

## Modeler's Forum May 26, 2022

By Jamie Robinson

Modeler's Forum kicked off at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 26 with five of the usual suspects in attendance: Bob Willard, Paul Lodge, Dick Holman, John McMullen and Jamie Robinson.

Bob Willard opened with the continuing story of his open trolley. This project began as a Bachmann On30 Christmas Trolley, but utilizes only the mechanism, roof and floor. Bob is building a completely new interior and showed how he sliced up the seats that came with the model to make frames for new open slat wooden seats. For an open car, the wooden seats will be perfect!

Dick Holman was next and showed a crane tender (boom car) that he had repainted. Dick painted the car yellow, which required masking off all parts that were not going to be yellow, a substantial task! Dick used a black permanent marker to highlight the grab irons on the car. This certainly made them stand out, and made it much less apparent that they are cast in place.

Dick also brought a Kibri HO wheel loader that he had made some repairs to. This is a very large HO model. Dick had to replace a broken headlight and create a radiator grill. Dick used a spare HO auto-rack end door for the grill, cutting it to the proper size and shape for a very convincing effect.

Jamie went next with some new O scale signals and relay cases. These models are cast in resin from 3d printed masters. Every railroad has relay cases at highway crossings (if the crossing is equipped with active warning devices). These are older-style cases, representing models from General Railway Signal (GRS) and Western Railroad Signal (WRRS). One of the cases is very small and could also be used as a phone box. The signals are GRS searchlight type. They could be used as-is for dwarf signals or mounted on a mast for lineside signals. Jamie purchased two signal heads with the intent of creating a B&M-style staggered-head distant signal (the signal preceding an interlocking signal). None of the signals or relay cases come with tubing (usually used for a mast or to attach a weather-head for wire entry) but are reamed for a 3/32 tube. Jamie equipped the small box with a tube and noted that he had had to ream it again with a 3/32 reamer.

John McMullen was next. He started off with some intriguing thoughts about welcoming new members into the club, suggesting that perhaps a new-member day might be a consideration. This could serve to recognize new members and provide them with some history of our organization. A representative from each of the various "Special Interest" groups (G gauge, O Gauge, Modular, HO, N, etc) could give a brief background about their projects and help new members become more involved. Tours of local area layouts might also be a consideration.

John followed this worthy suggestion with a number of questions about rail size and type, track components and wiring for DCC vs. DC. The modelers present have quite a few years of experience and are always glad to help with any questions that folks might have.

Paul Lodge wrapped up the evening with a demonstration of many diverse loads for freight cars, notably flatcars and gondolas. He has created a wide variety of loads using salvaged or scavenged materials that have been repurposed and repainted. Old printers and VHS tapes can surrender a lot of interesting parts, and it's amazing what a little glue, paint and imagination can accomplish. After all, how many times have we each seen an odd load and wondered what in the world it was... Paul related that he liked to ask folks at shows what they thought the load was, and no matter what their response was, he would always exclaim "That's exactly right!"

Jamie noted that he had made a number of special loads equipped with magnets to hold them to the car (as long as the car has a steel weight...), so they could be easily removed when the car was unloaded. This was done following a suggestion at an earlier Modeler's Forum!

The next Modeler's Forum will be held on Thursday, June 23 and we hope to see you there!