

Modeler's Forum July 28, 2022

The Modeler's Forum met again on July 28th with one of the largest groups we've had. Seven regular members and two visitors made for a busy evening. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Kent Waterson, Dick Holman, John McMullen, Paul Lodge, Carmen Anastase, and the two visitors, Bob Wright and Kevin Twine.

Bob (Willard) started out the night showing the beginnings of a new structure project, E. L. Moore's "Bunn's Feed and Seed Plant." An article from the August '73 issue of Model Railroader provided the inspiration and plans for the mill. Drawing in the article were HO scale so Bob upscaled the plans to O scale. At the time of the meeting, Bob had one wall constructed and described his methodology. Instead of placing wall studs at a standard 18" or 24" centers, Bob simply places the studs where they are needed for structural integrity. Bob places foam-board shapes of the windows and doors he will use and builds the framing around these shapes thereby guaranteeing a perfect fit. The siding is then added to the outside and the doors and windows cut out. A simple and effective solution.

Carmen didn't have anything new to present, but instead brought a gift! He had been out to the NMRA convention last year and entered several raffles. One of these raffles yielded him a \$50 gift certificate to scaletrains.com. After going to the site and discovering anything he might want happened to be out of stock, he offered the gift certificate to anyone who thought they could use it. Bob Wright was the fortunate one who came away with the certificate.

Dick as well didn't have anything new to present, but also came bearing gifts (see why you need to come to these meetings!). Dick handed out some more use credit card receipt paper cores; roughly 2.5" by 5/8" plastic tubes that could be used to model various items. Carmen and John both grabbed the cores.

Paul then presented (we let him talk this month!) an example of kitbashing he had done for a specific location on his layout (with a semi-triangular shape). Using a pair of kits, Paul assembled a pair of the backs and fronts (with a door between the fronts) for two of the sides. The third side came from a different kit and provided the loading dock doors. A walkway covering was made from strip wood and a pair of workers putting on some corrugated roofing made from aluminum foil. AC duct work was added to the roof, one section of which Paul made from a razor handle - to which Dick asked: "What's a razor?"

😊 Paul added a single florescent bulb to the interior to light the structure and then created the signage for "W. E. Drain Plumbing." Finally, some exterior wall poster advertisements were made from magazine picture cutouts that were sanded thin and applied to the brickwork. The signs looked great!

Kent followed with an update on the O-Scale flatcar he is scratch-building. Some progress had been made mostly with the braces and cross beams and the sub-deck above. Kent also brought a pair of resin HO scale flatcar kits he is building. The current state has the frame completed with the various grab irons added and some of the brake work added.

Bob (Wright) then introduced himself and added his basic purpose being there was for inspiration. Bob was interested in joining the club and we hopefully provided that inspiration as well as see him return again.

John followed with a quick thanks to Dick for some decaling hints that provided useful in some projects he is working on. John is in the process of constructing three stations and showed a section of brick wall that he had added the mortar lines. While he was looking for suggestions of ways to do this task, his method of simply painting the mortar color on the brick and wiping off the excess looked great. Other suggestions were added, but the bottom line was "if you're happy with it, then that's the best method."

John is also working on a Dairy Queen and a Donut Shop and already has eleven houses completed.

The next guest, Kevin then talked about his layout, a Z-Scale layout with Märklin equipment. Kevin started the hobby a few years ago and looks to join the club as well.

Jamie had spent most of his time this last month working on the HO layout but did show a couple projects in the beginning phase. An O-Scale brass Blomberg truck with fully functional live springs. Jamie will make some additions to the truck that we will see in future months. Jamie also showed an F-Unit cab interior that he picked up from an estate sale. Being familiar with the real thing, Jamie noted a few discrepancies that will need to be corrected in the cab.

Lots of great projects and ideas were presented that evening. The larger variety of people makes for a broader range of subjects and brings out a lot of techniques, tips and suggestions. If you are working on a project, the group provides a great opportunity for suggestions or a chance for the group to learn from what you have done, come join us next month! The next meeting will be August 25th, hope to see you there.