

NICKEL CITY LINE RAILROAD

TRAIN OPERATIONS SESSION DATES

All Dates are Subject to Change

Session Key
A: 0001 – 0600
B: 0600 – 1200
C: 12:00 – 1800
D: 18:00 - 2400

2026

January

Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 77B Monday, January 19, 2026 – 7p to 9p 77C

February

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 77D Saturday, February 21, 2026 – 10a to 1p – **Beltway Ops Group 78A**

March

Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 78B Monday, March 16, 2026 – 7p to 9p 78C

April

No Sessions – Spring Break

May

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 78D Monday, May 11, 2026 – 7p – 9p 79A

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Thursday, June 11, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 79B Saturday, June 20, 2026 – 10a to 1p – **Beltway Ops Group 79C**

July

Thursday, July 9, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 79D
Saturday, July 25, 2026 – 10a to 2:30p – *RVA-Charlottesville Invite/* **Beltway Ops Group 80A**August

No Sessions – Summer Break

September

Thursday, September 10, 2026 – 9:30a - 12:30p 80B Monday, September 14, 2026 – 7p to 9p 80C

October

Thursday, October 8, 2026 – 9:30a - 12:30p 80D Saturday, October 17, 2026 – 10a to 1p 82A

November

Thursday, November 12, 2026 – 9:30a to 12:30p 82B

Thursday, November 19- Sunday - November 22, 2026 (DC-NJ Interchange) 81C 250th Session

2 Session TBA

December

No Sessions – Winter Break

Guest Throttles

The Nickel City Line is a Digital Command Controlled Layout using the Digitrax DCC System. Guest operators may use their own Digitrax DCC throttle or use one of the following guest throttles. Please note that the Nickel City Line is radio controlled using the Digitrax Simplex and duplex radio systems.

Throttle Status

Digitrax UT2 Throttle (non-radio - Plug in only) - 1 unit Available

Digitrax UT4 Throttle (non-radio - Plug in only) – 3 units in use

Digitrax UT4R Throttle (Simplex Radio) - 4 units available

Digitrax DT400R Throttle (Simplex Radio) - 1 unit available

Digitrax DT500D Radio Throttle (Duplex) – 1 unit available

WiFi Throttles

iPhone using WiiThrottle – 2 phones available

WiFi Throttles and apps which interface with JMRI through WiFi are supported. Examples are EngineDriver, WiThrottle, Train Driver, and TCS's UWT-50 and UWT-100 throttles.

Two Way Radios

Train Crews on the Nickel City Line communicate with the Dispatcher and Yardmaster via two- way FRS/ GMRS radios or via the Internet on Zello.

Guests are welcome to bring their own FRS/GMRS radio to each session.

The NCL Management maintains 10 radios for use by Trains Crews, the Dispatcher and Yardmaster.

Radio Channels used by the NCL are:

Road Channel: 8.19 (Zello – NCL Dispatch)

Yardmaster Channel: 9.19 (Zello – NCL Yard)

Track Authority Channel: 10.19 (Zello – NCL Switching)