

THE HOTBOX

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The Official Publication of the Teen Association of Model Railroaders

The Hotbox

Editor: Ben Rechel

Contributors: Hopefully you!

Contributing to The Hotbox:

We are always in need of new material; your submissions are welcome and greatly appreciated!

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 few pages. Pictures are always appreciated.

Columns:

Full of great tips on layout improvement? Got a million reasons EMD is better than Alco? Start a monthly or bi-monthly column.

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 all!

Send all submissions or questions to:

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Check us out on the web!

www.tamr.org

Join the TAMR Yahoo news group or the TAMR web ring by contacting pivotpin@tamr.org

On the cover: CSX C30-7 #7025 awaits repairs at the Nashville & Eastern shops in Lebanon, Tennessee. Matt Martin photo.

Oops! Last month's cover photo was taken by Jim Lincoln.



FORM 19

This month: From the President

Hello my fellow TAMR members. I don't believe I've ever really written a presidential message before. I'm sure you've been frustrated with the *Hotbox* publication schedule over most of 2010, and the amount of communication that existed. Our editor and, essentially group do-all, Peter, got a job with the RJ Corman Railroad Group, and had to drop everything. I'd like to thank our new *Hotbox* editor, Ben Rechel, for his hard work and effort trying to get *The Hotbox* back, and wish him luck as he continues on this path.

The TAMR itself is at a bit of a crossroads, to be honest. I'd like to encourage each member to start reaching out, not only to other group members, but also at local shows if possible. Our Southern Regional Representative, Radisson McGuire, has done just that, at several shows in Alabama. I'm hoping he'll write an article or two sharing his experiences at these shows. I think the TAMR can really be

something great, but for it to become that we need to get more active. I know a while back one member was trying to put together a railfan trip through the forum. Had we had *The Hotbox* this would have been pretty easy to put together. I think one thing we can do is add an area in the Hotbox for members to post announcements of shows they'll be going to or railfanning trips or events they'll be attending or want to put together. I'm hoping we can change some other things as well in the coming months to make the TAMR more member friendly.

Right now I'd like to ask for your patience as we continue to build for the future, and thank you for sticking with us this far. Until we have more news, thank you, and may the trains run well and the scenery flourish, the camera snap well and the rumble of the prime mover to be epic!

-Sawyer Berry
TAMR President



What's new in the TAMR?

Welcome to our new Central Region Representative, Daniel Fiala!



He models the Green Bay & Western RR in HO scale and authors the "Mulligan Stew" article series in *The Hotbox*. He can be contacted in writing at 3044 Greenview Dr. Green Bay, WI 54311 or by phone at (920) 497-7826. He would like to hear from other Central Region members (IA, IL, KS, KY, MI) interested in regional modeling and railfanning events.

Also, please note that the elections for the Board of Directors have been postponed until November of 2011.

A little humor...

Who adds grease to axle journals in Wisconsin? A Green Bay Packer!

What's the angriest piece of track? A cross tie...

Ha ha ha.... ☺

RAILFAN RANTINGS

Question:

If you had unlimited resources of space, time, and money, what sort of model railroad would you build? What prototype? What era? Scale mile long trains? 20 foot tall mountains? Would you pay someone to help you build that layout, or would you do it all by yourself?

Answers:

“If I was given all of that, I wouldn't just build a bigger layout, but I would pick a small shortline or branchline and I would try to replicate every aspect of that railroad, making it a perfect scale replica of the railroad, Modeling every foot, rivet, and detail.”-John Gardiner IV

“Living in Western New York, I have many choices when I head out the door in the morning for railfanning. Some places I go really scream "I need to be modeled!" As for space, unlimited would be an understatement as to the resources I would need. I would build a scale model of Norfolk Southern's Southern Tier Line from Buffalo to Gang Mills and all the connecting roads including the LA&L family lines and the Rochester and

Southern. Era? The nice thing about that is that other than a few Conrail repaints and new power for NS, nothing has changed majorly in the region since the late 90s when NS took over, so it would be basically a current layout. However, one period that I would love to model is the 1976-1977 era when the Conrail Split first occurred and all sorts of power could be seen anywhere on the system, So what's to say I can't run some modern stuff side by side two CNJ EMDs pulling a coal train with a LV C636? Model railroads are supposed to be fun-and fun it shall be! The decision that would be hardest to make would be the scale I model in. Yes, my favorite scale is O, but I don't want to have to ride around in a golf cart to access the layout, I would have to say HO or S, but probably not S as there isn't much variety available. I won't commit to anything yet. I would make the layout a group effort. I have a few railroader friends that I would want alongside me helping with benchwork and whatnot, but as far as scenery and detail goes, I would want to have the major role. I can feel a backache coming already... Lastly, the layout would be nothing without a nice crew room in the center of the layout, with a aisle on either side

of the table. Let those 15,000 foot scale trains roll!”-Charlie Wood

“I would build a layout with a huge staging yard, a large paper mill complex with a yard right after that, and then a freelanced mainline depicting the towns etc we pass through when we head to Greenville, SC from Aiken, SC. There would be enough online industries to have a way freight run as well, though the main focus of the layout would be on railfanning the layout and operating the paper mill. The way freight could be operated for a change of pace.”-Sawyer Berry

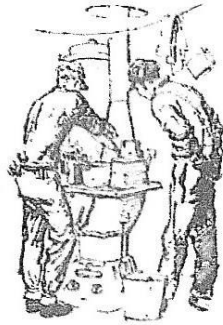
“I’ve been dreaming of this for years. If I had the chance I would model the SP from Portland, Oregon to West Colton, California. It would include every yard in Oregon and California, along with every branch line and shortline that linked with the SP. I would have it go from Roseville over Donner Pass to a staging yard in Sparks, Nevada. It would be set in the late 70's to the late 80's just after the failed SP-SF merger and right before the Rio Grande take over. I would pay a few people to help me out for this project. Every yard would look like that

yard to the last rail.” –Benjamin Hawken



Southern Regional Representative Radisson McGuire captured these scenes of Santa Fe-BNSF 6751 on his new N scale layout.





Mulligan Stew

A little of this and that
By Daniel Fiala

A Simple Truck Scale

I found a simple method that produces a nice small HO truck scale which is (in scale feet) just under 22.5 feet long. These scales are located in many places: county co-ops, feed mills, and canning companies. By adapting these ideas, this scale could be built in any scale. But let's get cracking and build it!

The first step here is to get one of those old Tyco 50-foot intermodal cars. (see photo)
Second, take a chisel blade [an X-Acto #17 works well-Ed] in a hobby knife and remove one of the orange trailer retainers. Third, cut a piece of cardboard to 15/16" x 1 11/16." (see photo) As an added bonus, this gives you a flatcar for a freight train if you remove both retainers. Glue this piece between the two rails which extend past the angled parts. If you want a 45' scale, glue both retainers together (make sure the ramp parts are at each end) and double the length of the cardboard. Next, paint the sides of the piece with two coats of grey paint, leaving the top of the rails orange. After that, paint the

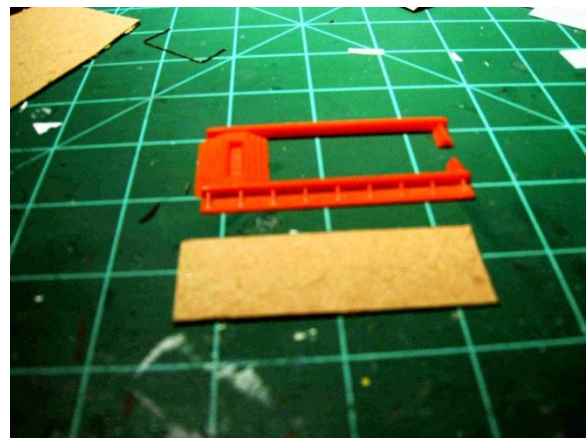
cardboard with a charcoal color, being careful to keep paint off of the orange safety stripe. Finally, install the scale on the layout with some white glue. A little sand or gravel forming a ramp at each end will make a nice finishing touch. Well I guess that's all folks!

Materials:

One Tyco 50-foot intermodal car

One piece of cardboard 15/16"x1 11/16,"
(or for a 45' scale the cardboard should measure 15/16"x3 3/8")

Acrylic craft paint (Grey and Charcoal)





The finished scale.

An important note from the Board of Directors:
To reduce postage costs to the organization, we are switching to an online version of *The Hotbox*. If you would like to receive this newsletter via postal mail, please contact the editor. Thank you.

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, and Iron Horse-\$25+. To become a part of the TAMR, or to renew your membership, contact:

Tim Vermande, TAMR Pivot Pin, 3645 Toronto Ct
Indianapolis, IN 46268 USA

Membership forms are available online at www.tamr.org



Mark MacDougall captured these sharp-looking UP SD70Ms powering NS intermodal train #214 in Phillipsburg, NJ in April of 2006.

