

# The Pennsy Middle Division in HO scale

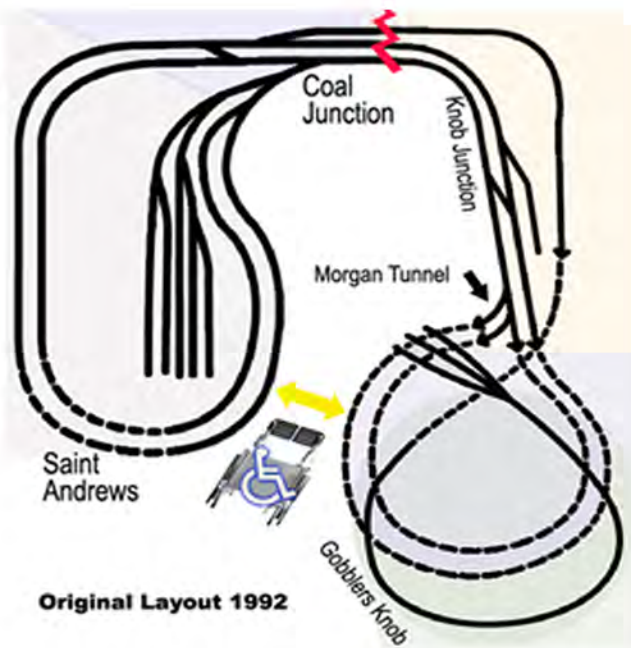
*Built by Dave Frary, Scott Mason, and Doug Foscale*

Welcome to my layout! The famous "Pennsy Middle Division" originally built in 1992 by Dave Frary (with help from Bob Hayden) for a series of 9 articles in Kalmbach Publishing's Model Railroader Magazine. The feature ran from January 1993 until September of 1993. The articles were then brought together and published in a book in 1994.

The layout was originally built to be a portable display. It broke down into 6 sections and was moveable by just two men. The layout toured the United States with Greenberg Train Shows, a division of Kalmbach Publishing. Over five or so years, transporting, setting up, and taking down of the layout by various staff took it's toll. It was sold to a private party in Florida when the layout was no longer needed. It changed hands numerous times in the course of a few years. In 2000, I obtained the layout in a state of disrepair. I found it for sale on eBay, bought it, and brought from Florida to Massachusetts. I stored it for a number of years with every intention of someday restoring it back to it's original grandeur. A motorcycle accident in 2003 left me paralyzed. I wouldn't be able to realize my dream of a magnificent layout. Or so I thought.

I met Scott Mason in 2005. He had built a few kits for me as diorama's I had under glass in my house. I start talking to him about the Pennsy layout restoration. We came to an agreement. He'll restore the layout. The terms are most favorable for me. I'll give him another of my "famous" layouts, The Clinchfield, as trade for his labor. The Clinchfield is an N scale layout built for a series of articles in Model Railroader Magazine during 1978. It was also published into a book. I'm glad to get The Clinchfield out of my basement. My wife is too. Although I love the layout, it's N scale. My handicap has left me with very little use of my hands, making it very difficult to pick up anything small. N scale = small.

First things first. The layout is brought to Scott's house where he'll do the work. The Pennsy will need a little bit of scenery redone. The track will be mostly replaced. That won't take Scott and his crew very long. He gets underway in June of 2005. October comes fast. The original 6 sections of the Pennsy are back to my house but it is now in just two sections. Scott will start on the new peninsula next. Did I forget to mention that? There is a slight problem with the original Pennsy configuration. I can't access the portion that has the towns Coal Junction, and Knob Junction at Morgan Tunnel. A look at the diagram below shows the original layout. The track plan/benchwork is an upside down "U" shape. I can't access inside the "U" - My wheelchair is too wide by an inch.



