

The Westconn Manifest

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



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

October 2006

Photos by Bob Gambling



SoNo Switch Tower volunteer John Garofalo demonstrates how the Tower operated to a Special group of visitors to the Museum on Saturday, September 23, 2006

Chapter trip to New Hampshire - October 13 - 15, 2006

Photos by Roberta Ballard



First stop -Hobo Railroad Lincoln, NH



Climax engine on display at Clarks Trading Post



Café Lafayette dinner train along the Pemigewasset River



President's car on the Winnepesaukee Railroad

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
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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
Vice Pres. : Robert Westerfield
vp@westctnrhs.org
Secretary : Roberta Ballard
secretary@westctnrhs.org
Treasurer : John Garofalo
treasurer@westctnrhs.org
Nat'l. Director : Tony White
nationaldirector@westctnrhs.org

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 8:00 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
Norwalk, CT 06854

203 246-6958

www.westctnrhs.org
www.sonotower.org

September Volunteer Hours for The SoNo Switch Tower Museum

John Garofalo	: 48	Janet Neulinger:	18	Buck Neulinger	: 18
Jim Mescher	: 9	Bob Westerfield:	9	Bob Gambling	: 60
Tony White	: 30	Roberta Ballard:	30	Dick Carpenter	: 2
Steve Biffoni	: 12	Kevin Feeney	: 6		

Total for September = 242 hours Thank you!

To Volunteer call: 203 246-6958

We now have both 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 Westconn Annual Chapter Picnic will be held on Sunday Oct. 22 at
the Bear Mountain State Park Boat Landing in the picnic area next to the
parking lot. The cost will be \$16 and will start around 11 am. Be sure to
bring a chair. Rain or shine! Hope to see you there!

Please call Jim Mescher to let him know you will attend so there will be
enough food for all to enjoy. 201 391-7362

This Month's Book Review

As reviewed by Stuart Werner

RAILWAY MASTERPIECES

By Brian Solomon, Kraus Publications, 700 East State St, Iola, WI 54990, 2002, 160
pages, hardbound, \$39.95 (Barnes & Noble)

The book is divided into 3 chapters. The chapters are locomotives and trains, stations, and
engineering. Instead of covering the usual North American scene, Mr. Solomon, a prolific
railroad journalist, offers a worldwide perspective without any particular prejudice.

In the chapter on locomotives he starts with the 1829 Rocket used on the Liverpool &
Manchester, the Gresley Pacifics introduced on to the British railways in the interwar period
and used until the early 1960s, Germany's diesel Flying Hamburger introduced in 1933, the
1950s Talgos, the German 103 electrics introduced in 1965, the Swedish Re electrics (1967)
that utilized thyristors, and, the ancestor of the AEM-7, and the British HST variants.

In the chapter on stations Mr. Solomon reviews Dublin's Heuston Station, opened in 1845,
Leipzig's main station, opened in 1915, the Helsinki Station, the Milan Central Station, Grand
Central Station, and London's St. Pancras station.

In the chapter on engineering, the Boston & Albany route (now CSX) in western MA (opened in
1842) is cited an outstanding engineering accomplishment, the Ouse Valley Viaduct in the UK
(1841), the Forth Bridge in Scotland, the Shinkansen lines in Japan, and the Channel Tunnel.
Other outstanding accomplishments include the Hoosac Tunnel, the Tunkannoc Viaduct, the
Starrucca Viaduct, Horseshoe Curve, Tehachapi, and the Rockville Bridge.

Each article is accompanied by extensive text and good photos. It is a worthwhile read.

Meeting of the WestConn Chapter NRHS

Sept. 25, 2006 SoNo Switch Tower

The meeting was called to order by President Buck Neulinger at 8:00 at the Tower. There were 5 officer, 19 members and 2 guests present.

Recording Secretary: Minutes for the August 28th meeting were approved.

President's report: Buck reported he had received an e-mail from Bob Bridger NRHS Overland Chapter in England. He had looked at our web site and invites us to visit a website he and some friend are developing www.30937.co.uk. It is Transport Photograph Database with over 9000 images.

There was no report from the Vice President

Bookkeeper (Treasurer)-John Garofalo reported on the Chapter finances. There are 82 total members between full regular and family members, local members and special members.

National Director - Tony read a letter concerning sponsorship for Rail Camp. The Association was able to sponsor 6 teens last summer at the two Rail Camp locations at Steamtown and the Nevada Northern Railroad. The writer asked us to consider making donations to help sponsor other teens next summer.

Committee reports

Shows - Registration fees have been sent to reserve tables for the Big-E show in January.

Tower: A group of 15 people from the Hartford Chapter of the Railroad Enthusiasts visited the Tower on Saturday. The group was led by Bob LeMay.

Volunteers are needed for the weekend of the Chapter Trip October 14 and 15. Also for the Chapter Picnic day October 22.

Trips/Special Events: 14 people are going on the Chapter Trip to New Hampshire. Jim is hoping to arrange a tour of the Yankee Clipper following our ride on the Hobo Railroad. He is working on a possible trip on Amtrak next year. It would be NY to Toronto to Montreal and back to NY. He is also working on several day trips.

The Nominating Committee of Tony White and Beth Segelbaum presented the following Slate of Officers for the 2006-2007 year. There were no additional volunteers to run for office so the slate is the same as the current officers.

President - Buck Neulinger

Vice President - Bob Westerfield

Secretary - Roberta Ballard

Bookkeeper - John Garofalo

National Director - Tony White.

The ballots will be sent or e-mailed to all members.

Entertainment - Tonight's show is slides from 1973 by John Garofalo and TJ Donahue presented by Garf. The October show will be Ed Blackman.

Old Business - The picnic is Oct. 22 at the Bear Mountain Boat landing 11:00 am to ... Cost \$15.00.

New Business - History Channel series Modern Marvels has a new episode on Freight Trains.

The Hopewell Junction depot is being restored. The group is looking for donations to continue the work. Ed Blackman worked in this NHRR depot. There will be more discussion of this project at the next meeting.

Roy Heget brought up Publicity for the Tower such as the local area map or placemats. He will investigate this and report back to the membership. He also asked whether there could be group tours on weekdays and what would be the cost. Tours can be set up. The only school groups we have had were charged \$2.00 per student and they were given a pencil and a magnet.

News

Our guests this evening were David Stavins and his mom from Yorktown Heights. Davis is planning to attend Rail Camp next summer. He had a rail themed Bar Mitzvah.

It was good to see Diz Squires back after an illness.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Neulinger

The next meeting is 8:00 Oct. 23rd at the Tower.



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:

Macys Thompson Cigar Lillian Vernon Target Kalmbach Publishing Buy.com USA
Sierra Trading Post Old Pueblo Traders Brookstone eBags Flowers USA 1-800-PetMeds

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

Saturday & Sunday Oct. 21 & 22 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00

Sunday Oct. 22 - Annual Chapter Picnic - Bear Mountain State Park Boat Landing - Rain or shine.
11am until \$16.00 per person. Bring a chair. For info contact Jim Mescher at: (201) 391-7362

Monday October 23 - Western Connecticut Monthly Meeting - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 8pm

Saturday & Sunday Oct. 28 & 29 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00 Last day of 2006 season.

Monday November 27 - Western Connecticut Monthly Meeting - United Congregational Church - 8pm



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

Our Next Chapter meeting will be held at **8 PM** on
Monday, October 23, 2006 at:

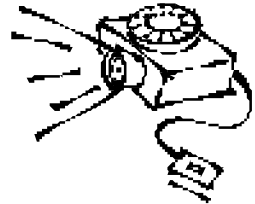
The SoNo Switch Tower Museum
77 Washington Street South Norwalk, CT

Entertainment will be provided by:

Ed Blackman

Bob Gambling will provide refreshments

Next month's meeting will be at the United Congregational Church 275 Richards Ave. in Norwalk, CT



The SoNo (Railroad) Switch Tower Museum

Will officially close for the season on Sunday October 29
Watch for Special holiday Hours

Please help us show the Tower and how it operated to the public.

To volunteer call: (203) 246-6958 or sign up at the Tower.

Thank you, your help is greatly appreciated.