



# The Westconn Manifest

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



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

*Since 1953*

November 2004

The Elections are over!  
The results are in:



Buck Neulinger  
President



Bob Westerfield  
Vice President



Roberta Ballard  
Secretary



John Mount  
Treasurer



Tony White  
National Director

**Congratulations!**  
We have a winning team!

**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.  
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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 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 2004:

1/26, 2/23, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24\*, 6/28\*, 7/26\*,  
8/23\*, 9/27\*, 10/25, **11/22** and 12/20.

\*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  
203 246-6958  
www.westctnrhs.org



New Member

Steven Biffoni - Brooklyn, NY

Al Brecken is glad to report that he has acquired very scarce and old ( 1870)  
memorabilia from the long-lost & forgotten New York, Housatonic, & Northern RR  
which was an attempt to construct a rail-route from Southern Westchester to a junction  
with the Housatonic RR at some point beyond Danbury. Extensive work was done in  
Westchester and across North-West Greenwich; He has explored the old R-O-W- but  
the work ceased, never to be resumed, when finances were not forthcoming.

The memorabilia will be on display at Greenwich Library, where he already has a  
display of photographs of the Cos Cob Power Plant, thanks to the co-operation of the  
Library staff.



Photo by Bob Gambling

#### **A Group from the New York Railway Enthusiasts paid a visit to SS#44 on Oct. 16, 2004.**

Here we see Dick Carpenter and John Garofalo explaining  
How the tower operated as the group looks on with interest

#### **Fielding Lewis Bowman**

With regret I inform you of the passing of Fielding Lew Bowman, a  
Chapter member for 26 years.

Mr. Bowman passed on September 17, 2004 from complications  
following surgery at Norwalk Hospital. He was a resident of New  
Canaan, CT and was active in local civic and historical matters.

An architect, Lew used his knowledge to study railroad architecture. He  
was well versed in railroad history and was published. He was well  
known and respected within the Railfan community and was a member  
of several rail historic societies.

# Musings Re: Our National Director

By: Anthony Gruerio, Jr.

The Fall 2004 Director's Mtg. was held over the last weekend of October in Utica, NY. I decided to attend the banquet (held Saturday evening) and the business meeting (held on Sunday morning). I took advantage of the wonderful daylight on Saturday and got in a little railfanning on the side before the Banquet got started. Toward the late afternoon, the excursion arrived at the Utica station and I met Tony White, Roberta Ballard, and Joe and Lisa Williams at the platform. Tony, Roberta and I had arranged to meet and enjoy the weekend's remaining activities together.

The Banquet was a nice affair as NRHS President Molloy and Utica and Mohawk Valley (U&MV) NRHS President Doug Preston welcomed everyone. There was a presentation about the NYO&W while attendees put the finishing touches on a fine dinner prepared by the Meeting Hotel, the Hotel Utica. Afterwards, some guests bid each other a good night, while others headed downstairs for a nightcap with U&MV Chapter's Past-President Jay MacFarland.

The next day's main attraction was the business meeting in which everything from membership issues to Alco Historic Photos was discussed. NRHS Officers and Chairmen reported on their respective responsibilities and fielded questions from the crowd, which consisted mostly of NRHS Chapter National Directors. While this last point seems obvious, I mention it because I wanted to let people know something about our own National Director.

Throughout the weekend Tony was using his, whether he admits it or not, charismatic persona to mingle in and out of the various groups of people, all the while expressing his fair share of points across to others about what is important to him as an NRHS member and as a representative of WestConn. At the business meeting, Tony was busy taking notes (over four pages) about all the issues being discussed. I saw first hand that being a ND isn't simply about riding on excursions and enjoying some dinners. On the contrary, Tony displayed a level of dedication that was quite impressive, even more so when you consider that Tony dedicates his own time and money for these trips.

While I wanted to give other members a glimpse at what these meetings were all about, I really wrote this as a segue so that I could let the Membership know what a great job Tony White does as our National Director – Thanks Tony.



Utica, New York Station 2004



Photos by:  
Anthony Gruerio, Jr.

Watchman's Tower  
Utica, NY



Banquet at fall 2004 NRHS  
Directors Meeting  
Tony White, Roberta Ballard  
and Anthony Gruerio, Utica, NY



## Tower Operators for October 2004

Robert Gambling	60 Hours	John Garofalo	52 Hours
Jim Mescher	30 Hours	Roberta Ballard	24 Hours
Tony White	18 Hours	Janet Neulinger	30 Hours
Anthony Gruerio	6 Hours	Bob Westerfield	24 Hours
Buck Neulinger	30 Hours	Dick Carpenter	11 Hours

Total volunteer hours for October: 285 hours

**Thank you for volunteering!**

**The Sono Switch Tower Museum is closed until May 2005.**

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STAMFORD MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, St. John's Episcopal Church, Main and Grove St., Stamford, CT 655-1928. Sat. Nov. 27, and Sun. Dec. 5, Open House, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. O-scale Atlantic Trunk Line.

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### **Chapter Membership Dues**

At the September and October meetings I expressed the need to increase dues to better maintain the Chapter financially. Expenses such as insurance and web page maintenance were not a factor at the time the \$8.00 local figure was established. Now the expenses for these exceed the current \$8.00 annual local dues.

Currently, an individual membership is \$20.00 for National plus \$8.00 for Chapter dues, for a total of \$28.00. Family members are \$3.00 for both National and Chapter. The National dues collected are sent to National, leaving the Chapter with insufficient funds to cover expenses.

With National's help, I did some research into what other chapters charged. Of the 160 chapters reporting, chapter dues range from \$23.00 to \$1.00. Chapters in our region, the Northeast, charge from \$23.00 to \$10.00.

With your WestConn dues you get a lot of bang for your buck; one of the best newsletters in the country, a smashing web page, and access to one of the foremost, internationally recognized railroad museums in New England.

Many of us belong to other railroad organizations, as I do. And I am sure you will agree that the proposed \$20.00 is not out of line for what you get with your WestConn Dues.

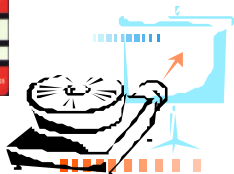
I was empowered at the October Meeting to send out a questionnaire to get the opinions of the membership. This short report is the first step. The questionnaire will most likely go out with your 2005 Membership Cards. In the meantime I would welcome your comments by e-mail ([rickmt@localnet.com](mailto:rickmt@localnet.com)) or USPS (2 Little Lane, Westport, CT 06880).

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The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver



**Our Next Chapter meeting will be  
Monday, November 22, 2004 - 8:00 P.M. at:  
At The United Congregational Church  
275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT**



**Entertainment this month will be provided by:**

**Jim Mescher**

**Bob Gambling will provide refreshments.**

