



The Westconn Manifest

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



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

December 2005



Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year!



Photos by Bob Gambling



A winter scene from SS 44 window taken on Dec. 4 and the Candy Cane Express going by with the SLE #6695



Winter scene of SS 44 taken on Dec. 4, 2005





New Members:

Bob Broderick and Bob Broderick Jr. of New Fairfield, CT

Special for January Manifest
Photo issue
Send your favorite 2005 photo.

You can send the photo or slide by mail (I will return it to you) to:

Roberta Ballard, Editor
39 Great Plain Road
Danbury, CT 06811

or

e-mail to: editor@westctnrhs.org

Be sure to send a caption for your photo and photo credit.

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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39 Great Plain Rd.
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E-mail – editor@westctnrhs.org

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 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 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.

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www.westctnrhs.org
www.sonotower.org

December Railroad History

1830 - December 25 - The first locomotive placed in scheduled service in America began running out of Charleston, SC.

1848 - December 29 - The first rail route linking Boston and New York was completed. It was over five railway lines, but only 3 changes of cars was needed.

1849 - December 4 - President Zachary Taylor proposed a railroad to the Pacific Ocean. He was the first chief executive to advocate such a project.

1852 - December 9 - The first locomotive and train west of the Mississippi River made its initial trip out of St. Louis.

1935 - December 16 - The longest steel railroad bridge, 23,235 feet, the Huey Long Bridge, opened for traffic. It spans the Mississippi River above New Orleans.

December 5, 2005

Norfolk Southern and New York Air Brake Agree to Deploy New Train Technology

NORFOLK, VA -- Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) and New York Air Brake Corporation today announced an agreement to begin deploying a locomotive computer system to improve the fuel efficiency and safe handling of trains in long-haul operations.

The system, developed by New York Air Brake (NYAB) and known as LEADER® (Locomotive Engineer Assist Display and Event Recorder), provides locomotive engineers with real-time information about a train's operating conditions. It consists of an on-board computer that calculates and displays the optimum speed at which to operate the train, depending on the topography and curvature of the track to be encountered, the train's length and weight and other operating conditions.

NS tested LEADER in a 2003 pilot project involving 15 locomotives running coal trains between Winston-Salem, N.C., and Roanoke, Va. The two-year pilot was a cooperative effort involving General Electric, New York Air Brake, Norfolk Southern and the Federal Railroad Administration.

The Don River Railway

By Robert Briechle

Among the various museums and railway attractions visited last February in Tasmania was this one, The Don River Railway. It was established in 1973 and started operations in 1976 with the aim of creating the atmosphere of a working passenger railway using both steam and diesel power.

Located in Tasmania near the city of Devonport, the operation has garnered strong support from the City as well as the Tasmanian Government with Tourist Development Grants for new buildings and other works.



This signal box was donated by the Australian National Railways from its former site in Devonport to the museum and re-erected in 1984. Plans call for the signal box to be in full working order to serve as a museum of signaling and communications equipment.



The turntable was donated by the Australian National Railways having previously been operational at Antill Ponds and Branxholm. The little diesel at the far end is a real curiosity that reminds me of what one might find working in a steel mill.



Clearly a product of British loco Builder Ruston & Hornsby. This is quite an oddity!



Here's a view of the diesel-hauled museum train arriving in the Station which was donated by Australian Railways from its former site in Uiverstone.



The train arrived. Next move: have the diesel loco run "round the train for the next trip.



That having been done, here is (now) the last passenger car (coach) for the next outward trip. Notice the much older care before it.



Here's that "older" passenger car with a still older one before it.



Here is a view (station behind us) of the 'mainline' on which the museum train runs. The railcar in the foreground is operational and is used to transport passengers into and out of the city of Burnie during summer weekends as a way to get into the city for a farmer's market and various festive events.



Running around the train at the other end of the line.



Getting ready to couple up. Diesel power is used on weekdays, steam power on weekends.



Coupling up the vacuum brake hose, note the buffers and the hook-style couplers. For further details, the website is www.donriverrailway.com.au



One of a number of steam locos, here a 4-8-2, on site.

SHOP FOR CHARITY DAY
Where every purchase **YOU** make, *makes a difference!*
What do you need today?



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 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.

Thank you!



YOU'RE ON THE WRONG TRACK



www.oli.org

Westconn Schedule of Events

Monday - Dec. 19 - Chapter meeting at **The United Congregational Church** 275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT.

Monday - Jan. 23, 2006 - Chapter meeting at **The United Congregational Church** 275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT.

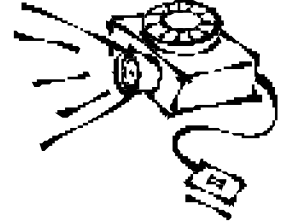
Saturday Jan. 28 and Sunday January 29, 2006 - Amherst Railway Society **Big 2006 Railroad Hobby Show**
Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10 - 5 at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds West Springfield, MA.

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



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

**Our Next Chapter meeting will be
Monday, December 19, 2005 - 8:00 P.M. at:
The United Congregational Church
275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT**



Entertainment will be provided by:

Tim Shields

Bob Gambling will provide refreshments.



The SoNo (Railroad) Switch Tower Museum is officially closed for the season.

The Tower was open by appointment and special Holiday hours.

Tower Operator Volunteer Hours for November & December 2005

John Garofalo: 30 hrs.	Bob Gambling: 24 hrs.	Tony White: 18 hrs.	Roberta Ballard: 18 hrs.
Buck Neulinger: 18 hrs.	Janet Neulinger: 18 hrs.	Dana Laird: 6 hrs.	Dick Carpenter: 3 hrs.

The Tower volunteers worked a total of 1,873.25 hours this season.

Thank you Tower Operators for all your help.

Also, a special thanks to all those who have volunteered their time for both the
Tower and Chapter activities.

Your help is always greatly appreciated!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Big 2006 Railway Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA

On January 28 and 29 please contact Bob Westerfield at 203 323-0247

Thank you.

LOCAL NEWS – December 6, 2005

It was reported on the *Providence and Worcester* news group that rail has been unloaded and MoW equipment is sitting at the track bumper on the East Haven (CT) side of the Tomlinson Bridge.

The contractor is unknown.

This means that the Port of New Haven may be once again be opened to rail service, eliminating heavy trucks from I-95. The port was last served by the New Haven.

John Mount