

Minutes of B.A.G.R.S. Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday June 4, 2008

Carl's Jr. Restaurant

1220 Oakmead Pky.

Sunnyvale, CA

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm

Board Members present: Don, Jack, Russ, Tom and Chip. Board Members Absent were Bonnie and Bruce.

Also present were 8 BAGRS Members.

Minutes from the April 8th meeting read by Russ Miller

President's Report: Don told how surprised he was to be elected President at the last Board Meeting. He has reviewed our Expenses for the last 3 years. Times have changed and the Club has not changed with them. Please [Read this Letter](#) from Don Watter's that was sent to Board Members for the entire report.

Jack stated we cannot go on like we are now. We must get out of the Shortline Business. We should liquidate it or figure out a way to turn it over to the operators.

Chip says that Clubs are supposed to be Fun. Most of the clubs he has checked into are way down in membership. We have to improve our value to our members. Not enough people show up to maintain the Shortline. Only 6 made it to the last work session. We are not getting new members from the Shortline. People ask "Where is the Garden?"

Tom states that Modular Railroading is different than Garden Railroading. We must be a better club to our Garden Railroaders. We should support our Shortline members somehow. If the Shortline is separate, they cannot carry the BAGRS name. Modular groups are very popular in the Midwest and they are separate from the Garden Railway Clubs. There is NO problem with the Steam Group this year. They are not the *Burning* issue this year. Main attraction of Live Steam is the Steam, lower maintenance.

Russ noted that separate main modular members that normally attend Board meetings, Steve Russell, Harlan Barr and Bruce Jahn, are not present at this meeting. Russ was Informed that Don and Chip had met with Bruce at the work party the previous Saturday,

May 31st. They have not been able to contact Steve as he has not returned emails or phone calls.

A motion was placed by Jack that the BAGRS get out of the Shortline Business and proposes that the Shortline Members take it over. Don Watters will negotiate the deal that is to be completed within 30 days. All board members present were in favor of the motion. The motion passed at 7:49 pm with none opposed.

Treasurer's Report: Chip started his report with a quick review of the latest website happenings. We've had over 700 unique viewers last month of the BAGRS.org website. People from all over the world view the website. The Photo Gallery is by far the most visited page on the website. We have a new way to track the emailed PDF of the *Trellis & Trestle* thanks to Frank Lucas. Spent \$15 this month for this tracking. Before the meeting, we had a cash balance of \$9816.02. A few more expenses were paid out at the meeting. Most none have been paid out for the year. Chip is looking at an Insurance Cooperative for Nonprofits to help us with insurance. We spent \$6400 for the Baggage Car back in July 2007, we've sold \$1620 worth. Chip has also been checking demographics of the people who sign in when they visit our Open Houses. He noted that with a few exceptions, most of the visitors were from the local area. Tom noted that about 70 people on average attended the Open Houses in May. Gary Whaley wanted to know if there is some way we could do a Ride Sharing program through our website. Chip noted that our CD's are coming up this month and the best rate we can get, 2.4%, is HALF of what we are getting now.

Vice President's Report: Jack has been checking into Outreach Opportunities. Announced that Richard Murray will be our New Member "Greeter". He should be notified immediately when we get new members.

We will be setting up a small display at the International Terminal in San Francisco. It will be up about 4 months, roughly Nov. thru Feb. The Conservatory in SF wants us to set up a SF themed display in the Left Wing to be open from Oct. thru March. We need volunteers - contact BAGRS members that live in or near San Francisco. Lots of potential.

We will be hosting the West Coast Regional Meet in 2013. The NGRC is in Cincinnati that year. It will be more than last time with Clinics, Model Contest, etc. Board agrees to this plan.

Jack proposes that we do a Real Garden layout on a trailer as outreach. Should be low maintenance. Jack to present this idea at the next board meeting.

Scheduling Report: Tom stated that the June Open Houses will be on Father's Day, with 3 layouts open and clinics going on at Chip's open house. On August 9th, Railroad Days will be held in the Morgan Hill / Gilroy area. The Mega Weekend looks like it will have 5 or 6 layouts open each day. Since registration is so low at this time, only 15 people, Tom will not be asking the Billy Jones Railroad to extend their hours. Tom had a good response to his "Rapid Dispatch" email reminder, even though he shouldn't have done it. Registration will be extended for Online Only until July 13th. Would like Mega Weekend on the Front Page of the T&T for July.

2009 Annual Meeting: Ken Martin said that we have the third weekend in February at the same price we paid this year. They will allow us to use the Restaurant for the meeting. We will try and break even next year. Might try to set up a Sunday excursion in Niles Canyon, maybe get Henry Luna as speaker. Trying to get a sponsor for the banquet.

Newsletter: Russ wants people to email items to Jenifer that they want to put in the newsletter. We are trying for variety in the newsletter articles and photos. Ken really liked the last newsletter.

Shortline Report: None, Steve Russell absent.

Live Steamer's Report: None, Harlan Barr absent. Gary said they had to cancel out of a small event because Harlan was sick.

Old Business: Ken pointed out that many of our printed brochures were out of date and contained the old membership dues. Russ noted that the Club's Bylaws and the Board Meeting Minutes are now available on the BAGRS.org Website. Ken would like to see our members speak at other club's functions about Garden Railroading. We must figure out a way to attract new, young members if the Shortline isn't out there.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm

Next Meeting will be Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 7 pm.