

# **the TAMR HOTBOX**

*Official Publication* – TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADING

*Vol. 39 No. 3*

*April 1971*

*ISBN: 1093-622X*

*SPECIAL REPORT*

## **The Future Of Passenger Service Under Railpax**

*(see page 9)*





Editor—Peter Maurath  
 Publisher—Peter Maurath  
 Contributing Columnists—  
 Jonathan Schoen  
 Steven Goehring  
 Art Director—Duh Vinci  
 Photographer—Jay Vecce  
 Librarian—Stockpiled  
 whoopee cushions.

## 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. New officers are too

### COLUMNS:

Full of great tips on layout improvement? Got a million reasons Honda is better than Kia? 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

### OR EMAIL AT:

TAMRHotbox@sbcglobal.net

Hey Hamlet, why don't you ramlet!

### GET WIRED

Check out TAMR on the web at:

[www.TAMR.org](http://www.TAMR.org)

Or Join our online yahoo news group, by contacting:

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

(By joining you'll receive updates on TAMR news and events, plus be connected to dozens of other TAMR members. There's no cost to join this group, do it today!)

If you have a web site relating to trains or model railroading, why not join the TAMR web ring. It costs nothing, and provides a link for all TAMR members to find other TAMR sites. To join, send your e-mail address and web site URL to:

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



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS

April 2006

Issue 393

# THE HOTBOX

**ON THE COVER:** Our April Fools cover this year pays tribute to the Hotbox's of the early 70's during Dick Wagie's tenure as Editor. Photo: Tim Vermande

## FORM 19 A message from your editor in chief

April Fools everybody. Welcome to the annual April Fools cover issue. Seeing as last year was a bust due to computer meltdown's I had to make sure I didn't miss it this year. This years goofy cover is retro, paying tribute to Dick Wagie's work as Editor of *The Hotbox* way back in the early seventies. Special thanks to former member Mark Kasniak for providing the archival material with which to base it off.

This issues is special in more ways than one. Due to a rise in membership and overall activity, it is with great pride that I announce The Hotbox is now sixteen pages! That's right! Eight more pages of model advice, railfan adventures, humor and great photography.

That's not all, to kick-off this new growth we're having a contest, sponsored by MRN with a Grand Prize of...\$1000!! [your eyes are not deceiving you] Not to mention numerous runners-up prizes. Check out the next page for all the info you need and enter today!

Now with all this great news I've been handing you,

don't think I haven't a little bad news as well. Last week the Board of Directors finally decided that after fifteen-plus years it was time to raise the membership rates across the board. Changes have been made in price and eligibility ages. Check out page 11 for the announcement from Jonathan Schoen and the rest of the BOD.

Back to good news, the NY/NJ boys have concreted all those convention plans and even crafted an ad for your viewing enjoyment. Check out the dates and get more info on page 10. I'm going, are you?

Lastly, former TAMR member and photographer extraordinaire Ole Bye has an announcement he wanted to pass along to the rest of the group, concerning his HON3 collection. See page 5.

Something I like to do before I sign-off here (let's make sure I keep having to do it!) is welcome the latest members to the TAMR fold. Say hello to Steven and James! •



Tim Vermande, photo.

Steven J. Miller

Scale: N

James M. Carroll

Layout: Carrollville and Northern

Scale: O

Eqp: MTH, Lionel & Williams engines





WELCOME TO AMERICA'S 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:



## What is the ugliest railroad paint scheme?



**Dave Cenci, Peck, MI-** "UP!!! Hands down. that UP paint scheme has destroyed to many other good schemes!"



**Lewis Ableidinger, Moorhead, MN-** "By far the ugliest paint scheme I've ever seen (not including patch jobs like the Soo's famous "Bandit" Milwaukee units) applied "new" is on short line Dakota, Missouri Valley and Western. The official paint scheme is gray and orange! The body is painted completely gray and the noses a putrid orange along with an orange stripe along the side. DMVW is stenciled on the side in a generally crappy fashion."



