

BAGRS Board Meeting 12/12/2011

7:06 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, Frank Lucas, Jim Anthony, Nancy Norris Don Watters and Bill Allen

Secretary Report - Reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes were approved, with the addition that Nancy Norris had elected not to run for a Board position next year

Treasurer Report – Chip reported a balance of \$5444. \$800 was spent on brake repairs to the Steamer’s trailer and all outstanding bills have been paid (insurance etc.)

Open House Report – Ray reported:

1) Should we schedule an open house tour in November?

We discussed whether to have open houses in November due to weather. The consensus was that we need to do *something* in April and November or otherwise there would be too many months w/o activity in the winter. It was suggested to have district “get-togethers” of some sort. This would not *require* an RR open house, but could be a pot luck, or other activity allowing each district to plan for their members’ interests and meet among themselves, which is normally hard to do with open houses. Ray will run this by the District Superintendents at the next meeting.

2) Mega weekend June 9-10 in North Bay and North peninsula. Possible picnic at Train Town.

There was concern about the distance to Train Town for the North Peninsula people. MapQuest says it is 57 minutes from Richard’s house with no traffic.

3) Possible Roaring Camp or Swanton Pacific inclusion with Santa Cruz open houses in July.

The board thought that this would be a good idea

4) Possible inclusion of Accucraft or CMP tour/visit with open houses in Sept. (Tri-Valley)

The board thought that this would be a good idea

5) Possible inclusion of Tilden Park live steamers with open houses in April (East Bay)

We have several friends and steamers who are connected to the Golden Gate Live Steamers. We will reach out to them to see if this can be done.

6) Three areas (South of bay, Peninsula, East of bay) with events/workshops/discussions/?? every 2-3 months

Each area has a BAGRS “Event Planner” and their job is planning a workshop or get together every 2-4 months. The event is whatever is of interest to members in your area. Workshops on a variety of topics are usually of great interest. We have a list of topics with willing presenters to assist you. Sometimes people just want to get together over a beer and chips and talk about trains. It’s an opportunity to ask questions of other members and share experiences with each other. Maybe the group would like to go to Niles Canyon RR or Roaring Camp RR together.

Meetings could be at a member’s house (always nice for running trains), the local pizza parlor, a park (in summer), or ??? A little write up afterwards (maybe with photos) for the T&T would encourage others to attend. **The main idea is to have fun together and be helpful to one another.** Also, it keeps the club spirit up during the cold, rainy months when we don’t have open houses.

San Jose is already doing something similar. Ray thought it would be good to expand on it. The board agreed.

Vice-President Report - Bob reported:

The Meeting will be on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the Hiller Aviation Museum again. Set up starts at 8:00 and we need to be out by 4:00. The museum is giving us the same deal as last year--\$13.00/head for 100 guests. Last year they did not charge us for guests over 100, and I assume that will be the case this year.

I think we should charge a registration fee of \$20.00 per person this year, same as last year. I'm going to use the same lunch caterer, and ask Norma to enlist some help and bake some items for breakfast, make coffee etc.

Guest speaker--Richard Lukin, film maker, who will speak on Passenger Trains in America. We are paying his airfare to and from Denver (around \$250), and member Jim Fryers is hosting him.

Clinic ideas: I want to encourage new members to come and to build railroads, so I'm thinking about having a clinic on how to build your first garden railroad.

I think a lot of members are interested in but intimidated by live steam, so I'd like one of the steamers to do a clinic on how to get started in live steam. Richard Murray will get a presenter.

Last year, we had three one hour clinics. We could go with the above two clinics for one and one-half hours, so the presenters can go over the topics thoroughly. If one and one-half hours seems like too much time, then I will find someone to give a third clinic on a more advanced topic--perhaps Chip can do one on DCC in the garden.

[The board agreed to make the seminars 1-1/2 hours each]

I plan to change the way the door prizes were handed out in two ways: (1) I will have bags in front of each prize so that people can select the prizes they want to try for; and (2) I will give away prizes every hour and post the winners on a board. Any prizes unclaimed at the end of the day will be re-distributed to those present.

The model and photo contest will not change.

I plan to limit the number of tables for the swap meet so that it doesn't get too crowded. I thought we had too many tables last year.

Nancy was against reducing the number of tables. Bob stated that there was just not enough room. Last year he had to put one table outside which worked because the weather was ok.

The live steamers will have to be outside in the back this year unless the weather is inclement. If it is, then they can be inside but only if they use fuels that don't generate an unpleasant odor--i.e. no coal or alcohol indoors. Richard stressed the need to be inside. Even if it doesn't rain, the cold and the wind could present problems with the equipment and would reduce the amount of observers.

As usual, I can use everyone's help. Let me know if I have missed anything.

Newsletter – Nothing to report except to keep the articles and pictures coming

Outreach Trailer – Nancy reported that the trailer is “hanging in there”.

It seems to be a lot of work setting it up and it is hard to get volunteers to help out. It was shown at Just Trains. the San Leandro Historical Railway Society's annual holiday open house and Montara School. Just Trains was a hassle setting it up but Montara and San Leandro went well

There seems to be a brake fluid leak but the brakes still work. Nancy will have this looked in to.

Live Steam Report – Richard reported that there hadn't been any BAGRS steamups but Mark Scrivener held his annual Christmas Steamup December 10th which was attended by many BAGRS members.

Again Richard stressed the value of being inside for the annual meeting and noted the number of new members the steamers bring in.

Membership report – Frank reported:

Here are the numbers as of 12:11:34 PM, Saturday, December 10, 2011. I will also issue an updated final end of year report in January. Member Families (votes) as of:

12/31/2009.....281

12/31/2010.....292

12/10/2011.....281

In 2011, we again lost some, but we also gained some.....32 new families. The sources of these new members were:

Live Appearances (Open Houses, conventions, SFCOF, Hiller, Steamups).....16

Direct contact with specific, named members.....9

Internet (Our Website, Google searches, Craig’s List, Garden RR Magazine).....7

And as of today, we have 41 members so far for 2012.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Bob reported:

Under new business, I'd like to suggest that all of the officers who are termed out write up the duties of the office with any helpful tidbits so that the new officers will have some sense of what to do. I was clueless when I took on the annual meeting, but now feel that I could provide a one or two page how to memo for my successor

Adjourned at 8:40 pm