Trellis & Trestle

Volume XI, Number 5 Editors: Joseph & Irene Zajac May 1998

Saturday—May 23,1998 9AM—11:30AM

The Westin Hotel (5101 Great America Pkwy. Santa Clara, CA (408) 986-0700 Across from the Santa Clara Convention Center)

Convention Committee & Convention Volunteers

◆ Special Meeting ◆

If you are hosting an open house or particiapting in various tasks during the convention, please plan to attend this gathering.

◆ Facilities Tour ◆ General Information ◆ Convention Update Report

New Members

Iris & Francis Chien
15160 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga CA 95070
H: (408) 354-9620
W: (408) 736-4355
F: (408) 736-4356

Butch Floyd
505 El Capitan Way
Santa Rosa CA 95407
H: (707) 575-3650

Dave & Judy Hayes
275 Moraga Way
San Jose CA 95119
H: (408) 281-9165
W: (408) 776-4511
E: judy-dave-h-sjc@worldnet.att.net

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541 Nevada Avenue
San Mateo CA 94402
H: (650) 347-3213

Roger & Carol Wilder
345 Sequoia Ave
Palo Alto CA 94306
H: (650) 327-3537

Leonard & Judy Chong
189 Obispo Court
Fremont CA94539
H: (510) 651-5120
W: (510) 489-5671
F: (510) 490-5432

Address/Phone/Fax/E-Mail Change

Morton A. Golub
12000 - 4th Street N #205 St.
Petersburg FL 33716
H: (818) 578-1255

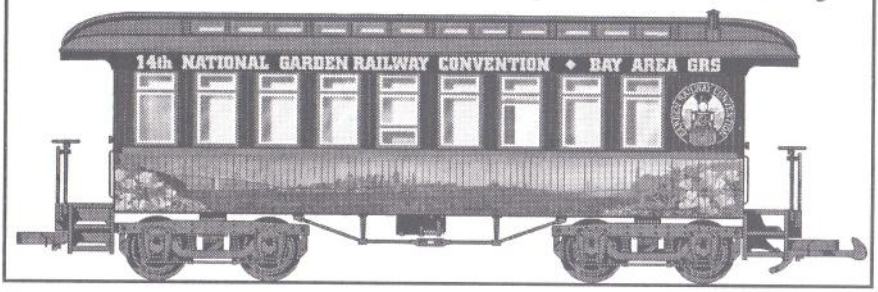
Don & Phyllis Lilly
3084 Windmill Canyon Dr
Clayton CA 94517
H: (925) 672-9757
W: (925) 672-7995
F: (925) 672-9759
E: dhl@ccnet.com

Gary & Ginger Whaley
F: (510) 357-6544
E: gngrlway@aol.com

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

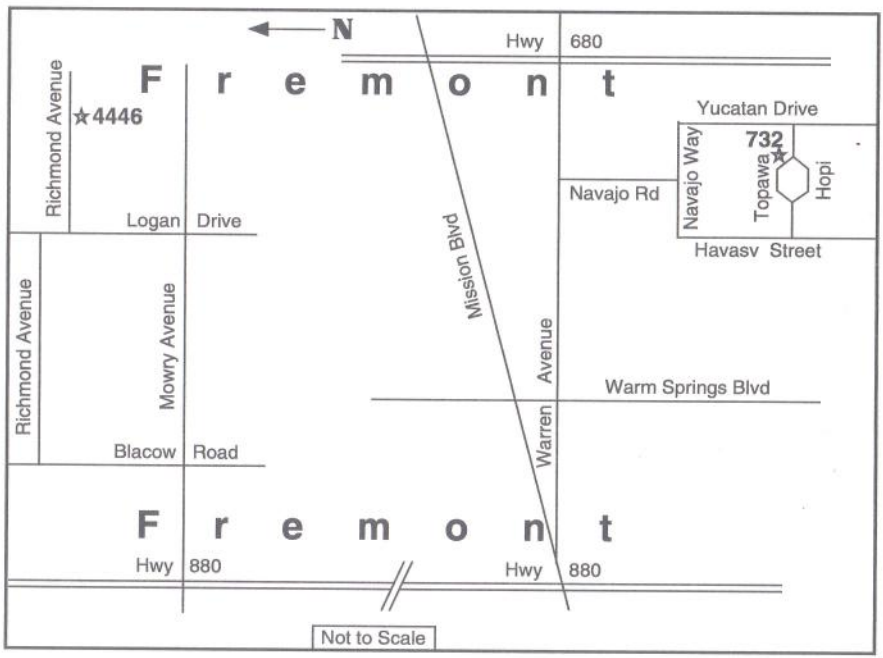
For our May tour, we have two layouts which have never hosted an open house. Thanks to both of the hosts for jumping in and inviting us to their homes.

May 17—Dale and Carol Howard, 732 Topawa Drive, Fremont—(510) 656-6647. The Warm Springs DNC Railroad runs various types of equipment on its 200' of powered track. Guest trains are welcome (no steam, please). Enter at right side of house.

May 17—Scott and Karen Foster, 4446 Richmond Ave., Fremont—(510) 792-7800. Based loosely on the South Pacific Coast, the Mission Peak & Ardenwood Railroad runs early and late narrow gauge trains. Guest trains are welcome including steam. Enter through the gate at right.

BAGRS members! Please wear your BAGRS badge!
Meetings ✦ Open Houses ✦ Short Line ✦ Live Steamers
Your Badge—Identifies You
To your Host and To Other BAGRS Members

May 1998—Open Houses



From the President

by Jack Verducci

This years annual meeting was a big success. See **Ken Martins** report in this issue of *Trellis & Trestle*.

As we move closer to convention time things are really shaping up well. We have signed up a lot of volunteers. We do need a few more, so if you would like to help let us know.

At the Annual Business Meeting the membership reaffirmed the board of directors for another year. During the board meeting that followed elections were held for officers of the board. The result were as follows:

Jack Verducci, President
Ken Martin, Vice President
David Gill, Secretary
Sherman Zell, Treasurer

During the Annual Meeting by show of hands, it looks as if we have more new people participating on convention committees than old timers. Bearing this in mind we have decided to have a meeting at the convention center to walk everyone through and familiarize them with the facility.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself we thank you for your continued participation and support.

Special Interest Group Coordinators

Live Steam
Richard Finlayson
(408) 374-8486
or
richardf@steamup.com

Short Line Module
Bruce Jahn
(510) 455-9409
or
bjahn@llnl.gov

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.

BAGRS Short Line—Schedule 1998

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

This month's adventure is not really going to be in Bachamnnland but will take a little broader journey in to G-scale in general.

I read with interest an article in our March issue by **Wendell Hanks** entitled "Will The HO And N Gaugers Buy Large Scale?". From the particular slant he takes, I think the answer would have to be "Probably not".

The first sentence states he is going to quote a "devoted scale modeler", i.e. someone who would only be looking at a very small area of what G-scale has to offer. I would have to assume true "scale" modeling or "finescale" modeling comprises something far less than 10% of G-scale activity. The other 90% is made up of people who want to have fun with whatever they have and not quibble over whether or not a particular car is $\frac{1}{8}$" too long. While HO and N scales are very standardized and designed to attract "scale" modelers, I think G scale appeals more to the person who wants to run whatever he or she likes and to do it outdoors in the fresh air. The majority probably don't know what "scale" is and most likely don't care.

While I am not a "finescaler", I do admire the work of those who are. This article is not intended to be critical of "finescalers" in any way. What they do is great. I just think they need to realize that most G scale practitioners simply want to have fun with their trains (whatever they may be) and in their gardens and don't want to be concerned about things being exactly as they ought to be scalewise. This is what makes G scale such a great scale. There is room for everybody, no matter what their tastes. G scalers are as comfortable with a fully detailed Shay as they are with one of **San Muncy's** utterly fantastic creations. Virtually everything is acceptable, train-wise and layout-wise.

I personally fall somewhere between "finescale" and "run what you got". As I said above, I really like finescale but I don't practice it. But I do practice "authenticity". Overall, I like things to look like I think they ought to, not necesssarily in every detail, but in general. The term I use for this is "railroady". I have to admit I feel a little negative twinge when I see an LGB Mogul towing a string of Zilertal cars or a Krokidil with a line of D&RG narrow gauge boxcars behind it. My stable includes a great variety of trains but I always try to run visually compatible equipment. That is my total concession to scale.

