



The Westconn Manifest

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



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

February 2006

The Western Connecticut Chapter was at the Amherst Train Show again this year promoting the SoNo Switch Tower Museum.

Seen here are Jim Mescher, John Garofalo, and President Buck Neulinger.

Photo by Bob Gambling



Among the many people to stop by were three former Tower Operators.

Left to right:

Paul Salat - Metro-North engineer and the last operator to work SS-44.

Geoff Beard - Metro-North engineer and former tower operator

George Papuga - Former tower operator, now retired.

Photo by Bob Gambling

Chapter member Tim Shields (a Metro-North employee) checks out our display along with a co-worker.

Former Tower operator seen on the right of the photo is Linda Hagenkotter - in the blue plaid shirt. Linda also works for Metro-North.

Photo by Tony White



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
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Material from **THE WESTCONN**
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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, 5/1 (Annual Dinner),
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.

Western Connecticut Chapter - NRHS
Inc.
77 Washington Street
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203 246-6958
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www.sonotower.org

Congratulations to

Janet Neulinger on becoming a regular Chapter member.

100 Years Ago - January 1906

Reprinted from Railway Age - January 2006

Electrification of the New York Central Terminal

Certainly the most radical and almost certainly the most daring change in the established practice of one of the largest railways in the world is the work now taking place in the so-called electric zone of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad on its lines entering the Grand Central station in New York City. It embraces every department of railway effort, from the improving of schedules, the organization of train crews, the method of handling trains, many details of track, the design of equipment, up to the most distinctive factor in the conception of a great railway—the definite abandonment of steam propulsion after 70 years' successful application and the adoption of the electric current as a means of tractive effort for a train service which now is almost unparalleled and is certain to increase beyond any acceptable estimate. The equipment will consist of electric locomotives for hauling express trains from Croton-on-the-Hudson to Grand Central Terminal in New York and back to the first place, while suburban trains will be operated under a multiple unit system of control.

This Month's Book Review by Stuart Werner

The Train

By Jonathan Glancey

Carleton Books LTD., 20 Mortimer St., London W1 3JW, United Kingdom.

This oversized book is organized into 12 chapters. It covers steam, diesel and electric motive power, passenger coaches, railway infrastructure engineering, station architecture, narrow and light gauge, concept trains, railways in war, railway advertising, railways in movies, and railway workers.

Each chapter and each of the many photos is accompanied by erudite Alistair Cooke (Masterpiece Theater)-type social commentary. For example, Mr. Glancey writes that the railway in its golden age (1900-1920) represented the first solid World Wide Web, in today's terms. It transported people, goods, and mail (postal - not email) swiftly across ribbons of steel.

The book has mostly black and white photos of British railways, followed by French, German, and North American (USA & Canada) railways. Most of the photos are from 1900 to 1950. The advertising chapter features color poster art from a forgotten age of advertising.

The movie section includes a frame in the dining car of the Orient Express from the movie "From Russia With Love." James Bond should have known that Captain Nash was up to no good. He spiked Tatianna's (the Russian defector) glass of champagne and ordered Chianti, a red wine, to accompany his filet of sole. White wine would have been more appropriate. It was a deadly giveaway.

In short, if you are seeking witty commentary with your railway nostalgia, this book is an excellent choice.

National Director Musings – Another year of satisfaction!

By Tony White

Happy New Year! I hope that each of you had a great holiday season and that you are over the shock of those credit card bills. 2005 was a very good year for our Chapter and Tower and we are encouraged that 2006 will be even better. We are continuing to see increases in membership. We are continuing to see member involvement with Chapter events and the Tower. This we can say, "We are an Active Chapter!"

Things are off to a good start in 2006. We are seeing a good number of donations coming in with your dues. We "Thank you very much!" Of course this money will be used wisely to improve Chapter operations, and keep the dues increase as small as possible.

Speaking of the Tower, we did very well and better than last year at the Springfield Train Show. For those of you who do not attend this show, it is the Who's who of railroading, scenic railroads, railroad modeling, memorabilia and historical societies. The show allows our Chapter to rub elbows with others and provide a showcase of who we are. It has been good over the years to visit with people whom I sometimes only see yearly at this show. Unfortunately, several friends were unable to attend for health reasons. We hope they get well soon. Some friends are now in Railroad Heaven. They are missed by all who know them. They served the hobby well with their passion.

At this year's show, we were staffed by Roberta Ballard, John Garofalo, Anthony Gruerio, Jim Mescher, Bob Westerfield and me. Here we topped last year's sales and met many people who knew the tower from previous visits and from the website. We also met many railroad employees both past and present who worked in the Tower and had fond memories of it. Aside from the hard work, this group enjoyed lots of laughs, very good meals and one another during the long weekend.

A highlight at the show this year was our presentation to the Amherst Society showing the work on the model board from start to completion as a "thank you" for providing a grant for the model board project. That grant along with the donation from our Regional Vice President William E. Wood enabled us to a model board that former SS44/Berk Tower Operators say is "fantastic!"

Plans are already formulated and some are already in motion regarding the Tower in preparation for the start of our 4th season. There will be many surprises again this year. Plan to visit the Tower. For those in the area, think about a group that may want to visit South Norwalk. After visiting the Tower, they can visit the Aquarium, shop or eat at a vast variety of eateries. We can sometimes make arrangements for weekday tours during any season.

There are rumors that the Tower cannot be financially successful. Not true! We have been and are expecting to be even more awesome this year. Come on out and be a part of our success.

So, keep up the Western Connecticut Chapter Spirit!
Be Safe! Save Amtrak!

Photo by Roberta Ballard



Buck Neulinger makes presentation to Amherst Railway Society President Doug Moore as Tony White and Bob Buck look on.

Photo by William Sample



Janet Neulinger, Buck Neulinger, Roberta Ballard, Tony White, Bob Buck and Doug Moore with the "thank you" presentation folder at the Amherst Railway Society Welcome Center.

Photos by Kevin Fitzherbert



Denver Winter Park Ski Train
At Union Station awaiting the highball to depart to Winter park.



This train runs round trips on winter weekends from Union
Station to that fabulous ski area.



Tony Fitzherbert's Son Kevin and Katie atop one of the modest
little hills making up that ski area.

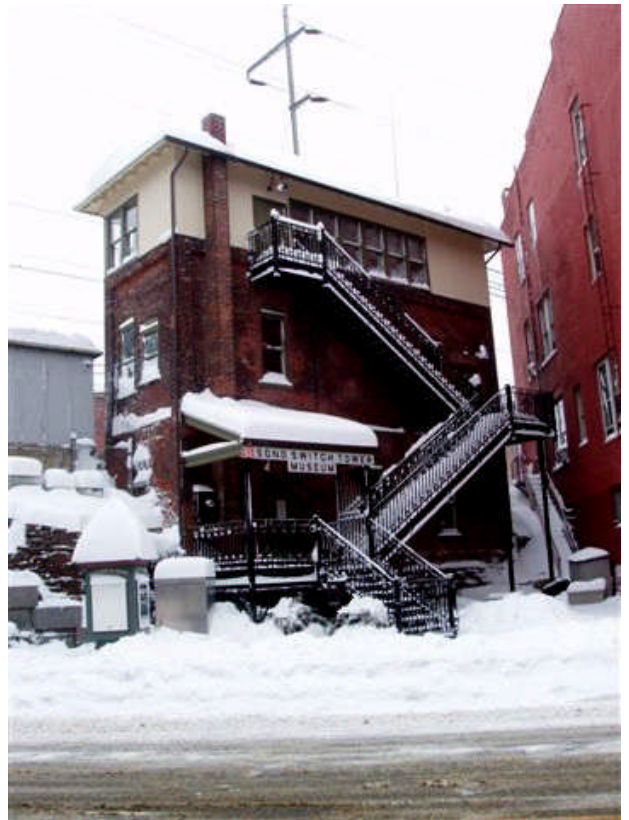


Photo by Dana Laird

The blizzard of February 12, 2006 left a lot of snow
and a very special "Thank You" to
Ed Holowinko for shoveling the Tower.
Thank you Ed!



Photo by Dana Laird



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

Office Max Viking Office Products Lillian Vernon Target Vermont Teddy Bear Hallmark
CompUSA Springhill Nursery Breck's Bulbs Michigan Bulbs Gift Tree 1 Stop Florist

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.

Westconn Schedule of Events

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

Sunday March 19 - Westchester Model Railroad Club Train Show at the Greenwich Civic Center - Old Greenwich, CT.

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

Annual Chapter Dinner - Time and location to be announced.



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

Our Next Chapter meeting will be
Monday, February 27, 2006 - 7:30PM at:

The United Congregational Church
275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT

Entertainment will be provided by:

YOU! Bring your 20 "Best" slides

Bob Gambling will provide refreshments.

