Trellis & Trestle

Volume XII, Number 2 Editors: Joseph & Irene Zajac February 1999

✦ FEBRUARY 21ST OPEN HOUSES ✦

(Details & Maps Inside)

BAGRS ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER MICHAEL BROGGIE, Author and Disney Historian

Eight members of the Broggie family have worked for Disney including Michael's father, Roger Broggie, who was Walt Disney's original Imagineer. As a youngster, Michael frequently accompanied his father and older brother on weekend trips to "Uncle Walt's" estate on Carolwood Drive in the Holmby Hills area of Los Angeles, to "crew"on the Carolwood Pacific Railroad, considered to be one of the most elaborate miniature garden railroads ever created. At the age of 12, while Disneyland was under construction, Michael became the official test driver of the Autopia prototype vehicles driving them around the Disney studio lot. While in college, he worked at Disneyland as a "cast member" on the Autopia, Rainbow Caverns Mine Train, and many other attractions. After graduating from Los Angeles Valley College and California State University, Morthridge, he joined the Marketing Department at Walt Disney Studios as a sriter. Later, he received masters and doctorate degrees in business administration from California Pacific University. Currently, he serves as an historian for Retlaw Enterprises (Walt Disney family), lectures at the Disney Institue at Walt Disney World, and is the historian for the Carolwood Pacific Histroical Society, and international membership organization he founded to preserve the personal history of Walt Disney and his railroad legacy. Michael is collaborating on a complete anthology on Walt Disney's career, to be release later this year on CD.

New Members

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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

Address Changes

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lwhunton@aol.com

Annual Meeting Accommodations

by Ken Martin

Many of our members plan to stay overnight at the annual meeting. There are five hotels/motels within easy walking distance of the Conference Center. If you are going to stay over, please make your reservations directly with the facility.

There are also several restaurants in the same area.Friday dinner, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and lunches will be available at these restaurants. We arenot going to list them here but will try to have list available at the meeting.

The hotel/motels are:

Grosvenor Hotel, 380 S. Airport Blvd. (650) 873-3200. Across the street in the next block from the Center. $129.

Holiday Inn, 275 S. Airport Blvd. (650) 873-3550. Just across the alley from the Center. $129.

Ramada Inn, 245 S. Airport Blvd. (650) 589-7200. The closest facility to the Center. $89 (until February 18, $125 after that), single or double, plus the usual 8% tax and $2.50 city surcharge. The whole thing comes to $98.62. To reserve a room, call Ramada Inn reservations at (650) 589-7200. Be sure to tell them that you are with Bay Area Garden Railway Society to get the right price. Do it now because there is a February 18 deadline for this price and we only have 6 rooms reserved (but we can get more). After February 18, the price goes back up. If you run into any problems, ask for Mary Riley (but only if you have problems) or call me.

Travelodge, 326 S. Airport Blvd. (650) 583-9600. Across the street in the next block from the Center. $86 one bed, $99 two beds.

Vagabond Inn, 222 S. Airport Blvd. (650) 589-9055. Across the street from the Conference Center. $62 one bed, $70 two beds.

✧✦✧✦✧ For Sale ✧✦✧✦✧

Bachmann Set...In original box, complete, never run. Royal blue... Big Hauler, Two passenger cars #90015...Cab #1332—$100/offer.

Bachmann Sets (2)...In original box, complete, never run. Silverton Flyer... One boxcar & one bobber caboose #90025...Cab #177—$100 ea/offer.

Call for more information: Jim Stephens—510•521•8156

FEBRUARY OPEN HOUSES

by Ken Martin

All four layouts open this month have been open before but are well worth revisiting. Many changes have taken place since our last visit. Hours will be our normal Noon to 4 PM. Please be courteous to our hosts and observe these times.

February 21—**Al** and **Ethelyn McCracken**, 2916 Taper Ave., Santa Clara—408•249•2953. Look for lots of locomotives pulling long trains here on the A&E Line. This compact well laid out railroad is always fun to see. Guest trains are welcome. The video library will be here. Talk nice and Al will show you his speeder. Enter at left side of house.

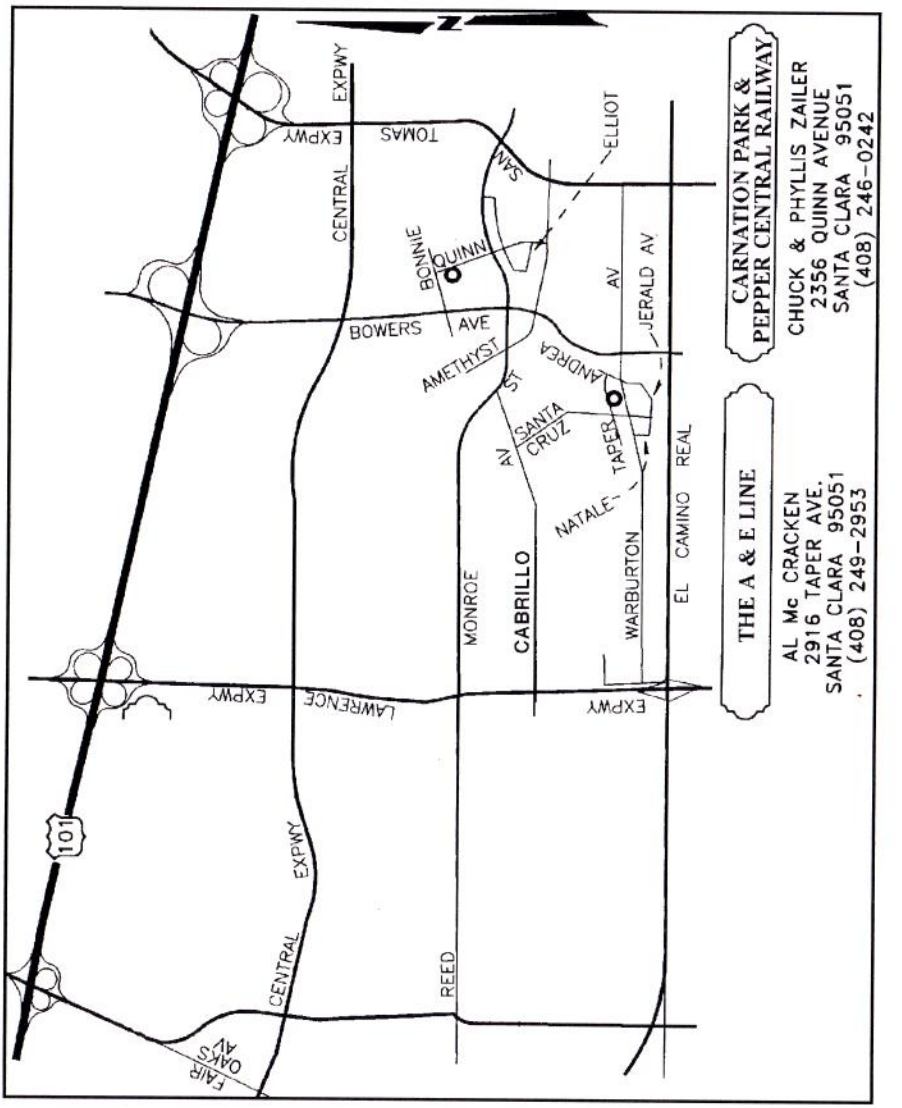
February 21—**Chuck** and **Barbara Sanfilippo**, 1029 Lochness Court, Santa Clara—408•736•4541. There are two railroads here at the Lochness Valley Railroad—one large main line and a separate small logging line. The main feature here is the craftsmanship and imagination in the buildings and scenery. Guest trains are welcome. Enter at right side of house.

February 21—**Tom Wilcox**, 3047 Cameron Way, Santa Clara —408•985•9096. This is a very extensive 550 foot line filling the entire backyard and patio. There is also another fully automated overhead layout in the house. The trains and scenery are interesting and varied, spanning a variety of eras. Guest trains are welcome. Enter at right side of house.

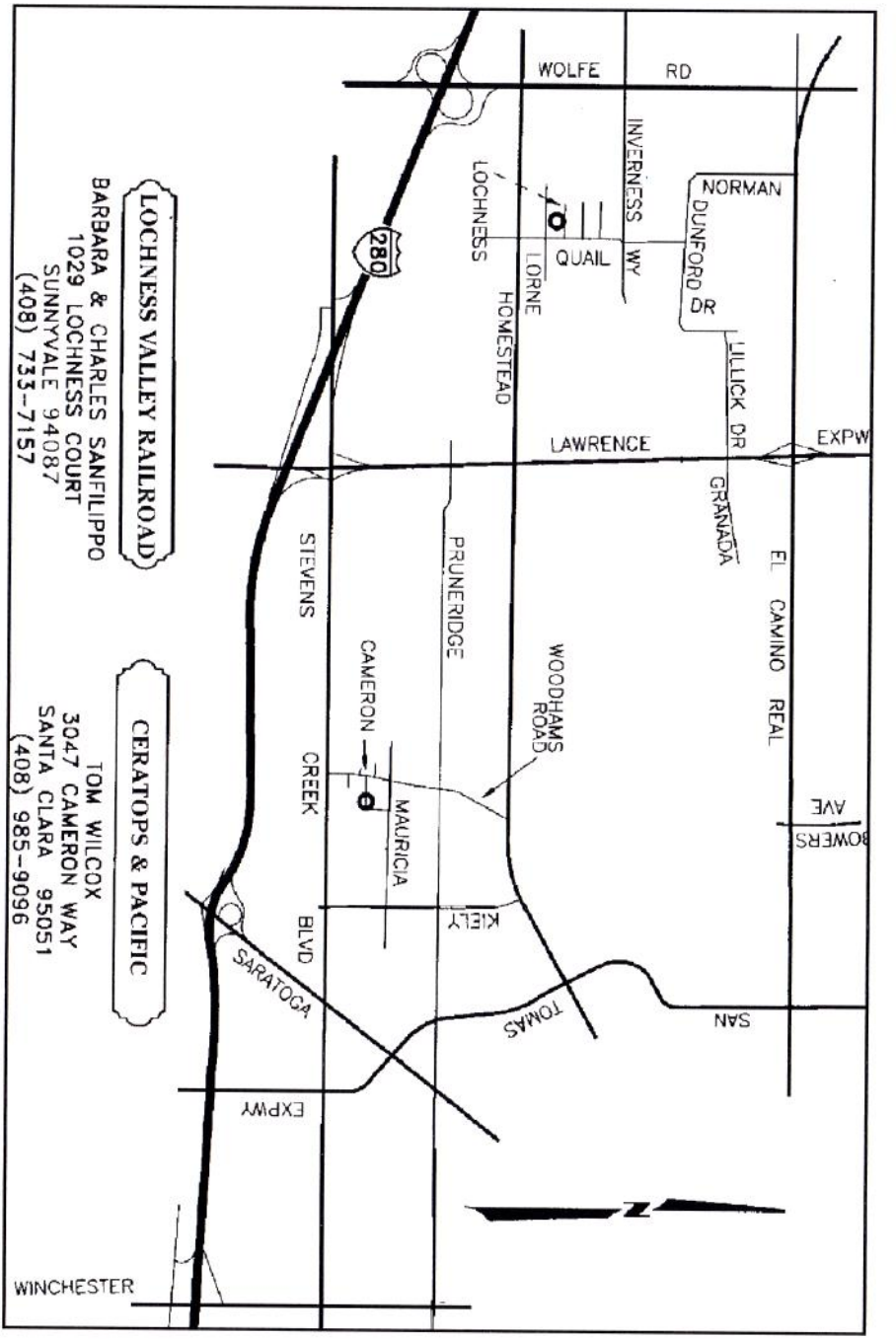
February 21—**Chuck** and **Phyllis Zailer**, 2356 Quinn Avenue, Santa Clara—408•246•0242. The Carnation Park & Pepper Central Railway is still in a process of metamorphosis. It was greatly expanded for the convention but many changes have been made since. It reflects early 20th century narrow gauge lines and runs on the flatlands and up into the hills. Guest trains are welcome. Enter at right side of house.

