



The WestConn Manifest

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



www.westctnrhs.org

Since 1953

April 2007

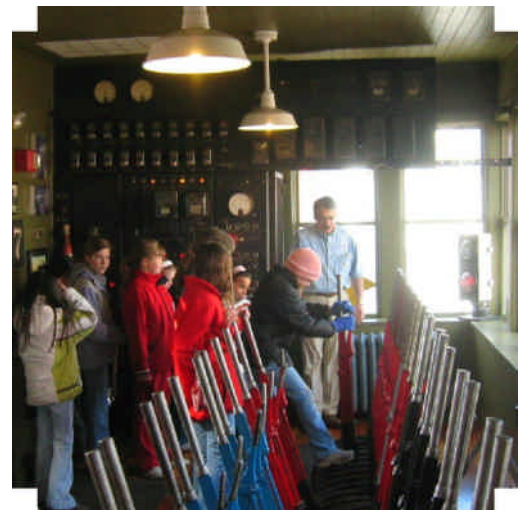
Photos by Robert Gambling

Redding, Connecticut Girl Scout Troops visit The SoNo Switch Tower on Friday April 6, 2007

The girls represented Junior 5th Grade Troops 326, 252 and Brownie Troop 116.



John Garofalo was on hand to give the tour of the SoNo Switch Tower to this special group.



Each girl took a turn at pulling one of the levers and changing the signal light.



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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Please address comments, any
contributions of material, complaints and
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newsletters to:

editor@westctnrhs.org

or

Western CT Chapter, NRHS
77 Washington St.
Norwalk, CT 06854

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 **2007**:

1/22, 2/26, 3/26, **Annual Dinner- April**
16, 5/21*, 6/25*, 7/23*, 8/27*, 9/24*,
10/22*, 11/26 and 12/17.

*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



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.



Trackside Around The Big Apple, 1964-1973 With Al Roberts

This is a book showing the action around the 5 boroughs of New York City in the late 1960's & the early 1970's. The lines featured are the New Haven, Long Island, Pennsylvania & New York Central.

I like the photos of the 1st 2 roads. I am familiar with the Long Island RR because my mother grew up in Rockville Centre, and my Grandparents lived there for many years. My favorite LIRR Diesel Photos include Alco Century 420 unit #211 with a 5-car Passenger train at Union Hall, Alco RS-3 #1551 with an 11-car Passenger train in Jamaica, a duo of S2 switchers on a freight at Penny Bridge (on the Montauk Line), and a trio of S2 switchers on a freight at Forest Park in Queens. Also a LIRR/Reading RS-3 duo on a passenger train at Union Hall.

My favorite LIRR MU Train photos include an 8-car MU train with 2 doubledeck cars (My favorite LIRR MU Car), another 8-car train at Union hall led by a Combine, and a 9-car round-roof MU train at Union Hall, passing a diesel powered passenger led by Alco Century 420 unit #218.

The New Haven Photos that I like feature quite a few shots on my favorite engine (The FL-9) in action. The Hell Gate group of photos include a duo leading the Patriot, another pair leading the Hell Gate in a blizzard on 2/7/67, and another duo led by #2025 on a freight on a nice June day (6/3/67). The FL-9 engines occasionally saw freight duty on the New Haven.

My favorite FL-9 photos on the line to Grand Central include a duo (#2057 & 2020) on 42nd St. from Boston and another duo (#2048 & 2008 on an 8-car train. Both of these are at Woodlawn in the Bronx.

At Park Avenue near Grand Central, my favorites are of a duo (#2011 & 2018) and a single unit (#2032) near the Tunnel to Grand Central. Also at Oak Point is FL-9 #2059, the last of the 60 FL-9 Locomotives.

My favorite New Haven Electric Locomotive was the EF-4 Virginian type. A dozen came to the New Haven from the Virginian Railway in late 1963, hence their nickname. My favorite Virginian Photos include a duo at Oak Point, front & rear shots of westbound & eastbound Virginian freights on Hell Gate in a blizzard on 2/7/67, and another westbound duo, led by #306 on a lovely June day (6/3/67). My final favorite photo has FL-9 #2023 on a snowy February day (2/9/69).

