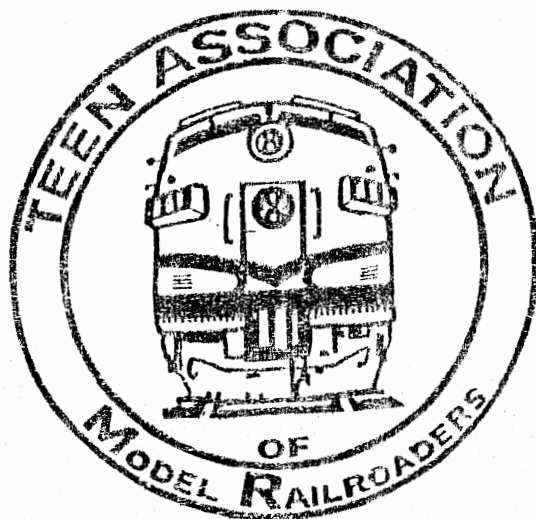


T.A.M.R. Hotbox

Februrary 1994
President—Brent Johnson

Issue #290
Editor—A.A. Marcavitch

The Official Publication of the Teen Association Of Model Railroaders



PAST TO THE PRESENT

FUNCTIONAL LOCOMOTIVES OF DIFFERENT ERAS



**A QUICK NOTE
FROM TAMR
DON'T FORGET
ABOUT THE**



**CONVENTION IN
DAYTON, OH
AS WE CELEBRATE 30 YEARS
OF TAMR 1964-1994
PLAN YOUR TRIP NOW!!!**

Happy Valentines Day!

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Front Cover: (Pic 1)Durango & Siverton Narrow Gauge RR #473, an Alco 2-8-2(Brad Beaubien) (Pic 2)Two Norfolk Southern S-1500 (2366 & 2368) (Matt Schwerin)

Addresses			General Info		
President: Brent Johnson 930 W. Alex Bell Rd. Centerville, OH 48489	Secretary: Matt Schwerin 218 South Walnut St. Wilmore, KY 40390	Editor: Aaron A. Marcavitch 279 Crago Ave. Waynesburg, PA 15370	<i>The Hotbox</i> is the official publication of the Teen Association of Model Railroaders, a non-profit organization created to promote, stimulate, foster, and encourage among youth and young persons, the hobby of model railroading, the activity of railfanning, and the preservation of the history, science, and technology thereof. <i>The Hotbox</i> is issued monthly, twelve times per year, along with the TAMR Directory of Members in May.	Typing-- Typing is not required as everything is entered in a computer. Typing will save the Editors eyes, so please do so when ever possible.	Photos-- Black and white are the best, but color is fine. Just remember they don't come out as well. Photos take in low light don't come out as well, either. Also have good contrast. Please send good captioning. It should include location, date, and other needed material.
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Southern Reg. Rep: Stefanie Greenwood 2808 Lakewood Trace Birmingham, AL 35242	Western Reg. Rep: Chris Harrison P.O. Box 1107 Pioneer, CA 90306	Shortline Dept: Aaron A. Marcavitch 279 Crago Ave. Waynesburg, PA 15370			
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we accept almost anything on model railroading. Layouts, modeling, painting, electronics, scenery, prototype, and even fiction, poetry, etc. Just make it fairly interesting to most the readers.

Please address all renewals, membership applications, and address changes to the TAMR Treasurer.

TAMR Membership:
Membership in the TAMR includes a subscription to the association's magazine, *The Hotbox*, the May mailing of the TAMR Directory of Members, and a quarterly regional newsletter, as well as an invitation to participate

in all TAMR events.
The following categories of membership are available:
Regular (21 and under)-\$15.00
Associate (21 and up)-\$19.00
Overseas (Out of N. Am.)-\$20.00
Sustaining (Reg. or Assoc.)-\$50.00

Make a Rail Cleaning Car!

