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THE HOTBOX

February 2008 Issue # 415



the official publication of the teen
association of model railroaders
Wait one hour after ingesting before heavy activity.

THE HOTBOX

February 2008 Issue # 415

Editor –Peter Maurath
Publisher–Peter McRath II
Contributing Columnist–
Steven Goehring
Art Director–Duh Vinci
Photographer– Jay Vecce
Librarian– Loves the Whitman sampler

Contributions

Send your check to my...oops, sorry, you mean that type of contribution. We here at The Hotbox are always in need of new material. Here are a few examples:

Feature Articles:

This is what we're always looking for. From a railfan trip, to your home layout's story, or your own story. Size can range from a paragraph to a full page. Pictures are always appreciated.

Columns:

Full of great tips on layout improvement? Got a million reasons EMD is better than GE? Start a monthly, or bi-monthly column. Size same as features.

Photos and Drawings:

Got a great photo collection you want to show-off? Got a notebook full of railroad cartoons, or layout logos? Send them to the Hotbox staff for consideration.

Send all Submissions, or Hotbox questions to:

Peter Maurath
13212 Wilton Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135

Or email at:

TAMRHotboxEd@sbcglobal.net

GET WIRED

Check out TAMR on the web at: www.TAMR.org
Or Join our online yahoo news group, by contacting:

pivotpin@TAMR.org

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

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

pivotpin@tamr.org

It's the Easter bunny, and is he ever mad!

ON THE COVER: . An Incline Railway funicular car awaits departure at the top of Lookout Mountain outside Chattanooga, TN, July 5, 2007. *Peter Maurath, photo.*



FORM 19

A message from your editor in chief.

Your back! I guess that means my new format didn't scare you away, and your back for more, amen to that!

Something I forgot to mention last month, another reason for this format change was for the newly launched Online Hotbox. This same publication is now available in PDF format, online. For the first time see the Hotbox in living breathing, I can't-believe-it-is-this-a-drug-induced-hallucination-COLOR! Not to mention the total lack of severe man-handling at the hands of the fine folks at the USPS. Yes there is something to be said for the paper

version you can hold in your hands, and I could print it in color, if printing in color wasn't so prohibitively expensive. As our budget stands, this is the next best thing. I'll also answer this question now, NO you do not get a discount switching to the online version. Considering our rates haven't gone-up in twenty-years, you're already getting a discount, so stop complaining.

The Winter National Convention should be taking

place about the time you're reading this. If you were unable to attend, I hope you can make plans for the upcoming Summer Convention this June right here in my neck of the woods. I'll have a little more info this month on page 7 if your interested.

The hotbox is once again coming-up short on high-quality cover shots. I can't stress enough how important it is than any shots submitted for cover use needs to be of the highest resolution possible.



Too often I get great shots from members that when blown-up to the roughly 8x10 size resemble something run-off a dot-

matrix printer from the 80's. You need to make sure it can handle being enlarged and also is formatted properly (portrait, not landscape). If writing is more your thing, I can still use material; at present I have enough for almost all of March, so get writing and get snapping. And while you're at it, cancel your weekend plans, invite a friend, and come to the show! I'm outta here!•



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 would be your ideal railfan vehicle?

Doug Engler, Fulton, NY- "I think a nice full sized camper with all the amenities, Bathroom, kitchen, ladder to the roof for above shots, raised for off roading, and a full set of antennas for CB, scanner, radio, & anything else. A perfect weekend/ week long trip. The next vehicle would be a house right along the Chicago-Selkirk Line. I would have a web cam set up for 24 hr surveillance of the tracks for all to enjoy."

Matt Martin, Fairport, NY- "OOOO This ones easy! The Nissan Frontier Nismo, it has all the necessary items for a railfanning vehicle. Such as high performance shocks for bouncing down the six footer or those Ohio pot hole abundant farm roads. A fair size bed to haul what I need whether it be an EOT or Knuckle while helping out a train crew. Crew Cab interior for maximum comfort for 4 or less railfans and all their gear. Fairly good gas mileage, comfortable seats and Ipod Interface system for 'Chase Music'. Plenty of power to maneuver about while enduring a chase."

Willie Roberge, Wareham, MA- "Well I feel I already have the "Perfect Railfan Vehicle" for me. I love my 2002 Dodge Dakota Sport Quadcab. The only thing that I would like it to have is a Sun Roof and 4 wheel drive."

"If Money were no object (as well as Gas Mileage) I would Get a Surplus M1114 (Humvee) with weapons Station (Hatch and Ring Mount in the roof) to stand up in while pacing a train as well as the ability to go almost anyplace!!!!"

John Sommer- "Two Words.. Tractor-Trailer.. think about it.. trucker gets lost, no one questions why he is in a restricted area... If practicality is an

issue.. then I would have to go for the Chevy 2500 with the Duramax an Allison 5-speed.. now you could lift that, 37" tires etc and basically get it set to go mudding so it can go anywhere... but then again.. Practicality."

Steven Goehring, Nazareth, PA- "Having logged several hours flying WWII fighters on the Nintendo Wii lately, I'd take a British DH Mosquito 2-engine prop fighter, or if forced to go with a smaller craft, a Japanese KI-43. (Check out www.dhmosquito.com/ for some info on one awesome plane...) Then again, it might be hard to get good shots from the speeds that those warbirds are capable of... so, US B25, anybody? Set up a camera in the belly turret any you're all set."

Andrew Mattarazzo, Old Bridge, NJ- "I say a nice Dodge Ram 2500 or 3500 with a diesel engine, with a sunroof for chase shot, and off-road tires of course. Plus a dash-mounted scanner and a roof-mounted antenna. Also a cap over the bed for additional photo equipment storage (or a portable layout!) and an inflatable mattress to camp out trackside out in the middle of nowhere. Plus a portable grill and/or TV can't hurt. Yeah, I've gotten pretty bored at work/school and daydreamed about this one..."

Ben Hawken, Shingle Springs, CA- "Both my father and me agree a train. Have a SP SD45T-2 w/ the SP business cars Sunset and Stanford."

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

The Hotbox tip of the month

A CHEAP WAY TO CREATE SIGNAGE AROUND THE LAYOUT IS TO CUT THE LOGO'S OUT OF NEWSPAPER AD'S (SUNDAY'S ARE THE BEST). JUST MAKE SURE THE RESIDENT COUPON CLIPPER DOESN'T NEEDS THEM ANY-MORE OR YOU'RE LIABLE TO BE ATTACKED WITH YOUR OWN SCISSORS.



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS





Doug's Railfan Recommendations

CONDUCTED BY: DOUG ENGLER, ALL PHOTO'S BY THE AUTHOR

Issue 1: Syracuse, NY

Hello all! Welcome to my new column, *Doug's Railfan Recommendations*. These are places I have been to, and found to be good spots for different reasons. I'm starting off near my home town in central NY.

Syracuse, NY is located about 2-3 hours west of the capitol city of Albany and is located on the main line between Selkirk, NY and Cleveland, OH. Normal traffic includes: CSX, Amtrak, NYSW, CN, UP, & BNSF; with sightings of NS, TFM, NYC E units, Ferromex, And many leasing units. On average about 70 trains a day pass by the Syracuse Amtrak station.

Great spots I have found are:

The above mentioned Amtrak station - Platform is above the actual station- has a nice stairway with automatic doors that is heated in the winter. From the platform, if you look to the west, there is a signal bridge that only lights up when something is in the block. Under the bridge is a long straight-a-way so you have time if an eastbound is coming. Amtrak stops about 10 times a day.

Just past the platform, to the west, is a branch off that leads to Watertown and points north on which I have seen a few CN trains come off. Other perks of the are the bathroom, Dunkin Donuts, & Subway.

Dewitt Yard - CSX's Dewitt Yard is located east of the station. There are many good spots for photo's around the yard. On the east end of the yard there is a pedestrian foot bridge that goes over the tracks. There are a few signals in the area, and you can see one very well from the bridge. The only downfall of the bridge is you have to be a master of chain link fence photo's.

Just west of the yard is a great spot to sit and watch trains coming in and going out of the yard. I have found a great parking area and you can stand on the grass by the tracks to get photo's. There is a signal to the west of you which is a good notification of westbound. Eastbounds will surprise you from time to time.

Carousel Center Mall - The Carousel Center is a mall located just minutes from the Amtrak station. It has a carousel on the second

level at the food court. Beside the carousel is a bunch of picture windows with a great look at the tracks. Your too far for photo's but still can see anything that goes by while eating lunch!

That's it for the first edition of *Doug's Railfan Recommendations*. I hope you enjoyed this article. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at warehamwounder2003@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from everyone and maybe even suggestions of future places to visit.

Keep a look out for the next edition when I talk about a place many TAMR members have been to. Selkirk, NY!●



Amtrak's westbound Lake Shore Limited (a.k.a. Late Shore Limited) arrives 4 1/2 hrs late at Syracuse, Led by #704.

The Hot box Funny name of the Month

Pulled at random from the Southern Region Telephone Directory of the Penn Central Tel ecentral Phone Network, "There is always time for courtesy."

L.S. Pook

This concludes the Hotbox funny name of the month, Provided by the Penn Central, Tel ecentral Phone Network. "when you answer the phone you are the company."



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS





Tips for Rail fans From a Profes- sional Rail roader

By James Lincoln

I have been a railfan since I was fourteen years old and I have had model trains for even longer. So you can probably imagine my surprise and joy when my application to CSX was accepted and I began my career as a professional railroader. Now that I am on the inside, as it were, I would like to share a few insights that I have for all of you that want to spend a relaxing day watching trains (if any of you ever went railfanning with me, ah I don't think relaxing would be the word you would use, but I digress ...)

- 1.) Probably the simplest thing I can share is: buy, and wear a pair of safety glasses. Sounds simple and it is. Railroaders are required to wear ANSI certified safety glasses when working within 30ft of the tracks, if you are wearing them they are more likely to think you work for the railroad.
- 2.) Make sure your cameras are pointed **at the locomotives or at the ground** until the engines pass and are out of view. Railroaders are trained to spot potential terrorist threats and if you look like you are photographing other things around (especially if you are around an airport or military base) you will be reported to the dispatcher and the police will pay you a visit. If you are obviously taking photos of the train(s) they will assume you are a FRN (you can guess what the "F" stands for, Rail Nut) and generally won't bother you.
- 3.) Wear boots. This is more for your safety as railroaders will probably not be able to see your feet when they pass, but we are required to wear them at work. Walking on ballast is really hard on your ankles and the support really helps.
- 4.) Don't trespass, but if you are going to (I'm not stupid, the only difference for me now is that I work for the RR, for me it isn't trespassing) **MAKE SURE** you wear safety glasses, boots and no loose fitting clothing and when the train is approaching, stay 30ft away from the tracks if possible.
- 5.) Understand that most railroaders think we are crazy (except for those that are railfans and I would say that that is only about 20%) and most of them have seen people get hurt or killed and had to clean up the mess afterwards. Once they understand you are a railfan, it generally puts them at ease, ...

Continued on page 7

Do you smell smoke?

The Burning River Limited **2008**

Cleveland, OH/6.27-6.29

The TAMR summer convention comes to Cleveland this year as your esteemed and sharply dressed Hotbox Editor dons the cap of Convention Director, hosting this years festivities.

Join us for:

-A ride on the *Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway* .

-A tour of the *Mad River Railway Historical Societies Train museum*. Featuring over 100 pieces of equipment along with thousands of artifacts.

-Slides shows

-Clinics (including a return of layout on a Shoestring Budget by Peter Maurath)

More to come...

Slide show and clinic spots are now available to anyone who is interested. Our convention site does have digital projection equipment available for those who wish to show digital slide presentations, or Power-Point.

Limited sleeping accommodations will be made available at the directors home to those members who cannot afford a hotel. (Reservations will be taken in the next several months.)

To book a slide show , clinic, or any for other inquiries please contact:

Burning River Limited
C/o Peter Maurath
13212 Wilton Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135-4918
Phone: 216-476-9477

Email: TAMRHotboxEd@sbcglobal.net

start the fire...



TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



The Top 7

By: Peter Maurath

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

Top Seven lesser known perks of the TAMR

#7. Show your membership card at a participating *Tudors Biscuit World* and receive a free small coffee.

#6. Our newsletter when folded into quarters makes a great drink coaster.

#5. Partial arrest authority in Nova Scotia.

#4. Get to walk our official mascot, Bo the TAMR Wonder Dog.

#3. Andy Sperandio's home phone number.

#2. 10,000 shares of stock in Rock Island.

And the number one lesser known perk of being in the TAMR..

Seat on the Amtrak BOD!

The Extra Board
New Memberships-0

Renewals-0

Expiring Memberships-10

Dave Mason
Anthony Person
James Lincoln
Elizabeth MacCullagh
Barry Simmons
Gregory Jackman
Ben Hawken
Andrew Mattarazzo
Mike Acree
Dimitrios Fradelakis

Present Member Count- 54↓

Editors Note: This will be a feature every month showing everyone, who's joining, who's staying and who's going. If your name is up there I hope it's in the renewal section or will be next month.

The Hotbox Definition of the month.

con•duc•tor

\ kən-dək-tər \ v : A guy who is good at avoiding a woman.

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STEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



Trains to Nowhere

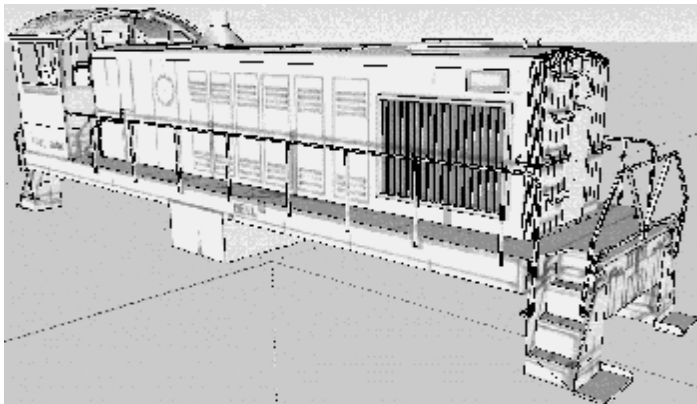
By: Steven Goehring

switcher paint schemes available, and by making the models look good, you'll help get some more attention for the TAMR.●

If you'd like to help with this project, contact Steven at nazrrfan@excite.com

Ever since I heard that **Train Sim Update**

a new PC train simulation was coming out, I began thinking that it might help get the TAMR name out and attract new members if someone (so far just me)



started producing add-ons under the TAMR name. I'm still liking what I see about EA's Rail Simulator, and best yet, my 3D model of an Alco S-4 is nearly complete. (Once it's done, I'll modify it into an S-2 and an RS-1 as well.) It only lacks cab controls and trucks, and then it's on to texturing (painting) the model.

I'd like to get some help from other members with texturing this model. Once I get the texture images built, I'll gladly send the image files for any combination of S-2, S-4 or RS-1 around in any format that you want (.bmp, .jpg, Photoshop, etc.) The texture images should be pretty self-explanatory, since they'll have all the hood doors, windows, and



Big South Fork Scenic Ry.'s Alco S2 basks in the July sun just outside the Stearns, KY Depot. Peter Maurath, photo.

other things on them. I don't care what railroad scheme you paint it in as long as it's either prototypical or a TAMR promotion scheme (that would be cool.) I'll then pack up whatever paint jobs I have finished, put YOUR name in the credits line, and send the Alcos off to their rightful place among the very first American add-ons for Rail Simulator.

Think about it, and if you can, try to go out and take pictures of the sides, ends, cab sides, and trucks of any of the above Alco switcher models. Even if you'd rather not attempt to photo-texture a locomotive with handrails, (it is rather hard to do,) I'd still be thrilled to get the pictures and I'd gladly build the new paint scheme for you. Just make sure your pics are high resolution (upwards of 4 Mega pixels if possible,) viewing the loco straight on, and showing the cab, the ends, and the whole locomotive hood (or both hoods if photographing an RS-1.) You'll get credit for making one of the most authentic Alco

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...but always be respectful of them and the equipment.

- 6.) Never put yourself in a situation where you don't have an escape route if something bad happens. While derailments are relatively uncommon and are generally due to human error, you don't know what's going on or what the condition of the track might be.

That is enough of the lecture. I hope you take these things in mind as they will make your railfanning adventures much more enjoyable if you don't have to worry as much about getting nabbed by the RR Police. Of course it always helps to know someone who works for a RR and go with him, but that is not always the easiest thing.

I hope to be able to write other articles in future, possibly about what to and not to do when thinking about getting a job with the Railroad. Have a safe one, and if you are railfanning in Massachusetts in the future, maybe I'll see you out there.●

James Lincoln is a veteran member from the glory days of the TAMR in the 70's, he rejoined last year and this is his first feature article.

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TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADERS



The TAMR is a non-profit organization created to promote, foster, and encourage young persons in the hobby of model railroading, the activity of rail fanning, and the preservation of the history, science and technology thereof. Reprinting of the Hotbox is Prohibited without the express written consent of the Teen Association Of Model 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, 6100 Ohio Dr. Apt. 1611, Plano, TX 75024, USA

Offer good why supplies last, negative equity applied to new loan balance, must take delivery of dealer stock, see store for complete details. No purchase necessary, void where prohibited. For a complete list of rules, regulations, and the best darn restaurants in Chicopee, MA 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:**

- Railroads in the movies.
- Doug Engler's Syracuse Spots Pt. 2.

COMING SOON TO **THE TAMR:**

- Winter National Convention in Springfield, MA, January 25-28.
- The Burning River Limited 08', this summer in Cleveland!



The Teen Association of Model Railroaders

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

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Before I go...

