



The Westconn Manifest

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



www.westctrhs.org

Since 1953

October 2005

North Conway - Here we come!

September 30 - October 2, 2005

20 Chapter members and friends are off for an adventure in New Hampshire.

Photo credit - Roberta Ballard



The group gathers and waits for the bus to arrive.



The bus arrives.

Photos by Ed Blackman:

Loading the coal for the long
trip up Mt. Washington.

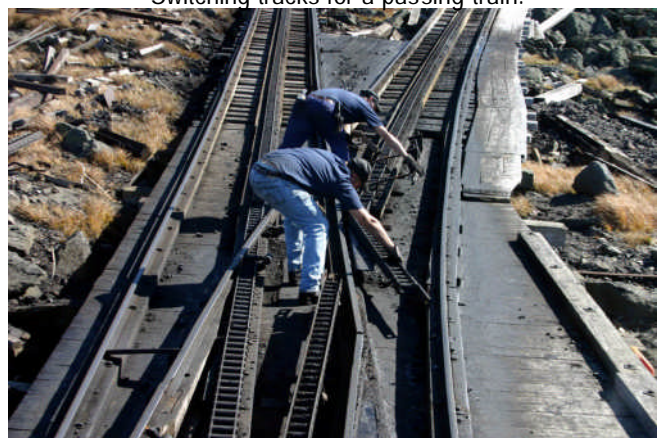


All Aboard!

A rare perfect day - no fog
And in the 70's! You could
see for miles from the top
of MT. Washington.



Switching tracks for a passing train.



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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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.

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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 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
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www.westctnrhs.org
www.sonotower.org



New Member: Stephen A. McEvoy West Chester, PA
Stephen is a former New Haven and Penn Central Tower operator. He has a special interest in the SoNo Switch Tower Museum and we look forward to working with him.

From Robert Briechle

I think this is the same outfit that makes the Green Goat diesel switchers that run on batteries that are charged by a small truck diesel when necessary. Switchers (shunters) spend a lot of time sitting and waiting and the idling diesel creates pollution for no good reason and, of course, burns fuel at over \$3/gallon. Interesting that the Swiss Railways revamped a German WWII 2-10-0 for heavy switching service as an experiment. It uses propane for fuel and has a highly insulated boiler. The propane fire starts automatically when boiler pressure falls below a trigger level. And the loco sits overnight with little loss of steam pressure due to the heavy insulation (presumably, not asbestos...). The loco and tender are said to be more efficient than the typical diesel loco altho the Green Goat concept may well do better. Certainly has far better visibility for the crew.

In any event, this kind of hybrid diesel technology goes a long way to lessening air pollution and consuming energy.

RailPower Technologies sells 98 locomotives to Union Pacific Railroad
Canadian Press
Friday, October 14, 2005

VANCOUVER (CP) - In a multimillion-dollar deal, RailPower Technologies Corp. has sold 98 low-pollution, road-switcher locomotives to Union Pacific Railroad for use in Texas operations.

Vancouver-based RailPower said Friday that Union Pacific will use \$81 million US it was awarded recently by the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan "towards the purchase" of the energy-efficient vehicles.

"Our new low-emission yard and road locomotives are the next chapter in Union Pacific's voluntary efforts to reduce emissions," said Bob Grimaila, Union Pacific's vice-president for environment and safety.

"We have worked hard to build the most environmentally friendly locomotive fleet in North America, and we are committed to preserving our environment by reducing pollution."

RailPower CEO Jim Maier said the order "marks a major step forward for RailPower and our technology. It puts our order book at approximately 175, fills our production schedule through 2006 and part way into 2007, and gets our new road switcher product off to an excellent start in what we believe will be a key railroad market for RailPower."

The RP20 series of switchers was designed to reduce high fuel usage in road and branchline switching operations where locomotives use up to three times the amount consumed by yard switchers.

"We estimate the new RailPower road switchers will provide fuel savings of 20 to 40 per cent with reductions in nitrogen oxide and particulates of about 80 per cent," Maier said.

Union Pacific Railroad, owned by Union Pacific Corp., is the largest railway in North America, covering 23 states across the western two-thirds of the United States.

Photos from Bob Gambling



Tony White demonstrates tower operations to a contingency from the Danbury Railway Museum.

On September 18 Christen Russo, Ron Smith, Peter McLachlan, and Gerry Herrmann took a train from Danbury to Norwalk to visit the SoNo Switch Tower Museum.

Westconn Annual Chapter Picnic. Sunday, September 25.



Jim Mescher was in charge of the food.



Buck Neulinger preparing the grill.



And of course, a little train watching was enjoyed by all.



Westconn Schedule of Events

Sat. Oct. 22 & Sun. Oct. 23 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum open Noon until 5PM

Monday - Oct. 24 - Chapter Meeting - SoNo Switch Tower Museum - 8PM
Entertainment - Dan Gallo Jr.

Sat. Oct. 29 & Sun. Oct. 30 - SoNo Switch Tower Museum open Noon until 5PM

Sun. Nov. 13 - **Westchester Model Railroad Club Train Show - 10 AM - 3PM**
Greenwich Civic Center, Old Greenwich, CT



The Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS Inc. supports Operation Lifesaver

**Our Next Chapter meeting will be
Monday, October 24, 2005 at:
The SoNo Switch Tower Museum**

77 Washington Street
South Norwalk, CT

Entertainment will be provided by:

Dan Gallo, Jr.

“Steam and Diesel Railroads of the Northeast”

Bob Gambling will provide refreshments.



The SoNo (Railroad) Switch Tower Museum

is only open on Saturday's and Sunday's
April 30 thru October from noon until 5 PM.

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

To volunteer, contact John Garofalo at:
(203) 246-6958

or sign up at the Tower.

Thank you, your help is greatly appreciated.

Tower Operator Volunteer Hours for October 2005

Bob Gambling: 48 hrs.	John Garofalo: 36 hrs.	Bob Westerfield: 30 hrs.
Tony White: 24 hrs.	Roberta Ballard: 24 hrs.	Anthony Gruerio: 12 hrs.
Buck Neulinger: 12 hrs.	Janet Neulinger: 12 hrs.	Dick Carpenter: 7 hrs.
Beth Siegelbaum: 6 hrs.	Ed Holowinko: 6 hrs.	Al Brecken: 6 hrs.
	Jim Mescher: 6 hrs.	

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!