

The WestConn Manifest

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



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

January 2007

Happy New Year!



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

President : Buck Neulinger
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Vice Pres. : Robert Westerfield
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Secretary : Roberta Ballard
secretary@westctnrhs.org
Treasurer : John Garofalo
treasurer@westctnrhs.org
Nat'l. Director : Tony White
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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:**

1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 5/1 (Annual Dinner),
5/21*, 6/25*, 7/23*, 8/27*, 9/24*, 10/22*,
11/19 and **12/17.**

*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.

Western Connecticut Chapter - NRHS
Inc.

77 Washington Street
Norwalk, CT 06854

203 246-6958

www.westctnrhs.org
www.sonotower.org



We now have Western Connecticut Chapter
and

SoNo Switch Tower pins for sale in the
Museum Gift Shop or by mail.

Cost is only \$5.00 each and
members receive a 10% discount.



REMINDER

**The January Monthly Chapter meeting will be held
On Monday, January 22 at 7:30 PM at the United Congregational
Church
275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT**

Accessories - Binoculars from Stuart Werner

Serious rail fans ought to consider acquiring binoculars. Not all rail lines are in readily accessible locations. Therefore, they can only be seen from a safe distance. Also, for safety reasons, it is inadvisable to enter an active rail yard for a closer look, aside from security concerns.

The 'Consumer Reports' Jan. 2007 edition has a 1-page article on binoculars. They reviewed 36 models. They rated the Olympus 8X21 RC1 a best buy, at only \$60. ahead of models costing as much as \$850. Read the article for more details.

Book Review - from Stuart Werner

The Men Who Loved Trains

By Rush Loving, Jr., Indiana University Press,
601 North Morton St, Bloomington, IN 47404, 2006, 360 pages

The book takes you on a 44+ years journey that starts about in 1960 and ends in 2004. It relates the now-familiar story of such events as the run-up to the Perm Central merger and subsequent disaster, the U.S. Railroad Association (USRA), the creation of Amtrak, the coming of Conrail, the Staggers Act, the privatization of Conrail, the breakup of Conrail by the NS and the CSX. The names of the players are familiar ones - Alfred Perlman, Stuart Saunders, James Symes, Stanley Crane, Graham Claytor, Robert Claytor, David LeVan, John Snow, etc.

The story of Jim McClellan is interwoven throughout the book. He is a young graduate with a masters degree in transportation economics who joins the Southern Railway in 1962, then joins the New York Central, joins the FRA, the USRA, Amtrak, returns to the FRA, works for the AAR, and ends his career with the Norfolk Southern in 2003. He is a hero of the story. Since the general public does not know Mr. McClellan, it requires a leap of faith to believe that his prescience saved Eastern railroading through his participation in key events over a 40-year time frame.

The book does provide useful insights and narrative of key events.
There are a few black and white photos. Some maps would help.



Photo credit: Gregory Avey

These photos are from Denver. They have been in a draught the last few years and It appears they are going to catch up in just a few weeks.



Photo credit: Howard Pincus

These photos of the new shop being built by The Railroad Museum of New England In Thomaston, CT were taken on January 12, 2007. Floor slabs need to be coated with concrete sealant/hardner before the rail is pulled in. That should take place next week, weather permitting. Then, rail installation.

Photos by Bob Gambling



Canaan, CT station reconstruction Jan. 9, 2007

Meeting of the WestConn Chapter NRHS
Dec.18, 2006 United Congregational Church

The meeting was called to order by President Buck Neulinger at 7:30. There were 5 officers and 11 members present.

President's report: The President thanked all those who volunteered at the Tower this year. He also thanked John Garofalo and Bob Gambling for their extra efforts.

Vice President: No report

Bookkeeper (Treasurer): John Garofalo reported on the Chapter finances
National Director - No report

Committee reports

Shows - Everything is set for the Amherst Show in January

Tower: The Tower is officially closed for the season.

Entertainment: Tonight's show is a DVD.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

News - the Belvedere and Delaware RR Polar Express Trains running in December were a great success...

Other Business - Please use Shop for Charity and Good Search. The Chapter makes a small amount from each of these programs. The more people using them, the more we make.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Neulinger
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is January 22, **7:30** at the United Congregational Church at 275 Richards Ave.

Tower Operator Volunteer Hours for 2006 = 1,834.50

John Garofalo:	349.50	Bob Gambling:	342.50	Tony White:	174.50
Roberta Ballard:	168.50	Buck Neulinger:	155.00	Janet Neulinger:	155.00
Bob Westerfield:	89.00	Jim Mescher:	88.00	Anthony Gruerio:	61.00
Steve Biffoni:	48.00	Dick Carpenter:	41.00	Dana Laird:	39.50
Beth Siegelbaum:	26.00	Roy Heget:	20.00	Bavet Heget:	16.00
Kevin Feeney:	15.00	Steve McEvoy:	12.00	Gary Shea:	10.00
Bev Shea:	10.00	Ed Holowinko:	8.00	Al Brecken:	6.00

A very special **Thank You** to all our volunteers!



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.
 or www.shopforcharityday.com/4052

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 and our chapter benefits from your purchases.

This is just a few of the stores listed on the site:

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Ebay | ecost | Eddie Bauer | MacMall | Macys | Museum Store Company | Thompson Cigar | Lillian Vernon |
| Target | Gap | Kalmbach Publishing | Buy.com USA | Kohl's | Sierra Trading Post | Old Pueblo Traders | |
| | Sharper Image | Brookstone | eBags | Flowers USA | 1-800-PetMeds | and many more! | |


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.

Use goodsearch.com and earn \$\$\$\$\$\$ for our Chapter.
 Just go to www.goodsearch.com and type NRHS in the "Who do you Goodsearch for?" box - you should see Western Connecticut Chapter - NRHS appear.
 Every search will help our chapter.
 You can add the toolbar to your browser.

Westconn Schedule of Events

- Monday Jan. 22: 7:30 pm Monthly Chapter meeting** at The United Congregational Church Norwalk, CT
- Saturday Jan. 27: Amherst Railway Society Big Railroad Hobby Show** 9:00am - 5:00pm at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield MA.
- Sunday Jan. 28: Amherst Railway Society Big Railroad Hobby Show** 10:00am - 5:00pm at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield MA.
- Wednesday Feb. 14: Danbury Railway Museum - John Garofalo slide show** 
- Monday Feb. 26: 7:30 pm Monthly Chapter meeting** at The United Congregational Church



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

Our Next Chapter meeting will be held at **7:30 PM** on **Monday, January 22, 2006** at:

**The United Congregational Church
 275 Richards Ave., Norwalk, CT**

Entertainment will be provided by:

Stuart Werner

Modern Marvels - Freight Trains



Bob Gambling will provide refreshments