Club Info:
Club has 2 working layouts and 1 under construction: (1) the museum-quality Donner Pass Exhibit layout uses a DCC system with Digitrax hardware and (2) the Scenic Ridge layout for children uses a DC fixed controller. The Feather River Route is under construction and will use the same DCC Digitrax hardware for locomotives but a new LCC for layout control including switches, block detection, and signal lights.

Donner Pass Exhibit consists of dual track mainlines from Roseville to Sparks. Right-hand running is used throughout the layout, however, due to the crossovers at Applewood (between Roseville and Colfax) and at Eder (just before Donner Summit), most trains need to leave the railroad yards running LEFT-HANDED.   Colfax Yard is the only exception. Switches are controlled via DT400 throttle, laptop, or push-button control box on the fascia. Two hidden tracks underneath Roseville/Colfax yards allow you to access the crossover bridge and run on the RED line of the modular layout. The club has 2 programming tracks attached to laptops where you can use DecoderPro to program your decoders in your locos.

DCC Equipment:
Club uses Digitrax Super Chief set to run the DPE layout. Digitrax decoders (both sound and non-sound) work great with this system. Other decoder manufacturers are:
- Train Control Systems (TCS)
- Soundtraxx (sound decoders)
- Lenz (comes on Atlas locos when included) – Not the best decoder. Many of us try to buy non-DCC included Atlas locos and just buy TCS or Digitrax.

UP5's (the panels where you plug the throttles into) are located throughout the DPE on the fascia siding.

The club has 2 DT400R throttles for members to use to program locomotives, throw turnouts, or to put multiple locos in a consist. You may want to purchase your own throttle(s) for personal use—HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!
- Digitrax has 2 versions and 2 generations of throttles.
- DT40<u>0</u> (non-radio old version) and DT40<u>2</u> (non-radio new version) are the large 2-knobbed digital throttles (speed shown digitally as 1-100) used to throw switches. You must be plugged into a UP5 panel in order to send commands to the Digitrax Command Station.
- UT4 Utility throttles are large, single knobbed analog throttles (knob settings from 1-7) that do NOT have the ability to throw turnouts. These are good for running trains and simple to use.
- DT400R/DT402R and UT4R are the <u>radio</u> version. You do NOT need to be plugged into a UP5 in order to send commands to the Digitrax Command Station.
- DT400<u>D</u>/DT402<u>D</u> and UTR4<u>D</u> are the duplex versions. Our club is not set up for these throttles and probably won't be for quite some time.

- Radio is more expensive than non-radio, and DT400's are more expensive than UT4's. You can upgrade a non-radio throttle to a radio throttle through Digitrax for $50 plus shipping (great for those eBay deals you may find).

Locomotive Manufactures:
There are many loco manufacturers out there (avoid Model Power, Bachmann, etc.). These seem to be better than others in terms of quality of running, details, and overall customer satisfaction.

- Kato
- Atlas
- Intermountain
- Newer Lifelike models
- Con-Cor (for switchers)

Rolling Stock Manufactures:
As with locos, there are also many manufacturers of rolling stock. These seem to be better than others in terms of quality of running, details, couplers included, and overall customer satisfaction (avoid Bachmann, Life-Like, Model Power if possible).

- Micro-Trains
- ExactRail
- InterMountain
- deLuxe Innovations
- Red Caboose
- Bowser
- Bluford Shops
- Atlas
- Athearn
- Con-Cor
- Walthers

Couplers and wheels:
See the following link on couplers:
http://www.nscaledivision.com/information_on_couplers.htm

Many of us in the club use Micro Trains couplers (pack of 10 pairs of complete trucks runs about $35) and have had great success with them. Accumates and McHenry's are also good. You really want to avoid Rapidos if at all possible. See Micro-trains website (under conversions tab) to find out which couplers you need.

Our club does not have a wheel standard. That being said, guys have found that metal wheels run smoother than plastic and low-profile plastic wheels run better than normal profile wheels (pizza cutters—wheels hitting tops of ties). Most ready-to-run rolling stock comes with good plastic wheels of some sort. You only need to worry about this with older equipment. Fox Valley Models makes some excellent metal wheel sets.

Club Website:
www.shorttrackrr.org

YahooGroups (you will need to register with each group if desired):
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ShortTrackRR/   (this is our message board)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/traintools/   (great for finding neat tools and uses for tools for model railroading)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Digitrax/   (Info on all things Digitrax DCC related - decoders, throttles, circuit boards, etc.)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/n_scale/   (Info on all things n-scale related)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ndcc/   (Info all DCC as it relates to n-scale model railroading)

Free Magazine (downloadable PDF's!)
http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/   (FREE GREAT magazine! PDF's can be downloaded to PC. Download all of them and read them for great enjoyment!)

Websites for N-scale info:
http://www.nscale.net/forums/forum.php
http://www.trainboard.com
http://forum.atlasrr.com/forum
http://www.zealot.com/forum/
http://www.visi.com/~spookshow/trainstuff.html   (has great searchable database on almost all locomotives, cabooses, rolling stock, and detailed blogs on each of his layouts he has done (I think he is up to 6 now!).

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJw8lU4zN9k&feature=related   (easier way to remove shells from Locos.)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOAbgbgimUU   (Part 2 of above video)

Websites for N-scale products:
http://www.ebay.com   (use at own risk!)
http://www.blwnscale.com/   (Large n-scale only supplier with large selection and quick shipping!)

http://www.wig-wag-trains.com/   (good prices, but slow on shipping. Comes to Del Mar almost every Dec. Better to buy in person. Website good for looking for stock numbers for previous releases)

http://www.exactrail.com   (new on the market. Products are amazing in detail! Other websites sell their products, like the 2 websites above.)

http://www.nscalesupply.com/NScaleSupply.html   (Similar to BLWN-scale.   Pricing similar also)

http://www.modeltrainstuff.com/   (great for deals on rolling stock and other model railroading items. Extensive catalog easy to view.

http://www.blmamodels.com   (good for finding those little parts for detailing locos!)

http://www.axiantech.com/ModelRR.html   (sells the white boxes most of us use to carry our rolling stock in. Pricey but they hold up well and are lined with good foam.

http://acculites.com/   General model railroading website that has been good for a number of members.

Website for DCC items/info:
http://www.litchfieldstation.com/DCC-University/index.htm   (great website for info on DCC. Pricing for DCC equipment, decoders, etc is good and free quick shipping for over $75. Most of us have used this supplier.

http://www.digitrax.com/decsel.php   (DCC website for Digitrax equipment. Page shows you which DCC Digitrax decoder you need for a loco. Club members are also another great resource!)