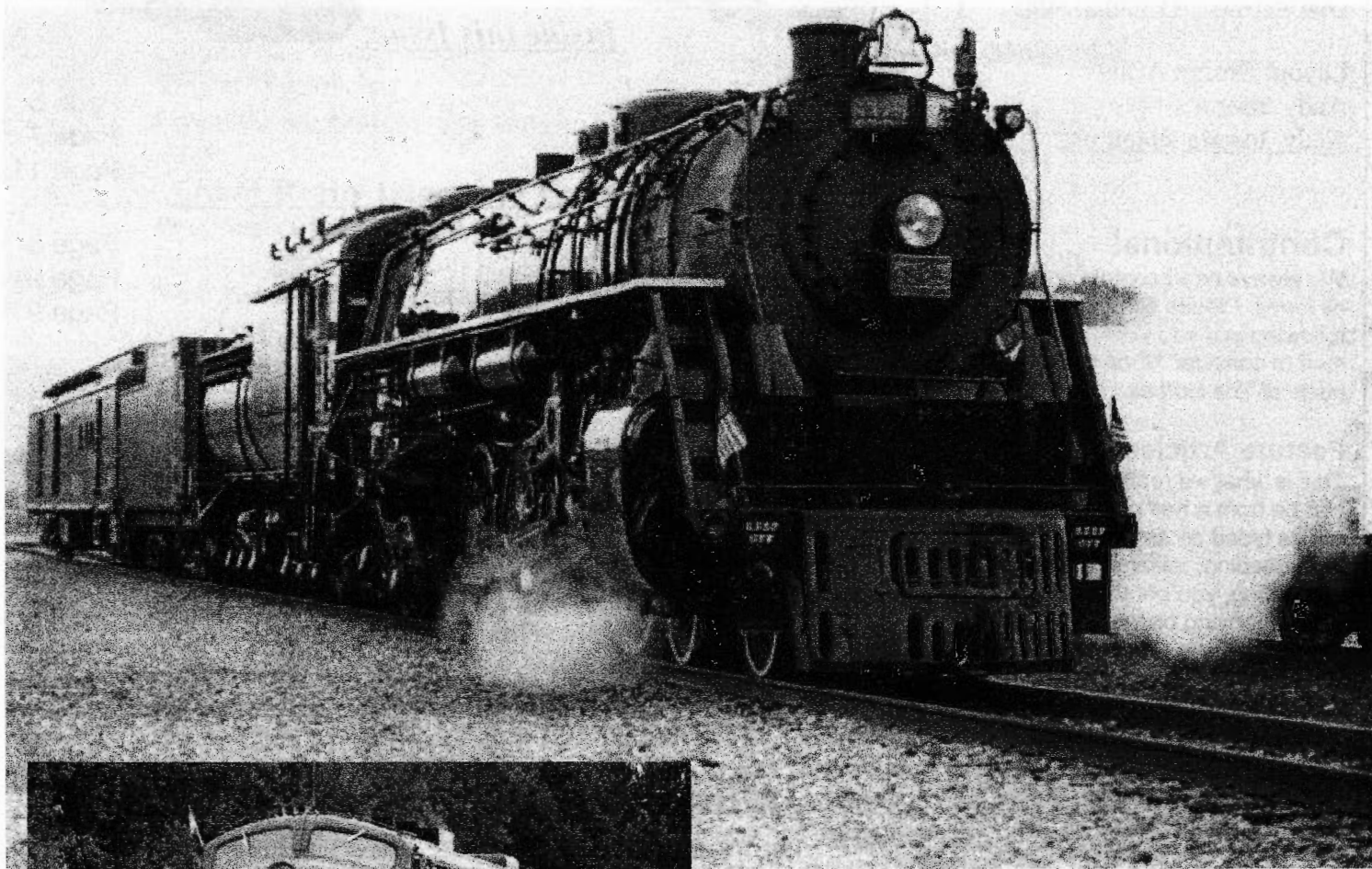


# ***THE HOTBOX***

***Youth Model Railroading at its Finest!***

**November 2001  
Issue #352**

**ISSN 1093-622X**



**Bachmann partners with  
TAMR  
Tilting the scales  
Modeling Tips  
and more!**

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS**

## **The HotBox**

November 2001  
Issue 352

Send Articles to:  
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### **Contributions!**

We always need contributions in all forms. Please send the following in if you wish for the staff to consider for an upcoming issue of *The Hotbox*.

