

## **HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – September 3, 2026**

**Birthdays:** The September birthday slide was displayed as members arrived. 29 Hobbyists have birthdays in June, including 1 lifetime member: Rob Mulligan. Two members are celebrating their birthdays today, September 3: Randy Darwick and Michael Monaghan.

**Meeting called to order** by President Peter Weinstein at 10:02 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Bob Paoli led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- After the pledge, Bob informed our group that on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm there will be a ceremony conducted by the Ridgewood American Legion honoring Gold Star families at the monument in Van Neste Park in downtown Ridgewood. This year, the ceremony will be particularly focused on 34 Bergen County residents who have died in wars since September 11, 2001.

**Hobbyists Concerned** – Peter Philip

- Ted Wagner, Hobbyist since 2018, passed away at age 83.
- Bill McGuire, son of Hobbyist Jim McGuire, passed away at age 53

**Treasurer's Report** – Peter Weinstein standing in for Gary Engelhardt

- Our CD matured on July 29<sup>th</sup> and the balance was rolled over into a new 6-month CD. Interest earned for August was \$99.27.

**President's Report** – Peter Weinstein

- We have a full slate of nominees for officer positions for the coming year:
    - President – Steve Friedman
    - First Vice President – Chuck Woehrl
    - Second Vice President – Dick Boswell
    - Secretary – Steve Fonder
    - Treasurer – Gary Engelhardt
    - Sponsor's Rep – Lew Dickinson
- Elections for officers will be held in November.

**Speakers** – Steve Friedman

- Today's speaker is Kevin Grace, who will present his musical program "The 1950s Experience".

**Activity Chairman Reports:**

- Beer Appreciation - Rick Rosenthal: Next gathering is on Thursday September 10 at 6:30 pm at The Plank Pizza Company, 383 Market Street, Building D, Saddle Brook, NJ. Please contact Rick Rosenthal ([rickrosenthal@icloud.com](mailto:rickrosenthal@icloud.com), 201-675-1870) if you plan to attend.
- Bocce – Steve Friedman: The Bocce group meets every Friday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Borough Park in Waldwick. Last Friday we had our largest group ever, with 11 players. If you are not already on the mailing list, please contact Steve Friedman ([stefri4@yahoo.com](mailto:stefri4@yahoo.com)).
- Book Club – Pat Donohue: The Book Club meets on the third Friday of each month at 10:00 am in the church library. The next meeting will be on Friday September 18. The book being discussed is "The Earth is Weeping" by Peter Cozzens. It is a fascinating book about the American Indian Wars following the US Civil War. The Book Club welcomes new members. We are an interesting and congenial group. Please join us on the third Friday of each month.

## HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – September 3, 2026

- Camera Club – Tom Heed: The next Camera Club meeting will take place on Monday October 26 at 2pm in the church auditorium. We will review photos that members have taken over the summer.
- Chess – Peter Weinstein, standing in for Rick Pascal: The Chess Club continues to thrive. Our club recently participated in a tournament against Wanaque Reserve, in which we registered 11 wins against 6 losses. The chess group meets every Wednesday from 9:30 – 12:00 in the church rear auditorium.
- Dinner Dance – Bill Healy: Our Holiday Dinner Dance will take place on Monday December 14 at Seasons in Washington Township.
- Fishing – Peter Weinstein: On September 24, we will have a 6-man full strike fishing charter going out from Belmar Basin.
- Golf – Peter Weinstein, standing in for Paul Fazio: Thirty-five members of the golf group will travel to Atlantic City for three days of golf September 22 – 24. The final four of the tournaments will be held on September 29. While there will be winners in each of the three flights, the club champion will be the golfer who has the lowest score among all players. The annual golf lunch will be held at Fiona's Restaurant in Midland Park on October 27.
- Hobbyists Songs – Steve Friedman and Dick Boswell: Shared a new song from the Hobbyists Songs webpage: "Shot a Five on a Par Four"
- Investments – Ron Reedy: The next quarterly meeting of the investments group will be on Wednesday July 22. As the church will be closed, it will be a Zoom-only meeting. Topics will surely include the SpaceX initial public offering, for which the currently estimated market valuation is \$1.8 trillion. We will cover other general topics as well, prompted by recent business and economic developments.
- Military History – Tom Heed: The next meeting of the Military History group will be on Monday September 28 at 2pm in the church auditorium. For our fourth consecutive year, we will be reviewing the War in Ukraine. When this war started four years ago, Ukrainians looked to America for training of its military. Today, the roles are reversed: Ukrainians are training Americans. The technology and conduct of warfare have changed drastically over the past four years.
- Movie Lovers – Dick Oswald: We received unfortunate news that the Recreation Department in Ridgewood is doing renovations on the building which houses the senior center where we show our monthly movies. The senior center will be unavailable until January at the earliest. With no alternative location currently available, our movie presentations will be suspended for a while.
- Navigating Retirement – Mitchell Milch. Our next meeting will be on the first Wednesday of October (October 7) at 2:00 pm in the back of the church auditorium. We will discuss mindful eating, a very important topic that can be critical for your health, both physical and emotional. All Hobbyists are welcome and encouraged to come.
- Newsletter – Steve Rubin: Steve and Rick Pascal are starting work on the Fall Newsletter. They ask that Activity Chairmen please provide reports recapping summer activities and/or provide information about upcoming activities that they would like to share with Hobbyist members. They ask that report submissions be made by Labor Day (September 7) so that Steve and Rick have time to turn around the Fall Newsletter within 10 days or so afterwards.
- ROMEO – Cliff Matthews: The next ROMEO will take place on Friday September 18 at 12:00 noon at Justin's, located at 234 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cliff ([cematthews0914@gmail.com](mailto:cematthews0914@gmail.com)).  
Cliff also provided a recap of the Hobbyists Picnic which was held at Graydon Pool on August 26. There were 54 attendees who enjoyed beautiful weather and a fun time. Cliff thanked his

## HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – September 3, 2026

committee, the Ridgewood Parks and Recreation Department, and Van Dyke's for providing three tubs of free ice cream.

- Tennis – Bob Kozar: The Tennis Club will be starting soon at the Fairlawn Racquet Club on Saddle River Road. There are about 30 guys on the roster. We usually play about 16 to 24 guys on a normal day. We have two sessions: noon to 1:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. We try to group people with similar skills together. Phone numbers are on our web page. Please give us a call if you would like to come and play.
- Trips and Tours – Bob Wong: Bob thanked all members who have contributed ideas for new outings. The recent excursion to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ on June 24 was well attended and was a success. One idea being considered for the fall is a trip to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) for a tour and lunch. Farther down the road is a possible overnight trip during the holiday season. Information about these events will follow via Constant Contact.
- Wine Appreciation – Alex Baron: After our summer hiatus, the Wine Appreciation group will resume its program with a lunch on Friday September 25 at noon at Due Fratelli on 235 Diamond Bridge Avenue in Hawthorne. We will have a 5-course luncheon with 4 wines tasted. The cost for lunch and wines will be \$55. In October, we are looking into going to Café 37 in Ridgewood, a somewhat higher end restaurant. At most restaurants we try to arrange seating in tables of 4 so that conversation is easy. Alex also mentioned that Ridgewood has introduced a parking pass for seniors. For Ridgewood residents 65 and older, the pass costs \$75 per year. Passes can be obtained at the reception desk in Ridgewood Village Hall.

### **Membership** – (no presentation)

- There were 95 members present at this morning's meeting
- As of today, there are 441 total Hobbyists members, including 61 life members.
- There are 6 new members in process of joining.

**The business meeting concluded** at 10:40 a.m.

**September program:** Kevin Grace presented "The 1950s Experience".

Respectfully submitted by:  
Dick Boswell, Secretary