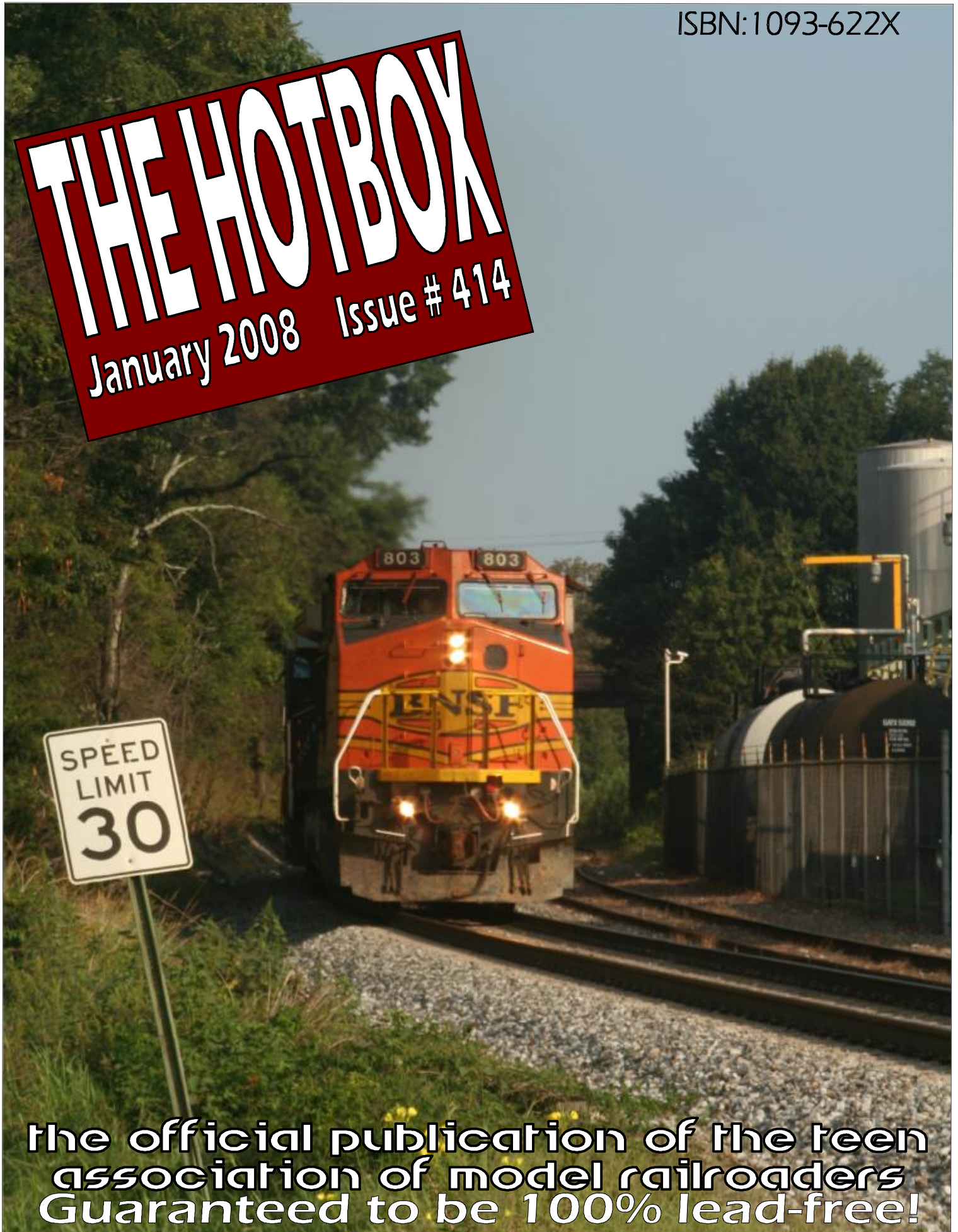


ISBN: 1093-622X

THE HOTBOX

January 2008 Issue # 414



**the official publication of the teen
association of model railroaders
Guaranteed to be 100% lead-free!**

THE HOTBOX

January 2008 Issue # 414

ON THE COVER: . BNSF C44-9 #803 leads a southbound train on the the CSX line in Marietta, GA. *James Lincoln, photo.*



FORM 19

A message from your editor in chief.

Editor –Peter Maurath
Publisher–Peter McRath II
Contributing Columnist–
Steven Goehring
Art Director–Duh Vinci
Photographer– Jay Vece
Librarian– Is busy working on her Gingerbread
Library branch.

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
13212 Wilton Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135

Or email at:

TAMRHotboxEd@sbcglobal.net

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

Young republicans, they're so hip!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season, and got all the Tower 55 brass locos they wanted. (Santa stiffed me AGAIN!) Speaking of gifts, as a late gift to all of you I've freshened-up the Hotbox (in case you haven't noticed) with new "logos" and trim for the cover and adjoining pages. There has also been a small amount of shifting things around, but don't worry, everything you love is still here (gotta keep the customers happy after all!).

If you have any comments, concerns, or constructive criticism, I can take it, just contact me at the info still to left.



Convention Announcement: If there are no objections, I will be hosting this years TAMR Summer National Convention, right here in my home town, of Cleveland, OH. To be called: *The Burning River Limited* (we can't get past it, so we might as well embrace it!) it is tentatively scheduled for June 27-29, with a possible fourth day, if it is necessary. More info to come.

Another convention fast approaching is the Winter National Convention in Springfield, MA. Hosted by Newton Vezina, this event continues to be one of the best in our history, and as an added bonus there are four buildings full of train stuff this year, as well as a TAMR caboose contest, for more info check out page 5.

Good News! Four months after Dave Swanson challenged us to grow our membership by offering \$15 to the group for every new member, we finally got one, well two. I would have liked seeing as take a lot more of Dave's

money, and perhaps in the future we'll get another great opportunity like this and not waste it. That said, say hello to Jonathan and Austin!

**Austin & Jonathan Hight
10341 Hwy. 16 East
Philadelphia, MS 39350**

That's all I've got to say for this month, take care and I hope I see you in Springfield!•



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:

Describe your best/worst am-trak experience.

Doug Engler, Fulton, NY- “My best experience happened this past year. I had to make an unfortunate trip to MA for a funeral. The trip started with a very helpful window clerk get me a ticket on a sold out train (I forgot the train #). I had to go from Syracuse, NY, to Albany, NY. In Albany I had a 5 hr lay-over in which I was interviewed by a local news station about rail security. Then I went from Albany to Boston, MA. The fun part was that I chatted with a lady that I ended up sitting near on the return trip. I left for MA on a Thursday and returned on a Tuesday. The odds were not very good that I would see the same person going to and coming from. I also got to chat with a CSX cop who's car broke down and took Amtrak from Albany to Utica, NY.”

Collin Reinhart, Quakertown, PA- “My best experience on Amtrak was when we rode *The Three Rivers*, because we were usually on time (when on Norfolk Southern tracks), I got to ride in the old 10-6 sleepers; the last one was the Beach Grove. The service was good and the people were nice. I miss that train very much and I was sad to watch it leave the station for the last time. Riding the *Three Rivers* was the best time I had on Amtrak.”

“My worst was a few years ago. My parents and I took the *Cardinal* to Chicago and we were a little under 6 hours late. During the night the police had to take someone off the train. Also we left Washington late because the connecting train was late. Another thing was that the Union Pacific stopped one of their trains right in front of us, which took about 45 minutes, to an hour. It was most likely my worst experience on Amtrak.”

Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA- “My Best Amtrak Trip was from Columbia, SC to Washington, DC on the *Silver Star* then on a Northeast Direct train to Providence, RI. This was such a fun trip for me!”

“This trip was so enjoyable for me as it was also my first trip home since joining the Army in 2000. All of us soldiers were given the "choice" (basically we were told we had better go home because if we didn't the Drill Sergeants wouldn't be able to and we would have NO FUN AT ALL for about 2 weeks while everyone else was at home!!!) Since it was our "choice" we had to get our own transportation to and from home. Most people chose to fly, but me out of love for the train chose to take the train home. Most people were bragging how they would be home in "only 6 hours" and I would take 22 hours but what they neglected to add into that equation was the fact that I got to leave 20 hours before them and get back 15 hours later because of the train schedules!”

“As I recall I got on the train on something like midnight on the 18th of December. I had to travel home in Uniform (Class A's) and it was quite an experience getting all kinds of attention and having old ladies thinking I was a train crew member. People wanted me (expected me) to help them with their baggage (one lady thought I should get off the train and walk it to her car). It was so awesome rolling through the night and seeing all of the trains. I recall seeing a SDP35 (?) on static display at a train station painted for the Seaboard Air Line #1111 (I think) as well as a train station that had equipment on display for a chapter of the NRHS that had a replica of "*The Best Friend of Charleston*" (1800's steamer). There were so many nice people. I remember south of Washington DC there was a gravel plant with an RS1 and a power plant with a RS1 and a GE 144(?) Ton centercabs Switcher.”

“I laid over at Washington Station for 5 or more hours and I watched trains on the Platform as well as shopped in the Various stores in the station. I remember ending up on the Northeast Direct Train to Providence and it was great!! there were many nice people on the train talking to me and making conversation. It was great!!!”

Mike Acree, Webster, SD- “I helped the porter make beds and put mints on the pillows. I was very young at the time but I still remember. I walked all over the train and talked to people. It was an Amtrak train from Denver to Seattle.

Steven Goehring, Nazareth, PA- “The people: both the crew and the travelers. The Amtrak porters are the friendliest people you'll ever meet! Being seated with people you don't know in the dining car is another great experience. It makes for some great dinnertime conversations when everyone is good and relaxed from traveling by train.”

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



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



RAILROADS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA



Written By: Charles Warczinsky
All photo's by the author

Chesterton/Porter/Wellsboro, Indiana

South Bend is within 100 miles of downtown Chicago, Illinois. Although the word 'Chicago' brings a lot of different things to mind for many people, for most North American railfans, "Chicago" means lots of trains (and lots of congestion). Although Chicago has, among other things, a significant amount of heavy industry, much of that heavy industry is not in Chicago at all, but rather in such locations as East Chicago, Hammond and Gary, all of which are not in Illinois, but rather extreme northwest Indiana.

The steel mills, refinery and other large industries are not only railroad customers, but very heavy users of rail transportation. Unfortunately, just as a strong railroad presence in an area has a tendency to drive down property value; heavy industry has an even stronger tendency to drive down surrounding property values. For this reason railfanning in certain areas east of Chicago is not something I'd recommend. The danger in getting into certain areas is not worth what you might catch, especially if you are not familiar with the areas you're getting into. Additionally, many of the largest railroad customers have heavily secured and guarded facilities which are not welcoming to railfans. Closer to South Bend and in some of the nicer Chicago suburbs are several safer locations to watch trains in, although common sense is required in these locations as well. ●



NS 6740 and UP 2217 lead a westbound freight west toward Chicago, at South Bend, IN.



The end of a westbound South Shore commuter train leaves the street trackage through Michigan City, Indiana as an east-bound train waits to enter the same trackage.



Westbound CSX at Wellsboro, Indiana.

The Hot box Funny name of the Month

Pulled at random from the Southern Region Telephone Directory of the Penn Central Telcentral Phone Network, "There is always time for courtesy."

C.V. Cronenwett

This concludes the Hotbox funny name of the month. Provided by the Penn Central, Telcentral Phone Network. "when you answer the phone you are the com-



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Do you smell smoke?

The Burning River Limited **2008**
Cleveland, OH/6.27-6.29

start the fire...

Celebrating twenty years of attendance, the TAMR will once again be hosting a table at the Amherst Railway Society's BIG Railroad Hobby Show, in Springfield, MA. You know what that means, Winter Convention Time! Come join us January 25-29, 2008 for a weekend of trains, slide-shows, trains, pizza and did I mention the trains? Meet TAMR members Newton Vezina, Peter Maurath, Chris Burchett, and more, tour the second largest train show in the U. S., check out slide-shows, and just have fun hanging-out with other young railfans and hobbyists.

Calling all Crummies!

New for this year! All TAMR members who attend the convention and bring along a model caboose* will get free admission to the show (an \$8 savings!), your model will also be automatically entered in this year's caboose model contest for a chance at prizes. So get your "caboose" in gear, and attend this years winter national with all your crummies, cabin cars, and cabeese, you have.

We will once again be offering hotel accommodations at discounted rates to our members. For \$25 a night you can stay at the palatial Marriott's Residence Inn, Springfield, in the "TAMR suite" with plenty of room the spread out, an indoor pool, and free FULL breakfast every morning! To reserve your space contact the Convention Director at the info below.

For more information on anything above, please contact Newton Vezina, Convention Director at:

Newton Vezina,
76 Roy St. Springfield, MA 01104
Ph: 413-739-1949
Email: TAMRVideo@aol.com

*any scale is acceptable, you can try to bring a full size one if you want, though the TAMR is not responsible for trailer transport and storage, during the event.



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



The Top 7

By: Peter Maurath

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

Top Seven reasons for the Hotbox redesign

#7. The old look clashed with the shoes.

#6. Part of the copyright infringement settlement with the Teen Association of Meatloaf Renderers.

#5. Were in witness protection, shhh, don't tell anybody.

#4. Actually I didn't plan it, cat walked on the keyboard and deleted a bunch of stuff.

#3. If BNSF can do it...

#2. Redesign? What redesign?

And the number one reason for the Hotbox redesign...

Improves gas mileage by 18%!

The Extra Board

New Memberships-1

Jonathan & Austin Hight

Renewals-1

Thomas Konczol

Expiring Memberships-11

Dave Mason

Anthony Person

James Lincoln

Elizabeth MacCullagh

Barry Simmons

Lewis Ablaidinger

Daniel Adams

Jonathan Schoen

Andrew Mattarazzo

Mike Acree

Dimitrios Fradelakis

Present Member Count- 57↑

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.

The Hotbox Definition of the month.

reef•er

\ rē-fər \ v : What you do when your fur coat needs repairs.



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Trains to Nowhere

By: Steven Goehring

Happy New Year!

Happy 2008 to everybody in the TAMR! The end of 2007 seemed to be the start of good things for the TAMR with the launching of the new website and the great financial support from Dave Swanson, and we can only hope that this means that 2008 will be a great year as well!

To ring in the New Year in style, I'll publish a pair of recent layout photos for your enjoyment. But don't just look at the black & white versions shown on the paper, ink & staple *Hotbox*; go online at www.tamr.org and check out the

online *Hotbox* IN FULL COLOR! And while you're there, start your climb to



You can almost feel the warmth of summer as a little Whitcomb switcher rolls through a flowering meadow. Pine Creek is also running strong this season.

model railroading fame by publishing a super-easy but professional looking article, get connected to the TAMR's best tips and best plans for the future on the online forum, and show the rest of us your best railfan shots or model pics. After all, I've taken the time to share these three shots of various N scale trains, so what's stopping you from doing the same?

An invitation to all members: If you'd like to write a layout tour, railfan trip story, how-to article, or just publish some photos, you can do so in *Model Railroad News*, where thousands of people will be able to see your work! Just contact me on the TAMR e-mail list, the TAMR.org forum, or at nazrrfan@excite.com. I'll gladly give you any help you need in order to present your work to the wider model railroading community and help you gain the admiration and envy of all your railfan friends! This is open to any member regardless of age or hobby interests (as long as it's train-related.) You never know if you might want to work for a train magazine or model railroad company one day, and writing in *MRN* will give you a jumpstart in the right direction. ●



Heavy traffic near the Corning Glassworks! The NYC RS2 must wait for a mixed freight train to clear before proceeding into Wellsboro, but they'll be able to watch the CSX C40-8 and the LV PA-2s going about their coal and passenger service jobs, respectively.



A pair of Erie-Lackawanna C424's navigates the bridge over Pine Creek in the last hours of daylight.

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STEVEN GOEHRING
TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



The TAMR is a non-profit organization created to promote, foster, and encourage young persons in the hobby of model rail roading, the activity of rail fanning, 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 Rail roaders.

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, 6100 Ohio Dr. Apt. 1611, Plano, TX 75024, USA

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 Pittsfield, MA 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:**

- Railroads in the movies.
- Doug Engler's Syracuse Spots.

COMING SOON TO **THE TAMR:**

- Winter National Convention in Springfield, MA, January 25-28.
- The Burning River Limited 08', this summer in Cleveland!



The Teen Association of Model Railroaders

"Putting the future of model railroading on the right track."

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Before I go...

