

Modeler's Forum June 23, 2022

by Kent Waterson

A small group of modelers got together on June 23rd for some more sharing of projects and ideas. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Kent Waterson, Dick Holman, John McMullen, and Paul Lodge.

Bob began the evening with a show of an old brass Baldwin-Westinghouse steeple cab. The traction electric locomotive was from an unknown manufacturer, but a very detailed model. The locomotive was not functional but was a very interesting model.

The next piece Bob showed was an older (pre-laser cut days) wooden kit from La Belle. A Niles Manufacturing Freight Motor. Bob emphasized the great quality of the kit. Bob plans to power the freight motor with power trucks made by the Wagner Car Company.

After Bob's O-Scale models, Jamie continued the theme with a Weaver RS-3 that he had completely torn down and will become a B&M switcher. Virtually all the molded-on details were ground off with the intention of replacing them with after-market parts. The frame experienced the same fate with all detail removed and the motor mounts removed. Jamie showed a CNC machined weight and frame that he plans to add, the stiffener replaces the softer model weights. Also, to be added is a working radiator fan and a Hallmark Alco RS-3 interior detail set. Rounding out the model will be a LokSound decoder with the proper modifications to the frame to support the decoder.

Kent was up next with a demo/prototype of the control system he is experimenting with for his layout. The system consisted of a Digitrax command station with Raspberry Pi adding wireless smart phone throttle controls. The control bus will be a Layout Command Control (LCC) bus. Components installed were a LCC Power-Point, LCC Buffer-USB and Tower-LCC (all from RR-CirKits). The LCC bus was built and configured to drive a homebrew Arduino based servo controller that acted as a turnout switch machine. All the various pieces were functioning and can now be expanded as the layout is built.

Kent also showed the start of a scratch-built O-scale flatbed car he is building as part of a larger project. Pieces were cut on his Cricut cutter and then used numerous varieties of Evergreen styrene to build up the frame.

Dick was up next and started with offering a collection of receipt printer paper roll cores. The round tubing has just too many possibilities to simply throw away!

Dick next showed a collection of pieces from Miniprints 3D prints (miniprints.com). Parts can be ordered individually, or as Dick did, with a subscription service that will send a variety of parts. Numerous pieces were shown including chairs, tables, a horse trailer, horses, cows, and other assorted animals (all in HO). The detail on the pieces was incredible to the point that the pieces needed to be handled very carefully to avoid breaking the fine details. Beautiful pieces but keep them away from small fingers!

Dick also brought in a project he had down for his daughter who is involved in the Rainbow Girls (the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls – A Masonic youth service

organization). The pieces were built from 1" & 2" foam board and had the theme of board games. Pieces included a chess piece, dice, a domino, and player pieces from Candy Land, Sorry, Clue and Monopoly.

Finishing out the night was John with a collection of locomotives he had picked up in various stages of functionality. John asked a series of questions on how to disassemble the pieces and what could be done to bring them back to a working condition. Lots of advice was given to get John moving in the right direction.

Paul had planned on presenting as well, but the discussion by this time was approaching 9:00. Paul will plan on presenting at the next meeting and we adjourned for the evening. As always, we welcome others of all skills, interests, and abilities to join us. Not an evening goes by without learning something new, a very valuable time. Come join us next month, July 28th. Hope to see you there.