

ISBN:1093-622X

THE HOTBOX

October 2008 Issue # 423



**the official publication of the teen
association of model railroaders
Do not remove label under penalty of law!**

THE HOTBOX

October 2008 Issue # 423

Editor –Peter Maurath
Publisher-Peter McRath II
Contributing Columnist–
Steven Goehring
Art Director-Duh Vinci
Photographer– Jay Vecce
Librarian– Is sharpening her pumpkin carving
knife.

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

My Charlie Daniels Band t-shirt was in there!

ON THE COVER: . This one is of a Delaware Lackawanna RS32 on a local near Steamtown in Scranton, PA, August 30th of last year. *James Lincoln, photo.*



FORM 19

A message from your editor in chief.

Welcome to fall everybody! Time to get back in those layout rooms, hit the train show circuit and get the tickets for the fall foliage specials. I love this time of year, the crispness in the air, the colors on the trees, and the realization that the greatest holiday of all, Thanksgiving, is not far off. Though the free burrito on Halloween at Chipolte, comes in a close second.

In case you didn't know, say perhaps you've been in a coma for the last six ten months, this year is an election year for the TAMR as well as the nation. We fifty or so guys and gals

have to pick the next batch of leaders for the 2008-2010 term. Sadly I've gotten very little response from any of the incumbents and none whatsoever from anyone new seeking to run. Next month's issue is supposed to be dedicated almost exclusively to the election (complete with ballot), but it's going to look pretty bare with only two Letter's on Intent in it. If you wish to keep your position, it would help you case if you wrote a few words, nothing big, a

few sentences will do. Same goes for anyone seeking political office, if you've been wondering how you could help the group, here's a great way! The open positions include the President, VP, and all five regional rep positions. Just be prepared to actually work. This is no time to think of these jobs as merely a title, we need men and women of action if we're going to survive, and you can be one. All it takes is a little effort and some time. If you can't run for office (over



the age of 21, for example) you can still vote. Voting is open to all members, regardless of age. My goal is to get back at least half of

the ballots this year, though I would love to be proven wrong, and see all of them return.

Otherwise, we've got the Winter National Convention coming up which will have a photo contest again, complete with some nice prizes. Also check out the information on page 3 for the new free e-zine now available online. •



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:

Where would you like to see the next TAMR summer convention?

Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA: "While I feel the TAMR can stand on it's own attributes, I also feel that a big plus for the TAMR would be to find some sort a Railroading event that is already planned at a known location and time such as an NHRS or a NMRA convention. Another possibility would be a Railfan Weekend over the summer combined with TAMR events. We could piggyback on their events such as shop tours and excursions and if a TAMR director has to bow out at the last moment the show will go on. TAMR events could be added to either choice to enhance the experience. Also I would say a place Like Colorado or Pennsylvania because of the Myriad of Railfan Activities offered!"

Sawyer Berry, Aiken, SC: "Somewhere close to South Carolina, maybe like Atlanta or Charlotte or somewhere like that. Then I might actually be able to come, lol."

Ben Hawken, Shingle Springs, CA: "I have two different locations, a Donner Pass/Feather River Canyon trip, or a visit to the Montana Rail Link. The it would be great if the MRL would let us get a tour of their Livingston rebuilt center and be able to see SD45 helpers up Mullin and Bozman passes."

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

CHECK THIS OUT!

Guys ,

I wanted to pass on this announcement about our new free model railroading magazine that's coming in January 2009. Since the magazine is hobby vendor sponsored and totally free to modelers, I think this should be an especially interesting option to teenagers who typically don't have loads of money for models, much less hobby magazines. Please pass the word on to all your fellow teen modelers because the greater our readership, the more advertisers will be interested in sponsoring us.

Our editorial staff includes many skilled hobby modelers and writers including a past editor from Model Railroader and an award-winning model railroading photographer.

Joe Fugate

Publisher, Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine

ABOUT MODEL RAILROAD HOBBYIST MAGAZINE

Model Railroad Hobbyist is a new totally electronic, totally interactive and totally free model railroading magazine that's premiering January 2009. Subscribing is always completely free and the magazine will be quarterly (for now).

The magazine is completely hobby-vendor sponsored so is free to download and view. The magazine re-invents hobby publishing to bring it fully into the new century by incorporating video clips, audio clips, and 3D virtual reality images of models that you can rotate and view from all sides.

Visit <<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com>> to learn more.



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



The Hotbox Layout Tour

This Month :
Ben Hawken's Layout.

Shasta City and Bieber part 2

Last time on the *Shasta City and Bieber* we followed the local crew from Shasta to Bieber and back on the lines two of three 4-axle units. Since then, there has been some added units. Three MP15DC's from the Southern Railway of British Columbia, a Southern Pacific U25BE #6800, and 3 Rio Grande SD40T-2's. The rail crews were very happy receiving some new locomotives. Today were going to ride along with a grain train from the interchange at Bieber to Shasta Yard. And then later we will join the yard crew for some fun at the Shasta Yard. The crew arrives at Bieber around 8:30am. They find the power is already been placed on the train. The unit consist is DRGW 5371/SPSF 9192/SSW 9387 (SD40T-2/SD45T-2/SD45T-2). With all of the air brakes checked the train starts to leave about 9:10am. As they leave town the air horn off of 5371 echo's throughout the sleeping town in a crisp autumn Saturday morning. The crew is making good time when all of the sudden there is a jerk and the train goes into emergency. The crew de-boards the train to figure out what has happened. They find that the 15th car to the 20th car has derailed. So the crew radios in that their train has derailed just out side of Hooper. The dispatcher tells the crew to take the locomotives and the first 14 cars and park on the Hooper Power plant siding. With this the line is blocked and has given the dispatcher a headache as he calls the local crew at



UP on the famous Keddie Wye. Photo by author.

Bieber to take the two SD40's in the Bieber yard and pick up the rest of the grain cars the other end of the train. Then he calls the yard crew at Shasta and tells them to take SP 6800 w/the "big hook" and go to the derailment site and clean up the cars. So by the time the big hook gets to the site its 2:45pm. Another hour goes by finally the cars a lifted back on to the track and moved the cars out of the way. The MOW crew determines that the ties and ballast needs to be replaced. The crew works well into the night trying to get the track fixed. The dispatcher is about to explode due to the trains building up on both sides normally there is 2 westbound trains and 3 eastbound trains daily not one has gotten to its final destination. Around 10pm the line is reopened. And around 1:30am the last train arrives in the Shasta Yard. But the dispatcher is not done yet. Now in the morning the yard crew and the dispatcher will have to work quickly to get the trains all set out for the days runs.

So at 6:00 am the yard crew arrives to get their long list of sort-outs and cuts for today's trains. With no pressure on them with the first train is due to leave in about an hour and a half. So they walk out to the engine service facility to find that the MP15DC's are laid up for maintenance so they had to fire up the SP U25BE #6800 and SP SD40E 7342. To get the yard switched ASAP. On top of that they have to get the trains power ready to leave with the train on time. The crew rolls down the yard lead and gets busy. The crew gets the first train set so one of the brakemen hurries over to the engines and get the power set. The crew gets all of the trains set. With the first train on the way they get a call from the dispatcher to move light all the way to Bieber so the crew there can start their work. Due to the units won't start and the yard crew is the only available crew to take the trip. So the crew gets to take a trip all the way to Bieber. The crew finally arrives back to Shasta just in time to be able to fill out paper work for the day and get to finally get to rest. ●

THE HOTBOX
October 2008 Issue # 423

TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Extreme Makeover, LAYOUT EDITION

BY: Andrew Matarazzo

Believe it or not, the TAMR has its own layout! That's right, the TAMR has its own 4'x6' HO scale layout. It was built in 2001 by then Northeast Region Representative Andrew Sabens to replace the original NER layout built by Ole Bye. Ole's layout was roughly the same size with a single-track loop and hidden staging track. It featured spectacular scenery with hills, a trestle, and scratch-built mine complete with narrow gauge mine cars. Unfortunately this layout fell into disrepair after years of traveling across the Northeast and could not be saved.

The new layout was built with ease of transportation in mind with retractable legs. It features a double-track loop with super-elevated curves (Fig. 1). However, over the years the layout has been stripped of most of its scenery, leaving only a small station and two factory facades in front of a backdrop. The layout was in desperate need of makeover.

Over the next few months I will take some small steps (Fig. 2) to greatly improve the layout from its current state to where we will be proud to have it displayed at a show. ●

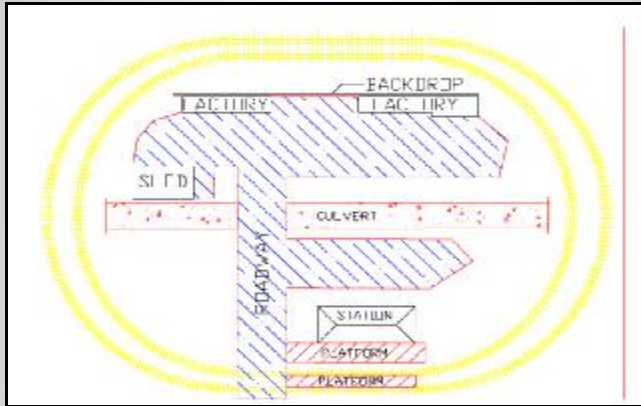


Fig. 1 : The existing layout trackplan

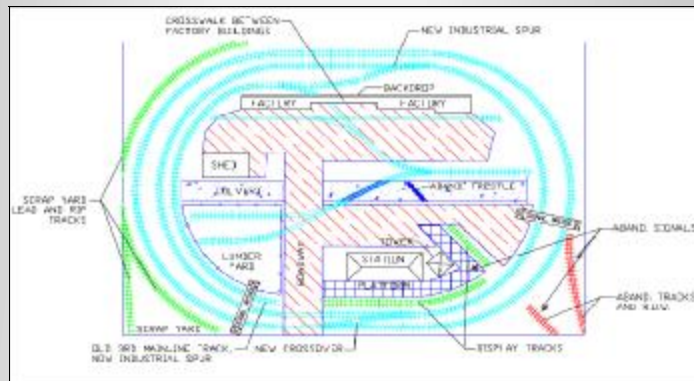


Fig. 2. The Proposed trackplan with improvements. With disconnected tracks that run off the end of the table.

More to come next month!

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.

Back again after a six year hiatus, The *Winter National Convention Photo Contest*, will be held during the convention. Offering you a chance to show off your shutterbug skills and win some awesome prizes. All host Peter Maurath asks is that the shot is your own, taken by you, and is free of excessive digital editing. Subject can be either model or prototype related. Five prizes will be awarded ranging from locomotives to rolling stock vehicles, etc.

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



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



The Top 7 CLASSICS

By: Peter Maurath

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

Top Seven things railfans can be thankful for.

#7. That pilgrims crossed dangerous seas, set-up a new home in an inhospitable land, so you, 400 years later, could buy a caboose and live in it.

#6. Overpasses, public parking lots and open fields.

#5. NS locos look less and less like PC locos now.

#4. CSX locos look more and more like C&O locos now.

#3. The creation of a capitalist society by our forefathers giving us... giant train shows!

#2. That guy last week being kind enough to move his truck, so you could get that awesome shot of those BNSF executives.

And the number one Thing railfans have to be thankful for!

Union Pacific doesn't own every fallen flag.

The Extra Board New Memberships-0

Renewals-1

Brent Johnson

Expiring Memberships-4

Matthew Roberts

Alexander Yasuna

Charles Warczinsky

Andy Inserra

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 Lake Region Telephone Directory of the Penn Central Telecentral Phone Network, "There is always time for courtesy."

C.A. Pohyicky

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."

PENN CENTRAL

THE HOTBOX
October 2008 Issue # 423

TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Trains to Nowhere

By: Steven Goehring

Some Thoughts on Backgrounds

Lately, real life has become a terrible distraction from model railroading. I'm kidding of course, there's a lot of equally fun activities in life, but I still find myself short on time and certainly space when I'm crammed into a college class schedule and dorm room. Among the other parts of life, whether fun or required, I still get back to my train layout regularly, knowing how much it does to preserve my sanity. My CSX C40-8 doesn't go into hiding when studying for chem tests; My B&O Doodlebug won't shoo me away so it can gossip with another friend; my Chessie SD7 doesn't give out homework and my Pennsy GG1 doesn't stink. In short, my trains don't have the problems I find in some other things around school, and if some combination of nasty stuff has me down for a while, taking a locomotive out for a switch job will calm me down and bring my spirits back up.

Despite the current focus on just running trains, I surprised myself in that I still managed to make a major addition to the railroad: a background. Backgrounds are one thing I never did right back at my parents' home (I consider college to be 'home' now.) I had a few pictures printed on 8.5" x 11" papers and glued

together on cardboard, but I never had them permanently installed. I really didn't know what I was missing. Now that I've finished one that I'm really happy with, I know how much depth they can add to a scene.



My background scene is a 3D yet still thin layer of simulated forest consisting of Bachmann tree fiber, Woodland Scenics ground foam, WDS lichen, and WDS turf. It's all held on by either Woodland Scenics' excellent hot glue or by good ol' Tacky Glue. The back of it, made of 3 layers of poster board, is cut

to the shape of rolling Pennsylvania mountains and painted a flat black color to darken the thinner parts of the foliage and simulate a shadowed understory. Right now, it's not really mounted to anything, but it rests on my desks sandwiched behind the layout, and supported from behind by a balsa wood strut that keeps it from falling back into the wall.

Even with the nice semi-flat trees and grassy patches, the background wouldn't do much to extend the scene. So I took an idea that I had used before to decorate my dorm: print a poster at the school's own print shop! I photo-shopped clouds and blue sky from between 3 and 7 photos (I can't remember how many!) and make one continuous picture out of them. Unless you're willing to spend a long time on the photoshopping, I recommend just taking one picture and printing it out really big, the resolution drop won't be noticeable. Once I had my background, I used poster tack to stick it to the wall, making sure it extended right behind the tree backdrop to prevent forward lighting from casting odd shadows on the sky.

With everything put together, it really looks great. I added some grass mat to the front of the layout to extend the scene forward for more complete-looking photographs, but that would be a foreground, not a background. But before I go back to work, I should forewarn you that you won't want to go back to your former layout of no background if you have the foresight to get back to work for a new backdrop. OK, I'll cut the foreground/background back-and-forth before I get back into another lengthy pun exchange! Be forewarned, the pun isn't just back... it never went away!●

THE HOTBOX
October 2008 Issue # 423

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, 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 Martins Ferry, 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:**

- James Lincoln takes us aboard CSX's Boston and Albany Line.
- More on the TAMR layout from Drew Matarazzo.

COMING SOON TO **THE TAMR:**

- TAMR Elections, next month, 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



Before I go...