Here is a diagram that shows the original Pennsy trackplan. The yellow arrows show the space that was just slightly too tight a fit for me to squeeze through in my wheelchair. The solution? Separate them! The red line at the top middle of the diagram shows where the break in the two newly restored sections is now located. Careful consideration was given to this location so that Scott could be certain that when delivered, each of the two sections, now 3 times larger then when they left, (remember the Pennsy was broken into six smaller sections originally) would fit through my walk-out basement door. They just fit. An inch or so to spare! Scott and I decided to add a huge section in-between the originals. "The Son of Pennsy," so named by Dave Frary, was born. Scott will build a peninsula about 7 feet wide, and 16 feet long. I have many craftsman kits built and ready to go. Scott's friend Bob Leonard designs a trackplan to fit between the original Pennsy sections.

Scott had to deliver the two original Pennsy sections to my house before construction on the new peninsula could get underway. His two car garage sized studio wouldn't fit all three pieces. He need's to be sure that the new peninsula will fit in my basement door too. Three feet wide. Six feet, eight inches high. Turned sideways, the new portion "Son of Pennsy" is exactly that, but 16 feet long. It fits perfectly when it's delivered January 14th. A funny thing about that day. 58 degrees. Raining, but 58 Degrees!

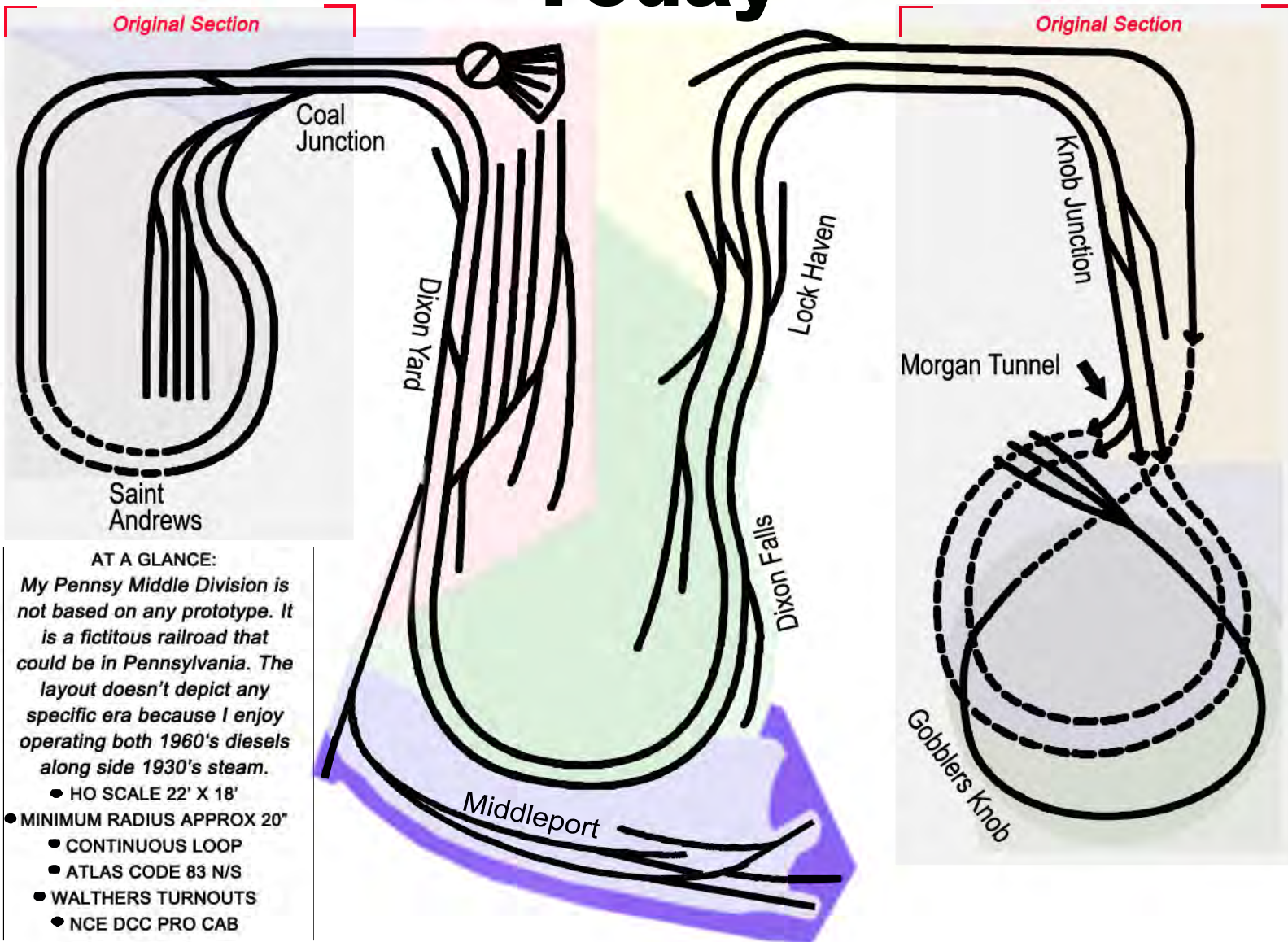
After a few months of working at my home in Holden, the Pennsy was complete. For the time being anyway. Three foot isles and at a height perfect for me in my wheelchair. My dream of the original Pennsy came true. 100 fold. What I had in my basement exceeded that dream.

The next few years would bring changes. Doug Foscale added his kit's where he could. The 2007 Craftsman Structure Show kit diorama made it's way onto the layout as did Doug's "Little Lou's" anniversary kit. Those are both located in the town of Coal Junction. He also donated his "Fenimore Bros. Coal Co." which is located in Knob Junction.

I use the NCE DCC system mainly for it's easy of use. After trying all the major DCC systems, the NCE Pro Cab was the easiest for me to operate with my limited dexterity. The wireless cab gives me freedom of movement around the layout. There are corded controls for operators too.

Kathy and Leon of Berkshire Junction installed Tortoise Switch Machines and Hares. The Hare is a DCC decoder that mounts to the Tortoise. All my switch machines are controlled via DCC.

# The Pennsy Middle Division in HO scale, cont... Today



In 2009 construction on a waterfront section began. The town of "Middleport" was added, expanding the center peninsula length by two-and-a-half feet. It will be completed in the summer. Scott, Dave, and Doug will all have a part in building the new addition. It has a very vast area of waterfront (Seen as ■ above.) for scenery. (Dave Frary & Doug Foscale are waterfront affectionado's!)

Thank You for visiting my layout today. I hope you enjoyed yourself. Jimmy Deignan - jamesdeignan@yahoo.com

## Related links and information:

To read the complete story on the restoration of my layout, The Pennsy Middle Division visit Scott Mason's website at [www.scottymason.com](http://www.scottymason.com) and check out his "Pennsy Diary" ([www.scottymason.com/pennsy](http://www.scottymason.com/pennsy)) - Scott produces the best selling DVD line "Building Craftsman Structure Kits" as well as other "how to" video's starring the best model builders and craftsman out there. Scott also has a line of fantastic structure kits that he manufactures in limited quantities.

Dave Frary has built more model railroads then he can remember. Visit his website to learn more about this model railroad legend. Dave has published 3 versions of the best selling book in the history of Model Railroading, "How to Build Realistic Model Railroad Scenery." He has a number of "how to" videos that shows you his many proven techniques in building models and scenery. Dave's website is [www.mrscenery.com](http://www.mrscenery.com)

Fos Scale Limited is Doug's company. Check out his original kit design's, including his most popular kit "Deignan's Bikini Car Wash" named after yours truly. Doug also produces a line of "how to" DVD's. One that show's his wonderful ability to detail a scene realistically and another that teaches you his methods of creating beautiful waterfront scenery that's simple to do. Visit [www.foslimited.com](http://www.foslimited.com)

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