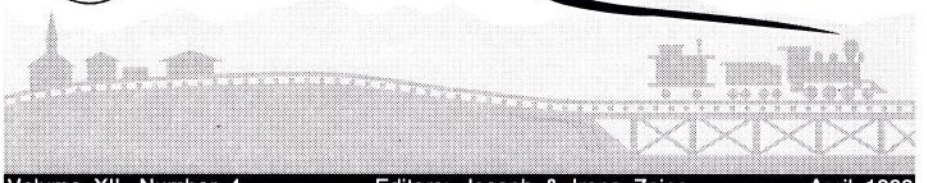
# Trellis & Trestle



Volume XII, Number 4 Editors: Joseph & Irene Zajac April 1999


## ✦✦ ATTENTION BAGRS ✦✦

## A MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK IS IN PROCESS!

### IS "YOUR" INFORMATION CORRECT?

✍ If you have had a name , address, home phone, work phone, fax, or email address change, please inform Irene Zajac by mail, fax or email no later than April 26, 1999. Check your last Handbook 1997, if your phone number(s) or emai' address has changed and you have not informed you membership chairperson your listing maybe out of date.

✍ Your address label should be correct , but did you notify me of your phone number(s) or email address changes?

✍ If you are not sure you sent your change notices to me, send them again!

✍ If you haven't renewed your 1999 dues , this issue is your *last,* and you will not be listed in the BAGRS Handbook.

✍ If there is a hobby related business you would like to have listed in the BAGRS Membership Handbook or if you need information regarding ads, please contact me.


**IRENE ZAJAC**
**424 GIRARD DRIVE; MEDFORD, OR 97504-6314**
**PHONE: 541 •779•3420, FAX: 541 •779•5069**
**EMAIL: ZAJAC@AOL.COM**

## New Members

Jim Beatty
581 Bobbie Drive
Danville CA 94526
H: (925) 831-1145
tootalljb@aol.com

Michael Broggie
1032 Amberton Lane
Thousand Oaks CA 91320
broggie@gte.net

John Capelli
1804 Oak Knoll Drive
Belmont CA 94002
H: (650) 794-5880

Michael & Holly Crane
5423 Quebec Common
Fremont CA 94555
H: (510) 742-1201
W: (408) 525-2309

Joe Ducote
172 Kaanapali Drive
Napa CA 94558
H: (707) 224-3301

## New Members

Don C. Good
3353 Moraga Blvd.
Lafayette CA 94549
H: (925) 283-3406

Chuck & Virginia Hebel
10464 Brewer Ave
Cupertino CA 95014
H: (408) 255-9765
chuck.hebel@cwix.com

Bob Riemer
129 Wilshire Ct
Danville CA 94526
H: (925) 820-6545

Steve Secara
359 Mapleton Ave
Hollister, CA 95023
H: (831) 637-6897
secara@hotmail.com

Glen Simpson
1381 Juanita Drive
Walnut Creek CA 94595
H: (925) 935-2927

## New Members

Jeff Smith
5753 Coldwater Drive
Castro Valley CA 94552
H: (510) 886-0995
strtrder4@aol.com

Robert Smith
Janet Husery
548 Santa Barbara Road
Berkley CA 94707-1746
H: (510) 527-3507
F: (510) 559-8923
rssmith@ix.netcom.com

## Welcome Back

Manuel & Flora Noriega
Len & Wilma Richards

## BAGRS Short Line—Schedule 1999

**Apr 17 & 18** ..... **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**

**Sep 18 & 19** ..... **Truckee Railroad Days**

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

**Short Line Module Coordinator**
Bruce Jahn—925•455•9409 or bjahn@home.com

## Thank You for a Great Annual Meeting

*by Jack Verducci*

The annual meeting this year was a testimony to the results teamwork brings. Unless one works behind the scene it is hard to comprehend the amount of work that goes into putting on an event like the BAGRS annual meeting. I would like to extend a "***well done***" to everyone on the BAGRS team who worked on the event.

During the business meeting several up coming events were discussed. We heard from **Bruce Jahn** concerning the BAGRS Short Line and its past appearances and future plans. The have been doing a good job promoting BAGRS at the Great American Train Shows and other events. The Short Line was certainly in good form at the meeting.

