



The Nickel City Dispatch

News From The Nickel City Line Railroad

JUNE 2006

EMPLOYEES BECOME CERTIFIED OPERATORS

The midnight crew reported on time to the main yard in Nickel City, and were faced with a challenge this night as Train 200 from Session the previous day had not departed and it's consist had been pulled off but not sorted. Yard crews proceeded immediately to the task of breaking down 200's consist and adding the proper cars to send it on it's way. By 2:30AM Train 200 departed the Nickel City Yard (about 2 1/2 hours late). Train 501 had been waiting since 1AM but it's consist was delayed by Train 200. By 3:30AM Train 501 was ready to depart (another 2 1/2 hour delay). The yard crew worked furiously to make up for lost time. By shift change at noon things had pretty much caught up. However, another issue arose. Several employees had been granted leave that day in excess of available leave slots. As a result, staffing dropped by almost 50% for the second shift. Still the engineers, ops center employees and yard crews prevailed under difficult circumstances and were able to get all trains to their final destinations in a timely fashion, even finishing 5 minutes early for the day! News that the Pennsylvania Railroad was experiencing a work slow down resulted in the cancellation of Trains BF3 and BF4 for the day. Although this cleared some traffic off the mainline, it did not affect yard operations in any way.

Members of the NCL Union even found time during all the activity to elect their new President, Don E, who will be hosting the inaugural banquet this evening (Sunday, June 25) for all union members. Members voted to have Don provide steak and lobster at one of the area's finer dining establishments. Thanks Don! The Union even invited management too!

At the conclusion of the day, employees gathered in the second floor conference room at Nickel City Line Headquarters where several employees were recognized for railroad accomplishments. The awardees were:



Rob M. (left) receives his advanced Engineer certification

Certificate of Completion - 10 hours in a single category

Joel H. - Hostler

Ernie L. - Hostler

Certificate of Advanced Achievement - 20 hours in a single category

Joel H. - Advanced Engineer

Ernie L. - Advanced Engineer

Rob M. - Advanced Engineer

Finally, two employees were recognized for

significant accomplishments on the railroad. These employees achieved 50 hours of operation on the railroad while certifying in at least 10 hours in each of four required categories. Besides meeting the NCL requirements, these individuals have met the operating requirements for the National Model Railroad Association's Chief Dispatcher Certificate. Congratulations go to:

Joel H. - Certified Railroad Operator

Ernie L. - Certified Railroad Operator

Both employees are now promoted from Trainee to Certified status.



Joel H. (left) receives his Certified Railroad Operator certificate.



Ernie L. (left) receives his Certified Railroad Operator certificate.

After the awards ceremony, management and labor joined together in downtown Nickel City for a celebratory drink in recognition of a year of peaceful operations! More ops sessions are forthcoming. Congratulations to all the NCL employees on a job well done!

