



THE NICKEL CITY DISPATCH

NEWS FROM THE NICKEL CITY LINE RAILROAD

JUNE 2013

NCL UNDERGOES MAJOR UPGRADES



Fascia and skirting have been removed from under Nickel City as workers run new wiring for upgrades to turnouts and signals in January.

The first ops session in January set the tone for a series of overhauls and system upgrades on the NCL. On January 6 crews arrived for the first session of 2013. The 4p to midnight shift started out normally. However, halfway through the session, Turnout 13 in Nickel City Yard began to fail. The turnout is critical to getting

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NICKEL CITY LINE JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA



On April 19 the Nickel City Railroad launched an official page on Facebook. The new page is designed to supplement the existing website and appeal to a larger audience.

Facebook allows the NCL to provide timely updates on improvements, equipment and other items of interest. While the NCL website will still contain a lot of detailed information about the railroad and its operation, the social media site on Facebook will be updated more frequently with information of interest to the general public.

Check us out at: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/NickelCityLineModelRailroad>

"Like" us and share us with your friends.

NCL REVISES AND RELEASES NEW TIMETABLE.

Timetable 57 replaced Timetable 56 beginning May 1. The new timetable incorporates some changes in Train numbers, a couple of additional trains and elimination of some others.

Timetable 56 has been replaced on our website (<http://home.comcast.net/~nclrr/Operations/Operations.html>). The new schedules provide a greater variety for our operators.

NCL EMPLOYEES EARN CERTIFICATIONS IN FIRST HALF OF 2013.

In February Bill L. earned his Advanced Hostler certification and completed all the requirements for Advanced Railroad Operator which Bill was awarded as well.

In April Roger B. received his Advanced Engineer certificate.

In May John H. earned his Hostler certification and completed all the requirements for Certified Railroad Operator which he was awarded as well.

George M. earned his Engineer certification.

Congratulations to all these operators on their achievements!

NCL DELIVERS NEW FIRE VEHICLES TO NICKEL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

On March 29 a flat car arrived loaded with an order placed a week prior arrived in Nickel City Yard by train. Upon inspection, the yardmaster immediately called the Fire Chief and asked that his staff take care of off loading the cargo. The flat car contained 2 new Ford Excursion Battalion Chief vehicles for the Department.

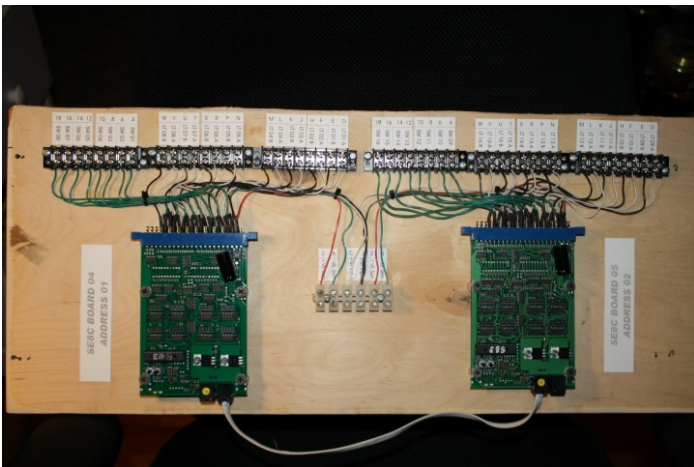


The Fire Department will be putting out a job announcement on Monday for any "Little" Chiefs who wish to apply if they want to drive one of these new Ford Excursions.

Upgrades, From Page 1.

trains in and out of the east end of the yard. The yardmaster and the dispatcher worked quickly to come up with a work around to the problem. By session's end most trains had completed their runs except the mail line local train 504.