We also heard from **Harlan Barr** concerning the reorganization of the Live Steamers group. We have acquired our own portable live steam layout. Harlan is also working on the big "Introduction to Live Steam" steam up, to be held at **Fred Vertel's** on May 16, 1999. Anyone with or without a live steam engine who is interested in running steam engines, working on the renovation of the layout or helping set up the layout, please contact Harlan Barr.

**Fred Vertel** gave a great presentation on the Swanton Pacific Railroad and its ground located near Davenport, California. BAGRS will be having a picnic there on July 10, 1999. Fred made a special offer available to BAGRS who joined the Swanton pacific Railroad group. The results were fantastic. Fred signed up so many BAGRS members that they out numbered the original group. Everyone is looking forward to this event.

We would all like to thank **Michael Broggie**, our keynote speaker at the banquet, for a wonderful evening. The subject of Walt Disney and railroad are dear to our hearts.

The Golden Gate Railroad Museum event turned out to be a really good time. Just about everyone got at least a cab ride and eight lucky winners (from a special raffle) got to run the locomotive.

The only complaint we heard on the event was the parking. We are working on a larger facility for next year.

## Board of Directors Election Results

During the business meeting portion of the Annual Meeting. The seven candidates below were elected as the BAGRS new Board of Directors.

David Gill, Jr. Al McCracken Bonnie McGhee Ken Martin
Chuck Sanfilippo Jack Verducci Sherman Zell

## 1999 Annual Meeting Contest Results

*by Don Breitbarth*

**Best of Show**

✦ Charles Garbett—Share Croppers Cottage ✦

**Logging**

1st ..... Chuck Shipper—Saw Filer's cottage
2nd .... Charles Garbet—Logging Train
3rd..... Gary Whaley—Pole road Climax

**Whimsey**

1st ..... Phyllis & Chuck Zailer—Grizzly Flats RR
2nd .... Gary Whaley—2-2-0 Purple engine and caboose
3rd..... Joseph Zajac—Trolley

**Self-propelled**

1st ..... Gary Whaley—Green Goose
2nd .... Charles Garbett—4-6-0
3rd..... Rusty Fisher—Black Widow VW Vanagon

**Structures**

1st ..... Charles Garbett—Share croppers cottage
2nd .... Chuck Sanfilippo—Burned out cabin

**Cars**

1st ..... Judy Cappuccio—Disney Lilly Belle
2nd .... Gary Whaley—Coffin tank car
3rd..... Ken Martin—ET&WNC Sheet metal sheathed boxcar.

✦✧✦✧ **For Sale** ✦✧✦✧

Bachmann Shay, Ely Thomas w/Big Boost for LGB smoke unit, and Kadee couplers...$200.

Hartland Locomotive Works, American 4-4-0 Locomotive, Green, Union Pacific w/ Kadee couplers—runs very good...$250.

Contact: Eric Struck between 3 PM — 9PM at 650•493•7367

## BAGRS Short Line

*by Bruce Jahn*

Well, well, well. What's brought me out of typing retirement to once again address the BAGRS population in *Trellis & Trestle*? I was thinking of the amount of change I've seen with the Short Line over the years we've been taking our trains to the street, and realized although the changes have been many, some things have become quite regular.

Every January we display at the GATS at the Cow Palace and this was the sixth March we participated in the BAGRS Annual Convention. Every spring we travel to the vineyards of Livermore to set up for the veterans and each Father's Day weekend finds us at Roaring Camp and Big Trees in Felton. This month we are establishing another constant by helping Talbot's in San Mateo celebrate the "Salute to G Scale II."

Last year, this event brought folks out of the woodwork and turned out to be more of a celebration than any of us (including the staff of Talbot's) expected. This April 17th and 18th, we'll once again be running trains under the covered parking area and having an opportunity to rub elbows with many of the manufacture's reps who play a major part in determining what we'll see on the shelves in years to come. The names you've heard from Accucraft, Aristocraft, Bachmann, Hartland, LGB and USA Trains as well as reps from Bridgewerks and Big Train Backshop are scheduled to be there to talk about what's new, what's coming and why.

