



# SEMAPHORE



April 2020

Out of abundance of caution, we are canceling this month's LIST Chapter meeting. We had a special guest lined up and hopefully this guest will be able to reschedule in the not too distant future when things get back to normal.

We wish all of the members of LIST and your families to stay healthy and be safe. In this time of crisis, the best thing we can all do is stay safe by staying at home.

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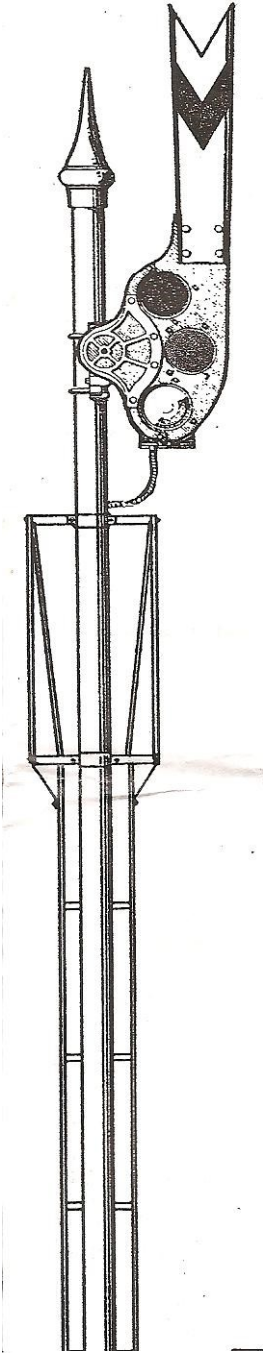
**For regular updates and other important information,  
visit: [www.LIST-NRHS.org](http://www.LIST-NRHS.org)**

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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. In this time of crisis the best thing we can do is stay safe by staying at home watching TV. [even though there is nothing on] Another alternative is reading a good book, preferably about your favorite railroad, the LIRR.

Out of abundance of caution, I am regretfully canceling this month's LIST Chapter meeting. We had a special guest lined up and hopefully this guest will be able to reschedule in the not too distant future when things get back to normal.

Speaking of reading a good book, we have received copies of LIST Chapter member Mike Boland's new book which is titled, the Long Island Rail Road Multiple Unit Cars Volume 1 Cars Built 1905 – 1949. The book is full color, has 128 pages that are full of pictures about LIRR passenger cars from that time period. The publisher has increased the retail price of their new books by \$10 to \$69.95. HOWEVER, we have decided to maintain our regular cost for LIST Chapter members to \$48. As a result, we are limiting the amount for each member to ONE copy. Please see the order form in this month's edition of the Semaphore.

Mike is tentatively scheduled to perform a presentation and book signing at the May LIST meeting. We will have information regarding the meeting in the May edition of the Semaphore and on our web site.

Some good news! For the first time in several years we are planning a LIRR special trip! We are working with the people of the LIRR to have a special rail trip to Greenport. This trip will commemorate the LIRR's expansion to Greenport as well as celebrating the fact that the LIRR will be 186 years old by the time we go on the trip. The trip is scheduled to occur on September 19<sup>th</sup> and we are planning things such as a special commemorative pin, information regarding the rail line, a special ticket as well as a raffle.

We will have additional information in future editions of the Semaphore. Most likely, we will publish a special edition of the Semaphore during the summer so that you may register for the trip. We normally do not publish the Semaphore in July and August. We are looking for a few docents to be on board to provide information. If you would like to volunteer to be a docent, please e mail me at my address which is at the bottom of this page.

We have had several instances of members that have moved but have not notified us of their move. Please, if you move, send me an e mail, call me or send a carrier pigeon and let me know your address change. The USPS does not always provide us a forwarding address and thus you may not receive the Semaphore.

The Downtown Brooklyn NY Transit Museum has an exhibit titled "Reign of the Redbirds." The exhibit chronicles the many lives of NY's most iconic subway cars. The exhibit runs from November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We are working on putting together photos for our 2021 LIRR calendar. If you wish to have a photo or photos considered for our annual calendar, then please send the photo, slide or digital photo to us at either my email address or our PO Box.



## List Happenings...continued by Steve Quigley

We acquired a few copies of Dave Keller's and Steve Lynch's Arcadia Publishers books on the LIRR. The two books are titled "The LIRR 1925-1975" and "Revisiting The LIRR 1925-1975." As usual, there is a discount off the retail price for LIST members. Please see the order form in this edition of the Semaphore for additional information.

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](mailto:csquigley@optonline.net) and my telephone # is **631-487-4766**. Please email your articles. A special THANK YOU goes out to all of the doctors, nurses, health care professionals and first responders who are working long and hard to help the people who have the virus and to ensure the safety of all of us!



## LIRR NEWS by Steve Quigley

The LIRR has almost 75% of its track miles covered by PTC which is the federally mandated Positive Train Control. The latest activation of PTC is from Patchogue to Montauk and from Ronkonkoma to Greenport. The LIRR as well as other railroads in the US have until December 31 of this year to complete activation of PTC or risks fines that could be as much as \$29,000 per day. PTC as you know, is communication technology that is designed to prevent rail collisions by automatically slows or halts trains that are in violation of the signals along a section of track. PTC is now up and running on most LIRR lines. An outside PTC consultant has called the LIRR progress "really remarkable" with LIRR President Philip Eng optimistic that the LIRR will meet the Federal deadline for the implementation of PTC.

As you know, the Corona Virus has hit the NY Metropolitan area very hard. Most businesses have either closed or are asking their employees to work from home if possible. Thus, travel on Long Island has been impacted in a manner that few of us could ever dream. Rush hour on Long Island parkways and the Expressway no longer has traffic jams. Cars move at the speed limit or even higher during the morning and evening rush hours. Naturally, the LIRR has been greatly impacted. The LIRR schedule is and has been an "Essential Service Schedule" which is similar to a weekend schedule with many trains being minimally used. I have been told that most trains on the Port Washington Branch are almost empty of passengers versus the Ronkonkoma and Babylon Branches. A few extra trains have actually been added to the rush hours on the Babylon and Ronkonkoma branches to accommodate construction workers, first responders and essential services workers going to their jobs in NYC where the normal weekend service is not sufficient.

Since the LIRR is running on this modified weekend schedule, a full complement of cars is not needed. Thus, for the time being, the LIRR is running exclusively its M-7 cars. The remaining fleet of M-3 and M-9 cars has been mothballed and will be returned to service when regular service is implemented. For the time being, you will see only M-7 cars running on the LIRR.

I have been told that the decommissioning and demolition of Nassau Tower has been put on hold due to the corona virus crisis.

My wish of staying safe and good health goes to all of the people of the NY Metropolitan area and especially to our Health Care workers and the people of LIRR and MTA whom are critical to the running of our Tri-State area transportation and the movement of its people.

## ***THE LIRR MODELER by Mike Boland***

### ***This Month's Feature:***

## ***Two Forty Foot Boxcar Kits - Part 1***

Yes, COVID-19 can even affect the LIRR Modeler. I haven't gotten it so that's good but it has affected my life to the point where I haven't had the opportunity to work on the window arrangements of my favorite parlor-lounge cars, ELKS CLUB and LIONS CLUB, that I wrote about earlier. Therefore, I'm going to take a temporary break on this project for a bit and work on something else. The "something else" turned out to be two 40 foot boxcar kits and they both were a fun and interesting diversion from what I was doing.

Let's face it, everyone who models the LIRR can use a number of 40 foot boxcars on his layout insofar as the 40 foot steel boxcar was a staple of American railroads' rolling stock for many years until it was displaced by the 50 foot boxcar, as well as longer cars, and the use of containers riding on flatcars. Today, boxcars are still around but they are not used as frequently as other types of rolling stock, particularly the covered hopper, which has apparently become more popular and is seen in many freight trains nowadays. Watch a freight train at trackside today and observe the number of covered hoppers, and boxcars in the consist.

