Trellis & Trestle

Volume XI, Number 11 Editors: Joseph & Irene Zajac December 1998

✦✦ Holiday Open Houses ✦✦

(Details inside!)

HAPPY NEW YEAR TOO!

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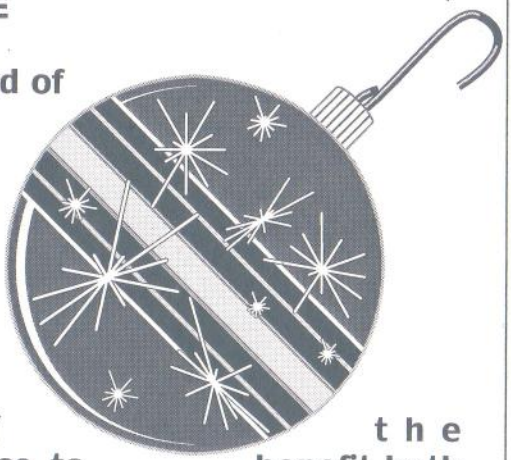
Attention all BAGRS members!
Wear your BAGRS badge!
While attending BAGRS
Meetings
Open Houses
Short Line Events
Live Steamer Events
Your Badge—Identifies You
To your Host
&
To Other BAGRS Members

BAGRS

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



This year, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Garden Railway Society approved a suggestion from member Barbara Green that we have a toy collection at one of the Holiday Open Houses, to benefit both the U.S. Marines "Toys for Tots" program, as well as the Firefighters "Toys for Kids" programs.

On December 13th at the open house of Pauline and Jack Verducci, 2050 Fairmont Drive in San Mateo (2:00 PM—6:00 PM), both representatives of the Marines and Firefighters from the City of San Mateo will be present with their barrels to collect from BAGRS members, new, unwrapped toys for girls and boys.

Please bring as many toys as you can. And starters sets are welcome! It's our under-standing that Jolly Old Elf from the North Pole will be appearing with a big bag of toys to contribute as well. He's planning to arrive at 5:00 PM, so bring the kids, grandkids, and don't forget your cameras!

Please bring a new unwrapped toy.

HOLIDAY—OPEN HOUSES

by Ken Martin

In the spirit of the season, each December we hold our Holiday Open House Layout Tours. This year, we are doing something a little different than we have in the past. Since some of our layouts feature lighting, we have changed the hours slightly. The lighted railroads will be open from 2PM to 6PM. The others will adhere to our normal hours of Noon to 4PM. Be sure it look below to see the hours for each layout.

December 6—**Nancy Norris**, 25 Linda Vista, Orinda—(925) 253-1854. The Backyard Florals Railroad Lines is a unique and interesting railway. It is small (48') but has many features designed to involve children.

"Hands-0n" features include a gravel pit, dinosaur cave, mine, village, farm, pond and sawmill. The layout is a good example of what can be done in a limited space. No guest trains, please. Open noon to 4PM.

From State Highway 24 heading west, take Orinda exit; take the first exit to the right (Orinda Village). You will yield onto Camino Pablo . . .

From State Highway 24 heading east, take the Orinda Moraga exit, go left at the light, Camino Pablo...From Camino Pablo, go two blocks. Make a right on Camino Sobrante (Safeway on your right). Cross Orinda Way at the stop sign. Follow Camino Sobrante up hill, take the second right (the "Y" onto Mira Loma). Stay on Mira Loma through the second "Y" (this is a narrow winding road). Mira Loma turns into Linda Vista as you veer to the left. After a hard right bend, driveway will be marked by a mailbox on the left (a little house with #25 on it). The home is up a steep driveway. Enter through garage. See Map #1.

December 6—**John** and **Pat Kessler**, 10 Yosemite Road, Orinda—(925) 254-2793. The Yosemite & Truckee Railroad is two railroads, one indoors and one outdoors. It also has two themes—early narrow gauge in both American and European equipment. 500' of nicely detailed powered track runs through the garden on the outdoor line while the indoor line has 150' of track with many features and details. With cooperative weather, both lines will be running. No guest trains, please. Open Noon to 4PM. See Map #1.

From Highway 24, take St. Stephens off-ramp; turn right on El Nido Ranch Rd.; turn left on Charles Hill Road; stay on Charles Hill Road to the top when its name will change from

Charles Hill Rd. to Diablo View Rd. The driveway is a right turn by the train mail box, just beyond the fire hydrant—we share driveway with 117 Diablo View Rd. Come down the long driveway and park at the bottom. Enter on the right side.

December 6—**John** and **Janeane McLelland**, 14 Ona Court, San Ramon—(925) 829-5857. This eclectic road is a true garden railroad - 500' of powered track in a continuous loop run through an existing garden. It travels over a pond with a waterfall and over trestles. Guest trains are welcome. No steam, please. Open Noon to 4PM.

From I-680, take the Alcosta Blvd. exit west; go to San Ramon Valley Blvd. Turn right onto Pine Valley Road, left on Davona, right on Westchester, left on Biddleford, and left on Ona Court. Enter down driveway on the right side of the house. See Map #2.

December 13—**Rusty** and **Donna Fisher**, 620 Marlin Court, Redwood Shores—(650) 595-3700. Beautiful craftsmanship abounds on the Gnough Gnhame Railroad. It runs on 75' of track on benchwork in a garage and features many exquisite buildings and animated features. No guest trains, please. Open Noon to 4PM. Enter through house. See Map #3.

From U.S. 101, take San Carlos/ Holly St. exit, take Redwood Shores Parkway East past San Carlos Airport, turn left on Marlin Drive to end. Turn right on Marlin Court. House on right, #620.

December 13—**Jack** and **Pauline Verducci**, 2050 Fairmont Drive, San Mateo—(650) 341-4088. The Crystal Springs Railroad depicts the entire lumber industry from logging to the finished products. It has been featured on TV and in magazines. Its 700' of powered track runs through both the back and front yards and past many great buildings. Guest trains are welcome including live steam. Open 2PM to 6PM. Enter at right side of house. The BAGRS Video Library will be here. See Map #3.

From State Highway 92, take the De Anza Blvd. northwest for one short block, turn left onto Fairmont Drive. The house is near the top of the hill on the right.

December 13—**Leo** and **Phyllis Schlocker**, 1759 Lexington Ave., San Mateo—(650) 341-0731. The Lexington P&L Railroad completely fills the backyard. Four lines run here—a trolley line, a streetcar operation, a mining road, and a long mainline. Powered track runs through mountains, tunnels, trestles, waterfalls, and many structures.

No guest trains, please, due to automatic operation. Also look for the small line in the front entrance court. Open 2PM to 6PM. See Map #3.

From I-280, take Bunker Hill exit east. Turn right onto Lexington Ave., about three blocks. House is on the left. Enter on the right side through the workshop.

December 13—**Clair** and **Betty Young**, 45 Arlington Drive, South San Francisco—(650) 992-8162. *This railroad can only be seen during the Holidays.* It is actually a Christmas and circus display that is put up just for the season. Its 135' of track is set up in front of the house. No guest trains please. Open 2PM to 6PM. See Map 4.

Orinda Landscaper Inspired by Grandson

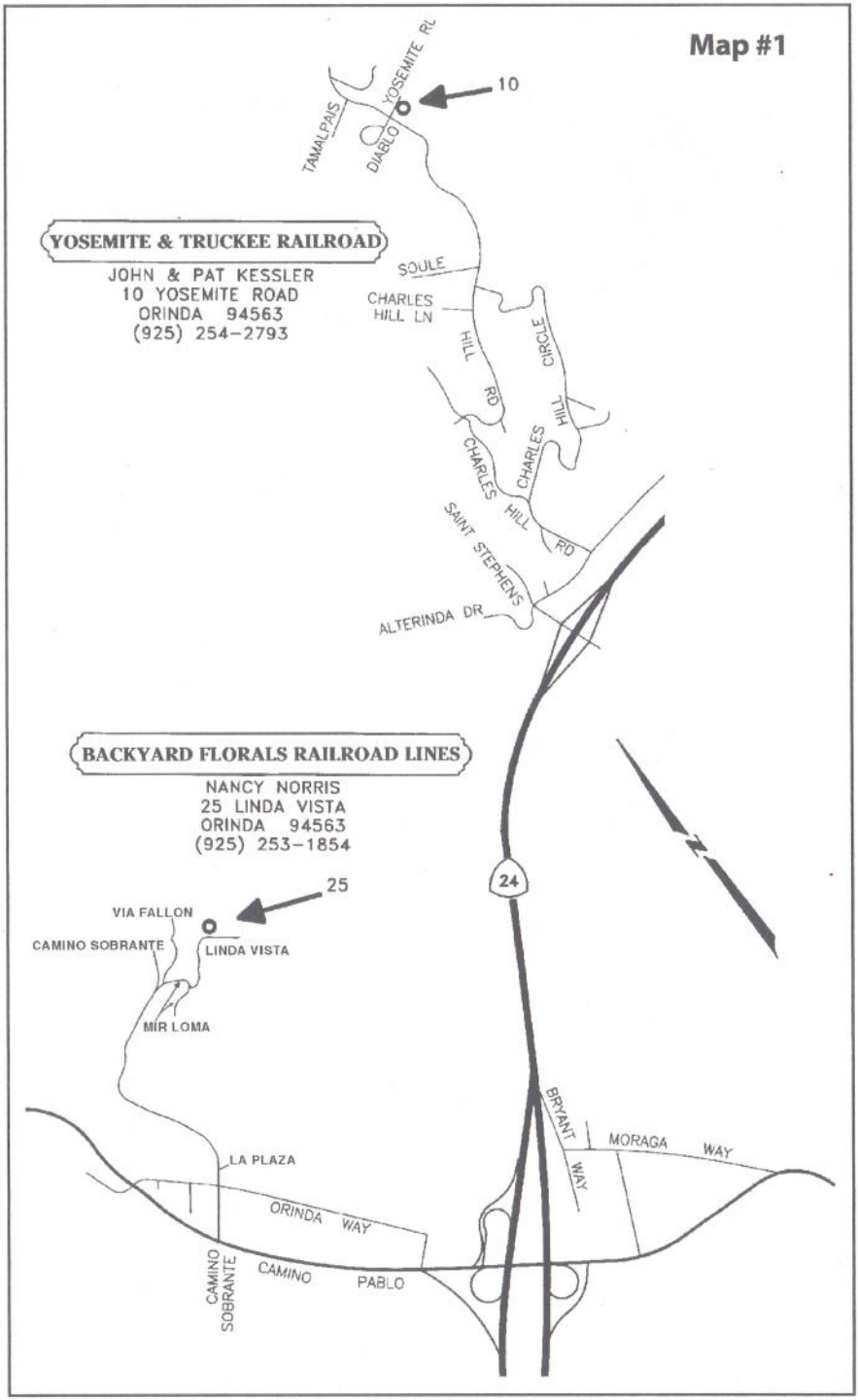
by Nancy Norris

Riddle: What shared activity can educate and fascinate a four year old boy while allowing grandma the freedom to recreate and learn on her own level? You guessed it! Until a year ago my favorite hobby was flying radio controlled airplanes, but my grandson ,Lake, who lives with me two days a week, is too young to get into it , so now we engineer together!

The Backyard Florals Railroad Lines stemmed from my lifelong vocation in horticulture and education. For me it's a chance to display dozens of species of succulents together in the dessert, bog plants near the pond, Bonsai'd trees in the village and evergreens in the mountains.

For Lake, there are three dozen occupations simulated with dozens of structures, vehicles, animals and inhabitants of our fantasy land to play with, imagine and ask me about, because we're always in the garden together. As he grows, this hands-on scale railway expands to meet his interests and abilities as well as mine.

On December 6th bring your children or the child in your heart for our Open House in Orinda. There's a scavenger hunt to help eyes focus and a special kids-only section with a sand pit, construction site and dinosaur theme park. Santa and his elves have decked the gondolas with boughs of holly. As Chief Engineer, I'm looking for new layouts to help you design and /or construct, so come see the prototype!


Map #1
YOSEMITE & TRUCKEE RAILROAD
JOHN & PAT KESSLER
10 YOSEMITE ROAD
ORINDA 94563
(925) 254-2793
BACKYARD FLORALS RAILROAD LINES
NANCY NORRIS
25 LINDA VISTA
ORINDA 94563
(925) 253-1854
10
25
24
YOSEMITE RL
TAMALPAIS
DIABLO
SOULE
CHARLES HILL LN
HILL RD
CIRCLE
HILL
CHARLES HILL RD
SAINT STEPHENS
ALTERINDA DR
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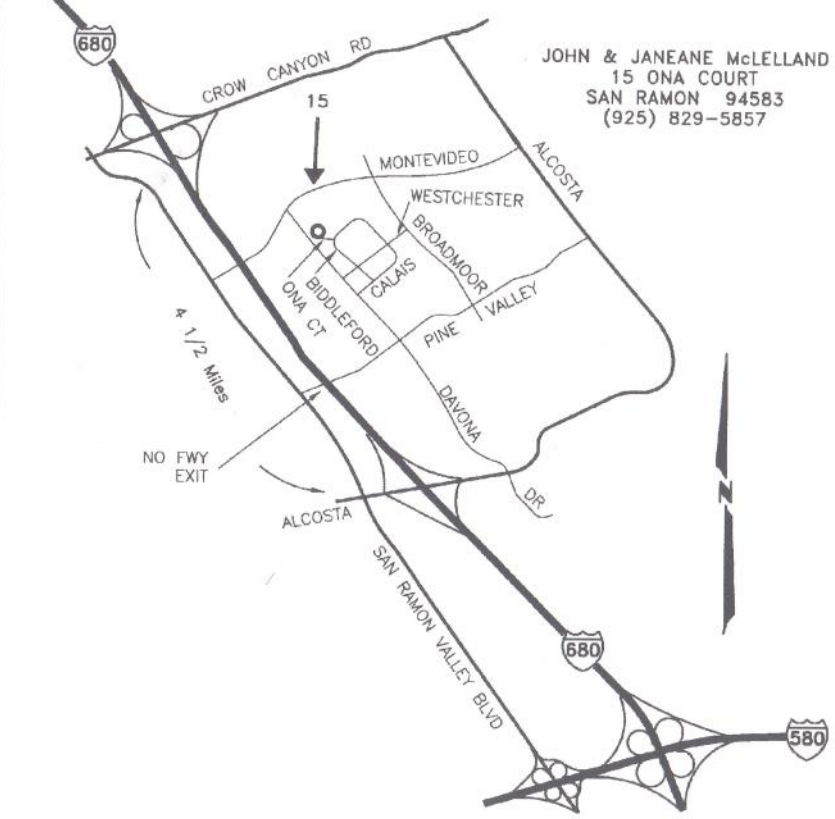
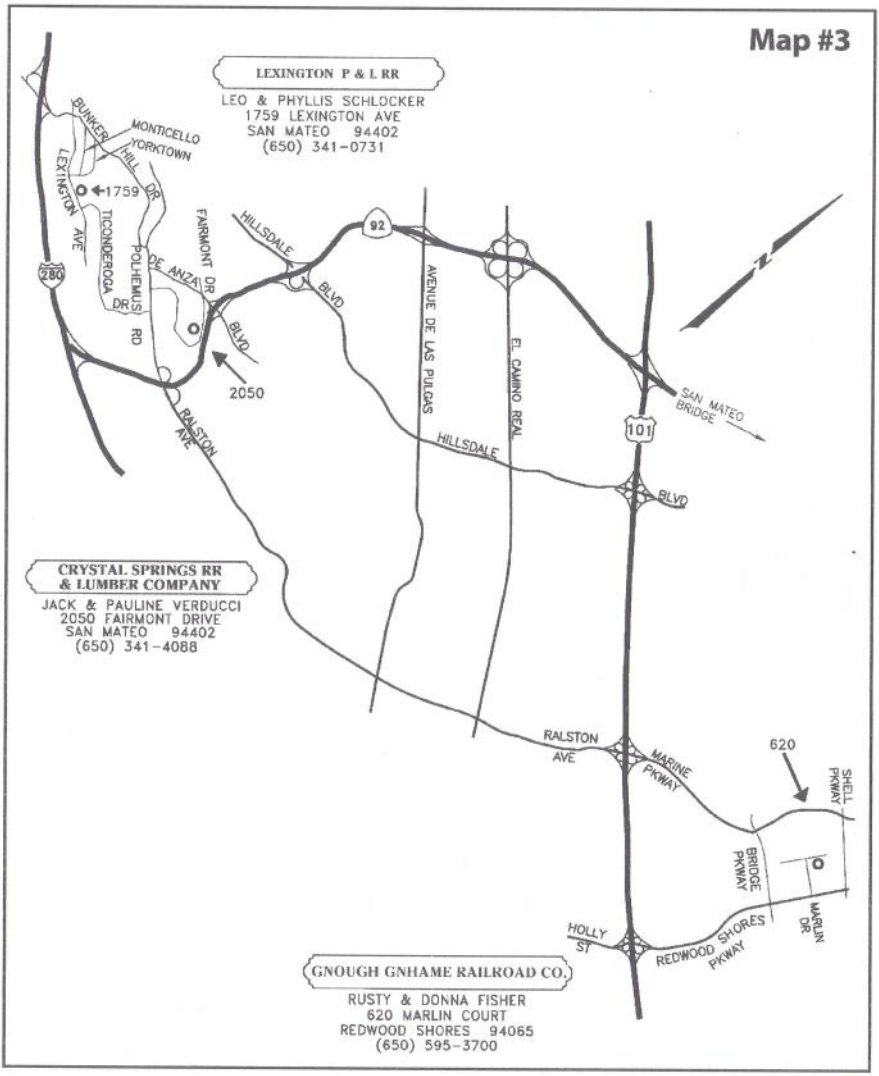
CAMINO SOBRANTE
LINDA VISTA
MIR LOMA
LA PLAZA
ORINDA WAY
CAMINO SOBRANTE
CAMINO PABLO
BRYANT WAY
MORAGA WAY

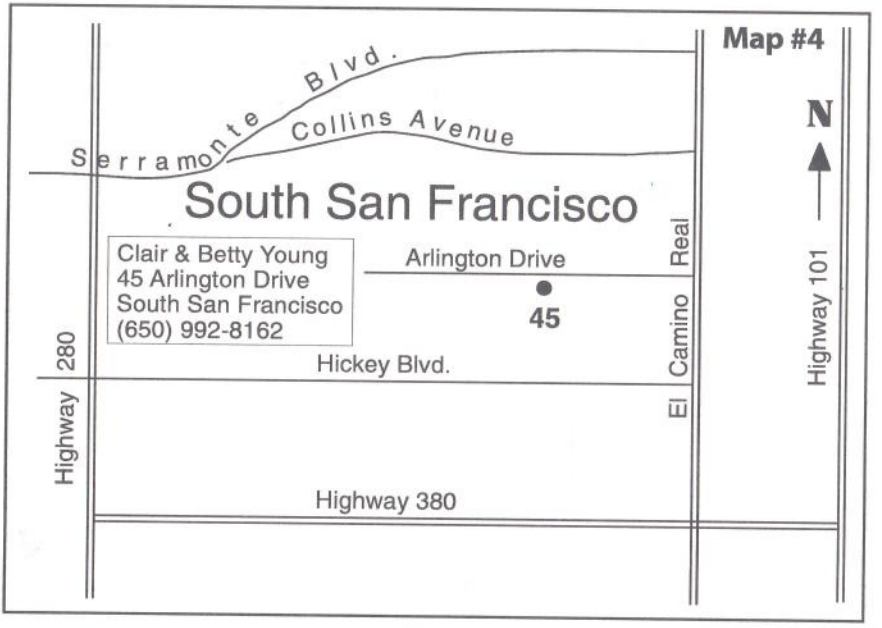
BAGRS MEMBERS! PLEASE WEAR YOUR
BAGRS BADGE DURING • MEETINGS
• OPEN HOUSES • SHORT LINE
• LIVE STEAMERS •
YOUR BADGE IDENTIFIES YOU
TO YOUR HOST AND TO OTHER BAGRS

Map #2



There are plenty of Holiday Open Houses for you to visit, so take your time, be safe and enjoy!





WHO'S IS CHARGE AND WHO'S DOING WHAT!
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LIVE *steamers*

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(650) 341-4088

SHORT LINE MODULE
Coordinator

Bruce Jahn
(925) 455-9409
or
bjahn@llnl.gov

BAGRS Short Line—Schedule 1998

Dec 5 & 6 ..... San Mateo Fairgrounds—Greenberg's

BAGRS Short Line—Schedule 1999

Jan 2 & 3 ..... Greenberg's—San Rafael

Jan 30 & 31 ..... Cow Palace
Great American Train Show

Feb ..... Livermore Veterans

Mar ..... BAGRS Annual Convention

Apr ..... Talbot's Salute to G Scale II

May 23 Dunsmuir House—Oakland

Jun 5 & 6 ..... San Mateo Fairgrounds
Great American Train Show

Jun 19 & 20 ..... Fathers Day at Roaring Camp

Jul ..... Greenberg's—San Rafael

Nov 27 & 28 ..... Pleasanton Fairgrounds
Great American Train Show

Dec 4 & 5 ..... Greenberg's—San Mateo Fairgrounds

Short Line Module Coordinator
Bruce Jahn—(925) 455-9409 or bjahn@llnl.gov

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ADVENTURES IN BACHMANNLAND

by Ken Martin

I had a nice conversation with **Dick Maddox** of Bachmann Industries today. Since I have had many inquiries about the disposition of the new Climax, I called him to get the straight skinny. As of this writing (11-5), the first Climaxes are on the boat. They should be distributed some time around the first part of December. If you have one ordered, you just might have it in time to run it under the Christmas tree.

As with the Shay, they will require some preparation before they are run.

Unlike the Shay, which uses a worm drive, the Climax is driven through crown gears that will need a short break-in period. Bachmann is currently trying to eliminate this, but, at least for the first batch, it will be necessary. Like the Shay, the locomotives will come with an instructional video tape.

In other Bachmann product news, the new Consolidation will be here next Fall, not in March as I reported in my last article. It turns out that my source was in error.

Their mine kit, which is shown in Bachmann's current catalog, should be available sometime around the first of the year. The "kit" includes a mine entrance, a mine building, and a side dump ore car. The cars will also be available in sets of three cars without the entrance and the building. The cars will run on Gauge 1 track and will have standard Bachmann couplers so they can be integrated with any of your other equipment.

I have heard a rumor that a certain down under manufacturer of a remote control system has been very "vocal" on the Internet, criticizing Bachmann because their new "shorty" cars aren't exactly to the scale that he expected them to be. I don't know about the rest of you, but I have about had it up to here with all this nit-picking about whether a certain car is 1/8th too long or too short or too wide or too high. The only thing that is important is whether or not we can have some fun running it in our trains. If these fine-scale guys don't like a certain product because it doesn't meet their exacting standards, all they have to do is not buy it. But it is ridiculous for them to blast a product that is perfectly acceptable to the great majority of us G-scalers. The fact is that the new Bachmann cars are a beautiful product even if they don't measure exactly. I am not defending just Bachmann because the same thing is also true of a large number of production items on the market

today. It is also a fact that they all look good and are fun to run. They are also designed to be available to a huge number of people at a reasonable price. If these measur-ing stick boys want extreme accuracy, they can go pay $200 per car and leave the rest of us alone to enjoy this great hobby. Stop knocking our toys! I, for one, am getting tired of it! Back off, TW!!

Wow! I almost fell down getting down off that soap box!

If anybody needs gears or motor mounts for the "Plus" ten-wheelers, I have a lifetime supply of gears and a couple of motor mounts on hand. I still also produce the reliability improvement kit on order, so if you need one, let me know.

I know that it isn't G-scale, but I am told that Bachmann's new On30 set is a real winner both in looks and operation. (Please don't ask me how well it measures!) Dick tells me that it sold out immediately. It is designed to run on HO track but the gauge can be widened slightly to run on O narrow gauge track, thus becoming On3. I just threw this in because I know that we have members that are interested in other scales.

Pat and I want to wish all of our members Happy Holidays. We'll see you at the Holiday Open Houses.

✦✦ FOR SALE ✦✦

✦✦ FOR SALE ✦✦

Bachmann Set...In original box, complete, never run. Royal blue Big Hauler. Two Passenger cars #90016...Cab #1332.

Bachmann Sets (2)...In original box, complete, never run. Silverton Flyer. One boxcar & one bobber caboose #90025...Cab #177.

Call for more information.
Jim Stephens—(510)521-8156

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BAGRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting Schedule

1st Tuesday
every other month

February 2, 1999
April 6, 1999
June 1. 1999
August 2, 1999
October 5, 1999

DEADLINE FOR *TRELLIS & TRESTLE*
10TH OF EVERY MONTH

BAGRS BAGGAGE CAR

BAGRS Apparel Source

Items are blue with BAGRS logo in yellow.

Jackets	All Sizes		$35
T-Shirts	Adult Sizes	(M, L, XL)	$10
		(XXL)	$12
		(XXXL)	$15
	Youth Sizes	(S, M, L)	$6
Caps	Mesh (Adjustable)		$6
Caps	Poplin (Adjustable)		$8
Golf Shirts w/Pocket		(L,XL,XXL, XXXL)	$20
Sweat Shirts	(L, XL)		$15
		(XXL)	$20
		(XXXL)	$25
Tote Bags		Small 14"	$10
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—3785 Somerset Ave., CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546
510•727•9296

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