

## **BAGRS Board Meeting 10/10/2011**

7:01 p.m. meeting called to order via webcast

### **Board members and guests present:**

- Ray Turner, Chip Gierhart, Richard Murray, Russ Miller, Bob Evans, Steve Smith  
Nancy Norris Don Watters and Bill Allen

**Secretary Report** - Reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes were approved, with a one correction, as emailed before the meeting. The corrected minutes are attached

**Treasurer Report** – Chip reported a balance of \$6479.77 in the bank and that the funds have been transferred from Bank of the West to Luther Burbank Savings where we will be getting one percent more return.

**Vice-President Report** – Bob reported that he has contacted Hiller to see if we can run the live steam engines inside if we don't run the coal fired units. Our contact needs to check with the board and we haven't heard back from them yet.

**Open House Report** – Ray reported:

For this year we've got the East Bay tours next Sunday (which I will miss as I'm in Seattle).

We have tours scheduled for Nov. 13 in the South County. But, especially in view of the weather we are having, I don't know if this will be workable.

For 2012, in addition to a complement of tours, I'd like to try to get more clinics/workshops going in the districts. That was one of the chief "wants" from our survey of members last year. I think a couple more social events would be good too. In particular, I can host a swimming party next summer here which should be an attractive family event (while running trains, of course). I wonder if we can think of something to do indoors when the weather is poor, uncertain, like April & November ???

**Newsletter** – Nancy mentioned the Maine newsletter and Chip brought it up on our screen to view. It is very professionally done and she was wondering why we can't do something similar. It was the consensus that they must have someone who has a lot of time to devote to this and that they must be subsidizing the letter as their dues wouldn't cover the cost of such a publication. Russ acknowledged what a huge task it is for Steve to put it together online and that it would be much harder to do it in an 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 format. In addition to that, the postage costs would be very high.

**Outreach Trailer**– Nancy reported

## **Venues**

**Past-** May 15, 2011, District Open House at Nancy's, Pleasant Hill

July 14, 2011, in front of Kermit Paul's for West Coast Regional Meet

July 2011 NMRA showing was cancelled due to lack of security and help.

September 17, 2011, Los Altos Museum cancelled last minute, due to space restrictions on their part. A sausage vendor took our place, I'm told.

October 2, 2011, Just Trains Annual Meet, Concord

**Future-**November 18, 2011, Montara Elementary School, organized by a teacher, Linda Herbert (BAGRS member saw the trailer at the Aviation Museum). The younger grades are reading *The Boxcar Children* in readiness.

February 11, 2012, BAGRS Annual Meeting at the Aviation Museum

## **Costs**

My sister sewed skirts to go around the trailer. Since the June show, we made skirts for the rear and spent \$34.76 on outdoor shade cloth.

Current total cost of construction: \$8430.

## **Member Involvement**

No new blood, although I've heard rumblings of new members' interest.

My husband, Ron, is learning how to set up the trailer.

Terry Hurley, escorted by Edward VanPelt, and Joe Barker continue to be the best help. Also Eric Moe came by and fixed a broken reversing unit.

We handed out BAGRS postcards at all the venues and need more.

In response to my articles in T&T, there has been no response. From anyone.

We are not meeting regularly to work on the trailer due to my workload.

## **Construction Progress**

We need metal work done and Seth Abrahams has gone back to work so he's not as available as he was. Setting up the trailer takes 3 hours because of funky bridge connections. One side still has painted plywood in need of scenery. The battery didn't hold

a charge for the length of the day at our last venue. Maybe it will need replacing soon. I'd like to get a solar panel to charge the battery, but it's expensive, maybe not as expensive as a new battery, but batteries have a 3-year life.

## **Plans**

I plan to take the LSOL offer to post 50 photos on their site of the RGR. I have a video of the trailer, but it will need lots of editing to be informative and entertaining. I intend to get more footage at the November 18th venue. You-tube will probably post it. Maintenance continues on the trailer. The garden is doing well. Right now I'm working on an era-appropriate, newspaper-like handout with BAGRS info as well as trailer info. It will also have a scavenger hunt for kids. As always, I welcome help as I've never used a column-creating program for newspapers.

**Live Steam Report** – Richard reported steamups at Ardenwood, Los Altos and Just Trains. There was also a twilight steamup at the Murrays with a wonderful sit-down dinner for 23 hosted by Melinda. Contrary to the weatherman's predictions, it was somewhat windy before dinner but then the wind died down and people were steaming past 9:00 pm.

**Membership report** – Frank was not present but we believe we have picked up two new members.

**Old Business** – The topic of reimbursing members \$50 for hosting a social event during the Open House Tours was brought up and a motion was made seconded and approved to offer this to one house per tour and for the District Superintendent to work out the details.

**New Business** – Bob reported that we haven't found a speaker for the Annual Meeting yet. There are a couple of options we are looking into. One of our members has offered their house as a place to stay for a potential out-of-state speaker. We will also have a questioner or signup sheet and a list at the meeting for future workshops