I've found that kits are an inexpensive way to build a boxcar fleet. I bought an Accurail Pittsburgh & Lake Erie 40 foot steel boxcar kit (#8111.1). It's a good-looking car in Boxcar Red paint with white lettering and the New York Central logo above the PLE reporting marks to the left of the door. On the right side was the name PITTSBURGH & LAKE ERIE; beneath it was the slogan: "Serves the Steel Centers" in script. All the lettering on the car is white except for the CENTRAL in the logo, which has a black background while the rest of the NYC oval logo does not.

This car with its sealed single six-foot door was numbered 20697 and was easy to assemble. You'll need some Walthers Goo to glue the metal weight to the car floor before you do anything else. This kit is a one-piece body construction so there really isn't much to be done.

The underbody piping and details have to be put on along with the couplers. I don't like the E-Z Mate couplers provided in the kit, so I replaced them with Kadee #148's. I put the wheels in the trucks and made sure they were free rolling. Then I screwed the trucks to the underbody. Of course, the trucks, underbody detail and couplers must be painted a weathered brown to make the car look more realistic.





## ***THE LIRR MODELER...continued by Mike Boland***

### ***This Month's Feature: Two Forty Foot Boxcar Kits - Part 1***

I also elected to put the roofwalk on the car and placed it using the holes on the roof that were pre-drilled. If you don't put the roofwalk on the car, you are dating the car as a post-1966 car as that was the time when the FRA allowed the railroads to remove the roofwalk. It's your choice as to what you want to do here; what era you model, or time frame should really determine whether your boxcars have roofwalks or not. So, in a couple of hours you'll have a great-looking boxcar that is ready for service.



Next time, I'll write about a 40 foot Norfolk Southern (old) HO Trainman Boxcar Kit by Atlas, which is another inexpensive kit to assemble that will allow you to build your boxcar fleet. This kit is a little different but will come together easily and make a great model, ready to be weathered and then put into service.

Until then, happy modeling—and stay healthy!



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

## Oyster Bay Railroad Museum Update by John Specce

During this time of stress and uncertainty, I thought it would be uplifting to share some good news regarding the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum.

I am pleased to report that restoration work at the historic station continues, complying with regulations regarding number of workers allowable. TML Building, the contractor, has concentrated its worker(s) on paint stripping the large brackets on the south facade, and removing double-hung windows that need to be either replaced/restored. Next on the list of work to be accomplished will be removing brickwork on the north side to accommodate newly fabricated windows and doors.



The safety of our volunteers is what is most important now, and thus, the work sessions usually held on Saturdays have been suspended until further notice. The good news is that no one has been infected and all are raring to go at the appropriate time. We appreciate their dedication and understanding.

Until next time, stay safe!

## M-9's in Service, a Conductor's View by Steven Torborg

It's 6am on Friday, February 28th, and Steve Torborg is reporting for his job as Conductor on run #246 in Long Beach. As he rounds the corner, a smile comes across his face. There on track #7 is his train for the day, a six car consist of brand new M-9's!

Today will be the first day he and his crew are assigned the new equipment. Suffice to say the crew was happy, as were their passengers!





**The following price list is for LIST members only!**

# _____	LIRR Multiple Unit Cars by M. Boland *new book	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Main Line East by D. Morrison *new book	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Trackside with Matt Herson by M. Boland	@48 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Oyster Bay Branch	@18 each Total _____
# _____	2020 LIRR Calendar [a few copies remaining]	@\$8 each Total _____
# _____	The LIRR Co. A Hist. 1834-1965 by Bob Sturm	@\$38 each Total _____
# _____	From a Nickel to a Token by A. Sparberg	@ \$25 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 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 60 page book	@\$2 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, please add 8.625% tax to the total of the merchandise PLUS the shipping]

\*\*\*\*\*NY RESIDENTS, THE COST OF THE CALENDAR IS \$9.23\*\*\*\*\*



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*Stay Home,  
Stay Healthy,  
Stay Safe*