



The WestConn Manifest

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



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

December 2006

Seasons Greetings

"Mr and Ms Claus pay a visit to the Tower and enjoy the view of the passerby's from the first floor landing."

Photo credit Tony White



Sunday, December 3rd photo of eastbound Candy Cane Express on track 4 by SS44.

Photo credit Robert Gambling



Welcome New Members:

Manny Rodriquez - East Stroudsburg, PA
Carlos Rodriquez - Spotswood, NJ

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:

Roberta Ballard, Editor
39 Great Plain Rd.
Danbury, CT 06811-3923

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

- 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 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
Norwalk, CT 06854

203 246-6958

www.westctnrhs.org
www.sonotower.org

The SoNo Switch Tower Museum Volunteer Hours

John Garofalo : 6	Janet Neulinger : 8	Buck Neulinger : 8
Bob Gambling : 3	Tony White : 11	Roberta Ballard: 11
Total for November = 47 hours		

John Garofalo : 24	Janet Neulinger : 6	Buck Neulinger : 6
Bob Gambling : 24	Tony White : 12	Roberta Ballard: 12
Dick Carpenter : 8	Anthony Gruerio: 6	Steve Biffoni : 6
Beth Siegelbaum: 6		
Total for December = 110 hours Thank you!		

A very special to all that helped this season!

We now have 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 December Monthly Chapter meeting will be held On December 18 at 7:30 PM at the United Congregational Church 275 Richards Ave. Norwalk, CT

The first rotary snowplow was invented by Toronto dentist, J.W. Elliot, in 1869 but was never built. The first rotary snowplow to be manufactured was designed by a Canadian named Orange Jull and built by the Leslie Brothers. After testing in the winter of 1883-84, the brothers bought the manufacturing rights and went into business. The Leslie plows could handle heavy, deep snow. Over the years, other plows were manufactured by competitors.

International News Briefs - from Stewart Werner

Netherlands - The 100 mile Betuwe Route will open in 2007. It is a new double tracked freight line from the Port of Rotterdam to the Ruhr in Germany. It can handle up to 480 trains a day. It is a general purpose freight line designed to reduce road congestion and increase the rail movement of containers from the Port of Rotterdam. It is designed to handle 7 million TEUs annually.

France - TGV East line from Paris to Strasbourg to open in June 2007.

Spain - High speed line from Madrid to Barcelona due for completion in 2007.

Great Britain - High Speed One, a new \$10.8 billion high speed link from Dover to London for the Eurostar, is due to open in Nov 2007. Travel time from London to Paris will be reduced to 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Tibet - The new China to Tibet railroad will be extended another 170 miles from Lhasa to Xigaze in central Tibet. Completion is expected in 2009.

Meeting of the WestConn Chapter NRHS

Nov. 27, 2006 United Congregational Church

The meeting was called to order by President Buck Neulinger at 7:40. There were 5 officer and 11 members present.

President's report: The President reappointed all Committee Heads. He asked Roberta Ballard to update and re-issue the Chapter Membership list. John Garofalo said this should be put on hold as new membership letters will be going out soon and there will be a line for e-mail addresses.

Manny and Carlos Rodriguez from the Stroudsburg Tower were at our Tower this past weekend and worked all day on the levers. The President asked that they be made Honorary Chapter members. This was presented as a motion and was approved.

President Buck reported that he and several other members had an interesting trip to Harrisburg for the Conrail Historical Society meeting. We were able to take a guided tour of Enola Yard. The Keynote speaker at the dinner was David Levan former CEO of Conrail.

Vice President: Bob Westerfield - There were many hands working at the Greenwich Train Show. Garf will put on a show at the DRM in February.

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. Membership renewals will go out this week.

National Director: No report

Committee reports

Shows - The Chapter and Tower made \$421 at the Greenwich Show.

Tower: The Tower is officially closed for the season. It will be open 2 weekends in December. Garf has been in contact with the electric company and the Tower has been taken off the Demand Meter. It should save the Tower \$600-\$700 per year.

The G-Gauge layout is progressing. Part of the support has been installed.

Thanks to the Rodriguez brothers, the levers have been freed up and they are working correctly.

There will be a Tower display at the Weston Public Library as requested by Dolly Curtis.

Trips/Special Events: Mescher reported that the trip to New Hampshire made a profit of \$781. Dinner plans will be investigated soon.

Entertainment: Tonight's show is by Jim Mescher. John Ireland has the December show and January/February are open. Stewart Werner would like to obtain a DVD on Modern Marvels.

Old Business: The Hopewell Junction Depot Restoration group has received our donation and is very appreciative.

New Business -

News- the Belvedere and Delaware RR has Polar Express Trains running in December. The RR is trying to get the go-ahead to open more trackage. There was a discussion of the possible sale of the Susquehanna.

Other Business - Please use Shop for Charity and Good Search. The Chapter makes a small amount from each of these programs. The more people using them, the more we make.

Kevin Feeney is selling Tower items on e-bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Neulinger

Recording Secretary

The next meeting is December 18, 7:30 pm at the United Congregational Church at 275 Richards Ave.



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.

Use goodsearch.com and earn \$\$\$\$\$\$ for our Chapter. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and type NRHS in the "Who do you Goodsearch for?" box - you should see Western Connecticut Chapter - NRHS appear.

Every search will help our chapter. You can add the toolbar to your browser.

Westconn Schedule of Events

- Monday Dec. 18:** 7:30 pm **Monthly Chapter meeting** at The United Congregational Church
- Saturday Jan. 27: Amherst Railway Society Big Railroad Hobby Show** 9:00am - 5:00pm at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield MA.
- Sunday Jan. 28: Amherst Railway Society Big Railroad Hobby Show** 10:00am - 5:00pm at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield MA.



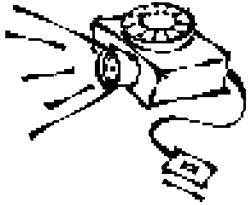
The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver
Our Next Chapter meeting will be held at **7:30 PM** on **Monday, December 18, 2006** at:

**The United Congregational Church
275 Richards Ave., Norwalk, CT**

Entertainment will be provided by:

To be Announced

Bob Gambling will provide refreshments



Interesting web pages you might like to visit:
<http://n6ecv.net/Rotarys.html> - A walk through a Southern Pacific Rotary Snowplow
<http://www.xmission.com/~ghb4884/home.html> - Gilbert H. Bennett - Paintings of Eastern Railroads

Quote of the month: "Remember, you cannot defeat the machine!"