**Matt Martin, Fairport, NY-** "I would have to say the ugliest paint scheme would be the Union Pacific. Then the most boring would have to be one of the following; PC & NYC."



**Jonathan Schoen, Simi Valley, CA-** "I won't go as far to say that UP's is the ugliest, but certainly the most boring. I mean, they have barely changed it since the turbines. Oh boy, a lighting stripe. Big deal. However, I will say that PC's mating worms scheme is pretty sick looking."



**Doug Engler, Syracuse, NY-** "I don't think the UP has the ugliest paint scheme. It should go to CSX with there "Dark Future" scheme. That look's horrible. (when you see those all the time, the UP paint doesn't look all that bad)."



**Steven Goehring, Nazareth, PA-** "The scheme that I really can't stand is the old CSX "Grey Ghost" paint scheme, used before the "Bright Future" came out. The locomotive is gray all over."



**Charles Warczinsky, Sandusky, MI-** "Off the top of my head, I'd say anything that is solid black with yellow trim. I'm thinking of schemes like Pioneer's scheme...or for the heck of it (and possibly to the annoyance of some) the Nickel Plate's black and yellow scheme as well. Pretty much, if it's black



with yellow strips/lettering/small additions of yellow to lighten up the black, its overdone and really not as attractive as some people claim it is."

**Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA-** "Well for me the UGLIEST paint scheme would have to be the MBTA's (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) Late 70's/early 80's scheme of gray body, black roof and "mask" over the windows, purple band midway on the locomotives wrapping around the nose with a yellow nose."

**Andrew Matarazzo, Old Bridge, NJ-** "Am I the only one not named Pete that likes the PC scheme? Anyway I was going to say the gray and blue CSX scheme, but since somebody brought that up I'd say it would have to be down to two of Amtrak's newer paint schemes. First, the "Acela" AEM-7's which are basically just gray primer with blue on either end and a logo and number plate slapped on the side. It's really a disgrace considering the old red white and blue scheme that used to be on them, with the blue continuing all the way down to the bottom. Also another Amtrak work of art, the "Pepsi-can" B40-8W's, got repainted into gray primer with a small, boring straight stripe around the unit. I'd take PC black over the two of those any day!"

**Andy Inserra, New Hope, MN-** "I'd have to say the new trend to dark, one color schemes. Mainly NS and the new CSX schemes - others may not survive the test of time due to style, paint [faded pink CP SD40-2's anyone?], etc. but the basic dipped locomotive look just doesn't do it for me, especially when they are so dark."

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

**FOR SALE  
BY OWNER**

**FOR SALE  
BY OWNER**

**FOR SALE  
BY OWNER**

HOn3 modelers in the TAMR? I'm getting rid of all my old narrow gauge stuff, including rolling stock (no operating locos!), track, and structures. I'll give a good deal to somebody in the group who is trying to get into that scale. Also, I've got a box of HO standard-gauge rolling stock and other odds and ends that I'll sell cheap. Email me if you're interested:  
o\_bye@hotmail.com

Ole Bye  
Chester, VT





# Railroading Over There



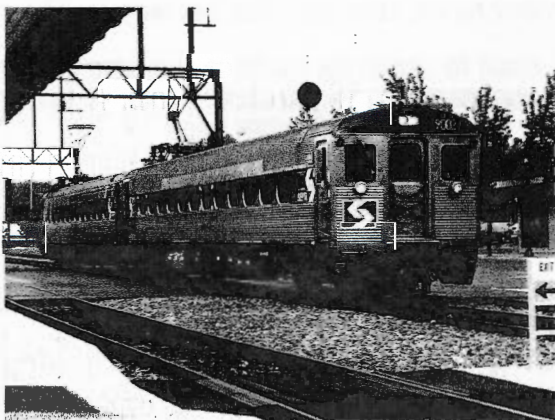
By: Jonathan Schoen & Mark MacDougall

Firstly, a little apology about missing the column last month. The three of us have been very busy with individual circumstances and have had little time to spare to write for The Hotbox. However, we all agree that the TAMR is a worthy investment indeed and we can't stay away for too long.

