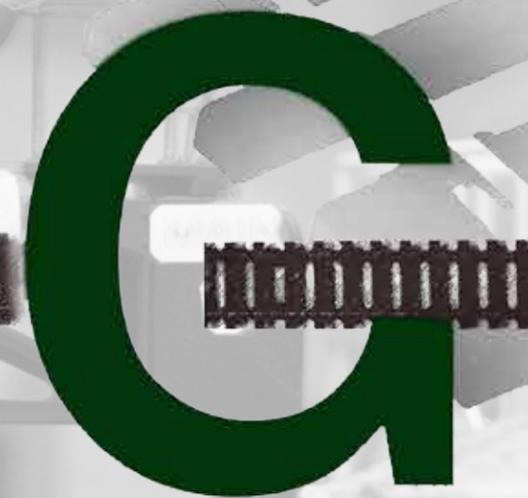




# a sample of Div. 1 layouts



## Josh Cohen

“Pretty much since I’ve been born,” is how Division 1 member Josh Cohen answers when asked how long he’s been into trains.

After starting with everything ‘Thomas’ he then moved on to O gauge hi-rail and O-27. Josh likes operations and uses train orders and prototype waybills to keep three operators busy on his 12’ x 15’ basement layout.

When not running trains, 17 year old Josh also collects vintage Coca-Cola bottles, John Deere tractor models, and Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries. In fact he learned to read with Model Railroader magazines.

## Josh Cohen’s *Coal and Steel Railroad* and the *Pennsylvania Railroad, Central Region, Lake Division*

An O scale empire with blocks protected by operating Pennsy position lights



Division 1 member Josh Cohen is anything but a lone shark model railroader. This writer’s tour of Josh’s 12’ x 15’ O scale basement layout was briefly interrupted by a computer video chat from a model railroader in California. No worries, Josh quickly switched us over to his cell phone so we could continue operating and talk trains with a friend from the west coast at the same time. Josh has definitely embraced social media as a tool to share his love of trains with others near and far.

Like many of his generation, Josh began his love of trains by playing with *Thomas and Friends*. This evolved into O-27, O gauge hi-rail and HO. His *Coal and Steel Railroad* and *Pennsylvania Railroad Central Region Lake Division* has blocks controlled with working Pennsy position light signals and turnouts powered with Tortoise switch machines.

Still being in high school, Josh’s train budget is limited. This doesn’t stop progress, with homemade scenery and scratch built structures found throughout the layout. Josh also takes others’ discarded trains and with a little time gets them up and running.

Along with his Division 1 membership Josh belongs to *The Canfield Model Railroaders of the War Vet Museum* and participates in *YouTube Model Builders*, various *Facebook* groups and *MRH* blogs and forums. Through his use of social media Josh has become a true ambassador of the hobby to many throughout the area and the world.

Josh gets a ground level view of a train snaking under the working Pennsy position lights. (clockwise from below) Josh opens an episode of *YouTube Model Builders* on his computer. An old rail spike, found along a right-of-way, glued inside a box car serves as a perfect weight. Real rocks, twigs and dirt become the foundation for cheap scenery. Josh rerails his first locomotive - an O-27 *Safari Railroad* 0-4-0 built by Lionel.

