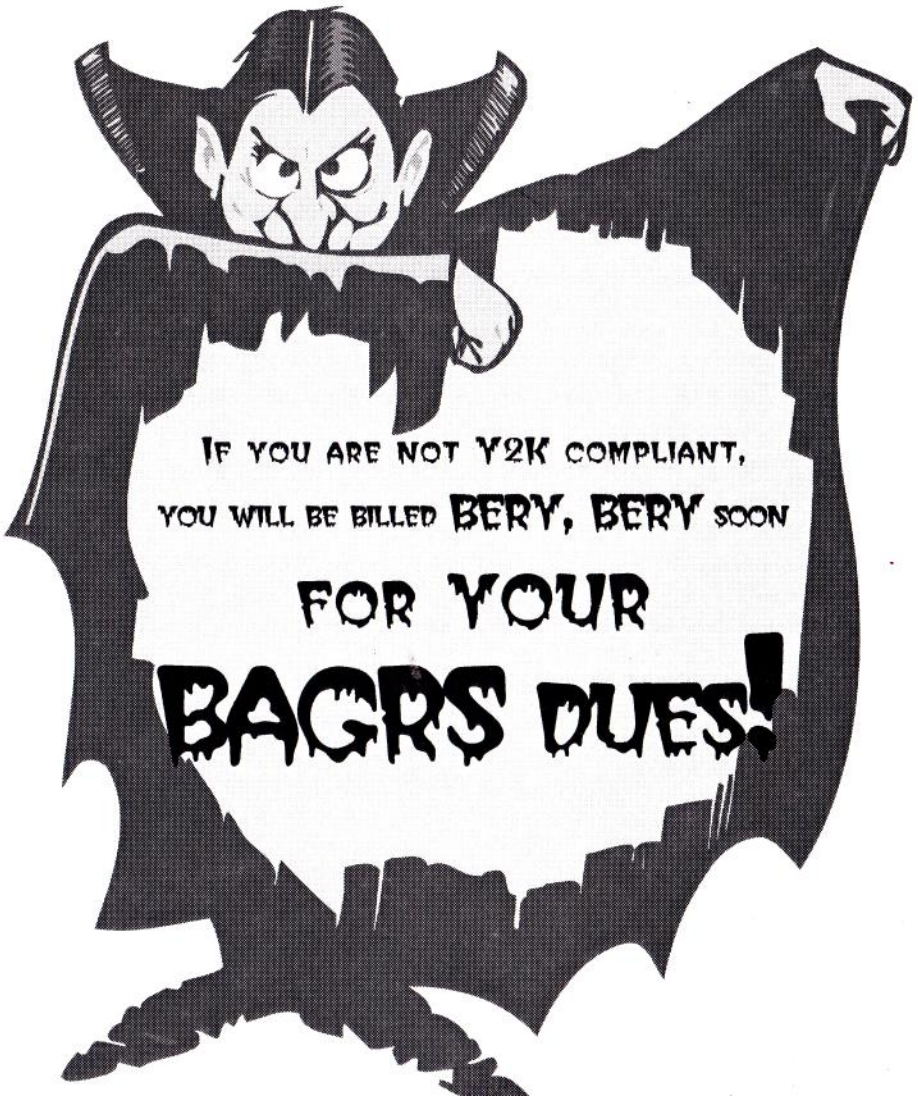
Trellis & Trestle

Volume XII, Number 10 Editors: Joseph & Irene Zajac October 1999

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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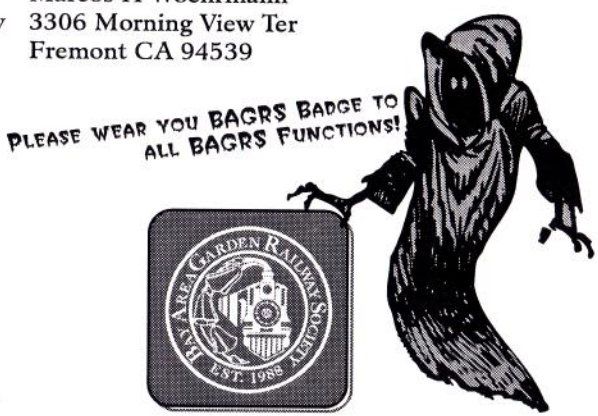


PAMPER YOURSELF!

by Ken Martin

Imagine this: Three days of being surrounded by luxury, not having to cook, make the bed or clean house; stepping out of your room in the morning to the sound of a tropical waterfall tumbling into a pool bordered by exotic plants and full of beautiful Koi; refreshing yourself in the pool or spa in the evening; being immersed up to your ears in your favorite hobby—G scale trains!

This can be YOU at BAGRS Junction 2000 (formerly known as the Annual Meeting) at the elegant Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City on January 7, 8, & 9, 2000. Come to the function at the Junction and enjoy all of the above while regaining your sanity after a hectic Holiday Season.

We will have all the features that we have come to expect at our annual meetings plus maybe a few surprises. Attendees will be treated to a variety of vendors and their products, clinics presented by our experts, raffle and door prizes galore, the annual business meeting and election, the model contest, the Short Line, a banquet Saturday night, and a Sunday excursion.

This year our enthusiastic committee is going all out to bring the members one of the best events ever. We have chosen a site with a truly upscale ambience to make this an unforgettable experience. Among the amenities available are an indoor heated pool and spa (for room guests), a gift shop, and two restaurants. And it has plenty of free parking!!

Suitable and affordable venues are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The Crowne Plaza was chosen after we made a personal survey of 25 area hotels. Many of these either did not have enough space or were priced far beyond our budget. Several quoted us prices of $8000 to $10000 per day. When the Crowne Plaza quoted us price we could deal with, we accepted. However, it was still a stretch for our budget. Consequently, registration and vendor fees will be slightly higher than in the past. At this time I can't quote any exact amounts because there are still some aspects that have to be discussed by the committee. Every effort will be made to make the event as economical as possible for our members.

On the up side, room rates will still be reasonable. Since room nights (number of rooms times number of nights occupied) can affect the price we have to pay for the rest of the facility, we will be offering some sort of incentive to get registrants to stay at the hotel. If nothing else, it is really nice to be able to stay around a

little later to fraternize with other members and not have to drive home that night. On the flip side, it is very relaxing to just get up in the morning and be where you want to be without any time lost in driving and fighting traffic.

Start making your plans to attend BAGRS Junction 2000 now. There will be registration forms in the November and December issues of *Trellis & Trestle*. Come to the function at the Junction! You won't want to miss this one!

Wind Down from the Hectic Holidays!

Come to:

The Function at the Junction!

BAGRS JUNCTION!

JANUARY 7-9, 2000

Vendors! Short Line! Prizes!

Be There with Your Fellow BAGRS!

Mark your calendar now!

October Open Houses

by Chuck Sanfilipo

October 17—Jo & Al Bernard, 20 Tripp Court, Woodside—(650) 851-2357. The Woodside & Whiskey Hill Garden Railroad is another large railroad. It travels long distances while climbing to high elevations up Whiskey Hill.

This is a replication of Woodside in the 1850's. Fully landscaped with miniature plants and a waterfall. The entire railroad can be seen while strolling among the trees. Guest trains are welcome.

Directions: From I-280 or U.S. 101 north, take Woodside Rd. west, turn right on King's Mountain Rd., turn left on Tripp Rd., turn right on Tripp Court. The second home on the right—#20. Enter on the left.

October 17—Paul & Renee Jacobs, 13093 Pierce Rd, Saratoga—(408) 867-4043. **Attention:** Brand new layout to you! This is your first chance to see this layout. Steam or battery powered trains are welcome, no trackpower. See map on following page.

October 17—Loran & Keeth Courpet, 1083 Grape Ave, Sunnyvale—(408) 733-1110

The Wilco Mine Railroad occupies the entire back yard, getting the most out of the space available. This railroad uses the classic large figure-8 track plan, with a long curved tunnel trestle and an additional gold mining railroad.

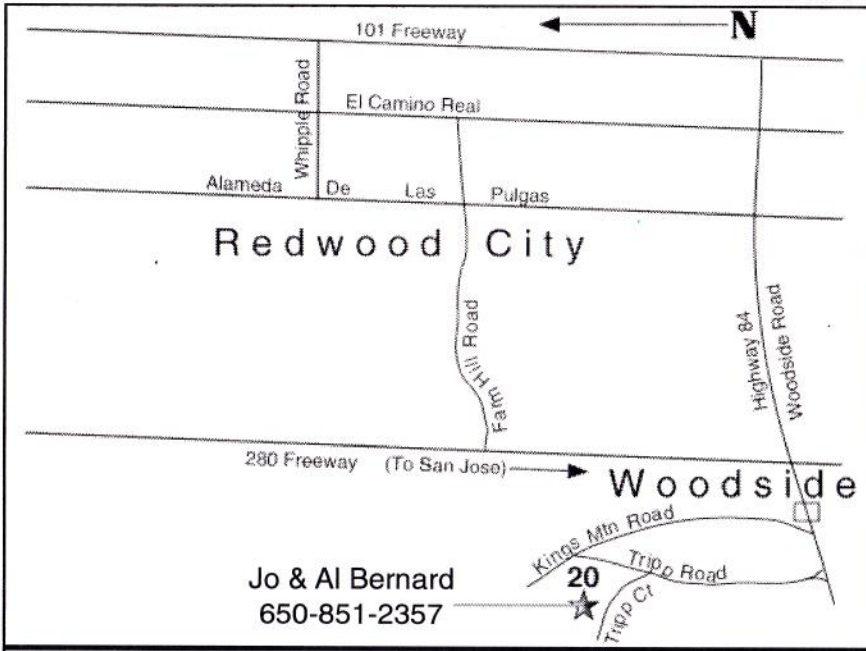
From the south—From I-280, take Highway 85 north (take the Fremont exit); turn right onto Fremont, then left onto Bernardo (it comes up quickly—about 100 feet), turn right onto Plymouth. The house is at the corner of Grape and Plymouth. Enter on the left side.

From U.S. 101 north, take 85 south, take the Fremont exit; turn left onto Fremont, then left onto Bernardo, as above.

October 17—Mitchell & Carol Gooze, 1296 Albion Ct., Sunnyvale—(408) 736-0270.

The layout ranges over a large area (2500 square feet) incorporating various villages, farms, and ranches. The railroad is set in the early 20th century. It is both track and battery powered exclusively using Locolinc controls.

Directions: Take I-280 north or south to Hwy. 85 North. Take first exit, (Fremont Ave.), and turn left. Turn left again at Belleview Way, which is the first street off of Fremont. Turn right at the first street, which is Albion Court.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Whipple Road
El Camino Real
Alameda
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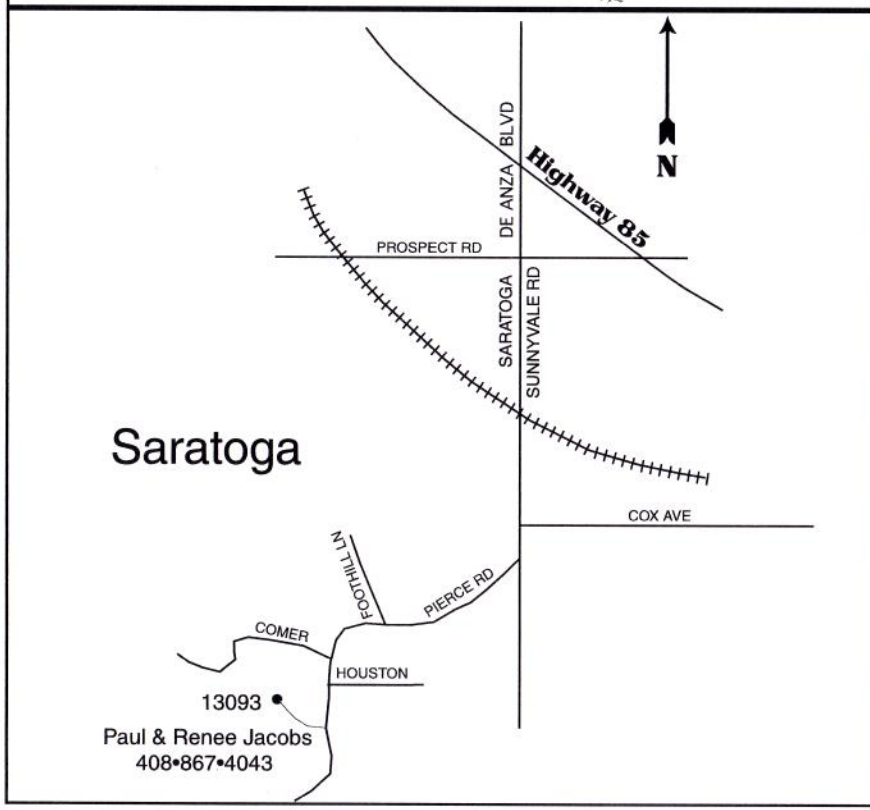
Las
Pulgas
Redwood City
Farm Hill Road
Highway 84
Woodside Road
280 Freeway
(To San Jose)
Woodside
Kings Mtn Road
Tripp Road
Tripp Ct
Jo & Al Bernard
650-851-2357
20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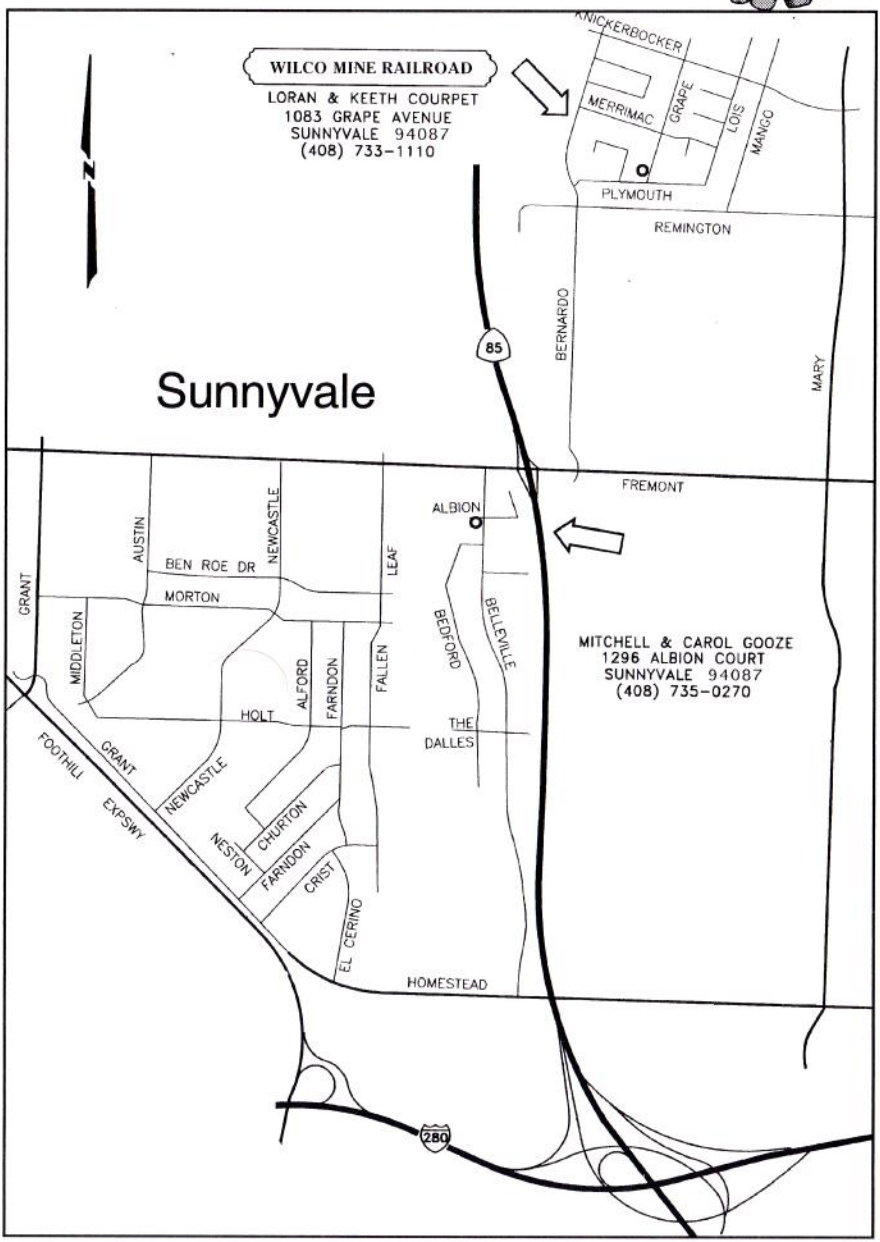
DE ANZA BLVD
Highway 85
PROSPECT RD
SARATOGA
SUNNYVALE RD
Saratoga
COX AVE
FOOTHILL LN
PIERCE RD
COMER
HOUSTON
13093
Paul & Renee Jacobs
408•867•4043

COME ON TO MY HOUSE
AND I WILL GIVE MAKE YOU CANDY!



Garden Railway at East Bay Bonsai Show

by Nancy Norris

I just spent a couple of hours pruning miniature trees in my garden railway then marveled at how much I have learned in only a year or so. Since joining our local Bonsai club my pruning techniques, although basic, have already netted notable differences in the landscape—way more realism!

Granted, Bonsai translates to "trees in a tray," but prior to being transplanted into tiny, shallow pots, Bonsai are trained in larger pots or in the ground. That's where we throw the switch and diverge on a different track from the purists. Our pots are merely sunk in the ground for display, then lifted out to prune, re-pot or even exchanged for a more suitable species. I like gallon cans for this reason. Or the surrounding adobe subsoil can act as a type of container, unless the plant is invasive.

For the past year and a half, once a month, I've been lifting a couple of my misshapen trees out of the garden railway and toting them to Bonsai club where the little guys benefit from the individualized attention of a master.

Our sansei (teacher) is "K" Akabane, a nurseryman as well. After a brief, seasonal lecture, Mr. Akabane makes the rounds from plant to plant discussing the full scale habit of each species, thus teaching us novices how to get a vision of the miniature—always based on the real thing in nature.

Wielding his double-edged pruners to reduce plant tissue damage, Mr. Akabane demonstrates where and how to prune the tree in order to create or restore a classic shape to the trunk and main branches, in particular. This Good Beginning is the key to Bonsai...and to realism down the road. I'm just beginning to see the results in my own stock.

The rules governing traditional styles are my guidelines when I first start sizing up each tree. I get to help create the personality which is innate to each species. This begins to get a bit philosophical and that's a good story, too, but in this article I'd like to inform you about our upcoming show. If your plants are taking over and hiding the features of your trains and structures, then train those plants!

Come see how.

On Saturday, October 9 and 10, 10AM—5PM and Sunday 10AM—4PM, you are invited free of charge to Diablo Bonsai Club's 17th Annual Bonsai Exposition. Door Prizes! Plant Sales! Raffles! Demonstrations both days by Mr. Akabane are at 1PM.

BAGRS will be represented in an educational exhibit showing stages of Bonsai in a 6ft. by 8ft. tabletop garden railway. A Japanese garden including structures and pond nestled in a mountainous terrain will be surrounded by a loop of track carrying the G-scale train. Sure, you've seen some fabulous garden railways, but I'm pretty sure you'll be impressed with many of our members' trees, which will remind you of that Tahoe vacation or seaside picnic as you gaze into their branches.

If you cannot make it to this show, but are interested in a show or club nearer home, give me a call. I have a long list. Call Nancy at 925-284-8789.

Directions: From San Francisco take the Bay Bridge to Rt. 24 East to Walnut Creek then South on Rt. 680. From the South Bay get over to Rt. 680 North.

In Danville go West on Diablo Rd. Take the first left onto Front St. and continue just past the library to 420 Front St., both on the left. The show is at the Danville Community Center, a beautiful space. While in town enjoy Danville's famous small-town, main street atmosphere and restaurants.

Calendar of Events

October 17
BAGRS Layout Tours
Jo & Al Bernard
Loran Courpet
Mitchell & Carrol Gooze
Paul & Renee Jacobs

November 21
BAGRS Layout Tours
Jose Picazo
David Towle
Richard & Louise Wright

November 27 & 28
BAGRS Short Line—GATS
Pleasanton Fair Grounds

December 4 & 5
BAGRS Short Line (Work Party)
Pleasant Hill Education Center

December 5
BAGRS Annual Christmas—Tour #1

December 7
Board Meeting—5 PM
Sherman Zell's office/San Jose

December 12
BAGRS Annual Christmas—Tour #2

2000—Calendar of Events

January 7-9 BAGRS/Bay Area
2000 BAGRS Annual Meeting
Crown Plaza—Foster City

January 29-30
BAGRS Short Line
GATS—Cow Palace

March
BAGRS Short Line
Livermore Veterans Hospital

April
BAGRS Short Line
Great Mall

May
BAGRS Short Line
Talbot's Salute to G Scale III

June
BAGRS Short Line
GAT—San Mateo
BAGRS Short LIne
Father's Day at Roaring Camp

Hot Construction Site

by Marc Grzan

I just wanted to pass along that last week I had the privilege to see one of the most amazing garden layouts ever, and it was still under construction!

Jeffery and **Donna Pearson** in Morgan Hill are constructing a mountainous layout that drops and climbs about 30 feet or more in a relatively short distance (4% grade in some spots) through tunnels, twists and carved landscape. From the bottom of the layout, one looks upward to visualize the precarious sights of a pounding steam locomotive, hanging off a cliff's edge! Using natural rocks of color and quartz, Jeffery and Donna have designed a spectacular waterfall that is sure to please the eyes and soothe the mind. To Jeffery and Donna credit, I believe they are using traditional methods in their construction, which includes dynamite and Chinese laborers (just kidding!).

Inspired by the Alaskan White Pass & Yukon Railroad, Jeffery and Donna are building one of the most spectacular layouts I have ever seen. Ask Jeffery how a big boulder hooked to a tractor broke a chain link, slid down the mountain-side, through a chain-linked fence and onto a road below! (No injuries or damage). I am hoping to have this layout as part of next year's Morgan Hill Railroad Days, (which by the way includes annexed portions of San Jose, Gilroy and other areas. If you think you might have been annexed, you were!).

Spectacular Event

On another note, **Bruce** and **Sheila Walton** just returned from Durango, having attended the LGB Model Railroad Club Convention. Bruce shared that his train ride on the Durango and Silverton RR included double headed K-28's!! (0h my, what a sight that would have been. I knew I should have gone!). Of course Bruce pounded on the powers that be at LGB for more American locomotive and running stock. Thanks Bruce. Hope to see a plastic/mental K28 in the future from LGB.

BAGRS Short Line—Schedule 1999

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

Short Line Module Coordinator

Bruce Jahn—925•455•9409 or bjahn@home.com

BAGRS BOARD

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

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Board Members

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Membership Committee

Chairperson—Irene Zajac (541) 779-3420

Area (408)	Areas (510 & 925)	Area (650)
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Hospitality Committee

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

Scheduling Coordinator

Ken Martin—(510) 727-9296

Club Historian

Chuck Sanfilippo—(408) 736-4541

BAGRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Schedule

Meetings start @ 7 PM

1st Tuesday
every other month

December 7, 1999
February 2, 2000
April 4, 2000
June 6, 2000
October 3, 2000

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)	
		(XXXL)	
	Youth Sizes	(S, M, L)	
Caps	Mesh (Adjustable)		
Caps	Poplin (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
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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Submissions are due by the 10th 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

October 1999	
17—Layout Tour	Jo & Al Bernard—20 Tripp Ct Woodside—650•851•2357
17—Layout Tour	Loran Courpet—1083 Grape Ave Sunnyvale—408•733•1110
17—Layout Tour	Mitchell & Carol Gooze—1296 Albion Ct Sunnyvale—408•736•0270
17—Layout Tour	Paul & Renee Jacobs—13093 Pierce Rd Saratoga—408•867•4043
November 1999	
21—Layout Tour	Jose Picazo—115 Harwood Ct Los Gatos—408•356•7300
21—Layout Tour	David Towle—103 Paseo Laura Los Gatos—408•356•1223
21—Layout Tour	Richard & Louis Wright—1636 Fairorchard Ave San Jose—408•264•1658
[illegible]8—BAGRS Short Line	Great American Train Show Pleasanton Fair Grounds

hangi**ut Tour hours are Noon until 4 PM, Unless Otherwise Noted •**
natu**lease respect these hours for the benefit of our hosts.**
Jeff
a

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Joseph & Irene Zajac—Editors
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