

THE HOTBOX

Issue 439 March 2011

ISBN 1093-622X

The Official Publication of the Teen Association of Model Railroaders



The Hotbox

Editors: Ben Rechel & Wilfred Roberge

Contributors: Hopefully you!

Contributing to The Hotbox:

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

Articles:

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!

Contact us at:

Ben Rechel
40 Avondale Road
West Hartford, CT 06117
tamrhotbox@gmail.com
Tel: (860) 233-3079
Fax: (860) 570-0724

Wilfred A. Roberge
17 Meadow Lane Apt. # 9
Bridgewater, MA 02324
rocketdude1979@yahoo.com

Don't forget, this is a club newsletter! Do you have any personal news you'd like to share? (i.e. starting a new layout, winning a soccer tournament, or ruining a desk with spilled decal solvent)

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

On the cover: Canadian Pacific #2317 simmers in the Steamtown roundhouse in Scranton, PA in July 2009. Ben Rechel photo.

Presidential Message March 2011

Hey fellow TAMR members;

It's been a busy 2011 for me so far. January was pretty tame, but February has been a real push for me to include both school, rugby, and the TAMR. I did, however, attend the Atlanta WGH show with Rad McGuire, the southern rep. I'm hoping to collaborate with him to get a southern newsletter going, but that will have to wait until I have some time, hopefully soon. However, don't get the idea I have no time whatsoever, I have both Mondays, Wednesdays, and the weekends, and can make time during the other days. The TAMR is still alive and well and we have a real potential here to get something rolling. I know we have several new members in both New England and the South, and I'm hoping we can get some TAMR activities together, whether it's a railfan trip or something like that.

If you're interested in writing for Model Railroad News, send me an email at sbpackernut@gmail.com and I'll work with you to get you published.

Also, check out the TAMR facebook group, join up and add some people. I'm friends with a lot of TAMR folks and they're a blast to talk to. You can find my page at <http://www.facebook.com/sbpackernut>.

I'm looking forward to a strong TAMR in 2011 and in the future,

Sawyer Berry, TAMR President

Also chief surveyor, engineer, brakeman, landscaper, agent, CEO, CFO, and president of the Carolina and Southern Railway Company.



Photo below: "I LOVEEEE Supertrees. CSRY B23-7 #2002 is rounding the right curve. I'm going to change the paint scheme though." Sawyer Berry photo.



The Workbench

By John Gardiner IV

The workbench is the one universal tool that every model railroader needs. By the time the layout is done, it would have been cut, painted, glued, and put upon. What are we to do if we don't have one?

Back when I lived in California, the garage was cramped, and vehicles needed to be stored somewhere. This left me with no work-bench.

I managed to make a building on the dining room table, but then I was shooed off for dinner. I couldn't spend an hour standing between the car and the layout waiting for glue to dry. What would I do?

I am most positive that beginners do not know how important it is to have a workbench, even if it is your homework desk. The virtues of having a workbench in a layout room are endless.

Not only is a workbench a place to assemble down town, they also serve as a place to fix locomotives, to store unfinished projects, leave tools for future use (rather than having to scout for them when needed), and as a base of actions, using it to organize tasks. Getting a workbench is the best thing you can do for your trains.

A simple flatcar load

By Daniel Fiala-Central Region Representative Photos by the author

Recently, a friend gave me his collection of model trains along with about two dozen vehicles (most of which were 1960's Matchbox models). Included in this modeler's dream come true was an earth mover which became the basis for this project. The inspiration for this project is from Jim Hediger's article (Chains, Chocks, and Shackles, pages 80-83) in the June 2005 issue of Model Railroader Magazine.

For my model however, I used the Athearn 40' flatcar and the Matchbox earth mover. I also simplified the blocking and tie downs as seen in fig. 1 because as it said in the article that the chain tie downs were not required but were used by shippers to provide additional stability and for the fact that I didn't want to drill into the model. For the blocking, I used 3/32"x3/32" balsa cut into twelve 1/4" lengths. For the positioning of this, consult fig. 1.

After adding the blocks, I took inexpensive jewelry chain and fed very thin copper wire through the first link and through the second stake pocket forward from the rear tire. Then take the wire and drop it over the rear axle, cut it to fit the second pocket aft the rear tire and super glue that link to the pocket (this is also shown in fig.1). There you have it-another simple and satisfying project.

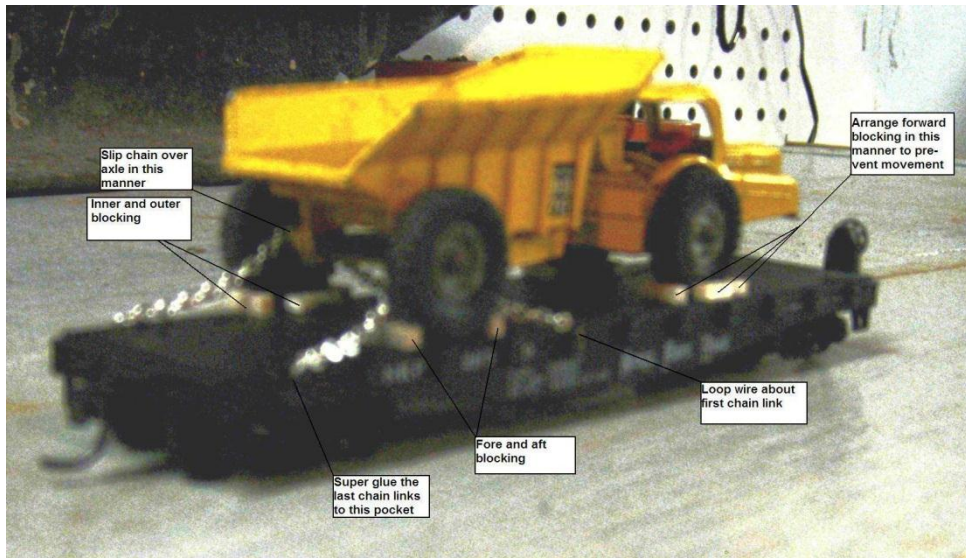


Fig. 2. The completed project on Dan's layout

"S is for Superior"

10 facts on why S Scale is the best

By Josh Cohn



1: I said so

2: S scale is the same scale as "Hot Wheels" cars

3: The "S" in S scale stands for superlative

4: American Flyer runs on AC and AC is better than DC or DCC

5: AC stands for awesome current, DC stands for dumb current and DCC stands for Dumb Colossal Current.

6: The S in S scale also stands for sexy and everyone wants a sexy scale

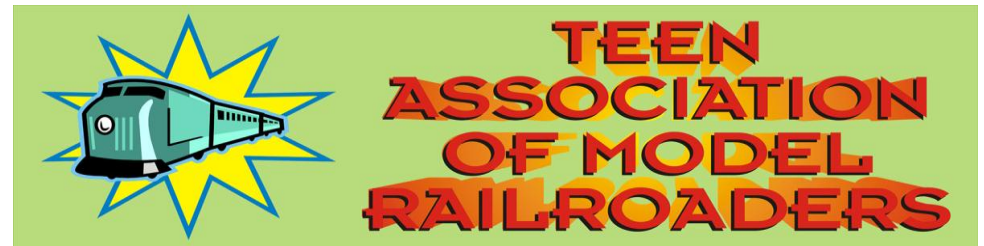
7: S scale has its own day in the year! 3/16 because 3/16ths of an inch is one foot in S

8: No other scale has its own special day

9: S scale is just awesome

10: I could make ten facts

Photos: 1. American Flyer No. 282 . Josh Cohn photo. 2. The author poses in the cab of B&M 2-6-0 No. 1455 at the Danbury Railway Museum. Sam Cohn photo.



Atlanta World's Greatest Hobby show report

By Sawyer Berry, TAMR President

I'll keep this one short and sweet, check out my expanded report in the May issue of *Model Railroad News*.

Ya know, I now see why there's been so many songs written about the open road. Even if you aren't driving, there's nothing like the early morning out on the highway, especially if you're headed to a train show! Even though my sleep totaled maybe 6 hours, max, because of my rugby match the previous night (we were BLOWN OUT 52-0, but I did see two trains while warming up because there was a Norfolk Southern line by the pitch), I was still awake and thinking straight, and was excited for the day ahead. Surprisingly, I wasn't completely sore and wiped.

Anyways, my parents dropped me off at the Cobb Galleria, and I called Rad up on the cell as I walked inside. We had one of those "OHHH, that's you!" moments, and walked into the show. Immediately I had sensory overload; there were plenty of booths spread out about as wide as the building before me. Our booth was right behind the Kato booth and directly across from the Bachmann booth. In fact, the Kato booth was a great shortcut to get to the back of the booth, instead of crawling under the table. I set my stuff I had brought down, rigged up one of my own trains, and then me and Rad set off to do some shopping before the public descended upon us.

My list was in my head; scenery stuff, structures, and rolling stock, specifically two bay hoppers. First stop? The Scenic Express booth, where I bought a \$25 box of Supertrees (AMAZING product, check out my tutorial at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQmtoYK7bw4> and I'll write it up for a future *Hotbox*). Next we went to Rad's friend Jim's booth, and I bought three cars there; a Wisconsin Central Boxcar, a Chicago & North Western 2 bay hopper, and a Great Northern 2 bay hopper. Next we went back to the booth for the opening of the show (I also ran my new purchases) and then I cut out to go do some more shopping and purchased a little Woodland Scenics turf. Then I minded the booth while Rad went off to God knows where, and let me tell you, there is no greater feeling in the world than seeing little kids watch a train. Their eyes get all big and awe-inspired and it reminds you of why you yourself love trains.

We had two trains going; the outside main featured 6 axle diesels and long cars, while the inside main featured a shorter train, supposedly a way freight or something like that. We also ran Rad's Amtrak consist a few times. For some reason, the outer main started developing a huge static electricity charge, to the point where we had to shut it off. Later, only my U23B I had brought would run, and so that was basically the workhorse for the whole show from there on out. I kept shocking myself on the danged track EVERY TIME I changed up the cars in the consist. Oh well, it was but a small price to pay.

Although we had snacks, I was stoked when it was lunchtime, and went downstairs (thanks to Rad's grandma for showing me where Subway was. She's pretty dang cool lol). I gotta say the worst part of the show was lunch, only because, by virtue of it being the Cobb Galleria and really anywhere like it the prices were sky-high (although nothing like Carowinds). I got a 6-inch Subway sub with roast beef, cheese, and mayo, mustard, and pickles for \$5. Oh well, it was lunch and I scarfed it down so I could get back to the show.

Now I went ahead and finished shopping, getting a new hobby knife, some AIM weathering powders, some flock and turf from Scenic Express, and an SP 2 bay hopper. Will Ebbert, our treasurer, showed up later in the day with his buddy Kevin, and we all took turns manning the booth. Rad and myself left Will in charge so we could go look at the layouts. I took video with my ipod, although I held it the wrong way so all the clips came out sideways in Windows Movie Maker. Rad took the pictures.

The layouts there were REALLY neat. There was one there with an auto accident scene on one module and some dinosaur characters fighting on another. There were also two major yards. That was an N scale one. The other really neat scene I saw was a live steam train on an HO scale layout. The train they used looked Z scale to me, although it could have been N scale. That layout also had a very nice passenger terminal. The best scene I saw though were three bridges spanning a river. The scenery was very lush and well done, and it is something I would love to model.

Overall it was a very fun show. I wish I could have stayed both days but it was easier to just drive down for the day (my parents went to Ikea for the day). I fell asleep on the ride home, then woke up and couldn't get back to sleep for a while. I would definitely recommend to anyone to go to a WGH show if they get a chance!



Welcome new members!

Alexis Furtak
3625 Gadolinite Trail
Cumming GA 30040
916-801-9186
alexis@furtak.net
N scale, NS

Chad Lonski
10346 Crawford Canyon Rd.
Santa Ana CA 92705
714-771-4347
ridingtherails@live.com
G scale, 1880's D&RG

Nathan Day
1317 Eliot Rd.
Franklin TN 37064
615-268-8180
sday0818@comcast.net
O scale, L&N, CSX

Modern railroad news:

In honor of Amtrak's 40th anniversary, P42 No. 156 has been unveiled at the Beech Grove, IN shop in 1972 colors after 50 gallons of paint. Photo by Mike Milburn of Amtrak. More information about the revival of historic paint schemes at facebook.com/Amtrak.

Southern Region Representative Radisson McGuire and President Sawyer Berry at the WGH show. Radisson McGuire photos.

Note: The current backlog of unpublished articles for *The Hotbox* is extremely small. Please submit your articles (even very short ones), photos, railroad news, jokes, personal updates, and whatever else you think should be in YOUR newsletter!

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

