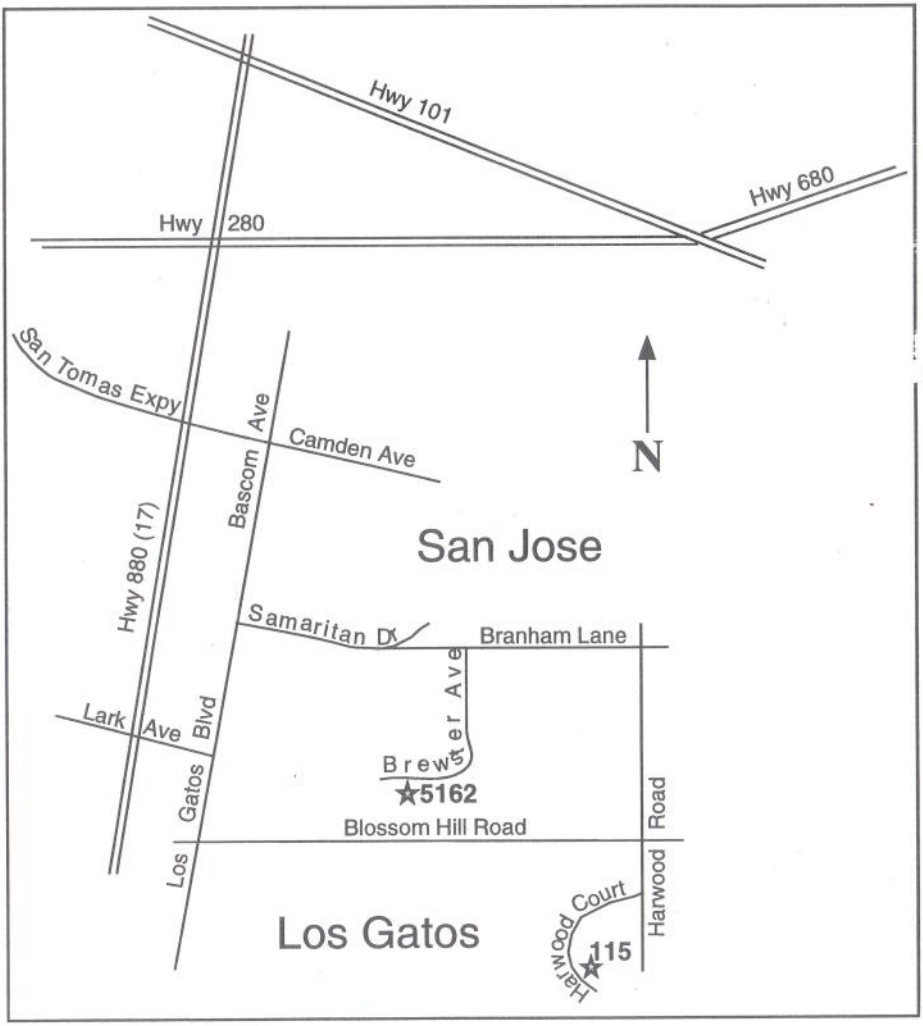
Bay Area Garden Railway Society Est. 1988

Trellis & Trestle

Volume XI, Number 4 Editors: Joseph & Irene Zajac April 1998

April 1998—Open Houses



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Coming to a Convention Center near you!
The 14th National Garden Railway Convention
Santa Clara, California
July 7—12, 1998

BAGRS, please don't wait to order your convention car.

National advertising is in progress and they may all be gone before the convention begins!

Upcoming Open Houses

by ken Martin

Our February Open House had to be canceled at the last minute due to some very unfortunate circumstances. **Rusty** and **Donna Fisher** both suffered the loss of parents and felt that it would inappropriate to hold the Open House as scheduled. We agreed. The sympathies of all of our members go out to Rusty and Donna. They have requested that we reschedule at a later date, which we will do.

April 19 - **Jose** and **Jean Picazo**, 115 Harwood Court, Los Gatos—(408) 356-7300. The South Pacific Coast Railroad is based on the prototype that ran through Los Gatos in the late 19th century. It features spectacular waterways and bridges typical of Santa Cruz Mountain railroading along its 1000' of powered track. Guest trains are welcome but no steam, please. Enter through pedestrian gate.

April 19—**David** and **Dawn Gill**, 5162 Brewster Ave., San Jose—(408) 371-7472. The Wild Goose Railroad has 250' of powered track depicting a mountain short line. It serves the towns of Cedar Grove and Copper Creek, running through forests, tunnels and bridges. Most of the equipment is built or kitbashed with some excellent results. All guest trains are welcome. The Video Library will be here. Enter at gate on left.

