

## Modeler's Forum April 2022

By Jamie Robinson

The modeler's forum gathered at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022. In attendance were Bob Willard, Roger Plummer, Paul Lodge, Dick Holman, Rick James, John MacMullen, and Jamie Robinson.

Bob kicked off the program with an On30 Box Motor with a body that he had scratchbuilt from styrene. The body was made to fit onto an HO scale switcher chassis. Bob used several layers of styrene to get the proper look for the window and doors.

He followed that with an On30 open trolley that was built to operate on a Bachmann HO trolley mechanism. Bob had cut down a "Christmas Trolley" and scratchbuilt a frame for it.

Roger Plummer was next in the line-up with some highly modified Norscot model truck tractors and trailers. Roger has added extra axles to some of the tractors and trailers, as well as making the axles fully equalized so that the model's wheels will all sit on the ground in a scene. This sort of work increases realism tremendously, even though adding axles requires the sacrifice of an additional truck tractor or trailer for the project. BTW – if you have any extra Norscot trucks, Roger is always looking for donor vehicles...

Roger went on to display some of the slot cars he uses. Roger races at several local tracks including Minot Mountain Speedway in Minot and Fast Laps Raceway in Biddeford.

Paul Lodge brought his dead tree collection. The trees are scavenged ragweed roots that have been dried out. When suitably pruned, they make splendid dead trees. Paul also has initiated a raffle of \$25 gift cars to Governor's Restaurant. For a measly \$5, you could win a \$25 gift card! When 10 tickets are sold, the winner of the card will be drawn. From the \$50 collected, \$25 goes to the club, and \$25 pays for the card. Win-Win!

John MacMullen showed two buildings he has been working on. One is a school, complete with a playground and school bus, the other is a firehouse and accompanying fire engine. John made some modifications to the firehouse by bricking up a window in the building and a couple in the hose tower.

Jamie brought in a reference to a comprehensive on-line magazine index about railroading, real and model. If you are looking for research material, try heading to over to <https://rrmagazineindex.org/>. This index will identify magazines where the information you are searching for can be found. Please note that it will only identify the magazine title, year and month of publication, it does not include the information itself because of copyrights. A quick search for "44 tonner" as an example yielded 1,469 results in 30 magazines. Once you have located the magazine(s) you want, we may well have them in our library, or have access to the specified article online (if it is a Kalmbach publication).

Jamie also brought in a sample set of spudgers. If you have ever tried to pry the cover off a watch or mobile phone, the tool you are looking for is called a spudger. Spudgers are designed to pry covers off and are far safer than using a jeweler's screwdriver or steak

knife... The set Jamie brought came in a handy carrying case, included several pairs of tweezers and cost less than \$15.

Dick Holman presented a couple of gondolas he had worked up to carry panel track. The panels were made from scrap flex track sprayed with rail brown. Dick fitted the gondola sides with u-bolts to hold tie-down chains. The u-bolts are from Cal Scale, while the fine chain is A-Line (27 links per inch). Dick also showed a pair of tweezers he uses to handle those pesky u-bolts. The tweezer tips are lightly coated with Goo, then allowed to dry. Once dry, they hold right onto the u-bolts. Presto! No more u-bolts launched into the stratosphere.

Modeler's Forum meets next on May 26 and we hope to see you there! Bring a favorite tool, your latest model or modeling problem. We're always glad for the company and we always learn something too. See you then!