

# SEMAPHORE

May 2009

The next meeting of LIST will be on **Friday, May 15th** at 8:00pm at the Christ Episcopal Church, South Carll Avenue and Prospect Street, Babylon, New York.

## THIS MONTH:

On tap for the May 2009 meeting will be a presentation by Allan Roberts, author of "**Trackside around New York**". Mr. Roberts presentation will be "Shore Line Memories- Part 2." It is Al's photo coverage of the New Haven RR in its final years in the 1960's from New Haven CT. to Boston MA. Pictures will be night and day and in all weather conditions.

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**For regular updates and other important information, visit the**

**Chapter website at:**

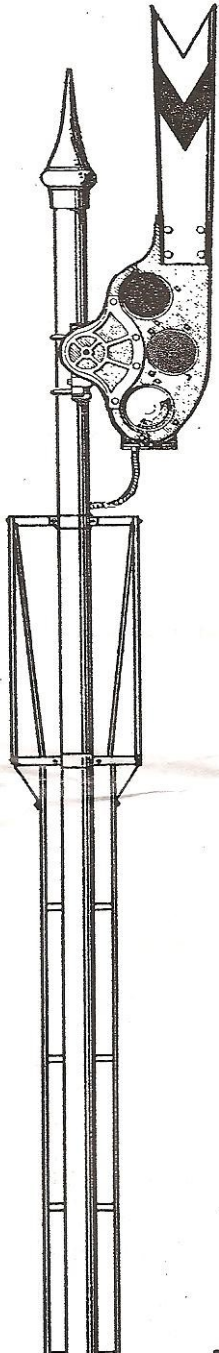
**<http://www.nrhs-list.org>**

**The Chapter mailing address is:**

**LIST—NRHS**

**P O Box 507**

**Babylon, New York 11702-0507**



THE PUBLICATION OF THE  
LONG ISLAND-SUNRISE TRAIL CHAPTER  
OF THE  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## **Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter helps LIRR celebrate birthday** **by David D. Morrison**

The LI Sunrise Trail Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society recently helped the Long Island Rail Road celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the April 24, 1834 issuance of the New York State Charter creating the LIRR.

The first event was held in Penn Station on the morning of April 24<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Chapter member and LIRR customer from Smithtown, Caroline Scannell, the US Postal Service was present to cancel stamped envelopes (covers) using a special postmark (cancellation) created by Caroline. The event was a booming success with over 500 covers being sold with the proceeds being split by the Chapter three ways – the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum, the Railroad Museum of Long Island and the New York Transit Museum.

The main event was held at Jamaica Station in the JCC Building, known as the Airtrain Building. In addition to President Helena E. Williams, the LIRR was honored to have four past presidents join in the celebration, those being, Robin H.H. Wilson, Chuck Hoppe, James Dermody and Ray Kenny. Numerous political leaders were present to present certificates to President Williams.

Chapter President Stephen F. Quigley presented a large metal plaque to President Williams, which was inscribed in pertinent part:

“This plaque was presented in Jamaica, NY on April 24, 2009 in grateful recognition of the long-term friendship between the LIRR and the railroad historical community of Long Island.”

President Williams spoke of the importance of the LIRR to Long Island’s growth, past and future. She spoke of the role of LIRR employees past and present who have been responsible for making the LIRR the biggest and the best commuter railroad in the country. She gave special tribute to LIRR Special Services Attendant Timothy Myles, who recently turned in \$3,000.00 cash that a customer had lost on the train. President Williams then cut an anniversary cake.

The following day, Saturday, the Chapter sponsored an all-day symposium at the Hicksville Middle School. President Williams graciously attended that event and was presented with a silver railroad spike by Chapter President Quigley. The LIRR made an audio/visual presentation, followed by various railroad historical group presentations:

Twin Forks Chapter – NRHS, President Rich Gorddard

Oyster Bay Railroad Museum – President John Specce and Gary Farkash

Railroad Museum of Long Island – President Don Fisher

LI Sunrise Trail Chapter – Mike Boland

A presentation was also given Jim Pavone of the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce.

