

Read Me 1st.

This folder contains our DCC evaluation done in 1999. The idea of DCC was introduced in 1997 but was overwhelmingly rejected. Much more research and two more years with some new information gathered during that time was needed to try again.

In summary, a nearly isolated section of track (the high line) was divorced from the main electrical system and an evaluation system installed. Anyone could try it with the locomotive set up to run up there. Inside three months several members were interested and three had purchased decoders to install and try out the evaluation track. One day, two members were running on the high line at the same time and realized the importance of what they could do. The momentum of DCC was gaining speed.

In the final tally, only two regular members (coming to run the layout on Saturdays) were opposed to going to DCC when it finally came to a vote. The next several months were spent saving and preparing all the members orders and were included in the big club order. Our order was so large, Digitrax gave it priority and we had 90% of our order inside a month when we were told three. So much for planning.

In the end the changeover of the main lines to DCC took only 28 days. The layout had to be rewired to remove 20 year-old wiring harnesses, patches and fixes to gain the reliability we were seeking. 9/11/01 drastically altered one member's life. Having been laid off Christmas Eve of 2001, he held to his promise to wire it during the month of March. With help from other members, he was able to keep his promise. Smith Nash was given an honorary membership for his efforts over the next three years for his work as the chief engineer of the DCC Project.

Today a new "whole layout" project is under way. Mr. Nash is at it again while on his home-time while off the road and out of his rig. The DCC system is getting reworked, new power modules are being reworked from old ones as the work progresses to satisfy the requirements of the signal system. New signal control modules are being constructed in his truck while out on the road and returns home with a completed module ready to install. A chain of activity leads to another and enough parts were purchased to keep the project moving until the next budget year.

Because the project involves the DCC system modifications, the files for the current DCC work are included in the Train and Traffic Control folder online. Older DCC documents may be posted as time permits but is not the focus at this time. Current DCC module designs will be posted as they are changed on the layout and put into service. This negates the need to post the older designs.

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