



# The Nickel City Dispatch

*News From The Nickel City Line Railroad*

DECEMBER 2004

## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE NICKEL CITY LINE RAILROAD



**Crew Members gathered to celebrate the holidays!**

**Happy Holidays from the Nickel City Line.** The 2004 Ops season closed out in November with a crew performance rating of 95.4 percent. In 2004 the Nickel City Line began using computerized car forwarding software from Albion Software known as ShipiT. The program is a great improvement over the manual setup formerly used. Crews were able to adjust quickly to the computerized switch lists and even seemed to like them better than the first generation lists used for the past year and a half. Under the new system, crew performance was rated consistently at over 90%.

### **OPERATORS CERTIFY**

2004 marked another milestone for the railroad. Eight operators certified in one or more categories as they work toward Certified Railroad Operator status. Operators met the requirements of one or more categories which included Dispatcher, Engineer, Hostler, and Yardmaster. Several other operators are expected to certify in one or more categories in 2005.

### **NEW TERRITORY ADDED**



Basic platform work is shown here for Monserrat. Since this photo, roadbed and tracks have been added.

The NCL expanded territory in 2004. The basic deck work and scenery for the town of Monserrat were installed and made operational. Scenery and small details will be added in 2005. The addition of Monserrat has relieved some congestion on the upper deck. In the near future the west staging yard will be

installed which will significantly upgrade operations and relieve the congestion the NCL currently experiences under the current “compressed” schedule. This will also provide an opportunity to add a few more trains to the current ops roster.

### **GEOLOGISTS FIND FAULT**

Area geologist discovered a fault near Mills River. The large cracks in the terrain were first reported by NCL employee J. Huntzinger. After confirmation of the geological find, the geology team named the area “Huntzinger’s Fault. NCL Corps of Engineers were able to stabilize and repair the area affected. However, in order to prevent a repeat of these conditions, geologist have declared a “**No Lean Zone**”.



NO LEAN ZONE established around Huntzinger's Fault in Mills River.

Because of soil instability in this area, operators are strongly discouraged from leaning on any landforms in this area. Signs are expected to be posted in the area in the near future.

### **BEAUTIFICATION IS HERE**

Over the years the residents of the small community of Mills River have complained about the lack of green space in their community. They often felt they lived in a more urban than rural landscape. The Nickel City Corps of Engineers and the Parks and Recreation Department over the past several



Waterfalls outside of Mills River.

months have endeavored to return Mills River back to its green splendor. The process is almost complete as witnessed by the above photograph.

## **NICKEL CITY LINE PURCHASES NEW MODERN LOCOMOTIVE**



Prototype Photo: GE AC6000CW

The management of the Nickel City Line Railroad Company announced at its annual Christmas Party, the purchase of an AC6000CW from General Electric Company. This 6000 hp locomotive was ordered at the last moment in a deal with Wholesale Trains, Inc. The unit will be shipped from GE's Erie Pa. plant

unpainted and is expected to arrive in Nickel City before the New Year. No locomotive number has been discussed although there have been rumors that the number will be the first 4 digit locomotive number in the fleet. Upon it's arrival, the AC6000CW will be inspected and routed to the NCL paint shop for application of the NCL recognized paint scheme of red and blue with white stripes.

"We are very pleased with this purchase." said President and CEO Bob R. "Our job performance ratings in 2004 were above 90% overall and that provided us enough capital to make this purchase..... this locomotive will greatly assist us in moving more products efficiently through NCL territory!" Training on the new locomotive will begin in January and the unit is expected to be put into revenue service as early as February.

### **WRAP UP**

Well that wraps up activity for 2004. The NCL has recessed for the remainder of 2004 while the railroad undergoes minor repairs and upgrades. Ops sessions will recommence in the latter part of January 2005. Until then, have a happy holiday and a great New Year!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE NICKEL CITY LINE  
RAILROAD**