



# The Westconn Manifest

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



[www.westctrhs.org](http://www.westctrhs.org)

Since 1953

February 2005

Photo credit - Bob Gambling

## Amherst Train Show - 2005

During the 2 day show, volunteers manned the tables for the SONO Switch Tower Museum, selling items from our Gift Shop and promoting the Museum.



The Tower saw record sales for the 2-day show.

Among the displays, there was a computer slide show, showing the condition of the Tower before, during and after restoration.



**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  
president@westctnrhs.org  
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vp@westctnrhs.org  
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Treasurer : John Mount  
treasurer@westctnrhs.org  
Nat'l. Director : Tony White  
nationaldirector@westctnrhs.org

The Chapter meets monthly, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8 P.M.

Meeting dates for 2005:

1/24, **2/28**, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23\*, 6/27\*, 7/25\*, 8/22\*, 9/26\*, 10/24, 11/28 and 12/19.

\*Chapter meeting to 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

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www.sonotower.org



*Back to Former Chapter Member*

*Kevin Feeney - New Canaan, CT*

#### Last Month's Mystery Photo

From John Mount

And the winners are; Bob Gambling, Anthony Gruerio, Dana Hunt and Bob Westerfield.

They correctly identified where one of the most dramatic scenes of Clint Eastwoods "Dirty Harry", was filmed in 1971.

Scorpio has hijacked a school bus full of children. The bus crosses the Golden Gate Bridge, out of San Francisco, heading north on 101. It exits at "San Quentin, Sir Francis Drake Blvd" exit (Greenbrae/Larkspur) with Scorpio at the wheel. He panics when he sees Harry Callahan standing on the trestle, silhouetted against the sky. Passing under the trestle Harry drops down onto the roof of the bus. The rest is history.

The trestle or bridge, at the time the movie was filmed, crossed over Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The span over the road was removed in the 70's or 80's when the rail line was abandoned.



Photos provided by John Mount





Queensland (Australia) Railways diesels at Redbank

There is a large number of Diesels at Redbank, redundant because of newer types being introduced. Over the last few years QR has sold many to Tasmania, New Zealand, South Africa, south east Asia and South America. Many Diesel-hydraulic locos have been sold to sugar mills in Queensland and re-gauged to 2 feet for their lines - look a bit ungainly.

QR track gauge is 3'6" I believe, same as in NZ.

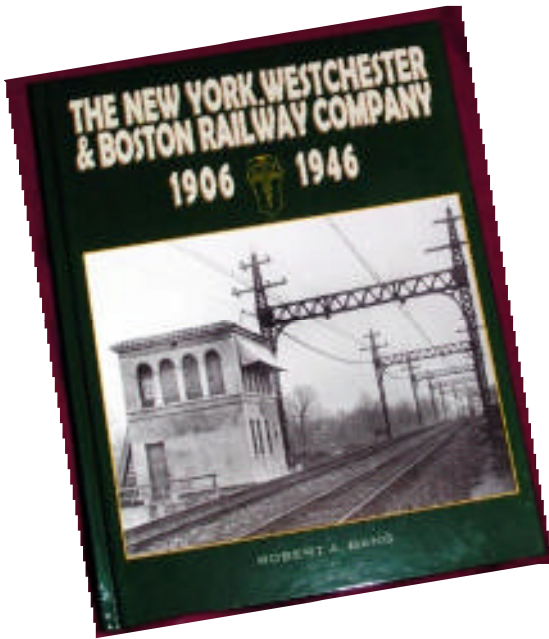
Robert Briechle

Photo credit Robert Briechle

*Robert Briechle received this from a friend who pulled it down from a [www.trainorders.com](http://www.trainorders.com) posting. Fascinating view of the Tehachapi Loop*

The railcam is located along the curve at the bottom right, just about where it says Keyhole, and is pointed uphill, towards the bottom left corner of the picture, so technically it is before the loop as, if you are going west/north/left, you go through a tunnel before you get to the loop from the camera. Right below the loop and on the inside are two black things that look like trucks. Those are actually two switch panels that have been sitting there for some unknown reason for a couple of years now. Across the tracks from there are two more black things, smaller. One of those is a tree sitting on top of a little hill and that is my favorite spot to sit at the loop. You can see uphill (lower right) into Tunnel 10 and can look behind you as trains come up the hill. In fact, you can actually see them way off to the left of the picture, out of range here. The trains come by and you are eye level with the crew. From this view, it looks flat, of course. But from the ground it is anything but. I have no idea what the purple and red lines mean. To the immediate right of the loop itself is the Loop Ranch. The horses can walk inside the loop by crossing it at tunnel 9.





## THE NEW YORK, WESTCHESTER & BOSTON RAILWAY COMPANY

By Robert A. Bang

A state-of-the-art high-speed electric commuter railroad built ahead of its time. Great plans and optimism soon gave way to grim reality and bitter struggle. Spotless trains ran day and night on frequent headways, an impeccable on-time record and mostly empty. Despite its woes, the Westchester was a colorful line. There is little evidence that this line ever existed. Through the use of photographs, artifacts, maps, diagrams, and newspaper clippings, this book will help recount the fascinating story of the New York, Westchester & Boston Railway.

WestConn Chapter member, Dan Gallo Sr. wrote the introductory history of this new 177-page hardcover book by Bob Bang.