The statement about the "lack of other comparable scale and detailed rolling stock choices in large scale—particularly in locomotives" could only come from a "scale" modeler or from someone who knows little about large scale, its ambiance, or the majority of the people in it. While the rolling stock isn't always scale, it is totally acceptable to the vast majority of large

scalers (almost all of whom are not that up tight on scale) and there is a pretty good variety of gear available. All the major manufacturers produce at least 6 different locomotives with LGB supplying far more. And more are being introduced all the time. But here's the rub. All of these units are not the same scale, even within a given manufacturer's line. I believe this situation is what annoys the "scale" modelers such as "Gary", who is quoted in Mr. Hanks' article. However, for most of us they are close enough.

To digress slightly, Mr. Hanks mentions his friend's concern for lack of detailed locomotives. While a lot of detailing is a visual plus, it can be a detriment on large scale trains. I have added details to several of my pieces only to find they were constantly getting knocked off. Large scale trains are handled much more than the smaller scales because they are being moved from outside layouts to inside storage, sometimes on a daily basis. Because smaller scales are almost always kept indoors, they don't suffer this kind of treatment.

There is another aspect of large scale that Mr. Hanks fails to touch. I have dabbled in HO and have spent some time at a local HO club. I also had a fairly large N scale layout at one time (until I discovered G scale). I found the social aspect of both of these scales to be almost non-existent. Obversely, on my first contact with large scalers, I was treated like a long lost brother! What's more, my wife was treated with the same warm friendliness. I doubt as many wives are as actively involved in the smaller scales as there are in large scale. And all this, combined with the attraction of large trains running outdoors, is what will sustain G scale. While large scale is not enjoying the rapid growth it once did, it is still growing. The friendliness and sociability of G scalers immediately comes through and tends to encourage people who acquire their first starter set to become futher involved in this area of the hobby.

Accuracy of scale has almost nothing to do with it. People coming from other scales is only a small factor.

The enthusiasm of G scalers is infectious. If this is in doubt, just visit our modular layout sometime and see if you don't catch it. Or just ask a question of one of our members and see if you don't feel it. Has a saturation point been reached, as Mr. Hanks asked? I don't think so!

And now back to Bachmannland: To answer Gary's question, "The Shay's just one product, what's next?" Bachmann has already announced their forthcoming Class B Climax in 1:20.3 scale. The targeted release date is currently October. **Dick Maddox** tells me this should be the last of the lumber and mining type of equipment for a while. This will be followed by a road locomotive sometime next year, which, I think, will also be 1:20.3. **Russ Reinberg** should be happy.

Is Your Name on this List?

by Jack Verducci

Please check to see if your name is on it. This is a list of the people who are going to be on the garden railroad tour for the National Garden Railway Convention. If you think you are on the tour and your name is not on the list, you will be disappointed when no one shows up. On the other hand if you did not sign up or thought you canceled and your name is on this list you will be very surprised with 1500 people come to your door before you have had your morning coffee.

If you *want to be* on the tour and your name is not on this list

or

If your name is on this list and you *do not want to be* on the tour

Contact: Jack Verducci immediately 650•358•0418.

Just Trains
Miniature Plant Kingdom
San Antonio Hobby Shop
Talbots Hobby
The Train Shop

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Allen, Charlie & Pam
Alpha, Tau & Ann
Baldock, Bill & Dee
Barr, Harlan
Bates, Bruce & Katharine
Bell, Robert & Rose Ann
Bernard, Joan & Alfred
Bernard, Marty
Bierie, John & Barbara
Bradshaw, Ken & Alice
Bramlette, Darryl & Linda
Bricca, Pete & Chariss
Broeder, Gary & Cheri
Bull, Stephen & Roberta
Burrill, Robert
Cagwin, Thomas & Claudine
Cappuccio, Lawrence & Judith
Cordellos, Tom & Sandra
Cottingham, John & Ann
Courpet, Loran & Keeth
Craighill, Earl & Nancy
Eichenbaun, Sue & Douglas
Evans, Robert & Norma
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Fisher, Rusty & Donna
Foster, Scott & Karen
Garbett, Charles & Elizabeth
Gooze, Mitchell & Carol
Graf, Anne
Green, Ron & Barbara
Grzan, Mark & Colleen

