

MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting

Date/Time: September 26, 2010 at 9:15 a.m.

Place: Home of Tom Piccirillo in Warren, NJ

Attendees: Ciro Compagno, Bruce De Young, Chuck Diljak, Ed Fraedrich, Norman Frowley, Tom Piccirillo, Bob Tumielewicz, and Tom Wortmann.

Reports were presented:

President's Report

Tom W. wants to send a note to Bob Hamm about contest judging and their comments. Tom W. provided an example of a contest judge's negative comments at a Regional Convention in Syracuse, NY. This example lead to a general discussion about model building, contest entry and judging.

Secretary's Report

Motion to waive reading and accept June 13, 2010 GSD staff meeting minutes were made. Second motion made. Meeting minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Ciro handed out and reviewed a summary of open items and reports provided by Anthony Piccirillo for the meeting:

- Need to correcting a \$280 software conversion error in the 09/24/10 Net Worth Report. The check book balance of \$2,859.26 is correct.
- YTD Income and Expense Comparison Report
- Summer BBQ Meet Income and Expense Summary. Net loss of -\$14.31. Four checks for BBQ gas, food and beverages need to be sent.

There was a brief discussion about the need to double endorse checks. This issue was tabled for a future meeting and discussion.

Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman, as NER AP Chair, will be announcing in the NER Coupler that 2011 will be the "Year of the Car" in the NER. The idea is to have all the divisions in the region focus on the building and scratch building of cars through AP, contests, clinics, and other means of communication with the membership about the basics of model car construction.

Events Report

Ed asked we should provide GSD event guests a form to provide feedback. This may lead to insight of was liked and not liked.

- GSD Summer Meet
 - There was a general discussion about the recent meet, particularly the low attendance as compared to last year.
 - Ed raised concern about the amount of food beverages left over from the meet. We should have used the same procedure that we did in previous two years. Buy the soda from the club and resell it.

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- Ed raised a concern about the lack of prompt payment for BBQ gas and food. The consensus was payment should be made at the end of the event.
- There was discussion not to have a clinic next time, possibly offering a free hot dog, etc.
- Norman indicated we should re-think the entire venue for all GSD meets. We need to differentiate ourselves from other model railroad events with a focus on hands-on clinics. To often, clinics are an after thought. It should be the focal point and main attraction to draw more GSD members to attend meets.

- GSD Fall Meet with New Jersey Live Steamers (NJLS):
 - Bruce will give a clinic – *Modeling slated roof or modeling tips* - in the event of rain
 - Food and beverages will be provided by NJLS
 - Careful fee collection of GSD versus NJLS guests
 - 25 to 30 attendees are anticipated
 - There will be a 50/50 raffle
 - There will be 1 raffle prize from Bachmann and 3 from Micromark
 - Tom W. will add a link to the GSD website providing an address of the NJLS
 - GSD members should arrive around 10:30 am
 - GSD will give NJLS a \$100 donation

- GSD is planning to attend the Greenberg Show, November 27-28, in Edison, NJ.
 - Bob will initiate and maintain the schedule for the show, and make plans for two tables (\$70 cost) and sharing power.
 - Norman indicated the schedule is important. It is recommended to have minimum three for the two shifts (6 total).
 - Norman will bring a model to show-n-tell
 - Laptop need from Tom C./Andy
 - Tom W. will bring a CD with photos to run on the laptop
 - Chuck will update the GSD tri-fold brochure and bring copies
 - Display copies of the Whistlepost

- GSD is planning to attend the World's Greatest Hobby, February 26-27, 2011, in Edison, NJ. Discussion and preparation was tabled for the next staff meeting.

- GSD Winter Meet 2010
 - Bob provided summary of his meeting with Pacific Southern Railway Club in Rockaway, NJ
 - Club purchased a ranch style home with a layout in the basement
 - Club would offer clinics, operate trains, etc.
 - Site offers street parking only, offsite parking with shuttle van is an option
 - Two months advance notice is needed
 - Motion was made to vote on have the January 2010 Business Meeting at this club. Second motion was made and accepted. The majority vote was yes.

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- Tom W. will speak with Tom C. about the decision to have the January Business Meeting at this club.

Whistle Post Report

Chuck provided an update. Following is the upcoming Fall issue:

- Articles are needed from Tom W., and Ciro
- Final June 2010 meeting minutes
- Holiday schedule from Andy
- Election announcement

Winter 2011 issue will cover the Princeton MER Convention and Fall Meet.

Discussion of old business:

1. Contact model railroad companies within the Division in search of a good venue for future GSD meets. Update: Tom P. indicators vendors are ready to support GSD. He will also make contact with Railroad Model Craftman magazine.
2. Solicit home layouts in northwest section of New Jersey in late March 2010. Update: Bruce will take the lead on contacting individual home layouts near a GSD venue. Focus will in the Phillipsburg, NJ area.
3. Solicit layout photos from the GSD membership to possibly include in future Whistle Post newsletters. Update: Tom W. will send available photos to Chuck
4. Summarizing and tracking AP merit awards for the GSD. Update: Norman will provide a summary for Tom W. to add to the GSD website.
5. Norman discussed and handed out several website printouts of possible future GSD venues: Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department Hall, Parsippany, NJ (Ciro); East Hanover, NJ (Anthony); and Pacific Southern Railway Club, Rocky Hill, NJ (Bob). Additional locations were given to Bruce to follow-up on. Update: Immediate focus is with Pacific Southern Railway Club.
6. Andy agreed to Tom W. suggestion to solicit the Hudson–Bergen Light Rail for possible a tour their facilities and/or stops as GSD rolling meet. No Update.
7. Andy presented a nicely done card promoting New York Society of Model Engineers. Andy volunteered to create a similar card for the GSD. No Update.
8. Tom W. and Andy agreed to look into GSD golf shirts and its cost. No Update.

Discussion of new business:

Election 2011

- Tom W. appointed Andy as chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- Andy needs to appoint at least one other member to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for election with at least one name for each elective office in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution of the GSD by the next GSD staff in late November.
- Positions up for election in 2011:
 - President (2011) – 5 yr. term limit is in affect
 - Vice President (2011) – 5 yr. term limit is in affect
 - Secretary (2011)
 - Treasurer (2011)
 - Directors: Bob Tumielewicz (2011 and 2012), Ed Fraedrich (2011 and 2012) and Bruce De Young (2011 and 2012)

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Next staff meeting at Tom W. home in late November

Meeting adjourned around 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary