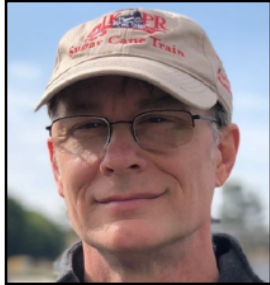


Sean Hoyden's Dominion Southern Railroad

Article by Lee Stoermer, Photos by Ken Wilson and Lew Renninger



Located in a purpose built, 40' by 40' building, this multi-level, modern era (2000-2024) layout is a Tidewater Virginia-themed railroad, with a CSX flavor, designed and built for heavy mainline traffic.

Sean Hoyden has enlisted help from friends in the construction of

his layout, which is progressing through the benchwork phase and some initial scenery. This is his first foray into building a railroad layout and he has gone all-in on it. The three eight-track lower staging yards are constructed and operational. They can hold nearly 1500 pieces of rolling stock. The



middle main deck that will highlight heavy industrial switching, yards and mainline traffic is approaching the halfway point. The upper deck will be the Dominion Southern shortline railroad which will interchange with the Class 1 CSX railroad on the middle deck and serve a more rural Appalachian coal industry, with a Norfolk Southern connection on the upper deck. The three decks are interconnected by two helixes using broad radius curves.



The layout is operated with TCS DCC, with LCC (layout command control) being used for turnout and signal operations in the fully integrated CTC (centralized traffic control) system that is being installed. JMRI is used for track



monitoring, and once the railroad is functional and operations sessions begin, it will be used for dispatching. The layout includes numerous industrial areas, including an oil refinery, an intermodal port, a large grain and port rail car transloading facility, auto racks/auto parts, plus additional yards and staging on the lower decks.

Sean Hoyden next to bridge

Track is code 83 on cork or Homasote roadbed using plywood or 2" foam as a sub-roadbed. L-girder benchwork is typical and used throughout.

Several scenic highlights are planned, one being a nearly 14'-long bridge that will span a river. It is currently being worked into the layout and its presence isn't truly comprehended until you actually view it in person.

Progress is steady and you'll need to watch for this layout as it continues to grow and come to life.