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THE HOTBOX

June 2009 Issue # 431



the official publication of the teen
association of model railroaders
Violators will be towed!

THE HOTBOX

June 2009 Issue # 431

Editor –Peter Maurath
Publisher-Peter McRath II
Contributing Columnist–
Steven Goehring
Jeffrey Andreski
Art Director-Duh Vinci
Photographer– Jay Vecce
Librarian– Just ordered her new bikini online.

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 Alco? 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

Try this Mao, it'll knock your socks off!

ON THE COVER: . The NS H2R local power idles away in Silver Springs, NY while the crew breaks at Pizza Depot before leading the train back to Buffalo, NY, April 20, 2009. Photo by: Charlie Wood.



FORM 19

A message from your editor in chief.

Summertime once again. Everybody's out of school, thoughts turn to vacations, cookouts with friends and family, and idle summer evenings spent trackside, dodging mosquitos, hoping to catch that run-through foreign power your heard calling signals on your scanner ten minutes ago. Hey, we are railfans after all. I hope you make the most of the gorgeous weather, or even not-so-gorgeous. Storms can make for amazing photo backdrops, plus they can help clear debris that may be blocking your shot!

First-off this month, an apology. Sadly, the crack-editing staff here in our offices at 1 TAMR Plaza made the mistake of putting Jeffrey Andreski in the wrong region. He is actually our new *Western* Region Rep., not the *Southern* Region Rep as had been stated. That said, we still have a vacancy in the Southern Region along with every other region save the Western. If you're interested in the positions please let President Sawyer Berry, or myself know asap.

We would love to have you participate!

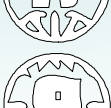
Ben Hawken, who was your Editor at the start of the year through the February issue, will not be returning due to personal reasons. For now, I will continue as interim Editor until further notice. We wish Ben the best and hope that he will rejoin the Board at some future date (don't worry he's still a member!).

Some photo contest. Right now I've got a whopping one, that's right, one entry! C'mon you can do better than that! At least give this guy some competition, otherwise I'll just postpone it till a later date.

A quick tip of the engineers cap to Troy Hight, grandfather of members Austin and Jonathan Hight, who will be setting out a stack of our flyers and tri-folds at a local train show down Mississippi-way. Thanks again Troy!

Feel free to do the same, just contact me, and I'll mail em your way, free-of charge!•





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:

If you could paint a car into a locomotive paint scheme, what would it be and which car?

Steven Goehring, Nazareth, PA: "For the car, I'd take a Subaru Outback any day, can't beat them for reliability and versatility (I know, I drive one.) If I had to pick a railroad scheme for it, I'd probably go with a simple lower-half-orange, top-half-cream switcher scheme from the Wellsville, Addison & Galeton Railroad."

Jamie St. Onge, Cape Vincent, NY: "I'd have to say a Dodge Ram 2500 (any year I'm not picky about that, so long as it's not rusted out) would look pretty great in a BN Executive or Providence & Worcester paint scheme. It would be fun to paint a car in a UP scheme just to see what the UP would charge as a licensing fee."

Christopher Shannon, Newmarket, NH: "Boston and Maine maroon *Minuteman* scheme on an 1981 [Chevy Camaro] Z-28."

Doug Engler, Syracuse, NY: "I would remodel a Chevy van to look like an F7A (including the rounded nose and air vents on

the roof) and paint it in the NYC *lightning* scheme."

Sawyer Berry, Aiken, SC: "I'd paint a 2008 Ford Mustang Cobra into the Southern Rwy. Tuxedo scheme."

Jeffrey Andreski, Loveland, CO: "For the automobile, I'd have to say the 2008 Ford Mustang. For the paint scheme, I'd go for something unusual, such as a BNSF scheme with pumpkin orange and purple. I know it wouldn't look the best but it's different."

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

EASY ROOF VENTS-NAILS. SMALL FINISHING NAILS, OR ANY OTHER SMALL HEADED NAILS MAKE GREAT BASIC ROOF VENTS. DRILL A SMALL HOLE (DRILL BIT SHOULD BE SAME DIAMETER OR SMALLER) IN THE ROOF WHERE YOU WANT IT, THEN JUST PRESS IT IN. PAINTING THE NAIL, OR CUTTING IT DOWN IS OPTIONAL.



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Camera nerds unite!

THE 2009 TAMR PHOTO CONTEST!

It's back! If you're a TAMR member between the ages of 10 and 19 who thinks they're the next O Winston Link, enter the TAMR Photo Contest. The best five shutterbugs will have their pictures featured in *Model Railroad News*, but that's not all! The grand prize winner gets their choice of prizes from the TAMR Prize Vault.

HOW TO ENTER:

Send your digital or scanned print or slide (jpegs please) to:

pencntrl1@sbcglobal.net

(type "photo contest" on the subject line)

Or snail mail your print or slide to:

TAMR Photo Contest, 13212 Wilton Ave.,
Cleveland, OH 44135-4918

All entries will be placed on the TAMR yahoogroups website. Once compiled, members will be allowed to go to the site and vote for their favorite five. Once voting is closed, several judges will tally up the votes and make the final decisions on the five winners. The winners will first be showcased here, then in an upcoming issue of *Model Railroad News*. The grand prize winner receiving their prize then.

RULES:

-You must be a valid TAMR member between the ages of 10 and 19.

-One entry only per member!

-Your entry must be yours, taken by you!

-Your entry can be no more than two years old.

-You must include a complete caption with date and location.

-No entries will be accepted that have won at a previous National Contest (i.e. West Springfield, or this event)

-No digitally altered photographs

-Any winner must be prepared to resubmit their entry to MRN as a jpeg at 1024x680

-Include postage if you want your snail-mail material returned.

-All mailed material is sent at your own risk, the Hotbox is not responsible for lost material.

-Decisions of the judges are final.

TIMELINE:

-Entries will be accepted now till June 26th.

-Voting on your favorite five begins July 6th at: [HTTP://groups.yahoo.com/group/TAMR](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TAMR) (click on photos). This is in the photo section, not files and you must be a member of the online group.

-Voting ends July 20th. Winners will be announced and shown in the August Hotbox, and a TBA MRN.

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When news breaks, we fix it!

-LONDON, ONT, The Electromotive Division of General Motors (GM) rolled out a new set of option packages May 18th that will be offered in all locomotive models to buyers foreign and domestic. The option's come as a result of parent GM's financial troubles, lackluster car/truck sales and the resulting excess of parts for those vehicles. "The way we see it", says GM Vice-Chairman of Intercorporate Relations, Samuel Goodwin, "These parts are just taking-up space in warehouses, eating at the bottom line, in terms of storage costs and what it cost just to make them. That we're not getting back the longer they sit there. Why not diversify a bit and use them elsewhere." A sample of the new options seem to lead towards crew comfort and include heated/cooled-leather 12 way power seats, back-up radar, heated mirrors, premium Bose stereo with MP3 jack, and rain sensing wipers. It remains to be seen whether any railroads will purchase the packages which come in: *Base Trim, Engineer ES, Conductor LS, and Conductor XLT Sport* versions.

-PITTSBURGH, PA: Ansaldo STS, formerly Union Switch and Signal Co. unveiled a new grade-crossing warning system May 20th. Designed to thwart any attempts of bypassing activated/downed gates by motorists or pedestrians, the new system uses strategically placed rubber hands on automatic height and azimuth adjustable hydraulic arms that will slap silly any motorist or pedestrian who attempts to cross after the signals and gates have been activated. An additional option offered includes a digital voice recording in a choice of voices/languages telling the offending motorist/pedestrian, "Hey @\$%&! Get off the &*^%\$# tracks!" Several railroads have expressed interest.

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TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Workin' on the Railroad

BY: JEFFREY ANDRESKI PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Some Ideas on Building a Layout out of Foam

In last month's column, I showed you my layout in progress and the future of it. I also mentioned some of the ways I'm building the layout, but for the next few months I will go more in depth on some of the techniques and materials that I prefer for building a layout. This month, I'll talk about what is probably the most important part of a layout, the construction of the base. As time goes on, a layout that isn't built right from the start will just have its problems multiply.

My layout is constructed using mainly Woodland Scenics foam. This is the "white" beaded foam not the pink or blue insulation foam. You may say that foam is only good for scenery construction. But contrary to that common theory, it can be utilized for almost any part of a layout with great results. When foam is in its raw form (mainly boards and other sizes), it is not very sturdy, but when you glue multiple pieces together they form a

very solid construction. I know that wood is more durable and sturdy, but it also has a lot of weight associated with it. Here are some advantages that foam construction has over other materials: 1. No mess (well there is some mess, but no dust!) 2. Very light weight 3. Easy to fix mistakes 4. No expensive power tools needed 5. No complicated calculations needed to make raised track off the main base (radiuses are the easiest to make).



Here is a view of my mountain module before the profile is cut. Because of the module's height, I'll probably need to add some more support to it.

Now I will elaborate on some of the reasons I chose foam over wood construction. As described in last month's column, my layout is made up of modules. So, I needed to have

durable and sturdy construction, with the least weight possible. The reason they need to be sturdy is because they need to be transportable. Different modules have been, and will be, entered in various contests and fairs (the layout modules have been my 4-H project for the past 2 years and will be for the next couple). The layout is designed to be set up for operation only where its stands are. No more than 2 modules are away from the layout at any given time. Foam is very easy to

work with; the only tools that are required are a couple knives and a hot wire cutter. For glue, all in one adhesives work fine if you don't need instant bond. If you do, (which I usually do) a hot glue gun works great and sets almost instantly. I like using the hot wire cutter because it cuts through foam like butter, so cutting the profile/fascia of the layout is very easy. I do have wood stands for the layout, made out of 1x4s and 2x2s, but the rest is foam, cardboard, and poster board (The poster board is the overlay for the fascia). The light weight

modules are built so they can be set on any flat surface. So far, I've enjoyed working with foam on my layout, so maybe you'll consider using foam on yours. Until next month, I'll be working on the railroad.. ☺

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The Top 7 CLASSICS

By: Peter Maurath

Top Seven rejected Operation Lifesaver slogans.

#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 for Natural Gas Safety."

#4. "Our new spokesman, Chuck Zehner."

#3. "Trains, blood-spattered highway, 'nuff said."

#2. "We're not related to that darn candy!"

And the number one rejected Operation Lifesaver slogan...

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

The Extra Board New Memberships-0

Renewals-1

Chris Burchett

Expiring Memberships-8

Col I in Rienhart

Ben Neal

Wil lie Roberge

Ethan Doty

Mark MacDougal I

Austin MacDougal I

Andrew Matarazzo

Doug Engler

Present Member Count- 49↓

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."

M.C. Kafader

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

Pennsylvania E8 Facelift Part 1

Let me start off with an apology: I've had to split up the series on my TV show development. I had intended to write about it for 6 months straight, in parallel with the development, and hoped to release an episode before the end of this school year. But for now, it's been on hold due to a combination of bad filming weather, extra school work, and other bits of life taking priority.

But now on to something completely different, err, to get back to the original topic. I recently took a swing at detailing a diesel locomotive, and I thought I should share the project. I had two N scale Kato E8s, which were spectacular models, and even have MRC sound decoders installed in them. (They were samples for a *Model Railroad News* review, which ran in the May 2009 issue.) One thing bothered me, though: they weren't proper PRR E8s. I didn't fault Kato for the omission, but they did not include the Pennsylvania Railroad's Trainphone communication antennae, or other PRR-specific details. All PRR E8s carried them, and also had lift rings/lift hooks on the nose and 3-chime air horns.

Speaking of which, I should give a little background on the Trainphone system. early radio equipment around the turn on the 20th century was too delicate to survive in a steam locomotive, so no radio frequencies were assigned to railroads. The Pennsylvania, though, was so huge that its management felt that it needed a

voice communication system. They started testing a system of low-frequency inductive-signal communications in the 1930s, using lineside telephone wires to carry the signal. They learned to use large coils and handrail-like antennae to produce a signal wirelessly in a lineside wire, with a range of up to 100 feet. The coils (often seen atop steam locomotives' tenders) received the signals, and the handrail-like antenna were actually pipes that protected the actual antenna wires from damage. Starting in 1943, the system was ready to go and this equipment was installed on tenders, on diesel locomotives' rooftops, and on cabin cars (caboose for the PRR-illiterate.) They were not used in electrified zones due to interference, and passenger cars may have had rooftop antennae, but they were really for the on-board telephone, not the Trainphone. This system lasted into the early 1960s,



when the PRR started to use conventional radio. Interestingly, the Kansas City Southern and Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range also used Trainphone to some extent.

I started with the easiest conversion, the air horn. I had to start with the Kato standard 4-chime horn. Most PRR E8s carried a Nathan M-3 horn, some with one rear-facing bell and others will all facing forward. I had programmed the MRC sound decoder to sound a Nathan M-3 chord, so I wanted the horn to look right, too!

I started by cutting the Kato air horn in half, then cutting the longer horn bell off of one of the halves. I glued this extra long bell onto the remaining 2-bell piece, giving me a 3-chime horn with the small rightmost bell reversed, just like many of the PRR's M-3s.

But the Kato air horn is mounted in the center of the cab roof. The PRR's M-3s were mounted off-center on the engineer's side of the cab roof. I drilled a new mounting hole for the remaining pin on the bottom of the horn. The location is tricky to describe: draw an imaginary line from the forward side of the cab's side door up onto the cab roof, and drill the hole about halfway between the existing right-side horn mounting hole and the edge of the roof. (Or wait until next month, and you can eyeball it off of the rooftop drawing I made to show locations for antenna supports.) Glue the horn into the new hole and patch up the two original mounting holes.

My next project was to add the lift hooks to the E8's nose. Using a sheet of plain Evergreen .020 inch thick plastic sheet, I cut a tall right triangle shape, eyeballing the approximate size of the lift hook from reference photos. I then drilled out a tiny hole by spinning an Exacto #11 blade hobby knife at the point I wanted the hole. I repeated the process 4 times (3 more hooks to give me 4 total, plus one template copy to keep for any future projects.) I superglued the lift hooks on just to the inside of the nose grab irons, with the bottom of each hook up against the anticlimber (top of the front pilot/plow.)

With those complete, I faced a daunting task: building and installing the Trainphone antenna. But I'm nearly at the word limit for this page (considering the large photos.) So I'll show you how I tackled the antenna next month. For now, get your practice cutting precise lift hooks and rearranging air horns: you'll need all that precision and more next time.●

The TAMR is a non-profit organization created to promote, foster, and encourage young people 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 Railroading.

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, 17883 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 Point Pleasant, WV 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:**

-All the news that's fit to print!

COMING SOON TO **THE TAMR:**

-Photo Contest voting, better get your submission in!

-TAMR Directory, this July.



The Teen Association of Model Railroading

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

13212 Wilton Avenue
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Before I go...

