



# The Nickel City Dispatch

*News From The Nickel City Line Railroad*

DECEMBER 2008

## WORK CREWS BEGIN NEW HARRISBURG ROUTE



**A NCL Work Crew survey existing and proposed track route to Harrisburg, Pa.**

NCL work crews began the eagerly awaited redesign of the mainline route from Nickel City to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The existing route, initially constructed in the 1800s and modified several times afterward has proven problematic in today's age of large locomotives and freight cars. The new route will feature grades more suited to modern diesels and railcars. This will also ease fuel consumption somewhat as trains use less power to ascend the newer grades.

The Survey Department has completed preliminary designs using 3<sup>rd</sup> Planit software. While the final layout of the designed is still pending, there was enough base work to allow right of way work to proceed. Surrounding communities could hear distant blasting today as work crews began cutting through the rocky cuts of the surrounding mountains to make way for the new line. While work began on the Harrisburg route, additional work crews began finalizing the last leg of the Western route from Monserrat to Ridgway. Once completed, this new route will alleviate congestion on the Northern Division which has been serving to accommodate the West bound traffic for a number of years.

Big changes and more enhancement to operations will make 2009 a very interesting year for customers and train crews alike.

## 2008 Operations Recap

The final session of 2008 was held on Sunday, November 23. Crews arrived at 11am and ran a number of trains throughout the day. At the end of the day 137 cars traveled over NCL territory. 117 cars arrived at their final destination for an end score of 85.4%. M. Thompson received his Yardmaster certification. B. Lyders received his Advanced Engineer certification.

In 2008 we ran four sessions, moving 569 cars over the railroad. 530 cars successfully arrived for a score for the year of 93.15%. The NCL awarded two basic certificates, five advanced certificates and two master certificates to its employees. To date crews have operated over 1038 hours on the NCL in over 30 sessions (several sessions predate the ShipiT software sessions)!

In 2008 the railroad made the following improvements:

Installed a new Loco-buffer

Updated JMRI software

Added "virtual" signals and Logix to JMRI panel.

Purchased three double decker commuter cars

Purchased Two BLI SD-40 locomotives

Purchased one Kato GP35 locomotive

Purchased 9 trailer train cars

Purchased 15 Impact cars

Hardwired LT31 and LT32 at Monserrat to SE8C board

To all our employees and visitors, the Nickel City Line wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2009.

# 2008 Employee Certifications

Below are the employee certification hours as of November 2008.

Updated : 11/30/2008

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	ENGINEER	YARD MASTER	HOSTLER	TOWERMAN	DISPATCHER	TOTAL HRS	
001	27.32	28.59	23.39	41.05	14.75	135.1	
100	46.02	19.66	11.96	0	20.83	98.47	
101	7.63	5	0	0	2	14.63	
105	27.29	14.19	1.33	0	2.5	45.31	
106	8.35	2	0	0	10	20.35	
113	29.23	45.47	20.86	0	13.11	108.67	
115	3.16	2.66	0	0	1.33	7.15	
117	1.75	0	0	0	0	1.75	
119	21.7	14.46	8.1	0	10.32	54.58	
120	35.33	30.31	13.86	0	15.78	95.28	
121	18.51	10.36	3.73	0	4.42	37.02	
122	31.09	16.87	11.05	0	20.79	79.8	
124	14.53	10	0	0	2.17	26.7	
126	29.84	21.87	2.5	0	6.83	61.04	
127	2.77	2	0	0	0	4.77	
128	19.37	11.38	2.57	0	3.17	36.49	
129	5.73	2.58	0	0	0	8.31	
130	25.63	20.12	0	0	3.87	49.62	
131	1.5	2	0	0	0	3.5	
133	3.8	5.05	0	0	0	8.85	
135	7.16	0	0	0	0	7.16	
136	4.73	0	0	0	0	4.73	
137	13.22	5	0	0	0	18.22	
138	2.67	0	0	0	0	2.67	
139	3.43	0	0	0	0	3.43	
140	4.54	0	0	0	0	4.54	
total hrs	457.11	303.03	100.67	41.05	137.02	1038.88	6233.28

Color Key  Advanced Certification  Master Certification

EMPLOYEE COUNT = 25

**Code Key:**  Denotes 3 or less hours to next certificate

**TRAINEE** = Entry Level Position. Has either no certifications or some, but is not a Certified Railroad Operator (CRO)

**CERTIFIED**= Certified Railroad Operator: Minimum Certification as D&H plus two other (E,T or Y) and 50 hours operating Time

**ADVANCED**= Advanced Railroad Operator: Minimum Certification as CRO, and AD&AH plus one other (AE,AT or AY) and additional 40 hours (90 hours total) operating time

**MASTER**= Master Railroad Operator: Minimum Certification as ARO, and MD&MH plus one other (ME,MT or MY) and additional 40 hours (130 hours total) operating time