



SEMAPHORE



November 2020

The LIST September meeting will be held on **Friday, November 20th, 8:00pm.** To comply with current restrictions regarding gatherings, this meeting will be held via Zoom. Please contact President Steve Quigley for details on how to tune in to the November meeting. You may email him at csquigley@optonline.net

THIS MONTH'S PRESENTATION

The November Zoom meeting presenter will be **James Muhr**, whom is a retired LIRR Project Manger and Licensed Civil Engineer. The presentation will be on the **Post Avenue Bridge Replacement Project** which was during a weekend in Oct. 2017.

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For regular updates and other important information, visit the Chapter website at: LIST-NRHS.org

Email: lisunrisetrail@yahoo.com

The Chapter mailing address is:

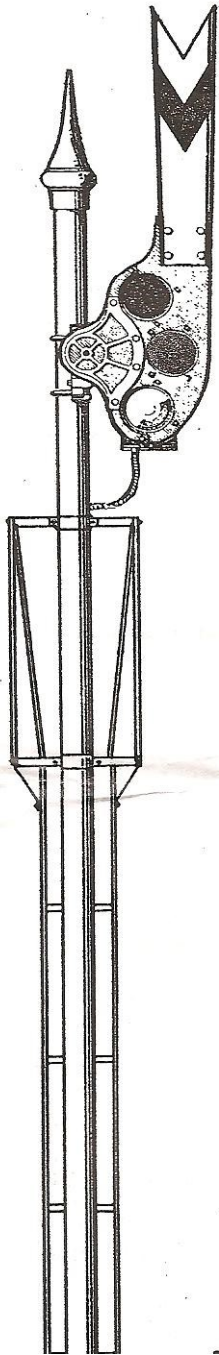
LIST—NRHS

P O Box 507

Babylon, New York 11702-0507

ALSO, BE SURE TO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK AT:

Long-Island-Sunrise-Trail-Chapter-of-the-NRHS



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



List Happenings by Steve Quigley

First and most important, I wish all of the members of LIST and your families to stay healthy and be safe.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ITEMS!

Regretfully, I am canceling this month's IN PERSON November LIST Chapter meeting. We are planning on resuming our in person meetings as soon as possible.

WE WILL HAVE A ZOOM MEETING THIS MONTH ON NOVEMBER 20TH. Please see this edition of the Semaphore as to how you may attend through your PC our Zoom meeting. In the future, we plan on conducting our in person meetings as well as having a Zoom meeting at the same time. I hope we can resume in person meetings this December or January. Our October Zoom meeting was well attended and went well with several out-of-state members attending.

Please send me your email if you wish to attend our Zoom meetings. All you need to attend is a phone or a PC or laptop that has a speaker and you can attend! Many thanks to Chapter member Ed Koehler for setting up and handling the technical aspects of our Zoom Meeting. For now, our Zoom meetings are available to LIST Chapter members only and invited guests, not to non-members.

We have included another copy of the annual dues notice in this month's edition of the Semaphore. If you have already sent in your dues for 2021, we thank you. If not, please send in your dues as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Our 2021 LIRR calendar has been delivered and is available to ship to you. We are able to retain last year's price of \$8 for Chapter members and are using the same printing company in Pennsylvania that we have used for the past several years. We will be running an ad in RAILPACE Newsmagazine in the edition that will be available at the beginning of December. We are advertising our 2 hardcover books and our 2021 calendar. Please look for it and let me know what you think of our ad.

We are planning a rail trip to Greenport with a date of April 24th 2021. This date happens to be the 187th anniversary of the LIRR. We will be including in the price of the ticket a book, a special pin and a booklet telling the story of the First Train to Greenport. We will have a docent on board who will tell us the history of the Line to Greenport and describe interesting aspects of this line. In addition, there will be raffles on board the train and other fun and interesting things.

Bob Sturm's new book is in the final stages of being written and we hope it will be printed and published this fall. Our Chapter is providing support so that this important work will be available to be read by all who appreciate the history of the LIRR. The book will cover the History of the LIRR from 1948 to 1980.

Dave Morrison's new book on the Babylon Line should be available in January. Naturally, we will have it available for sale at a discount to Chapter members. When it becomes available, we will note it in the Semaphore.

We are always looking for articles for the Semaphore, just let me know and I am sure that we will be able to print it [sooner or later]. My e mail address is csquigley@optonline.net and my telephone # is **631-487-4766**. Please email your articles.

LIRR NEWS by Steve Quigley

New LIRR timetables are in effect as of 11/9/2020. If you are looking for a printed copy in the stations, you will not find them. Informed sources have two differing opinions. One opinion is that the lack of printed timetables is temporary while another opinion is that the days of printed LIRR timetables are over. The timetables that were Effective May 18 – July 12, 2020 were the last ones printed and the collectors of timetables should save this edition.

The LIRR is continuing its successful timely completion of eliminating crossings on the Main Line between Hicksville and Floral Park.

