



The Nickel City Dispatch

News From The Nickel City Line Railroad

FEBRUARY 2007

AN EXTREMELY BUSY DAY ON THE NICKEL CITY LINE!

February 10th was extremely busy for train crews as they were tasked with moving a record 130 cars across NCL territory. A recent cold snap that plagued the region affected train operations as some track defects were noted due to contraction of the rails. Never the less, crews endeavored



The new Dispatch Center added a new dimension to regular Ops Sessions.

and moved around such gremlins in order to stay on schedule. While the Nickel City Yard became congested with freight traffic, the Ops Center was less crowded as the Dispatcher were

moved out of the main room and into a new Dispatch Room. Using a loconet cable and double computer monitors, the dispatcher controlled the entire layout from a remote location; a first for NCL ops sessions ever! This added a new variety to the regular sessions in that the dispatcher had to listen to the radio and could only see what was depicted on the computer screen in order to determine what was occurring on the layout.

In the end Trains 200, 203, and 714 remained in Nickel City as union work rules forced termination of the train shifts. As a result, 15 cars did not arrive at their final destinations. The overall score, despite this was 88%. Fortunately, it was "Saturday" on the NCL. Since "Sunday" is normally a light traffic day (no locals, commuters or intermodals), management is planning to hire back several employees for a session 17"A" or "Sunday" session. This may be an actual Sunday or it might be a weekday evening session (about 1.5 to 2 hours long) to unclog the yard and set up for Session 18. More on that to come.



Advanced Yard Master - Joel H.

At the end of the session, Joel H. was belatedly awarded his Advanced Dispatcher certificate. In addition, Greg T. was awarded his certificate for Yardmaster. The accounting office called later in the evening to notify management that two employees also earned certifications which were not



Yardmaster - Greg T.



New Union Hall

recognized during the session. Those employees are:
Rob McKeever - Master Engineer
Greg Tate - Engineer

Both employees will be recognized and presented their certificates at the next ops session

Finally, it has come to the attention of management, the the NCL Union has entered into a long term lease of office space in downtown Nickel City from the law firm of Dewy, Cheatum, and Howe. The first floor space located near the east end of Nickel

City Yard will be used for union meetings and social gatherings. Should any union action need the consultation of counsel, the members can run upstairs to the law firm of Dewy, Cheatum, and Howe for legal advice!

Congratulations to all. I was a great day on the railroad! See you at Session 17A or 18!