



The Westconn Manifest

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Western Connecticut Chapter of the
National Railway Historical Society



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

January 2006



"A Boy and His Train"

By Anthony Gruerio Jr.

"In May of 2005, my Nephew Gregory came to visit me at the SoNo Switch Tower Museum. He was very excited to see a diesel roll by as it started its trip up to Danbury. When he gets older, he'll learn that this locomotive was built when his Grandfather was in high school!"



Photo by Bob Gambling of Grand Central Terminal - Saturday December 10, 2005.

THE WESTCONN MANIFEST

is the official newsletter of the Western Connecticut Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society – (NRHS).

Articles which appear in

THE WESTCONN MANIFEST

do not express official NRHS position unless specifically noted as such.

Material from **THE WESTCONN MANIFEST** may be reprinted in other publications, provided the credit is given.

Please address comments, any contributions of material, complaints and exchange copies of other chapter newsletters to:

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The Western Connecticut Chapter of the NRHS is separately incorporated as a CT not-for-profit corporation.

The Chapter is involved in the preservation of American railroad history and artifacts.

Chapter Officers

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The Chapter meets monthly, usually on the 4th Monday, at the United Congregational Church 275 Richards Ave. in Norwalk, CT or at the SoNo Switch Tower Museum 77 Washington St. Norwalk, CT
at 7:30 P.M.

Meeting dates for 2006:

1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22*, 6/26*, 7/24*, 8/28*, 9/25*, 10/23, 11/27 and 12/18.

*Chapter meeting to be held at the SoNo Switch Tower in South Norwalk, CT

The SoNo Switch Tower Museum is maintained and operated by volunteers of the Western Connecticut Chapter.

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Dues Renewals

Due to unexpected problems the National was unable to get the renewals out as predicted.

We have been notified that the renewals have now been sent out and we should have them in time of the January meeting.

Update on Last Months Local News from John Mount

I re-visited the site end December and the line across the Tomlinson Bridge into the Port of New Haven has been extended across RT. 1 and along the east side of the main port road (not down the middle of the road as in New Haven days).

Track has been laid a hundred yards or so to opposite the main gate of Gateway Terminal. There has been extensive work done on a retaining wall to make room for the trackage. A concrete platform and off loading ramp has been placed near the end of currently laid track. A tamping machine, with Kennedy RR Builders on the side, is sitting at track end. It appears that the line will go further (perhaps to the power plant).

Dana Hunt passed this along -

From the TRAINS Newswire:
Proposed NJ Transit photography ban scuttled

NEWARK, N.J. – NJ Transit's proposed plan to require consent and/or notification prior to non-commercial photography on its commuter-train lines system wide has been scrapped, according to NJ Transit spokesman Dan Stessel, who said NJT Executive Director George D. Warrington concluded that the rule change would be impractical and withdrew the proposed amendment.

"Effective immediately, we will return to our historic practice, which enables hobbyists and other non-commercial photographers to take pictures in public areas throughout the NJ Transit system without obtaining permission or providing prior notice," said Warrington. "There will also continue to be no restrictions on journalists in public areas of the system."

Steam Improvements on the Grand Canyon Railway

Grand Canyon has recently completed the installation of Lempor exhaust systems to their steam locomotives no. 4960 and no. 29. These two locomotives mark the first Lempor installations on conventional steam locomotives in the U.S. The Grand Canyon operates a first-class operation, with significant grades, heavy consists, and heavy ridership. It will be an excellent proving ground for the benefits of the Lempor in the U.S.

Nigel Day is the designer behind this work on the two front-line steam locomotives of the Grand Canyon Railway. Number 4960, a former Burlington Route 2-8-2, and number 29, a former LS&I 2-8-0, were fitted with Lempor exhausts over the past few months. The following photos show the modified engines in operation, as well as the fabrication and installation of the Lempor exhausts. The two locomotives are reported to be performing well.

Nigel is currently working on the Mt. Washington Cog Railway in New Hampshire performing modifications on No. 9 "Waumbek".

For more information on the Grand Canyon Railway, visit: <http://www.thetrain.com>.

Read more about Nigel on Martyn Bane's webpage at <http://www.martynbane.co.uk/>. Click on "Modern Steam Locomotives", then "Nigel Day", then "Mt. Washington", or you may go directly to the Mt. Washington section:

<http://www.martynbane.co.uk/modernsteam/nday/mw/ndaymwhome.htm>

Found by Robert Briechele on www.trainweb.org



Photo by Tim Shields

BNSF # 4810 is leading a westbound stack train thru the interlocking of CP 176. @ 9:30 am on 11/13/05

When Chief and I visited the Chicago area for the Notre Dame vs. Navy game, on Sunday morning we stopped in Willow Springs Ill. for a little railfanning before our flight home at CP176,(MP17.6 on the old Santa Fe mainline.) This interlocking is just west of the massive UPS yard. Soon after we shot this train we headed to the airport, returned in our rental car and were on our flight back to New York City before you knew it....just scratching the "tip of the iceberg" in Chicago. There is so much to see in the RR capital of the world, and someday I will return!!



Photo by Janet Neulinger

BNFS at Gibbs, MO, milepost 306.4 passing the detector. Photo taken from the old wooden bridge.



Photo by Dana Laird

Jim Thorpe, PA, November 7, 2005.

Here is some of the equipment used by the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway and the Reading and Northern Railroad.



Photo by Janet Neulinger

UP on Cima Hill, Mojave National Preserve, California high desert. Got called in by the engineer and cops were there within 15 minutes but we evaded them due to sun glare, ha ha. This was the desert - no way that should have happened!