BAGRS Short Line—Schedule 1998

May 1 & 2
NMRA—PCR Convention—Modesto, California

Jun 13 & 14
Great American Train Show—San Mateo Convention Center

Jul 8—12
14th National Garden Railway Convention
Santa Clara Convention Center

Sep 19 & 20
All Aboard to Newark

Oct 17 & 18
Roaring Camp and Big Trees

Nov 28 & 29
Great American Train Show—Pleasanton Fairgrounds

Dec 5 & 6
Greenberg's—San Mateo Fairgrounds

ADVENTURES IN BACHMANNLAND

by Ken Martin

The beat goes on! Bachmann Industries, following up on their huge success with the Shay, is now going to produce a Class B Climax locomotive. I spoke with **Dick Maddox** last week and he told me that this loco will match the Shay in quality. The targeted date for introduction is October of this year. In addition to these fine engines, there will be another improved version of the venerable ten-wheeler which will have an improved drive and other much needed changes (Hopefully to the front truck!). I thought the current drive system worked quite well but Dick says the Bachmann engineers are not satisfied with it. I think this shows some dedication to really making their products competitive in today's market. Add to that, the already available super-running Porter and an a soon-to-be-available upgraded Columbia 2-4-2 and you have a hard line to beat. In addition to all this, there will be another new rod locomotive coming up, probably in 1999.

Dick also told me that he took a line drawing of the Climax to the New York Toy Show and got 8000 orders just from that drawing. This is on top of the 12000 orders they already have in hand for the upcoming Pardee-Curtin version of the Shay. With all of the above going on, plus good activity in their smaller scales, the real Bachmann Guys are going to be pretty busy for a while. However, according to Dick, this will be the last of the lumber and mining type of equipment Bachmann is going to produce for a while. After all of this, they will go back to building road engines and cars. Someone did suggest to me, if they produced a Heisler, they would have the lumber industry completely covered. I'll have to pass that on to the Bachmann people and see what they say.

I received a call from **John Miller** of the Tidewater Big Train Operators in Virginia the other day. He asked me if there was some way to increase the volume of the sound from a Bachmann sound system. I advised him one way was to build an amplifier. I did this a couple of years ago, but it didn't work out very well. (If you want to try it, give me a call. I have the schematic.) I also told him about something that I am currently experimenting with—running the system on 18 volts, using two 9 volt batteries in series. I have one set up that way which now has run for about 12 hours with no apparent ill effects. The sound is loud! You can easily hear it about 100 feet away. If you try this at home, do so at your own risk. At this time, I am not recommending it, just telling you about it. One of the oddities of the Bachmann sound system is the volume varies greatly from board to board. I rate them on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the loudest, and have only found one "10" and a couple of "9's" so far. All the rest

are in the "4", "5", and "6" range. I don't know a lot about electronics, but I suspect the vast differences have something to do with the tolerances of the individual components. Maybe someone out there with more knowledge of this stuff can give me a better explanation. Give me a call, if you have one. I'd like to know.

Well, that's about it from Bachmannland right now. I don't have any new technical tips because the Shay is virtually problem free and, over the years, I've already published all the info I have on the earlier products. (If you would like any of this information, please call me. I still have it all on file.) **Dick Maddox** told me a while back he was going to put me out of business because their new products would be so good I wouldn't have anything to write about. It begins to appear that he may be right.

The Baggage Car still has a good stock of T, sweat, and golf shirts in all sizes. Get yours now so we can show our guests at the 14th National Garden Railway Convention that the BAGRS are there. Order by mail or get them at the monthly open houses. See our advertisement in this issue for sizes, prices, and ordering instructions.

Tips From Mad Dog

by Dale McAnally

Tip #18—Before you begin to actually build your layout, bury plastic conduit from your control panel to as many locations as you can anticipate needing power and control wires. If only low voltage control wiring is anticipated. Half inch black polyethylene tubing (Drip irrigation) can be used. It's more flexible than conduit and less expensive. Conduit is cheap and you have wasted very little money. If you change your plans, you can always take off from the nearest conduit and, at least reduce digging required.

Tip #19—When using a "dogbone" track layout, wire your power supply to the common track (the portion that must switch direction) and feed power to the "dogbones" remains the same no matter what the direction on the power supply is set. You will lose about 1.7vdc in the rectifier but that seldom causes problems. You will still have to use a track switch to move the rails on turnouts. I use a spring loaded turnout by **Gary Broeder**, which allows entry on one side and exit from the other. Use a 25 amp bridge rectifier available from Radio Shack for less than $3.

More tips in the next issue.

FOR SALE : Aristo-Craft streamline Coach "ATSF" brand new in box, $135 or trade for similar coach in "AMTRAK" markings.
Please call after 7PM—510•797•1735. Email: lahe@pacbell.net

BAY AREA GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

LIVE steamers

National Spring Steamup

May 29-31, 1998
Sunnyvale, California

Sunnyvale Hilton, Sunnyvale California
(408) 738-4888 or 1-800-HILTONS
Conference room rate of $61.00 per room./Event Registration $60.00.

