



# Bay Area Garden Railway Society

Bay Area Garden Railway Society  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2015  
Ardenwood Historic Farm – Newark, CA

Present: Jim Goss; Frank Lucas; Mike Martin; Russ Miller; Richard Murray;  
Nancy Norris; Bill Ralph; Glen Simpson; Gary Whaley

The summer Board Meeting was called to order by BAGRS President, Russ Miller, at 10:30 am.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Jim Goss reported that \$10,000 was moved from the general fund held at Mechanic's Bank, to the 2016 NGRC Convention fund. An additional \$10,000 from the Luther Burbank Savings account was made available to pay BAGRS bills such as \$2,400 liability insurance, trailer expenses, etc. He reports there is \$22,564 in the checking account (which is free of any fees). Approximately \$120,000 remains in the Luther Burbank Savings account earning ~.5% interest. The BAGRS website host "Wild Apricot" has been paid in advance for 24 months at ~\$50 per month, representing a savings over a single year cost.

## **Outreach and PR Report**

Nancy Norris reported that the BAGRS' Roving Garden Railroad (RGR) has made three appearances already, with one or two additional dates scheduled for this calendar year. The railroad will be at the Just Trains parking lot event on October 4<sup>th</sup>. An upgrade of the electrical system on the railroad is underway. She confirmed that the RGR will be shown at the 2016 NGRC. She reported the plants are looking good and that the bridges need work, but are OK. Russ Miller offered funds from the 2016 NGRC to upgrade the trailer and display.

She purchased a Hartland Mine Train for running during exhibitions and has amassed a number of receipts over the past three and one half years for which she needs to be reimbursed. She has not totaled the receipts, but expressed concern that some in the group may not want to pay them. The Board approved funding the cost of maintenance and improvements. Nancy will present the receipts to Russ Miller during the event at Just Trains in October.

Nancy also expressed concern over the general lack of participation by the club in maintaining and operating the RGR and asked the Board to get the word out that she



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welcomes any assistance. The RGR will be shown at the 2016 San Francisco Flower and Garden show to be held at the San Mateo Events Center. The stated purpose is to show the public what Garden Railroading looks like. She has asked for assistance in posting this and other upcoming events on the BAGRS website, citing difficulties doing so after the updates that were done to the website. Russ has offered to help her post the dates.

## **Live Steamers Report**

Richard Murray reported “excellent turnouts” at live steam events during the year. He confirmed two more events for the year. The first is a two day event at the Los Altos History Museum on the weekend of 9/19/15. The last BAGRS steamup for the year will be the Just Trains event in Concord on 10/4/15. He said he hopes to have the track at the 2016 NGRC and confirmed there would be a prohibition against burning coal or alcohol at the event.

## **Vice President’s Report**

Glen Simpson reports the 2016 BAGRS Annual Meeting will be “very low key” and will include a clinic to instruct members on preparing their railroads for open houses in support of the 2016 NGRC. Other clinic topics are TBD, but will focus on the NGRC as well. In hopes of attracting larger crowd, there will be a swap meet at the Annual Convention. A need for swap meet security was identified.

## **Membership Report**

Frank Lucas provided the current member count at 287 individuals and reported a “tremendous retention rate”. This led to much discussion on ways to welcome and support new members to ensure they get a good start in the group. Gary Whaley suggested forming a welcoming committee. It was said that this is the job of the district supervisors. Nancy Norris suggested restoring the practice of giving out a packet of information and contacts to new members. Russ Miller countered that this has become redundant or unnecessary due to existence of the BAGRS newsletter, website, and the www in general.

## **Open House Report**

Russ Miller provided the report on behalf of Mike Paterson. In 2016, April and May tours will be held as warmup events for the open houses that will be part of the 2016 NGRC. Accordingly, no (non-convention) open houses are scheduled for June and July. August will see a repeat of the popular South County Railroad Days. Russ proposed we have a “thank you” picnic or barbeque for those that help with the convention. The Board agrees this would be appropriate, but no date has been set, nor has a location



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been identified. Suggested dates for holding the event range from late July to September. Ray Turner has expressed the want to cut off convention open house signups in October. The consensus of the Board is that more time should be given for signups so that the maximum number of railroads may be open.

A motion to close the Board Meeting was made by Richard Murray and seconded by Russ Miller at 11:00 am, at which time the meeting concluded.