

My interest in railroads comes from my family ties to it. Both of my grandfathers worked on the railroad, one as a conductor on the Buffalo Rochester & Pittsburgh Ry in Southwestern Pa and the other for the Pittsburg & Shawmut in Brookville, Pa as an engineer. My father, an engineer, and all of his brothers worked for the Baltimore and Ohio/Chessie System out of Rikers yard, just outside Punxsutawney, Pa. My father would take my brothers and I to Rikers quite a bit and we all got to go to work with him occasionally.

My hand me down Lionel set from brothers would be set up on the floor, eventually going to a 4x8 sheet of plywood I got from my grandfather. That progressed to HO, N, and G scale at different milestones in life.

I joined the Marine Corps in 1982 and there was no time for trains during that enlistment. After my enlistment back to Pennsylvania where I enlisted in the State Police. Time at the Academy and learning a new job after graduation didn't leave much time for anything else. I became a serious collector of trains during my 21 years and several moves around the Commonwealth for work, never enough time to build anything serious.

Finally retiring in 2008 from the State Police, and making what I thought was my final move to York, Pa, I took over a portion of our basement and began construction. I didn't give much thought to it, so it had some switching and a small yard, but was basically an around the room, watch the trains run table. A friend from the York Pa Model Railroad club, where I was a member, invited me to an operating session at a private home railroad. My introduction to the operation by the gracious host, Bob Martin, President of the Central Penn, looked at me and said; "you will fit". He later explained that comment when he took me to my job for the evening. Under the layout, back in the corner, where you couldn't get in any trouble was a mine that needed switching, and it was quite tight back there. I don't think I would fit today! That lit a fire once again, and I began operating on 3 local layouts, besides the CP, the South Penn and the West Penn all friends of Bob's. What a blast!

Fast forward to my move to be closer to my daughter here in SC. My last move, hopefully! But construction has begun once again on a layout. It will be an operations based layout and an extension of my good friend, Bob Martins Central Penn. Bob died a few years ago and the operators had the chance to purchase equipment from his railroad, those pieces will find a home on my layout as we move era's just a tad from the late 50's/60's into the 70's/80's to move some coal!

I joined the NMRA back in 2013 on a railpass to see what it was all about, I enjoyed the exchange of information and finding likeminded enthusiasts! During my time in the Susquehanna Division I was the newsletter editor and eventually served as the Assistant Superintendent.

I look forward to forging new friendships and growing our Division!

