

Modeler's Forum Dec. 2, 2021

A small group of modelers braved the wintery-mix conditions and gathered for the Modeler's Forum on Thursday, December 2nd. Opening discussions centered around the results of the ExTRAINaganza last weekend, a short discussion on paint types (and plusses and minuses of each). Attending that night were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Carmen Anastase, John McMullen and Kent Waterson.

Bob started the evening commenting that he had a very productive few days of modeling during the ExTRAINaganza! Simply working on his projects while the event was happening proved to be a popular attraction as well as a productive time.

Bob then presented an update on his steam shovel shown last month. The shovel now has a completed body with siding and doors and painted since the last meeting. The roof was dry-brushed with silver and then Pan Pastel rust tones applied over the silver. Shades on the windows were created by rolling paper medical tape around a styrene tube core.

Another update was on the White Gas Truck. The tank is now ready for mounting on the vehicle. The front half of the frame (with the body) came from the kit while the back half was fashioned from styrene strip stock. After-market rubber wheels were also added.

The last project, just beginning, was from the Chevrolet 2-Ton truck. Right now, it is just the frame and wheels added from a wind-up toy. What will it be? Bob is still undecided at this point.

Kent was up next and presented the latest updates on the battleship catapult. All the small subassemblies have been completed and assembled into larger assemblies. All parts have been primed and prepped for final top color. Currently Archer Fine Transfer rivet decals are being added to the main catapult frame, a tedious job with the vast number of rivets on the catapults.

John was up next and presented his first attempt at building a structure kit. John had purchased one of Dexter's kits, the City Classics "The Company House" (3-Pack) kit. John showed a variety of tools he found helpful in constructing the kit including a variety of clamps. The first house is mostly finished, details included a few window shades made from scrapbook paper. The interior is painted black. John plans to add fiber-optic lighting to the building and did not want the light shining through. Also included with the kits was an outhouse he assembled that will end up on a campground scene on his layout. For his first structure kit, the build came out very well and looked great! We look forward to seeing more of John's work.

Carmen next presented a ~4' section of a background image that will be used on his layout. He showed a photo of the area where the background will be placed and was looking for suggestions on how to blend in the background with the surrounding scenery. One issue is the road on the layout that runs into the background: how to blend the two

colors such that the dividing point is not so noticeable. Photo manipulation software was recommended since his background image was off the computer and printed.

Jamie wrapped up the evening talking about an O-Scale RS-3 he ran ... or intended to run ... at the ExTRAINaganza. The RS-3 is an older Weaver model with a “tank” drive mechanism. Jamie had tried to run the locomotive but various broken parts “derailed” his efforts. Jamie then took the locomotive home to make some repairs. While in the shop, Jamie added a Loksound 5L sound decoder and speaker. He also replaced the lights with LED lights. However, when the train was run, the drive mechanism produced more noise than the speaker and drowned out the effects. Jamie tried cleaning and lubricating all components but to no avail. Since the drive train is just so inherently noisy, Jamie plans to replace the gear and chain arrangement with a pair of square 6-pole motors to drive the running gear. Hopefully next month we’ll get to see the results of his efforts.

Jamie also presented a simple method for removing lettering from rolling stock. Simply painting over the lettering typically still leaves the lettering visible. To remove the lettering, Jamie purchased a cheap set of scratch brushes from Harbor Freight. Using the fiber-glass brush, Jamie dipped it in 91% alcohol, swabbed the painted letters, let them sit for a minute, and rubbed them off with the brush, leaving the plastic behind clean and with any scratches. Very handy!

Although there were only five of us, the discussions lasted until 8:30 with a lot of useful information shared. The next meeting should be on January 27th (weather permitting), come join us and show us your work or simply share in the discussion. Hope to see you there next month.