



The Nickel City Dispatch

News From The Nickel City Line Railroad

JANUARY 2004

NICKEL CITY BEGINS OPS IN 2004, AWARDS EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATIONS



January 3, 2004. NCL President and Chief Operations Officer (right) presents Ernie L. (left) with a Certificate of Completion for Model Railroad Engineer. Pictured in the background is NCL locomotive 270 which was the last locomotive Ernie operated before completing his certification hours.

The Nickel City Line began Formal Train Operations again in 2004. The first crews of the year eagerly reported to work and obtained their work assignments for the day. Train operations ran fairly smooth despite some delays on different areas of the mainline during the shifts. Several new employees underwent orientation and training and ran successful runs during their duty shift.

The crews managed to complete a 24 hour day of assignments in 27 hours!! That's dedication when management is trying to shut the layout down and the yard crew and engineers keep saying "A few more moves

and we'll have this train out of the yard and on the main!!" All management can say is "What a great group of operators we have at the NCL." The "Vets" were really showing off their knowledge of the track territory today as well. The dispatchers successfully used the newly installed Digitrax® DS54 train routing hardware in the east yard. The north yard is scheduled to be retrofitted with two DS54s which will make train routing for the dispatchers easier in the upcoming ops sessions.

As a special treat, management awarded a Certificate of Completion to Ernie L. for completing 10 hours of certified operations as Engineer (These hours will apply towards the NMRA Chief Dispatcher A.P. Certificate). Congratulations Ernie! Several other operators are under 2 hours away from certificates. Management is looking forward to seeing more Certificates be awarded to operators at future operations sessions.

On behalf of all the management and staff at the Nickel City Line, we wish everyone a Happy New Year and we look forward to another great year of Model Railroading in 2004!