This month's topic: In terms of equipment, describe the passenger operations in your area.

## MARK AND AUSTIN, EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

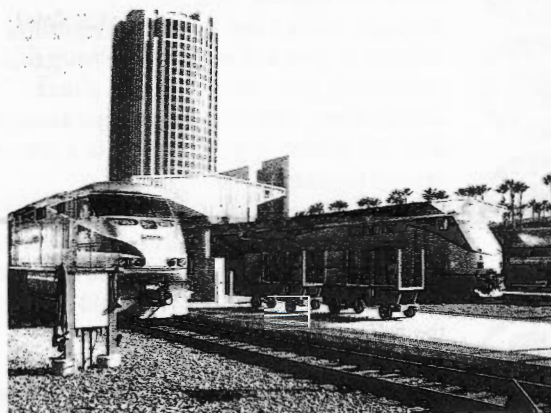
Amtrak operates most of their locomotives in the Northeast. AEM-7's and HHP-8's are the most common locomotives on the Northeast Corridor, along with the Acela train sets. On trains such as the Pennsylvanian and the Keystone from New York to Harrisburg, P42's power the trains. Amfleets are the main passenger cars used on both electrified and diesel powered territory, but Horizons also appear on some trains. Besides trains on the Northeast Corridor, Amtrak runs the Pennsylvanian from New York to Pittsburgh.



A SEPTA MU IS CAUGHT IN LANSDALE, PA. AUSTIN MACDOUGALL, PHOTO

Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) commuter rail lines are all electrified and use mostly electric equipment, mainly various types of MU cars. SEPTA also operates a few AEM-7's and Comet cars. SEPTA operates various rail lines in the Philadelphia area, as well as some trolley and subway lines.

New Jersey Transit operates a variety of motive power, with PL42AC's and APL46's working with older GP40PH-2's, ALP44's, F40PH-2CAT's, and GP40FH-2's (the later units are in the process of being retired). NJT operates on ten lines in New Jersey (with some trackage in NY and PA), as well as a pair of light rail lines.