- Lots of track time, dealers, excursions, and live steam seminars.
- Check out coverage of last year's event at http://www.steamup.com/steamup

For Info & Registration:
Richard Finlayson
2408 Grandby Dr. San Jose, CA 95130
(408) 871-0318
Email: info@steamup.com Web: http://www.steamup.com/steamup

National Garden Railway Convention
July 7th-12th, 1998

Both large and small BAGRS Live Steamers tracks will be available during Exhibit Hall hours. All sorts of live steam in action, inlcuding dealers and products.

Plus! BAGRS Live Steamers Monthly Steamups

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

- **April 18th, Saturday:** Work day on the portable track. Bring tools. Let's start at 10AM-00. After we tweak the portable track I'm certain that Gary will let us put some wear on the iron on his track...
- **May 29-31, Friday-Sunday:** Second Annual **National Spring Steamup** at the Sunnyvale Hilton. Call 408/871-0318 or hit the web site at http://www.steamup.com/steamup for registration info.
- **June 27th, Saturday**: **Mike Martin** has constructed a waist-high 165' dual track mainline for **Dan** and **Rusty Liebowitz** of **Woodside**. Dan and Rusty have invited us to come enjoy a relaxing day of steaming on their new track.
- **July 7th-12th, Tuesday-Sunday: National Garden Railway Convention** at the **Santa Clara Convention Center**. Both of the BAGRS Live Steamers tracks will be available during Exhibit Hall hours. **Th** 6PM-10PM **Fr** 2PM-6PM **Sa** 9AM-6PM **Su** 10AM-4PM.
- **August: Jim McDavid** will open his track for us. Details to follow.
- **September: Charley Lix** has invited us all up to Sparks, NV. 32mm between the rails, have hex wrench will travel. Don't forget your camera.
- **October 17-18, Saturday and Sunday**: Roaring Camp with the BAGRS Short Line. We had a blast last year, let's do it again.

BAGRS BOARD

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Mark Grzan—(408) 778-7816 Al McCracken—(408) 249-2953

BAGRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Schedule

1st Tuesday
every other month

June 2, 1998
August 4, 1998
October 6, 1998
December 1, 1998
February 2, 1999

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS:
April 10, 1998

BAGRS Baggage Car

BAGRS Apparel Source

Items are blue with BAGRS logo in yellow.

T-Shirts	Adult Sizes	(M, L, XL)	$10
		(XXL)	$12
		(XXXL)	$15
	Youth Sizes	(S, M, L)	$6
Caps	(Adjustable)		$6
Golf Shirts w/Pocket		(L,XL,XXL, XXXL)	$20
Sweat Shirts	(L, XL)		$15
		(XXL)	$20
		(XXXL)	$25
Tote Bags		Small 14"	$10
		Large 20"	$15
Coffee Mugs—Blue w/Yellow Logo			$5

To order:

- List the items you wish to purchase (be sure to note sizes).
- Send a check for the total amount plus 15% for shipping to:

Ken Martin—1460 Pacific Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577
510•562•6898

Newsletter Editors

Joseph & Irene Zajac—(541) 779-3420 Fax (541) 779-5069 E-mail: zajac@aol.com

This Month's Preafrooder is **Lefty Turnswitch**.

Mail all submissions to:
BAGRS Editors
424 Girard Drive
Medford, OR 97504-6314

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Submissions are due by the 5th of the month preceding publication. Any format is acceptable. Line drawings and black/white artwork are not only acceptable but desirable and can be scanned in for inclusion in the newsletter. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

BAGRS Timetable

April 1998	
19—Layout Tour	Jose & Jean Picazo
	115 Harwood Court, Los Gatos—408•356•7300
19—Layout Tour	David & Dawn Gill
	5162 Brewster Avenue, San Jose—408•371•7472
May 1998	
1 & 2—BAGRS Short Line	NMRA—PCR Convention—Modesto, California
17—Layout Tour	Dale & Carol Howard
	732 Topawa Drive, Fremont—510•656•6647
17—Layout Tour	Scott & Karen Foster
	4446 Richmond Avenue, Fremont—510•792•7800
30 & 31—BAGRS Short Line	Talbot's Salute to G Scale
June 1998	
13 & 14—Big Train Show	The Big Train Show—Queen Mary—San Diego
20—Morgan Hill Days	4th Annual Morgan Hill-Gilroy Railroad Days—1998
July 1998	
7—12...14th NGRC	14th National Garden Railway Convention
	Santa Clara Convention Center

••• Layout tour hours are Noon until 4 PM Unless Otherwise Noted •••

Please respect these hours for the benefit of our hosts.

BAGRS Members are welcomed to attend Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society events. Contact Judy Arrigotti at (916) 933-4663 for directions and times.

BAGRS—*Trellis & Trestle*
Joseph & Irene Zajac—Editors
424 Girard Drive
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