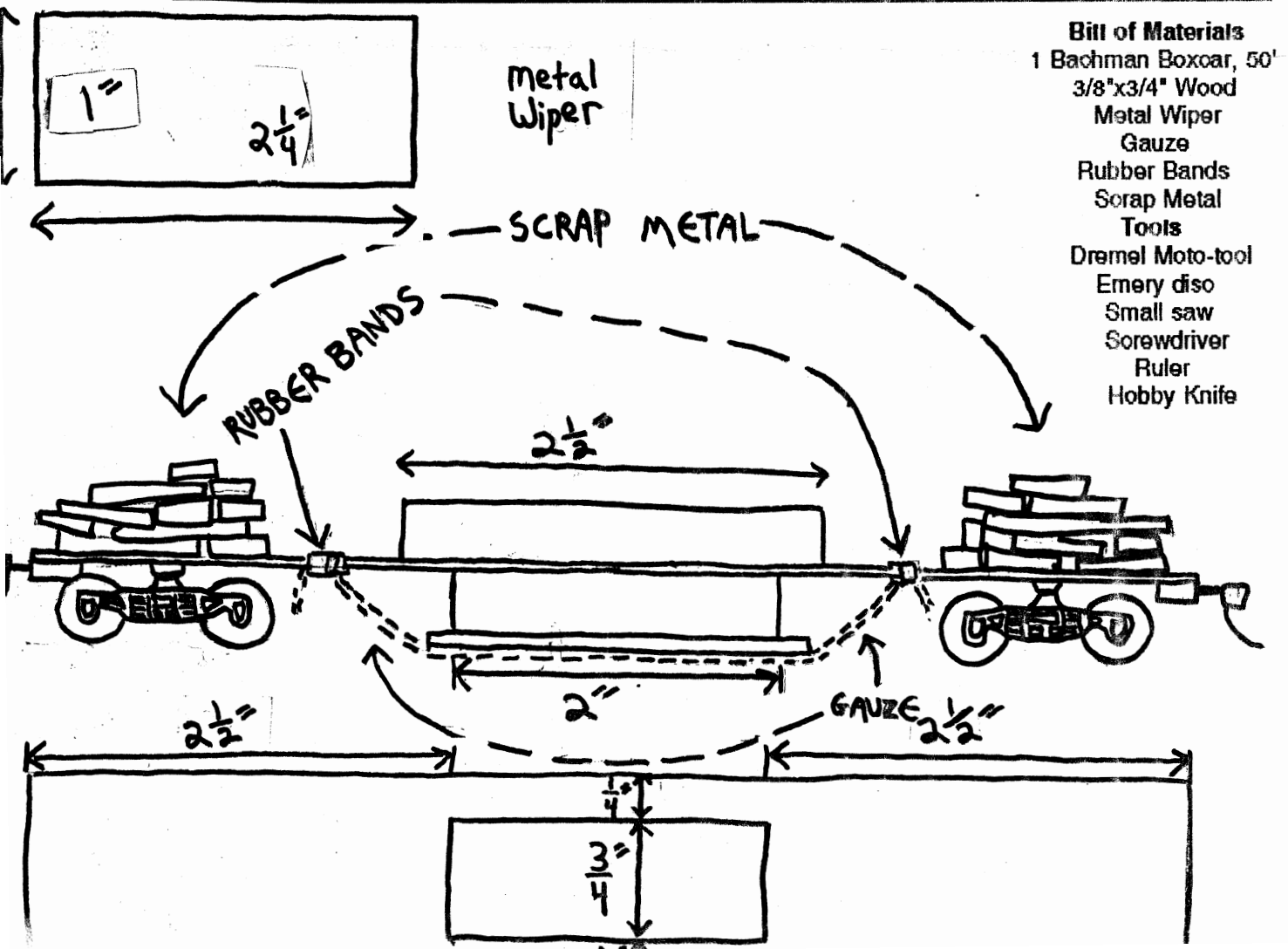
by Ole Bye

To get good electrical contact between wheel and rail, they must be free of dirt and corrosion. Most people use a Bright Boy to clean the rail (where accessible). Lacquer thinner also removes anything from metal, including plastic. There are cars on the market specially made to clean the rail while being pushed by a locomotive. These sell at a price range of \$15 to \$30. This article shows you how to make one at a cost of \$4 to \$8!

I started with the trucks and under frame of a cheap Bachman boxcar. Then I used a Dremel tool with an emery disc to cut the hole for the wiper. The disc melted the plastic a little. I then glued the two wood pieces together and placed them into the hole, gluing them down. Adding the wider piece of metal to the wiper surface. To attach it, use rubber bands to stretch it across the wiper. If you use Kadee couplers, you will want to make the conversion from truck mounted couplers to body mounts by cutting off the truck mounts and using Kadee draft gear boxes screwed to the ends of the under frame. Next take any scrap metal or lead, cut it into the small pieces, and glue it to the top of the under frame over the trucks. This will make the car heavier, so it cleans better.

Take some rail cleaning fluid ("available at your local hobby shop"), squirt it on the gauze wiper, put an engine or two behind your car and start cleaning.

NOTE: If the gauze catches on switch points, I do not recommend cleaning yard tracks with this car.



TAMR Promotion News

Yes folks, it *is* straight from the Promo. Dept.

Now that the promotion department has launched our campaign for the 1994 season, we feel that you may find these tips very helpful in this contest. I found the following ways to be most effective in promoting the TAMR:

Do you know a teen that has the same intrests as you? Tell him/her about the TAMR and all of the wonderful things the TAMR has to offer. Give them John Reichel's address or Mike Yan's (if you live in the Can./Int. Region), so that they can get further information.