AN F59PHI AND P42 ARE SEEN ON THE POINTS OF TRAINS AT LOS ANGELES UNION STATION. JONATHAN SCHOEN, PHOTO

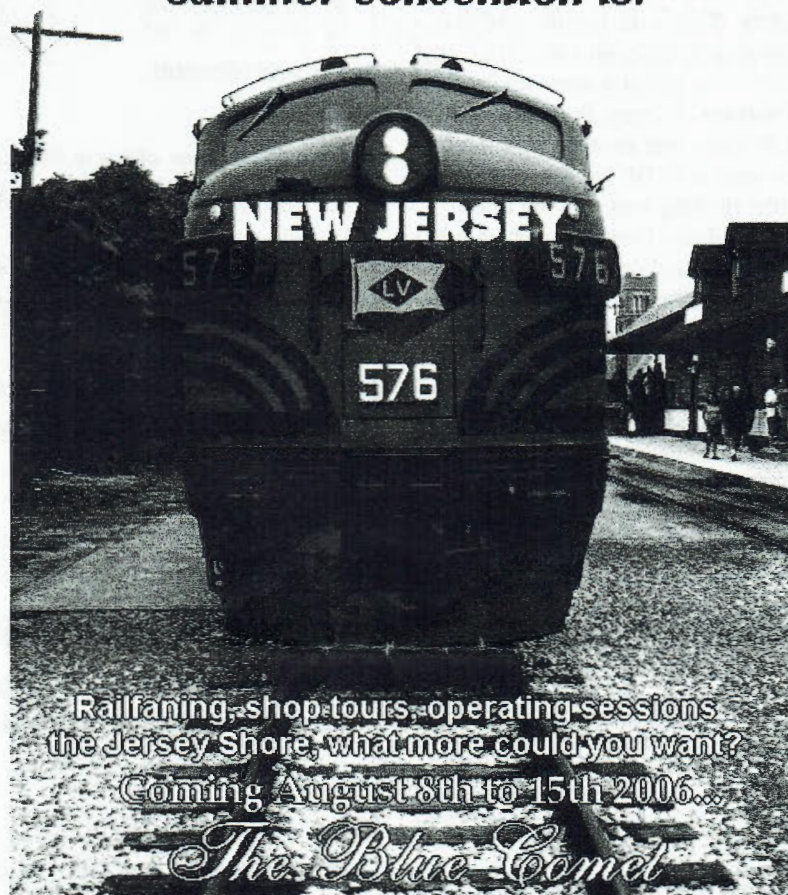
## JONATHAN, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Coast Line, at least closer to Los Angeles, gets much more passenger traffic than UP freight traffic. The majority of the trains are Metrolink. Metrolink operates push-pull commuter trains around the LA area. The primary locomotives used are F59PH's (resembling F40PH's) and the more-streamlined F59PHI's. Metrolink also operates a single ex-Amtrak F40PH (which I have had the privilege of seeing a couple times). In terms of cars, Metrolink operates bi-level coaches and cab cars built by Bombardier. About a year and a half ago, Metrolink leased 12 cars and an F59PHI from Sound Transit and has since installed a "Metrolink" patch on the cars to cover up the "Sounder" lettering. In addition, Metrolink has leased three cars from Altamont Commuter Express in northern California.

*Continued on page 13*



**Wondering where this years  
summer convention is?**



**Railfanning, shop tours, operating sessions  
the Jersey Shore, what more could you want?**

**Coming August 8th to 15th 2006...**

*The Blue Comet*

**Need Info? Contact Erik Romatowski at:**

**E-mail:** [eromatowski@yahoo.com](mailto:eromatowski@yahoo.com)

**Phone:**

**Mail:**

*Continued from page 3*

5. **Winners List.** For a list of winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *The Hotbox/ Model Railroad News Sweepstakes Winners List*, (use address listed at item 3). Residents of FL, VT, and WA may omit stamp. Requests must be received by June 30th 2006.

6. The *Teen Association of Model Railroaders* shall not be liable for any injury, loss, damage, cost, or expense arising, directly or indirectly in connection with sweepstakes and the prizes awarded.

7. Sponsored by *The Teen Association of Model Railroaders* and *Model Railroad News*, all rights reserved.

## The Hurd Monthly Tips

*By: Andrew Hurd*

**#24**

Safeway or any grocery store has scouring pads that are usually green. They look like they are made out of plastic shavings. Rub these on rusted and dirty track to clean them! It works really great!!

If you have any tips that you have discovered and have not been published please send them to: Andrew Hurd, 11887 E IDA Pl, Englewood, Co 80111-4124 or by e-mail [Estes-dude35@yahoo.com](mailto:Estes-dude35@yahoo.com)!



*Continued from page 7*

Amtrak operates their push-pull Pacific Surfliner trains on the San Luis Obispo - Los Angeles - San Diego route. The trains generally consist of five bi-level cars built by Alstom and an F59PHI painted in the trains blue-and-silver paint. Occasionally, a bi-level Superliner is mixed in as well. Amtrak's operates the Coast Starlight between Los Angeles and Seattle, WA. The train generally consists of a couple of P42s, a baggage car, nine-or-so Superliners and a Viewliner lounge. In addition, Amtrak operates a train to and from San Luis Obispo that consists of a baggage car and three or more horizon cars. Originally, power for the train was a P42 on each end (to reverse in San Luis Obispo), but lately there has been an Amtrak F40PH "cabbage" car on one end.●

## Fast Facts

**RAILROADS :** California: Amtrak, Metrolink / Pennsylvania: Amtrak, SEPTA, New Jersey Transit

**MOST COMMON LOCO:** California: F59PHI / Pennsylvania: AEM7

*Continued from page 6*

I had to shoo off the road. I finally hit I-94 at Fallon, MT, at 1500. From there it was down the road to Terry. This is the terminus of the Milwaukee's old main and it flies over the NP main before connecting to it just outside of Terry. Parked on the MILW main was another crewless grain train with DP and C44s. No wonder nothing was moving online today. At Terry there is a park that has an ancient wood caboose (not sure on the heritage, the trucks are marked CR&IP) and also the station. I couldn't decide whether it was the NP or MILW station though.