Hamilton, Harold, Jr. & Jo Ann
Havern, Sallie
Hemeon, Rosse
Howard, Dale & Carol
Hunton, Lynn & Martha
Jackson, Sam
Jenkins, Bonnolyn & John
Jessup, John & Carolyn
Johnson, Richard & Charlotte
Kessler, John & Pat
Kinne, Brad & Karen
Lanini, Leo
Larson, Jerry & Patti
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Leupold, Werner & Nancy
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Limprecht, Michael & Kathryn
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Norton, Roy & Mary Ann
Paterson, Mike & Anne
Paul, Kermit
Permann, Walter & Vee
Phillips, Ray & Beth
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Pugh, Paul & Nancy
Quilitzsch, Herb
Robinson, Robert & Suzanne
Roth, Barry & Tere
Samson, Mark
Sanfilippo, Chuck & Barbara
Saporito, Jeannette & Andy
Schipper, Chuck & Nanci
Schlocker, Leo & Phyllis
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Schwarb, Frank
Seder, Jonathan
Smith, Robert
Stratton, Lee & Carolyn
Struck, Eric C.
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Wilcox, Thomas
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Zem, Rick & Liz

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

- **May 29-31, Friday-Sunday:** Second Annual **National Spring Steamup** at the Sunnyvale Hilton. Call 408/871-0318 or hit the web site for registration information. http://www.steamup.com/steamup
- **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: 14th 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.

Going to Long Beach?

by Ken Martin

There seems to be a fair number of BAGRS planning to attend the Big Train Show at the Queen Mary in Long Beach on June 12, 13, & 14. If any of you are signing up for the Bachmann banquet on Saturday night, please let me know. For the past two years, with the good help of **Bill Axline**, the show promoter, we have been able to reserve tables for our members. In order to do this, I have to give Bill a count by June 1. If you want to make a reservation, contact me before June 1. My phone and fax number is (510) 562-6898 and E-mail is martinken@juno.com.

Video Series

Take a ride on some of the best Backyard Railroads in Northern California. Now is your opportunity to get a preview of some of the layouts which will be featured during the 1998 National Garden Railway Convention.

Vol. I, Vol. II, Vol. III , Vol. IV—Featuring 8 different layouts
- The A & E Lines
- The C & R Railway
- The J.EE Railway
- The Non-Prototype RR
- The Grizzly Flats RR
- Backyard Florals RR
- The Birdwater & Raspberry
- The Barron Park RR

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BAGRS Short Line

by Bruce Jahn

Reaching further and further, the Short Line is broadening the lives of a larger group of people all the time. Last fall we went South to Roaring Camp, then North to Santa Rosa. Now, the beginning of May our trip to Modesto to take part in the annual convention of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association proves we can go to the far reaches to spread the word.

Upcoming, we are looking forward to our display at Talbot's at the end of May. This might be a good time for you to see what keeps us active by putting on your badge and coming along. At this point we are planning to set up most of our gear Friday evening (May 29th), sixish. The Short Line will occupy the covered parking space on the east end of the store. Security has been confirmed, but we'll still wait to put out the details and trains Saturday morning around 8 A.M. to be ready when the store opens at 9. In the past Talbot's triple their sales when they've had a special event, so we hope their mailing brings in a lot of folks. Lots is more fun; fewer is less fun.

In June, we're back at San Mateo Convention Center for GATS, which is always a fun experience. Then we slide right into the 14th NGRC at Santa Clara. A typical set-up of the Short Line is sized at about 30' wide by 76' long, but plans are firming up for a 50' x 90' layout for the convention. We have been tuning up our electronics and smoothing track, so we fully intend to show our best side for the international group of attendees.

Mixing sad with potential happy; our loss of Ken Johnston a couple months ago was a blow to all of us. Once in a while a friend makes a mark on our soul which encourages us to be better people, and Ken was just that sort of friend. However, Ken left behind his famous snowy ski jump module, so if there is a BAGRS member out there looking for a ready made module which is filled with character, let me know and we'll help find it a good home.

We wish to bid a fond farewell to our member who has reached the end of her journey.

Shirley Ann Byham Hemeon

February 29, 19932—April 20, 1998

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Rosse—her husband, her children, family and many friends she has left behind.

