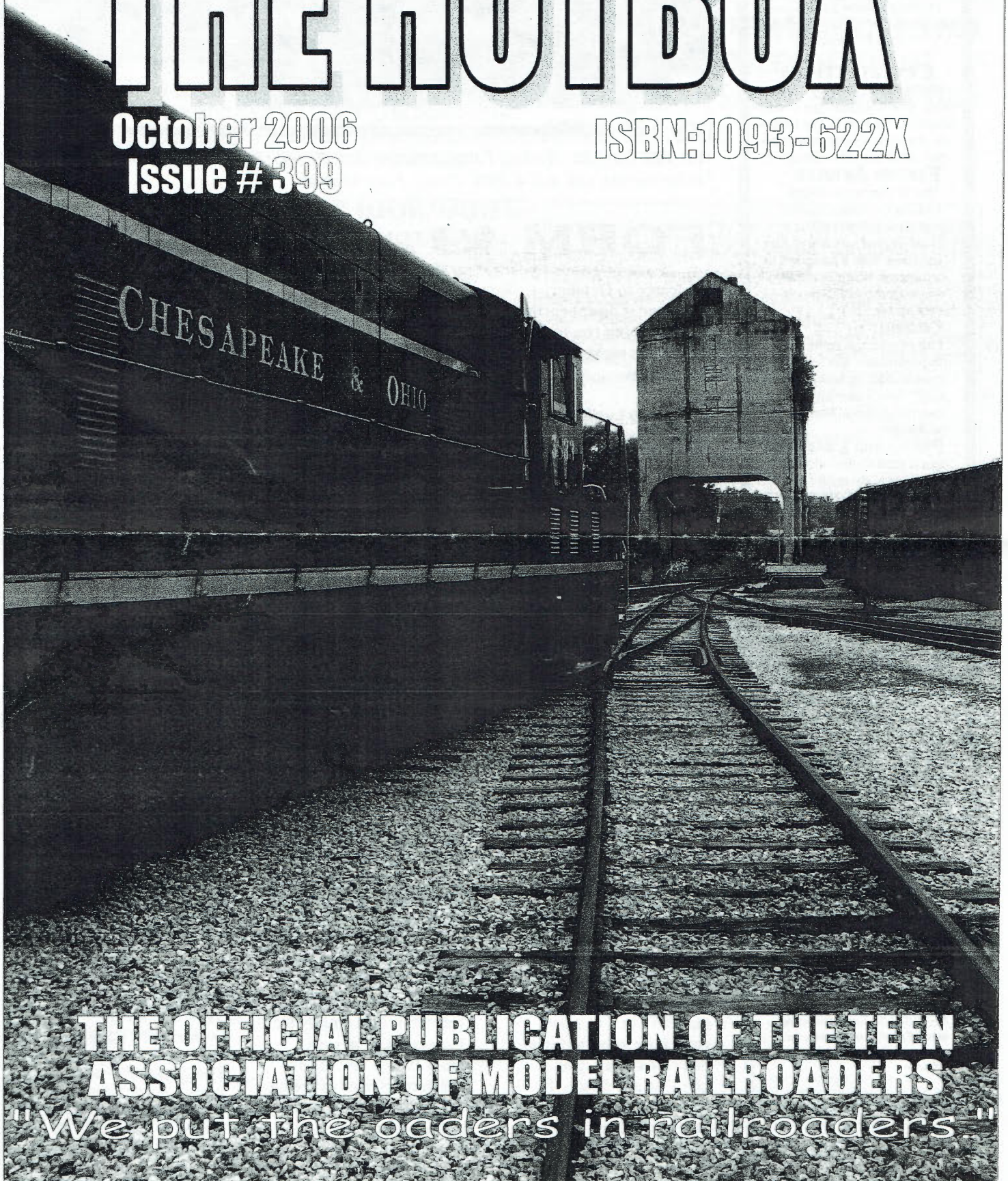


THE HOTBOX

October 2006
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**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEEN
ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS**

"We put the oaders in railroaders."



THE HOTBOX

Editor—Peter Maurath
Publisher—Peter Maurath II
Contributing Columnists—
Jonathan Schoen
Steven Goehring
Art Director—Duh Vinci
Photographer—Jay Vecsee
Librarian—Hands out apples to
the trick-or-treaters.

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 EMD is better than GM? 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

I didn't steal no bike neither!

