

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

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**Purpose:** Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting  
**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 23, 2016  
**Place:** Home of Tom Wortmann  
**Attendees:** Bruce De Young, Jim Fawcett, Bob Dennis, Tom Wortmann, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Andy Brusgard, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiaco

Not in attendance: Anthony Piccirillo, Tom Casey, Ciro Compagno, Mark Moritz

Meeting started around 9:10 AM

**October 23, 2016 Motions Submitted and Approved:**

**(2016.3.19.1) GSD to add \$14 for the boxcar contest prizes.**

**(2016.3.19.2) GSD will participate in The Model Railroad Open House Program beginning in 2017 and Jim Fawcett is the division coordinator.**

**Reports were presented:**

President's Report – Bruce had a busy fall going to conventions. He went to his first national narrow gauge convention in Maine and gave clinics. He traveled to Albany for the NER convention - it was well attended. It had great layouts and operating sessions. The convention hotel was a very good location for a meet. Bruce also gave clinics at the North Central Region convention. Our fall meet was in a great location with the only trouble being repeat layouts. We did find a new layout but we need to find more. Bruce observed that at the recent NER convention the clinic rooms were not all booked for all available time slots. The selection was not as large as the facility would allow. However, they had some very good clinics. Lesson for Bruce was that they did not reach out beyond their local community for clinicians and the clinics were not topical for their area. The 2018 convention needs clinics related to the NY harbor, coal hauling and topics related to our area. Bob Dennis suggested that we could have hands on clinics that could start Thursday morning and go over a few days. "Works in progress" would also be a good format. We could also do something like modeling with the masters. The Albany layout book was great but the convention handbook was not so good. The names for some clinics were not consistent between the documents and signage. Tom W said what was good was that they listed the day's clinics near the location of the meeting rooms. We will have permission to solicit sponsorship for our convention handbook.

Vice President's Report – The Garden State RPM will proceed as scheduled for the first weekend in November 2016. There was a discussion of our association with the RPM and that we are not a cosponsor but many of the clinicians are from the GSD. We will promote the RPM on our website. On the subject of clinicians, Jim Fawcett would like Jim Walsh to double check on our survey and make sure about the summary sheet related to the volunteers for clinics. Cross check back to the original survey forms where people indicated that they wanted to volunteer to do clinics.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh introduced a new protocol related to actions assigned at BOD meetings. The actions are clearly identified and recorded during the meeting. We will review the actions at the end of the meeting. Jim will send out the list of actions within a few days of the meeting. He distributed draft minutes for the last BOD meeting. Correct the banquet cost for the Doubletree – it is \$41 including gratuity and there were 8 (not 6) hands on clinics when we were at Scotch Plains. Minutes accepted with the comments and corrections noted. He also distributed the minutes from the Annual Business meeting last spring. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Our financial position is doing well. Difference between last year and this year at this time is about \$30. Last year we gave rail passes to 3 new members and this year we gave 7.

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They usually renew the first time but may not renew at a later time. Tom W asked if we could find out the cause when they do not renew. We need to track the railpass members completely. Bob reported the assets of the GSD. For the Fall meet, we made \$70. Bruce went to Jan's and we now have door prizes for the next 2 meets. We finally sold all the GSD anniversary mugs. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Two members are currently active in getting AP certificates Craig Bisgeier – paperwork going in for Civil, Electrical and Chief Dispatcher. He is our first chief dispatcher since Bruce is in charge. Jim H – Author and Volunteer  
Bruce reminded the BOD members that some of them may be nearly qualified for Volunteer certificate.

Event Report – **Winter meet** – March 4 - Location: The Model Railroad Club Inc in Union, NJ  
The club will host meeting and have an operating session for 24-30 people after the meeting – so far 1 clinic Scott Dunlop a club member volunteered to do a clinic on scenery repair and improvement being done on the club layout. Bruce said that we need 1 more clinic - and we will also have Bring and Brag and model judging. Tom W will give a clinic on his experience building an F&C freight car kit. Bruce would like to have afternoon layout tours for those not interested in operations. The last time we met there, the layouts were by Andy Rubbo, Jeff Taylor and another layout that no longer exists. Jeff is no longer a member. Andy was open after the Mount Laurel MER convention in Fall 2015. Lunch will be on our own with Operating session after lunch. We need to get this information on the Web Site and start promoting the event.