REGISTER EARLY
FOR THE BAGRS ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET
• CUT OUT THE FORM IN THIS ISSUE
• LIST YOUR NAME TAG REQUIREMENTS
• MAKE YOUR MEAL SELECTIONS
• TOTAL
• SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO *BAGRS* TO:
KEN MARTIN, 3785 SOMERSET AVE., CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546
(There is no fee to attend the Annual Meeting only!)

MAP TO FEBRUARY OPEN HOUSES—MCCRACKEN & ZAILER



Map to February Open Houses—Sanfilippo & Wilcox



Bay Area Garden Railway Society
1999 Annual Meeting
March 5—7, 1999
Event Registration Form

Registration Fee: $5.00 per person pre-registration
$7.00 at the door.

(This fee helps to defray conference center expenses.)

Fee need not be paid to attend the Saturday morning business meeting only.

Names to appear on name tags:

*1)*_____ *2)*_____

*3)*_____ *4)*_____

$5.00 x _____ **= Total $**_____

Banquet Registration
$30.00 per person

***Choice of Entrees*:** **Tornedos of Beef Chateau**
Broiled Marinated Italian chicken

Dinner includes green salad, fresh honey-glazed carrots, garlic mashed potatoes, tea or coffee, and dessert.
(Pasta Primavera vegetarian dish also available upon request.)

Tornedos of Beef ..... No. _____

Broiled Chicken ..... No. _____

Total _____ **x $30.00 = $** _____

Send Check or Money Order payable to *BAGRS* to:
Ken Martin, 3785 Somerset Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546.

✦✦✦✦ **Registration Deadline is February 20, 1999** ✦✦✦✦

For further information: Call Ken Martin at 510•727•9296 or E-mail: martinken@juno.com

Dear Friend of the Toy Program,

Another Holiday Season has come and gone successfully thanks to you and the many volunteers who so generously dedicated their time to support the program. This year, as in the past, we were able to supply toys to thousands of children in San Mateo County that may not have had a Merry Christmas.

Your help in collecting toys at your home or place of business would put Santa's elves to shame. In the 3 weeks leading up to Christmas., the San mateo Fire Department received thousands of new toys for boys and girls in San Mateo and surrounding cities. No request for toys went unanswered because of your generosity and dedication to the Toys for Tots Program.

On behalf of the San Mateo Fire Department. Thank you for your commitment to the Toys for Tots Program. We hope you have a wonderful 1999 and look forward to seeing you again next holiday season.

Sincerely,
George Piscitello, SMFD
Debbie Schembri SMFD 911

BAY AREA GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
LIVE steamers

Interested in Live Steam?
Contact: Jack Verducci
(650) 341-4088

SHORT LINE MODULE
Coordinator

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

JUST GIVE IT A TRY. YOU REALLY MIGHT LIKE IT!

by Ken Martin

Frequently people say to me "I wish I could do that but I don't have the skills." What many of them don't realize is a "skill" is usually the result of trying something for the first time, making some mistakes, and learning from experience until the lessons from the mistakes become a skill.

Like most of you, I read all the "how-to" articles in the magazines. They are full of great information which is generally gleaned by the author through the process mentioned above. Many of them, however, seem to overlook the fact there are many different ways to achieve the same goal. If you think you have figured out a different way to accomplish a task, just give it a try. Most mistakes are relatively easy to correct, if not by you then by someone who is willing to give you a hand. Don't be afraid to try your own methods. They may be better than the ones in the magazine article.

Having moved recently, I didn't have anything that even resembled a railroad. I finally threw (literally) about 90 feet of track on the ground under my orange trees. Because I knew this was only a temporary layout, I decided to experiment with it a little.

I have always used graphite grease in my rail joiners. It has always worked fairly well, but having moved, I didn't have any at my new house. What I did have was a spray can of lithium grease I purchased to lubricate the overhead garage door. Since it was all I had, I decided to try it in the track joints. So far, it has worked perfectly. It has been out for about six weeks and has been rained on two or three times and the railroad runs perfectly, much to my amazement. Unless I find some reason not to, I will probably continue to use it on all of rail joints.

A second thing I wanted to try was soldered jumpers across the rail joints. Rather than soldering the whole rail joiner, I soldered the end of about 2 inches of copper wire (20 gauge, in this case) to the outside of each rail just behind the first tie on each rail section (using my 175 watt iron) and tinned the other end of the wire (with my 25 watt iron). I did this with the rail on the bench in my shop where I could be comfortable. I then put the rail sections on the ground and assembled them. With my 25 watt soldering iron, I simply soldered the tinned ends of the jumper wires together, a process which takes far less time and effort than soldering the entire rail joiners.

This method has a couple of advantages over soldering the entire joiner. One is the rail can "breathe" when expanding and contracting during temperature changes so the track doesn't wiggle around. The other is, if you ever

want to change your track plan, all that is necessary is to unsolder the jumper wires and take the track apart. I have done this on about 30 feet of my makeshift layout and, to date, it has worked perfectly.

Anyway, my point is that if you have an idea, give it a try. If you don't like the results, it is usually a simply matter to give it some thought, make some changes and try it again. As soon as it works, you have acquired a new "skill".

Rescheduled Board Meetings

Due to booking problems, the following Board Meetings have been rescheduled from the usual Tuesday night to Thursday night.

April 6, 1999 to ..... April 8, 1999
August 10, 1999 to ..... August 12, 1999
October 5, 1999 to ..... October 7, 1999

All other board meetings for 1999 remain as previously scheduled.

BAGRS Treasurers Report

January1, 1998 thru December 31, 1998

Cash balance, January 1, 1998		$ 7,018
Income		
Annual meeting	$ 2,173	
Baggage car	907	
Dues	11,595	
Module	3,604	
Other	25	18,304
Expenses		
Annual meeting	4,360	
Auto registration	270	
Badges	1,074	
Insurance	1,065	
Internet website	395	
Misc	1,208	
Module supplies	1,429	
Newsletter	3,548	
Postage	1,141	
Printing	250	
Supplies	1,854	16,594
Increase in cash		1,710
Cash balance, December 31, 1998		**$ 8,728**

BAGRS BOARD

President—Jack Verducci—San Mateo (650) 341-4088

Vice-President	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**
Ken Martin	David Gill	Sherman Zell
Castro Valley (510) 727-9296	San Jose (408) 371-7472	San Jose (408) 997-1992

Board Members

Charlie Allen	Al McCracken	Bonnie McGhee
Los Altos (650) 949-3441	Santa Clara (408) 249-2953	Los Altos (650) 968-0599

Membership Committee

Chairperson—Irene Zajac (541) 779-3420

Area (408)	Areas (510 & 925)	Area (650)
Mark Grzan 778-7816	John & Barbara Bierie (925) 736-1120	Leo Schlocker 341-0731

Hospitality Committee

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

Scheduling Coordinator

Ken Martin—(510) 727-9296

BAGRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Schedule

Meetings start @ 7 PM

1st Tuesday
every other month

April 8, 1999*
June 1. 1999
August 12, 1999*
October 7, 1999*
December 7, 1999

*Note: * exceptions.*

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

Deadline for *Trellis & Trestle* 10th of every month

Newsletter Editors

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BAGRS Timetable

February 1999

21—Layout Tour	Tom Wilcox—3047 Cameron Way Santa Clara—408•985•9096
21—Layout Tour	Chuck & Barbara Sanfilippo—1029 Lochness Court Santa Clara—408•736•4541
21—Layout Tour	Al & Ethelyn McCracken—2916 Taper Avenue Santa Clara—408•249•2953
21—Layout Tour	Chuck & Phyllis Zailer—2356 Quinn Avenue Santa Clara—408•246•0242

✦ March 1999 ✦

✦ 5—7 BAGRS Annual Meeting ✦ South San Francisco Conference Center
255 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco

••• 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.

GOURDS@LANSET.COM

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Joseph & Irene Zajac—Editors
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