GET WIRED

Check out TAMR on the web at: www.TAMR.org

Or Join our online yahoo news group, by contacting:

plvotpin@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:

plvotpin@tamr.org

ON THE COVER: . Hocking Valley Scenic Railway GP7 #5833 waits outside the enginehouse in Nelsonville, OH, July 4, 2006. Photo: Peter Maurath.

FORM 19

A message from your editor in chief

Welcome to October. The year is disappearing fast, meaning two major events are right around the corner.

First-up is less than a month away. Your 2006 TAMR elections. As it stands, right now I'm still short on three positions, the Central, International and Northeastern Reps. If you incumbents want an opportunity to keep your jobs it's in your best interest to send a paragraph or two my way stating such. As for the rest of the positions, they're all running unopposed. While this may be good for them, it doesn't make for much of an election. So, for the last time, your last reminder before the ballots go out in November, Pretty-pretty-PLLEEEEEEZE, run for office. This group is definitely worth your time and effort, and there's very little chance you could screw anything up any more than the real folks in DC, sorry got a little gubernatorial there. Anyway, you know what I mean. If your interested, and under 21, send your letter-

of-intent my way before October 17th and I'll add you to the ballot. Positions available are: President, VP, Treasurer, North-eastern, Central, Southern, Western and International Reps (you can only run for the rep position in your region).

The second big event is the Winter National Convention in W. Springfield, MA coming next January. It still may seem a ways off, but it'll be here before you know it. An announcement covering many of the details is on page 3, courtesy of Convention Director, Newton Vezina.

In other news, the Hotbox is once again staring at an empty article/photo file. Article's of one page or less are still desperately needed to fill the space between here and page 8. I'm also in need of high quality (5.0 mp or better) photos mainly for the covers. I'm sure more than a few of you are getting tired of seeing wedgie shots of Midwest railroads and the HVSR



Tim Vermande, photo.

every other month. But if nobody sends me the high resolution shots I need for the cover I can't use them. I also wouldn't mind some creativity in the cover shots, lets see some model train shots (we're the taMr after all) or something even a little abstract, but still train related (i.e.-camera on the railhead). C'mon, pitch in, my ego can only take so much inflating with all of my work in here!

Before I check out, a welcome to a rather young member (this might be a typo, if it is I'm sorry in advance). Say hello to Nick!

Nicholas Reilly

N scale Bachmann "very new as hobby"



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:



what is the weirdest thing that ever happened to you while railfanning?



Doug Engler, Syracuse, NY "I got a few of them. Here is my top 3 list of weird things:



"#3 Notified by the friendly NY state police for having a tail light out on my car (I was sleeping by the tracks at the time and soon had the ticket fixed)"



"#2 Got Chased by a train! Thanks to Erie PA for this one. 19th St in Erie PA I had read a report about it in TRAINS magazine and they said that the tracks were owned by NS and was supposed to be no longer in use. My dad and I had taken a trip, was passing through Erie, and decided to find the tracks which we found without a problem. As we turned down 19th I looked behind me and saw a headlight... CSX headlight to be exact!!! We pulled off the road and watched as the train went by and then continued our journey home."



"And the #1 weird thing to have happen while railfanning."



"Watching a baseball game at the stadium!!!! !! (Thanks to the Syracuse Sky Chief for that).."



Scott Willett, Lomira, WI- "The strangest thing that I saw is in Chicago. My dad and friends where at a Metra station and some kids pushed a shopping cart onto the tracks."



Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA- "I found a toy train set in the woods!!!!"



John Sommer, East Brunswick, NJ- "hmmm I live in jersey so... weird things all the time.... probably the weirdest thing was cab ride on CSX west shore line."



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

WINTER CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

Greetings from sunny Springfield, MA! It's difficult to think about winter while we are still enjoying summer, but for attendees that like to plan ahead, the 2007 TAMR Winter Convention has already been planned out and will begin on Friday evening, January 26, 2007 and continue until Sunday evening, January 28, 2007.

By popular demand, the winter convention hotel will again be the **Residence Inn, 64 Border Way, West Springfield, MA. , 413-732-9543**

A multiple room suite has been reserved for TAMR members that need a place to stay over night. The cost for each person will be **\$30.00** per night including a full breakfast

There will be a HUGE model railroad show, including a TAMR table with operating layouts on both Saturday and Sunday at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. For more details regarding the show, click on the Amherst Railway society link:

<http://www.amherstrail.org/show/show.htm>

Mark your calendars! We are expecting another awesome winter convention! Only 5 months away!!!! More details regarding the Winter Convention will be forthcoming. Meanwhile enjoy the last of summer while it lasts!