Last year, Talbot's offered some truly friendly discounts to BAGRS members who remembered to wear their badges, but this year the discounts are promised to be even better. Whether you're thinking of buying Kadee couplers or Aristo starter sets, this might be the time. Talbot's uses a colored tag system to determine discount amounts and this year those discounts will be upwards of 50%. But for that weekend, BAGRS members will see an additional discount and that's not just for the table lamps and card playing dog pictures, but for the things we all really use for our railways.

That not enough excitement for ya? The BAGRS Live Steam Short Line is planning to be running, so don't miss the opportunity to see this spectacle of engineering as fire and water once again are combined to defy the principles of inertia. Who could ask for more? See you all there.

**Short Line Module—Coordinator**

**Bruce Jahn**
**Phone: 925•455•9409 or bjahn@home.com**

## APRIL'S OPEN HOUSES

*by Ken Martin*

There has been a date change to avoid a conflict with Talbot's Hobbies G-Scale Weekend. The date will be April 25 rather than April 18 as previously advertised. However, due to some scheduling and personal obligation conflicts, we have ended up with one open house on April 18 and two on April 25.

***Be sure to check the date before you go to these events.***

**April 18—Sherman and Lois Zell**, 1120 Valley Quail Circle, San Jose—408•997•1992. The Valley Quail & Quick Silver Railroad has three lines total. The lawn level 1000 foot line travels from the back yard to the front yard and back and includes a marshalling yard, town and engine house. This line is automated to run several trains simultaneously. The second line has 320 feet of track on raised benchwork and is designed for large locomotives pulling long trains. The third line is an overhead setup in son David's bedroom and will be open only to kids under 12. No guest trains, please.

Take I-880 to State Highway 85 south. Take Almaden Expressway south to Camden Avenue, approximately three miles (¾ mile past Camden Avenue). Turn right on Rajkovich Way (Via Valene Shopping Center is on left). Turn left onto Serenity Way. At T in road, turn left onto Valley Quail Circle. House is on the left. Enter right side of house.

**April 25—Rosse Hemeon**, 6584 Fall River Drive, San Jose—408•268•1980. Pop's Fall River Railroad occupies most of the back yard and is built around the patio and hot tub. It has a great variety of features including lakes and bridges, trestles, waterwheels, fountains, and several villages containing many scratch built buildings as well as an aerial tram. Guest trains are welcome.

From the south on State Highway 87, take State Highway 85 west, get on the Almaden Expressway south, turn right onto Crown Blvd., right onto Hampton Dr., right onto Tam O'Shanter Way, left onto Silverado Dr., right onto Fall River Drive. Enter on the left side of house.

**April 25—Ken and Alice Bradshaw**, 1136 Corvallis Drive, San Jose—408•268•6074. The Fairview, Fallon & Fernley Railroad has 200 feet of powered track running through a tunnel, over bridges, and through the town. Many interesting miniature plants are to be found here. Guest trains welcome.

From I-280 North or South, take State Highway 85 south. Exit on Almaden Expressway south. Turn right on Trinidad and left onto Glenview. House is on the corner of Glenview and Corvallis. Enter through gate on garage side of house down the driveway.

# BAGRS Membership Handbook
## — Update —

**If you have any changes or additions, fill out the form below and send it to Irene Zajac**

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code: _____ - _____

Home Phone: (_____)_____

Work Phone: (_____)_____

FAX: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

---

**Hobby Related Business**

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone: (_____) _____

FAX: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

**Irene Zajac**
**424 Girard Drive; Medford, OR 97504-6314**
**Phone: 541•779•3420, Fax: 541•779•5069**
**Email: Zajac@aol.com**

## Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society

### present the

## 1999 West Coast Regional Meet

## June 18th—20th, 1999—Sacramento, California

Traditionally when the national Garden Railway Convention is held in the eastern United States, one of the western garden railway clubs hosts a smaller event that allows people to visit several garden railways nearer to home. The Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society invites you to this year's West Coast Regional Garden Railway Meet in Sacramento. We will have over thirty garden railways open over the three-day weekend. On Saturday evening we will be hosting a complimentary buffet barbecue dinner with live steam rides and numerous door prizes.

