

MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 9:45 am
Place: Home of Tom Piccirillo
Attendees: Andy Brusgard, Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Bruce De Young, Norman Frowley, Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Piccirillo, and Tom Wortmann.

Reports were presented:

President's Report

Norman began with an open remark. He asked to keep e-mail chatter to a minimum, and make general decisions at a BOD meeting.

Committees were reviewed and summarized:

- Public Relations Committee: Chairperson Andy and Ciro
 - Send first notice 60 days before event
 - Second notice - 30 days before
 - Third notice - a few days before
- Events Committee: Chairperson Bruce, Joe Calderone, Rich Ross, and Bob Tumielewicz
- Clinic Program Committee: Chairperson Tom P., Anthony, and Ciro
- GSD Webmaster: Tom W.
- Whistle Post Newsletter: Editor Chuck, Associate Editors Bruce, Norman and Ciro, Photo Editor: Tom W.
- Manufacturer's Liaison: Tom P.
- Club Liaison: Tom C.

Secretary's Report

Ciro read the 11/21/10 staff meeting minutes. Revisions were made to the President and Treasurer Reports. With revisions, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented a YTD 2010-2011, income-expense comparison report. The balance sheet report was not available. Several revisions were discussed, voted and agreed. Anthony will make the agreed revisions to the income-expense comparison report and send a revised copy. The Treasurer's report was accepted as amended.

Education Committee and AP Reports

Norman presented the reports. Several key points are:

- There are two new judges in the Division – Bruce De Young and Andy Brusgard. If there is any interest in the Division to become a judge, advise Norman.
- Two merit awards were given the last month or two.
- A number of Volunteer Achievement Program Certificates were issued.
- GSD is doing very well in comparison to other Divisions in the NER.
- A comprehensive list of judges has been developed for the NER. There are about 50 judges in the NER. Ideally, there should be more.

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Events Report

There was a group discussion:

- Business/Winter Meet, February, hosted by the Pacific Southern Railway Club in Rocky Hill, NJ:
 - Very pleased with the attendance (39 total).
 - Host should not control the clinics.
 - Bruce asked to see a summary of attendance for previous GSD meets to understand better trends. Anthony indicated he will send Bruce the history.

- World's Greatest Hobby, February, Edison, NJ:
 - Recommend changing the presentation.
 - Members who volunteer should spend the majority of their time at the table being a salesperson, completing an activity at the table, etc.
 - On average, a minimum two to three individuals join the GSD at this type of event via *NMRA Railpass*.
 - Norman indicated we need to draw the public's attention. The laptop used for presentations is too small, does not make enough sound, slide show used is not interesting enough, etc. He suggested we purchase a large, flat-panel monitor and develop a presentation with sound about the GSD. This may be a slide show or video with a narration. Also, add speakers so individuals passing by will hear and learn more about the GSD.
 - Bruce and Norman indicated it would be ideal to have a new MS PowerPoint presentation for the 2011 Fall Greenberg Show.
 - Tom W. volunteered to investigate the cost of a large, flat-panel monitor.
 - Tom W. volunteered to develop a video and MS PowerPoint presentation, as long as he has cooperation from GSD members. He asked Bruce for help with content.
 - Norman asked we have a large stock of promotional items available month or two ahead of time for shows: GSD brochure, NMRA magazines, sample Whistle Post newsletters, etc. He asked Ciro to make the arrangements, and provide material to Bruce before the next show.
 - Andy indicated the National has a membership package that may be available. This needs to be researched.
 - Norman suggested a cloth sign with grommets that can be rolled up, and easily installed. It should clearly state "Garden State Division, National Model Railroad Association" to improve visibility. Anthony volunteered to complete this.
 - Tom P. indicated we should advertise: NMRA memberships available join the Garden State Division, etc. Bruce indicated the 6 mo. Railpass membership would be a very good attention grabber. Andy will follow-up with the NMRA public relations department to see what is available. An option is to use the *NMRA Railpass* advertised in the magazine press.
 - Norman indicated when we have a meet in the middle of the day, we need to offer food. Coffee and doughnuts are good for morning meets.

