. Chuck still wants us to continue thinking about clinics that we can use in the future. We have this challenge as ongoing.
- Chuck did check on the acceptability of posting membership information on Dropbox. He was told that like email, Dropbox is susceptible to hacking. He received some other recommendations for technologies that are related to website development. When he is working with the NER on the website discussions he can address some of that file sharing in the web environment which will be a better solution than Dropbox in the future. For now Dropbox is OK for sharing our files. Chuck still thinks that it is safer than email because using email involves many different platforms for members email. Once we get a new web site we can take advantage of some of the file sharing capabilities.
- Bob D did contact the 4-H modeling club and we will continue participating in 2019. - done.

### **New Business:**

- Andy asked about setting up a GSD marketing table at events similar to the tables for NYSME and TCA at our convention. Andy has a lead on a tablecloth for that table. Chuck noted that we have banners and that upon request, the NMRA can provide printed material for the table. One issue is staffing the table – it requires volunteers. Our floor standing banners are too big and we would need smaller ones. Chuck asked Andy to provide more information and pricing for that type of table and we can discuss it at the next staff meeting.

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- Board Vacancies: With Bruce and Tom Wortmann no longer on the board, Fred looking to retire from the board, the passing of Jim Rizzolo and Jim Fawcett probably leaving the board what do we want to do for our board? Do we want to fill the vacancies or downsize the board? A discussion followed considering what to do and we were in favor of filling the available positions rather than downsizing. Chuck had some names of people who may be considered for the board such as Chris Oliva, Scott Dunlap, Alex Nowotka, Mark Lutz, Bob Nalbhone, Kai Ebinger and Joe Calderone if he is still interested in being on the board. Chuck also noted that Steve is not on the board and would be a welcome addition. Chuck asked Steve to consider it and let us know if he wants to join the board. Andy asked about website volunteers to replace Tom as the webmaster. Chuck said that we have not been successful in trying to recruit a volunteer for that position. Chuck is hopeful that he will begin to learn more about web hosting from his activities on the NER marketing group. Maybe Chuck will also be involved in redesigning our web site. Andy suggested that the member who does the web site should also be a member of the board. Chuck said that Steve would have priority for a board position. Then we would approach the others.

Ciro already volunteered his home as a location for the next board meeting. Chuck said that we will check with Ciro if he is available in January or February.

Meeting adjourned around 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD