

THE HOTBOX

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ISSUE

May 2007
Issue # 406

ISBN:1093-622X



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEEN
ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS

"Made from carbonated water, cane sugar, natural and artificial flavors."



THE HOTBOX

Editor -Peter Maurath
Publisher-Peter McRath II
Contributing Columnists-
Steven Goehring
Art Director-Duh Vinci
Photographer- Jay Vecee
Librarian- knows her Dewey
Decimal system

CONTRIBUTIONS

Send your check to my...oops, sorry, you mean that type of contribution. We here at The Hotbox are always in need of new material. Here are a few examples:

FEATURE ARTICLES:

This is what we're always looking for. From a railfan trip, to your home layout's story, or your own story. Size can range from a paragraph to a full page. Pictures are always appreciated.

COLUMNS:

Full of great tips on layout improvement? Got a million reasons EMD is better than GE? Start a monthly, or bi-monthly column. Size same as features.

PHOTOS AND DRAWINGS:

Got a great photo collection you want to show-off? Got a notebook full of railroad cartoons, or layout logos? Send them to the Hotbox staff for consideration.

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS, OR HOTBOX QUESTIONS TO:

Peter Maurath

OR EMAIL AT:

TAMRHotbox@sbcglobal.net
All the prime rib is gone!

GET WIRED

Check out TAMR on the web at:

www.TAMR.org

Or Join our online yahoo news group, by contacting:

pivotpin@TAMR.org

(By joining you'll receive updates on TAMR news and events, plus be connected to dozens of other TAMR members. There's no cost to join this group, do it today!)

If you have a web site relating to trains or model railroading, why not join the TAMR web ring. It costs nothing, and provides a link for all TAMR members to find other TAMR sites. To join, send your e-mail address and web site URL to:

pivotpin@tamr.org

ON THE COVER: This years Grand Prize winner of the TAMR Photo Contest goes to Erik Romatowski. For the complete caption see the next page.

FORM 19 A message from your editor in chief

Never fear! The Hotbox lives! In case you haven't figured it out already, (I strongly encourage you to read the fine print on pg. 8 of the April issue if you haven't) April Fools! The Hotbox is not going out of print, the TAMR is not disbanding, not yet anyway. While things may not be as bad as I made them seem last month. What I published is not far from reality if we don't see a turnaround and soon. Every month I say goodbye to a few more members, every month I watch our funds drop just a little more. For every step we take forward, we're taking two back. Members do renew, money does come in, but we're really not gaining anything, just sliding down this slope a little at a time. I don't like to see this, which is why I decided to theme this year's April Fool issue around that, in the hopes it might spur some of you to action. The response sadly, was less than enthusiastic. I expected most members to assume it was a joke, but

when almost none of our officers sounded-off about it, not even saying "ha-ha Peter, very funny", I've got to wonder if you'd care if it were for real.

You can be sure if you ever see that again, it won't be a gag, it will be the real thing.

So what can I do about this? You ask? Well for starters, stop making excuses and start helping-out. Send in material to the Hotbox, or regional publications, host a small meet or convention in your region, or sponsor a table at a train show. We get free space at all Greenberg Shows, and if you ask, you can usually get either a discount or free spot at most other shows, such as those sponsored by the NMRA (as long as your not selling anything, they'll usually give you a free table).

All that boils down to acting. This group won't be saved by a lot of

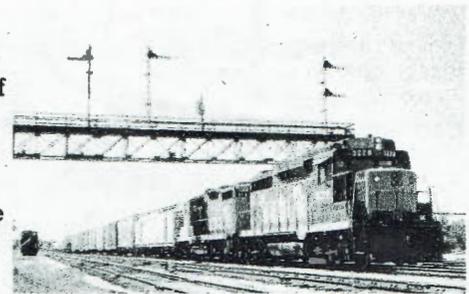


PHOTO: TIM VERMANDE

words and hang-wrining. If we want to avoid a repeat of last month, we've got to do something. "But I don't know how to do that stuff?" you say. Then ask the experts, people like myself, Tim Vermande, Newton Vezina, and other advisors, and sponsors such as MRN. They, and myself are more than willing to help you, because we want to see this group flourish too, all it takes, is acting on it.

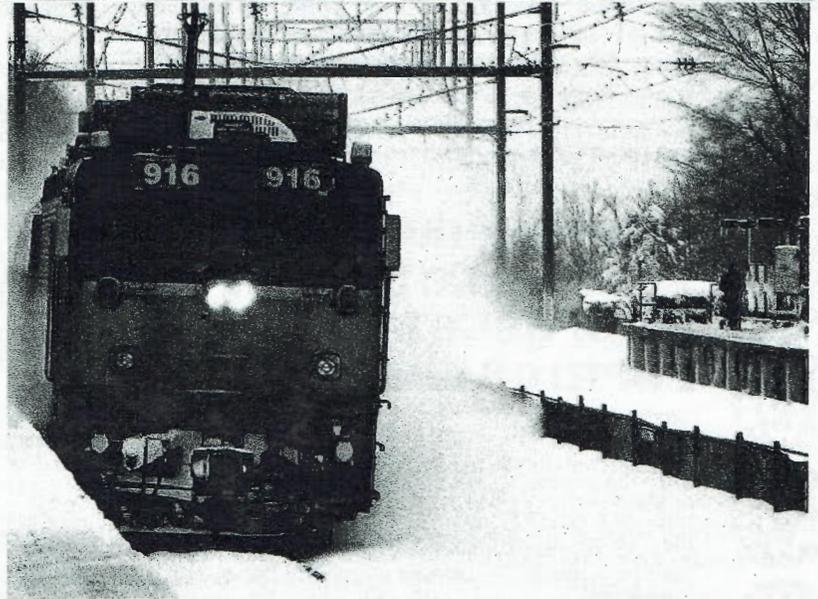
Good News in the Summer Convention department. Matt Roberts, our Southern Region Rep., and webmaster, has stepped-up to the plate to host it this year in The Lonestar state, later this July. For more info see page 4. •

2007 TAMR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

FIRST PLACE

ERIK ROMATOWSKI, Highland Park, NJ

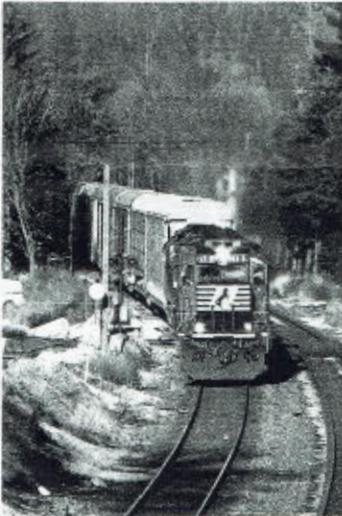
A southbound Amtrak train is caught at New Brunswick, NJ the morning of February 12th 2006, after a blizzard dumped 2 feet of snow on central New Jersey. The photographer was able to quickly snap this photo before he had to protect his camera from the coming cloud of snow.



SECOND PLACE

AUSTIN
MACDOUGALL
Stockertown, PA

NS westbound
intermodal 213
passes through
Emmaus, PA on
the afternoon of
February 24th,
2007.



THIRD PLACE

MATT MARTIN, Fairport, NY

It is a cold January 27th night and Amtrak Train P494 rests after a long journey from Newport News, Virginia. After unloading passengers, crew men, and baggage, the train will lay over in Springfield, Mass. before its return trip to Virginia. With the temperature in single digits, the crews leaves the engine running for courtesy of the train's next crew.



FOURTH PLACE

MARK
MACDOUGALL
Stockertown, PA

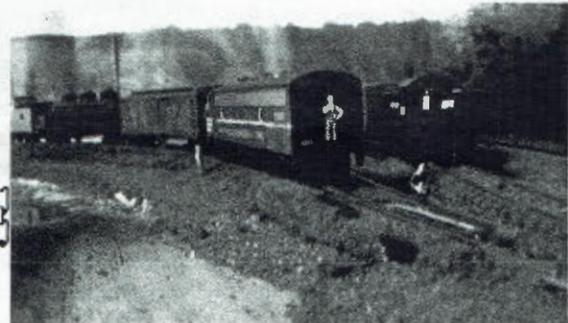
Norfolk Southern
ethanol train 64R
slowly crosses the
Rockville Bridge
on the mid-
afternoon of May
12th, 2006.



FIFTH PLACE

STEVEN GOEHRING, Nazareth, PA

With the Penn Central's ALCO RS1 belching black exhaust, the Wells-ville, Addison & Galeton crew prepares to depart with their F7 running backwards to the home yard at Galeton, PA. This scene took place in spring of 1969 at the PC interchange in Ansonia, PA



R

a

i

i

f

a

n

R

a

n

i

i

n

g

WELCOME TO AMERICAS SOON TO BE FASTEST GROWING ARTICLE SENSATION, *RAILFAN RANTINGS*. IN THIS COLUMN I POSE A QUESTION TO OUR MEMBERS VIA THE TAMR ONLINE GROUP AT YAHOO, AND HOPEFULLY COME AWAY WITH SOME INSIGHTFUL, AMUSING, AND POSSIBLY SILLY ANSWERS. THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Apart from being a railfan, do you have interests in another form of transport?

(Courtesy Maikha Ly)

Jonathan Schoen, Simi Valley, CA- "Well, I'll say that I'm a fan of public transportation in general (i.e. the concept rather than the individual vehicles) but not really much else besides trains. My father, also a railfan, has been into airlines his whole life though."

Tim Vermande, Plano, TX- "I was always (in) famous for bringing pictures of trolleys, fire engines, and sometimes buses ("let's go busfanning now") to Lake Shore Railfan Protection District (Chicago division) shows."

Peter Maurath, Cleveland, OH- "I hold a passing interest in trolley's and interurbans (the city-to-city trolley's) with the rich history they had here in Ohio. Also since I paint them for a living, cars (all shapes and sizes) are my second love after trains. Don't know much about planes or boats (I do paint them as well) but I find them interesting when the subject comes-up."

Charles Warczinsky, Sandusky, MI- "I have a small interest (at least as compared to my interest in trains) in airplanes... I like to fly mostly 'cause I like to see the railroad tracks from the air, but I did actually spend a week in Oshkosh, WI, a couple years ago and did everything up to the point of soloing (didn't have the medical certificate, so I did everything on my own, but with a CFI in the right seat). Also, I belong to our Civil Air Patrol, and get to spend some time around small planes."

"Also, being from the east side of Michigan, in the middle of the Great Lakes, we have a somewhat rare opportunity to see the big lakes freighters (boats) up close, especially in the St. Clair River at the mouth of Lake Huron. It's sometimes fun to spend the rather long lulls between trains in Port Huron (MI) by going over to the river and watching the boats go by."

Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA- "My other transportation interests vary greatly from trains, boats, and aircraft as well as military equipment. My interest in boats mostly lean towards military watercraft from aircraft carriers to subs!!!! Airplanes, I find most civilian aircraft to be boring so I lean towards the military, I love big-bombers such as the B-52 and the B-36!!!! I also love experimental aircraft and am a big fan of the X-series (such as the X-15) and am a fan of unusual aircraft (XB-35 and XB-49 "Flying Wings"). Various forms of military ground transport also are cool but I tend to have a love for fighting vehicles such as tanks and self-propelled guns."

Doug Engler, Fulton, NY- "I also am a fan of tow-trucks and tractor trailers as well."

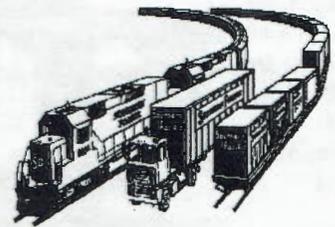
WANT TO JOIN IN THE RANTING? THEN JOIN THE TAMR ONLINE GROUP AT YAHOO GROUPS.COM. SEE PAGE TWO FOR MORE INFO.

**SUMMER
CONVENTION
ANNOUNCEMENT**

THE TEXAS EAGLE 2007

Hosted By: Matthew Roberts
July 26-28, Austin, TX

stay tuned



Conventions

By Chris Burchett

For many years, the TAMR seemed to keep of steady stream of conventions in the calendar of events. But in the last couple years or so, the organization has taken a hiatus from such gatherings that have become quite the glue (in addition to the Hotbox itself)—even to include the hallowed national convention. Many of you are more than likely apprehensive to even conduct a small regional or divisional convention—there's a lot too it, right? I, too, was hesitant when I first joined until I learned the secret to a convention's success—keep it simple and stick to what you know. Once I learned that, it was rather easy to draw up a schedule, events, and then let the fun begin.

So, what goes into holding a successful convention? First of all, let's strip it down to the bare minimum. A convention is, quite simply, a gathering of fellow enthusiasts. Don't ever think of it as anything more than that. It's just watching some trains or visiting (or even operating) area layouts with your comrades. It's a day or maybe a weekend of just trains and your friends—new or "seasoned."

All right, now let's get an idea of what we want to do during this get-together. Is there a big train event coming up like a train show or a railfan day nearby? Why not make that the core of the convention? It's worked for several past TAMR events, including the venerable Winter National Convention held in conjunction with the Amherst Railway Society's train show for the last eighteen-plus years. Another option is to just spend a day or two trackside and/or visiting area model railroads (club, private or even your own). Just go to the local train watching spot and do that for a convention? Really? Yep, it's that simple. Whatever you do, don't over-extend the convention. Keep it short and keep it simple.

Which brings me to my next stop: scheduling. You know the area well (or at least better than most of the attendees that will be there), so now comes the point at which a date or dates must be set for this shin-dig to go off. Here's a big hint: avoid major holidays and keep to the weekends. Don't let the convention go over three days if at all possible. The longer it goes on, the higher the chances are that the convention will not attract as large an audience as you may have hoped. The convention that has

been attributed as starting the convention fever was the 1994 national convention held in Dayton, Ohio. It was only about three days long and held over a weekend. The national convention was only three days in duration? It sure was, and one of the more successful ones I might add. Nothing fancy either—just some fellow TAMR members getting together to watch trains, visit layouts, and building friendships that last to this day. So as I said earlier, keep it short and keep it simple. And above all, make sure you allow plenty of time for everyone else to plan accordingly for it (no less than four months if at all possible). Announce it to everyone in your regional publication as well as the Hotbox.

Finally, don't let the fact that one or two people besides yourself attended your convention. The smallest ones are sometimes the best and most memorable. I held a few conventions that had a total attendance of three. Hey, it's still a convention and each was a success because we connected with each other and did what we enjoyed most: did something related to trains.

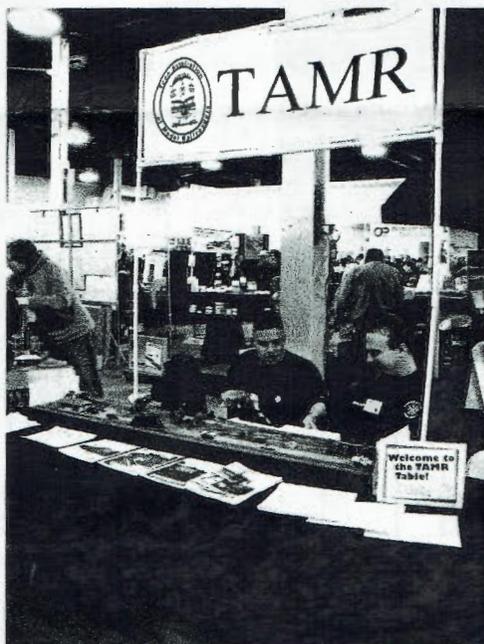
You never know how far away someone is willing to travel to attend your meet. Don't ever be discouraged by the attendance. Did everyone have a good time? Then it was a huge success. Even informal gatherings in which you and a fellow TAMR member got together for a weekend also counts for something. That means the group is alive and connecting on a personal, face-to-face level. That's the core of every convention,

Oh, and don't forget to write a little something about the convention after the fact, should you so desire. It's always fun to relate what happened to the rest of the group and might just inspire some to attend one of your future meets.

Above all, just have fun! What's the point if you're not having fun with it? The TAMR thrives the most when its members are interacting with each

other on a personal basis, face-to-face. The Internet and all of its advancements are wonderful, but it lacks what makes the TAMR what it is: an established organization of likeminded teens getting together and having fun. It's a unique group and a unique concept not seen or used much elsewhere—especially on the widespread basis that we operate.

So get out there and have some fun! Get some of your fellow TAMRers together and watch some trains for a day or two or build/operate some layouts. Keep it simple and make it fun. •



The Top 7

By: Peter Maurath

"From the Home office in Cleveland, OH, it's tonight's Top Seven List!"

Top Seven uses for last month's Hotbox.

- #7. Inexpensive window shades.**
- #6. That tire-shop down the street could use a few new mags in the waiting area.**
- #5. Two words-Origami Birds.**
- #4. With a little tape, and some imagination, you can make your own party hat!**
- #3. Grab some crayons and have fun coloring in the photo's.**
- #2. It makes a great Mother's Day gift!**

And the number one use for last month's Hotbox...

Well you could actually try reading it for once.

THE EXTRA BOARD

New Memberships-1

GREGORY JACKMAN

Renewals-2

KYLE SHANNON
COLLIN REINHART

Expiring Memberships-11

BEN NEAL
JOE WIEGIEK
DAVID MOBED
JAMIE RIEGNER
BRETT ZORNES
FRANK COYE
THOMAS MOONEY
STEVEN MILLER
ERIK ROMATOWSKI
NICK OLEK
JAMES CARROLL

Present Member Count- 60

EDITORS NOTE: THIS WILL BE A FEATURE EVERY MONTH SHOWING EVERYONE, WHO'S JOINING, WHO'S STAYING AND WHO'S GOING. IF YOUR NAME IS UP THERE I HOPE IT'S IN THE RENEWAL SECTION OR WILL BE NEXT MONTH.

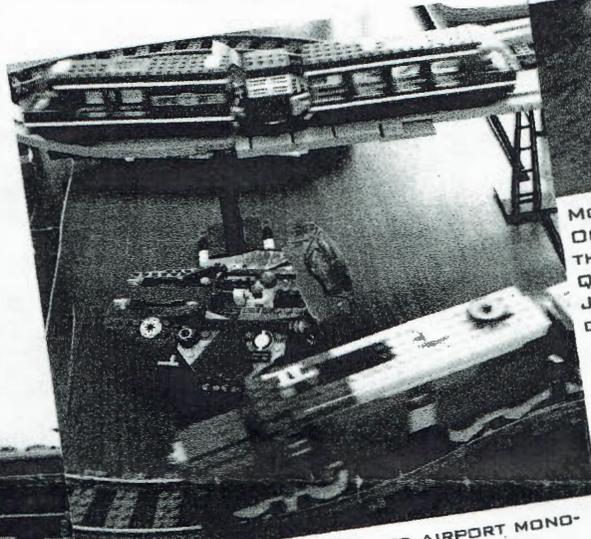
Trains to Nowhere

BY: STEVEN GOEHRING

On April 28th, I worked with several friends to put together a charity benefiting train display. We brought in over 75 items of food for the Food Bank and more than \$50 to use to donate more food. Here are some of my better pictures of scenes on my G-sale setup and my friend's and my combined Lego train layout.



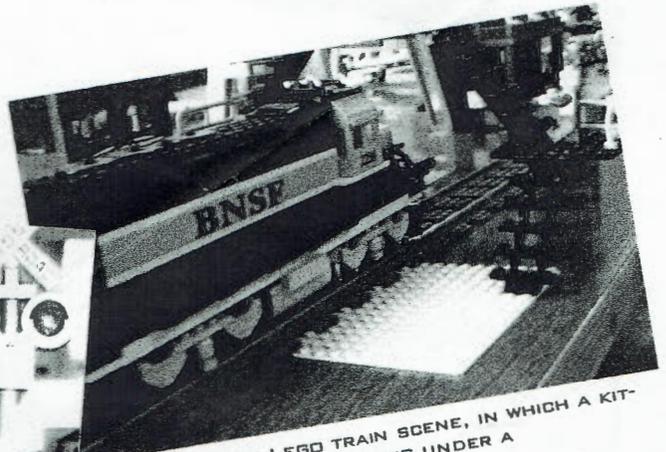
MORE OF MY GOOFY LEGO SCENERY. OBI-WAN: "MATER, WHY DID WE LET THE BATTLE DROID DRIVE?" QUI-GON: "IT WASN'T ME! AND JAR JAR, WOULD YOU QUIT BREATHING DOWN MY NECK?!?"



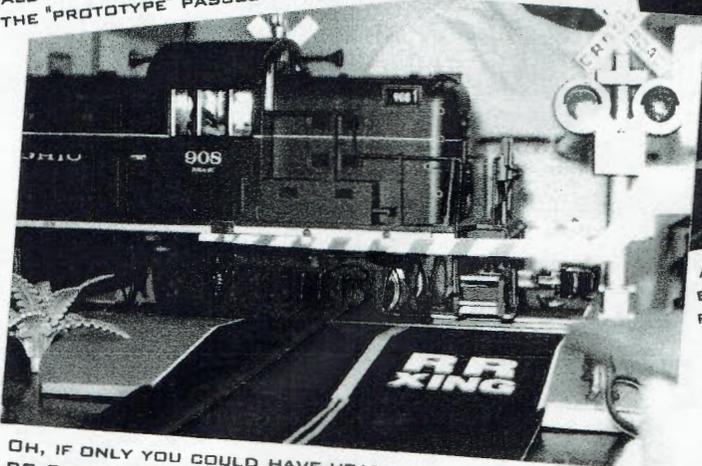
A RED LEGO FPA-4 AND A RED AIRPORT MONORAIL PASS BY AN EQUALLY RED STAR WARS JEDI INTERCEPTOR.



A MODEL TRAIN WITHIN A MODEL TRAIN LAYOUT... SOME G SCALE PEOPLE PLAY WITH N SCALE TRAINS AS THE "PROTOTYPE" PASSES BY BEHIND.



A MORE SERIOUS LEGO TRAIN SCENE, IN WHICH A KIT-BUILT BNSF GP-38 IS PASSING UNDER A PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS.



OH, IF ONLY YOU COULD HAVE HEARD IT! MY SOUND-EQUIPPED RS-2 GLIDES BY THE GRADE CROSSING WITH CROSSING BELLS RINGING.



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. REPRINTING OF THE HOTBOX IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS.

MEMBERSHIP TO THE TAMR INCLUDES AN ELEVEN MONTH SUBSCRIPTION TO THE HOTBOX, THE ANNUAL DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS, QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTERS AND AN ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL TAMR EVENTS. THE AVAILABLE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS: REGULAR (UNDER 21)-\$15, ASSOCIATE (21 AND OVER)-\$20, INTERNATIONAL (OUTSIDE US)-\$18

TO BECOME A PART OF THE TAMR, OR TO RENEW, SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO:
TIM VERMANDE, TAMR PIVOT PIN,

OFFER GOOD WHY SUPPLIES LAST, NEGATIVE EQUITY APPLIED TO NEW LOAN BALANCE, MUST TAKE DELIVERY OF DEALER STOCK, SEE STORE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY, VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF RULES, REGULATIONS, AND THE BEST DARN RESTAURANTS IN SANDUSKY, OH SEND A SSAEBDR TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS. IF YOU ARE AT ALL UNSATISFIED WITH THIS HOTBOX, PLEASE RETURN UNUSED PORTION FOR A COMPLETE BLOW-OFF BY OUR STAFF. THANK YOU!

COMING SOON TO THE HOTBOX:

- Railroading in the movies.
- An Australian visits Penny country!

COMING SOON TO THE TAMR:

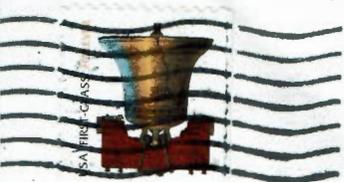
- The Western Region Convention, coming this July.
- Summer National convention in TX, July 26th-28th.



We're on the web!
www.tamr.org



Teen Association Of Model Railroaders
"Putting the future of model railroading on the right track"



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE