



# HOTBOX

"the Un-Magazine of Model Railroading"  
March 1985

No. 209





# HOTBOX

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • Train Association of Model Railroaders

Issued eleven times a year (June through April) with a special mailing of a Directory of Membership in May.

Annual dues are as follows:

REGULAR (under 21) \$10.00  
ASSOCIATE (21 and up) \$12.00  
OVERSEAS (outside N. Amer.) \$15.00  
SUSTAINING (Regular & Associate) \$15.00

Please address all renewals, membership applications, address changes and complaints of non-receipt of TAMR publications to the TAMR Secretary.

**TAMR SECRETARY:** Dee Gilbert  
Box 1098  
LaGrange Park, IL  
60525-9198

All other TAMR HOTBOX business, except where specifically noted, is handled by the Editor. Please address all comments to the Editor

**PUBLICATIONS:** Mark Kaszniak  
**EDITOR** 4818 W. George Street  
Chicago, IL 60641

The TAMR HOTBOX welcomes articles, photographs (B&W only), artwork and cartoons pertaining to model and/or prototype railroad subjects. All items for publication must be received 30 days before the month of publication. The TAMR HOTBOX assumes that all items are submitted for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of the hobby by our members and thus no payment will be made upon publication.

## Front Cover

Motorman Harry returns once more to given us another glimpse of life in the now infamous town of Toonerville, where the trolley still reigns supreme.

## Extra Board

All the news that fits, we print:

**MEMBERSHIP:** By Dee Gilbert

Total TAMR Membership (3-1-85): 129

Region	Number	Percentage
Canadian	5	3.8%
Central	42	32.6%
International	3	2.4%
Northeastern	36	27.9%
Southern	20	15.5%
Western	23	17.8%

### TAMR Welcomes These New Members:

Samuel Lee, Calgary, Alberta, CANADA  
Dan Whitmarsh, Seattle, WA

### Also, Please Welcome Back:

Erick Neumann, Rochester, NY  
John Marshall III, Pittsburgh, PA  
Mike Thomas, St. Louis, MO  
Christopher Shea, Holmdel, NJ  
David Neeary, Mt. Holly, NJ  
Mark Nerger, Cantonment, FL

### Things We Hear Dept:

Another DEPOT has been issued by the NR. Election results show that John Krattinger has been elected President and James Donohue, Sec/Treas. of the region. Dues have been raised to \$5 per year. DEPOT subscriptions available from: James Donohue, NR Sec/Treas., 87 Plymouth Drive North, Glen Head, NY 11545.

The latest WAYFREIGHT has all other regional publications and even the HOTBOX hopelessly outclassed. Why? Because it has a color cover! As far as I know this is a first for the TAMR. It is a double issue special with 16 pages of choice reading material. Issues are available for 75¢ to Central Region members and \$1 for all others. Get yours from: Gerry Döbey, WF Editor, 145 E. Kenilworth Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181.

NMRA has approved a young member rate. Cost is \$13.50 per year. A subscription to the BULLETIN is included. Also, regular member dues have been raised to \$20 a year.

Rumor has it that the NMRA BULLETIN will be accepting advertising in the near future. Once funds start rolling in, a draftsman will be hired for the staff and a switch to slick paper will be performed thus providing greater photo resolution.



## WATCHING BIG BROTHER

The following letter was issued to all TAMR officials on March 14, 1985, it is being reprinted here in total as the items Lone Eagle Payne discusses should concern all TAMR members:

"Two weeks ago, I was contacted by the NMRA Central Area Vice President, Joseph Kurilec, while he was in conference at the mid-year NMRA Board of Trustees meeting in Phoenix, AZ as to the number of the TAMR membership which I guessed at about 270 (about twice Dee's tally) with a membership fee of \$10. He said they were discussing of trying to find some way of helping the Teens by subsidizing a portion of convention fees, special membership fee or some other inducement."

"Last week, I wrote to NMRA President, Paul Shimada, about his 'railroading' me into the NMRA office of Youth Program Coordinator (without asking me) and as to what he expected me to accomplish in that capacity. What was the status of Dan Carroll of Arvada, CO, who was appointed official liaison between the NMRA and the TAMR? What would be the duties of T.J. Williams as the Youth Youth Program Director? Would NMRA intercede with the convention committee to lower convention fees (minus the banquet) for all teens? Intercede for room accommodations for parentless teens (4-6 to a room)? Intercede for a TAMR model contest to be judged by NMRA judges (aided by teen helpers, if they wished) as a separate contest with like awards?"

"Presently, C.J. Riley, Mid-Continent Region President, back from the BOT meeting in Phoenix, asked how the NMRA could subsidize Teens in growth. If printing, and mailing, of the newsletter was a major expense, could it be combined with the NMRA BULLETIN without losing

its identity? (Some of the officials--those who had never been teenagers, I'm sure--wanted to require a nominal fee for being a SIG of the NMRA). Would there be a goodly number of TAMR officials attending the Milwaukee convention, and could they set up a joint meeting there to iron out wants, and needs, of Teens?"

"So, if you fellows can get your heads loosened up, and your lead pencils streaking to find a common cause, and let the NMRA BOT know the contents very soon so they can have some concrete proposals ready for the BOT meeting in Milwaukee in August. Send a copy of your findings to:

NMRA President- Paul Shimada, 1911  
Bannon Creek Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833.  
NMRA Secretary - W.T. Becker, P.O. Box  
8660, University Station, Knoxville, TN  
37996.

BULLETIN Editor - Mike Carlson, W232  
N6633 Waukesha Ave., Sussex, WI 53089.  
MCR President - C.J. Riley, 5743 Kentucky  
Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
TAMR Pivot Pin - Lone Eagle Payne, 1028  
Whaley Road, R#4, New Carlisle, Oh 45344.

Thus I shall be able to answer any other questions as to what the TAMR needs in the way of assistance. Also give me a rundown on what plans are afoot for Teens in Milwaukee. I will be there, will YOU?"

In addition, the NMRA has proposed a number of other matters which TAMR members should know about. These are summarized in the minutes of the Executive Council meeting held in Houston, TX on January 11-12, 1985 and published in the NMRA BULLETIN (April 1985). For those of you who are not NMRA members, I will outline the provisions that directly impact on the TAMR:

- 1) NMRA President, Paul Shimada, indicated appointment of Lone Eagle Payne as Youth Coordinator (file 99). He is charged with development of youth oriented programs. Desire was expressed to encourage development of convention activities pointed toward young people existing file 313 (Dan Carroll).
- 2) BOT Rep. Mid-Continent Region Trustee, Mike Hammer, presented a report to the EC concerning several items including new program development in the area of programs specifically directed to young people and a special dues structure for youth.
- 3) Western Vice President, Duane Damgaard, moved Resolution R-1 that the EC go on record as favoring the creation of a Teenage dues category for members less than 20 years of age, and that dues for this category be set a two-thirds of the regular member category rounded to the nearest 50¢. Following a second

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by Plains Vice President, Al Turner, the resolution passed on a vote of 7-0-0-1-1.

Now perhaps you are wondering what in the blazes is going on? Unfortunately, neither your officers or I have any explanations for you. The problem stems from the fact that the NMRA has made these decisions without even consulting the TAMR! No one to my knowledge has been contacted by any NMRA official in regards to the preceding items, with the exception of Lone Eagle Payne who obviously wasn't provided with the whole story judging by this official letter and is just as confused as we are. I for one, took deep offense at the NMRA's actions and so indicated in a letter that was distributed to all those involved in this sorted affair. A copy of this letter was provided to TAMR officials so as to keep them abreast of the situation.

I don't know how you perceive this recent turn of events, but it seems to me that the NMRA is about to set up a teenage division within their association. This division will obviously compete directly with the TAMR. Now you all know as well as I do that the small, financially struggling TAMR is no match for the powerful and mighty NMRA. Their promotion budget alone exceeds our yearly income.

The question that now comes up is: what are we going to do about all this? We can, of course, do what we usually do in this type of situation, namely nothing. This will guarantee that the TAMR dies a relatively quick, painless death. We can fight the NMRA. Drop all relations with them immediately and dig in for battle. This cause will certainly mobilize our membership and might even gain us some sympathy with the commercial model press. Through various means, we might be able to survive for a year or two, maybe even three, but the vast resources of the NMRA will win out in the end. The result will be the TAMR dying a slow, miserable death. Or we can talk with officials of the NMRA to determine what all the fuss is about. Obviously, they are concerned as much with the future of our hobby as we are. At the moment, they see a rather lack-luster association not doing much to attract teenage modelers. In this respect, they are probably right. However, few if any of the NMRA officials know the problems that are currently facing the TAMR. Nor do they know what the average teen modeler is looking for in the hobby. I believe that our officers know both situations well. After all, we have been living with them for the past 21 years. If we don't know by now

teens want out of this hobby and our association, perhaps it would be better to allow it to disband. Obviously, all of this is going to come to a head in Milwaukee where TAMR and NMRA officials meet face to face to iron out our differences.

Our officers are going to have to make some tough decisions regarding the future of the TAMR this coming August. Now I know for a fact that each one of them has their own ideas on how the TAMR should evolve in the coming years. Yet these ideas may not be what the TAMR membership as a whole desires. Therefore, in the interest of the TAMR, I want every member to write me and let me know your opinions on this matter. What shall we do come this August? Once all the responses have been compiled, a representative sample will be published in the HOTBOX and all the letters will be made available to our officers in Milwaukee. Based on these responses, our officers can hopefully make some intelligent decisions regarding the future of the TAMR that will be in line with what our members want.

Unfortunately, this is going to be the only chance you get to decide the fate of the TAMR. I sincerely wish that things would have turned out differently, but the association has been forced into this situation by powers beyond our control. If you wish to voice your opinions directly to the NMRA officials involved in this matter, feel free to do so. However, may I suggest that you advise them to take no official action until they've had a chance to meet with our officials this coming August in Milwaukee.

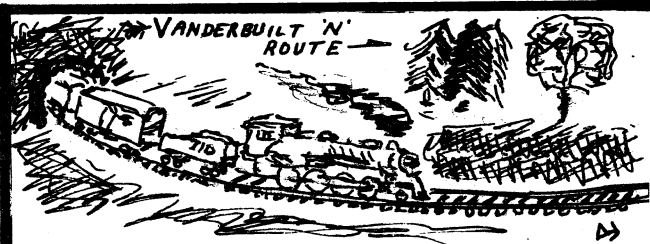
Finally, I don't know how much you personally care about the TAMR. Yet I for one would not like to see it die. Through my years as a TAMR member, I have managed to acquire many lasting friendships as well as improving my modeling skills. I may not have always agreed with everything the association or its members have done, but these disagreements have not been severe enough to cause me to quit the association. In short, I have gained far more than I have ever given to the TAMR and I know that many others feel the same way I do. Thus I for one am ready to fight for the survival of this association; however, I also know that it will be futile to go up against the NMRA one on one. The only solution is to reach some sort of compromise that we all can live with. Hopefully, the end result will involve attracting a larger number of teenage modelers to the hobby. All I am asking from you is to tell me how you feel so that I can let our officers know. If we do not present a united front, all is lost.

## Allegheny Northern

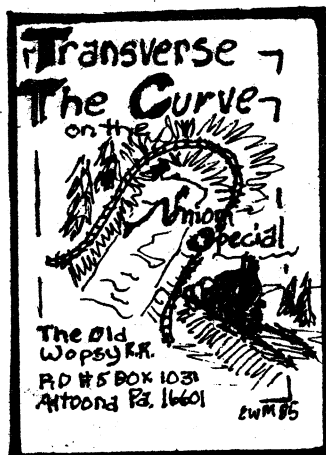
1028  
Manufactury  
Road  
Pottstown  
Pa. 19464  
D.C. Valentine  
President



The Allegheny Northern is proud to announce our plans for an electrified helper district. Our engineers have made a complete feasibility study which shows electrics are much more economical than regular diesel helpers. It is estimated that the AN will save a lot of money on this venture. Management is still deciding on what type of electrics to use.



VANDERBILT "N" ROUTE operating in south St. Louis County, MO. David Holden Superintendent of the River Division. Located at 4722 Mehl Ave., near 270/55 Jct. Phone 314/892-1720. Superintendent would like to visit other St. Louis area members' layouts.



## TRAIN ORDERS



TRAIN ORDERS is a letters column in the TAMR HOTBOX where you can express your views on the TAMR, its publications and its officers. All letters for this column should be sent to the Editor of the TAMR HOTBOX.

### Response to Brandt

This letter is in response to Dennis Brandt's letter which appeared in issue no. 207. I'd like to point out to Dennis that the people involved with the TAMR (including the Editor of the HOTBOX) are hobbyists', not professional magazine publishers. We all have model railroading as our hobby, it's model railroading that we all do best. I'm sure Mark Kaszniak is doing the best with what he has. I have to admit that the HOTBOX isn't done in a journalistic fashion. Yet for being an amateur publication, I think the HOTBOX looks good. I'm glad that Dennis included some ideas on how to improve the HOTBOX. I think the HOTBOX can be what the members of the TAMR want it to be. This will depend on how much the members want to contribute. If each one of the members contributed a letter, story, cartoon, etc., once in a while, we could make the HOTBOX a fine publication bursting with material.

I remember Dennis writing: "I really think that a professional appearing HOTBOX will go a long way toward improving our membership." Improving on the appearance of the HOTBOX may help on improving the membership, but that is not the only thing that may attract potential members. Advertising may help improve membership in the TAMR. I never knew the TAMR existed until I saw an ad for it in Model Railroader magazine. Being a new member of the TAMR, I'd like to say that I think things look fine so far and would like to wish continued success to the HOTBOX in the future. Furthermore, since I am a member, I am going to contribute what I can to the TAMR and the HOTBOX to make it better.

--David Holden  
St. Louis, MO



# 1985 ELECTION

Amidst our continuing problems with the NMRA, the TAMR also finds itself holding a general election for officers. Please study carefully the people running for elective office so that you can choose the most effective leaders for handling our shaky situation. I need not remind you that those elected will need a strong vote of confidence from you in order to carry out their assigned duties. Thus I expect a higher than average turnout for this election. All it takes is but a few moments to indicate your choices, stick the ballot in an envelope, affix a stamp, address it and drop it in the mail. Surely even the most inactive of our members can accomplish even this simple task.

--Steve Craig  
TAMR Auditor

## PRESIDENT

Summary of duties: Preside at meetings of the Executive Board; secure invitations to our annual convention; oversee the TAMR's regions; act as official representative of the TAMR; outline problems confronting the association as well as reporting periodically on status of the association via the pages of the HOTBOX.

JOHN DUNN, of St. James, NY, has been a TAMR member for over two years. He is also a member of the Northeastern Region as well as the Central Region.

"The biggest problem facing the TAMR today is our low, constant membership level. This keeps our finances low and our HOTBOXes small. The only way to correct the last two is to work on raising the membership. If I am elected, I will devote my energies to the the following problems which currently face the TAMR:

- 1) I will regularly let the membership know that I am alive. It helps the morale of the association to know that its leader is working and keeping in touch.

- 2) I will do my best to keep our dues

at their present levels. The last thing we need is a dues increase. Such an increase would ruin our chances for any increased membership.

- 3) The TAMR is a SIG of the NMRA. To me this is a one-way street. Many TAMR members belong to the NMRA and actively participate in its activities. Not many adult members belong to the TAMR. If more adults could be attracted to the TAMR, it would increase our membership levels, finances and gain more recognition for our members and association. It could even lead to a dues decrease at some time in the future. We would be in no danger of being "bossed around" as some might fear as our officers must be teens and the HOTBOX is dedicated to material by teens. If elected, I will work to get more NMRA members and adults to join our ranks so that they would see that we have the same abilities as they do in the hobby.

- 4) I will promote more interaction between regions. The regions are the foundation of the national and without strong regions, there can't be a strong national. Interchanges between model railroad systems is one example of interaction. Officers of different regions should contact each other to find out what the other is doing. Regional unity would be a big help in increasing our membership.

So elect John Dunn as President and please vote, even if not for me!"

STAN UJKA, of Addison, IL, has been a TAMR member for over two years. He has been actively involved in the Central Region and an article on his HO scale Spooner Central is scheduled for upcoming publication in the HOTBOX.

"I'm Stan Ujka and I'm a candidate for the prestigious office of President of the TAMR. I'm soon to be 18 and I live in Addison, IL, a west suburb of Chicago. At this point, I have only a few big ideas for the TAMR. I think we should work on strengthening the association. We need to do this through individual members' efforts, writing articles for our publications, attending meets and writing to other members across the

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Stan Ujka (cont'd from last page)  
country and around the world. I realize that some of our members, like Central Region Rep., John Huseby, are already busy "helping the cause," but we need more people to lend an active hand. Also, if elected, I will begin a column for the HOTBOX stating some of my ideas and observations about the TAMR. I will also push for increased participation within the association. Being in high school, I understand some of the problems schedules and money can play in being involved, but more on this in a future "if elected" column. I would also like to try to organize the ideas of trading passes and photos to help strengthen the association. Let's work together to strengthen the TAMR!"

DAVE VALENTINE, of Pottstown, PA, has been a TAMR member for three years. He has had articles printed in the HOTBOX and is active in the Northeastern Region. He is presently constructing his HO Allegheny Northern RR.

"The TAMR has substantial chances for growth, if we can get more teens interested as well as keep our current members. The Achievement Program was an excellent idea to keep present members involved in the TAMR. What ever happened to it? If elected, I would like to try to get the Achievement Program back on track. Another activity that keeps members interests high is conventions. How many teens have the money to attend the TAMR's 21st anniversary convention in Milwaukee? I'll wager not many of us have the money to attend. It is great if you live in the Midwest, but for the majority of our members who live in the Eastern or Western states, it is too expensive. I'd like to see more regional activities, conventions, railfanning meets, etc. This would be much more economical for the members, since they live in that region. Also, I would like to see more national activities. How about more photo, pass, modeling and layout planning contests? If we can keep members interested and involved in the association, we won't have to worry about them not renewing. If we can present more activities, the national structure as well as the regions will benefit. More activities means growth for the TAMR. This is your association, please VOTE!"

## REGION REPS.

Summary of Duties: Maintain a liaison between the TAMR and the region; transmit recommendations that are made by the regional board to the TAMR; provide information on regional activities to interested and/or prospective TAMR members; submit an annual report to the President on regional activities over the past year; serve a chief executive officer of the region.

### INTERNATIONAL REGION

No platforms received by press deadline, a space for write-in candidates has been placed on the ballot. If more than one write-in candidate is received, a runoff election will be held.

### SOUTHERN REGION

No platforms received by press deadline, a space for write-in candidates has been placed on the ballot. If more than one write-in candidate is received, a runoff election will be held.

### WESTERN REGION

No platforms received by press deadline, a space for write-in candidates has been placed on the ballot. If more than one write-in candidate is received, a runoff election will be held.

### Note to Region Members:

If no candidate elects to serve as regional representative of the region, the region will be declared "unorganized" by the TAMR Executive Board. A representative will then be appointed by the Executive Board until the next regular election for regional representative.

## RESOLUTION

Your officers are asking for your opinions for talks that will be scheduled with the NMRA in August of this year. Please check the box that most closely parallels your personal opinion on this matter. We need your guidance on this state of affairs. The entire future of our association is at stake and will probably depend on the decisions that are made this August. So please respond and tell us how you feel!

# 1985 ELECTION BALLOT

President: For a term lasting from 1985 to 1987 (Vote for one)

- ☐ John Dunn
- ☐ Stan Ujka
- ☐ Dave Valentine

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Only those residing within the geographical boundaries of the regions holding an election and wish to serve as regional representative may write their name in the space provide below. If more than two candidates are received, a run-off election will be held.

International Region Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Southern Region Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Western Region Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION:

In dealing with the NMRA this summer, our approach should be:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Severe relations with them all together
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attempt to merge our association into theirs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remain independent, but work with them on attracting teens to the hobby
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work out an accomodation so that the TAMR would handle the youth functions in the NMRA while still retaining some measure of our own indepedence
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do nothing, let things fall where they may

Mailing Instructions: Mark your choices, place in envelope, address envelope to person listed below, affix stamp and mail before the deadline listed below. Copies of official ballot will not be tabulated nor will any ballots received after deadline.

Deadline: 5-25-85

Mail to: Steve Craig, Auditor  
1985 TAMR Elections  
RR 1, Box 811  
Herrin, IL 62948



# HOTBOX Articles

The smooth, continuous, quality publication of the TAMR HOTBOX depends on Y-O-U. All of the articles that appear in these pages are written by TAMR members. This means our members are a very important source of information. The HOTBOX is the only national magazine which provides a measure of teenage modelers' interests and concerns. Thus your ideas and opinions are always welcomed because the HOTBOX is dedicated to serving your interests and solving your problems. Many readers ask: "What do I have to do to get something published in the HOTBOX?" In order to make both your and my job easier, here are some guidelines and suggestions to follow:

STYLE?, CONTENT? Your own writing style is fine by us; remember, you're among friends. Grammar trouble? Let the editor worry about that. The ideas are what is important. As for content, anything on modeling, using the prototype as a basis for modeling or prototype operations is welcomed. Just be sure that it is interesting to all our readers. If not, at least some of them are bound to like it.

TYPED ARTICLES? Although not required, save the Editor the cost of a seeing eye dog. HOTBOX columns are 40 spaces wide, so set your margins. If you can't type, don't let that bother you, simply print the article out in long hand.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Must be black & white only with a glossy finish and no larger than 8x10 inches. Smaller sizes (2x2 or 3x5") are preferred for inclusion in articles and larger sizes (5x7 or 8x10") for our cover. All photos must be accompanied by caption material. Please put this on a separate sheet of paper. Send negatives if you can, so proper size enlargements can be made. All negatives will be returned, photos returned when SSAE is provided.

DRAWINGS: Must be done in black ink (pen, marker or Flair are all fine) on blank white paper (typing paper is good). Required artwork can usually be worked up if detailed pencil sketches are provided. If you are drawing to scale, please include a scale measure with the drawing.

**TAMR HOTBOX**, the "Un-Magazine of Model Railroading"  
Box 1098  
La Grange Park, IL 60525

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

Issued 4-19-85

**First Class**