HAPPY RAILROADING!!

-Newton

THE HOTBOX FUNNY NAME OF THE MONTH

PULLED AT RANDOM FROM THE NORTHERN REGION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF THE PENN CENTRAL TELECENTRAL PHONE NETWORK, "THERE IS ALWAYS TIME FOR COURTESY."

R.S. POHYICKY

THIS CONCLUDES THE HOTBOX FUNNY NAME OF THE MONTH, PROVIDED BY THE PENN CENTRAL TELECENTRAL PHONE NETWORK. "WHEN YOU ANSWER THE PHONE YOU ARE THE COMPANY."



Railroading Over There



Usually By: Jonathan Schoen & Mark MacDougall

This month ROT is being done a little differently, just because the writers know how much you love variety. Okay, it's because they ran out of time to get the article done. None the less, this month I'm giving our new International Region Representative Maikha Ly an opportunity to share what railfanning is like in Australia. Maikha will be joining the MacDougalls and Jonathan from time to time in this column. So take this opportunity to familiarize yourself with Australia's railways, as your annual Australian Railfanning Exam is coming up at the end of the year. It's almost impossible to pass, and the only way you can do it is by getting extra credit by running in the elections *hint* *hint*. So with out further due, here's Maikha.

MAIKHA LY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



"Well, where do I start? To all you yanks over there, Australia is a completely new land, where every railroad encounter is something

new and exciting to you all. In Sydney and the state of New South Wales alone, there are countless locations and opportunities all over my place to railfan a variety of trains, freight trains for those who love their locomotives, as well as local and express passenger trains (Most of which, are Multiple-Unit. NSW got rid of locomotive hauled trains yonkers ago!).

In writing my first part for the TAMR publication, I thought I might choose my favourite section in the state for a dense amount of railfanning, the *Hunter Valley*. The Hunter Valley, located 200km (125miles for you folks) North of Sydney, and is virtually the North-East Corridor of freight trains in Australia. You have four tracks on this corridor, two tracks segregated for local and country passenger trains, the other two for the high-frequency freight trains. And trust me, you will not be disappointed!

Coal is the main commodity here, with many coal mines scattered throughout the valley, all of them are served by the railroad, where their coal is transported to the post in the

City of Newcastle to be exported overseas. Coal trains are primarily hauled by two types of locomotives, the 90 Class (EMD – Built and exported from Canada!), which is the largest locomotive operating on Australian rails, and the 82 Class (Also EMDs, manufactured locally in Australia), and the wagons they haul are countless. I've railfanned on busy days in the Hunter, and from one location alone between 0900-1700, you would get at least three, and up to six of these coal trains an hour... and that's only going in one direction. I tell ya, this place gives Tehachapi Loop a run for its mileage!

Although coal trains are the main encounter here, the next type of freight you'd encounter is the transport of export containers, and these trains rival their coaling counterparts. Most trains that pass through are travelling between the state above NSW

(Queensland) to the state below it (Victoria), and these trains typically reach lengths of 1640 yards (0.93miles).

And not just

that, you are bound to expect at least 4 of these trains while during your daytime railfanning! At present, there are two operators that run container freight on a regular basis, *Pacific National* (Let's compare them to... Union Pacific) and *Queensland Rail National*



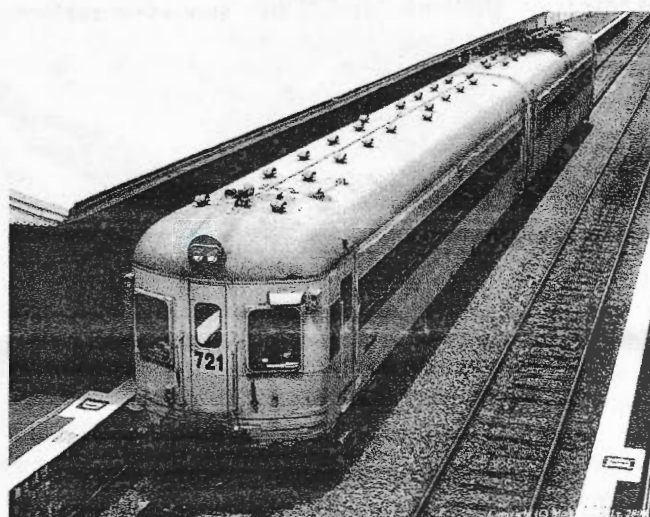
90-CLASS LOCOMOTIVES PULLING A COAL TRAIN. MAIKHA LY, PHOTO.

Continued on next page

(Let's compare them to... Norfolk Southern). Pacific National operate their trains with NR Class locomotives (Basically General Electric – Dash 9s underneath the hood!), and using at least three of them to haul the trains, whereas QRN use a variety of older locomotives, and are the underdog of interstate freight operations. Pacific National also operate majority of the coal trains previously mentioned.

Of course, apart from coal and containers, we do have other commodities and freight trains that although have only up to four trains through the Hunter a day, are still of great interest. A variety of wheat and grain trains operate through here, mainly bound for Newcastle for export. A daily Cement train is expected, and the smaller operators with wonderful, vintage locomotive consists, also operating their once daily freight trains from other country destinations, where Pacific National doesn't serve.

And what I've described about the Hunter Valley is only half of it. Then there are the passenger trains! You have two or three types to expect. The local commuter operation here, *Cityrail*, operate diesel railcar units between Newcastle and their extremities in the Hunter, although Cityrail is a much wider Government operation



LOCAL PASSENGER TRAIN - CITYRAIL DIESEL RAILCAR UNIT

which extends right down through to Sydney where I live and even further south. Next is *Countrylink*, the Country train operator in NSW, very much like your Amtrak over there. The Hunter Valley corridor serves every single Northbound Countrylink train, operated by either a railcar train set, or a specially built Push-Pull locomotive train set (Very much a design from the HST

in England, if you guys want to use Google to look them up... or better still, just Google up the train XPT).

Third type of passenger train, very infrequent but still existent, are your heritage mainline excursions operated by either steam or diesel locomotives. I mention these, because I volunteer extensively for one of the mainline operators in Sydney as a conductor, and we regularly run our steam train up to the Hunter Valley for all sorts of occasions. Great fun work I tell you!

Anyhow, I hope you enjoyed reading my introduction to one of many railfanning experiences over in the Land Downunder. I also wish to thank everyone at TAMR for making me feel welcomed into this organization, as it's good to get to know how our counterparts across the Pacific operate, much like we do here! If you wish to know more about Australia railroads, or just want to chat a bit more, my email address is below. •

Maikholy@yahoo.com.au

The Top 7

By: Peter Maurath

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

Top Seven rejected railfan Halloween costumes .

#7. "Lester the tanked engine"-Thomas' loser half-cousin.

#6. Rabid Chessie the foaming RR cat who mauls passersby.

#5. Charles Zehner, the late host of Tracks Ahead, blue windbreaker optional .

#4. Amtrak President-of-the-week.

#3. Western Paci...sorry due to copywrite issues #3 cannot be used .

#2. The PC roach from the coach .

And the number one rejected railfan Halloween costume...

"I'm a scanner, want to press my buttons?."

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

The guys in the Western Region are in the beginning stages of planning a convention in California. Everything is still up in the air though, and they want your input on where it should be, when it should be, and what activities to do. If you are interested in possibly attending or just helping out in any way, please email Jonathan Schoen at:

JonathanHTD@yahoo.com
or Benjamin Hawken at:
SouthernPacificFreak@yahoo.com.
Thanks!

Gone, but not quite.



NS EASTBOUND FREIGHT 18G IS SEEN AT PHILLIPSBURG, NJ WITH AN EX-CONRAIL UNIT LEADING. AUSTIN MACDOUGALL, PHOTO.

Jack Connors	PETER MAURATH
James Wintergreen	JONATHAN SCHOEN
Guy on Ferris Wheel	STEVEN GOEHRING
Elvis Impersonator	DAVID CENCI
Man on EL	BEN HAWKEN
Sal the Bookie	NEWTON VEZINA

First Unit Director	ERIK ROMATOWSKI
Second Unit Director	AUSTIN MACDOUGALL
Third Unit Director	C'MON HOW MANY OF THESE GUYS DO WE NEED?

Chief Lighting Tech	BEN NEAL
Costumes Supervisor	WILFRED ROBERGE
Make-up Supervisor	JOHN SOMMER
Key Make-up Artist	WHY WOULD YOU PUT MAKE-UP ON A KEY?
Stunt Coordinator	CHRIS BARANY

Dolly Grip	TIM VERMANDE
Main Grip	MIKE ACREE
Geta Grip	OLD GRIP JOKE
Grip Supervisor	THE GUY WHO SHOULD BE KEEPING US FROM MAKING THE BAD GRIP JOKES
Location Manager	MARK MACDOUGALL
Location Assistant	CHRIS BURCHETT
Second Assistant	I DUNNO, SOME GUY WHO STANDS AROUND A LOT

Leadmen	INSERT OWN JOKE HERE
Sound Editor	ANDY INSERRA
Assistant	I ONLY GOT HER FIRST
Sound Editor	NAME I THINK IT WAS SUSAN
Assistant to Mr. Maurath	BO TAMRWONERDOG
Assistant to Mr. Schoen	STROM BAHD

The Producers wish to thank
Consolidated Rail Corp.
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The Mormon Tabernacle Choir
Vlasic Pickles
The city of Franksville, WI

Trains to Nowhere

BY: STEVEN GOEHRING

We all have our place in Railroad History

History. That means long classes of taking notes about insane Roman emperors or big battles that really don't have much to do with our lives today. Now let's narrow the focus a bit: Railroad History. OK, now we're talking 4-4-0 steamers, logging railroads, simply ugly early diesel engines, and fading waybills from the 1930's or some other era like that.

Really, though, railroad history is not so far away from all of us. It's being written each day by train crews and railroad employees all across the country. Not to mention you.

Yes, YOU!

Any model railroader, railfan, or computer nut typing away on a undersized keyboard connected to a PDA (hmmm, sounds a lot like me right now!) can have a significant impact on the way railroads are remembered. I'd bet that when the model railroading greats of today were teenagers balancing life in this crazy world with life in our crazier hobby, they had no clue that they would make a legacy in their layouts and writings. Without a doubt, few of the railfans that photographed and

chased Conrail, SP, D&RGW, and countless other "fallen flags" had any idea that the subject matter they loved would be gone by 2006. Now, we rail enthusiasts of today are dependent on their work of yesterday to guide us in our knowledge and modeling.

So what about the train buffs of tomorrow? Well, my friends, that is where you come in. We in the TAMR are most likely the biggest railfans, model railroaders, and rail preservationalists in our generation. After all, we made the step to join the group here! As the railroad nuts of the 21st century, we do still have some power to help ensure that our favorite lines are remembered into years to come.



SOMETHING FOR THE RAIL-HISTORIANS OF TOMORROW? TIM VERMANDE, PHOTO.

Every accurate model made, whether it's in Z scale, G scale, or even Train Simulator, is a step towards making sure that that locomotive is never forgotten. So, if you've got the ability to do so, you can help! Of course, you will need references and information about the prototype, but thanks to the Internet, that is usually easy to find.

Most importantly, some of you may find that you can add to the collection of available research sources or possi-

bly even save a good photo or article. I used this as my big reason why I Google searched for my favorite shortline and printed every picture I found. Now, none of them can be lost in a server crash (which just happened to two of the railroad's best websites.) I also bought a large photo print of the railroad station, office, and hotel buildings in Galetton, PA. Thus, the picture is in the hands of a rail historian who understands the railroad and the photograph's importance. By all means buy pictures of railroad equipment and structures, lest someone with no railroad knowledge buy the same pictures and later throw them away! Every picture, article, artifact, and preserved piece of equipment makes a difference!

So if you're a railfan, every photograph you take is important! Every note on operation can become the key to the way a future rail buff runs his layout or how he programs a Simulator activity. Some of you might even get the chance to help go through original documents from your railroad. If any chance like this comes up, think hard about taking it. Someone will no doubt thank you later.

Here's to the railroad enthusiasts: the best sources for railroad information and the best workers for railroad preservation!

On a side note, if you have trouble modeling your favorite line due to the lack of commercial products, try talking to company representatives at big train shows. It worked for the Wellsville, Addison & Galetton's fans; thanks to a WAG fan talking to an Athearn rep and providing color samples and photos, Athearn is now producing WAG boxcars in HO and N with their 36' old time boxcar tooling. If you've got the info, they'll listen and maybe even produce a model!●

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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 BEAVERCREEK, 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:

- Notes from the railfanning capital of Ohio!
- The Summer National Convention Report.

COMING SOON TO THE TAMR:

- Decision 06' November is election time, are you running?
- Start marking those 2007 calendars! The Springfield show is coming!

We're on the web!
www.tamr.org



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

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