The book retails for \$35 plus \$4.00 shipping.

NRHS WestConn members may purchase it from Dan Gallo for \$32.00 (plus \$4.00 shipping if required) and is available autographed if requested.

Please contact: Dan Gallo

14 Fairview Place

New Rochelle, NY 10805-3502

(914) 235-6026 or e-mail danbargal@aol.com

### SONO Switch Tower Gift Shop

Wear our signature Sono Switch Tower Cap  
The same worn by our volunteers at the Tower.

Tower Cap: 9.00

Tower Mug: 5.00

Shipping \$4.00 each or buy both and pay only  
\$4.00 shipping for both.



Make check payable to: Western CT Chapter NRHS Inc  
77 Washington Ave.  
Norwalk, CT 06854

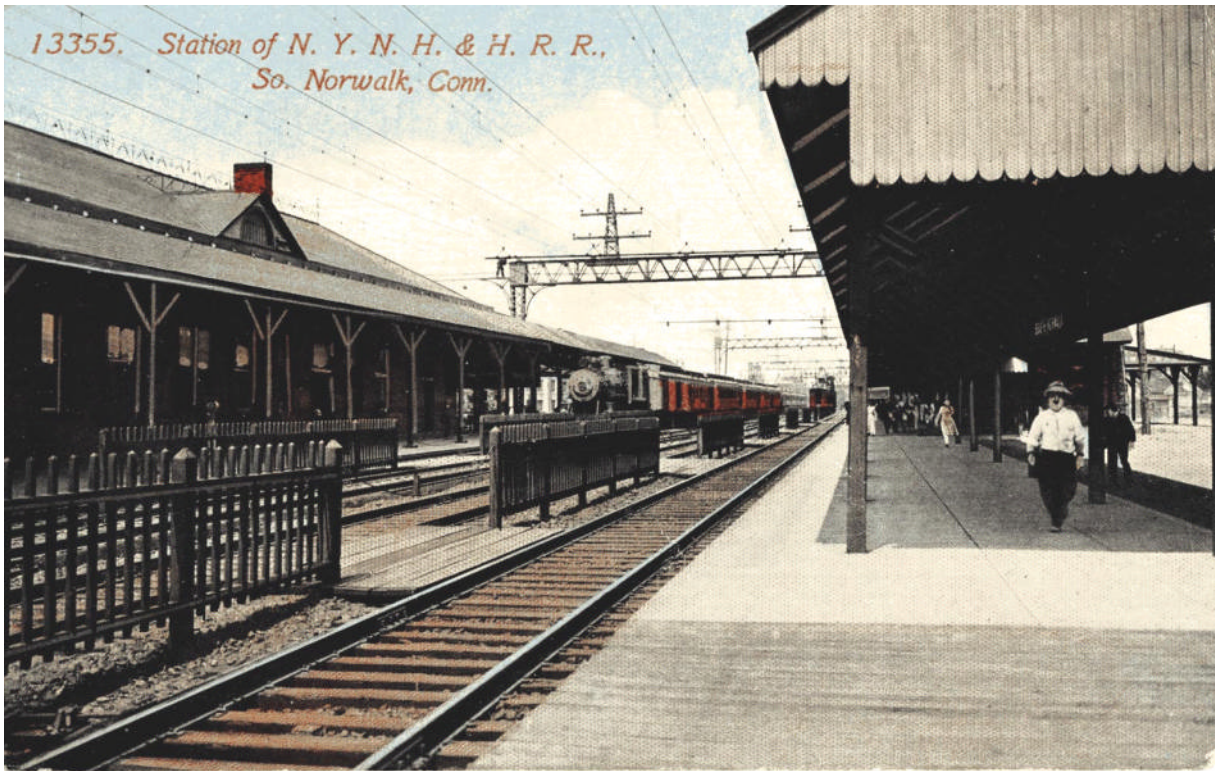
Ship to: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Caps @ 9.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mugs @ 5.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_ (Connecticut residence add .30 sales tax for each mug)

Shipping = \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_



Post card from the collection of David (Diz) Squires – South Norwalk Railroad Station circa 1914



Photo from the collection of Tim Shields – South Norwalk, CT. Note Tower 44 on left.

# Westconn Schedule of Events

## Annual Spring Train Meet

Presented by The Westchester Model Railroad Club  
**Sunday, March 20, 2005 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Greenwich Civic Center Old, Greenwich, CT  
Admission: Adults \$6.00 Senior: \$4.00 Family: \$8.00  
Senior & Spouse: \$6.00 - Under 12 free with adult

Plan to volunteer at the Sono Switch Tower table or be sure to visit us.

**Monday - March 28** Membership meeting - Bring your 20 best slides to show

**Monday - April 25 - 6:30PM** - Annual Chapter Dinner at Maneros Restaurant - Greenwich, CT

**Saturday - April 30** - SONO Switch Tower Museum re-opens for the season



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

**Our Next Chapter meeting will be  
Monday, February 28, 2005 - 8:00 P.M. at:  
At The United Congregational Church  
275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT**



Entertainment this month will be provided by:

**Dan Gallo Sr.**

"Railroads of Maybrook" slide presentation

Bob Gambling will provide refreshments.



**VOICE OF THE PEOPLE**