The turnout motor was looked at and replaced as a precaution but the problem then expanded to several other turnout motors in the yard. The problem was finally traced back to a bad stationary decoder board and not the turnout motors themselves. A simple replacement of the stationary decoder would seem the easy fix except the decoder had been discontinued. Management decided to front the added funding to upgrade the bad board and 3 other older



Two new Digitrax SE8C boards replaced four Digitrax DS54 stationary decoders, one of which, went bad in January.

boards with new turnout and signal boards from Digitrax. This opened the door for a number of other upgrades in the first half of 2013.

By the end of January, the replacement boards had arrived and were installed. All the affected turnouts were functioning properly. In addition, an auto-reverser was installed on the turn table track in the locomotive yard at Nickel City and the polarity switch for the turn table was removed.

In February, management decided to move ahead with signal installation on the NCL. A major pur-

chase of signal terminal strip boards, cable and connectors was made. A warehouse of signals was opened up and signals were pulled out of storage in preparation of placement along the mainline. The IT Department was also instructed to begin programming the signal logix in the JMRI software used by



A large box of signal hardware arrived in March just in time to begin the installation of signals on the mainline.

the dispatcher in preparation for operating signals. February also saw a major renovation / construction project at the Nickel City Dispatch Center. Custom shelving and electrical work was completed which provided a more comfortable working environment for the dispatcher. It also cleared some much needed aisle space in the main hallway for crews to move around.

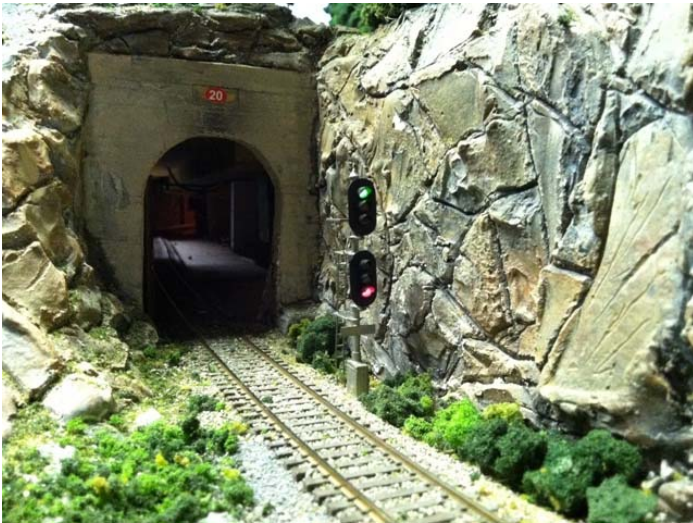
On May 12 the first working signals were tied into the signal boards and the



The new NCL Dispatch Center was completed in February.

JMRI software. The first signal was located on the mainline, eastbound at Monserrat just prior to the Monserrat interlock, followed by signals on the Ca-

nova Grade and the Monserrat Interlock. By the end of May signals were operating from the West end of Underwood through Monserrat.



A new signal approaching Underwood went in service in late May as part of the larger signal installation project started in January.

The number of improvements and upgrades to the NCL in the first half of 2013 greatly improved operations and added a new level of interest to the ops session.

NCL EMPLOYEES ACE SESSION 33

In April Management tallied the car routing results from Session 33 A, B and C which ran in February, March and April. In the report released to employees NCL Management praised its staff and was pleased to report a final score is 100%!

This is the first session where all cars arrived at the proper industry or yard. 226 cars were moved over the three segments of Session 33. No small undertaking by any means.

Congratulations to all our train crews on a job well done.

NO REST FOR SIGNAL WORKERS



Workers continue to install signals along the NCL mainline. Here MOW staff are installing a signal head in Sheppardsfield prior to turnout LT24.

2013 NICKEL CITY LINE OPERATIONS SCHEDULE

June

No Session - Layout Maintenance

July

No Session - Layout Maintenance

August

No Session - Layout Maintenance

September

September 25, 2013 7:00p to 9:00p

October

October 16, 2013 7:00p to 9:00p

November

November 17, 2013 11:00a to 3:30p

December

No Session—Happy Holidays