

Modeler's Forum April 27, 2023

by Kent Waterson

Another large group of modelers gathered at the Modeler's Forum on April 27th. More projects and ideas presented with a variety of interests. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Paul Lodge, Jamie Robinson, Kent Waterson, Carmen Anastase, John McMullen, Shawn & Bryn Doyle, Jay Wiley, Roger Plummer and Dick Holman.

Jamie started us off with a couple projects on his workbench. The first was an HO metal Mantua flatcar that he is refurbishing. The second was a Model Die Cast stubby flatcar with a load created from a part out of a computer printer. Wood decking was added from cheap coffee stirrers found on Amazon.

Kent followed by presenting his completed V1/Flak37/flatcar diorama. The model placed third in the recent Southern Maine Scale Modelers contest. Also shown was the completed Model Railroad Hobbyist Steam Throttle. All the plastic parts are 3D printed and the electronics assembled per MRH's instructions. Lastly, he showed an HO Boston & Maine caboos that arrived from Walters ... in only took them seven years to fulfill the order!

Next up was Carmen with a pair of "Lionel-y" old standard gauge signals. He also brought some economically priced hobby knife sets he picked up from Wish.com, three packs with #11 blades and handles for \$20. Next, for his light rail layout he had purchased a Pikestuff small engine house and was asking what a appropriate color would be. The kit photographs showed a blue building and was informed that blue was a common color. The last thing was a mock-up of a section of his layout that is narrow but will contain a series of partial buildings, fences, and cars. Opinions were sought on the arrangement and would trees be appropriate or perhaps too cluttered.

After a long absence, Jay was back with a collection of pieces he has picked up from various sales. The first was a kit of the station at Wiscasset that had previously been started. Next was a pair of cars picked up from Maine Model Works that were missing a few pieces but were reworked into a usable model. One internal braced boxcar and a second kit with metal ends and wooden sides. Also shown were a Laconia car kit of a Ralston Purina car, and Internationals all tin kit, a couple Funaro and Camerlengo kits, one a wood sided caboos kits that he replaced the stairwells and added safety chains to the railings along with a figure, the second kit being a boxcar kit. Next was an Ambroid all wood kit, a multideck stock car with chickens and pigs. The last cars were a Tichy crane car and a maintenance tender. The tricky crane car was done very well. Lastly Jay presented the plans for his next RC plane, a Curtis Jenny. The Aerodrome Models kit features a 66" wingspan, we look forward to seeing the progress on the build.

Bryn next brought us up to date on her hayfield model. The field was completed with multiple layers of static grass to simulate a mowed field look. She has a tractor to add to the scene but is looking for a mower to complete the scene. Anyone who might know where to source one of these is encouraged to contact Bryn.

Next up was Roger with a large collection of dump trailers. The numerous configurations were all variations of the Herpa models dump trailer. Another model was a lowbed trailer with modifications such as removing the ramps and adding mud flaps. The last model was a Mack Granite resin cab mounted on a Herpa chassis.

Bob closed out the evening with a display of his own dump trailer, a chain drive Mack with scratch built trailer. To the cab were added resin cast hood and fenders. The sides were designed, and laser cut by a friend. Also shown was a Katahdin Iron Works rail vehicle fashioned out of the same Model T cab of many of his projects. Lastly Bob related the difficulty of producing perfectly formed discs from styrene. To solve the problem, Bob purchased a punch set from Amazon that solved the problem perfectly.

The last item on the agenda for the night was the proposal for another square-foot contest. Entries need to fit on a one-foot square base with no overhang. Entries need to be completed by the November ExTRAINaganza and the winner selected by a people's choice vote. All are invited to participate in the contest.

So closed another meeting of the Modeler's Forum: from HO dump trailers to 66" wingspan aircraft, the forum has it all! Come out and join us on May 25th and add the to variety, we hope to see you there.