- Spring Meet, May, hosted by The Model Railroad Club in Union, NJ:
 - Three clinics, lunch (platter of cold cuts, rolls, side salads, etc.) for 40 persons, AP model judging, white elephant table manned by Frank Russo, door prizes, caboose donation box, operating session hosted by club, \$8

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admission. GSD staff members and others involved should be there at 11:00 am to help set-up. Meet officially begins at 11:30 am sharp.

- First two clinics start at 11:30 am about 1/2 hr. each. Break for lunch for 1 hr. Last clinic after lunch followed by remaining GSD activates. Start operation session by 2:30 pm.
- Tom P. indicated he would coordinate door prizes from manufacturers.

- Summer Meet
 - The summer venue needs to be confirmed ASAP. Bruce has three ideas:
 - Whippany Railway Museum (Roger Post is a good contact) – picnic area is available, need to bring table, chairs and supplies, no BBQ facilities, ice cream wagon is available. This venue is not conducive to given clinics.
 - Black River & Western Railroad Ringoes Station – less items to see, picnic area is available. This venue is not conducive to given clinics.
 - New Jersey Live Steamers (NJLS) – Tom P. will follow-up with possible summer and Fall Meet options.

- Fall Meet
 - Need to confirm venue after deciding the Summer Meet location. Tom C. will follow-up with Ramapo Valley Railroad Club to confirm their availability.

Bruce will make contact with the North Haledon clubs to maintain the relationship and advise the GSD is interested in a future meet.

Bruce advised we should begin considering occasional Saturday Meets to draw members who are unavailable on Sundays. Norman asked Tom C. to ask if Ramapo would consider a Saturday versus the traditional Sunday.

Membership & Club Chair's Report

- Tom C. had no major update to report. The March membership information was already sent to Andy.
- Bruce showed a sample GSD Welcome CD that could be given to new members to immediately show a tangible return for their new NMRA membership, which is given within 2 mo. Cost is estimated at about \$3 per CD from a 25 CD pack. This includes mailers, CD, and slim jewel cases. All were in favor.
- Norman asked Tom W. to coordinate with Bruce on developing material for the GSD Welcome CD.

Whistle Post Report

- In Chuck's absence, Ciro distributed for review a draft version of the newsletter and reviewed remaining needed items.
- Tom W. indicated he would send Chuck photos taken at the World's Greatest Hobby in February.
- Norman asked financial details would not be shown in the meeting minutes published in the newsletter and GSD website.
- Tom P. sent Chuck a write-up of each clinic along with photos for the upcoming Spring Meet.

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Discussion of old business:

- Solicit home layouts in northwest section of New Jersey in late March 2010. Update: Bruce asked to change direction and focus on the southwestern portion of the GSD territory due to immediately available clubs.
- Andy presented a nicely done card promoting New York Society of Model Engineers. Andy volunteered to create a similar card for the GSD. Andy is struggling with finding a suitable template that can be used for model railroading. Andy will send Norman the website link to help further research a reasonable template.

Discussion of new business:

- Clinic Program Committee – Chairperson Tom P. indicated there will three clinics for the Spring Meet. Clinic details were presented.
- Norman asked Anthony and Tom P. to present a sample GSD badge for the next meeting for review and acceptance. It should be:
 - Use white with red lettering
 - On the left, have GSD logo followed by the individual's name in bold
 - On the bottom, Garden State Division
 - If it fits, add NMRA below Garden State Division

It is recommended an individual purchase a denim long-sleeve shirt through the *NMRA On Line Store*. Ideally, everyone should buy the same type of shirt and add their future badge.

- Discussed and agreed to donate \$75 to *NMRA Diamond Club*, which is a dedicated fundraiser to help bring the NMRA website into the 21st century by providing members with expanded content. Anthony will send check.
- Norman asked Tom C. to develop an idea by the next staff meeting an Edward Fraedrich service award to present to a GSD (non-officer) member.
- To minimize discrepancies in GSD communications for events, Norman asked the communiqué be approved by the BOD, or as minimum by him. Andy will send Norman a copy for review before distributing.
- The Lake Mohawk committee approached Anthony to have another GSD sponsored summer event. Anthony will further research and provide details.

Next staff meeting is planned at Norman's home on June 25 or 26th at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ciro Compagno, Secretary