### **Feature Articles:**

This is what we really need. They can be from a half page to two pages typed on anything related to railroading, railfanning, model railroading, you get the idea. Accompanying pictures are also welcome.

### **Columns:**

Another thing we can always use! If you wish to start one, please drop us a line. And if you like a current column, please let the staff know, we like the feedback.

### **Photos and Drawings:**

Do you have great pictures collecting dust? Railroading cartoons just sitting around? Drawings just waiting to be great works of art? Well send them in for consideration by us! Photos should be 3in x 4in minimum. Artwork should be on plain white paper with black ink.

### **Questions?**

Ask the editor for more info.

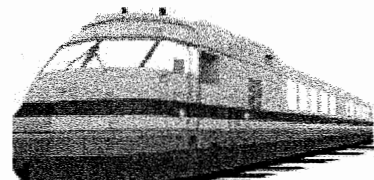
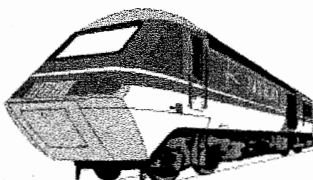
### ***On the Cover:***

Ohio Central Steamer #6325 preparing to depart Dennison for Columbus, Ohio. Sept 22, 2001.

*Inset:* Ohio Central steam excursion arrives at Dennison with F units 1001 and 1002 in the lead. They were used for the first part of the trip. Sept 22, 2001.

*Rear cover:* OC 4-8-4 #6325 nearing Outville, Ohio, on Sept 22, 2001.

All by Peter Maurath



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***Please Read and Recycle***

Thanks to [rrhistorical.com](http://rrhistorical.com) for some of the railway clipart.

The TAMR is a non-profit organization created to promote, 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 participate in all TAMR events. The available membership categories are as follows:

Regulars (under 21).....\$15  
Associate (21 and over)....\$20  
International (outside US)..\$15  
Sustaining.....\$20

Please send membership to:  
Hans Raab, TAMR Treasurer,

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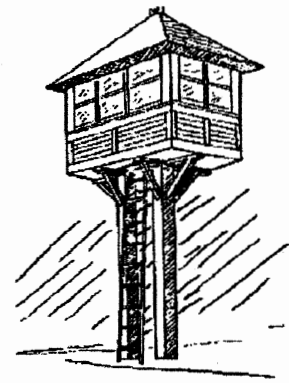
**Webmaster**

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Louis Granato III

# From the Tower

By Chris Burchett

President



**H**ello everyone! Hard to believe we're almost at the end of the year! Seems like the 2001 national convention just happened. Speaking of the 2001 convention, I hear work is progressing nicely on the convention highlights video.

Primarily our Promotions Manager Andrew Matarazzo is doing this. I have seen a clip of it, and I can tell you that it's something you won't want to miss!

**A**s the year of 2001 comes to a close, we should reflect back at what has happened this year in TAMR. The e-Membership class was launched, though not on a national scale yet. The Central Region serves as the "proving grounds" for the new class. It is expected that it will do very well. It is basically the same as current classes, except the *Hotbox* and regional newsletters are only available on-line.

**T**he recent affiliation with the Maricopa Express Youth Railway, Inc. could very well be a model of future things to come. If the affiliation goes as planned, this could be something the TAMR would want to be involved with in the future with other youth rail organizations. The affiliations would be, as mentioned in the previous issue, an extension of the Promotions Department. We supply the applications and they take it from there.

**F**or 2002, I challenge you to help out the *Hotbox* in some way that you can. They need primarily articles, photos, artwork, and columns. Share your model railroad with the rest of the group! That's what we're about - to share model tips/tricks, our layouts, club layouts we're involved with, photography techniques, favorite railfan hotspots, and the list goes on. It's not that hard to write about something you enjoy. Try it once, at least. You can also take anything mentioned above for the *Hotbox* and apply it to your local regional newsletter. Regions need it just as bad. What's the main ingredient for an organization to grow and thrive? Participation. Not only will the *Hotbox* and/or your regional newsletter thrive, but so will the organization as a whole.

**W**ell, that's all for this issue. If you have any questions or comments on anything you just read above, contact me. Contact info is available below. From the tower, this is Chris Burchett, signing off.

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**E-mail:** .....

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**Snail-mail:**

## WANTED!!!

**We also are thinking of doing a caboose special. If you have pictures or status reports please contact either Charles or Andy.**

**Be sure and prepare for the upcoming winter photo spectacular! Pictures now being accepted for this sequel to this summer's smash hit photo issue!**

# A Word from the Editor

Hi everyone,

With all that is going on, I'm taking the month off from writing to free up some space for all the news. See you next month!

-Charles W

## A word from the Layout Design Artist

Hi everyone!

First off – sorry for the massive delays in the last two months. We were stuck with some horrible mail service and couldn't avoid it. Also – for those of you who have noticed the few errors that have crept into the newsletter recently, we have found them too. Unfortunately they have a tendency only to show up after we print out the copies! Anyway, we are trying to combat that and using only the best spell checkers for your benefit! So sit back and grab some Thanksgiving leftovers and enjoy the issue. Till next time, see you trackside!

-Andy Inserra

## Thanks to this month's contributing editors:

Peter Maurath

Ray Reyes

Bob Warren

**Editor of the Month:** Ray Reyes for his string of articles he has been writing for us – keep up the great work Ray!

---

## *Top Seven reasons the TAMR is better than the NMRA*

Transcribed from the HO Walther's catalog, pg. 223 by: Peter Maurath

- #7. We're not tied down to one national headquarters; we're everywhere you want to be, as long as it's Canada or the U.S.
  - #6. Basic membership \$15 and holding...
  - #5. Hold twice as many national conventions as they do.
  - #4. Our logo has a train on it!
  - #3. Did I mention the basic membership at \$15? Which has held at that price for over 10 years, despite inflation, cost of living increases, higher paper costs, higher ink costs, global warming, energy crisis's, SHEEP CLONING, AND TWO PRESIDENTS!!!!!! CRIMINY!
  - #2. A lot of our members are still eligible for kiddy discounts at train shows.
  - #1. Our name at least looks like it spells something.
- 

## BACHMANN INDUSTRIES PARTNERS WITH THE TAMR

DALLAS, TX and LOGAN, OH ----- Bachmann Industries has recently contacted the TAMR and offered to add us to their press release and product review mailing lists.

We think that this is both a tremendously generous offer and a great opportunity for the TAMR. It will also quite likely mean that we'll be receiving a lot of material, although we don't know yet exactly what or how much. President Chris Burchett has thought the best way to deal with this material will be through Tim Vermande, TAMR Pivot Pin.

What we're asking for at this point is for any TAMR members who are interested in helping to contact Tim ([pivotpin@tamr.org](mailto:pivotpin@tamr.org)) or by snail-mail at: \_\_\_\_\_ with a list of their particular interests and/or specialties.

From these responses, the Pivot Pin will, with the advice of the President, generate a review receiver list. We will attempt to be as fair as possible, but please understand that we may have to be arbitrary at times, and all decisions of the Pivot Pin are final.

The Pivot Pin will contact you before sending any material. Anyone who receives an item for review will be expected to reimburse the Pivot Pin for postage and write a review for the Hotbox. Failure to do so will result in removal from the list.



# Layout on A Shoestring Budget Conducted by: Peter Maurath

Layout on A Shoestring Budget Conducted by: Peter Maurath

Everywhere a Sign

Part 2L3X

Every column including bumper-to-bumper protection, it's LOASSB! This month we continue the signs series with the construction of a modern uni-pole billboard. This is a popular design seen along highways, and main streets all over the USA. A large vertical pole with an arm either reaching out to one side or centered on the vertical pole. Above it a superstructure supports a large, lighted, billboard. These are the two main pieces that will be built over the next two issues. Starting-off this month we'll build the billboard itself and its support structure, followed by the vertical pole and arm next month.

## BILLBOARD

The billboard (BB) design is entirely up to you. You can use the methods described last month, or purchase one from the many model railroad sign makers. For the sake of this column and the tight-walleted out there, the example BB I'll design will be pulled from an old magazine.

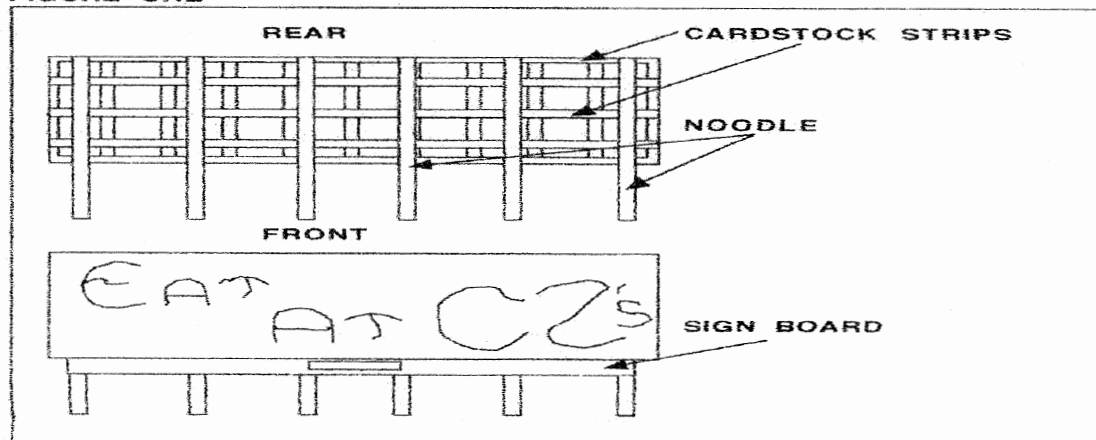
## EXAMPLE

The inspiration for my BB comes from an old magazine containing a several page ad from GM. In it are small pictures of they're various cars, no more than 2-3 inches long. Perfect size for a large N scale BB, and simple too. The cars had backgrounds so all I had to do was cut a rectangle around the car, about 1"x 4" with a hobby knife and a ruler. Don't worry if you occasionally have to oversize the BB to fit material, as they tend to vary in size in real life. After the rectangle was cut out, I glued (white glue) it to a piece of Illustration board for backing, making sure to keep it as smooth as possible to prevent large air-bubbles. I added a line of text to the bottom (dealership name and location) by typing it out in small print on my computer and gluing it to the bottom of the cut out BB.

## ADDING YOUR SUPPORT, STRUCTURE

Once your BB has dried to it's backing, cut away any excess and begin adding the support structure to the back. Start with 1/16" bracing strips made from cardstock. Glue (white glue) strips around the edges, then add vertical strips across the back; follow with a few running horizontally (fig. 1). Once all the cardstock has dried, paint the backside gray. Add the final supports (once the paint has dried) that will tie in to the future support pole and hold the media company's logo. Use spaghetti noodle, paint a few strands silver or gray. After the paint has dried cut 6 sections 11/2" long and glue them evenly spaced across the back extending downward, below the BB. After the glue has set up add a signboard for the media company's logo using another 1/16" strip of cardstock, paint brown. Add the logo or name in the center (I made-up a name printed on my computer, cut it out and pasted it into place). That finishes the glamorous side of this BB; join me next month when we give it a leg to stand on.

FIGURE ONE



# **Tilting the Scales!**

## **Deciding what scale to use in the age when HO is no longer king!**

**By: Ray Reyes – JerseyRailFan@Yahoo.com**

Hello gang! I'm back and this time it's all about scales. Before the 1990's really, HO scale was really the way to go. N scale was still growing up and G scale was just introduced to America in the 1980's. In the 1990's we saw an explosion of well-detailed and good running equipment from manufacturers in all scales. From Z to G anybody can have a super-detailed model railroad. These days, HO scale is no longer the only scale for serious model railroaders!

So, how do you decide on what scale to use, now that there are plenty of alternatives? Well you have to do some research and think long and hard about what you want in your model railroad. For starters, think about what is the most important aspect of railroading you want to duplicate. Do you like long mainlines? Urban switching operations? Display for your super-detailed models? A dispatcher's dream/nightmare (depends on who's the dispatcher) layout? Obviously there are plenty of other factors to think about, and if you're not a loyalist to a certain scale you'll have to think about these factors to decide on what scale you should choose. To help get your mind on the right track (there's more railroad pun to come) I've provided some pointers about the most major scales out in the marketplace.

Z-Scale (1:220), the smallest of the small, has grown lots thanks to Marklin. The company's great reliable products have insured a bright future for Z-scale. At the current moment however, most Z-Scale trains spend their lives in coffee tables and suitcases. This scale is almost exclusively used by those who are extremely limited by the amount of space they can dedicate to a layout.

N-Scale (1:160), the medium of the small scales, is a scale with a ton of operation possibilities. N-Scale, though viewed by some for use only by space-concerned folks, has a lot more potential than that. Even if one has a nice room to build a layout in, an N-Scale layout can provide much more operational possibilities than larger scales than. However, N-Scale, though great for operations, is NOT a scale for those who love detail rich locomotives. Though great brass models can be had, detailing a locomotive the size of a finger is a very difficult task. N-Scale is definitely best left to those with little space or those desiring a long mainline run in a moderately sized area.

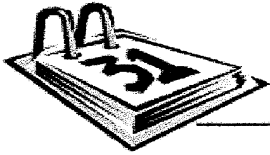
HO-Scale (1:87), the biggest of the small scales, this scale is probably the most widely used. HO-Scale provides a nice compromise of having the ability of having a decently sized layout while having the ability to finely detail models. HO-Scale has been the most popular scale since the 1950's. HO-Scale is also very varied and here you can find all types of people in it, from those who don't care anything about being scale and accurate to those who are scale freaks.

S-Scale (1:64), the smallest of the medium scales, this scale is still around for those who grew up with S-Scale. These days many people do not think of S-Scale as one to choose for a new model railroad. Models may seem hard to find but in reality it really isn't that hard. S-Scale is probably one of the most overlooked scales by people when it comes to building new model railroads.

O-Scale (1:48), this scale is the bigger and more popular scale of the medium scales. There is much controversy with this scale and an everlasting fight between 3-Railers and 2-Railers (don't worry, I'll be covering those issues in a different article). If you decide to go O, you must decide between 2 or 3-Rail. If you go the way of 2-Rail finding scale equipment won't be hard. If you go 3-Rail, finding scale equipment won't be hard either, but you have to make sure some manufacturer's false claim doesn't dupe you. O-Scale is great for having detailed models but unless if you have a whole gymnasium, there is no way you are going to be able to model Tennessee Pass.

Large Scale (1:32, 1:29, 1:22.5, or 1:20.3), the larger scales of model railroading are can be considered a bit unorganized if you will. The four proportions I have listed are the most common. 1:32 and 1:29 scale models usually represent standard gauge models while 1:22.5 and 1:20.3 represent narrow gauge models. Here, like O-Scale, you will have to sort your way through what item is what scale. Also, the Large Scales (more commonly known as G, F, or #1) are much more suited to running outdoors or for some major detailing projects.

These are just the basics and most popular scales. Most may know this info but for the beginners or for those who are not sure on what scale to pick, I'm sure this has helped at least a little bit. Well, if you need any help, e-mail at the address at the top of this article, and until next time, don't break any couplers!



## ***Upcoming Events***

### **A bumper crop of activities this year!**

NOVEMBER 2001 (New Jersey) TAMR New York/ New Jersey Metro Division Fall convention! Activities include a TAMR table at the Greenberg Model Railroad show (New Jersey Expo Center, Edison, NJ), visit a variety of member model railroads, railfan along the NEC, pizza party, train videos, and more! For more information, contact: Andrew Matarazzo, E-mail: [TAMRnymets@aol.com](mailto:TAMRnymets@aol.com)

NOVEMBER 4, 2001. (North Dakota) This is the Spud Valley open house, their club layout is open. We will set up the N scale layout again. Probably there will be railfanning. For info contact Lewis "my computer is dead and it's not my fault" Ableidinger at [soo201@hotmail.com](mailto:soo201@hotmail.com)

NOVEMBER 10 and 11, 2001 (British Columbia, Canada) TRAINS 2001 will once again beheld at the TRAINS show, held on November 10th and 11th. Bring money for new toys and food! We will also again run the Digitrax DCC display. This was the best convention of 2000; so don't miss out this year. Please contact Dane Nicholson, or E-mail: [TAMR2860@Canada.com](mailto:TAMR2860@Canada.com) by September if you plan to attend.

NOVEMBER 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> (Los Angeles-Pomona, CA). Great American Train show (w/booth). Railfanning. Contact Joe Bohannon: [GeepM@ATT.NET](mailto:GeepM@ATT.NET)

NOVEMBER 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> (Bay Area-Pleasanton, CA). Great American Train show (w/booth). Railfanning. Contact Joe Bohannon: [GeepM@ATT.NET](mailto:GeepM@ATT.NET)

### **And for those of you that really plan ahead...**

JANUARY (dates to be announced) (Bakersfield, CA) 4th Annual "High Ball to the Loop". GEMRC Train show. A full day of Railfanning Tehachapi pass including the famous Tehachapi Loop. Contact Joe Bohannon: [GeepM@ATT.NET](mailto:GeepM@ATT.NET)

FEBRUARY 1-3, 2002 (West Springfield, Mass) Annual TAMR Winter Convention! This huge event will be held in conjunction with the largest railroad hobby show in the Northeast! (5 1/2 acres of trains under the roofs of three large buildings) TAMR table and layouts at the show. Contests, clinics, "Beach Party," and more! Another awesome multi-region event is being planned. Ideas and suggestions are definitely welcomed! We also welcome any TAMR member who would like to join the Winter Convention Committee. Mark your calendars now! For more information, contact: Adam Sullivan, E-mail: [TAMR30@yahoo.com](mailto:TAMR30@yahoo.com) or Newton Vezina, E-mail: [TAMR19@aol.com](mailto:TAMR19@aol.com) or call

JUNE 13-16, 2002 (Kensal, ND) The current dates I am planning for the "Mountaineer" are Thursday, June 13-Sunday, June 16, 2002. Here is a rundown of planned events  
*June 13:* Head for Harvey, ND, railfan the CP/Soo - Tour Ray Kuntz's HO Soo Layout - Slides/Clinics  
*June 14:* Railfan BNSF between Jamestown and Bismarck, ND - Dave's Hobbies - State RR Museum - Huge HO Layout (uncontested, largest in state) - Spend night in Bismarck



*June 15: Morning railfan BNSF west to Judson, ND - Tour of Wilton, ND, HO Club layout - Convention dinner - Clinics/Slides*

*June 16: Morning - Open, probably will be filled with railfanning - Ride McHenry Loop Afternoon - Railfan Valley City, ND*

*Of course this is subject to change, and probably will. For info contact Lewis Ableidinger at [soo201@hotmail.com](mailto:soo201@hotmail.com)*

JUNE 16-18, 2002 (Minneapolis/St Paul) A 2 or 3 day post-convention is in the works for the "Mountaineer" in Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Activities being planned: Railfanning (obviously!) - Bob Rivard's HO Layout (see Great Model Railroads 2001) - The O scale layout at Bandana Square - MN Trans. Museum at Jackson St. Roundhouse (well worth the trip right there!) For info contact Lewis Ableidinger at [soo201@hotmail.com](mailto:soo201@hotmail.com)

JULY 10-18, 2002 (New Jersey / New York) The Broadway Limited 2002. With under a year and 4 months away, the 2002 TAMR National Convention is scheduled to be held in New York and New Jersey, hosted by one of the TAMR's fastest growing, and active divisions! Get ready for the best model railroading and railfanning in New York and New Jersey! For more information, contact The Drew Crew, 2002 Andrew Matarazzo, Convention Director. E-mail: [TAMRnymets@aol.com](mailto:TAMRnymets@aol.com) and Northeast Region Rep., Andrew Sabens, (Convention Director) E-mail: [TAMR13@aol.com](mailto:TAMR13@aol.com)

THIS JUST IN!!! The 2003 TAMR National Convention will be held in northern California during the month of July 2003!! For more information, contact Ross McKnight, E-mail: [TAMR4449@aol.com](mailto:TAMR4449@aol.com)

*Have a big railfanning bash coming up? Tell us here at the Hotbox and we'll let the world know about it!*

---

## **ASK GEEPM**

**Joe "GeepM" Bohannon**

Ask GeepM unfortunately had to take another month off due to space restrictions this month but have no fear; it'll be back real soon! Remember to send ANY and ALL questions pertaining to model railroading to (Include name, and modeling scale):

Joe (GeepM) Bohannon,

[GeepM@ATT.NET](mailto:GeepM@ATT.NET)

## **TAMR News and Reviews**

**Conducted by Nick Wilson**

Since Nick is currently moving we decided we'd let him off our incredibly ambitious deadline (so ambitious we can't even make it as editors!) and he'll get back to writing once everything is settled down and he's got his computer up and running again - hope that move goes well

Nick!!

# TAMR ON THE WEB

## What could be better than free stuff?

The TAMR has an active presence on the Internet, and we hope our members will take advantage of what we have to offer. All of this is included in your membership, so it is free. Yes, that's right, it won't cost you a dime!

**First** is our own site, [www.tamr.org](http://www.tamr.org). Here you can find out what's going on and see pictures from conventions. If you have a picture to add, or would like your own web site linked, contact us. We are also always looking for members who would like to help with the site (no experience is required). If you would like to have your own page at the site, we'll help you with that, too. For more information, contact [webmaster@tamr.org](mailto:webmaster@tamr.org).

**Second** is our e-mail list. The list does not replace the *Hotbox*, but does provide a fun way for members to get the latest news and make new friends. You can join the list in several ways:

- send a blank e-mail to [TAMR-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:TAMR-subscribe@yahoo.com)
- on the web, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TAMR>. (This is most useful if you are already registered with E-groups or Yahoo).
- send an e-mail to [pivotpin@tamr.org](mailto:pivotpin@tamr.org) and request an invitation.

Note: Yahoo has recently bought E-groups. Most URL's will take you to a Yahoo page. Until things settle down, you may experience some difficulty using the site. Contact the Pivot Pin if you have a problem.

Yahoo also has a "files" area where you can find the TAMR logo, some more pictures, and other information. Note: the list is only open to TAMR members, although a few exceptions occur for former members or industry contacts.

**Third**, you can have an e-mail address "@tamr.org." This is a forwarding address, so the e-mail is sent to another address that you already have. (It is possible to get a POP or stand-alone account, but there is a charge associated with this). For information, contact [treasurer@tamr.org](mailto:treasurer@tamr.org).

