

A small group of modelers gathered after a long break on February 24th. Due to the combined November-December meeting early in December, and then canceling last month due to many members at the Springfield show, many weeks have passed, but the modelers have been busy. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Carmen Anastase, John McMullen and Kent Waterson.

Bob's time had been spent working on a scene for his modular layout. Quелlette Motors is a car dealership and small repair bay which will be part of his Main Street 1936 module. The basic structure was a resin kit, but Bob has added many details. The work bay has numerous added details, and on the outside an air pump and gas pump. A show rack is off to the side, and the interior of the dealership is complete as well. Scenery in front included shrubs that were twisted together from a pair of pipe cleaners to give a shaped set of shrubs out front.

Bob described how in years passed that the dealerships would attach a "delivery" motorcycle to a car that was being delivered, and after the delivery complete the driver would then have a ride to return. Bob modeled one of these motorcycles from a kit that was part of Ford pickup truck shown previously, with fenders added from another truck kit.

Bob also brought some Molotow acrylic paint pens. Some of us are familiar with their line of chrome pens and these are similar, except in a variety of colors. The very small time, only 1.5mm across, make a useful tool for detailing small parts or painting into tight places.

John brought in the latest building he is working on. The kit is part of a house construction scene. John had purchased the Micro Mark magnetic gluing jig and found it to a useful tool for keeping the buildings square during construction. John's plan is to build the majority of buildings for his layout, and then be able to arrange them to scenes that work best, and then work the track to travel through the scenes.

Carmen brought an update to a section of his layout that is tight against the backdrop. He had purchased a chain link fence kit but was not satisfied with the look of the kit and instead only used the posts. The fence was replaced with window screen and used styrene for the horizontal piping. He is currently adding trees to blend in the transitions in the backdrop.

In a section a little further down where there is more space Carmen is planning on adding a set of row houses. However, the kits that he has built still take up too much space and would need to be cut down to fit in the space. Carmen was looking for suggestions on how to cut the already built houses. Bob suggested a table saw, either a standard construction saw or a hobby table saw. Carmen will probably end up bringing the structures to Bob and work together on trimming them down.

Kent then presented the latest update on his diorama. He intends to enter the diorama in a contest in early April and has been working furiously trying to get it done in time.

Since last time, both of the catapults have been nearly completed. Work has started on the three Kingfisher aircraft that will occupy the scene. Much work is still needed to be done before April.

Kent also brought some pictures of a styrene stock rack he had built. Over time we tend to build up a collection of styrene and brass strip stock and managing all the shapes can be difficult. The rack was built using a 3-part test tube rack and solid bottom plastic tubes.

It was great to catch up with everyone and see the progress that has been made. We welcome new faces that can add their projects as well, we all learn from the talents of others. Come join us on March 24th, we'd love to see what projects you are working on!