Photo by Tony White

Trucks are important for engines. Sitting on unusual trucks in Juniata Yard are CSX GP15 #152 nee CR #1678 and SD40-2 #8827 nee CR #6430. Their fate unknown.



An easy way for you to help your Chapter.

If you do on-line shopping you can earn money for The Western Connecticut Chapter
 By going to either www.westctnrhs.org or www.sonotower.org
 and clicking on the Shop for Charity Day banner.

This will take you to their site and as long as you stay within this link - your purchases will earn a percentage of your purchase for the Chapter.

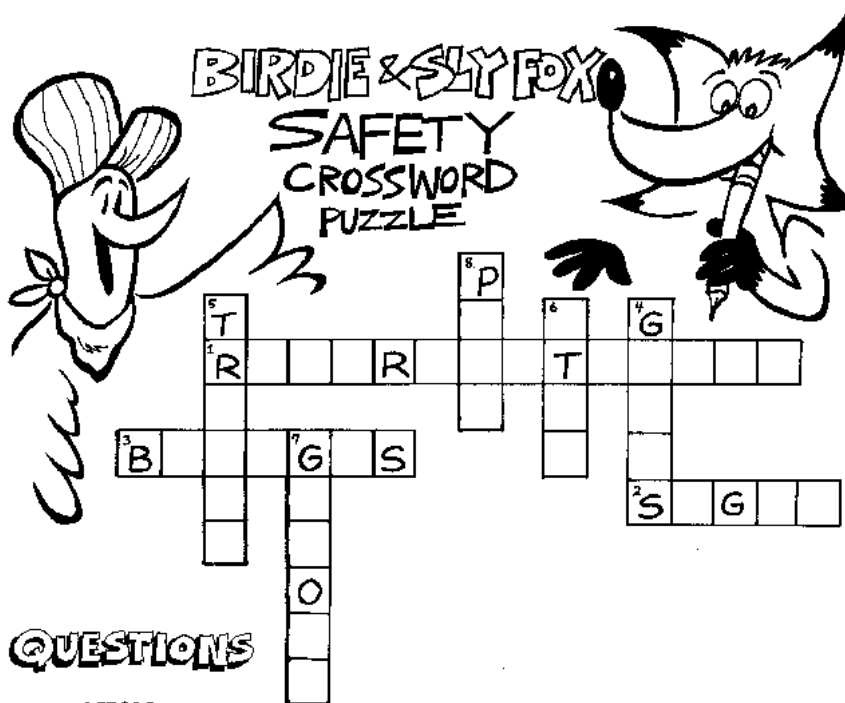
They have over a 1,000 stores listed. Just look for the store you want to shop from or browse through the list. The prices are the same as if you went their directly. The only difference is that your chapter benefits from your purchases.

So, before you make your next on-line purchase, please take a minute to see if the store you are making purchases from is listed.

This site does not require you to give any personal information, nor are there any hidden charges .

Thank you!

Please contact Roberta Ballard at: 203 792-8558 or editor@westctnrhs.org if you have any questions or concerns.



QUESTIONS

ACROSS

1. NEVER WALK NEAR OR CLIMB ON WHAT?
2. WHAT TELLS YOU RAILROAD TRACKS ARE NEAR?
3. THEY ARE ONLY WIDE ENOUGH FOR THE TRAIN.

DOWN

4. NEVER DRIVE OR WALK AROUND THE CROSSING WHEN THEY ARE DOWN.
5. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO SEE ON A RAILROAD TRACK?
6. WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU CAN HEAR THE TRAIN WHISTLE. _____, LOOK AND LISTEN.
7. IF YOUR CAR STOPS ON THE TRACKS, YOU SHOULD DO THIS AND RUN AWAY!
8. TRAINS CAN'T STOP QUICKLY, SO NEVER DO THIS AROUND TRACKS.



Photo by Tony White

On the right is Doyle McCormack, an engineer for the Union Pacific and the City of Portland owned SP "Daylight" #4449. He is currently involved in the restoration of two former D&H PA1's. Doyle is shown hanging out with 2 rear platform snobs, Roberta Ballard and Tony White on the read platform of the NYC-3 while in Portland, OR for the NRHS convention during a 23 day trip.

Photo by Dana Laird

Monday December 26th, 2005
Hiram, Maine.

There was a museum in an adjacent building that was not open the day she went by.



Westconn Schedule of Events

Monday - Jan. 23, 2006 - 7:30 pm - Chapter meeting at **The United Congregational Church** 275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT.

Saturday Jan. 28 and Sunday January 29, 2006 - Amherst Railway Society **Big 2006 Railroad Hobby Show**
Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10 - 5 at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds West Springfield, MA.

Monday Feb. 27, 2006 - 7:30 pm - Chapter meeting at **The United Congregational Church** 275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT.

Monday March 27, 2006 - 7:30 pm - Chapter meeting at **The United Congregational Church** 275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT.



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

Our Next Chapter meeting will be
Monday, January 23 at 7:30PM at:
The United Congregational Church
275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT

Entertainment will be provided by:

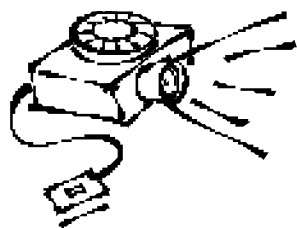
Tony Fitzherbert

"An Appreciation of Metro-North"

A 35 year appreciation of tribute to Tony's employer, Metro-North.

You will see all 3 lines, and generations of equipment!

Also, events that will most likely never happen again.



Bob Gambling will provide refreshments.