## Check us out on-line!

**[www.tamr.org](http://www.tamr.org)**

**And while on the web, stop by our sponsor's site!**



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**[www.ho-only.com](http://www.ho-only.com)**

**They give discounts to all TAMR members**

# Modeling Tips

**Bob Warren**

(Bob has started a new section for all the modelers out there. He has helped with the NMRA publications for years and has found many good stories and tips to pass along. So for all of you who can't figure where we got an Australia region, this explains it)

## **MainLine - Australian Region** **Building Plastic Kits - By Ken Scales AMR**

There are some brilliant structure modelers in our region of the NMRA. Many of us look at some of their creations and are a little overawed. Most of our top modelers are scratch builders but that does not mean you cannot build great structures using plastic kits. The difference between an ordinary looking plastic building and a really great looking structure is often only a few hours work and a few extra parts. You can break this down into three fields, which are construction, finish and detail. There are also a few tricks, which will actually save you, time and improve the overall look of the model.

Before you assemble a kit you should look at the best method of preparing it for it's final resting place on the layout. In many cases this means that the original base should either be discarded or cut down before you begin assembly to suit the site it will occupy. Mixing several small kits to make an industrial scene is a cheap and effective way to create a relatively large industry. This can be done on a heavy cardboard base, which is then fitted into a space on the layout. This allows the building and other details to be blended into the ground. It also allows all detailing to be done on the workbench rather than leaning over the layout.

To get ideas about industries look at the real thing and if possible take photos. Note the way buildings are joined together and the external pipes and machinery that are appropriate for the industry in question. Many industries are a mixture of buildings, which are not made out of the same materials. However to make it believable on a model it is usually preferable to paint them all the same color particularly when mixing structures from different kits. They can be detailed with varying degrees of weathering to simulate the subtle manner in which different materials weather in nature.

One of the best ways of making plastic buildings look effective is to assemble the walls of the building and airbrush them before fitting windows doors and roofs. This will allow you to make sure the comers are properly fitted while they can be easily rectified. You can use a minimal amount of glue on the actual joins and reinforce the building on the inside with 5 minute Araldite, where it cannot be seen, to achieve a better finish.

Airbrushing plastic siding or bricks with flat acrylics gives a very good finish and provides a great base for detailing with chalks and washes. Similarly the windows and doors can be airbrushed a different color before fitting while attached to the sprue. This saves a lot of time and usually gives a much better finish. Windows with small panes of glass will often look better if you form the glass using "Micro Kristal Klear". You can buy this from most hobby shops. Large windows should be formed with clear acrylic placed as close as possible to the inside of the frames. If the glass provided with the kit does not look shiny and real you can use acrylic from a shirt box. This can be attached with 5 minute Araldite. Often you can also use 5 minute Araldite to fit the window frames to prevent the liquid glues running over paintwork on walls.

*Look for more **Modeling Tips** in the future!*

# PC02

## The 2002 TAMR Photo Contest

*Voting done Saturday February 2, 2002 at the TAMR Winter Convention - West Springfield, Mass.*



### **2002 Rules**

*ANY TAMR member can enter ONE original photo for the photo contest. There will be 5 winners this year, previously there were 4. The contest is divided into two age groups 16 and under and 17 and older. There will be a first and second prize for each group. There will be one "national" prize for those who cannot attend the convention. All TAMR members who are at the Winter Convention will vote on their favorites. This year's prize roads include : Union Pacific, Amtrak, Pennsylvania, New Haven, Rio Grande, and the CBQ. Bring your photo to the show, or mail it to either Newton Vezina 76 Roy Street Springfield, Ma 01104 or Ben Rosen PO Box 301 West Wareham, Ma 02576. All photos mailed to Ben must be received by THURSDAY JANUARY 30<sup>th</sup>! GOOD LUCK TO ALL! Ben Rosen - photo contest director (DirtyOwl@gbpackers.com)*

