

(AP Nickel City, PA) Sunday, October 2, 2023 – UPDATE to the October 1, 2023 Press Release

Saturday, September 30, 2023, was a special day for Potomac Division member Bob Rodriguez who hosted the 200th Operations Session on his Nickel City Line HO scale model railroad layout. The Operations session was conducted in two shifts, the first from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and the second from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm with a total of 16 participants on site, 1 virtual participant from Long Island, NY, and two visitors.

The Nickel City Railroad was named for the Nickel Diner restaurant that used to be in Baltimore, Maryland. The first Operations session on the NCL was held on November 30, 2002, with 14 attendees and 17 trains operating during the session.



Two unprecedented events took place during the shifts, the first being a steam locomotive special that ran from one end of the railroad and back.

The second being the arrival of the first passenger train at the Dubois train station.



On the left is the 200th session am dispatching crew, Asst. Dispatcher Herb Biegel and Dispatcher Bryan Kidd.

On the right is the 200th session am shift in Nickel City Yard personnel yard Engineer Bill Lyders, yard master Ernie Little, and Hostler Pete LaGuardia.



On the right participants, Joel Hoffman, Ernie Little, Bob Rodriguez, Pete LaGuardia, and Rob McKeever socialize after a hard day of operations circa 2006.



On June 25, 2005, Local 050 members Joel Hoffman, Bryan Kidd, Greg Tate, Pete LaGuardia, Max Hipsher, Scott Henry, Rob McKeever, Don Engel, and Ernie set up a picket line in NCL President Rodriguez's front yard prior to the scheduled Operations Session. Their demands included wider aisles, free derailment insurance, Yankees score updates every 30 minutes, see thru mountains, a boycott of Underwood,

more daylight hours, double certification hours, free batteries, and MORE running time. After a short negotiation the Operations session went on as scheduled without incident.



On the left, participants of the 50th Operations session included Bob Rodriguez, Greg Tate, Ernie Little, Bill Lyders, and Rob McKeever.

On the right, participants of the 100th Operations session included Greg Tate, George Meyrick, Bill Lyders, Bryan Kidd, Matt McMullen, Joel Hoffman, Ernie Little, Pete LaGuardia, Lee Stoermer, and Phil Raymond.



On the left, participants of the 200th Operations session preparing to have their cake. Included are Ernie Little, Bill Lyders, Greg Tate, Pete LaGuardia, Steve Samul, Rich Steinmann, Matt McMullen, George Meyrick, Bryan Kidd, John Vogler, Bob Long, Al Ravella, Lamont Ward, Lee Stoermer, Herb Biegel, and Bob Rodriguez.

The 200th session participants were served pizza for lunch, given participation certificates, and coffee mugs. And how can I not mention we had CAKE!



And for those who desired Nickel City crew shirts they came out looking very sharp!



Finally, from all of the 200th Operations session participants is our thanks to the Chief Executive Officer, Train Support Officer, President, Superintendent, Logistics Specialist, Engineer, Electrician, Carpenter, and just a great all-around fellow Bob Rodriguez for all of his hard work and diligence in hosting the 200 sessions. Now all that is left to celebrate the 300th session in the future!

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