**Spring Meet Plans** It will be a joint meet with the NJD. The location should be in the Southern part of our Division. Bruce is looking into getting the 4H facility. Jan needs some support for the Fine Scale Modeling Group that we rely upon for the facility. Bruce will conduct a session on Painting Rock Castings or Ground Goop. These meetings are on Mondays. The 4H facility is a convenient location but the problem is finding layouts (new ones) in this area. Or we could have something different in the afternoon – something prototype or we could do more clinics. First Bruce will secure the facility.

**ACTION:** Bruce will follow up with Jan about the 4H facility

**SUMMER EVENT** Bruce said that in summer we usually try to do something different. Tom W is still trying to get something with the MTA on Staten Island. We will stay clear of Mahwah before the convention. We must plan the summer event soon so that we can start promoting it.

**ACTION:** Tom W and Bob D to follow up with the MTA about Staten Island facility

**ACTION:** Jim W for next BOD meeting agenda ADD to event report #4 FALL MEET

Membership & Club Chair's Report - No report – Tom C was not at the meeting  
There was a short discussion of Constant Contact and the email list.

Whistle Post Report. – For the next issue, an Article about the Pacific Southern from the new owner  
Deadline for the next issue is end of January/beginning of Feb (BY FEB 1). We had a discussion of the kind of content that may be of interest to the national and get us more recognition. Bruce reminded everybody to provide content and particularly modeling articles. NJD has a new editor for its newsletter.

“Erie Limited” 2018 Convention Report - Bob D. reported on some things that the region has been working on with respect to conventions. One thing is that Roger Oliver, the regional convention treasurer, identified a fund at the region level to cover losses at conventions. The fund was not used before and they are considering uses for the fund other than reducing the convention cost. At an NER meeting, almost everyone is in favor of doing something with the fund. One idea was to hold the fee for senior citizens at the early registration rate. Also mentioned was free admission to first-time attendees and free admission for minors and significant others. Bruce was not in favor of free admission for first timers or spouses. He said that a reduce rate would be a good idea but not free. It may not settle well with faithful regular attendees that new ones are admitted for free.

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We discussed ways to increase the convention attendance. Make it more than a convention – make it a destination and sort of a vacation by offering great nonrailroad activities for the spouse.

Jim H asked about invited clinicians or speakers getting free admission to the convention. How will we handle it? Bruce responded that he has given clinics at many conventions and was never given free admission until the recent North Central convention. Chuck was given free admission as a clinician at the 2015 Southwest Regional Convention. It was for clinicians coming from outside the region. Fred discovered that the NER bylaws say that there is no free registration for anyone. While on the subject of invited people at our convention, Bruce noted that our banquet speaker is going to be crucial. We need a good speaker with an interesting topic and if he is well known, even better. Tom W mentioned that maybe we could approach Rod Stewart – it can't hurt to ask. Any compensation for an invited guest will require some discussions and approval at the regional level.

We can get vendors to purchase ads in our convention handbook. For our convention, Bruce needs to confirm that the Hudson Valley Division is still interested in cosponsoring the 2018 convention with us.

**ACTION:** Bruce will reach out to Walter Palmer to determine their interest in the convention.

We cannot promote our convention until after the Little Rhody 2017 convention. Little Rhody will need our help for clinicians next November 9-12. Also note that October 12-15, 2017 is the MER convention in Harrisburg, PA. We should also offer help at the convention too.

Bruce offered a recommendation to our convention chair, Tom W: Make a list of the areas that need to be addressed and appoint somebody to be responsible for each area. Then trust them to be responsible for their areas and supplying updates to the chairman when requested. As far as clinics are concerned, Bruce has an idea for clinics to be topical for our area.

We had a discussion of prototype tours and maybe even a tour of NY harbor. For the convention: Fred is Liaison to the hotel; Andy – prototype tours; Jim H – layouts; Tom C – clubs; Chuck – booklet and maps; Bruce – clinics; and Bill Brown – contest setup. Still need somebody for nonrail activities. Fred described the space available to set up layouts or vendor space at the hotel.

Short discussion of layout tours – we should try to arrange ones that would have more than a few visitors. On Thursday and Sunday, the distant locations will open for the trip to the convention and returning home. Another good idea is to have a cluster of layouts in an area that may be a long distance from the hotel.

Discussion of our constant contact – the year before the convention can we expand our constant contact and fill it with NER mailing list. But do we want to keep the extra size list after the convention? Extra size on our constant contact may be good to keep the neighboring divisions on our list for our future division events. For our convention, we need to expand our list to include the complete NER list as well as lists for the Susquehanna & NJD in the MER. However, we should not start our email blasts for our convention until after the Little Rhody division completes the 2017 NER convention.

Chuck will be handling anything to do with publicity and publications.

We need to consider in-house layouts at the hotel. If Hudson Valley Division is still working with us as cohost, they have great portable and modular layouts. If those are not available then we can approach the North Jersey N-scale modular layout group. Who will run those on-site layouts?

If Hudson Valley is cosponsor, we will line up their modular layouts and see if they can set up operating sessions. Fred and Bruce will check into the layouts and check the fit into the available convention space. Bruce is also the liaison to the Hudson Valley Division

Fred mentioned that vendors and manufacturers could have displays but he must check against space in the hotel. Bruce said that when vendors/manufacturers are contacted we should also solicit for Ad space in the convention book. They could also provide a give away in our convention packet.

Tom W asked “Who coordinates the hospitality or welcome room?” “Will we have one?”

We had a discussion of a welcome room and a location. Andy said that we could use one classroom on Thursday afternoon/evening and not use it for clinics until Friday morning.

Tom W reminded us to check the spreadsheet on Dropbox and start adding to it. Also check the hobby shop list and update as required.

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When scheduling clinics and prototype tours- be careful not to create conflicts. Tom W suggests to having backups ready in case somebody must cancel at the last minute for the clinics.

Discussion of silent auction: A volunteer will organize it. We advertise for people to participate and set our cut. We need limits so that we do not overstuff the auction room. People bring their items in and register them and establish starting bid. The auction buyers will record bids on the item form and insert their convention number. Bids will have minimum increment. When the auction closes, a list of items with winning bidders is displayed. When payment is made, the item is given to the winning bidder. Who will do the website? Tom said that somebody volunteered for this area. How about social media? Chuck will work with Ron Klaiss and Anthony about Facebook for our 2018 convention

Old Business –

- Bob reported that Ciro will update his items at the next meeting.
- Anthony's action may be resolved when Ron starts working on Facebook for the convention.
- Bruce and Fred completed the second visit to the hotel and everything has been presented to the region. Bob D will check to see that the deal has been closed.
- Bruce will contact the mine early in 2017 to start arrangements for our convention.

New Business –

- Fred: 14 people bought boxcar shells for the contest and he collected \$36. Will the GSD provide the \$14 to make it an even \$50 for distribution as prizes?

**MOTION - GSD to add \$14 for the boxcar contest prizes MOTION APPROVED**

- Bruce reported on contact by Jerry Britton about the Model RR open house program for next year - a year from now. Layout owners must be willing to have an open house on participating weekends. Jim Fawcett added that the program involves the entire month of November with various layouts scheduled for subject weekends. There are extensive online listings throughout Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Jim thinks that it is a good opportunity. The Program requires a designated division coordinator to reach out to the layout owners and get the layout descriptions online and set the dates. The Group handles all the promotion – website is: [www.themodelrailroadopenhouse.com](http://www.themodelrailroadopenhouse.com) Bruce recommends that we participate and Jim Fawcett volunteered as coordinator for the GSD.

**MOTION – The GSD will participate in The Model Railroad Open House Program beginning in 2017 and Jim Fawcett is the division coordinator. MOTION APPROVED**

Bruce will email Jerry and indicate Jim Fawcett as the division coordinator.

- The Lakeshores Division of the Niagara Frontier Region petitioned to join the NER. The division is west of the NER in New York. The NFR concurred and the petition is currently with the National.
- Bob Dennis introduced a long term NER plan to eliminate elected board members and have the division presidents or superintendents become the board members at the region. But it will be left to the divisions to decide.

Where and when is the next BOD meeting. Have it before our March 4 Division meet – end of January or beginning of February – not the weekend of Springfield. Jim Fawcett will host and coordinate a date.

ACTION ITEM LIST WAS REVIEWED

Meeting adjourned around noon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Walsh*

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Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD