


The Hotbox



January 2000

Youth Model Railroading at its finest!

Issue
#330

**Meet the
Hotbox team 2000!!**

The Official Publication of the
Teen Association of Model Railroaders

THE HOTBOX

ISSUE #330 JAN. 2000

Send articles to :

Newton Vezina
76 Roy St.
Springfield, MA 01104

Contributing Editors:

Andrew Matarazzo
Andrew Sabens
Adam Sullivan
Pete Maurath
Matt Schwerin
Dimitrios Fradelakis
Joe Mont'Enta
Jim Spavins

Contributions:

The Hotbox depends on its readers for material. All railroad and model railroad related articles, drawings, cartoons, and photographs are welcome, and will be published at the discretion of the Hotbox staff.

Feature Articles:

The Hotbox needs feature or lead articles the most. They should be a page or two long, typed, and possibly accompanied by a drawing or photograph. Feature or lead articles can be on any number of topics:

- Members' layouts
- Railroad news
- Railfan trips or rail travel
- Modeling projects, etc.

Columns:

There are many monthly and quarterly columns you will be seeing in the Hotbox, all of which need material. Most, if not all, of them you can contribute to. You can even conduct your own column. Please contact the Editor to contribute to or conduct a column.

Photographs & Drawings:

Photographs of railroads and model railroads are needed. You can submit black & white and/or color prints, any size, as well as color slides. 5"x7" or larger black and white or color prints are necessary for the cover page.

Drawings, cartoons, and artwork should be well done, in black ink, and on white paper (no lines).

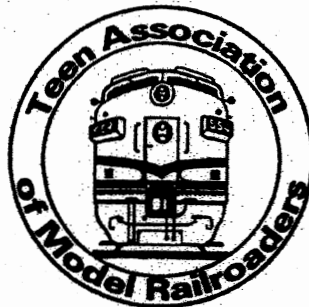
Please contact the Editor for further details on submissions.

Special Thanks to: Paul Matarazzo for his help with the Hotbox!

On the Cover : Conrail's Santa Express train led by CR GP38-2 #8139. The CR crew out of Browns Yard (Old Bridge, NJ) runs this special about two weeks before Christmas every year from Browns Yard to Freehold, NJ and Back. The 12 in the wreath on the engine indicates this is their twelfth Santa Express. Photo by Andrew Matarazzo.

In this issue:

Editorial by Newton Vezina	.....page 3
New TAMR members	.....page 4
NYC Metro Area Div. Our first convention	...page 5
Model/photo contests	.....page 6
Railroad News	.....page 7
TAMR events	.....page 8
NJ fall convention report	.....page 9
Railroad Career Resource	.....page 10
LOASSB	.....page 11
West Springfield Railfanning	.....page 12
Promo page	.....page 13
Natl. Conv. Report	.....page 14
Top 7	.....page 15
Trackside photos	.....page 15



The TAMR is a non-profit organization created to promote, stimulate, 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.

Membership to the TAMR includes an eleven-issue subscription to the Hotbox, the annual Directory of Members, quarterly regional newsletters, and an invitation to attend and participate in all TAMR events. The available membership categories are as follows:

Regular (21 & under).....\$15
Associate (over 21).....\$20
International (outside U.S.).....\$20
Sustaining (Reg., Assoc. or Int.)...\$20+

Please send memberships to:

Hans Raab, TAMR Treasurer, 240 Staniford Rd., Burlington, VT 05401.



Editorial

A Bold New Adventure!

Hello Everyone!!!,

Happy New Year!!!! Yes!, it's the year 2000 and we're all still here, safe and sound. No earthquakes, no riots, most of our computers are still operational, banks are still in business,, the stock market is open as normal, and Amtrak trains are running late as usual. To bring everyone up to date, long time devoted, TAMR member,, Ritchie Roesch has stepped down from the position of Hotbox editor as he prepares to serve his country in the U.S. Air Force. Ritchie is a good friend of mine as well as the many others who know him. Last fall,, Ritchie had taken the time out of his already busy schedule to serve as Hotbox editor and publisher. Ritchie's impressive effort has set the pace and is a great example for all of us. Therefore, this issue of the Hotbox (#330) is dedicated to Ritchie, not only for his years of dedication to the TAMR,, but also for the impressive job in organizing the successful 1999 national convention in Texas. In behalf of the Hotbox team,, we salute you, Ritchie! And best of luck in all that you do. Keep in touch! And remember to "Aim High!"

Here's the first Hotbox of the year 2000, complete with a fresh new staff of the most elite TAMR editing team,, assembled in years. The Hotbox duties are now shared among 16 Supporting Editors. You guys are what made the smooth transition of The Hotbox possible! Meet the Hotbox "Team 2000",, which includes, Lewis Ableidinger, Mike Acree, Joe Bohannon, Chris Burchett, Andy Inserra, Andrew Matarazzo, Peter Maurath, Anthony Person, Hans Raab, Willie Roberge, Andrew Sabens, Jim Spavins, Adam Sullivan, Chris Wagner, Dane Watson, and myself.

Directing the "Hotbox 2000" staff is one of the highest honors I've received in this organization because it involves a large number of TAMR friends I've worked with for years. With a team of this magnitude, I can't possibly take all the credit for the success "behind the scenes" of issue #330. My present role is to simply to seek out members interested in sharing articles with the rest of the group and act as a "facilitator" of articles and information related to The Hotbox.

To expand on what Ritchie has already started, our new Hotbox staff will first set out to achieve three main objectives. 1) To make The Hotbox the best its ever been by publishing a national publication regularly and in a timely fashion. 2000 will be the year of the "no excuse Hotbox" Excuses are no longer an option 2) The Hotbox will be a service to ALL of our members. The Hotbox is not about one person or one skill level, but will reflect more of what we all can achieve together as a team. This is our newsletter not "my" or "his" newsletter. 3) most important of all,, the undertaking of producing a Hotbox will be defined as FUN, just like our common interests in the hobby of model railroading and railfanning!! During the course of the next 12 months, not only will the Hotbox be published monthly, but together we will also implement a massive organization wide training program designed to create dozens of future Hotbox editors. We will be taking The Hotbox "on the road" and will involve members in every TAMR region and division in making of the newsletter. Our mission if we chose to accept it will be to give the Hotbox back to all of our members and make it fun! To the newest members out there (preteens and young teens in middle school) who have never wrote to a newsletter or hesitated to, this is an open invitation to share your railroading interests,, regardless of your age and skill level in the hobby. Here's an opportunity to meet a lot of new friends. The TAMR is your organization too! You are the future of the TAMR!! The Hotbox does not belong only to the editor or editors, this is OUR "magazine of railroading!!"

Editorial (cont.)

I've always believed that all TAMR members need to know what our fellow members with access to the Internet already know. The 1990s was a string of years with some of the best conventions in TAMR history. However, we need a timely national / International publication to tell the members who are not "on line" about all the great things happening all over the TAMR! To communicate and inform the 2/3 of the TAMR who don't have access to an e-mail account is an important part of the new Hotbox agenda. There's a lot of activity out there in "TAMR Land" and 1999 was an excellent year for our group. If you felt "left out" during the past year, have no fear!! We now have a growing team of "crew members" who are building the Hotbox "Field Of Dreams" in 2000. But, it's only through teamwork that we'll make the "dream" work!!! Together, what we are really representing here is youth model railroading and railfanning at its finest!

Our national / International newsletter will reach many new changes, leaps and bounds in 2000, while maintaining the attainable grassroots railroading that has built the TAMR for 36 years. After all, we are an organization of young people who share a common interest in trains. The new style of the Hotbox is not designed to impress the experts who have been in the magazine design business for 50 years. In 2000, our plan is to serve all TAMR members by producing a timely, useful publication that relates to young model railroaders and railfans. It is OK to embrace change as long as it does not erode our values or take away from what we really stand for as an organization. With the above already said, you too are welcomed to write about yourself and railroading interests, give your support and ideas that will make The Hotbox even better for you. If you would like to join the Hotbox Department or would like to see your articles published in the next issue, send all information to: Newton Vezina, 76 Roy St., Springfield, MA 01104. With this issue of The Hotbox, begins our bold new adventure into the new millennium. "Let the games begin!!!" Until next month....

HAPPY RAILROADING!!!

Newton Vezina / HOTBOX Team 2000

***** Issue #331 will be published no later than February 20th *****

WELCOME ABOARD NEW TAMR MEMBERS!

Southern Region

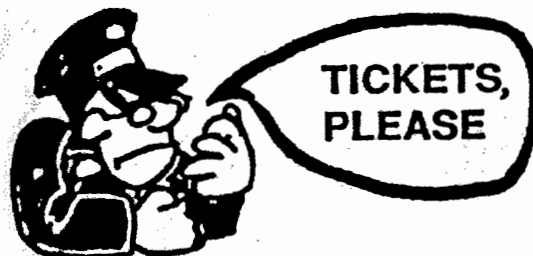
Todd Bliwise
1155 Norwich Circle
Atlanta, GA 30324
HO scale

Northeastern Region

Gus Monsanto
29 Sunrise Rd.
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
N scale
Email: PrDawg69@aol.com

Dan Hess
806 Cherry Circle
Lansdale, PA 19446
HO scale

Dave Honan
47 Peyster St.
Albany, NY 12208
HO scale
Email:
DaveHonan@aol.com



NYC Metropolitan Area Division Page

The NYC Metropolitan Area Division (formerly the NY/NJ division) was founded by Dimitrios Fradelakis, Joe Mont'Etna, Andrew Sabens and Andrew Matarazzo. The division has over 20 members located throughout New York City, Northern and Central New Jersey, and Southeastern New York State. Here is an article written by Dimitrios and Joe in 1997. The article describes the first meet that would grow into the NYC Metro Area division.

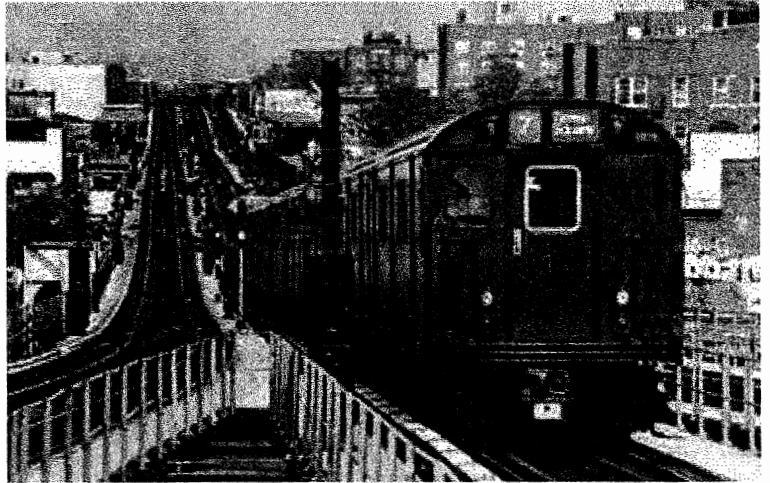


Photo by Joe Greenstein

Our first TAMR Convention

By: Dimitrios Fradelakis and Joe Mont'Etna

On April 23, 1997, the first meeting of the TAMR, NYC Metropolitan Division was held in Astoria, NY and nearby New York City. Attendees included Dimitrios Fradelakis, Joe Mont'Etna of Astoria, and Newton Vezina who drove from Springfield, MA to attend. The day began with a visit to the locally famous "Hell's Gate" railroad bridge. "Hell's Gate" is an arch span bridge which was completed and dedicated to U.S. transportation back in 1917. It is 1,017 feet long between the towers. The color of the steel is bright red and is painted every five years. Four heavily ballasted tracks run across the bridge which include 2 for Amtrak, one for Conrail (now CSX, CP rail, and P&W) freight operations, and an abandoned narrow gauge track. During our visit, we took photos of Conrail freight, lead by three locomotives as it crawled across the span with 2 dozen cars in tow.

We then rode the subway (Metro Transit) to Manhattan. It is very exciting to ride a subway train. You get to see many buildings, houses, factories, cars, small yards from atop of the overpass the subway trains ride on before reaching the under water tunnel. Many people ride the subway everyday to work instead of driving in highway traffic. In Manhattan, we visited a large hobby store known as "America's Hobby Center", located on 22nd street. After almost an hour, we all left the hobby store with a "boxcar" load of model kits, rolling stock, scenery material, etc. The next stop of the convention was Sunnyside Yard in Queens. When we arrived at Sunnyside yard, we started videotaping and photographing the many electrified Amtrak units known as "toasters" (AEM-7) as they were leaving the yard. We also saw a wide variety of freight which included centerflows, gondolas, and a good variety of boxcars. While we were videotaping, an Amtrak engineer "honked" his horn so loud that it shook the camcorder. With our ears still ringing, our convention trio walked a couple blocks and saw 2 ex-Conrail GP-10s.

After visiting several small industrial rail yards, we rode the subway back to Astoria, visited another hobby store, and held a traditional TAMR pizza party, New York City style!!! We watched videos with surround sound and visited Joe Mont'Etna's HO scale "Indian Valley Railroad". While the IVRR is presently under construction, trains can be operated on a 4x8 layout. Future plans include adding more structures, buildings, houses, and an additional three ft. expansion of the layout.

About a half block away is the home layout of Dimitrios Fradelakis which is named the "Conrail Central" or CC for short. The CC is also in stages of construction, but trains can be run on the layout. The railroads modeled include Conrail, Montana Rail Link, and Santa Fe. Dimitrios explains, "My future plans are to add more track, mountains, hills, roads and trees. We had a lot of fun putting the small bungalow houses together."

Our convention was great! And we hope to hold another 'mini-meet' again. On a scale of 1 to 10, we'd say this is a 10 because of the variety of both modeling and railfanning activities we did such as catch a Conrail train over Hell's Gate Bridge, two hobby store visits, railfanning Amtrak, LIRR, and NJT at Sunnyside, the work we did on both our layouts, and let's not forget the TAMR pizza party!!!! (cont'd. on next page)

New York City Convention continued..

(Dimitrios) Joe and I have been good friends since 1989 and we do tons of train stuff together, such as railfan on our bikes and work on our layouts. If there are TAMR members who are interested in the railroads that serve New York City or would be interested in exchanging photos, feel free to contact either of us at the addresses listed below:

Dimitrios Fradelakis
26-06 25th Rd.
Astoria, NY 11102

Joe Mont'Etna
25-01 Astoria Blvd.
Astoria, NY 11102

Since Joe and I joined the TAMR, we have not stopped getting letters and talking to other members on the phone, ect.

Happy Railroading!!!!

Dimitrios Fradelakis
Joe Mont'Etna
Newton Vezina

TAMR Millennium Convention 2000 Contests

Hello Everyone!!

As you might already know by now, the Northeast region of the TAMR will be holding the 11th annual Winter Convention during the weekend of February 4 thru 6th, 2000! Dubbed "The Millennium Convention 2000", this event is not exclusive to any particular region, but will be held as an "All TAMR" event and ALL are invited!! There's already members from other regions who expressed interest in attending the "SD90MAC" of conventions! "Millennium 2000", Winter Convention information packs were mailed out over 3 weeks ago to all NER /TAMR members and are now available to any TAMR member who is interested in attending this super huge convention to be held in West Springfield, Massachusetts. (Feb 4th - 6th)

Due to popular demand, THREE different contests will be conducted during the weekend. The contests are as follows: Photo, Modeling, and an Art contest. The "Railroad Art Contest" is the latest addition thanks to Andrew Sabens! Drawings and paintings of any kind are welcomed. All members are welcome to enter (one entry) in each of the 3 contests. You can pick 1 contest to enter if you wish. This gives members who live at a distance who are unable to attend the opportunity to participate in any or all 3 contests. Cash prizes will be awarded for the model and art contests!! Special prizes have already been purchased for winners of the photo contest!!

Less than three weeks away !!

If you have any questions regarding the contests, don't hesitate to contact the following Contest Directors:

Photo Contest Ben Rosen
phone: 508-295-8674
e-mail: Ben_Peg_Rosen@hotmail.com

Model Contest Dave Mason
phone: 914-246-8087
e-mail: TAMR53@juno.com

Art Contest Andrew Sabens
phone: 914-631-8239
e-mail: TAMR13@aol.com

Mail all entries to: Newton Vezina
76 Roy St.
Springfield, MA 01104

Good luck to all entries!

HAPPY RAILROADING!!! :-)



Special Thanks to Ritchie Roesch for his years of outstanding service to the TAMR!!!

Railroad News:

BNSF and CN to merge!!!!

MONTREAL and FORT WORTH, Texas, December 20, 1999 - Canadian National Railway Company (TSE:CNR; NYSE:CNI) ("CN") and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (NYSE:BNI) ("BNSF") today announced that their boards of directors have approved a definitive agreement to combine their businesses. The end-to-end combination creates North America's largest railroad and will offer shippers substantially enhanced single-line service. Combined, the companies currently operate about 50,000 route-miles of track, employ about 67,000 people and have combined revenues of approximately US\$12.5 billion (Cdn\$18.5 billion).

The combined businesses have an equity market capitalization of approximately US\$19 billion (Cdn\$28 billion) based on the closing stock prices on Friday, December 17, 1999, of US\$29.75 for CN and US\$28.375 for BNSF. The transaction is expected to be accretive to earnings per share in the first year after the combination becomes effective. The companies expect that all required regulatory approvals can be obtained and the transaction completed by mid-2001.

Among its benefits, the combination will:

Be uniquely positioned to help shippers take advantage of fast growing north-south trade flows within North America, while providing a fluid east-west transportation network serving both Canada and the United States. The new railroad will offer unprecedented single-line service with access to new markets throughout North America; Achieve rail market share growth by generating new business opportunities and added efficiencies through improved asset utilization and service; Offer increasing employment opportunities due to the growth potential of the new enterprise. Because this combination is an end-to-end operating network, there is minimal overlap of operations and only minor duplication of activities, and work force reductions are expected to be managed largely through normal attrition; Maintain the culture, customer and safety focus and operational expertise of each railroad at the local and regional level; Combine CN's and BNSF's industry-leading service plans and CN's strength in forest products, automotive and chemical transportation with BNSF's wide geographic coverage in the western United States and its strong intermodal and coal businesses; and

Join the two most efficient railroads in North America, each with a proven record of implementing previous consolidations.

CN and BNSF have principal interchanges at Chicago, Memphis, Duluth/Superior, and Vancouver, B.C.

TAMR Events

JANUARY 28 & 29, 2000, (Northeast Region) GATS meet, Providence, RI at the Rhode Island convention center. TAMR "One Mile Division" winter meet. Lots of railfanning opportunities in the Providence area. For more information, contact: Anthony Person

FEBRUARY 4, 5, & 6th, 2000 (Northeast Region) Northeast Region, Millennium Winter Convention will be held in conjunction with the largest hobby show ever assembled in New England (5 1/2 acres of trains in THREE large buildings), TAMR Table and layouts at the show, Photo, Model, Drawing/Art contests. Slide shows, videos, railfanning, "Breakfast Club" and more!! ALL are invited to the biggest TAMR convention ever!! For more information, contact: Convention Director, Jim Spavins (860) 535-3524, e-mail: Jimspav@aol.com

FEBRUARY 12, 2000 (Western Region) Special TAMR operating session at the Pasadena Model Railroad Club (home of the Sierra Pacific Lines). The club will allow TAMR members to operate on their layout, using our equipment. Here's an opportunity to experience some awesome model railroading!! For more information, contact: Joe Bohannon (661) 399-6163, e-mail: GeepM@fcmail.com

MARCH 10, 11, & 12th, (Northeast Region) TAMR New York / New Jersey Metro Area Division convention. Greenberg Model Railroad show at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center, Edison, NJ, TAMR table at show, layouts, railfanning, and more! Meet the TAMR's fastest growing division!! For more information contact: Andrew Matarazzo (732) 238-7238, e-mail: TAMRnymets@aol.com

MARCH 17, 18, & 19th, (Central Region) TAMR Great Plains Division spring convention, Kensal, Carrington, Bismarck, North Dakota. Railfanning, layout tours of private and club layouts, videos, pizza!! This convention is worth the trip! Even if you have to drive from Massachusetts!! For more information, contact: Lewis Ableidinger (701) 435-2971, e-mail: soo201@hotmail.com

MARCH 25 & 26, 2000, (Northeast Region) TAMR Catskill Mtn. Division Spring convention, Kingston, NY. Kingston Model Railroad show (Mar 26th), TAMR table at the show. For more information, contact: Dave Mason, TAMR53@juno.com (914) 246-8087

JUNE 29 & 30, 2000, Cheyenne, WY. Pre-Convention to the national convention. For more information, contact: MgtafjROTC@aol.com

CANCELED

or members traveling is planned! For more information, contact: MgtafjROTC@aol.com

JULY 3 - JULY 7, 2000, TAMR National Convention 2000!, Bakersfield, CA. Meet fellow members from all over North America at the convention of the year! For more information, contact: Joe Bohannon (661) 399-6163, e-mail: GeepM@fcmail.com Post-Convention dates and activities will be announced by post-convention director, John Reichel.

EDITOR OF THE MONTH

Each month, a member of the Hotbox staff will be recognized for outstanding achievement of teamwork. The editor of the month for issue #330 is without a doubt, TAMR Promotional Department Manager and Hotbox co-editor, Andrew Matarazzo. Andrew's extra effort and enthusiasm is what made the January 2000 Hotbox possible. He was the first to help assemble this Hotbox and also designed the cover. Andrew was also there when the finished publication rolled off the printer! Keep up the good work, Andrew!

NEW JERSEY FALL CONVENTION REPORT

TAMR INTERVIEWED ON NBC!!!!!!

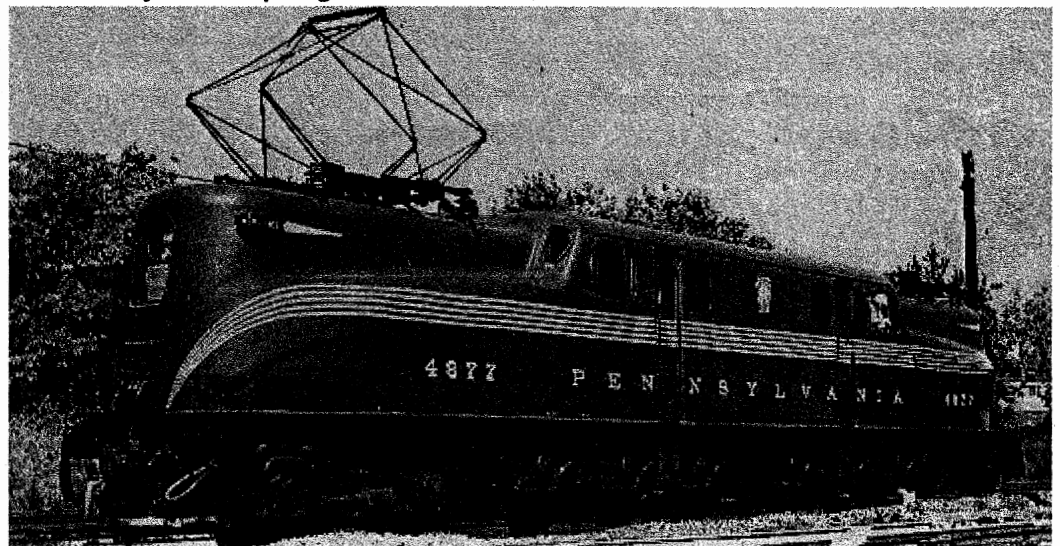
[NV: Here's an awesome convention report by TAMR Promo. manager and NJ Division Mgr, Andrew Matarazzo. We all had a super weekend,, making it no wonder why the NY/ NJ group is the TAMR's fastest growing division!! Great job to Andrew and his crew!!!! Looking forward to meeting again at the next annual NJ convention to be held during the weekend of March 10, 11, and 12th!! Keep up the good work, guys!! WELCOME Aboard,, GUS!!!! HAPPY RAILROADING!!!!!!!!!!!! Here's Andrew!!!!!!

Hi Everybody!!!!!!!!!!

This is Andrew M. The convention kicked off on the 19th. Attendees were Tom Matthews (NJ), Newton Vezina (MA), Gus Monsanto (NJ, became official member at the show!!), Andy Rasch (NJ), Dan Adams (PA), Tommy Matarazzo (NJ), and Andrew Matarazzo (NJ). Guests,, Steven and Danny also joined us for the occasion!! We had a pizza party at pizza hut, went to the mall, and watched videos. On Saturday, we got up extra early to get to the show. We set up our table and then the NBC Today Show crew arrived they interviewed me in front of the TAMR table with the attendees in the background. I basically described the TAMR and promoted our web page (www.tamr.org). We have tapes of the interview and will be sent to anyone that wants it. After that,, the show started. People saw us on TV so they told us "hey, we saw you on tv!". So we added 'AS SEEN ON TV!' under the TAMR sign. Flyers went quickly at this show so it could mean an extra boost in members in the next month or two.

After the show we stopped at Pizza Hut, got a couple pies and soda, and went to the Edison, NJ on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (speed limit 125 mph). We ate pizza on the platform while it rained. We saw three NJT trains, and three Amtrak's (two southbound, including The Vermonter, and one north bound) , all three trains were going about 100+mph. Then we had a video/video game party back at my house and the hotel. On Sunday the TAMR breakfast club ate at Denny's. Then the show kicked off at 11am. After that we had a killer game of laser tag at my house. As you can see it was an awesome convention. See you at Springfield on Feb 4, 5, & 6th!!!

Happy Railroading,
Andrew Matarazzo
TAMR Promo Mngr.



Railroad Career Resource

by Matt Schwerin

To the TAMR,

Season's Greetings! I trust this holiday season finds you doing well and enjoying this, the time of year that we remember the birth of our savior (and additionally, the season that invokes memories of those wonderful Christmas trains)!

I wanted to drop you a quick line to ask you to bring before the leadership of our fine organization and consider: a TAMR railroad career resource. What got me thinking about this particular proposal was that during my high school years, I was very interested in working for the railroad, as trains had been my lifelong passion. However, upon visiting my friendly guidance counselor, I found her to be of very little help, simply because with all of her computer databases and vast library of career topics, she had very little on the rail industry, and what little she did provide was grossly outdated.

Fast forward to today: through my current position as a locomotive engineer with CSX Transportation, I've just become to realize the need our industry has for 'new blood.' For the most part, the industry has done very little hiring, in both operations and management, since the early seventies. In other words, much of the railroad work force is very close to retiring within the next couple of years, and with all of the recent growth in the industry, many of our human resources people are traveling the country in search of tomorrow's railroaders, visiting college campuses, job fairs, etc. However, I feel they are missing the train, so to speak, considering the number of young people who already have an interest in trains, right here in the TAMR, but have little to provide guidance to the opportunities that are available. I feel a program within our group could provide this guidance to our members -- while enabling us to make our presence known to the 'prototype' railroads, such as it is recognized in the model railroad arena.

Please forward this letter to the other leaders in the group: I would appreciate their input and ideas in regard to if this type of program -- would it be beneficial to them and the members of the TAMR? I look forward to hearing from you soon, and appreciate your service to this organization!

Yours in Railroading,

Matt Schwerin
Engineer, CSXT
and former TAMR Secretary/
Vice President/
Convention Director

12310 Winchester Road,
S.W.
LaVale, Maryland 21502
(301) 729-6700
e-mail:
CSXengMatt@aol.com





Hello, and welcome to part three in our ever expanding exploration of the amazing spaghetti noodle. This issue we'll tackle traffic lights in N scale (yes N scale). Now these lights are non-operational, because unless the traffic moves every time the light changes what's the point of them working anyways? They do require some patience to assemble, but if you take your time, and follow these steps the end result will be a true to scale traffic light at home on any urban, or even rural layout.

Since traffic lights need something to direct traffic from we'll build the support poles first. They are built similar to the two piece streetlamp I described several issues back with just one added detail, a mounting plate between the arm and pole (Fig. 1). Start by cutting the two sections that will make up the support pole. The first, the pole, will be $(13/8")$ (3.8cm) tall, the second section will depend on the width of the street, a four lane street will give you an arm length of $(11/4")$ (3.1cm). Also cut a base $(1/8")$ (3mm) tall, out of $(1/16")$ (2mm) wood or styrene square strip. Finally the mounting plate, a $(1/16")$ (2mm) square of cardstock.

For assembly, start by gluing the mounting plate to the near top of the pole (Fig. 2) using either ACC (super glue) or white glue. Once dry glue the arm section to the mounting plate (Fig. 2). To finish your traffic light pole add the base to the bottom of the pole section, and once dry paint the desired color. I chose flat black, though I've seen them out there in silver, aluminum, green, ect..

That covers the basic design for the traffic light pole, though there are many other variations and uses. Try a pole with two arms at 90° angles for a four way intersection, or use the arm to support overhead signs instead of traffic lights, or better yet combine a streetlamp with the traffic light pole, there's no limit to what you can come-up with! That will wrap it up for this issue, we'll save building the traffic lights till next time, since I'm gonna need all the space I can to tell you how to build them, till then, put those traffic cops on overtime.

Bill of Materials

spaghetti noodle, cardstock, $(1/16")$ (2mm) wood/styrene square rod, Testors® acrylic flat black, Elmers® white glue or ACC (super glue)

FIGURE 1

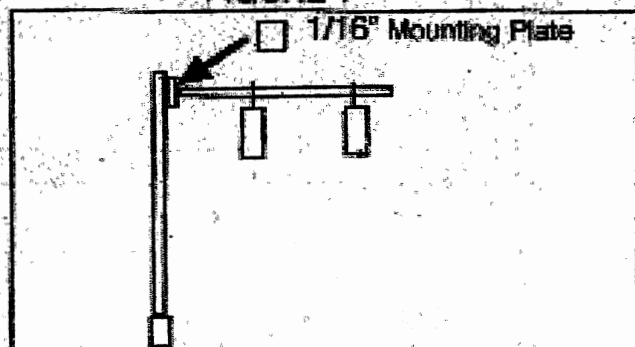
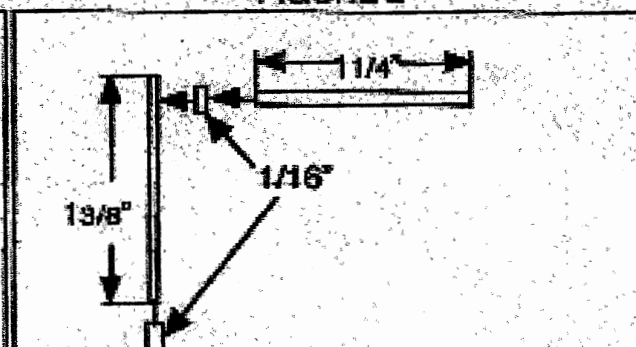


FIGURE 2



Western Massachusetts Railfan Report

December 1999

by Adam Sullivan

Hello TAMR !!! December brings to a close of a year of a historic mega-merger and the announcement of another. There was also a lot of activity around my area this month including the arrival of the cab-signaled CSX AC6000CW's. Six trains were added to the CSX schedule in conjunction with Connecticut Southern Railroad, they are: NHSE/SENH (New Haven to Selkirk and back), SPCH/CHSP (West Springfield to Cedar Hill/New Haven), and SPHA/HASP (West Springfield to Hartford). CSO was forced to borrow a High Nose B23-7 from Illinois Southern Railroad to lighten some of the load on their six ex-Conrail B23-7's CSX plans on returning to the former Conrail symbols system wide in the near future. More and more foreign power was another notable occurrence on the B&A Sub this month; some included: NS C40-9W's, BNSF C44-9W's and AC4400CW's, NYS&W SD70M's, CN SD75I's, and VIA F40PH's.

The Providence and Worcester Railroad will gain trackage rights to West Springfield Yard in the coming year along with Housatonic and Norfolk Southern. Canadian Pacific already has rights to West Springfield and they come down from East Deerfield once or twice per week. CSX has plans to build an engine house in West Springfield Yard probably where the maintenance shed currently stands. There is also a rumor that CSX will double track the entire B&A Sub in 2000 and reinstall block signaling and remove cab-signaling. This will be an advantage to railfan's because this will enable more foreign power to lead trains and advise railfans of approaching trains.

Amtrak has built a Bulk Mail Terminal in Springfield next to the Memorial Bridge on the Northeast Corridor. Now RoadRailers, mail and baggage cars trail on the Lake Shore Limited making it up to 30 cars in length! The majority of what's left of Amtrak's F40PH's operate on the NEC. The deal has been finalized with the City of Springfield and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority to refurbish the now vacant Union Station. It is scheduled to be completed in 2003. Once it is completed, PVTA will begin commuter rail service similar to MBTA's. Amtrak's rebuilt Acela sets have been working their way down from Vermont and I have seen a pair awaiting to continue south to New Haven at West Springfield Yard.

Our Millennium 2000 Northeast Region Winter Convention February 4-6, in West Springfield is approaching fast and I hope many will attend. Last year we had a higher attendance than the TAMR National Convention!!!! Events include going to the second largest model railroad show in the country; the Amherst Railway Society's BIG Railroad Hobby Show where we have a table, railfanning at Amtrak's Union Station in Springfield, West Springfield Yard, the West Springfield railroad crossings at Milepost 101, CP107 in Westfield, and possibly Palmer. Of course we can't forget our pizza party! Pizza provided by Liquori's Pizza. Everyone who attends will be staying at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel on Route 5 in West Springfield where we will have our pizza party, video's, and slide shows. If you need any information on this show feel free to reach me at: Adam Sullivan

37 Frederick St

W. Springfield, MA 01089

Email: TAMRnerBIGconv@aol.com

TAMR4130@aol.com

Until Next Time this is Adam Sullivan of the Boston and Albany Division saying...

HAPPY RAILROADING!!!!!!

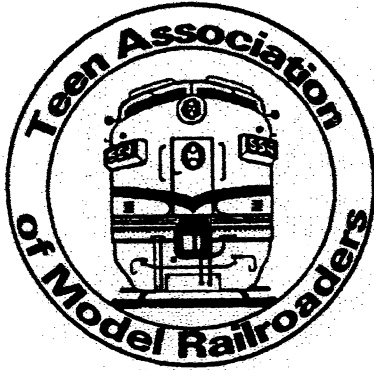
TAMR PROMO PAGE

by: Andrew Matarazzo and Andrew Sabens ('The Drew Crew!!')

Promoting the TAMR in schools.

Here is an article by Promo Asst. Mgr. Andrew Sabens (7th grade) that appeared in his school's newspaper.

The Pocantico Post



Join the Fun

By Andrew Sabens

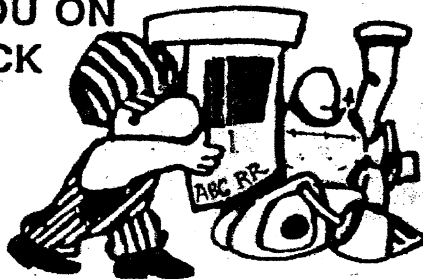
The teen Association of Model Railroaders is a club for young model railroaders and rail

fans. A rail fan is a person who chases trains, takes still pictures and videos of trains, or just watch trains go by. T.A.M.R. has one annual convention but holds many divisional conventions. T.A.M.R. members like to talk to other teens that share the same interest. Most of the new members are between eleven and fourteen years old; some of them hold office in the organization.



**WE WILL PUT YOU ON
THE RIGHT TRACK**

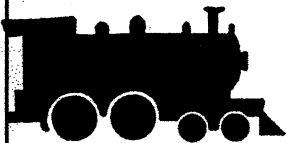
SO JOIN NOW!



