

HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - MAY 7, 2026

Birthdays: The May birthday slide was displayed as members arrived. 46 Hobbyists have birthdays in May, including 5 lifetime members: John Garrigan (92), John Pensec (94), Allen Demby (92), Arthur Wrubel (92) and Vincent Ferrentino (91). Two members are celebrating their birthdays today, May 7: Gary Banta (73) and Lawrence Smith (72).

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. Before doing so, Bob explained that proper etiquette for reciting the pledge *indoors* is for all members, military veterans included, to remove their hats and place their hands on their hearts. Bob also shared the recent news that Hobbyist Wayne Lemme was honored as the Veteran of the Month for April by the Bergen County Board of Commissioners.

Hobbyists Concerned – Peter Weinstein (standing in for Peter Philip and Steve Rubin)

- Hobbyist Phil Almeida passed away in April at the age of 97.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Engelhardt

- Our CD earned \$124.59 in April. Our year-to-date interest is \$1,108.61.

Speakers – Steve Friedman

- Today's speaker is Joe Lennox, who will make a presentation on the Apollo 12 moon mission.

Activity Chairman Reports:

- **Beer Appreciation** - Rick Rosenthal: Next gathering is on Thursday May 14 at 6:30 pm at Seven Lakes Station, 80 Orange Turnpike in Sloatsburg, NY. Please contact Rick Rosenthal (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. Please bring a rake to help clean up the court, and a lawn chair. If you are not already on the mailing list, please contact Steve Friedman (stefri4@yahoo.com).
- **Book Club** – Jon Sterling: 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 May 15. The book being discussed is "City of Thieves" by David Benioff. Discussion will be facilitated by Cliff Matthews. The June Book Club meeting will take place on Friday June 19. The book will be "Culpability" by Bruce Holsinger, with discussion to be facilitated by Jon Sterling.
- **Cribbage** – Don Dexter: The cribbage group will meet today (May 7) at 1:00 pm. The group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at Don Dexter's house in Ridgewood from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Contact Don Dexter (donalddcdexter@gmail.com) or John Peterman (petermanj@wpunj.edu) if you are interested in joining.
- **Fishing** – Peter Weinstein: A small group is scheduled to go out on Saturday May 9, but the current weather forecast doesn't look promising. Seventeen Hobbyists went out on the Sea Tiger recently but only two fish were caught on the boat all day. One was a striper caught by Hobbyist Steve Miezeiewski.
- **Golf** – Gary Engelhardt (standing in for Paul Fazio): The first traveling Tuesday golf outing will take place next Tuesday May 12 at Skyview Golf Club in Sparta NJ.

- Hobbyists Songs – Dick Boswell: The Hobbyists Songs web page now has a total of 50 parody songs available for viewing/listening. A new song “Montepulciano Wine” was introduced at today’s meeting.
- Movie Lovers – Dick Oswald: The movie this month is “The Scottish Play”, a comedy inspired by the widespread superstition among theatre people that Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” is somehow cursed. The film will be shown in the Ridgewood Village Hall on Tuesday May 12 at 1:30 pm.
- Music Lovers – Jim McKeown: The Music Lovers presentation for May will be on Thursday May 14 (not on the usual 2nd Friday) at 9:30 am in the church auditorium. Rick Rosenthal will be making a presentation on American lyricist Lorenz Hart (of the Broadway songwriting team Rodgers and Hart). In June, the Music Lovers meeting will revert to its usual 2nd Friday date (June 12).
- Navigating Retirement – Mitchell Milch: Meetings are held in the church auditorium on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. The last meeting before the summer break will be on Wednesday June 3, and the topic will be “Shifting Roles and Shifting Needs in Retirement”. Mitchell also called out for any NY Giants fans who would like to meet for lunch to share opinions, observations, stories etc. about the team are welcome to join Mitchell at Due Fratelli Restaurant at noon on Thursday June 11. Please RSVP to Mitchell at mhmilch@gmail.com. Anyone who can’t attend the lunch but would like to be included in future discussions about the Giants can send an email to Mitchell.
- Newsletter – Peter Weinstein: The Hobbyists 60th anniversary newsletter has been published on the Hobbyists website. Peter thanked Rick Pascal and Mike Doherty for their excellent work on the newsletter and commended it to all Hobbyists.
- Pickleball – Alan Lo: The Hobbyists Pickleball group now numbers over 40 members. The group plays at Saddle River County Park twice per week on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Hobbyists who are interested in joining can sign up by downloading the “Team Reach” app and keying in the code “Hobby-Pickle” to enter their information. Parking for Saddle River County Park is at 1 Lotz Lane in Rochelle Park.
- ROMEO – Cliff Matthews: The next ROMEO will take place on Friday May 15 at 12:00 noon at Justin’s located at 234 Lafayette Avenue in Hawthorne. We already have 15 guys who have signed up. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cliff (cematthews0914@gmail.com).
- Trips and Tours – Peter Weinstein and Bob Wong: Peter expressed his gratitude and relief to be able to introduce Bob Wong as the new chair of the Trips and Tours committee. Bob explained that he is looking for about 5 Hobbyists to join the committee to help bring it back to life. The first new trip now being considered is a visit to the sculpture garden in Princeton, a wonderful outdoor venue with large 3-dimensional sculptures, great for walking around and for photography. The trip would include a walk through the park as well as a luncheon nearby. Hobbyists who are interested in learning more and, hopefully, in helping out can contact Bob and the committee at hobbyists.tripsandtours@gmail.com.

Membership – Bob Mosher

- There are 80 members present at this morning’s meeting
- As of today, there are 448 total Hobbyists members, including 76 life members.
- The annual Fellowship Luncheon was held on April 23 in the church auditorium. There were 101 members who attended. Bob thanked the organizing team for their great work.
- There was one new member inducted today:
 - Rob McGaffin, introduced by Bob Reilly

Update on Coming Events – Don Peterfriend

- 60th Anniversary Dance (Wednesday May 13 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes): We are looking forward to a great event next week. The dress code was originally communicated as business casual (suit or jacket, with necktie optional), but we are now recommending that men wear a necktie under their suit or jacket. We still have room for a few more attendees if anyone wants to come who has not yet signed up. The cost is \$215 per couple. Please contact Don Peterfriend (dpeterfriend@yahoo.com).
- Woodloch Pines Trip (September 16 – 18) Anyone who is interested in attending the Woodloch Pines trip and has not yet signed up, please contact Don Peterfriend (dpeterfriend@yahoo.com) or Gary Engelhardt (garye569@msn.com). The cost is \$1,100 per couple, including bus transportation.

Other Matters for Discussion

- Jim Albes reported that a \$20 check that he had mailed to the Membership committee had been stolen in its journey through the mail system and had been “washed” and fraudulently re-written to a different payee and in a much higher amount. The fraudulent check was presented and accepted for cashing or deposit by the presenter’s bank, causing Jim’s account to be hit for the increased amount. While Jim received reimbursement for the fraudulent charge, he had to cancel his old bank account and set up a new account, change his online banking setup, etc. Jim asked whether the Hobbyists have considered moving away from the use of physical checks for payments of Hobbyists activities in favor of electronic alternatives (including Venmo or Zelle). Peter Weinstein acknowledged that this is a worthwhile subject for consideration and thanked Jim for bringing it up.

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

May program: Joe Lennox made a presentation on the 1969 Apollo 12 mission to the moon.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dick Boswell, Secretary