So in conclusion, this is an excellent book for Rail Historians & Modelers alike. The Photos are well documented.

Respectfully Yours,

Robert Sposato

An interesting web site sent to us by Add Austin

What did your town look like according to Penny Postcards?

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>

National Director Musings

by Tony White

Greetings! Spring is already upon us and things are progressing well within both the Chapter and the Tower. It has been reported by our official bookkeeper John (Chief) Garofalo that both are doing well financially and we are not bleeding.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Dinner on Monday April 16th. Gee I wonder what the surprise theme will be!! Okay, so I know what it is. So what!

By the time you read this, several of our members will be reading themselves for the spring Board of Directors meeting in Greenville, SC. The National has informed us that there are many very important issues to address at this and upcoming meetings. You will be informed of where we stand in the May Newsletter.

Our pride and joy, the SONO Switch Tower Museum is getting its annual sprucing for the next season our 5th. There were those who were doubtful that we could be successful and I can happily report that we are going strong and gaining momentum!

Projects included work on the power board by Al Brecken who is adding several new components to enhance our presentation.



Photo by Tony White

Al carefully plans his thoughts for the next additions to the power board.

We expect to have the balance of the 68 levers working so that all routes must be set up as if a real train was going through our interlocking. The levers have already been sanded and oiled by Roberta Ballard and Bob Gambling.

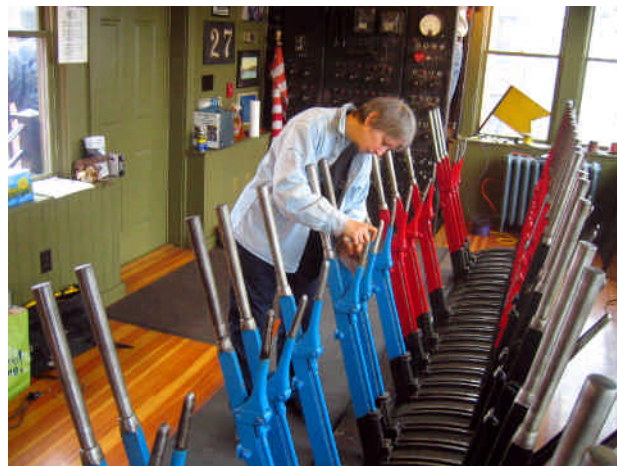


Photo by Bob Gambling

Roberta sanding and oiling the levers in preparation for the upcoming season.

On the second floor, we will be featuring the 100 anniversary of the New Haven electrification. The display will have items and stories of special interest. Chief, Al, and Lincoln Sander will be doing a lot of work to put this all together. Additionally there will be a model display featuring the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. All models will be provided by me. Also there will be photographs from many people including Tim Shields and all of them will be expertly mounted by Roberta.



Photo by Bob Gambling

Chief and Tony help Lincoln cut wood for his much larger than G-gauge centenary for the display on the second floor.

Continued on page 4

However each year something is added that we are all very proud of. In the past few years it has been the model board or the diorama of the territory controlled by SS44. Through a brainstorm by our Mad President Buck Neulinger with the help from his wife Janet and daughter Janell, we have a G-gauge oval that runs through the gift shop and outside the Tower. It looks great and trains run well on it. We are sure that it will draw more visitors into the Tower. More visitors, more money!



Photo by Bob Gambling

Buck laying some G-gauge track on newly installed grid and brackets.

Of course no report of things going on within the Chapter would be complete without mentioning that Steve McEvoy continues to polish and finalize his book on our Tower. It should be published sometime this year. I'm sure that every one of you will want a copy!

Pictures on the front page showed the first group of the year at the Tower. They were given our usual 1st rate tour by Chief and Bob. The Scouts were rewarded with a special Operation Lifesaver presentation by Roberta. Afterwards they visited the gift shop where they were assisted by Janet.

We are thankful to all of you who support the activities of your Chapter by maintaining your memberships, attending meetings, picnics, dinners, going on Chapter trips, working the shows, making up the Tower displays, shoveling snow, financial help and by positive actions with the public while keeping our name prominent. I especially thank those members whom you see listed in the volunteer hours for the Tower each month because without you all, we would not be as successful. Now go Railfan!



Photo by Tony White

Al takes time off to learn that "you cannot defeat the machine" by throwing a route on the 68 levers.



Buck makes holes in the avgle iron bracket to attach it onto the building.



Janet Neulinger is the most important person in this picture as she tries to steady the very unstable Buck and Tony.

Meeting of the WestConn Chapter NRHS

March 26, 2007 United Congregational Church

The meeting was called to order by President Buck Neulinger at 7:35. There were 5 officers and 20 members and guests present.

There were no corrections to the Minute of the January meeting. Minutes approved.

President: Buck Neulinger thanked all who worked at the show in Greenwich. He also thanked Ed Holowinko and John Garofalo for keeping the snow shoveled at the Tower.

Vice President: Robert Westerfield - No report

Bookkeeper (Treasurer): John Garofalo reported on the Chapter finances. At the end of the fiscal year, March 31, both the Tower and the Chapter will be in the black.

Membership - 73 members. Those renewals not received by March 31 will be removed from the membership. John thanked those who have made donations to the Tower and Chapter

National Director: Tony White reported that Leroy Dietrick passed away over the weekend. Mr. Dietrick held a variety of positions in the NRHS at the National level and served as President of the Washington DC Chapter. Tony and Roberta will be attending the Directors Meeting in Greenville, SC in April.

Committee reports

Shows: Bob Westerfield reported that there are nNo more shows until next fall.

Tower: John Garofalo reported that work has started to get the Tower ready for Opening Day May 5. One of the displays for this season will be highlighting the 100th Anniversary of the electrification of the New Haven Line. John Carlton has some materials and John Garofalo will look at it for possible inclusion in the display

Trips/Special Events: The Annual Dinner will be April 16 at Giovanni's II. The cost is \$40. Reservations must be paid by April 6.

Entertainment: Tim Shields - The show tonight is Membership 20 Best. Stewart Werner has obtained another Modern Marvels DVD and will show it at the November meeting. He also spoke about a video highlighting the Tumbler Ridge in British Columbia

Old Business -

New Business - The motel overlooking the mainline in Palatine Bridge, NY is now a Rodeway Inn

News: Tim Shields has photos in Railroads Illustrated. John Garofalo will be putting on the show at the Danbury Railway Museum on Wednesday. This show was postponed from February. Work is progressing on the Naugatuck RR roundhouse. There is now an engine in the first bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Neulinger
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is the Annual Dinner at Giovanni's April 16.

The next regular Chapter meeting is May 21 at the Tower, 77 Washington Street, So. Norwalk.



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:

Ebay ecost Eddie Bauer MacMall Macys Museum Store Company Thompson Cigar Lillian Vernon
 Target Gap Kalmbach Publishing Buy.com USA Kohl's Sierra Trading Post Old Pueblo Traders
 Sharper Image Brookstone eBags Flowers USA 1-800-PetMeds and many more!

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 April 16: Annual Chapter Dinner at - The Waters Edge At Giovanni's II 2748 Post Road, Darien, CT
 6:30 pm - \$40.00 per person. Reservations must be made before April 6.

Saturday April 28 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum opens for the season - 12:00 - 5:00

Sunday April 29 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00

Saturday & Sunday May 5 & 6 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00

Saturday & Sunday May 12 & 13 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00

Saturday & Sunday May 19 & 20 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00

Monday May 21 - Chapter Meeting - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 8:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday May 26 & 27 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 12:00 - 5:00



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

Our Next Chapter meeting will be the Annual Chapter Dinner to be held on
Monday, May 1, 2006 at:

The Waters Edge at Giovanni's II
 2748 Post Road Darien, CT

This year's theme is: **Operation Lifesaver**