The new bridge over the South 12th Street crossing in New Hyde Park was installed the weekend of October 24th and 25th. The new bridge underpass is expected to be opened in the spring of 2022. In the past, as trains approached the New Hyde Park station, the crossing gates were in the down position 32% to 42% of the time in the AM and PM peak hours. Due to the elimination of the crossing, no longer will traffic be tied up in for a substantial period of time nor will residents be subjected to noise from the train horn as it goes through the crossing. In addition, the potential for car/train accidents will be eliminated.

The Covert Avenue crossing was replaced and an underpass was opened on Oct. 12, 2019. The New Hyde Park Road crossing was replaced and a new underpass was opened on Aug. 24 of this year. The New Hyde Park station platforms are being rebuilt and lengthened.

Results of the testing of two new technologies to combat the spread of the covid virus on LIRR trains have proved disappointing. Disinfecting solutions that manufacturers stated would kill various viruses for weeks with one application did not live up to expectations, officials at the MTA noted. Additionally, the use of ultraviolet lamps on the trains has proved more costly and time consuming than having crews go on board the individual train cars and wipe down the train cars with disinfecting solutions.

The testing continues as the MTA continues to try and lure riders back to the trains. Weekday ridership remains at about 28% of pre-covid virus levels. The LIRR predicts a 64% drop in fare revenue for 2020, from \$769 million in 2019 to \$279 million this year. [However, I have personally seen an increase in cars parked at the Babylon train station recently but still not at the levels of early this year. S Q]

MTA officials are testing another new technology that appears promising. The LIRR and Metro-North are testing the use of electrostatic air filters that the manufacturer states can kill 99.99% of airborne particles in the train cars. The air filters would be installed into the HVAC systems of the individual train cars. The MTA is looking into other high and low tech solutions to combat the virus. One simple solution being looked into is to cover stainless steel surfaces with copper coverings that are less likely to transmit viruses.

NASSAU TOWER WAS STILL STANDING. HOWEVER, IT MAY NOT BE IN EXISTENCE FOR LONG! If you wish to see it and possibly take pictures, do it now or you may lose the opportunity to view it one last time. The Tower and its adjacent power substation are slated for demolition as part of the Third Track Project. The tower is of frame construction versus the substation being brick and the third track will probably go through right where the tower is located. [BOTH of the two "Nassau" signs was removed from the structure, possibly without LIRR permission]

The active membership of the Railroad Museum of Long Island stepped up to the plate to reimagine our place – and successfully worked to salvage Summer 2020 at the Railroad Museums. We created an Infectious Disease Protocol to guide us in safely opening and we were ready for Phase IV of “New York Forward” on July 18th when we reopened to the public.



With distance markers on the floor of the exhibit halls, hand sanitizer for everyone and safety masks required, we opened with physical distancing on the '64 – '65 World's Fair G-16 park train and new traffic patterns throughout the Museums. Our visitors and members gladly complied with all of the new rules and safety regulations and we have enjoyed an average of fifty-five people visiting the Museums each day we have been open!

Capitalizing on our open space at Riverhead, we erected our big top tent to provide outdoor, open-air distanced dining for our members on work days and exhibit space for visiting train clubs during the month of September. On Columbus Day weekend we utilized our tents to provide open-air distanced space for a mini railroad flea market and swap meet. This not only gave visitors a chance to experience something more each weekend but it gave our railroading friends and colleagues an opportunity to safely meet and show during these difficult times.

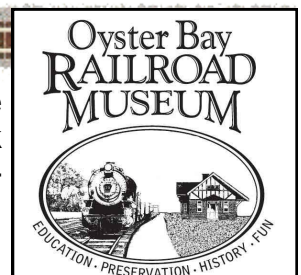
At both Greenport and Riverhead we experienced many first-time visitors who have recently moved into our area from New York City and beyond. A “Tip O’ the Hat” with a hearty THANK YOU to our volunteers who have averaged nineteen members at each Tuesday work session and ten docent-members on each day the Museums have been open to the public.

Members, volunteers and archivists returned to the Museums on June 13th during Phase II of “New York Forward.” Work picked up where we left off in March. New exhibits were finished, discovery and cataloguing resumed in the Library, the gift shop came to life and expanded its presence on e-Bay to promote sales to support the Museums. Slowly, the rhythm and hum of the Railroad Museum of Long Island could be heard again.

Sadly, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, we must cancel our 2020 Holiday Open Houses with Santa at Greenport and Riverhead. For the safety of our visitors and our volunteers – and especially for the safety of Santa – we will instead keep our Riverhead Museum site open on Saturdays throughout the Holidays. This will make for a lower impact visiting environment with physical distancing and wearing of face masks in effect.

The gift shop at Riverhead and the Historic Lionel Layout will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM every Saturday through December 26, 2020. (NOTE: We will be CLOSED Thanksgiving weekend, Saturday, November 28th for holiday decorating!) Enjoy last-minute shopping for the train lover in your family. Special Holiday admission pricing will be in effect throughout the month of December - Adults: \$8.00, Children 5-12 years old: \$4.00 and Children 4 years and younger are always FREE!

