

## **Modeler's Forum May 25, 2023**

### **by Kent Waterson**

With summer approaching, the gathering for the Modeler's Forum was a bit smaller on May 25<sup>th</sup>, although it grew a bit with a collection of visitors. Eight modelers and three visitors rounded out the evening: Bob Willard, Bob Wright, Kent Waterson, Carmen Anastase, Paul Lodge, Jamie Robinson, Shawn & Bryn Doyle were the regulars and joined by visitors Bud Santos along with Jerry and Teri Aston – Bryn's parents.

Kent started the evening with a re-presentation of the MRH Steam Throttle. This time he brought along the Raspberry Pi WiFi server which allowed the audio portions of the throttle to be heard (the throttle includes a built-in iPhone speaker). Last Month, Bob (Willard) had presented a set of punches he purchased. Kent this month brought another set of punches, a pair of disc cutter sets that use a punch & die arrangement to cut the holes. One set was from Amazon and cut holes from 1/8" up to 1" (<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0827NWKZW>), while the second was a micro set from UMM and punched holes 0.5mm to 2mm in diameter ([http://umm-usa.com/onlinestore/product\\_info.php?cPath=21\\_145&products\\_id=6602](http://umm-usa.com/onlinestore/product_info.php?cPath=21_145&products_id=6602)).

Next up was Shawn with a reefer car that was originally a Coca-Cola car but now modeled as one being converted to a Pepsi car. The model is intended to act as an uncompleted mid-conversion paint job. Improvements to the car included metal wheels and Kadee #148 couplers.

Bryn next showed the update on her field with the addition of a mower for the tractor (thanks Roger!). She also brought up from downstairs a "Swamp House." The house was unique in that it depicted an abandoned house that now possessed a tree growing through it and out the roof! Bryn burned the hole in the roof for the tree to give it a random look.

Paul had brought in a very large mill building from his layout. The generic mill had generated many "that looks like the mill at ..." to which Paul would say "then that's what it is!" Around the building was shrubbery made from an exfoliating skin sponge. The sponge was dyed green and looked very nice. The building itself had lights inside along with some figures. Paul had originally added mirrors as well to increase the depth perception of the space and multiply the figures. Paul also brought in a second building that included a large smokestack. Paul passed around the "smokestack" with the challenge of "where did it come from?" The answer: the end of a pool cue! Paul recommended creating a junk box with miscellaneous items that "you never know" where they can be used.

Bob (Willard) then did a short demonstration of his tools and methods for working with wood. Tools included chisel cutters for cutting out windows and doorframes, the standard X-Acto knife with #11 blade, a Northwest Shortline Chopper, a Frisker "finger knife" (a unique handle that assists in applying cutting pressure), a thin beam square (from where else but Micro-Mark) and a Zona keyhole saw. Bob's techniques for building are generally build the support pieces similar to a stud-construction (not any particular spacing, but specifically locating the "studs" where the window and door openings are) and then covering the outside completely with siding (Bob places an arrow on the inside of the siding to make sure the clapboard is correctly oriented). Once the glue sets, the wall is laid siding side down and the chisels used to cut out the door and window openings. For

glue Bob uses Gorilla glue (transferred to smaller dispenser bottles) purchased at any hardware store. For coloring his buildings, Bob uses weathering mixes from Hunterline and Vetro. The stains are applied with cheap acid brushes purchased from Harbor Freight.

Lastly Bob demonstrated a recent purchase (funded by his proceeds from the last train show). Bob purchased a Wonder Cutter, an ultrasonic knife that vibrates at 40,000 vibrations per second. Bob demonstrated the knife cutting through 0.060" and 0.080" styrene with no effort. A very nice toy!

Bob Wright wrapped up the evening with a show of some various model kits he dug out of storage. Kits included a Blohm & Voss BV141B, a pair of F-19 Stealth fighters, and a Lockheed Sea Shadow. Looking forward to seeing them completed at a future forum.

Thus, wrapped up another Forum. Mention was made again of the square-foot contest, hopefully people can find the time (unlike this writer!) to produce a model for entry. If you're looking for ideas or help, come join us at the next Forum on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hope to see you there.