

BAGRS Board Meeting 10/21/2012

4:30 P.M. - meeting called to order

Board members and guests present:

- Chip Gierhart, Richard Murray, Bob Evans, Ray Turner, Don Watters, Nancy Norris, Dennis Mack, Russ Miller, Mike Paterson, Jim Anthony and Bill Allen

Secretary Report – Minutes from the 8/1/2012 board meeting were sent out to board members prior to the meeting. Reading of the minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as sent out.

Steamers Report – Richard reported that the BAGRS track was set up at Los Altos and Just trains.

Some of the steamers have noted that the layout is starting to show it's age. The wood sections are swaying in the middle and the section joints are not conducive to running larger trains (GS-4, Cab Forward etc.).

Chip asked for a price estimate for replacing the layout. Bill and Richard will look in to it.

Treasurer Report – Bob sent out a report via email which indicated no major changes to the general fund

Social Networking Site – Jim and Chip are looking at different scenarios which may work. Chip is also looking at going in with other clubs to split the cost of a more expensive and user friendly program than our current one

Newsletter – Steve was out of the country.

The Board discussed the need to find a replacement for Steve for 2013. We are still looking

Membership report – Frank reported that the membership is now up to 267 families with a couple of new members in the last few weeks

Open House Report – Ray reported that there were eight homes open on October 21. The Golden Gate district didn't hold an open house this year so they get first pick for next year and they have decided on hosting in May.

The subject of signage was brought up and it seems that many members save their signs and use them over again. The current process is to have the District Superintendent go around and pass out the signs prior to the open house which can be problematic in a large district. The details will need to be worked out but this coming year, we will have the signage available at the annual meeting for those hosting in 2013

Roving Railroad/Outreach – Nancy reported Roving Railroad was a hit at the Just Trains outing and that she has a volunteer to haul the trailer to the annual meeting. She asked for volunteers for future events and Chip asked each person present to call one member and ask if they would be able to help.

NOTE TO NANCY...CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME INFORMATION ON WHAT IS NECESSARY ON THE VOLUNTEER'S PART (CAR WITH HITCH, BALL SIZE, ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS, TRAILER WEIGHT, etc.)

Outreach

In the last issue of Garden Railways magazine in the letters column, Rod Eaton, a gentleman from Minnesota talked about his way of advertising his own little layout, which is open to the public, in addition to advertising all the local train related activities. I've taken his idea and adapted it to the Bay Area/northern California.

Attached are three documents that show 1) a pdf of the original MN TRAKS brochure, 2) a mockup of one for our area, and 3) a letter to be agreed upon and sent to prospective TRAKS advertisers. I just listed train activities as they came to the top of my head and may have omitted one or two by mistake. Only those organizations that wish to contribute and take copies will be listed on the brochure, so the list may be small enough to print on one side, making the cost less. The TRAKS name is arbitrary, but convenient, and may become a nationwide name. Mr. Eaton has given me a pdf of the letterhead to use freely.

The brochures can be put anywhere there are trains or museums. I've already asked a local museum if they would take some copies and they were more than happy to have us put them in their lobby. Amtrak would probably say yes, too. I'm thinking that this would be a good way to start advertising for the 2016 NGRC, too, as we could "buy" a spot on the 2015 and 2016 brochure for the convention.

The Board approved going forward on this initiative

President's Report- Chip reported The apparel sales have dropped way off since we went on line and that we need to do something to revitalize it. A couple of ideas put forth were to give out extra raffle tickets to members wearing BAGRS apparel at the annual meeting and to send a note out to this effect in time for members to order gear. We could also have a display of all of the items available at the meeting.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Adjourned at 6:02 PM

