



# The Nickel City Dispatch

*News From The Nickel City Line Railroad*

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JANUARY 2007

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## NEW EQUIPMENT, MORE ACTION HIGHLIGHT NEW YEAR



**Two new BLSW7 locomotives sit outside the locomotive shops in Nickel City.** January started off with a bang as a full house hosted the first operations session of the year. Ten crew members arrived on January 13<sup>th</sup> for an action packed session full of train cars and switching maneuvers. The Nickel City Line hosted numerous firsts for this January event. The railroad upgraded its

communications system, abandoning the aging 46 MHz channels for the 467 MHz band. The improved communications system eliminated interference and bleed over from adjacent channels and provided a strong carrier signal for engineers to communicate with the Dispatcher.



A new building was erected in the locomotive yard for train crews. The new yard office houses the Hostler's Office and a crew lounge where crews can stay in a climate controlled environment when not on duty. Work crews also completed the installation of fueling and locomotive service facilities in the yard as well as the construction of a locomotive wash rack. Now motive power can get top notch service during layovers. In the Dispatch Center, Dispatchers were

treated to a new JMRI computer dispatching system. Crews completed installation of several Digitrax SE8C boards, upgrading to a network computer control system. Old hardwired components were removed and software was installed to control turnouts and signals. Dispatchers quickly adapted to the new system which is still in the process of upgrade. Finally, members of Union 050 presented management with two new SW7 locomotives from Broadway Limited. One undecorated and one Frisco locomotive were unveiled in the locomotive yard. The undecorated unit was pressed into service immediately for yard work while the Frisco unit remained in storage. Both units will be painted to Nickel City colors. Numbers to be assigned will be 415 and 416.



Turning to ops, crews ran a full schedule on the 13<sup>th</sup>; moving 119 cars through the NCL territory. In the end crews scored 97.4% at the end of the session. Joel H. earned his Advanced Yardmaster's certificate after completing more than 20 hours in the Yardmaster position. It was a good day that ended with a celebratory toast to the New Year. More action and session to come. See you at the next event!