

THE JOBS

Participants in formal operation sessions assume a variety of jobs during each session. The following are a list of jobs and a description of their associated duties:

Engineer:

a) Mainline Passenger or Freight Engineer:



Shall run their train in a manner that simulates the prototype, following the rules of the model railroad being used, and operating according to the signal system (if present) or by direct instruction of the Dispatcher. The NCL will install a signally system in the near future. In the meantime, the railroad operates by Dispatcher Train Control

(DTC). The Dispatcher controls all mainline switches and verbally authorizes train movements between designated points via two way radio.

b) Wayfreight Engineer:

Will meet the requirements of Mainline Engineer. In addition, he or she shall perform all required switching with approval from the Dispatcher in a manner not to adversely affect the overall railroad schedule or operations. The Wayfreight Engineer operates any one of three local trains during an operating session.

Operating in a prototype manner includes no 'jack-rabbit' starts or sudden stops during normal operations.

Yardmaster:

Yardmaster (General): Runs the freight yard. He or she makes up trains with the appropriate cars in the desired numbers to have trains ready when the timetable or Dispatcher requires them. Generally, the Yardmaster operates the switch engine, but in a large yard could direct other yard engineers. On the NCL, the job of Yardmaster is broken down into three jobs:

- a. **Yardmaster** – Controls the operation of the main yard in Nickel City. Authorizes train arrivals and departures and sets routes for arrival and departure tracks. Coordinates arriving and departing train movements with the Dispatcher.

- b. **Yard Engineer** – Operates the yard engine. Collects and retrieves railcars within the main yard. Sets up and breaks down rail cars for arriving and departing trains.
- c. **Yard Brakeman** – Directs the movements of the yard engine when making up and breaking down consists for trains. Handles the yard switch lists; plans moves and coordinates movement of railcars within the yard; operates manual ground throws; couples and uncouples cars.

One or more of the above positions within the Yardmaster category can be combined depending upon the number of available operators for each ops session.

Hostler:



Hostler: Shall run the engine facilities. He or she shall have each locomotive facing the correct direction, double-headed or lashed up, ready for the Engineer to easily leave the engine area. Service to locomotives shall be simulated. Returning locomotives are placed in their appropriate stalls or tracks. On layouts with advanced control systems, the Hostler can handle assignment of locomotives to the appropriate engineer's throttle.

On the NCL, the Hostler maintains all switch lists; programs each DCC throttle for on coming crews; calls train crews; maintains the Call Sheet, making sure train crews sign in and sign out properly; pulls proper locomotives from the engine yard and stages them in proper direction on the departure track; retrieves inbound locomotives from the arrival track; services arriving locomotives; turns locomotives on the turntable; places locomotives on proper storage track; deselects locomotives from DCC throttles.

Towerman:

- a) **Traffic Manager:** Determines which cars come and go from each industry, and the amount and location of traffic, and specifies the route. May create a computer program to do this automatically.
- b) **Road Master:** The operating trouble-shooter and repair person. He or she keeps things moving smoothly. Can take track in or out of service.

Dispatcher:

Dispatcher: Coordinates all train movements, either by sequence, timetable and fast clock, or other operating system. The Dispatcher routes all trains based upon their final destination; arranges train meets of trains; authorizes trains to proceed between designated points; powers up and powers down staging tracks as needed; maintains Dispatcher log of train activities.



Hours accumulated in each of the 5 major categories earn an operator credit towards various levels of certifications.