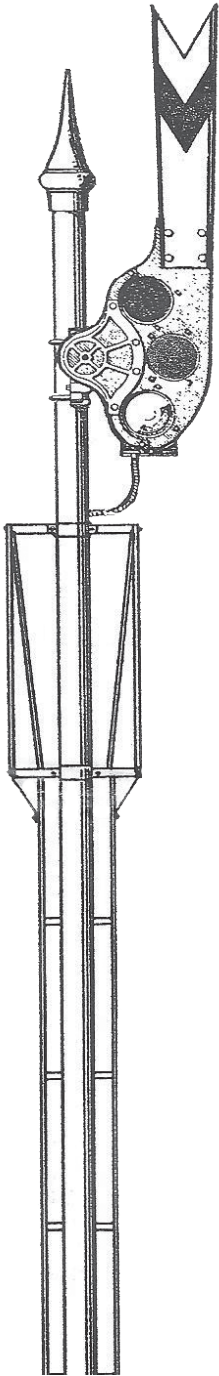




SEMAPHORE



February 2022



The LIST February meeting will be held on **Friday, February 18th at 8:00 p.m.**

The February meeting will be **both IN PERSON** at the historic Van Bourgondien house in West Babylon **and also available via ZOOM.**
The address of the Van B house is 600 Albin Avenue in West Babylon.

THIS MONTH

This month's presentation will be by LIRR author and modeler Mike Boland. It is titled "All about Grade Crossings." It is a history of grade crossings and features many LIRR grade crossings as well as a number of other crossings from other parts of the country. The show features crossings from dirt paths to today's state-of-the-art ones.

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

Our Chapter's mailing address is:

LIST-NRHS

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Babylon NY 11702-0507



The Publication of the
Long Island - Sunrise Trail Chapter
of the
National Railway Historical Society



February Membership Meeting Information by Ed Koehler

LONG ISLAND SUNRISE TRAIL CHAPTER NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Before connecting, please be sure your Zoom® screen name recognizably matches some iteration of your actual name, or you may not be admitted.

YOUR FEBRUARY 18, 2022 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, February 18, 2022 at 8:00 PM central time **7:00 PM** central time: Membership meeting of the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter, National Railway Historical Society at 600 Albin Avenue, West Babylon. This is an In Person event that will be broadcast over Zoom®. The presentation will be by Mike Boland who will be utilizing Zoom® as he is in Florida. See elsewhere in this newsletter for a description of his presentation.

To attend this event, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84053329193?pwd=REZ0MUFvNVljZ0lVeIlVQjZQRk5SZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5332 9193 Passcode: 279532

One tap mobile:

+19292056099,,84053329193#,,,,*279532# US (New York)

+13126266799,,84053329193#,,,,*279532# US (Chicago)

This is a 'blended meeting' with an in person attendance in West Babylon. Please if you live in the area make an attempt to attend in person leaving our limited bandwidth for our out of area members.

Please keep in mind that this meeting is for members only' please do not share the login information.

Around 7:45 PM on the meeting date you can connect to the meeting by entering the below link in your computer's search engine (Bing, Google, Yahoo, etc.) and hit enter. You can also enter this meeting by just 'clicking on the link' if it is displayed in underlined blue on your computer screen. You will be brought to the opening screen of Zoom® where you will be queried for your name. After entering your name hit return again and you will be placed in the 'Waiting Room' for the host to admit you to the meeting. If you want to speed up the process, go to <https://zoom.us/freesignup> on the Internet and select 'Sign Up, It's Free' (Do not enter your work E-Mail on this page.) Do note that your normal internet charges will apply for both the meeting and the sign up. Please use your real name when you are logging in or change it to your real name after you have been admitted. Please don't attempt to log in early, it only creates a number of unnecessary Emails.

Do note that your normal internet or cell phone charges may apply.

