



BAY AREA GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY  
**TRELLIS & TRESTLE**

SEPTEMBER 2022



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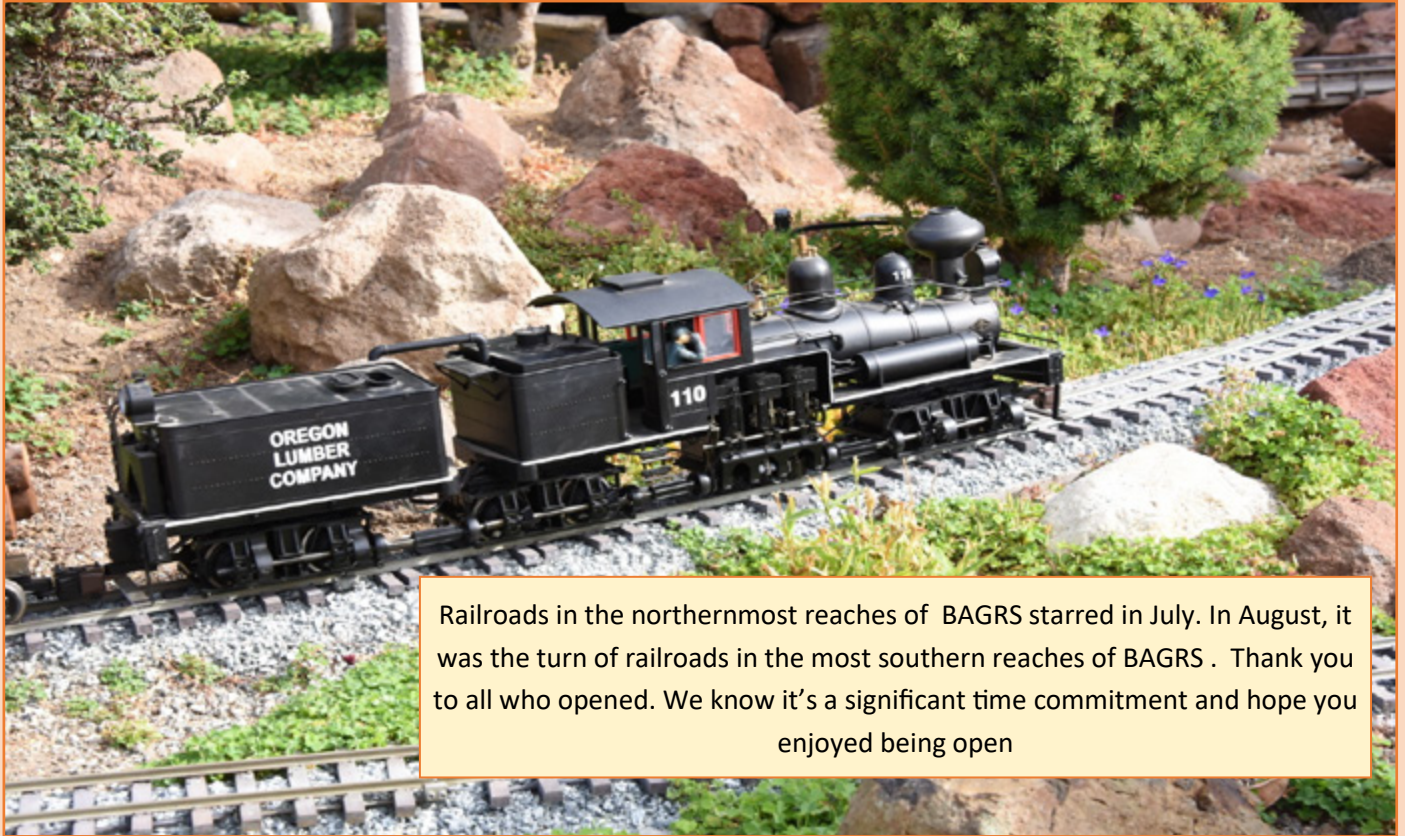
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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

By Mick Spilsbury



Liz and I hope to be departing for Europe when you read this. We are spending most of September visiting Kent and Cambridge in England with a week in Corsica in the middle of the trip. It's a complicated itinerary so will see how it goes in the face of airline issues & Covid. If all goes well, I hope to see some Kentish garden railroads.



Railroads in the northernmost reaches of BAGRS started in July. In August, it was the turn of railroads in the most southern reaches of BAGRS . Thank you to all who opened. We know it's a significant time commitment and hope you enjoyed being open

## A TALE OF NORTH & SOUTH

No, not another Ken Burn's documentary about the Civil War!

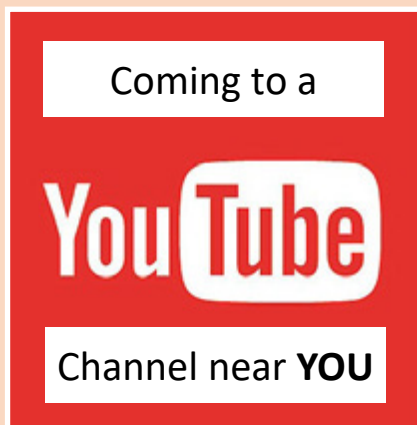
'**BAGRS World 2'**, our 2nd video slideshow, will feature railroads from the northern reaches and the southern reaches of BAGRS, and there are great railroads at both ends of the Bay Area.

We are investing time in these video slideshows to promote BAGRS and garden railroading on a third social media channel.

We will also use them to promote the 2023 National Convention while encouraging attendees to visit open railroads all over the Bay Area. We will also post videos.

That's why we will keep asking for excellent images/videos of your railroads,.

**It's also why we need someone/some people to take images of the East Bay open railroads this month.**





# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

Continued

And some other updates

## PAPER? REALLY?

Yes! To 'seize the moment' when someone sees a garden RR for the first time and asks how to get involved, we now have a paper 'Join Us' form.

Richard Murray has a supply to take to Steamer Events.

We are happy to share the form with any other members who could use them for events or to give to that friend who is not a fan of the internet.

## DIGITAL? REALLY?

Yep! Garden Railroading News Edition 4 of 2022 has been released.

Steamers should be pleased to see a lot of space devoted to the 'National Steam Up' in Lodi in July.

You can read/download it FREE at [www.grnews.org](http://www.grnews.org)



## COLORADO INSPIRATION



Loved this apparently burning building on the Hart Line in a village above Colorado Springs. I decided I had to have one with one major enhancement -SOUND!

I have 10 custom sounds around the Black Canyon Drinking Mining Railroad Company and thought that adding smoke and sound would be straightforward. Think again, Mick!

Timing power to the smoke generator and to the sound effects in a realistic way added complexity which I had not envisioned, but I am getting close!



## RANDOM NOTES IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

When Greg Hile gave up a promising career in major league baseball to pursue a life of creosote and whistles, little did he know how long it would take to fulfill his dream of being a garden railroad club newsletter editor. This past year he also took on the role of scheduling coordinator guy. Greg's a busy dude, and he cried when Vin Scully died, but

A couple of random notes here in no particular order:

1. You may have noticed a couple of changes to the layout here. Part of the reason for redesigning is to refresh things up a bit, but the biggest reason is to provide just a bit more room per page that will make the placement of graphics easier to accomplish. Let us know how you like it. It's a work in progress and we won't get our feelings hurt if you don't.

2. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18, 2023 for next year's Annual Meeting, to be held again at Hiller Aviation Museum.

3. So far, no one has contacted me regarding a desire to open on the October 23 phantom layout day. We will need to know by the end of September if you are interested so it can be published in the newsletter.

4. Don't forget the October 2 Diablo Valley Open House. Just Trains in Concord will be open, as will I. My open house will be quite different from what you would usually see, for at the present moment there is no layout to see! I am starting a completely new layout quite literally from the ground up. I am looking for suggestions, ideas, concepts, what-to-do, what-not-to-do -- that sort of thing -- and if I go with one of your ideas, you might very well find a part of the railroad named in your honor. Further details will be in the mid-month email to all members, but for now here is a photo of the existing site to get your thinking caps moving. The site will be the grassy area on the right.



5. To further make your day memorable and exciting, the BAGRS board of directors will meet in-person for its regular board meeting on October 2 at my home. Come on out and see your board in action.

What could be better than this lineup, but, in the meantime, I say let's play with trains.

...

# BAGRS 2022 LAYOUT TOUR SCHEDULE

Date	Status	District
Saturday, May 14	held as scheduled	Open House, Live Steamers, and Swap Meet at Accucraft in Union City
Saturday, June 4	held as scheduled	San Jose/Milpitas
Sunday, June 26	held as scheduled	North Peninsula and SF/Mid-Peninsula
July 16 and 17	held as scheduled	Golden Gate/REGRS (not all layouts will be open both days)
Saturday, August 20	held as scheduled	South Santa Clara and San Benito Counties
Sunday, August 21	held as scheduled	Santa Cruz and Monterey
September 18	confirmed	East Bay
September 25	confirmed	South Bay area (in conjunction with NMRA)
October 2	confirmed	Diablo Valley/Just Trains
October 23	confirmed date but subject to cancellation	Orphan Layouts (throughout the BAGRS region)

## NEWSLETTER SHARING

BAGRS has a policy of reciprocal sharing of newsletters with the following garden railway clubs. We do not share private member information such as home addresses or tour information without the express permission of the particular member.

[Central California Coast GRS](#)

[Redwood Empire GRS](#)

[Denver GRS](#)

[Rose City GRS](#)

[Gold Coast GRS](#)

[Sacramento Valley GRS](#)

[Orange County GRS](#)

[Santa Clarita Valley GRC](#)

[Puget Sound GRS](#)

[The Garden Whistle](#)

## WHERE IS IT?

I saw John LaBarba the other day on the August Open House tour of Santa Cruz and I joked that he always got the *Where Is It?* answer right.

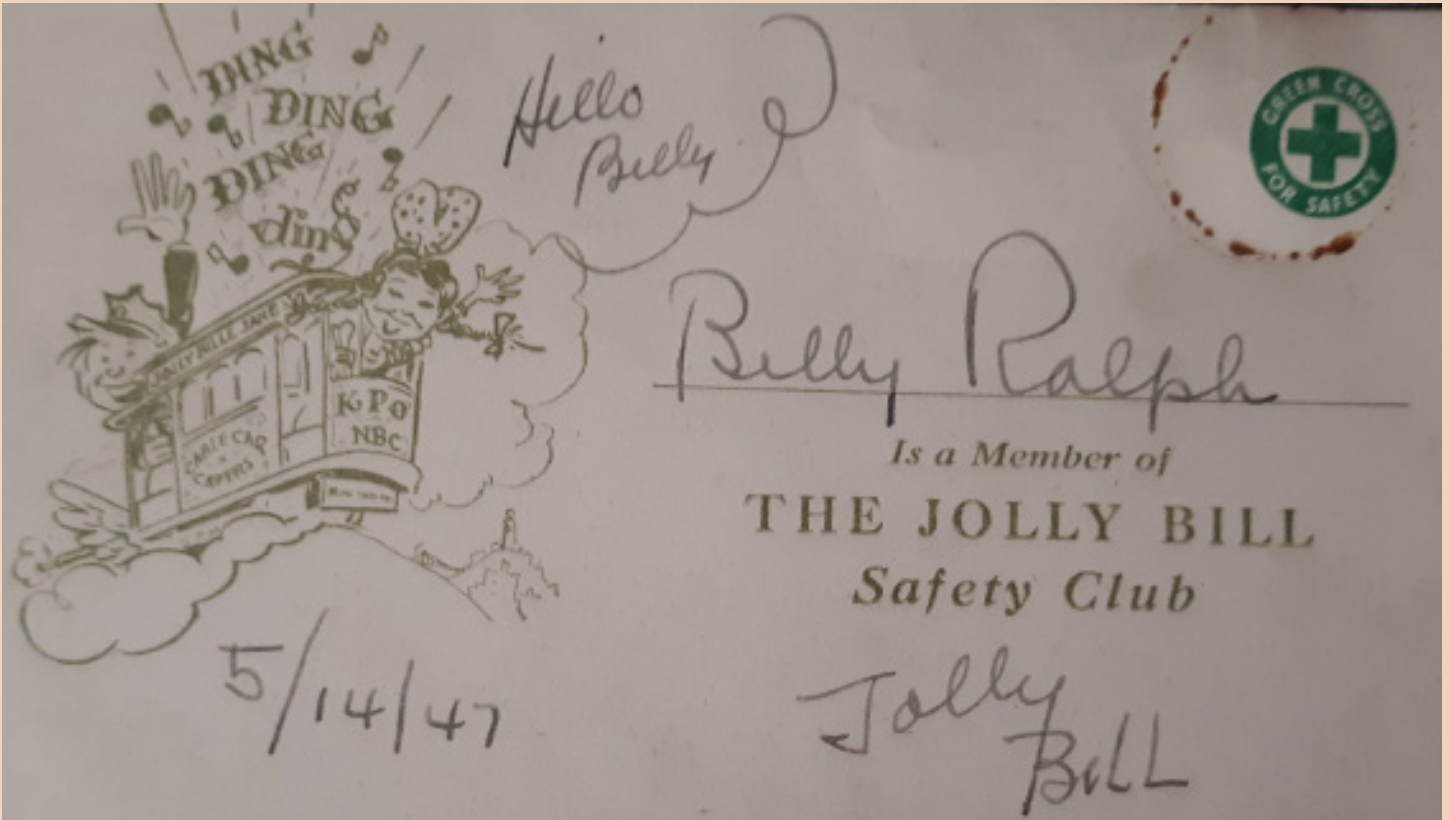
John politely demurred and said he didn't *always* get it -- and he is right, he doesn't always get it -- but he is pretty good at it, and this month was no exception.

Kudos to John LaBarba for correctly identifying the old San Bernardino Union Pacific station. I have been there twice but each time late at night so I haven't been able to visit the museum inside, but it looks pretty cool and worth a visit if you're down there.



This month is a little different question, and you have Ray Turner to thank. Here is a photograph of a refurbished Central Pacific fruit car in Pennsylvania engaging in a practice that began in the 1880s and continued on for more than half a century. Anyway, kudos and a mention in the next issue to the first to drop me a line at [newsletter@bagrs.org](mailto:newsletter@bagrs.org) and correctly identify not where this is, but what are the men up to.





# IMAGES FROM THE PAST

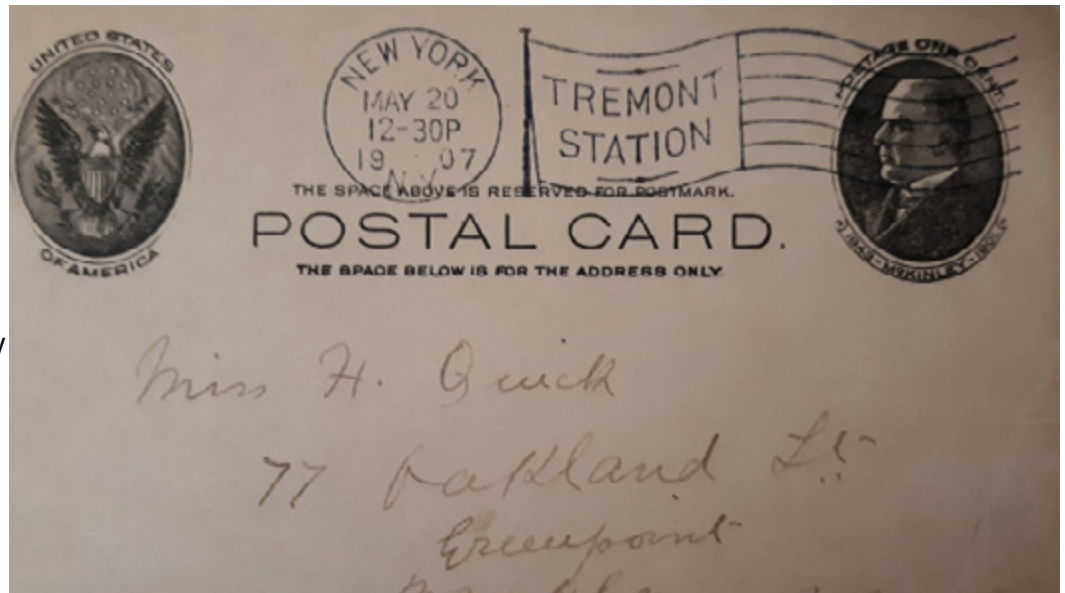
By Bill Ralph

The highly anticipated letter finally arrived announcing my official membership in the Jolly Bill Safety Club. Cartoonist and former vaudevillian Bill Steinke hosted Jolly Bill and Jane, a 15-minute daily radio program broadcast from the NBC affiliate station in San Francisco. In addition to telling brief entertaining stories, Bill and Jane would read the names of the attentive listeners celebrating birthdays that day and invite them on board the the Magic Cable Car. That letter received 75 years ago would mark the beginning of a lifelong interest of collecting fragile and fleeting images from the past.

## A Penny for Your Thoughts

Blank cards with preprinted postage were in use in the late 1800s, however the "Golden Age" of the picture postcard as an inexpensive and simple form of brief communication didn't take place until the early twentieth century.

After decades of wrangling between the Post Office Department and an increasing number of private postcard publishers, the issues of international standardized address, message and image placement had finally been resolved, and now millions of picture postcards were being printed and mailed, the Twitter of the day.



## It all started with a Mouse...Postcard

Collecting early Mickey Mouse merchandise and most anything Disney dates back to our first visit to "The Happiest Place on Earth" in November of 1955 and the realization that the park's wide range of nickel cards made colorful inexpensive souvenirs. Fully stocked postcard racks filled with images of the Magic Kingdom could be found in Tomorrowland at the Art Corner, in the Emporium on Main Street USA, and in shops throughout the park.



Annual visits to Knott's Berry Farm also yielded an array of images of Ghost Town's gold



rush era structures, colorful characters and the Calico and Ghost Town Railroad.

## Having a Great Time, Wish you were here!

Thumbing through stacks of old used postcards in antique stores, at flea markets, garage sales and at postcard shows (yes, there are postcard shows and serious collectors are called deltiologists) searching for Disney is great fun and can take hours looking for inexpensive cards skipped or missed by earlier seekers.

Postcards of historic Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks, railroads, and unusual roadside attractions soon also attracted my attention. The chance of getting a deal from an unsuspecting vendor is increasingly rare, however vintage collectible postcards can still be found for a buck or two.





Inexpensive appropriately themed recycled used picture postcards made great personalized "thank you" notes to publishing customers and prospects during my career in print sales and I continue to use old postcards for brief correspondence to family and friends. Many of the cards are often saved by recipients as "art pieces" with historical images, interesting original messages and old stamps and postmarks.





## Another Dimension

Memories of family camping vacations in the 1950's and a growing collection of Yosemite postcards led to an interest in expanding my ephemera collection to include old stereo cards picturing the original hotels and early visitors to the park. Viewing the fading images through a hand held vintage stereoscope brings the early history of Yosemite alive. Stereography dates back to the early 1800's and by the 1860's Mathew Brady was capturing three dimensional images of the aftermath of the Civil War. Viewing 3D images as home entertainment enjoyed several waves of popularity lasting until the 1930's.

## Research Library



About a thousand historical, travel, and humorous postcards, and six dozen vintage Yosemite stereo cards make up a portion of my "Reference Library" that also includes magazines, a wide range of ephemera, ninety years of Disneyana, my dad's railroad book collection and generations of family photos. Each an inspiration for a potential writing project for Postcards of the Past and Musings of a Theme Park Fan, Memorable Character vignettes, Notes from the Journey newsletter, or a family story to be passed along to future generations.



Collecting images from the past has been an eight-decade adventure that began with a Wondrous Ride on a Magic Cable Car.

-Bill Ralph

## MEMBER UPDATES

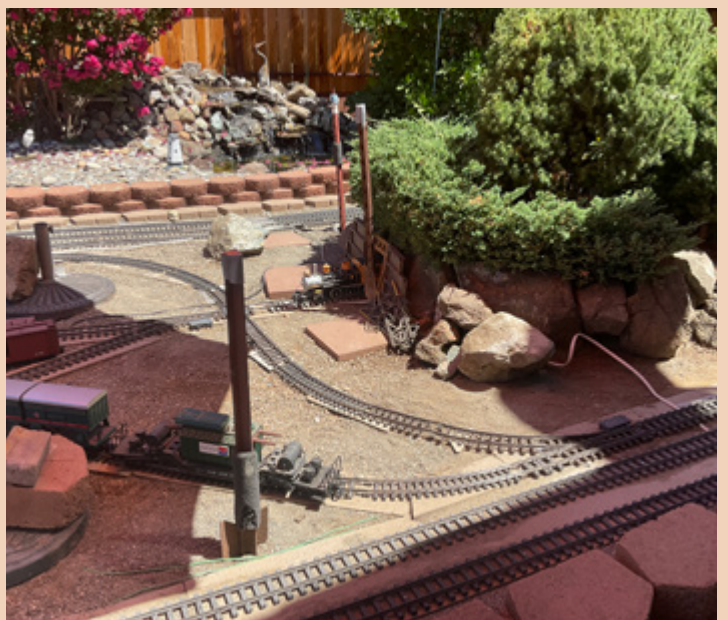
New member Phil Mindigo of Scotts Valley recently shared a photo of his indoor layout and would like to hear from other BAGRS members with indoor layouts, you have an indoor layout, are contemplating one, or just have an interest, let's talk I would be happy to facilitate coverage in T&T ...



If you have an interest in the history of Gilroy, **Nancy Schramm** has provided details about a video featuring seven Gilroy seniors sharing their stories of life in the area. One of the seniors was our own **Bob Elia**, who graciously opened his layout in the hot sun on August 20 (see photos elsewhere in this issue).

Thank you to Nancy for bringing this to our attention, and to Bob for his service to the Gilroy community. Copies of the video are available from the Gilroy Historical Society.











## A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

It all started at the 2022 Summer Steam Up. My good friends Bill Bivings and Rich Van Syle and I drove to Lodi for a day of steaming. We arrived at the steam up and it was great to see all our friends that we hadn't seen in over two years.

On to steaming; we were having a great time, we didn't bring a lot of trains to run, but Bill brought one of his latest purchases, a steam powered rail bus with a trailing passenger car. The rail bus and passenger were built out of wood and metal with the rail bus having a vertical boiler. We had a lot of fun running and we never had to wait for track time.

See photo # 1707 to see just what a great rail bus this really was.

We stopped for lunch and talked for an hour or so, then it was back to steaming.

The track that we were running on started to get a little crowded, no problem we just moved to the Paul Brinks track. Bill wanted to run on the outside track and I ran on the inside track. The track that we were on previously we were running clockwise because of the direction of the switches. On the Brinks tracks we started running in the same direction, clockwise, that was a bad mistake because the switches were on the other end of the track. If we were running counterclockwise and someone forgets change the switch you may have a derailment but if you were running clockwise and the switch is not in the right position your train will go down the siding and off the track onto the floor. Bill's rail bus and trailing car did just that, right through the siding on to the floor.

See photo # 3314 which shows the trailing passenger car in pieces.

It was hard to watch his rail bus going off the track. After picking up all the pieces we both thought that the rail bus and trailing car were totally destroyed. It was our fault for not checking the switches.

We hung around the steam up for another hour or so just talking things over and having fun. It's time to start home. On the way home we talked about how or even if it was possible to repair the rail bus.

As the days passed by we decided to bring the rail bus and passenger car back to life. Bill worked on the rail bus and I started working on the passenger car. The passenger car was entirely built of 1/8" wood.

Bill got the rail bus's boiler up and running and also was able to straighten or replace all the metal pieces and I started to rebuild the passenger car and also do some work on the rail bus as well

Working on the passenger car I realized that the whole car was built out of 1/8" plywood so I decided to rebuild the whole car out of 1/8" styrene. It was going to be easy to convert all the 1/8" wooden pieces to 1/8" styrene.

I first started building the new frame using all 1/8" styrene, then all four sides were cut from 1/8" styrene and then cut out all the windows, after the windows were cut we lined them with EverGreen plastic # 259 angle, after that it was on to the new roof.

See photos #3321 and # 3330 and #3346 that shows the start of the reconstruction of the

passenger car and the rail bus.

See photos # 3341 and #1715

With all the basic reconstruction completed it's off to the paint shop where Bill will repaint both cars and reattach all the hand rails, trucks and couplers.

No matter how bad of a derailment you may have, there's always a chance that it can be brought back to life. If you need help just ask your friends if they can help out. It's amazing what you can learn from others.



PHOTO 3207

PHOTO 1707



PHOTO 3114

PHOTO 3245







## ALL STEAMED UP ...

A true Renaissance-man if ever there was one, Richard Murray has been the BAGRS coordinator of live steam events for about twelve years. He has written many "Plant of the Month" articles over the years, knows a thing or two about British cars, and has recently taken on the detailed art of bonsai. A retired dentist, born and raised in San Francisco, Richard has been married to Melinda Murray for 53 years.

On August 13, Hiller Aviation Museum held its "Planes, Trains, and Cool Cars" event. The BAGRS Live Steamers were one of the main attractions. It was a wildly successful event. There were crowds everywhere. There were certainly lots of little kiddies roaming around, too. After parents watched our live steam trains, they could look at a couple dozen cool cars. Since I'm partial toward British cars, my favorite was an Armstrong Siddeley, which was built by a British engineering group formed in 1919. The company was best known for the production of luxury vehicles for high society and for the production of aircraft engines. The 1947 car had the typical fender design of many British cars of the day. The owner mentioned that the overall quality was somewhere between Jaguar and Bentley. It had beautiful original leather seats. It had a walnut burl wood dashboard and straight grain wood window sills. This model had its passenger compartment framed in metal, unlike some of the custom ordered brands which usually had an ash frame. After multiple mergers the company was eventually absorbed by the Rolls Royce group, which was interested in its aircraft engines. Car production ceased in 1960, although there exists an Armstrong Siddeley Owners Club which happens to own all of the patents, designs, and copyrights. Even though I have been interested in British cars for 30 years, I was not familiar with the Armstrong Siddeley marque.

Other highlights: It was a pleasantly warm day, and the lines in front of the ice cream truck were matched only by crowds around our steam track. At the end of the day I took a photo of a recent \$5 million donation to the Hiller Aviation Museum. The experimental plane had 4 props on the front wing and 4 props on the back wing. What was it? A helicopter? A drone? A vertical takeoff plane? Who knows? In any case, the museum got a great modern plane. In return, the donors got a great charitable deduction.

Tim Boles brought his Accucraft 7/8 scale Forney. He ran as many laps as anyone and had as much fun as anyone. Steve Heselton had an Accucraft coal fired engine #360. He spent a considerable time trying to get the second of two burners lit. Most people would have said #%!!!\*\* but Steve was very patient. He eventually allowed the one burner to heat up for a few minutes and then finally got the second burner to light. He smiled at his success.

I brought my brand new 1/32 Accucraft 4-4-2T Adams Radial engine. I had tried to run it on my own layout first, but it ran just a little too fast for my small radius curves. On the broad radii of the club track it ran quite nicely. It pulled 3 maroon pre-1900 2 axle brass coaches that I had bought 15 years ago. All of the early era passenger cars being offered on various web sites had 4 axles, were very long, were custom built, and were extremely expensive. I didn't want any 4 axle passenger cars because they would have looked quite silly going around my 8' diameter curves. I had wanted some small passenger cars that had 2 axles. After a month of searching, my desired passenger cars were located on some obscure site in England. Since just 3 were offered, that was all I got. The builder was named Cherry but he was quite sick, and I was never able to get any more. Unfortunately, because of my layout's small radii, the bumpers on the cars often got entangled on the curves, and I never used the cars after that. When I finally got the Adams Radial engine, it was the perfect small English engine to go with the Cherry 11" passenger cars. The combo looks great and runs great on the club's steam track. I'm still working on making adjustments so that the combo can run

on my track, too.

Larry Brickell had just joined the BAGRS a month before, and while at Hiller, he asked to be put on the live steamer email list. He said he is mostly involved in O scale, but he sure enjoyed running his G scale Ruby. We hope to see him many more times in the future. Seth Abrahams had to work in the morning, but he came to Hiller all the way from Livermore in the late afternoon just so that he could help with the tear down of the layout. What a nice guy! Michael Laine brought his grandson to the steamup. The two of them ran an English engine and pulled some appropriate English cars, including a car filled with lambs. I didn't get a chance to ask Michael what his engine was, so I emailed Bill Mansell, my English engine expert, for the identity of the engine. Bill replied, "It is a Roundhouse of Doncaster, UK, probably named Millie. It is a beautiful smooth runner, and I'm afraid I coveted it."

Jim Goss brought the astonishing Blue Comet made by Bill Allen. The engine always looks spectacular and is one of the best looking engines in the club. It's also one of the most powerful. Eric Child had an unusual Accucraft engine built in 2015, a 0-6-0T. It was a Decauville, a company founded back in 1875 by Paul Decauville. The firm developed a large catalogue of narrow gauge equipment and was eventually able to offer a complete light railway system, locomotives, track, and rolling stock, for industrial and agricultural use. Thanks to Eric for emailing me with some background info about the engine.

Gary Whaley brought a bunch of gear driven engines, including his Catatonk Heisler. He reported that both Henner and Bob Trabucco worked to make new parts and to tune the engine. The Catatonk geared engines have the most back-woods "look" in the entire marketplace of geared engines. However, after much trouble I found the Catatonk engines to be too hard to maintain. I returned one and sold another. Bill Mansell ran his scratch built engine complete with a 4" tall engineer. He labeled his engine with a Welch name that when translated means "Big Dog." It refers to his recently passed dog.

Comments? [steamer060@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steamer060@sbcglobal.net)

If you wish to host a live steam event on your layout, contact me.



Gary Whaley finishes connecting a hook and loop couple on his Heisler.

Rob Lenicheck brought out his very first engine, an Accucraft C-16.



Steve Heselton is checking to see if a stubborn second burner has finally lit. Note the banner advertising the BAGRS 2023 National Convention.

## Steam Calendar

September 3, 4  
September 10  
October 2

Ardenwood  
Los Altos History Museum  
Just Trains, Concord (NOTE: THE BAGRS STEAM TRACK  
WILL NOT BE IN CONCORD)



Tim Boles bends over to avoid his head creating a shadow on his 7/8 Forney.

What is it? A helicopter? A vertical take-off?



Michael Laine and his grandson pose next to their Roundhouse "Millie."





Jim Goss' Blue Comet emits a cloud of steam prior to takeoff.

Bill Mansell wearing his fashionable dark glasses sits next to his scratch built vertical boiler engine.



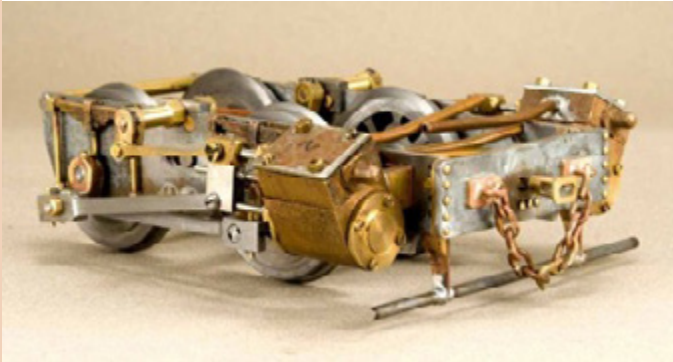
Eric Childs puts butane in his Accucraft Decauville 0-6-0T.



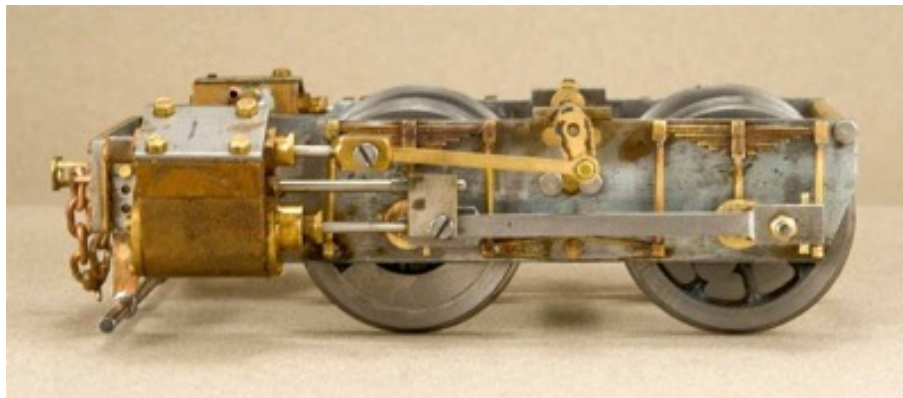
## EAST DEVIL HILLS MODELING GROUP

Formerly of Fremont, California, Henner Meinhold now resides in Berlin, Germany. Like clockwork, Henner always submits his monthly contribution on time, although sometimes it is German time he's working with. The East Devil Hills Modeling Group meets regularly to create, collaborate, and share incredibly-machined models.

Marc Horovitz started building a Fairlie-like P  chot-Bourdon with two powered trucks. Marc uses only classic tools, other than a lathe and a milling machine, both without CNC. Here are the trucks:



And

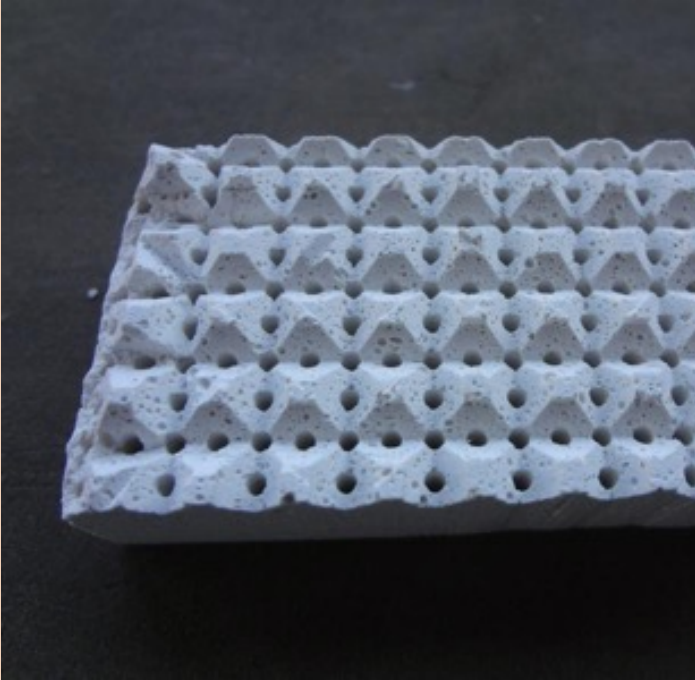


He also sent me a picture of a "Ruling Machine". As I understand, it was used in drawing shops to scribe fields of lines for wood engravings. If someone has more detailed information about this machine, please let us know:

Dennis continued with his experiments to create a replacement of the next to unobtainable material for ceramic burners. He found a formula to cast his own bricks, which could then be machined. The result looks very promising,



almost like the original, and in comparison the "original" in a burner built by Bill Allen. Next step is to build a burner and test the DIY ceramic.

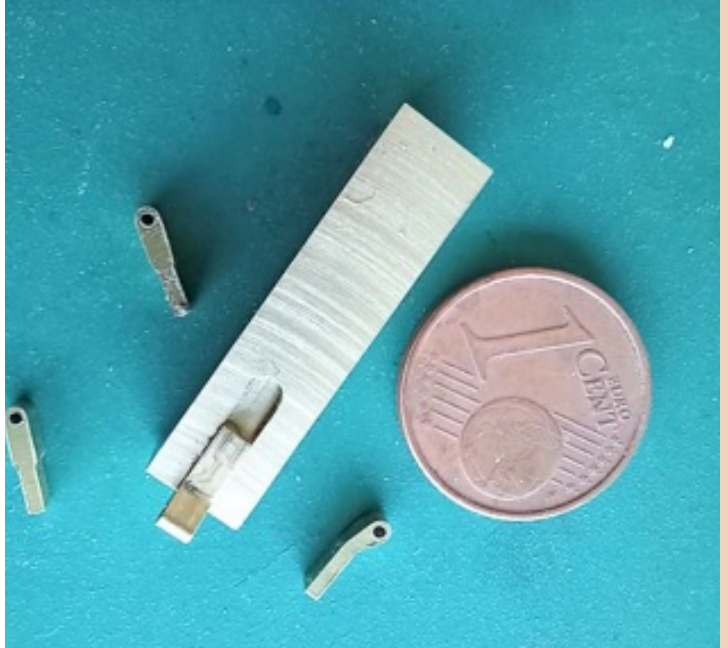
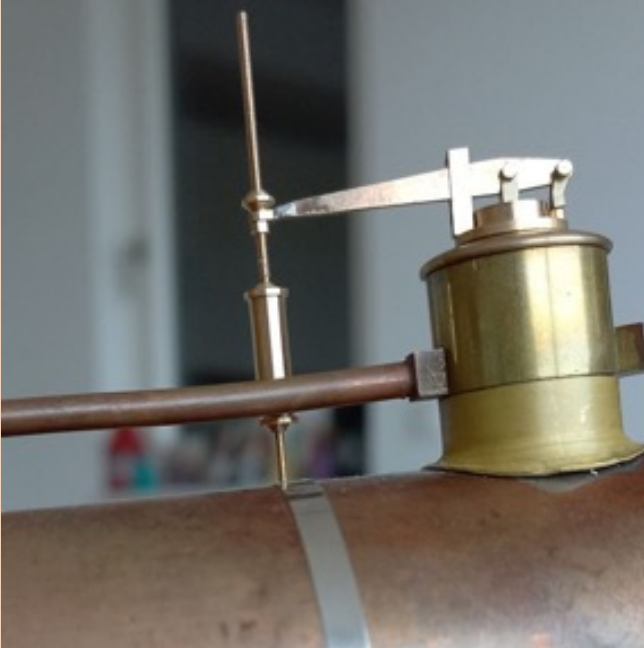


Years ago a restored a "Portable" (a steam engine on wheels) was built for Richard Murray. He got a stand for it and I am very proud that he now displays it in such a formidable way (to the right).

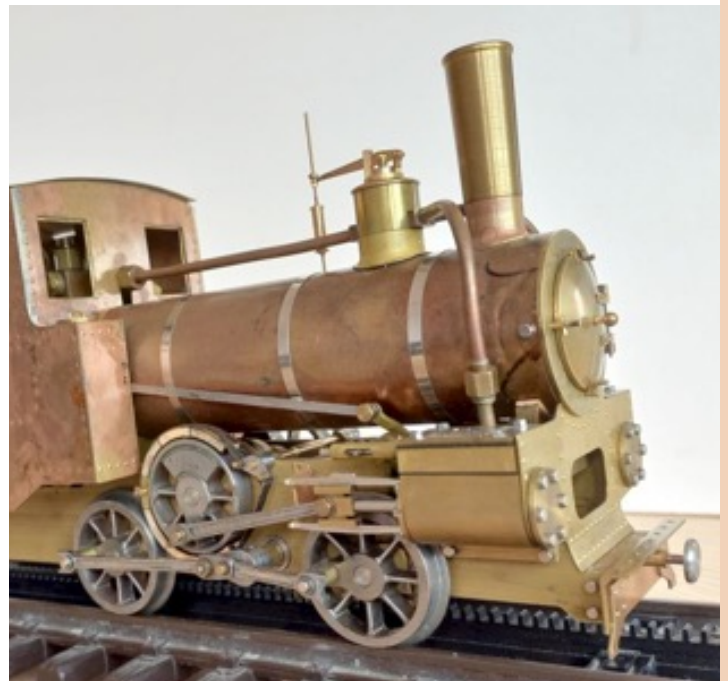


After having finished my nightmare taxes (I have to file in the US and Germany and haggle with both) I finally found some time to continue with my cog loco. The dome always looked quite bare, so I designed and built a dummy safety valve of the Salter type.

For the small fiddly parts my CNC mill came in handy. I also had to build various fixtures for turning down and threading the stem of these tiny parts. The thread for example is M1 (0.04"). Here the fixture to hold the parts for slotting (they are forked). And here the slotting operation with a slitting saw on the lathe:



With the dummy safety valve the loco looks much more complete. Now only the coupler hooks need to be attached and the steps to the cab fabricated:



For my Hit & Miss engine I bought some 2 stroke gasoline for chain saws from the hardware store and after almost 2 years of sitting idle it came to life immediately:

The live steamers will be at Ardenwood. This was always one of my favorite events. Have fun

## MEET YOUR BAGRS DIRECTORS

From time to time, we will be running profiles of BAGRS members, including your board of directors, as well as new members. This month, please welcome long-time member, current director, and live steam coordinator, Richard Murray ...



Melinda and I were both born and raised in San Francisco. All my education, including dental school, was in San Francisco. Melinda and I got married the day after graduation and returned to San Francisco one week later for 5 days of State Board testing. Twenty-nine years later I retired. It took six months to decide whether to retire or not. I finally condensed all the advantages of retiring or not into one simple question: Did I prefer to work or to play? The decision became easy. I had always enjoyed gardening as a hobby and had developed a garden with a Japanese theme. Just a few years after retirement I found out that it was possible to have a railroad in the garden. I jumped at the chance. After five years of work I had built a live steam railroad. After five years of enjoyment, I started to build an addition. I spent another 5 years of work completing the addition. The railroad was featured on the cover of *Garden Railways*.

When the head of the live steam group retired, I volunteered to take over. I have been the coordinator of live steam events for about twelve years and have written a monthly live steam column for most of those years. Concurrently, I also wrote a monthly column titled "Plant of the Month" for about thirty issues. In the meantime, I have been a board director multiple times, including now. Another hobby has been my British car club the last 30 years. My newest hobby is an offshoot of railroad gardening, the detailed art of bonsai. Recently, I spent seven hours pruning, styling, and wiring just one plant that was only two feet tall. Melinda and I have been married for 53 years and have lived in our house for 50 years.





## RAILROAD MEDIA

Jim Maley and his Hobo's Lament railroad live in Milpitas. Jim can be heard on KKUP FM radio 91.5 and knows a lot about movies, music, trains, and New Mexican chiles. He can also be reached at [kkupdj@me.com](mailto:kkupdj@me.com).

**Introduction** - Not a lot to report this month. Spent ten days at sea on a Princess Cruise to Alaska round trip from San Francisco in July. This voyage involved eight family members and coordination/covid protocols advanced some anxiety to say the least. At the current time, you can be denied the cruise with a mandatory test just days before embarkation. It was a minor miracle that all eight of us tested negative and were able to take the cruise. Actually, the Princess Cruise was near normal and once aboard, not a lot of "virus rigamarole" apparent (although bet there was some that was not obvious). Anyway, cruising was nice once at sea but cutting through all the covid rules and regulations applied sure not a lot of fun to experience. Hear this may be changing though but who knows when. I am in no rush to go through this again especially with a group of family members.

**The Grey Man** - I saw a trailer with some real train action and got "sucked in" for this lengthy Netflix movie. Yes, there were two train scenes and one with a lot of action. Maybe



too much action occurred at regular intervals as this "burned" agent is tracked by the CIA for termination. I guess not my "cup of tea". While I can't really recommend this movie, if you like action, this one has it at least every 15 minutes. The URL to see the action train scene is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjWRcUZyGQM> - Action Train Scene

**Bullet Train** - This has been hyped for several months and guess it's finally coming out in early August a few days after I write this column. Apparently, the production team "changed horses in mid-stream" and altered the movie from a "Die Hard" action film to a light comedy. Now I always liked most of the "Die Hard" series and not sure what to make of multiple hitmen aboard a train.



Well at least "The Living Dead" (I call them zombies and not very PC) are not involved as the movie takes place in Japan and not Korea. For some unknown reason,

action train movies from Korea seem to conjure up zombies which I abhor. I think I have made that clear over the years for this column. Anyway, I plan to wait for this one (turkey?) for streaming as I did for "Grey Man". Why did they keep delaying its release? Well, many of us waited for years for "Top Gun Maverick" and was well worth the wait. We will see on "Bullet Train". Brad Pitt stars as a person named Lady Bug. As a gardener, its Lady Beetle film director David Leitch!

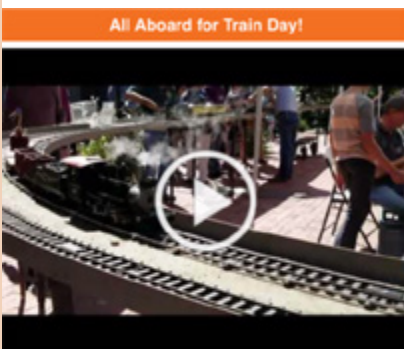
**Note:** This was written before official critic reviews which are mixed. Some critics and movie goers really liked it. Also, to its favor, most of the drama takes place on train. Still, I standby the name "Lady Beetle" as our spotted friend is not a bug but rather a beetle which eats aphids with its chewy mouth. A bug is vegetarian and not so great for a garden!

**Alaska Cruise Train Activity** – We initially had Victoria BC as our last port of call on my recent cruise vacation. We ended up far to the north at Prince Rupert, BC which is pleasant but no Victoria. There was a train museum within walking distant of the ship's berth. This station (Kwinitsa) exhibits provides a journey into the history of Canada's northern railroad and the daily life of a station master and crew in early Prince Rupert. It is a modest exhibit but if you happen to be in Prince Rupert and have a free half-hour to an hour it will be a worthwhile activity.



**Note:** Prince Rupert is the destination for Vancouver Island ferry service and have fond memories of several trips on the "Queen of the North" which tragically sank off the Queen Charlotte Islands in 2006. Would love to take this trip again on another fine ferry of the BC Line. You really get a Canadian inside passage experience on this ferry.

**Train Day in Los Altos** – The Los Altos History Museum is featuring model railroads at Train Day: The Making of Town on Saturday, September 11th from 10A to 3PM. Details of this event can be found by this URL.



<https://www.losaltoshistory.org/events/train-day-making-a-town/ Event Details>

For the short train video of the graphic, see:  
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KuSK1n2cZFE>

Also, Ardenwood Farms is featuring trains earlier in the month on September 3&4th.

I see on our T&T per Steam Calendar; our guys will be on hand for both the Ardenwood and Los Altos events.

On September 10, we transform the courtyard and Main Gallery into elaborate model railroad layouts complete with scenery, scaled renditions of prototypes, whimsical engines, and cars with steam, lights and even sound. Learn all about this hobby while mingling with members of local model railroad clubs at Train Day: Making a Town. Cost: \$7/person, free to ages 12 and under and Museum members. Pay at the gate. To find out about volunteering at this fun event, read on.  
Saturday, September 10  
10am-3pm

**Movie & TV Scenes Showing Model Trains** - I don't know why I like to report on this every month but for me, just love

to see model trains of any gauge dance on the silver screen or on my TV set. Just last night, was watching an old Twilight Zone episode from 1960 and there were model trains in a department store scene with kids all around a fairly extensive layout. Somebody in production must have loved trains and there was probably more there then needed to convey the Christmas holiday feeling. If you are interested, the great Art Carney stars as Santa Claus in S2E11 "The Night of the Meek. It was good to see Art in action again as a favorite from



Jackie Gleason days and oh yes, Lionel information was front and center in the credits.

**Railroad Song of the Month** – Wreck of the Old 97 is the song of the month. An email from BAGRS Frank Lucas reminded me of this great song. So here are two versions with Johnny Cash at his legendary performance at San Quentin and a bluegrass version by Mac Wiseman.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et3fVvAbL7k> – Cash at San

Quentin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_vt-s3aYl8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_vt-s3aYl8) – Mac Wiseman

As a bonus, here is another great railroad song performed in a video at San Quentin and a signature song by Johnny called Folsom Prison Blues. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wG0fS4DoGUc> – Folsom Prison Blues

**Note:** If any of you served in the USAF and especially SAC, I have a rare version of the "Wreck of the Old 97". In this case, Old 97 is an ancient B-52. Email me for this song if interested.

## Safety and Security Signups for the National Convention



We will change our presence a bit at the National Convention with a new title for what we have always done. Security has always been the first call for any issue at the conventions and this includes a call for first aid or injury. Besides doing our usual walk throughs for opening/closing, and answering questions as to booth locations and more, we also are ready and willing to make basic first responder evaluations to summon first aid and professional first responders.

Really we don't provide anything more than a bandaid or self applied Neosporin antiseptic for a scraped knee, but we do have radios and cell phones.

So I'm hoping that some of the ladies in our club will step forward and help us out for this fun, responsible position.

We will have an information desk and roving assignments open.

Contact Pete Pearson at [petepearson4000@comcast.net](mailto:petepearson4000@comcast.net) if you are interested.





## POSTCARDS OF THE PAST

Retired from the publishing industry, Bill Ralph knows a thing or two about amusement parks and postcards. He is also a highly-skilled garden railroad creator. Working with brother Jim Ralph, the Porcupine Gulch Railroad, located in Fremont, California, was selected by *Garden Railways Magazine* as the Best Small Railroad in 2016 and rightfully so.



### TOONERVILLE TROLLEY AND TAHQUAMENON FALLS RIVER TRIP

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A 5-1/2 mile ride over an old narrow gauge logging road through Michigan's wildest game area where no automobile can travel. The trolley stops at Hunter's Mill where passengers embark on a 21 mile cruise to the Tahquamenon Falls. The trolley is boarded at Soo Junction, Michigan, in the upper peninsula

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Originally named Tahquamenon Boat Service, the thirty five minute train ride portion of the six and a half hour wilderness tour also included a two hour riverboat cruise and a five eighth mile nature hike in order to reach a private view the second largest water fall in the eastern United States. Tahquamenon Boat Service was nicknamed the easier to remember and more playful Toonerville Trolley by passengers after the popular cartoon strip, Toonerville Folks, penned by Fontain Fox between 1908 and 1955. The first tour in 1927 followed the route of white pine logging operations dating from the early 1900's and through the years featured a series of increasingly larger riverboats to handle the popular growing business. Currently two Plymouth five ton diesel locomotives pull open passenger cars through the back country wilderness and is promoted as "the longest twenty four inch gauge railroad in the country".



### TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR ALUMINUM FUTURE WATCH FOR THE KAISER ALUMINUM TELESCOPE

In Disneyland see the Brightest Star in the World of Metals - Kaiser Aluminum. There's a talking knight and a spectacular spaceman to delight the children. A walk through the telescope will take you into an aluminum world of the past, present and future. Tomorrowland, Disneyland.

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In the final months preceding the opening of his Magic Kingdom, Walt Disney was frantic to secure enough exhibitors and sponsors to fill the newly completed buildings in Tomorrowland and to cover spiraling costs. In order to entice Kaiser Aluminum into a multiyear lease on their "Hall of Aluminum Fame" exhibit, Disney agreed to use aluminum prominently in other park attractions.

In addition to Kaiser's aluminum telescope exhibit and "Kap" an aluminum pig mascot, aluminum was used for the 76 foot tall iconic Moonliner Rocket marking the entrance to the groundbreaking Rocket to the Moon attraction. The metal was also used on the Autopia cars wrap-around bumpers, Sleeping Beauty Castle ornamentation, and on the huge canopy over the Fantasyland Carousel. Kaiser was so pleased with the agreement that they took out a full page ad in the *Wall Street Journal* on opening day highlighting all of Disneyland's aluminum features.

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## BAGRS BOARD AND CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
President:	Mick Spilsbury	<a href="mailto:president@bagrs.org">president@bagrs.org</a>
Vice President:	Channing Cheng	<a href="mailto:marketing@bagrs.org">marketing@bagrs.org</a>
Secretary	Lynn Gerber	<a href="mailto:secretary@bagrs.org">secretary@bagrs.org</a>
Treasurer	Larry Silverman	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bagrs.org">treasurer@bagrs.org</a>
At-large board member	Ray Turner	<a href="mailto:membership@bagrs.org">membership@bagrs.org</a>
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Membership	Ray Turner	<a href="mailto:membership@bagrs.org">membership@bagrs.org</a>
Newsletter	Greg Hile	<a href="mailto:newsletter@bagrs.org">newsletter@bagrs.org</a>

## BAGRS DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Golden Gate	Ken Brody
East Bay	Bill Ralph
North Peninsula & San Francisco	Don Watters
Mid-Peninsula	Don Watters
Tri-Valley	Jim Rowson
Diablo Valley	David Mease
Sunnyvale & Santa Clara	Mike Paterson
San Jose/Milpitas	Michael Laine
Santa Cruz & Monterey Counties	Trevor Park
South Santa Clara & San Benito Counties	Nigel Mallinson
Members Outside BAGRS Districts	Nancy Norris

# CALENDAR

September 1-4	<a href="#">National Narrow Gauge Convention</a>	Seattle-Tacoma, WA
September 3-4	Live Steamers	Ardenwood
September 10	Live Steamers	Los Altos History Museum
September 18	Layout Tours	East Bay
September 25	NMRA/BAGRS Layout Tour	South Bay
October 2	Layout Tours	Diablo Valley/Just Trains
October 2	BAGRS Board of Directors meeting	Martinez (in-person)
October 14-16	<a href="#">Sac Valley Live Steamers</a>	Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova
October 23	Phantom Layout Tours	All Over the Place
December 4	BAGRS Board of Directors meeting	Zoom
January 29, 2023	BAGRS Board of Directors meeting	Zoom
March 18, 2023	BAGRS Annual Meeting	Hiller Aviation Museum
July 1-8, 2023	38th NGRC	Santa Clara and Beyond

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEED A BAGRS NAME BADGE?

Send a \$15 check, payable to BAGRS, for each badge ordered. Be sure to print the name(s) and City(s) for the badge(s) clearly. Send to: BAGRS Member Badges, 210 Friar Way, Campbell, CA 95008

### BAGRS FOR SALE BY MEMBERS

List items you have for sale or items you want. You'll find it in the middle of the "Members Section" menu on our website, [bags.org](http://bags.org). Log in is required.

### BAGRS ONLINE PHOTO AND VIDEO LIBRARY

Many photos & videos are hosted at: <https://photos.google.com>

Click on "Go to Google Photos", if offered.

Login with this email and password: BAGRSvideos@gmail.com BestClub4014

EDITOR'S NOTE: Matthew Malkiewicz is not going away. We greatly appreciate his contributions and invite you to visit his website for great railroad photos at <http://www.losttracksofetime.com/>. His work will continue to appear as we expand the reach of the train world around us.



**Air Forced One: A One-Trick Pony No Longer**  
Union Pacific's Air Forced One fleet has blasted snow from tracks and switches for 20 years. Now, it's not just snow in its path of destruction. [See More ...](#)



## TRELLIS AND TRESTLE

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# SEPTEMBER EVENTS

We are pleased to announce our layout open house events of the 2022 season.

NOTE: We need to adhere to governmental guidelines for safe gatherings that are in place at the time of each event and at the specific location. If you are a host or a member with guests, please be sure that all guests are aware of and follow those guidelines.

## September 18, 2023

### **Roger Nicholson**

#### **Crystal Cove & Rose Railroad**

**34742 Williams Way, Union City, CA 94587**

The railroad has three main sections: 1) A folded dogbone which runs through a succulent garden in the backyard, 2) A double reverse loop which runs between the front yard and the back yard and 3) A landscaped helix which transitions between the main line and the garage storage which is 7 feet off the ground. All trains are now using Li-Ion battery power with Airwire control. The railroad features a variety of bridges and valleys and is continuously under construction.

#### **Directions for Open House**

From the north or south, head toward Union City/Fremont. Take 880 until you reach Decoto Road/CA 84 exit. On Decoto, turn left and cross the freeway. Take the first exit to Ardenwood Blvd. Follow Ardenwood Blvd. until it crosses Alameda Creek, at which point it turns into Union City Blvd. Take a left on Rocklin, right on Eastin, left on Davis and right on Williams Way. The house is a two story that will be on your left, with a railroad trestle visible from the street.

### **Jacques Verdier**

#### **VerdiRR**

**707 Rodney Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577**

Toy Trains of the 50's grow up and Escape from the Living Room Rug out to the Back Yard! Many, many battery powered and other O Scale trains run on 2 folded dog-bone tracks; Lower track, Upper track, Loop track plus there is a Point-to-Point trolley that runs through town.

Classification yard, load-in yards & spurs for businesses.

- Think prototypical running -

Everything is Wheelchair accessible.

Layout sits on a raised retaining wall with living miniature plants and numerous scale buildings. Mountains, rivers & waterfall, farm with animals, hiking paths, waterhole and country store. Got Hot air balloons. (Did I mention the airport?)

- 3 Main lines all turnout connected
- Turnouts can be set so primary run is 1.5 scale miles long.

Iconic passenger sets, freight consists, MOW, Budd RDC cars, inspection car, heritage steam train and town trolley.

Layout features mostly western railroads with campsites/cabins, farm, churches and school.

16+ engines & lighted cars are track powered with 30+ engines battery powered. 4 engines/trollies are conventional and 3 engines are Live Steam.

Sounds and directional lights are part of the fun with surprise visits by Hogwarts, Thomas & his train friends.

Even the '50s vintage engines have TMCC, directional lighting & realistic sounds.

More than 15 bridges, 5 tunnels, 4 train station, 3 towns, film studio, airport, farm, tourist traps, mine with ore train, summer camp are all part of the layout.

- Join the party! -

Live Steam anyone?

Come to the Verdi RR & revisit the '50s. (Your childhood?)

### **Directions for Open House**

From I-580 East: (traveling South), Take Dutton Exit. Continue on MacArthur to Estudillo. (Two intersections from Dutton). Right turn on Estudillo Ave. (Go 4 blocks). Right turn on San Jose St. (Go 3 blocks). Right turn on Rodney Drive. (The second house on Right side).

From I-580 West: (traveling North). Take Estudillo Exit. Right turn on MacArthur (get in left lane for immediate Left turn.) Left turn on Estudillo Ave. (Go 4 blocks). Right turn on San Jose St. (Go 3 blocks). Right turn on Rodney Drive (The second house on Right side.)

## **Russ Miller**

### **Stanton Canyon Railway**

**19510 Stanton Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546**

Started in 2002, the SCRY is a 170' folded dogbone mainline through 2 tunnels, across a curved square-timber trestle and 3 different redwood bridges. Two metal deck girder bridges span a shallow reflecting pond connecting to round pile trestles. A connected 50' inner canyon loop allows 2 trains to run simultaneously. The layout is in a 45' x 15' raised garden area, behind a 5' tall retaining wall. The trains are at eye level when guests first approach, giving a unique perspective and track level is reached after climbing up some concrete stairs. Guests can walk through the center of the layout to a raised deck that gives an overview of the entire layout. We run mostly track powered modified Bachmann locomotives and cars. With unique rock work, the SCRY was built with photography in mind.

Directions: from I-580 west, exit 164th Ave. and follow off ramp to the right toward 164th. You are now on Foothill. At the light, turn left on to Miramar, and go up and over the hill. Miramar will drop down and T at Stanton. Turn right on to Stanton Ave., we are about .25 of a mile down, on your left. Adjacent to the speed bump in the road.

From I-580 East, exit 164th Ave, and turn left at stop sign at bottom of the ramp. At the next stop sign, turn left on to Miramar, and go under the freeway. Stay in

right lane, proceed straight through intersection and follow Miramar up and over to Stanton Ave. Turn right on to Stanton Ave., we are about .25 of a mile down, on your left. Adjacent to the speed bump in the road.

From I-880, take I-238, exit Castro Valley, left on to Castro Valley Blvd., then take second left on to Stanton Ave. Go through the light to the first speed bump, we are on the right.

## **William Ralph**

### **Porcupine Gulch Railroad**

**41163 Beatrice Street, Fremont, CA 94539**

Carnival, "The Greatest Show on Rails" comes to Porcupine Gulch, an immersive western themed amusement park inspired by our memories of Disneyland's Frontierland, Knott's Berry Farm's Ghost Town, Frontier Village, Ponderosa Ranch, Calico, Old Tucson and Pollardville. Featured are more than 4 dozen scratch built iconic historical theme park and roadside attraction structures and a detailed Carnival Railroad Train, built by craftsmen Jim Ralph and placed in a southwestern desert setting of constructed "rock work and cactus". Kid friendly battery operated locomotives operate on Porcupine Gulch Scenic Railroad, and the track powered Porcupine Springs Railbus operate on about 200 ft. of multilevel track in a raised 8' x 35' wooden structure in Bill and Sandy Ralph's old west mining themed backyard.

#### **Directions for Open House**

From 880 in Fremont exit Stevenson Blvd. and travel east (toward the hills) about 1-1/2 miles across Fremont Blvd. to Paseo Padre Parkway (Chevron Station). Right on Paseo Padre 1-1/2 miles past Fremont Central Park and Lake Elizabeth to Driscoll Road (Chevron Station). Right on Driscoll 3 blocks and left onto Beatrice Street. First house on the right at 41163 Beatrice Street.

From 680 in Fremont exit at Washington Blvd. Travel West on Washington Blvd, about ¼ mile to Driscoll Road (Signals). Right on Driscoll 2 blocks to Beatrice Street. Right on Beatrice, first house on right at 41163 Beatrice Street.

## **G&O Garden Railroad (Contact is Joe Barker, location is Thrasher Park, 1302 Orchard Avenue, San Leandro).**

The G&O Outdoor Railroad is a multi-gauge (G & O gauges) garden railroad that is owned and operated by the San Leandro Historical Railway Society (SLHRS) behind the historic San Leandro Southern Pacific Railroad Depot that was built in 1898. The SLHRS bought the Depot for a \$1 in 1988 and moved it to Thrasher Park. The Depot was restored and a large HO layout was built. The SLHRS also operates a small railroad museum in the Depot.

The G&O is open during the SLHRS open houses. Open houses are usually held in the spring or summer, sometime during halloween week, and in early December. Please see the SLHRS website (SLHRS.org) for the open house dates.

BAGRS members are always welcome. Please contact me for a private tour at any time.

We are always looking for people to help with the construction and operation of the G&O.



Please contact me if you are interested in participating in this exciting project.

Happy Rails - Joe

### **Directions for Open House**

Location: 1302 Orchard Avenue at Davis Street (Thrasher Park), San Leandro, CA  
From I880, East on Davis, right on Orchard to 1302.

### **Joyce Hennessey**

### **A Southern Pacific Railroad Folly in Gopher Hills SP RR FGH 7324 Pebble Beach Drive (Court), El Cerrito, CA 94530**

I have an outdoor G Scale garden layout with 200 feet of track in a dog bone configuration with a double track in the middle. It's up on a retaining wall almost three feet high so it's almost waist level with miniature plants. I love the garden part of it since I am a Master Gardener. It represents the Southern Pacific (SP, Espee) on the Peninsula in the transition era. My layout was built by a Round Robin group with a wonderful bunch of characters. Nancy Norris helped me a lot also as I began with her help in 2013. I enjoy having people come visit since there is a lot of fun that goes into it and I like people to enjoy it. I have a GP9 engine and various other cars and a couple passenger cars—I'm looking for more passenger cars that can make an 4 ft turning radius. if you know of any please. I'm also hoping for help someday in the electrical, computer, and sound installation areas. Right now it is track powered.

My layout was videotaped by a professional videographer for Garden Railways magazine. They made a 6 minute video which you can watch at my bluegrass band's website at [FreshPickedBand.com](http://FreshPickedBand.com) . We also have some train songs on my band's website.

### **Directions for Open House**

Google Directions work well. Parking OK in driveway. Enter back yard from driveway side.

From the north:

Follow I-80 W to Barrett Ave in Richmond.

Take the Barrett Avenue exit ( marked as "San Pablo Ave / Barrett Ave" )

Go 0.3 miles

Turn left onto Barrett Ave

Go 1.2 miles

Turn right onto Arlington Blvd

Go 0.2 miles

Take the 2nd left onto Cutting Blvd

Go 0.2 miles

Take the 2nd right onto Pebble Beach Dr

Go 0.07 miles

Take the 1st right onto Pebble Beach Court

Destination will be on the right

From the south:

Follow I-80 E to Potrero Ave in El Cerrito.

Take the Potrero Ave exit from I-80 E (marked as "Potrero Ave", Exit 15)

Go 0.2 miles

Turn right onto Potrero Ave (signs for San Pablo Ave)

WARNING: This is a "No Right Turn on Red" intersection!!!!

Go 1.2 miles

Turn left onto Arlington Blvd

Go 0.2 mi

Slight right onto Scenic St

Go 0.1 mi

Turn right onto Cutting Blvd

Go 0.06 miles

Take the 1st right onto Pebble Beach Dr

Go 0.07 miles

Take the 1st right onto Pebble Beach Court

Destination will be on the right