1998 Annual Meeting—A Good Time!

by Ken Martin

Our 1998 Annual Meeting was a departure from what we've become used to but everyone seemed to have a good time. The Colombo Club hall gave us a warm atmosphere in which to gather, the lunch was excellent, and the afternoon of steam-train rides was a lot of fun. It turned out one of our members, **Jerry Nicholson**, was the engineer on the big steam train. The Golden Gate Live Steamers members were good hosts and invited us into the inner sanctum of their very extensive layout.

But the meeting wouldn't have been the success it was without many people who made contributions to the event. We received many door prizes from **Aristo-Craft Trains**, **LGB of America**, **Bachmann Industries**, **Troll's Delite**, **Ray Phillips**, **John's Junction Train Shop** in Oakland, **John Schneider** of **Tracks N Trains** in Palmyra, New Jersey, **Gold Coast Station** in Ventura, **Hobbies Unlimited** in San Lorenzo, **Todd Levy** of **Events Associates** in San Francisco, **The Train Shop** in Santa Clara, and **Talbot's Hobbies** in San Mateo. Thanks to **Leo Schlocker** without whose expertise in raffle ticket sales we would not have made a profit for the event. Also thanks to **Pat Martin** and **Barbara Green** for handling the Check-in table. And many thanks to all the guys who volunteered to set up and put away chairs even though we found out later that we didn't have to put them away. And I have to thank the people of the Colombo Club, especially **Roz Capraro** and **Ed Basso** for their help in getting us set up for the meeting and head cook **Tony Albino** for making the excellent ravioli for lunch. If I missed anyone, my apologies. You were all appreciated.

I received a lot of very positive comments from the members who attended. Maybe we'll do it again next year.

Get to meet Garden Railroaders from all across the country!
Volunteer to work the Registration Desk during the
14th National Garden Railway Convention, July 7—July 11, 1998.

You do not have to have previous experience.

There are various tasks to perform and we will provide you with the nescessary instructions. Don't be shy!
Please call Pauline Verducci 650-341-4088

Tips From Mad Dog

by Dale McAnally

Tip #20—When your track goes from one block to another and there is a chance of incorrect polarity, isolated the last section of track and power it through a "Power Diode" from the next section. That way, if the upcoming polarity is incorrect, the isolated section simply loses power and the train stops instead of making a sudden and embarrassing reversal. Power diode available at Radio Shack and other electronics stores for less than $2 each.

Tip #21—I have had problems snapping off the heads on the retractable micro sprinklers [have replace one nine times]. A judiciously placed rock place next to the head will prevent such problems.

Tip #22—Use a drywall sander to clean tracks. It's great for reaching into tunnels and across landscaping.

Tip #23—When weeding by "Chemical Warfare", i.e. Roundup, Cleanup, cut both ends from a coffee can and set the can over the offending weeds. Then you use a small spray bottle for spot weeding through the open end can, over spray on desirable landscaping is avoided.

Tip #24—When assembling new rails with plastic ties, use "dry stick" lubricant [Door Ease, etc. from the automotive supply store] on the rails prior to assembly. It does not run off like Armor All or WD-40 and remains on the rails long enough to slide all of the ties into position.

Tip #25—When bending rails, use a railbender; curves are then truly curved rather than a series of short straight sections and your trains will run with fewer derailments.

Tip #26—To hold ballast in place after getting it set properly, wet the ballast with water, then flood the ballast with a solution of concrete bonder/adhesive mixed 4 parts water with one part adhesive. A turkey baster syringe seems to work well. This will hold the ballast in place inspite of rain, cats, gophers, small children, etc. This technique should also work to hold dirt road, cuts through mountains, etc. in place.

Tip #27—If your neighbor refuses to let you cut down the offending trees, you can do an effective cleanup of leaves and needles with a wet/dry vacuum cleaner. Carefully hold the tube near the leaves/needles and suck them from the layout. With practice you can quickly clean up your layout without removing much dirt, ballast, rocks, etc. Anything you do get, you didn't need anyway. This is also effective to clean out ponds during annual maintenance.

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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:
May 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 **Maggie Mogul.**

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

The Bay Area Garden Railway Society's *Trellis and Trestle* is published monthly. Permission is granted to other Garden Railway Society publications to quote or reprint material from this publication except where reserved to individual contributors by copyright notice in individual features. Please credit the author and this publication. 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

May 1998	
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
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