Any questions or problem with Zoom® please contact Ed Koehler at EdwardMKoehler@nyc.rr.com or call him at 917-603-4276. E-Mail contact is discontinued at 5:30 PM eastern time the day of the event.

Do you have something to offer? If you have a computer based presentation or want to do a lecture via a computer based camera (or a combination of both); please send an E-Mail to President Steve Quigley at csquigley@optonline.net and we will talk.

LIST Happenings by Steve Quigley

I apologize for the technical malfunction during our January meeting. It appears the two software programs had a disagreement and thus you were not able to see a potentially excellent presentation by author, historian and LIST Chapter member Dave Morrison. We will try and reschedule Dave for a future meeting.

New York Transit Museum News.

The Downtown Brooklyn location is open Friday-Sunday, 11am-4pm with exhibits featuring the "Reign of the Redbirds" and of course the fleet of vintage subway cars [and a LIRR caboose]. Advanced tickets and masks are required for all visitors. The Transit Museum Gallery & Store in Grand Central Terminal is open Wednesday-Friday 11:30am -6pm. The newest exhibit, "Transit Sketches", spotlighting six artists who were inspired to create on their commutes on the subway system as well as the LIRR. [My wife and I visited the Gallery, viewed the drawings and found it to be a fascinating exhibition with drawings by a very talented group of transit riders! SQ]

We thank all the people who have sent in their dues renewal. If you have not done so, please send it in ASAP so that we will continue sending you the Semaphore and receive the discount on all the merchandise that we offer. **THIS WILL BE THE LAST CALL FOR DUES RENEWAL.** Unless you renew, we will be taking your name off our member list and you will not be eligible for discounts on the merchandise we sell. In addition, you will not be receiving advanced notice on future trips and tours.

Starting with the January 2022 edition of the Semaphore, our new editor will be Mike Hack of Rollins Printing. Initially, if you are writing a column or if you have an article for the Semaphore, please email it to me and then I will forward it to our editor. Just a reminder, please do not submit an article via the mail, send it via email.

We are in the early stages of possibly publishing 2 books. One of the books is being spearheaded by Robert Myers and it is the history of the LIRR timetables. If you wish to contribute to this book, please email me and I will forward your information to Bob. The other book will feature the LIRR drawings of Vincent Quatroche. We have been compiling his drawings thanks to Don Fisher who is the President of the Railroad Museum of LI.

We are looking to place the books that LIST has published on Amazon to gain wider exposure and additional sales. If you have experience with placing items to sell on Amazon, please contact me with the information.

Chapter member Bob Sturm's book on The History of the LIRR 1949 to 1980 is in stock! The RETAIL price is \$49.95 for non-members and \$38 for LIST Chapter members. If both Volume 1 and 2 are purchased together, the special price for members is \$68. That is 10+% off the individual prices. The shipping cost for both books together will be \$10. NY State residents must add \$6.73 tax.

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 do not mail me copies of your articles. Please email your articles as we have to retype mailed copies.

To attend this month's meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84053329193?pwd=REZ0MUFvNVljZ0lVeIlVQjZQRk5SZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5332 9193 Passcode: 279532

One tap mobile:

+19292056099,,84053329193#,,,,*279532# US (New York)

+13126266799,,84053329193#,,,,*279532# US (Chicago)

Any questions or problem with Zoom® please contact Ed Koehler at EdwardMKoehler@nyc.rr.com or call him at 917-603-4276. E-Mail contact is discontinued at 5:30 PM eastern time the day of the event.

The LIRR Modeler by Mike Boland

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE: ATTENDING THE PROTO RAILS 2022 RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET IN COCOA BEACH JANUARY 6-8, 2022 PART 1

I'm going to interrupt my modeling features to write about an event I have not attended in two years: the Proto Rails 2022 Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet at Cocoa Beach, Florida on January 6th, 7th, and 8th this past January at the Hilton Hotel by the mighty and majestic Atlantic Ocean on the Space (East) Coast.

