



Modeler's Forum

June 27, 2024

by Jamie Robinson

The Modeler's Forum met at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27 with the following members in attendance: Bob Willard, Paul Lodge, Kent Waterson, Carmen Anastase, John MacMullen, Jamie Robinson and Dick Holman.

Bob opened the forum with an O Scale Brook Hill Farm Dairy (from Walthers) that he had built up some time back. As delivered, it's basically a snap-together kit, but Bob made a few modifications to it. He built a wooden loading dock, a new styrene roof and changed a few of the windows. He built a new roof for the elevator shaft, using a bead and a needle to create the lightning rod on top. Bob toned down the building's colors with [Pan Pastels](#), and used fine sandpaper for roofing material.

Bob related that he is starting work on his "[Square Footer](#)" revealing an 8" styrene disc to be used as the base. We were unable to get Bob to reveal his master plan for the diorama, in spite of repeated attempts...

Kent Waterson brought along one of the Lake Town buildings he has been working on for his forthcoming Middle Earth diorama. It's a combination of wood, styrene and 3d Printed pieces. He's currently working on creating the various roofing sections for the extraordinarily challenging roofline.

There was a discussion of [Wago](#) connectors several months ago and Kent brought along one of the ones he is using. It's basically a terminal point for connecting wires; this one had three connections.

Kent also brought along an O Scale outhouse that he had entered in a contest at the Great Falls Club a few years back. The model was equipped with a sound system at that time, but it did not have sufficient volume to compete in a crowded environment. Kent updated the electronics with an Arduino, Prototype shield, DF player and a 2.5 watt amplifier, along with a larger speaker. Suffice to say that the sound effects were quite audible and would do justice to the portable facility row at the great Bean & Ex-Lax Festival...

Carmen is settling an estate with an enormous number of unbuilt plastic model kits, as well as some tools. He showed some photos; the amount of kits is simply staggering! He brought along a few tools and knick-knacks to show the group.

John MacMullen asked some questions about watering steam locomotives from [track pans](#). This was a process that allowed the water supply in the tender to be replenished without stopping. None of the modelers present was familiar with any HO models of track pans, but suggested that there are many photos available online and that the pans would be an excellent subject for 3d printing.

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John has one of the Walthers Mi-Jack intermodal crane kits and was relating some difficulties he has had with its construction. The group suggested that there might be a video or two about it on YouTube. Turns out there is, and you can check it out [here](#).

John printed out some container wrappers. He cut foam blocks to the proper size and wrapped them with the printed sides using a spray adhesive, Unfortunately, the adhesive attacked the foam rendering the result unacceptable. John is revising his plan to make the core blocks from wood instead. That will certainly help with weight as well.

John showed off a cattle car he had detailed with straw hanging out the door. John used a polypropylene rope for the straw, but any light-colored hemp would work too.

A wrecking crane and boom tender were next on the list. John acquired a pair lettered for the Delaware & Hudson. The crane rotates and the boom raises and lowers, providing many options for display and photography.

Lastly, John showed off a Broadway Limited GP20 painted for Amtrak. Beautiful!

Jamie was next. He showed an old-school O Scale All Nation depressed center flatcar kit. This kit is about as basic as it gets. The car is a one-piece aluminum casting that will require minimal filing. It comes with a piece of wire for brake staffs, two brake wheels and 4 sill steps.

Jamie also brought an O Scale kit for the South Londonderry Vermont station which was located on the West River Railroad (and still stands, to this day). The kit was introduced by [Banta Modelworks](#) in 2001 in HO and never offered in O Scale. Jamie talked to Bill Banta at the Amherst Railway Society show in West Springfield last January and made a pitch for having one run up in O. Bill agreed. It took some time to get it made up, but it was well worth it by the looks of the kit. Laser cut notwithstanding, it will still be a reasonably challenging build.

Paul Lodge and Dick Holman were great company as always and offered several suggestions throughout the discussion.

Modeler's Forum will meet next at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25. Come on down! Bring that new kit, new tool or your newest build or project. It certainly doesn't have to be railroad-related, either. It's a perfect opportunity to kibbitz with your fellow modelers. We hope to see you there!

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