

The small collection of modelers formed the Modeler's Forum on September 23rd. Various travels kept some of the regulars away, but attending that night were Bob Willard, George Pitchard, Larry Cannon and Kent Waterson.

Bob led off with a collection of various creations. Back in February, Bob had shown the start of a unique log skidder contraption. The model started out as an M30 Ammo Carrier with a radial engine. Bob replaced the radial with a 6-cylinder diesel motor and scratch built the rest of the vehicle. A nicely weathered paint job completed the project.

Bob's next creation was a conversion of a promotional model from Bluebird busses. Built on a Model T chassis, Bob replaced the wheels with wheels and tires from Train Troll and shaved off the side curtains. The roof was replaced with a sheet of styrene covered with medical paper tape.

The last model was a mobile pump house for pumping lake water into an icing sled. The model again was totally scratch built with various details added.

Kent next presented a few tools he's acquired recently. At our last meeting, a discussion had started regarding various paint stirring tools. In response, Kent brought in a vortex mixer he recently purchased. The mixer is designed for mixing test tubes in a laboratory environment, but with adding a few ball bearings to a jar of paint, makes an excellent paint mixer. The device is rather pricey (unless you get it free like he did!), but a very nice tool.

The second tool is called a beading tool and makes a very nice punch and die set. The set included a series of punches for forming small disks and/or holes.

Kent also presented some preliminary designs for the layout he will be building. Construction of the space the layout will inhabit is almost complete and benchwork will hopefully start over the winter.

Larry finished up the evening by presenting a pair of rolling stock he recently built in support of the Fairbanks Scale Co. annex he has been working on. The scale company had on its premises a foundry for making castings. One of the loads that needed to be supplied to the company was casting sand (a mixture of sand and clay). The sand was shipped in covered hoppers. Larry based his model on a Roundhouse Halliburton Covered Hopper kit. Larry altered the paint scheme by masking off the lower red portion of the car and painting the remainder with a Krylon shade of grey that matched the lower frame. Rounding out the model were custom decals he created.

The last car was a wood chip car that was basically a boxcar with the roof removed and a wood chip load added. Larry purchased decals for the model from Highball Graphics (and has extras available if anyone is interested).

Looking ahead towards November/December, the forum decided to have a single meeting covering both months on December 2nd.

The evening wrapped up early. The group welcomes others to come and share what you have been working on for your layout. We all benefit from the work of others and the

forum provides a great opportunity to ask questions and improve our skills. Hope to see you next month (October 28th).

After a bit more discussion, the meeting was wrapped up early around 8:00. Summer months can be thin, but we welcome all to come and add your contributions. We all enjoy seeing what other modelers come up with and find inspiration from others. To give illustration to that fact was some of the lights on Jamie's model were a goose-neck style lamp. The actual mounting arm for the lights was the magnet wire leads for the lights covered in superglue, a technique he commented on as learning from this group. There are more tricks out there so come and share with the group. Our next meeting is August 26th, hope to see you there!