Last year's meet was not held due to Covid so there was an eagerness to get back to normal this year and it showed. This year we had a total of 217 attendees, although a lot of "big" names, like Ted Culotta, Tony Thompson, Tony Koester, and others could not attend, either due to the resurgence of Covid in the last few weeks or the terrible weather in some parts of the country. Nonetheless, after a little scrambling, the meet's array of interesting and informative clinics went on without a hitch. Kudos to Mike Brock (a fine modeler in HO scale in his own right) and his superb team for executing another fine meet. And Jeff Aley, our tech guy, did his usual fine job going from room to room, making sure clinics were without problems.

Great job, gentlemen!!!

I arrived at the Hilton Hotel on the late afternoon of January, 6th after some Moh's surgery on my ear and cheek that morning. It's about a three-hour drive from my condo in Venice on the Gulf Coast just south of Sarasota to Cocoa Beach via I-75, I-4 and State Road 528, a toll road that finally now has accepted EZ Pass; I had my SunPass anyway. Everything was OK and it was a nice and pleasant drive across the state and I whizzed through several tollbooths with no problem.

I was scheduled to present my show, "All About Grade Crossings," that night (Thursday) at 8pm. It was one of five other shows being offered for early-arriving modelers and railfans that night. My show was well-attended and was well-received.

I just wish I had the time to attend one of the clinics scheduled at the same time as mine; it was "Modeling the Ocean." I figured I could always learn about modeling water since this is something I really want to do on my layout. After all, how could you NOT model the LIRR without water.

At any rate, my attendees enjoyed the show and I had an audience of about 25. One has to remember that a good number of attendees are arriving at the same time as the evening's clinics; Friday and Saturday are both days that are full with two sets of clinics in the morning, three in the afternoon following lunch and two in the evening after dinner. Each clinician, speak or "expert" is given an hour for his presentation; it's normally a 45-minute show with 15 minutes at the end for questions and comments. I usually tell my audience to ask questions as soon as they want, since I don't like to "go back" to slides and images once I've shown them.

Since it was a success, I hope to build future shows on a variety of subjects.

Incidentally, I hope to present this show to the LIST membership soon.

More about the meet next time.

Until then, happy modeling and stay healthy!

LIRR News by Steve Quigley

The first "Blizzard" to hit Long Island started on Friday night 1/28 and lasted through a good portion of Saturday 1/29. Islip McArthur airport recorded 24" of snow which may be the highest amount on LI. It was technically declared a Blizzard in Suffolk County. Here in Babylon, we had approximately 20" of snow. The East End had the most snow with amounts lessening the further west you went with the western portions of N J receiving only a light amount. The LIRR was deliberately shut down Saturday morning however; the deicing train as well as equipment/patrol trains were seen rolling through the Island to clear tracks, the third rail and switches/turnouts. An army of 1,700 LIRR workers were deployed to clear station platforms, tracks, yards and any areas where the snow was piling up fast. At times, certain areas of Suffolk County had snowfall rates of 2'-3' per hour. "Darth Vader," the LIRR's super snow fighting piece of equipment which may also be used as a spreader, was spotted on the Main Line fighting North Fork drifts and it went as far east as the Greenport yard. Two NY & A GP38-2's were the motive power for Darth Vader. The GP38's are leased by the LIRR to the NY & A and it appears that the LIRR reserves the right to use them in certain cases.

LIRR limited service resumed Sunday morning which considering the amount of snow, was a quick recovery for a substantial portion of the system. Bus service was provided on Sunday on the lines east of Speonk and Ronkonkoma.

The LIRR is celebrating a new high for system wide on time performance for 2021. It was reported that On Time Performance of 96.3% is the best since timekeeping began in the 1970's. The LIRR considers a train to be on time when it arrives at its destination with 5 minutes and 59 seconds of its scheduled arrival time. The LIRR Forward performance program which was implemented by LIRR President Phillip Eng in 2018 has resulted in substantially fewer delays and cancellations. A few of the items that the LIRR Forward implemented are as follows:

The installation of grade crossing delineators which has greatly reduced people driving onto tracks at crossings. In conjunction with this, certain apps such as Waze have been revised to make sure that drivers do not turn on to LIRR tracks when a road is adjacent to a RR crossing.

