



# The Nickel City Dispatch

*News From The Nickel City Line Railroad*

**MARCH 2004**

## **NEW EQUIPMENT AND MORE CERTIFICATIONS IN 2004**



Joel H (R) is presented with his Engineer's Certificate by the NCL President and CEO (L). Joel is the second employee to receive certification on the Nickel City Railroad. Photo by E. Nyström

For the second time in 2004, an NCL employee obtained certification through the NCL Training and Certification Program. Joel H. obtained over ten hours as a Locomotive Engineer and was awarded Engineer Certification by the NCL President and CEO. Joel met his remaining certification hours operating Locals 501 and 504. Each certification earned can also apply towards the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Achievement Program. In particular, the hours can be applied to the

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requirements of the Chief Dispatcher Certificate. In January 2004, Ernie L. obtained his Engineer's Certificate. "Each ops session brings another crew member closer to certification. We hope to certify several more folks this year" said the NCL CEO. The NCL Railroad has a staff of 25 operators. 2 of the 25 have obtained certification under the program.

### NEW EQUIPMENT MAKES TIME FLY

The fast freight arrived Friday afternoon and brought with it the long awaited Loconet Fast Clock (LNFC) from Logic Rail Technologies. The NCL placed an order through [Springhaven Shops](#) in Virginia for the clock. The clock coordinates time between the DCC computer system and all operator throttles. It also provides the dispatcher with a clear time display on his status board. The clock also features several functions that can be programmed into it including alarm and event triggers.

Technicians worked quickly Friday to install and test the equipment. The clock worked flawlessly right out of the box and settled some of the frantic time paces that had been encountered earlier when using the DCC command station alone. "This really smoothes things out for us" said one employee who wished to remain anonymous.

The clock will be permanently mounted in a special box designed for it in the near future. In the meantime it is installed in a temporary area in the Dispatcher's Office until the permanent move is made.



**The Loconet Fast Clock**

### ON TIME PERFORMANCE IMPROVES

With experience and familiarity come improvement and that is observed at each session on the NCL. Over 1100 scale hours (192 real time hours) have been operated on the NCL since November 2002. Employees have become familiar with the track territory and are now learning each job on the railroad. The management has noticed the improvement in overall on time performance for the railroad. "The confidence level of the employees is really starting to show through now" said the NCL CEO. "We may even begin to make a profit this year!"



**Train Crews Working the Mainline**



**The Operations Center**

While operating this shortline railroad is important to many, it is not the only interest. Several reports were received concerning Political posters in the Town of Sheppardsfield. It appears that NCL employee Tim B. has decided to run for Mayor. The Town of Sheppardsfield displayed numerous posters with the picture of Tim and the slogan "Elect Tim for Mayor". "We'll have to look at our ARs to make sure there is no conflict of interest.....I know Tim will do the best job he can if elected. He certainly has tackled some major jobs while employed here" said the NCL Management. Tim was unavailable for comment. ☒