

ISBN:1093-622X

# THE HOTBOX

September 2008 Issue # 422



**the official publication of the teen  
association of model railroaders**  
Any relation to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.



# THE HOTBOX

September 2008 Issue # 422

Editor –Peter Maurath  
Publisher-Peter McRath II  
Contributing Columnist–  
Steven Goehring  
Art Director-Duh Vinci  
Photographer– Jay Vecce  
Librarian– Stocking-up on leaf-bags.

## 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](mailto:TAMRHotboxEd@sbcglobal.net)

## GET WIRED

Check out TAMR on the web at: [www.TAMR.org](http://www.TAMR.org)  
Or Join our online yahoo news group, by contacting:

[pivotpin@TAMR.org](mailto: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](mailto:pivotpin@tamr.org)

I was born to be wild, my Mom said I was!

**ON THE COVER:** . This is Q381 Westbound on an overcast afternoon at CP 359 in Fairport, NY with BNSF 899 leading. *Matt Martin photo.*



## FORM 19

A message from your editor in chief.

Summer is unofficially over. As I type this everybody's getting ready to grasp that last little piece of it through the Labor-Day weekend. Already most of you are back in school, colors are starting to sneak on to the trees, and trees are starting to sneak into stores ahead of the holiday rush that will soon begin. I don't know about you, but it all went so fast. Seems I was just here writing about the upcoming summer convention, and now it's almost two month's past. With vacations behind us, it's time to get down to business, and we have plenty of our own here in the TAMR.

First off, elections. We are now less than two month's or issues away from picking our next Board-of-Directors. As things stand right now, I've got next to no ones Letters-of-Intent, which I need from every incumbent, and other interested member under 21 in order to run this election, which I have to since we presently have no Auditor.

If you plan to stay in office or would like to run, I need

your LOI, asap! It doesn't need to be much, just a few words on why you want to run and what you plan to do in office, it's that simple. It's time to stand-up and make your membership count for something. You don't like our membership numbers, or being stuck with a B/W Hotbox, then do something about it, get involved!

Next, just a reminder. I will be stepping-down as editor at the end of the year. Ben Hawken is preparing to replace me, and we will try to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Third, with the weather getting cold,

you know what that means, Winter Convention! Be sure to check out the ad on page 5 for all the info you need and join us next year in West Springfield!

One last thing, the Hotbox is available online, IN COLOR, for your viewing pleasure. If you would prefer a digital version over paper. Just let me know via the email addy on the left and I'll add you to the list. Later!•





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:

## Which is cooler: The high-rail truck, or the speeder?

**Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA:**

"Hmmm..... I would have to say a Hi-Railer is cooler especially some of the older ones which were classics!!! One such vehicle was the "private" conveyage of controversial New Haven President of the 1950's Patrick B. McGinnis, a Black 1950's Cadillac with an added center headlight and "marker lights" added as well Connecticut Licence Plate "PBM" which he used for touring/inspecting the property rather than the then more common Business Car!"

**Andrew Matarazzo, Old Bridge, NJ:**

"Definitely the high-rail truck, because you can drive it on roads and not just rails. You don't have to worry about putting it on a trailer to get to tracks, just drive right up to them. Although I must admit some paint schemes on speeders are pretty cool, including the rare Lionel speeder!"

"Plus you get almost the same reaction at grade crossings as in Back to the Future III, when the DeLorean, on railroad wheels, glides the crossing to the amazement of Hill Valley residents seconds before being crushed by a couple of ALCOs."

**Charles Warczinsky, Sandusky, MI:**

"Definitely the Hi-Rail Truck. While it's possible to buy a speeder, restore it to operation, and run it on real railroad tracks a cou-

ple times a year (or, in the case of the National New York Central Museum in Elkhart, Indiana, move it out of the speeder shed to the old caboose track to give Santa a different perspective this year), anyone (kind of) can add hi-rail wheels to their pickup and travel those miles and miles of lightly used railroad tracks, rather than the far more congested roads normal folks are restricted to. For a little extra fun, you can even mount an extra headlight or two above the cab of the pickup, a used air horn under the hood and park a few feet back from some lonely, country crossing. When some unsuspecting victim happens by, flip on the lights and sound the horn."

"**Note:** While I do believe the hi-rail truck is way cooler than the speeder, the above statement is meant to be humorous."

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

## The Hotbox tip of the month

**NEED CHEAP ARMATURES FOR YOUR TREES? TRY CLIPPINGS OFF A SHRUB SUCH AS A FORSYTHIA OR LILAC. JUST MAKE SURE YOU GET PERMISSION BEFORE YOU DO ANY PRUNING.**

# The Hotbox Layout Tour

This Month :  
Ben Hawken's Layout.

*Shasta City and Bieber*

Background info of the Shasta City and Bieber. For any of you that are familiar with the McCloud River Railroad you would recognize that the name of my layout is actually the two points on the railroad that are interchanges for the McCloud River Railroad. At Shasta City is where the UP formerly SP/MR meet and at Bieber is where formally the BNSF/BN/GN met. But now the line from Bieber to McCloud, is being scraped for a trail due to the lack of customers on the line. But I decide to name my layout this because this is one of my favorite Shortline's that is still in existence and is a very nice area to Railfan in. But hopefully one day I will be able to extend from Shasta City north to Eugene, Oregon and south to Sacramento, California, To make the Shasta City and Bieber more realistic than it is, every month, we will jump in the cab with a crew of a local or a mainline freight. So lets get our boots and gloves and join the first installment of the Shasta City and Bieber.

*This month we will jump in the cab with the Bieber local.*

At 0700 hours the crew arrives at Shasta Yard to start the daily yard switching for the local to Bernie and back. But first they need to sort out the train that came in last night. The power they're going to use is

a pair of SP RS32's. These units are probably the crew's favorite locomotives to run because they are only 4-axle units on the line. The rest are all are SD40's, SD45T-2's, SD60's with a lone SD38 and SD70MAC. Try switching the yard with a SD70MAC! After warming up the RS32's, they head down the yard throat to pick up the train from last night. With a few kicks, the cars are sorted in the yard. The local today is a bit longer than normal due to some needed work on the line near Bieber. The train includes some MOW equipment. Finally at 1000 hours the crew is ready to leave the yard after the air test, but they have to wait for an empty stack train. The train is lead by two CNW SD60's #8021 & 8047. Finally, they get the clear and start their journey to Bernie with 13 freight cars and 7 MOW cars in tow. As they go alone they pass the new power plant at Hooper, they meet a empty coal train powered with a BN SD70MAC and EMD SD60 #3. After the train arrives in Bernie its just after 1300 hours. The RS32's



Here the author takes an open air train ride behind an SD38 #38 on the actual McCloud River Ry.

go to work at Bernie after switching the team track and the local industries. They run around the train to head back to Shasta. They arrive in Shasta at 1830 hours, just in time to meet a grain train leaving the yard, pulled by a colorful mix of power, which included SP 7342, SPSF 9192, SP 9347, SSW 9389, & BN 6321. The crew switched their train and then tied down

the units in the locomotive facility. "Another day another dollar!" says one of the crewmembers, as he climbs off the locomotive. The crew walks over to the yard office to fill out some left over paper work. Another day has ended for the Shasta City and Bieber. ●

*Stay Tuned for Part two next month!*

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TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS





# TAMR PHOTO SPOT



An NS work train approaches the diamonds at Marion, OH, on June 28, 2008, during the Summer National Convention. *Tim Vermande, photo.*



NS train coming out of the Galitzen Tunnel. *Doug Engler, photo.*

## The Hotbox Definition of the month. Cupola

\ kyü-pə-lə\ *adj* : A word used when describing more than one item.

# W I N T E R N A T I O N A L C O N V E N T I O N 2 0 0 9



Celebrating over twenty years of attendance, the TAMR will once again be hosting a table at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show, in Springfield, MA. You know what that means, Winter Convention Time! Come join us January 23-25, 2009 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.

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](mailto:TAMRvideo@aol.com)



# 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 ways to bring railroading to school.

#7. Walk through the halls saying, "chugga-chugga", while making a sideways arm motion.

#6. Instead of raising your hand to answer a question, use brakeman hand signals.

#5. Talk to everyone like a defect detector.

#4. There's no better fashion statement then striped coveralls.

#3. At random points in the day tell the teacher you've "outlawed", then leave the classroom.

#2. Start a petition to change the school mascot to "The Fighting Chessies".

*And the number one way to bring railroading to school!*

Three words: Personal Air Horn.

## The Extra Board New Memberships-0

### Renewals-1

Ethan Doty

### Expiring Memberships-6

Matthew Roberts

Alexander Yasuna

Charles Warczinsky

Andy Inserra

Brent Johnson

### Present Member Count- 52↓

*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 Hot box Funny name of the Month

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

C.E. Batdorf

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

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# Trains to Nowhere

By: Steven Goehring

## Editor's Note:

This month we're featuring an email Steven wrote during a conversation concerning the state of the TAMR.

*I keep wondering how you get a little help around here, and how you get someone to help the group by helping themselves. Was it so hard for me to start writing a short article every month for the Hotbox back when I joined and heard that your article folders were empty? And look where it's gotten me, Peter! I just got a new Atlas locomotive and freight car in the mail from Model Railroad News and I'm working on reviewing them for the magazine. FREE TRAINS. No kidding, in fact, I'd like it if you could add this e-mail, in my exact words, to the Hotbox this month or next. I started with the Hotbox writing, then you invited me to try the TAMR column in MRN one month. Then I took the TAMR column over, while retaining the Hotbox feature out of gratitude for the publication that gave me my start. Now MRN has already run one of my reviews, they have two more heading their way for the next press deadline, and THREE more already lined up. YOU CAN BECOME AN INFLU-*

*ENTIAL PART OF YOUR HOBBY, BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN YOUR-SELF!!!! The TAMR gives you the opportunities, waste them at your own risk! I jumped at the chances that the TAMR gave me, and I'll be first in line to give another new writer, photographer, modeler, whoever, their big start ei-*

**The TAMR gives  
you the  
opportunities,  
waste them at  
your own risk!**

*ther in the HB, on a TAMR-affiliated webpage (tamr.org or the Facebook group,) or even in Model Railroad News! You did it for me, Pete, and I'll pay it forward to any member who will actually show some initiative and SUPPORT THE TAMR. GIVE US SOME CONTENT HERE PEOPLE, advertisements can always*

*come later once we rebuild the thriving community of ideas, shared art, advice, and growing talents showcased in our publications. THE NEXT LEVEL OF YOUR HOBBY IS HERE FOR THE TAKING! TAKE IT OR BE LEFT BEHIND!*

*Phew, semi-rant over. But seriously, Peter, feel free to include everything I've typed in this reply in the Hotbox. I for one appreciate it a lot, and all you've done for me and for it. I wish all future Hotbox editors well, for they hold the keys to the futures of those people with the best shot of being editors of Model Railroad News, Railroad Model Craftsman, Trains, Railfan & Railroad, Model Railroader, and anything else worth being proud of in the railfan/model railroad world. Just because it's small and has a homemade touch doesn't make the Hotbox, tamr.org, or the TAMR itself anything smaller than the rail hobby world's finest!*

*Your not-so-exasperated-  
anymore prez,  
Steven*



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 railroading, 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 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, 11667 Tidewater Dr, Fishers, IN 46037, 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 Lima, 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:**

- Ben Hawken continues his trip down the Shasta City & Berber Line.
- An update on the TAMR layout from Drew Matarazzo.

### COMING SOON TO **THE TAMR:**

- TAMR Elections, this November, are you running?
- Winter National Convention in Springfield, MA, January, 09.



## **The Teen Association of Model Railroaders**

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

13212 Wilton Avenue  
Cleveland, OH  
44135-4918  
[tamrhotboxEd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tamrhotboxEd@sbcglobal.net)



Before I go...