The use of the Laser Train among other actions to reduce trains being taken out of service due to slip slide issues.

The hardening of equipment, switches and electronics. Electrical components in flood prone areas such as Long Beach and Island Park have been elevated to reduce the likelihood of damage due to flooding.

NY Governor Kathy Hochul proposed building the "Interborough Express" service which would connect Brooklyn and Queens from Bay Ridge to Jackson Heights. The service would use the existing rail right-of-way which would include the Bay Ridge branch and the Fremont Secondary. An environmental review will be performed to study the feasibility of the restoration of passenger service. Although the existing right-of-way is intact and being used by the NY&A, several items must be addressed before service can be implemented. One of the items is how access for the NY& freight will be maintained. The routes are the main access for freight rail traffic on and off Long Island by CSX to upstate New York via Hell Gate Bridge or NYNJ's Cross Harbor railcar float from the float bridges at Bay Ridge to Greenville NJ. The last passenger service on the Bay Ridge branch is thought to have been in 1924.

The Railroad Museum of Long Island by Don Fisher

Thinking of Spring at the Railroad Museum of Long Island and the month of March, we are again planning an Educational Forum. Please consider joining us on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 1:00 PM for a presentation on the *"New York and North Shore Traction Company."* Historian Joe Bux will take us from Flushing to Hicksville on the electric "light rail" line that roughly paralleled the Long Island Port Washington Branch beginning in 1910. Trolleys dotted Long Island, providing local north-south transportation to and from town centers and the Long Island Rail Road's predominantly east-west routes. These 4' 8½" standard gauge railways were but just another part of *"Long Island's Rich Railroading History!"*

When we speak of railroads on Long Island, we must speak of maritime history as well. From the LIRR's initial ignorance toward the North and South Shores - *everyone moved by ship in the early 1800's anyway* - to the Rail Road's dependence on ships to transit their passengers to Boston via Long Island Sound, to the LIRR's Navy of steam passenger ships, ferry boats, tugs and barges. Join us for *"A Concert in the Boxcar"* at Greenport RMLI on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM. American Music Historian, Stephen Sanfilippo will offer us traditional music and stories from *"Rails and Sails"* and he promises a new song dedicated to history on the Long Island Rail Road. Watch your website ~ rml.org ~ for more news and schedules for another summer of *Mini-Events Under the Big Top at Riverhead.*

Due to the continuing COVID business, we will once again postpone the *Riverhead Railroad Festival* in August 2022.



LIST Publications ORDER FORM*The following price list is for LIST members only!*

# _____	2022 LIRR calendar	@\$8 each Total _____
# _____	The LIRR 1949-1980 by R. Sturm NEW Vol. 2	@\$38 each Total _____
# _____	The LIRR Co. A History 1834-1965 by R. Sturm	@\$38 each Total _____
# _____	Volume 1 and 2 of Bob Sturm's books	both for \$68 Total _____
# _____	Shortlines of Long Island by H. Fagerberg, E. Koehler	@\$27 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Montauk Branch by Dave Morrison NEW	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Babylon Branch by Dave Morrison NEW	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	The 185th Anniversary of the LIRR book	@\$12 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Multiple Unit Cars by M. Boland	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Main Line East by D. Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	GCT + Penn Sta. Statuary & Sculptures by 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 _____
# _____	Jamaica Station by Dave Morrison	@ \$18 each Total _____
# _____	Sunnyside Yard+Hell Gate Bridge by 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 _____

Shipping for 1 Calendar or book is \$4.00. Shipping for both Bob Sturm's books is \$10. Shipping for other 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.

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

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National Railway Historical Society
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Please support your local railroad museums!