Plan on staying for Railfair 99, June 18—27,1999. One of the largest and most elaborate railroad festivals in the world will take place in Old Sacramento. Visiting locomotives and railroad cars, train rides, live entertainment, unique exhibits, children's exhibits and living history demonstrations will make this an event for the whole family.

This will be a busy weekend in the Sacramento area and we recommend that you get reservations for overnight accommodations as early as possible. One we suggest is the First Choice Inn in Rocklin at (800) 462-2400. Please mention the Garden Railroad Meet to get our special rate.

Registration is required by May 20th so we can get your schedule and map books returned to you. The cost for the Garden Railway tour book, name tags and barbecue is $40.00 per person.

If you need additional information, please contact Bob Dean at (916) 726-5689. Please make checks payable to **SVGRS** and mail checks and registration form to: **Earl Martin, Paymaster, 4019 Pine Cabin Way, Roseville, CA 95747.**

---

## 1999 West Coast Regional Meet Registration

Name _____ Amount Enclosed

Address _____ $ _____

City, State, Zip _____

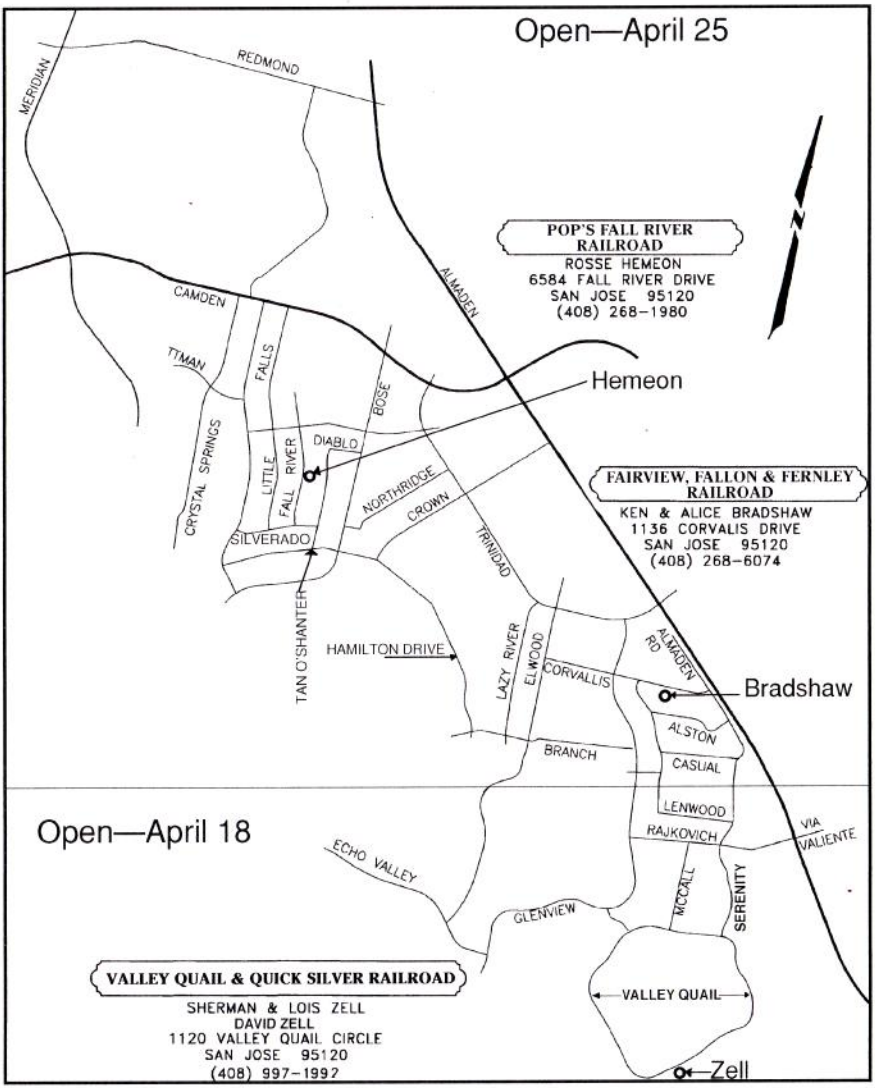
Phone _____

Names of attendees for badges _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Is there anything we can do to assist your weekend? _____

_____




Talbots
HOBBIES
445 South "B" Street, San Mateo, California 94401
Phone: 650-342-0267 FAX 650-342-0415

Talbot's "Salute to G Scale II"
April 17th & 18th

## Thanks to our Prize Donors—BAGRS 1999 Annual Meeting

*by Ken Martin*

One of the highlights of our Annual Meeting & Convention is always the excitement of winning a raffle or door prize. This year we had over 150 prizes donated by the following listed businesses and individuals. We want to express our greatest appreciation to them for their support of our club.

Accucraft Trains
Al McCracken
*AwNuts* Magazine
BangZoom Software, Inc.
California & Oregon Coast Railroad
David Towle
Garden Center Railroads
Gold Coast Station
Hegner, Inc.
Kadee Couplers
LGB of America
Miniature Plant Kingdom
Ozark Miniatures
Piko Hobby Buildings
Railroad Avenue
Sheridan Products
Sunset Valley Railroads
The Train Shop
The Big Train Show!
Trail Creek Railroad
Verducci, Inc.
Add-A-Truss
Aristocraft Trains
Bachmann Industries
Bridgemasters
Comstock Construction
Garden Railways Magazine
Gary Raymond Wheels
Hartland Locomotive Works
Jeffrey Bishop Building Models
Large Scale Online
Micro Engineering
Movie-Mix Productions
Pacific Coast Garden Railroads
Railroad Warehouse
Ridge Road Station
Split-Jaw Rail Clamps
Talbot's Hobbies
The Mayer Company
Track 'N' Trains
USA Trains

Without any of these contributors, our event wouldn't have been the success that it was.

---

## Are You Going to The Big Train Show?

*by Ken Martin*

If you are planning on going to the Big Train Show in Long Beach in June, and particularly to the Bachmann banquet, let me know. As I have in the past, I should be able to reserve tables for our group. In order to do this, I have to give a count to On Track Productions by the middle of May. If you are interested, give me a call at (510) 727-9296.

## DCC—Digital Command Control

*by Mark Grzan*

Although I had to teach classes on Saturday, I did get to the event on Friday night and the banquet on Saturday night. I was able to take in the clinic hosted by Mike Limprecht on DCC (Digital Command Control). DCC is where you send digital signals through the rails to a locomotive, switch or other accessory. Mike did a wonderful job and was inspiring.

DCC is here, looks to be affordable and exciting! Here are some DCC advantages.

1. DCC has become standardized under NMRA guidelines. A LGB decoder will run on a DIGITRAX system and vice a versa.

2. You never worry about polarity. Several trains can run independently, run backwards and forwards on the same track! Reverse loops are simplified.

3. Power to the track is set at maximum. Locomotives draw power as needed. Smokes stacks and lights, wired to the track, are running at full even at very slow speed.

4. All functions are in your hand, up to eight functions per train such as bell, whistle/horn, blowdown, injectors, etc.

5. Up to 128 programmable speed steps. Even jerky locomotives run smoothly, you can set each one up separately to 9,999 units, switches or accessories!

6. You can have different trains with different motors running in a multi-unit consist at the same speed.

7. Master throttle system can be wireless, so you can walk about and control everything no matter where you are. Hey, have two or three of these units and hand them out to friends and or visitors and everyone becomes an engineer — running on a time schedule, just like them big guys.

8. You can hook up your computer to the system with hardware and software for other controls. Perhaps set up a programmable sequence of events in the switching yard and have it run continuously as you handle other operations.

9. Trains with DCC decoders will automatically switch to regular DC when DCC is not present. DCC can be set up into blocks if wanted.

The most amazing feature in my opinion is one called EMF BACK. The decoder in the locomotive or MU compensates for grades. For example, you set the speed on the locomotive or multi-unit consist and the system maintains the speed regardless of grade. As the locomotive climbs a grade it draws more power as needed to maintain speed. On the downhill side of the grade, it draws less power. Speed

is maintained at switches, and curves. This sounds great. Not every decoder has this feature. I hope to have a system up and running come Morgan Hill/Gilroy Railroad Days on June 26, 1999. More information about that later.

The only disadvantage to DCC is there is wiring and some soldering involved. In some locos this is relatively easy, in others more difficult. I hope to coach Mick into conducting a clinic on this sometime in the future. Mick, If I've missed anything, please correct me. As I said earlier, DCC is the wave of the future and it appears new locomotives will eventually come with this feature.

## E-Z Low Cost Lighting

*by Wendell Hanks*

To install a relatively flicker-free low-cost lighting system in a Bachmann 4-wheel caboose—and possibly in a 4-wheel Aristo-Craft caboose as well—here are some simple steps.

**1)** Remove the caboose body from the base—tabs are at each end under the car body:

**2)** Once apart, notice that the metal axle supports for each of the axles are metal uprights coming from one "U" shaped piece of metal attached to the bottom of the car body:

**3)** Remove the "U" shaped piece from each end of the car—there are two screws for each—and cut the piece in half with tin snips. Note: There is a small tab holding a portion of this piece in addition to a small screw. Make your cut so that you favor this portion held by both screw and tab. The other side will be shorter and be held by the screw alone—once reinstalled, you can add a drop of CA glue in addition to this screw, which will ensure durability. The premise is by cutting and sectioning this metal piece, you can solder a wire on each section thereby getting electricity from the track through the axle using a wheel set from those cars that pick up electricity from the track;

**4)** Now solder a wire on each side of the cut pieces and run the wires through the car body floor attaching them appropriately together and then to one or more bulb holders. I use a 14 volt large size bulb obtained at Radio Shack. It is slightly larger that a flashlight bulb and once installed it looks like a jar-style light shroud. Radio Shack offers a number of choices including screw or bayonet style holders:

5) I attached two bulbs at the opening where the cupola attaches to the roof. The light is obviously more intense than the prototype—however, the lighting looks great in the garden:

6) Find, and install, a wheel/axle set that is used in large scale tenders or cars whereby electrical pickup is the intent. I used two LGB axles—others of similar type work fine.

# 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**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Al McCracken | Bonnie McGhee | Chuck Sanfilippo |
| Santa Clara (408) 249-2953 | Los Altos (650) 968-0599 | Sunnyvale (408) 736-4541 |

**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**

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **April 1999** | |
| 17 & 18—Talbot's Hobbies | Talbot's Hobbies—Railroading Show & Sale |
| Staute to G Scale II | 445 South B St., San Mateo—650•342•0267 |
| 18—Layout Tour | Sherman & Lois Zell—1120 Valley Quail Circle, |
| | San Jose—408•997•1992 |
| 25—Layout Tour | Ken & Alice Bradshaw—1135 Corvallis Drive, |
| | San Jose—408•268•6074 |
| 25—Layout Tour | Rosse Hemeon—6584 Fall River Drive, |
| | San Jose—408•268•1980 |
| **May 1999** | |
| 16—Layout Tour & Steam-Up | Fred & Tom Vertiel, 1475 Redwood Drive, |
| | Los Altos—650•968•9056 |
| 16—Layout Tour | Mike & Nancy Schneider, 315 Galli Court, |
| | Los Altos—650•941•6160 |
| 16—Layout Tour | Charles & Elizabeth Garbett, 13906 Page Mill Road, |
| | Los Altos Hills—650•948•4001 |
| 23—BAGRS Short Line | Dunsmuir House—Oakland |
| **June 1999** | |
| 5 & 6—BAGRS Short line | Great American Train Show—San Mateo Fairgrounds |
| 18-20—West Coast Regional Meet | Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society—See Insert! |
| 19 & 20—BAGRS Short Line | Fathers Day at Roaring Camp & Big Trees—Felton |
| 26—Morgan Hill RR Days | Mark Grzan—408•776•7816 |

••• Layout tour hours are Noon until 4 PM Unless Otherwise Noted •••
Please respect these hours for the benefit of our hosts.

BAGRS—*Trellis & Trestle*
Joseph & Irene Zajac—Editors
424 Girard Drive
Medford, OR 97504-6314

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

First Class
U.S. Postage P
Medford, OR
Permit No. 42