

Ops Saturday Extra Session Report

Article by Ernie Little, MMR

Photos by Bob Rodriguez, MMR

On the morning of Saturday, March 4, 2023, an Operations session was held on Bob Rodriguez's Nickel City Line Railroad. The session was originally to be a part of the Potomac Division's Ops Saturday event however due to lack of sign ups the session was cancelled. However, the session was then advertised to the group of Operators that participate in Bob's operations sessions and a nine Operators signed up to make the session possible. The Line runs from Harrisburg and Shippensburg, Pennsylvania in the east, to Ridgway, Pennsylvania in the west. The Nickel City Line was designed as an operations railroad and is controlled by DCC. This layout is also setup for Virtual Operations which allows dispatching, control, and running of trains via the internet by Operators anywhere in the world!



Here the Nickel City Yard is awaiting arrival of incoming trains to allow the Yard George Meyrick and Yard Engineer Steve Samul to go into action. In the background an Amtrak passenger train is preparing to stop at the Nickel City Station on Track 1.

Operator Dick Munnikhuisen is working on the main between Nickel City and Sheppardsfield and Operator Al Ravella is working his freight train in Sheppardsfield. Al has a lot of work in Sheppardsfield picking up and setting our cars at the mine and other facilities there.



Meanwhile, Operator Bill Mims is busy in Canova working the industries there.



Dispatcher Brian Kidd is working hard to coordinate the movement of the trains on the Nickel City. His job, keep the trains moving effectively and efficiently. We have to remember, "Time is Money" in the mind of the NCLRR's President and CEO. Here you can see the train status board, the railroad's track management system board, and of course the telephone that allows communication with the other points on the NCLRR.

It got a little cramped in Nickel City Yard at one point, Yardmaster George Meyrick, Yard Engineer Steve Samul, and Operator Ernie Little are getting Ernie's freight train made up so he can depart. What you can't see is that two trains are preparing to enter the yard and one just left going to Sheppardsfield but hasn't cleared the yard limits yet.

