

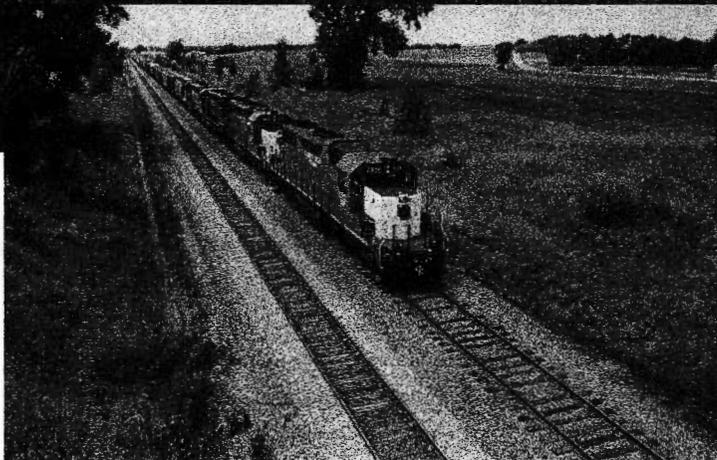
# ***THE HOTBOX***

*Youth Model Railroading at its Finest!*

January 2001 <sup>2</sup>

ISSN 1093-622X

Issue #354



**Classic Loassb!  
Classic Top 7!  
And Much More!**

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS**

## The HotBox

January 2002  
Issue 354

Send Articles to:  
Charles Warczinsky

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### **Contributions!**

We always need contributions in all forms. Please send the following in if you wish for the staff to consider for an upcoming issue of *The Hotbox*.

### **Feature Articles:**

This is what we really need. They can be from a half page to two pages typed on anything related to railroading, railfanning, model railroading, you get the idea. Accompanying pictures are also welcome.

### **Columns:**

Another thing we can always use! If you wish to start one, please drop us a line. And if you like a current column, please let the staff know, we like the feedback.

### **Photos and Drawings:**

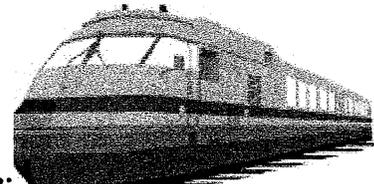
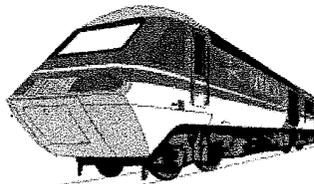
Do you have great pictures collecting dust? Railroading cartoons just sitting around? Drawings just waiting to be great works of art? Well send them in for consideration by us! Photos should be 3in x 4in minimum. Artwork should be on plain white paper with black ink.

### **Questions?**

Ask the editor for more info.

### *On the Cover:*

One of the few real SD90MAC units on the road, CP #9302 with weird nose notches and all (it just wants to be an Alco!). In Kensal, ND  
Inset: A quartet of ex-Reserve Mining SD38-2s on an eastbound train east of Hawley, MN. They are now working for LLPX, the leasing division of EMD.  
Both by Lewis Ableidinger.



### Inside this Issue:

#### **Features:**

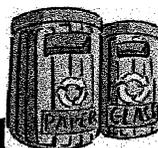
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**Please Read and Recycle**

Thanks to [rrhistorical.com](http://rrhistorical.com) for some of the railway clipart.

The TAMR is a non-profit organization created to promote, foster, and encourage young persons in the hobby of model railroading, the activity of railfanning, and the preservation of the history, science and technology thereof.

Membership to the TAMR includes an eleven issue subscription to the *Hotbox*, the annual directory of members, quarterly regional newsletters and an invitation to participate in all TAMR events. The available membership categories are as follows:

Regulars (under 21).....\$15  
Associate (21 and over)....\$20  
International (outside US)..\$15  
Sustaining.....\$20

Please send membership to:  
Hans Raab, TAMR Treasurer,

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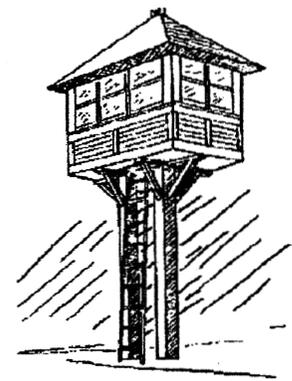
[www.tamr.org](http://www.tamr.org)

Dane Watson

# From the Tower

By Chris Burchett

President



Hello everyone, and happy New Year! I'd like to take this time to welcome new member Mitchell Osborn of Carmel, Indiana to the TAMR. Welcome aboard Mitchell!!

As it was in the last issue, there really isn't too much going on in the organization to speak of. Events coming up do include the 2002 Winter National Convention in Springfield, MA. For more information on that, check the events page in this issue of the *Hotbox*. If you still need more information, check in with Adam Sullivan at [TAMR30@yahoo.com](mailto:TAMR30@yahoo.com) or Newton Vezina at [TAMR19@aol.com](mailto:TAMR19@aol.com) or (413)739-1949. If it's anything like last year's convention, this is one you won't want to miss!!

If you have any news or reviews to write about, send them in to Nick Wilson via e-mail to [EMDSD40-2@juno.com](mailto:EMDSD40-2@juno.com). He's always looking for more material to add to the column, and your information would be greatly appreciated by all.

And just so you aren't caught by surprise, I thought I'd mention this again. "From the Tower" will become a bi-monthly column. So this means, next month you won't see spot it anywhere. However, it will return in March, off again in April, and so on. This will allow a breather in between issues and also make more room for your articles and photographs!

If you have any questions or comments on anything you just read above, contact me. Contact info is, as always, available below. Again, happy New Year! May this year be much better than the last. From the tower - this Chris Burchett, signing off.

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Snail-mail:

**Joel (vice pres):**

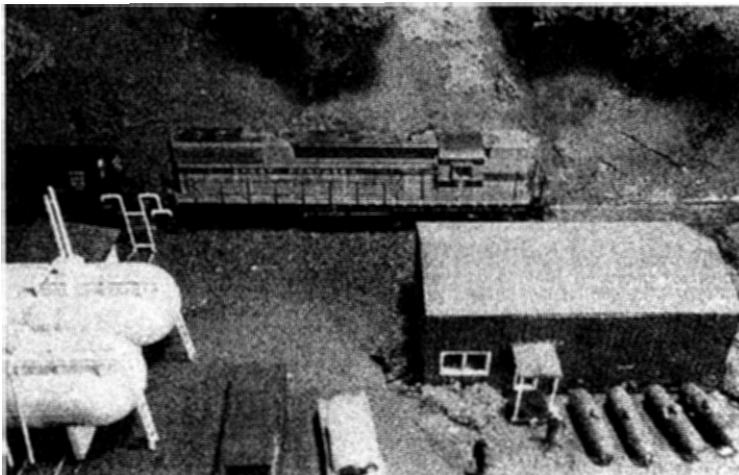
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Snail-mail: .....



This ex-GN SD7, now owned by BN, switches the Central Gas Co. of Alfred ND in June, 1972. Taken by Lewis Ableidinger on his HO scale Dakota Railways layout.

# A Word from the Editor

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of the Hotbox in 2002. Which will probably be the third issue you will see this year. Which means that December and November were late again. Which means that you are expecting me to apologize again. Well you are right. I'm sorry that the Hotbox has been late every month since I took over as the editor. However, I feel that since Andy has been the Layout Design Editor the Hotbox has improved greatly in timeliness. Not to mention, it looks better. Thank you Andy.

Since September 11, we have sent the Hotbox out two issues at a time. This is for several reasons. First, it really saves on postage especially when two issues would go out so close together, second it allows us to catch up a bit esp. when we are several issues behind.

In the coming year we are planning several special issues of the Hotbox We on the Hotbox staff ask each of you to contribute articles, pictures or comments [yes those are welcome, we do appreciate them]. Remember this is your publication; we just make it look good. If you do not send us stuff, we wind up with either lots of blank pages, or more massive delays.

Thank you to those of you who contribute tirelessly month after month. Not only do you enable us to fill the pages, but you entertain us with your humor, help us with your tips, and provide inspiration to many. Thank you also to those of you who do contribute, but so not have the time or the skill to contribute every month. All appreciate your efforts. Thank you for reading this lengthy editorial.

*-Charles W*

## A word from the Layout Design Artist

Hi everyone!

Well, this month we begin Classic LOASSB and Classic Top 7, a look back at the last 10 years of cheap fun in the Hotbox. Thanks to Peter for digging up and dusting off these and even if you've been a member for a long time, long enough to remember these when they ran the first time, they still are just as good as they were back then. So read on and stay warm, it is getting closer to summer and outdoors railfanning again. Till next time, see you trackside!

*-Andy Inserra*

### **Thanks to this month's contributing editors:**

Peter Maurath

Dave Honan

Lewis Ableidinger

### **Editor of the Month-Decade: Peter Maurath**

After 10 years of faithful service how can we not make him Editor of the Decade? He has the only series of columns that not only appears in the Hotbox but in the Pilot as well. So let's see, that is the monthly LOASSB and Top 7 plus the bi-monthly Loassb and Top 7 for the Pilot. That's 36 articles/features/columns each year! So Peter, thanks much for the hard work, we all appreciate it and our bank accounts do as well!

# Celebrating Ten Years of Noodlemania it's....

## Layout on A Shoestring Budget Est. 1992

Conducted by: Peter Maurath

Welcome to the yearlong celebration of the longest running column in HB & TAMR history. Established ten years ago, LOASSB still offers the same it does today; inexpensive tips for improving your layout. This being an anniversary and all, I saw it fitting to open the HB vault throughout the year and pull out some LOASSB's from way back when. I'll also tack on some TAMR trivia from the same time to make you feel right at home in that year. Without further delay lets jump in the silver Delorean and take a trip back to March 1994.

Brent Johnson was TAMR president, Aaron Marcavitch the HB editor since January. We were in our second month without a central rep, and Bo the famed TAMR wonder dog made his debut on the cover, along with a shot of the N&W 611 in Wilmore, KY. LOASSB was a short two paragraphs this month, sharing space with the infamous Clinton Top 7 (Aaron's work, not mine, yet). [WRITER'S DISCLAIMER: I apologize now to all readers out there if these old LOASSB's contain bad puns, lame jokes, or poor attempts at clever phrasing. I was young, I didn't know any better]

### Hotbox March 1994

This month we'll build a very important part of city life. Because without this we would be in a real mess, literally. If you don't know yet it is the Garbage Truck. This vehicle is common in city and rural life. I mean somebody has to take the trash out (Yakity, Yak, don't talk back). Like that famous saying goes, it's a dirty job but somebody has to haul it to the landfill. Now, of course, you could go through a specialty company and pay through the nose (achoo) to get one of these refuse hauling beauties. But I (ego trip) have developed a pattern for a truck, and with some work you can have a dead ringer of a truck.

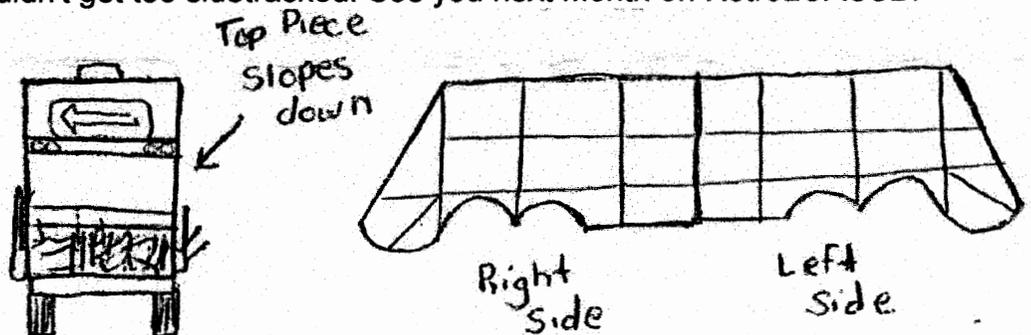
First, all you need is the front portion of a semi or a cab with wheels. Then you cut out the back end from the pattern in figure one. Afterwards you assemble the pieces on the back of the tractor [Sorry. I had to but in, the material used for the compacter body was cardstock]. You can add some grid patterns on the sides to add to the realism. After you've painted the assembly the color of your choice, you can add detail parts like rubbage sticking out and signs and also levers and switches.

For next time we'll kit-bash and build the worlds slowest moving observation car. [Ed. Now all we need for this months model is rudely awakened people as the truck rumbles by at 6:00 am, and the hoard of dogs jogging behind the truck].

Hope I didn't get too sidetracked. See you next month on RetroLOASSB!

Figure 1

BACK





## Upcoming Events

A bumper crop of activities this year!

**JANUARY** (dates to be announced) (Bakersfield, CA) 4th Annual "High Ball to the Loop". GEMRC Train show. A full day of Railfanning Tehachapi pass including the famous Tehachapi Loop. Contact Joe Bohannon: [GeepM@ATT.NET](mailto:GeepM@ATT.NET)

**FEBRUARY 1-3, 2002** (West Springfield, Mass) Annual TAMR Winter Convention! This huge event will be held in conjunction with the largest railroad hobby show in the Northeast! (5 1/2 acres of trains under the roofs of three large buildings) TAMR table and layouts at the show. Contests, clinics, "Beach Party," and more! Another awesome multi-region event is being planned. Ideas and suggestions are definitely welcomed! We also welcome any TAMR member who would like to join the Winter Convention Committee. Mark your calendars now! For more information, contact: Adam Sullivan, E-mail: [TAMR30@yahoo.com](mailto:TAMR30@yahoo.com) or Newton Vezina, E-mail: [TAMR19@aol.com](mailto:TAMR19@aol.com) or call

**JUNE 13-16, 2002** (Kensal, ND) The current dates I am planning for the "Mountaineer" are Thursday, June 13-Sunday, June 16, 2002. Here is a rundown of planned events

*June 13:* Head for Harvey, ND, railfan the CP/Soo - Tour Ray Kuntz's HO Soo Layout - Slides/Clinics

*June 14:* Railfan BNSF between Jamestown and Bismarck, ND - Dave's Hobbies - State RR Museum - Huge HO Layout (uncontested, largest in state) - Spend night in Bismarck

*June 15:* Morning railfan BNSF west to Judson, ND - Tour of Wilton, ND, HO Club layout - Convention dinner - Clinics/Slides

*June 16:* Morning - Open, probably will be filled with railfanning - Ride McHenry Loop Afternoon - Railfan Valley City, ND

Of course this is subject to change, and probably will. For info contact Lewis Ableidinger at [soo201@hotmail.com](mailto:soo201@hotmail.com)

**JUNE 16-18, 2002** (Minneapolis/St Paul) A 2 or 3 day post-convention is in the works for the "Mountaineer" in Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Activities being planned: Railfanning (obviously!) - Bob Rivard's HO Layout (see Great Model Railroads 2001) - The O scale layout at Bandana Square - MN Trans. Museum at Jackson St. Roundhouse (well worth the trip right there!) For info contact Lewis Ableidinger at [soo201@hotmail.com](mailto:soo201@hotmail.com)

**June 20-23, 2002** The TAMR Southern Region will be hosting its annual Summer convention June 20-23. The meet will be based out of Spencer, NC. Plans for layout tours, railfanning, and steam excursions are being ironed out. If your on your way to the National, how bout stop by NC? For further information contact Southern Region Rep. Josh Trower([GG1\\_4935@hotmail.com](mailto:GG1_4935@hotmail.com)) or convention director Hayes Smith([cookiemonster@rrmail.com](mailto:cookiemonster@rrmail.com)).

**JULY 10-18, 2002** (New Jersey / New York) The Broadway Limited 2002. With it 7 months away, the 2002 TAMR National Convention is scheduled to be held in New York and New Jersey, hosted by one of the TAMR's fastest growing, and active divisions! Get ready for the best model railroading and railfanning in New York and New Jersey! For more information, contact The Drew Crew, 2002 Andrew Matarazzo, Convention Director. E-mail: [TAMRnymets@aol.com](mailto:TAMRnymets@aol.com) and Northeast Region Rep., Andrew Sabens, (Convention Director) E-mail: [TAMR13@aol.com](mailto:TAMR13@aol.com)

**THIS JUST IN!!!** The 2003 TAMR National Convention will be held in northern California during the month of July 2003!! For more information, contact Ross McKnight, E-mail: [TAMR4449@aol.com](mailto:TAMR4449@aol.com)

*Have a big railfanning bash coming up? Tell us here at the Hotbox and we'll let the world know about it!*

## **Top Seven Rejected Slogans for Operation Lifesaver.**

Lifted verbatim from the July 1996 Hotbox by: Peter Maurath

- #7. If you want to go and get yourself mauled by an oncoming train, don't let us stop you!
- #6. We're Smokey The Bear, of railway safety.
- #5. Our coloring books are nicer than the ones from natural gas safety.
- #4. Our new spokesman, Chuck Zehner!
- #3. Trains, blood-spattered highway, 'nuff said.
- #2. Were not related to that darn candy!

And the number one rejected slogan for Operation Lifesaver:

Just don't cross the darn tracks when you're not supposed to!!!!

[Writers note: For those with awfully good memories, yes, this is a repeat, though I prefer retro, Top 7. Since LOASSB is celebrating, I thought it only fair to do the same for the Top 7's, which I've been scribbling out for seven years. 7 years of Top 7's, get it? Well, I thought it was clever anyway.]

© 2001 Dave Honan



The very scenic Wilbur Trestle, on the River Line, at dawn. Dave Honan photo

# TAMR ON THE WEB

## What could be better than free stuff?

The TAMR has an active presence on the Internet, and we hope our members will take advantage of what we have to offer. All of this is included in your membership, so it is free. Yes, that's right, it won't cost you a dime!

**First** is our own site, [www.tamr.org](http://www.tamr.org). Here you can find out what's going on and see pictures from conventions. If you have a picture to add, or would like your own web site linked, contact us. We are also always looking for members who would like to help with the site (no experience is required). If you would like to have your own page at the site, we'll help you with that, too. For more information, contact [webmaster@tamr.org](mailto:webmaster@tamr.org).

**Second** is our e-mail list. The list does not replace the *Hotbox*, but does provide a fun way for members to get the latest news and make new friends. You can join the list in several ways:

- send a blank e-mail to [TAMR-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:TAMR-subscribe@yahoo.com)

- on the web, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TAMR>. (This is most useful if you are already registered with E-groups or Yahoo).

- send an e-mail to [pivotpin@tamr.org](mailto:pivotpin@tamr.org) and request an invitation.

Note: Yahoo has recently bought E-groups. Most URL's will take you to a Yahoo page. Until things settle down, you may experience some difficulty using the site. Contact the Pivot Pin if you have a problem.

Yahoo also has a "files" area where you can find the TAMR logo, some more pictures, and other information. Note: the list is only open to TAMR members, although a few exceptions occur for former members or industry contacts.

**Third**, you can have an e-mail address "@tamr.org." This is a forwarding address, so the e-mail is sent to another address that you already have. (It is possible to get a POP or stand-alone account, but there is a charge associated with this). For information, contact [treasurer@tamr.org](mailto:treasurer@tamr.org).

## Check us out on-line!

[www.tamr.org](http://www.tamr.org)

And while on the web, stop by our sponsor's site!



**J AND J BASIC HO  
LAYOUTS**



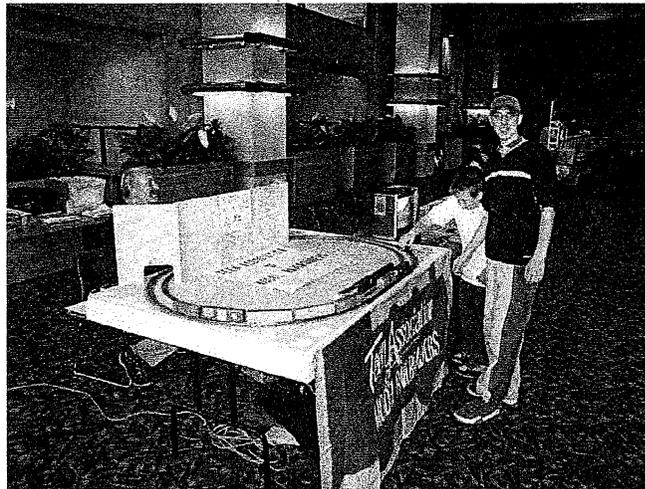
[www.ho-only.com](http://www.ho-only.com)

They give discounts to all TAMR members

# TAMR News and Reviews

Conducted by Nick Wilson

First off, a news photo from the Northeast...



The TAMR layout at the RIT Model RR Club's fall open house.

## **And here's a news release from our friends at Bachmann**

### New Spectrum (R) HO Russian Decapod from Bachmann

Bachmann Industries, Inc., is pleased to announce the release of the HO 2-10-0 Russian Decapod steam locomotive. Part of their premium Spectrum (r) line of products, the Russian Decapod features the same hidden cog vee belt drive system that was used in Bachmann's award-winning 2-8-0 Consolidation. The 2-10-0 is available in five road names: Painted Unlettered, Western Maryland, Atlantic Coast Line, Erie, and Frisco.

Initially built by US locomotive manufacturers for use on Russian railroads, the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution caused 246 Russian Decapods to be left undelivered. These "orphaned" locomotives were distributed among 42 different railroad companies in the United States. Despite its somewhat unconventional appearance, the 2-10-0 proved to be a dependable and versatile locomotive, and was used for passenger, freight, and industrial services.

The Spectrum (R) Russian Decapod is one of the most eagerly anticipated locomotives in recent years. Using original design plans to produce an accurate replica of the 2-10-0, Bachmann dozens of fine scale metals and accessories on the locomotive. (sic) The DCC ready model has features and details specific to individual road name, making each version prototypically unique. The Painted Unlettered model comes fully equipped with both "bald faced" and standard smoke boxes, as well as four different styles of headlights and marker lights.

Features on the 2-10-0 Russian Decapod include:

- DCC ready
- hidden cog vee belt drive exclusive to Bachmann
- 5 pole, skew wound motor
- accurate crosshead and guide detail
- die cast chassis
- separately applied metal detail parts including smoke stack, domes, running

- boards, hand rails, and piping
- see-through boiler
- operating headlight
- marker light detail per prototype
- curved metal deck plate
- "bald faced" and American standard smoke boxes per prototype
- front and top mounted brass bells
- fine scale back head detail
- painted engineer and fireman figures
- factory-mounted E-Z Mate (R) Mark II couplers
- Andres and arch bar tender trucks per prototype
- hand tooled coal load
- detailed tender under frame
- RP25 wheels

Spectrum(R) HO 2-10-0 Russian Decapod  
MSRP \$170.00

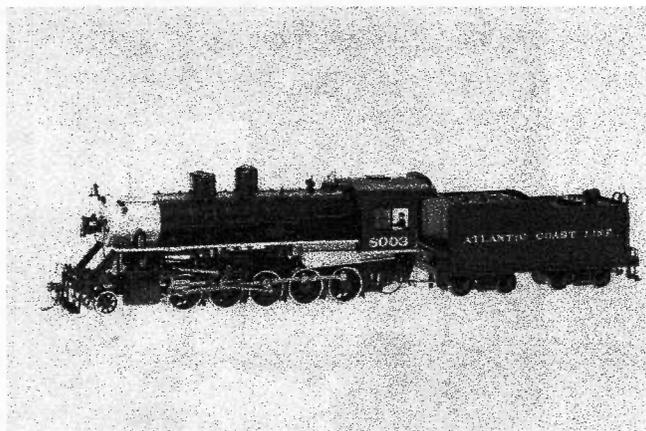
Painted Unlettered - Item No. 81701

Western Maryland "Fireball" - Item No. 81702

Atlantic Coast Line - Item No. 81703

Erie - Item No. 81704

Frisco (with doghouse) - Item No. 81705



### And from our one and only Peter Maurath...

Dear TAMR Members,

I need your input. The MRN column has been passed from Jim to me. Since this is the column of the TAMR reaching tens of thousands of people who pick-up any issue of Model Railroad News, it's an opportunity for us as a group to let these people know what a great organization we are. So what would you like to see in this column? Member profiles, layout features, letters from members, more convention, and TAMR event news, Bo interviews, etc. This is your column too, so let me know what you think. Don't be shy, get involved, otherwise what are spending that \$15 for? You can e-mail, call or even snail mail me at the address below.

Peter Maurath

13212 Wilton Ave.

Cleveland, OH 44135

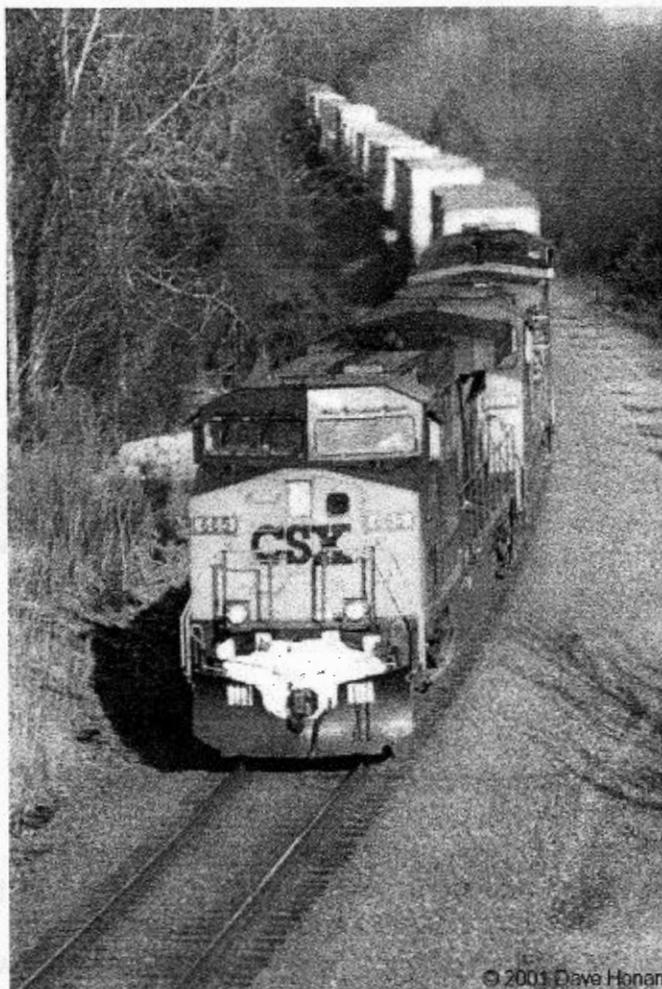
(216)-476-9477

(word of warning: silly machine message)

[pencntr1@aol.com](mailto:pencntr1@aol.com)

CSX River line pictures by Ross McKnight - left: CSX SD60, right: C40-8, fall '01





Top Left - CSXT 665 on the point of a southbound pig train (no, not real pigs, a piggyback train)  
Top Right - GRS 300 leads an eastbound up Schaghticoke Hill (say it something like "Skat-ih-koke")  
Bottom - Battenkill Railroad (former Greenwich & Johnsonville) RS3 4116 switches a few cars at Eagle Bridge, this is half of their fleet of locos, the other is another RS3 in a more updated scheme.  
Dave Honan photos