

BAGRS Board Meeting 8/22/2011

7:11 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 and Bill Allen
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Secretary Report - Reading of the minutes was waived. Minutes were approved as printed and passed out before the meeting

Treasurer Report – Chip reported that we broke even on the Regional meet. Banks are getting hard to do business with. Chip said we could get a good return on CDs from Luther Burbank S&L but they have no debit card. Other banks offer Debit Cards and services but pay only 0.1% to 0.2% on our investment. A motion was made and passed to move the majority of our funds to CDs in LBS&L and maintain a small deposit in a full service bank.

Vice-President Report – The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 11 at the Hiller Aviation Museum again. The one hitch this year is that the Museum was concerned about the smell of butane from the Steamers' layout being inside. The Steamers will have to be outside this time, which is ok if it doesn't rain but a problem if it does. The Museum asked if we could schedule the meeting for May, but I explained that we like to have meetings in the winter months because the good weather months are reserved for open house activities.

Bill brought up that the smell comes from the coal fired trains and to a lesser extent from the alcohol fired ones. He suggested we approach the Museum with the idea of limiting the use to butane fired trains only to see if we can keep it inside.

I have received some speaker suggestions and will be contacting the individuals suggested. Bob is also looking for some interesting clinic topics and presenters.

Open House Report – Ray reported:

I think we should begin a discussion on additional activities. Looking back at the marketing work Johannes did last year, I see the clinics/classes was highly desired by members and also social events. We've done some clinics and some socials over the past 2 years. Since we aren't hosting a Regional Meet next year, we can get back to a more normal schedule. I think we should discuss the area of clinics and socials and see what we think would be welcome by the members. For clinics in particular we should think about presenters and subjects. I've attached the clinic resource list and you can see we need to beef it up in subjects and presenters. I think a series aimed at "building your first garden RR" or something similar would be helpful

The idea of having the club pay for socials was discussed. Russ suggested having a sponsored breakfast or lunch at one of the tour sites where people can get together and meet more of the members than they normally would on a tour.

West Coast Regional Meet – Russ reported that the comments he received were very positive. People were amazed at some of our layouts. The turnout for the social and train ride was less than expected but we were able to break even on the total expense. The \$25 per car worked out well and where almost all of the registrants listed four or five people per car, the actual was closer to two per car.

News Letter – Steve stated that he will add instructions for printing pages from the newsletter as some people are having trouble doing this. Chip noted that there are less clicks on the site since we have gone to the new format.

Outreach Trailer – June 12, 2011 Trailer report

Nancy was not present but will send a report via email

A discussion was held regarding the lack of volunteers to transport and display the trailer at events. Chip asked each board member to reach out to five other BAGRS members to get an idea if this is something that is beneficial to the club and if they would be interested in working with Nancy on the display aspect of the trailer.

Live Steam Report – Richard reported a small turnout for the Regional Meet. The next showings of the steam track will be Ardenwood, Los Altos, and Just Trains

Membership report – Frank reported:

We are now at 272 member families. (I always say “families” because, in the past, some people quoted total members, including the family dog.)

One newbie was from our Hiller Museum gig; and another from our 2006 (!)convention; and a past member who just missed being with us. Also, we gained new members as a direct result of members Pauline Verducci, Colin Camarillo, and Mike Collins. (Thanks, guys.)

In addition **137** people have subscribed to our public events announcements!

Old Business – Russ reported on the Regional Meet as mentioned above.

New Business – Ray reported on the Board and Officer positions:

Chip and I have had some preliminary discussions but it's too early to identify specific candidates for the open Board and officer positions. We understand that as far as officers are concerned, the President, Vice President and Treasurer positions will be open due to term limits. Am I missing anyone? In terms of directors, we're not sure if anyone will have reached the six year limit by the annual meeting? If so, please let us know at the meeting. Also, if any of you would prefer to step off the Board despite not having been termed out, please let one of us know that too.

No one volunteered for open positions and no one declined the Board for next year

Tentative schedule for the next meetings:

October 10 – 7:00 pm

December 12 – 7:00 pm

Adjourned at 8:25 pm

BAGRS Workshop Resource List

Workshop topic	Presenters	Stand-alone meeting	At open house
Taking videos of Garden Railroads	Ray Turner	X	
Plastics & glues for outdoor use (at TAP)	Russ Miller	X	
Building signage (at TAP)	Russ Miller	X	
Operations	Ray Turner	X	
Weathering	Dave Hartwig	X	X
Creating details for your RR	Dave Hartwig	X	X
Trackwork, soldering track, railclamps, etc.	Russ Miller		X
Lubrication, train tune-up	?		
Using the Internet for railroading	?		
Choosing plants	Nancy Norris	X	X
Pruning	Nancy Norris	X	X
Watering systems	?		
How to host an open house	Ray Turner	X	
Building wood trestles		X	
Building a stone bridge	Richard Murray		
Radio control, battery power	Ray Turner, Rich Johnson	X	X
Casting concrete structures	Ray Turner	X	X

Concrete rockwork	Ray Turner	X	X
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