A raffle was held and among the prizes were a special anniversary railroad lantern produced by the LI Sunrise Trail Chapter, and a LIRR M-7 passenger car train set donated by Lionel

Many people during the day went across the street to see the paintings of Lou Mallard which were on display at the Community Room of the Hicksville Public Library. Those paintings will be removed at the end of April.

Continued on next page...

## Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter helps LIRR celebrate birthday Continued from previous page...

The railroad caboose paintings of George Wybenga are still on display at the Gregory Museum and will be there until mid-July.

The LI Sunrise Trail Chapter produced a 60 page color Journal commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LIRR. Val Pakaluk, of the Hicksville Historical Society did a wonderful job of editing the Journal, which is on sale for \$14.95 (tax inclusive) plus \$5.00 postage. Orders for the Journal may be sent to:

Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter – NRHS  
P.O. Box 507  
Babylon, NY 11702-0507

One of Lou Mallard's paintings graces the front cover of the Journal and one of George Wybenga's caboose paintings graces the rear cover. The Journal is packed with railroad history and promises to be a real keepsake.

The LIRR has a rich history and a promising future. Someday in the future, LIRR trains will be running into Grand Central Terminal and that will surely be cause for another celebration.

NOTE: Chapter President Stephen Quigley adds:

Chapter President Steve Quigley stated that with the lead role of noted author and LIRR historian, Dave Morrison, the Chapter was able to present to the public an informative and entertaining look at the history of the LIRR through varied venues such as the journal as well as the Symposium.

### MTA Long Island Rail Road - 175 Years of Experience



The Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is a non-profit 501c3 Educational Organization. The Chapter was founded in 1966 to serve the Long Island area. The SEMAPHORE is the official publication of the Chapter. Articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the attitude of the Chapter or the NRHS. Please address all correspondence and membership inquiries to: LIST-NRHS, PO Box 507, Babylon, New York 11702-0507

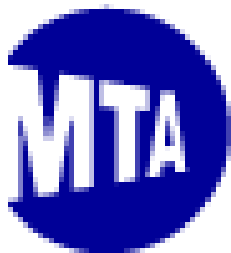
Stephen F. Quigley, President

Steven R. Torborg, Editor

## Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter helps LIRR celebrate birthday



Long Island Rail Road President Helena Williams addresses the crowd during the 175th Anniversary event at Penn Station on the morning of April 24<sup>th</sup>.



Shown here is Chapter member Caroline Scannell at the LIRR's 175th Anniversary ceremony in Penn Station on the morning of April 24th. LIRR President Helena E. Williams is looking on as Caroline cancels a cover with the special design that she created with the cooperation of the USPS, the LIRR and the MTA.

## Membership Information

### Chapter Journal

The Journal is available for Chapter members at \$10 each plus \$4 shipping and handling. This reduced price is for MEMBERS ONLY. The web site will have a higher price for non members.

### Semaphore Articles

You may have noticed that there are occasional omissions of certain reports from the Semaphore. Case in point, we occasionally have to leave out Mike Boland's article on model railroading, Neil Moran's "Stack Talk" or the updates on OBRM and RMLI. This is often done to allow room for other important events such as the LIRR 175th Anniversary Symposium and the like. Other times, it is because we have not received the necessary information and want to get the Semaphore out to you in a timely manner. We also try to keep the font large enough for our readers to easily view while still keeping the number of pages down so as not to increase the postage. Either way, you may be sure that we will continue to keep you up to date on everything that has proven to be of interest to our readers. Meanwhile, we would like to remind you that if you have any interesting news items or stories you would like to share with our readers, please feel free to send them to us for future use.

They may be sent to Steve Torborg at: [storb35@aol.com](mailto:storb35@aol.com)

### Long Island Live Steamers

The Long Island Live Steamers invite the Sunrise Trail Chapter of the NRHS to hold a picnic at our facility on 1 August from 11:00 until 3:00 during the day set aside for regional rail interest clubs. As has been the custom, you bring your members and your picnics, we'll bring the trains for you to ride and / or inspect. We look forward to seeing you then.

### 2010 LIRR Calendar

The 2009 LIRR Calendar was a complete sellout! At the present time, we are in the beginning stages of compiling photos for the 2010 Calendar. If you have photos of LIRR buildings, engines, rolling stock or other pictures, please submit them to myself or John Scala. We want to have the calendar available in September of this year, so please submit them as soon as possible. Early LIRR photos would be welcomed even if they are in Black & White. All photos will be returned if requested.

### Other Publications

We have available the New York Connecting Railroad book. The price is still just \$27.00 for members plus S & H and tax where applicable.

A limited quantity of the 2005 calendar and the 2008 New York and Atlantic Railway calendar. The prices are \$6.00 including S & H and tax where applicable.

### Historical Videos

In Commemoration of the 175th Anniversary, the Long Island Rail Road now has several historical videos posted on their web site. These videos, all produced at different times over the past few decades, show many historical highlights of the railroad's history. Visit the LIRR web site at: <http://www.mta.info/lirr> and click on the 175th Anniversary icon.

***We're not there yet! In the unlikely event of Winter Storms, please use your best judgment as well as checking the website to see if a meeting is to be postponed. Better safe at home than sorry on the road.***

## The Oyster Bay Railroad Museum by Steven Torborg

With Spring comes renewed energy...and lot's of work when you are an active member of a railroad museum. Such is the case with the regular work force at the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum. Work sessions virtually every weekend and no end in sight as we continue full steam ahead toward getting the museum up and running.

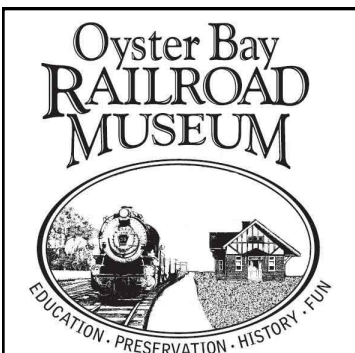
During the month of April, contractors moved our shop trailer, forklift, and two parts trailers from our long time home in Mitchel Field to our Oyster Bay site. With everything on site, work has resumed in earnest on the few remaining details involved in the restoration of Caboose #12 and the Worlds Fair Cab Unit. With the forklift up and running, we have also begun the inventory process of all the parts belonging to Locomotive #35. This process of cataloging and photographing all the parts is a necessary step in putting the restoration of the locomotive out to bid by the Town. While time consuming and tedious, it also allows us to better compact what we have and rid ourselves of other items we no longer need. Spirits are definitely renewed with us now working full time in our new home in Oyster Bay!

Back in town, our Preview center has become quite a big hit with the residents of the community and, in fact, people near and far. With our new web site up and running and the Preview Center with regular hours on the weekends, we have seen a regular attendance of at least 20 to 30 people on an average day. Some are locals, but we have had numerous other visitors who have come from as far away as Maine! While some of our members initially doubted the viability of a "Preview Center" storefront, there is no longer any doubt in anyone's minds that it was a great idea!

We have recently brought on to our Board two new people who are no doubt assets to our organization. Lauren Daitz, a long time volunteer member, has recently joined the Board of Trustees and brought to the forefront a fresh new way of dealing with our record keeping, membership renewal process and even our newsletter. Meanwhile, a new Director of Development has been retained and has already shown great promise in bringing our organization even farther than we had originally anticipated in terms of organization, promotions and fundraising. With these two individuals and our existing Board of Trustees, we are sure to continue our forward progression.

On tap for the next few months, things show no sign of slowing down. As published in Newsday, the Daily News and the LIRR's own commuter newsletter, we will soon be receiving not one, but two of their "Dinky" 25 ton diesel locomotives. These two small critters have served the LIRR for almost 50 years and, though retired, they continued to serve in a recent publicity campaign in their "Name the Locomotive" contest. We are anticipating their delivery to our museum site some time later this month. Meanwhile, our P-54 Ping Pong coach is expected to make the over-the-road journey from western PA to Oyster Bay in early June. This car is in rather pristine condition and we are hoping to make it through the next month or so without any additional vandalism. (knock on wood!)

Meanwhile, our Annual Summer Solstice Celebration will be held on Thursday, June 18th. This popular event attracts quite a crowd and is a fantastic venue for us to show off the progress we made each year. Beyond that, we are hoping to have some form of railroad flea market / open house during the summer (if time and resources permit) and then of course there is the annual Oyster Festival in the fall. Locally, there is "Cruise Night" on Tuesday nights during the summer which showcases historic, antique and muscle cars from around the area throughout the summer for which our museum is generally open since it is literally outside our doors!



Exciting things continue to occur at the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum. Please make an effort to come by, say hello and check out our exciting and ever changing progress. You can also visit our website for regular updates at:

<http://www.oysterbayrailroadmuseum.org/home.html>



## The Railroad Museum of Long Island by Don Fisher

April Showers – May Flowers! Harbingers of Spring! We are pleased to announce that the RMLI Greenport Museum will officially open for the 2009 season on Saturday, May 23 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This season we are hosting a RMLI exhibit of artifacts celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LIRR. Visit the historic LIRR Greenport Yard and experience the railroad and maritime history of this seaside village, ***“The Reason for the Long Island Railroad!”***

Thank you to LIST member Gene Collora for a bang up job of presenting on March 21<sup>st</sup> the LIRR Freight Service during its heyday. Outstanding slides with a knowledgeable lecture made this third annual RMLI Educational Forum a memorable one. Thanks also to all LIST members who attended!

This month I want to address an issue that many of us may take for granted or many of us may ignore. ***“See something? Say Something!”*** As you will see, this can hit close to home in the rail preservation community.

Over the past few months, the Twin Forks Chapter, NRHS had been working very hard on finishing restoration of caboose C-60 for its exhibition at the New York Transit Museum. Chapter members and volunteers from the RMLI labored inside the LIRR MOW Yard at Riverhead.

Part of the restoration process included many inspections and weekday visits from officials of the participating agencies. One particular Monday, we had an 11:00 AM inspection scheduled. At 10:00 AM I received a call on my cell phone – “did I know of any contractors cleaning up our yard at Riverhead?”

One of the Subway System Officials had arrived at the caboose early and had observed two men drive a truck into the MOW yard, don yellow safety vests and start placing articles of steel and iron into their truck. The official questioned the men, asking them if they were there for the morning meeting. “No,” they said, “we’re contractors cleaning rail yards from Ronkonkoma to Greenport.”

Mmmmmmm, they didn’t look like authorized contractors! I asked the subway official to take down the license plate number of the truck, we would ask them for ID as soon as I arrived in the yard and if they had none we would notify the police and let them handle it.

By the time I pulled into the MOW yard the “contractors” had gone for coffee!!! They promised to bring a cup back for the subway guy!!! By 12 noon, the subway guy was getting very thirsty, they hadn’t returned and the inspection process on C-60 was well under way. We called the MTA Police and gave them the description and license plate number of the truck. They were onto it immediately.

In short order, the MTA Police had the two men in custody for stealing iron and steel for scrap out of the yard. Unknown to us, a large order of new rail joiners had been stolen from the yard over the weekend. Scrappers are a problem during these hard economic times.

The moral of the story is our awareness paid off. Two criminals were apprehended and the scrapping stopped. Our historic railcars and the material in the yard were safe for the near term. We all must remain vigilant for things out of the ordinary and if we ***“See something? Say Something!”***



In closing, I would like to personally thank Steve Quigley, Dave Morrison and the LIST Team for a great 175<sup>th</sup> LIRR Anniversary Symposium on April 25<sup>th</sup>. RMLI thanks you all for allowing us the opportunity to present our slideshow!

“Clear Block Ahead! ALL ABOARD!”







Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter  
National Railway Historical Society  
Post Office Box 507  
Babylon, New York 11702-0507

**ATTENDING MEETING  
AT CHRIST CHURCH  
BABYLON**



**LONG ISLAND-  
SUNRISE TRAIL  
CHAPTER**



**NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**