The Oyster Bay Railroad Museum's dedicated volunteers continue to make great progress on all projects, especially in putting Steam Locomotive #35 back together. Our welders have been quite busy replacing studs on the boiler, firebox and frame. Meanwhile, the rest of the crew has completed all steelwork on the cab and applied several coats of shiny black paint. In anticipation of putting the cab and boiler back on the frame, the cab and smokebox supports, steps, running board support brackets and even the pilot have been removed from storage, cleaned, primed and painted. It is our hope that Locomotive #35 will again LOOK LIKE a locomotive some time in 2021. At the current rate, this is an entirely probable prediction!



For more details and photos of the work being done, check us out on Facebook at **OYSTER BAY RAILROAD MUSEUM** and **LIRR STEAM LOCOMOTIVE #35**. You can also view our most recent newsletter on our website at www.obrm.org.





**LONG ISLAND-SUNRISE TRAIL
CHAPTER**

Founded in 1966



NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2021 CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

(Payable by January 1, 2021)

<u>CHAPTER DUES:</u>	Membership	\$15.00
	Family Membership Per Person	\$1.00

Dues Total \$ _____

Chapter Donation \$ _____

Total Remitted \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to L.I.S.T. and **send with this notice** to:

Treasurer, L.I.S.T.
111 Greenbelt Parkway, Holbrook, NY 11741-4439

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

IS YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CORRECT???? If not, please write correct address on this dues notice; also include your email and phone number.

Alan Mark, Treasurer

THE LIRR MODELER by Mike Boland

This Month's Feature:

Modeling FGE 50 Foot Insulated Boxcars - Part 2

As I mentioned last time I picked up a number of Walthers 50-foot plug-door RBL insulated boxcars in kit form at my local hobby shop a short time ago after I decided to add them to my freight car roster. I thought that these cars would be a good addition since they were in the group of "second generation steel freight cars," having appeared in the 1960's.

The Walthers car appeared in 1993 or so and was in kit form when it was first introduced. In later years it came as a built-up model and in many roadnames. In its initial kit form there was also an undecorated model; I purchased two of these undecs and had purchased one many years ago and began to letter it in a Penn Central scheme. At the present time I am waiting for a Microscale set of Fruit Growers Express decals to letter one of my cars. The other car will be lettered for Penn Central's successor, Conrail.

The two cars that were built up that I purchased had two interesting paint schemes. One was CSX with yellow lettering on a blue car and the other was a novel paint scheme used by the Erie Lackawanna Railroad. This was the standard EL large lettering and EL herald in white that were used on the merged road's many boxcars but in this case the car body was not freight car red but bright blue. Jim Eager's roster of FGE RBL cars is of immense help in understanding these cars; it appeared in the February 1993 issue of RAILMODEL JOURNAL. His comprehensive effort shows that the EL had 75 such cars; they were numbered 69275 through 69349. They were built between November and December of 1974. They had a 10 ½ feet wide door and went onto Conrail when the northeastern giant was formed in April 1976 from the many bankrupt railroads in the region.

Many other railroads owned or leased these cars and I'll write more about this next time when I continue my feature on this car.



Here's a quick note about two fine new publications that are out and of much interest to railfans and modelers everywhere. The first is GREAT MODEL RAILROADS 2021, Kalmbach and MR's annual effort; it features nine inspiring layouts in multiple scales for different sized rooms. It includes modeling Baltimore's Harbor District and has lots of useful information in it. Also available from Kalmbach - CLASSIC TRAINS as Special Edition #27 is PULLMAN-AMERICA'S HOTEL ON WHEELS. This 106-page treat has rare photos, a guide to car and room types, first-hand stories and lots more; it is a must for Pullman fans such as myself.

Until next time, Happy Thanksgiving, stay safe and healthy and happy modeling!



The following price list is for LIST members only!



# _____ 2021 LIRR calendar	@\$8 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Multiple Unit Cars by M. Boland	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Main Line East by D. Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Trackside with Matt Herson by M. Boland	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Oyster Bay Branch by D. Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ The LIRR Co. A Hist. 1834-1965 by Bob Sturm	@\$38 each Total _____
# _____ Shortline RR's of LI by LIST	@\$27 each Total _____
# _____ Steel Road Nostalgia, Vol. 1 the Northeast	@\$32 each Total _____
# _____ Steel Road Nostalgia, Vol.2 the Northeast	@\$32 each Total _____
# _____ Jamaica Station by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ Sunnyside Yard & Hell Gate Bridge- D. Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Stations by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Port Jefferson Branch by D. Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, in color Vol. 1	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 2	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 3	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 4	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 5	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The LIRR, In Color Power 1952-2015	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The LIRR Part Seven by V. Seyfried	@\$25 each Total _____

Shipping for 1 of the books or calendar, \$3.50.

Shipping for extra books, please call or e mail Steve Quigley for the shipping cost.

NY State Residents, add 8.625% tax to the total of the merchandise PLUS the shipping] *****NY RESIDENTS, THE COST OF THE MAILED CALENDAR IS \$12.49



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
National Railway Historical Society
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Here are some photos of the station, and the now "closed"
12th Street grade crossing in New Hyde Park.

Dave Morrison

