

# Layout Tour: John King's B&O Shenandoah Subdivision

Text by John King, Photos by Greg Cassidy and Ken Wilson

*[Editor's Note: John's layout was one of the Maryland open houses on Sept. 28th. A full report will appear in our next issue.]*

The B&O Shenandoah Subdivision represents the B&O branch from Harpers Ferry to Strasburg Junction via Charles Town and Winchester in the fall of 1949.



Track work is complete and all turnouts between Harpers Ferry and Strasburg are hand laid to ensure smooth operation. Trackage at all stations replicates the prototype, although some sidings are not included and/or are shortened to fit in the available space.

Power is all steam, mostly custom detailed brass to more closely represent locomotives that ran in the valley. The freight car fleet



represents what might have been seen in 1949.

I host regular operating sessions representing trains and traffic as it would have been in the fall of 1949. A crew of eight to 12 operators is required to run the railroad.



Unfortunately there is not much scenery.

But note the Dispatchers Office with the 1942 Interlocking Machine that once controlled the junction at JD Tower in Hyattsville and the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century dispatchers telephone system.

(John King photos left & below)