J & J BASIC HO LAYOUTS

Limited Liability Company

"CUSTOM SELECTED HO TRAINS & ACCESSORIES"



P.O. Box #923 Ada, MI 49301-0923
(616) 676-5983 FAX (616) 676-1367
WWW.HO-ONLY.COM



TAMR Membership 1/01/00

Total Membership: 145

Central Region: 39

Southern Region: 10

International Region: 9

Western Region: 24

Northeastern Region: 58

There are four regions of the T.A.M.R.: Western, Central, Southern, and Northeastern. New York and New Jersey are in the northeastern region, which was founded by Andrew Matarazzo. The local members have a small HO layout that they bring to larger shows. It was built by Oly Bye and is set in the Rockies. Right now the layout is at a Northeast representative's house. Members are welcome to bring their ideas to the layout.

If you would like to join the Teen Association of Model Railroaders, you can speak with this reporter, the group's Assistant Promotional Manager.

1999 TAMR National Convention Report

by Jim Spavins
TAMR NER Rep.

This National Convention report appeared in Model Railroad News.

Join us at the 2000 TAMR National Convention, Daylight 2000!

TAMR members will meet in Bakersfield, California from July 3rd to July 7, 2000 for the five day National Convention of the best model railroading and railfanning activities that the State of California has to offer! You don't want to miss out on this awesome convention.

For more information contact:

Joe Bohannon
6624 Weldon Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93308
Phone#: (661)399-6163



National Convention



TEXAS EAGLE '99



Texas Eagle '99

By Jim Spavins

During the days of July 7-11, the TAMR held its national convention in Dallas, Texas. This convention was packed with lots of fun and exciting activities.

The first day, July 7, started early with a trip to Lake Lavone Dam and a scenic railfan spot on the Kansas City Southern mainline. After only a few minutes, we were treated to a KCS stack train led by a trio of SD50s. We were then treated to the KCS Business train before we departed to the KCS South Garland yard. There we watched a local switch cars around in the yard. We then headed to Garland, Texas, headquarters for the Dallas, Garland, and Northern Railroad (DNGO), a Railtex owned shortline. Here we saw a few DNGO locomotives and a few Texas and North-eastern RR (another Railtex owned shortline) chop-nosed GP7s.



TAMR 1999 National Convention. Attendees at the Kansas City Southern, South Garland yard.

After a quick lunch, we headed to the convention site where our President, Joe Bohannon, presented a slide show giving a preview of what we'd see at next year's national convention, the *Desert Wind 2000*. I followed with a slide show on the railroads of the Northeast. After a video presentation on the Western Region's fall convention, we headed to Tim Vermande's house and an operating session on his free-lanced N scale layout. When dinner was completed, we rode the DART to Dallas Union Terminal. From there we rode DART's RDC's to Irving, Texas, then back to Dallas. As we arrived back at Dallas Union Terminal, a Union Pacific mixed freight charged by. After some railfanning, we returned by DART to our cars and headed back to the hotel for the night.

July 8th started out early with a drive to Rusk, Texas for a ride on the Texas State Railroad. This four hour train ride runs through the backwoods of Texas. About halfway through the trip, we stopped for a picnic lunch and the crew turned the engine on a wye in Palestine, Texas. Following our arrival back in Rusk, we received a tour of the railroad's shop and the various equipment the railroad has on its property, which included many old locomotives and freight equipment. After the tour, we headed to Union Pacific's Palestine Yard. There we saw a UP stack train run through, along with various other UP motive power. Leaving Palestine, we headed for Corsicana, Texas, for dinner and railfanning at a diamond in town. After seeing another UP stack train, we headed back to Dallas.

Friday, July 9th started with three slide shows and entering models and photos in their respective contests. The first slide show was presented by Tim Vermande, which included slides of various railroads and places he had visited over the years. Next up was Pete Maurath who gave a clinic on the colored history of the Penn Central. Convention director Ritchie Roesch presented the final slide show of the morning with slides of the Kansas City Southern and other railroads of the area. Following the slide shows, we headed out for a tour of BNSF's brand new Network Operations Center.

As you can plainly see, the activities at an annual TAMR National Convention are many. So many, in fact, that I can't describe them all in this month's space. Next month, I will continue with the review of the Texas Eagle '99.

If you have any questions, comments, tips, or suggestions concerning this column or model railroading in general, send them to: The Future of Model Railroading, 58 Mystic Rd., N. Stonington, CT 06359; jimspav@aol.com

The Top 7 by Peter Maurath

Practical Joke Model Railroaders Play On Each Other

7. While they're not looking, switch they're regular scenery dirt with Folgers Crystals™
6. Dip scenery turf in kerosene
5. Call and ask if Chuck Zehner is there
4. Buy each other Valujet Tickets
3. Flame Thrower, Paper Meche', Weedwacker,...nuff said
2. Set a bucket full of Sculptamold™ above a door
- And the number one practical joke Model Railroaders play on each other:*
1. The Whoopee Grassmat

Trackside photos by Pete Maurath



**DART light rail at
Dallas Union
Terminal.**

July 4th, 1999

**Texas Eagle '99 National
Convention attendees
seeking shade at Lake
Lavon Dam. From left to
right: Newton Vezina,
Scott Willett, Hans Raab,
Jim Spavins, and Ole Bye.**

July 7th, 1999



ENTERING THE NEW MILLENNIUM!!



CELEBRATING OUR 36TH YEAR!!

1964-2000