My tank was nearly empty by now, so I was forced to buy some gas at Terry at the handsome sum of \$2.49. Thank God I could get to Glendive on only a few gallons. I hit Glendive at 1645. Glendive is still a bustling terminal on the BNSF. To the west of town was four junked Great Northern covered hoppers. Over by the diesel terminal was a nice surprise: a BN rotary plow and the power units, ex-F9s. Again, for those of you playing at home, the numbers of the power cars were BN 972575 (B Unit), 972571, and 972570. Also on hand was BNSF 1625.●

## SMOKIN!

A WESTBOUND NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAILER TRAIN IS SEEN AT CP WYOMISSING JCT., JUST WEST OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA ON NORFOLK SOUTHERN'S HARRISBURG LINE IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JUNE 18TH, 2005. PHOTO: MARK MACDOUGALL



# The Top 7

By: Peter Maurath

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

## Top Seven "railfan" signs that it's spring.

- #7. You need the weed-wacker again on photo shoots.**
- #6. You see the first robin of the year... getting hit by a train.**
- #5. Yard security has switched from parkas, to windbreakers .**
- #4. The scenic railway you belong too wants you to do some actual work now.**
- #3. You change from your wool RR patch vest to your light cotton RR patch vest.**
- #2. Your planning your spring break trip...to Altoona.**
- And the number one "railfan" sign that it's spring...**
- You can videotape from the moonroof again.**



# Trains to Nowhere

BY: STEVEN GOEHRING

## THE SOCIAL HABITS OF TREES and how this is (ir)relevant to model railroading

Welcome back to TtN! This month, I thought I'd revisit a subject that I already wrote about, in what I consider my best ever article: "A Tree Farmer's Tips on Making Scale Trees." I pity those of you who missed it. Try ordering a back issue of the Hotbox and read up. I still think it helps to have simple methods of making trees. After all, forests are very diverse places. Achieving a realistic arrangement of trees will do a lot to make your railroad look believable.

The biggest tip I can give on making trees is to make a variety. Nothing destroys a railroad's realism

like having every tree on the pike looking exactly the same. If you want some ideas, see the article in the Hotbox for the specifics, or just the photo below for a basic view of some different tree types. If you go take a look at a real forest (which I highly recommend) you'll see that there are really a lot of different species in any patch of

natural woods. Even in a forest hand-planted with only one type of tree, you'll see other types of tree coming up. Let's take a specific example of this type of forest. On my family's tree farm, my mother and her siblings worked to plant a grove of Austrian Pine trees to hide the rural

road from the farmhouse view. Fast-forward a decade or two, and let's look at the same forest today. It now plays host to some of the finest apple trees on the property, along with some beautiful oaks. Of course, if any of you are somewhat outdoorsy and live in the Northeast, you've probably seen a few hundred Striped Maples. We've got loads of those in the Austrian Pines, too.

Oh wait, I hear snoring. Are you read-

The Striped Maples bring up a good point: the forests aren't only trees. Before you put in any trees, you should think about how often people would see the particular forest in question. If it's at the front of a scene, you may want to detail the understory. I suggest you get Light Green or Spring Green Lichen from Woodland Scenics to represent shrubs, and Light Green Fine-Leaf Foliage to cut apart into Striped Maples. Also, a little tall grass would look great. All you need for a realistic understory is to cluster the bushes and Maples around any patches of light that hit the forest floor, and leave the undergrowth scattered around the darker areas of the forest.

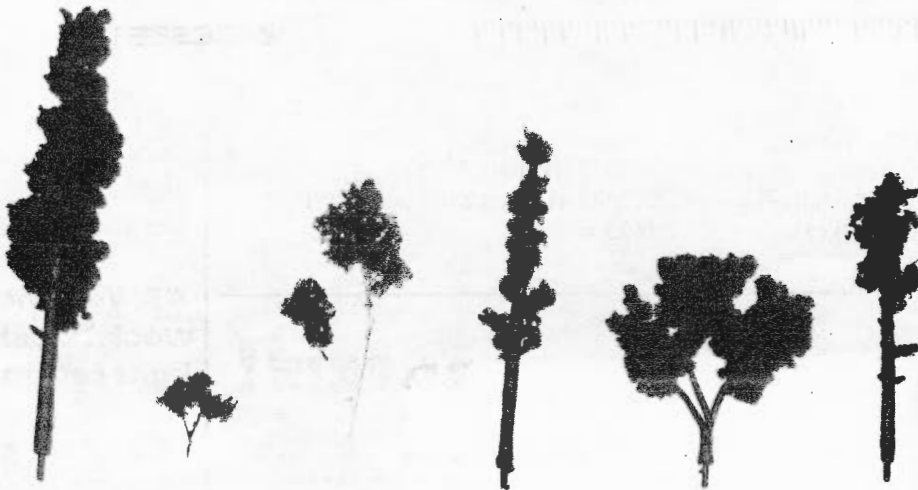
When planting trees, think of things this way: Pines tend to grow slowly and drop a lot of seeds. Therefore, when you plant evergreens, plant a patch of 'em. Deciduous trees can stand alone pretty well, but if you have a huge tree all alone, give it some saplings to keep it company. All trees drop seeds, after all.

Another natural occurrence to keep in mind is trees dying. All layouts should have some deadfall lying around on the ground. Also, dead standing trees are easily modeled with either Lichen painted brown of

with Fine Leaf Foliage. Some bushes can kill trees pretty quickly, so maybe you could install an area where the bushes have taken over the forest.

Whatever you do, do it your way. It's your railroad after all, and you're the sole creator.

Go ahead. Play God.●



(LEFT TO RIGHT) BLUE SPRUCE, STRIPED MAPLE, WHITE BIRCH, THE LARCH, A YOUNG OAK, AUSTRIAN PINE. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

ers falling asleep? Pardon my reminiscing. I'll get on to how this affects model railroading. First of all, you should always mix your forests. Secondly, many modelers will want to put a few hundred Striped Maples each on their layouts to be true to actual Northeastern US forests.

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. REPRINTING OF THE HOTBOX IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS.

MEMBERSHIP TO THE TAMR INCLUDES AN ELEVEN MONTH SUBSCRIPTION TO THE HOTBOX, THE ANNUAL DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS, QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTERS AND AN ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL TAMR EVENTS. THE AVAILABLE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS: REGULAR (UNDER 21)-\$15, ASSOCIATE (21 AND OVER)-\$20, INTERNATIONAL (OUTSIDE US)-\$18

TO BECOME A PART OF THE TAMR, OR TO RENEW, SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO:  
TIM VERMANDE, TAMR PIVOT PIN,

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 GRANVILLE, 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!

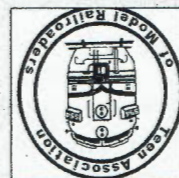
## COMING SOON TO THE HOTBOX:

- Pieces of flattened wood pulp-planes containing inked text! .
- Joe Bohannon takes us down memory lane.

## COMING SOON TO THE TAMR:

- Summer convention will be here soon!

[ We're on the web! [www.tamr.org](http://www.tamr.org) ]



Teen Association Of Model Railroaders  
"Putting the future of model railroading on the right track"

27 MAR 2006 PM 7 L

CLEVELAND OH 441