You can also put the TAMR flyers in local hobby shops. They should be more than willing to have flyers in their store. [Ed. Make sure they are visible.]

Another way in which you can promote the TAMR would be to bring some flyers with you when railfanning, and distribute them.

If you are willing to get a table at a train show, and set it up with TAMR flyers, you never know who you might meet. (In my case, I met a former TAMR Secretary, Dee Gilbert.) I found that by setting up a table at a show enables you to talk to fellow teens about the hobby and intrest that you have. This is really what the TAMR is all about.

If you can't get a table, bring the TAMR flyers with you.

Usually there is a table, or something, at the entry of the show where you can drop a bunch them off.

Taking a vacation? Keep in mind, that if you are going out of town, look in the back of Model Railroader to see if there are any hobby shops in the area which you are going. If there are, take some flyers with you!

If you can get a table at a show, let me know and I'll get some TAMR signs and the flyers out to you. Plus, some useful tips.

On another note, I am looking for anyone who is willing to put forth the extra effort in promoting the TAMR, to come and join the promotion team as an advisor or assistant manager.

I am happy to announce that the Canadian/International Region has a new flyer, specifically for that region. The reason that a new flyer was created, was that some interested teens in the Can./Int. region would look at the American flyer, and think that the TAMR is just an American organization by the "State" and "Zip". So to fix this, Mike Yan and I have come up with a new flyer.

If you are interested in joining the promotion team or want to get the TAMR flyers to distribute, don't hesitat to write me! Also, for the complete list of rules and information about the contest, drop me a line.



**SELL THE
RAILROADS!**

It's loose! Smother yourself in butter and bring the lemons just in case
because it's--

The Article of the Month!

EASY WEATHERING

BY JOHN REICHEL

There are million ways to weather your rolling stock and structures, and I hope you'll write to the Hotbox and tell us about your favorite methods. I'd like to share with you a fun and easy way I've found to make your rolling stock nice and grungy-- as grungy as some of the Seattle bands I've been listening to, like Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Nirvana!

Materials

The key to this technique is the use of Rust-All and Blackwash, two of the four bottles that come in a weathering set. I'm sorry, but I don't remember the name of the company; I hope your hobby store can help you with that part. If you write me, I'll find out the name, and I'll write and tell you. Diluted india ink *may* work as well as Blackwash, but I'm not sure.

You'll also need black and silver acrylic or latex, water-soluble paint. I've been using Gunze Sangyo, but other brands should also work well. You'll also need a couple of brushes and a cup of water, with a drop of dish detergent added. You may also want a silver paint marker.

Diesel Grills

Our first mini-project is making diesels look more realistic by darkening the radiator grills and other areas that would get dirty on a real locomotive. First, get a little water on the brush and "paint" the water onto the grill you want to darken. (This will prepare the surface so the Blackwash and black paint can get into all the nooks and crannies.)

Then, dip the brush into the Blackwash and paint the grill again with it. Be sure to "stay within the lines" to concentrate the weathering where it's really needed. If you stop at this step, you'll get a nice, subtle weathered effect that is nice for an over-all dirty look. But because we want the grills to be really grungy, another step is needed.

Make sure the grill is still wet with Blackwash. Dip the brush into the Blackwash again. Dip just the *tip* of the brush into the black latex paint, then touch the brush to the wet grill. Some of the paint will start to mix with the Blackwash. You might want to rinse the brush so you don't get *too much* paint onto the grill; you want a little background color to show through.

Swirl the brush around so some of the diluted paint gets into the corners. If bubbles form, they'll prevent the paint from spreading evenly, so poke them with the brush. Put on more Blackwash and paint if the grill still looks too clean.

If you think you've darkened the grill too much, don't worry, because it will get lighter when it dries. If some of the Blackwash got where it wasn't supposed to, just paint a thin layer of Blackwash over the whole engine, and the mistake will blend right in. Put more Blackwash in corners, on steps, and other places where grunge would build up.

One nice thing about washes and latex paint is that if you don't like what you've done, you can wash it off before it dries. Be sure to remove the body of the engine from the frame before you wash it, though!

Building A Layout On A Shoestring Budget

Conducted By: Peter Maurath

It's summer, ah...the mercury is rounding off at about 80°, the sky a brilliant blue, the carpets of green grass, the silent breeze blowing through the lush green vegetation, there are birds singing, orange barrels, children laughing, the...Wait a minute! What is wrong with this picture? Unfortunately as sad as it seems the summer season is also construction season. A time when developers and contractors roll out orange barrels and polish their dump trucks and jack hammers. Now, of course, no city or town is complete without them and neither is your layout.

Now Pete, your probably saying, I don't want to have to rip up my roads and buy all the figures and bulldozers, etc. Well, don't you fret because most construction is usually a mile or so away from where the orange barrels begin to push you aside. You could begin a scene on a road going off the platform or disappearing into a tunnel. You can also model a scene of construction that hasn't begun at all. (That never stopped real contractors before.) The basic idea is the orange barrel. For this, all you need is a round dowel in a size to fit your layout. For N-Scale I used one with an 1/8" diameter. Then you paint the dowel orange. Once it's dry you use either snippers or a hobby knife to cut them to size. Make them about waist high or taller on your figures and paint the tops with orange. You'll also want to paint a spaghetti noodle [Ed. Not cooked!] yellow for that irritating blinking light on top, the size may be different for other scales. Then you can stripe them with white paint with as many stripes as you need. 1, 3, 10, whatever suits you. After which you then affix the carefully cut light to the top, making sure it is nice and thin.

If you want to add extra detail you can make a blinking arrow sign. All you need to do is add thinly cut noodle, in a left or right arrow design, to a square backing. Then painting the backing black and going back with orange on the noodle arrow pointing the way you like. You can add a simple chassis with noodle glued on and then attach wheels and some scrap to appear like a motor. A simple design is shown in figure 1. If you wish to go even further with details you can add construction signs by making them yourself or purchasing them from small companies. [Ed. See below.]

Well next time around we'll add an item that has four wheels and flies. Think about it, till then happy railing!

Addresses for signs: Blair Line Signs

216 SE Bordner Circle

Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Send SASE for sample and brochure;

200 signs in N, HO, O

Figure 1.

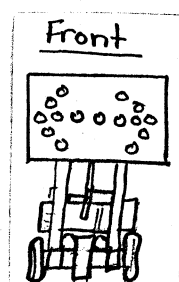
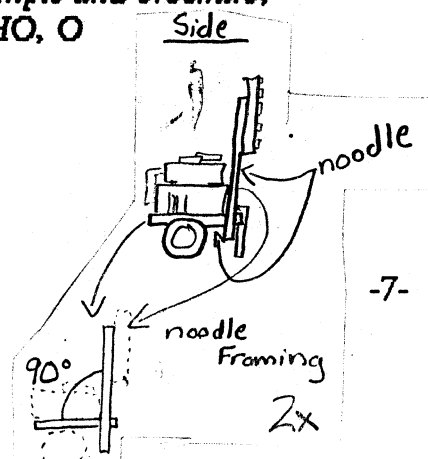
Castle Studio

175 5th Ave, Suite 2674

New York, NY 10010

Send 3 stamps for samples and catalog;

Look for ad in MR; N, HO, O



GETTING SIDETRACKED



Not that I wanted to get sidetracked, but . . .

Hi! How you all doin'? And to think that I'm north of the Mason-Dixon Line. The first issue of the New Hotbox has come out. If you have not received it yet, alert me now! Some of you received one after your expiration date. Success, otherwise. Twelve pages is not bad. I will try to average eight to ten pages.
NEXT ISSUE—

Hey! News for you layout designers out there. Next issue will be a layout design issue. The ATOM will be the best written and drawn layout. There will be little space for articles, but still write a paragraph or two. A S.O.S. shortline design will be in there as the S.O.S. official column.
FICTION—

Keep your eyes out for good fiction about

railroading. Also keep in mind that October will be *Scary Halloween Train Tales!*

SCOUTING—

Boy Scouts offer the Railroading Merit badge. This would be an excellent badge for older (over 19) members to counsel. If you are a scout, and don't have a scounselor, write me. I will try to find you one in your area.

The requirements are easy. If you have modeled for at least 3 years you have it!

CENTRAL REGION—

The Central Region is now without a rep! We need one. Anyone that feels that they could be dedicated to take care of our biggest region please write to Brent Johnson!

IN FUTURE MONTHS—

In future months I hope to have Tips, Newcomers,

Steam and Diesel, Prototype, Fiction, Patriotism on Rails, and a Graphic Issues(?). During the summer I will update you from various places. John will take over sometimes during the summer.

Your own railroad related trips would be great to hear about.

STATISTICS—

We have new statistics to prove that locomotives are not the least bit afraid of cars.

MASCOT—

Bo, our new mascot, sends his regards. We need a cartoon, one or two frames, drawn of him. He is a full breed yellow Labrador Retriever. We will use the strip for promotion and more.

WRECKS—

Here about any good(?) rail related wrecks? Write it down or send the newspaper article. We may have an issue with a State of Railing Address.

DEADLINE—

The Hotbox deadline has been set as the fifteenth of the previous month. Try to adhere to that, please.

HEADERS—

Our header was drawn by Matt Schwerin. WOW! is all I can say. Thanks, Matt! (Where is your header (?)) Hope I didn't get too sidetracked. See yunz all.