



# SEMAPHORE



**December 2023**

The LIST Next meeting will be held on **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 p.m.

This meeting will be **IN PERSON** at the historic Van Bourgondien house in West Babylon as well as **by ZOOM**.  
The address of the Van B house is 600 Albin Avenue in West Babylon.

## THIS MONTH

The December 15th LIST meeting will be held at Old Town Hall on Montauk Highway in Babylon Village. Bring your "O" gauge trains and you will be able to run them on the 240 sq. ft. train layout. You will be the train engineer that evening!

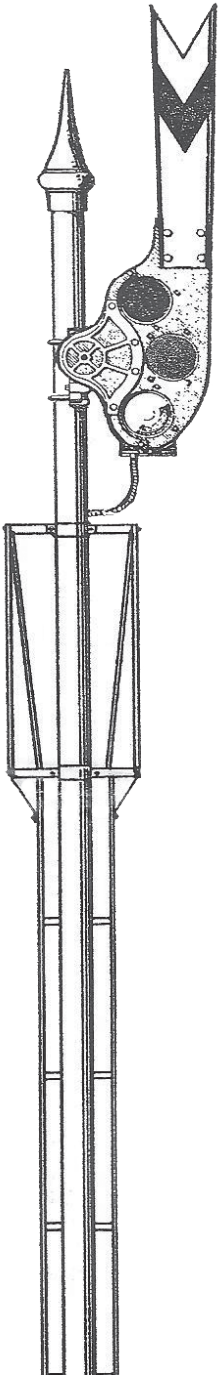
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For Regular updates and other important information,  
visit the LIST Chapter website at: [LIST-NRHS.org](http://LIST-NRHS.org)

Our Chapter's mailing address is:

LIST-NRHS  
PO Box 507  
Babylon NY 11702-0507



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



## November Membership Meeting Information by Ed Koehler

### LOG IN INFORMATION FOR THE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Persons entering either this electronic meeting or the physical meeting room agree to not record any or all part of the presentation without the express written permission of the Long Island Sunrise Chapter NRHS, the host/producer and the presenter. Violations of this agreement could result in criminal and/or civil penalties. Thank you for your cooperation. Want to get in contact with a presenter? We will be happy to facilitate that.



Look carefully for two chapter members on the steps of the Old Town Hall! Edward Koehler image.

**8:00 PM on December 15, 2023**

**Town of Babylon History Museum**

**Old Town Hall, 47 West Main Street, Babylon, New York, 11702, 631-587-3750**

Come enjoy what has become a holiday tradition in the Town of Babylon and the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter, a visit to the annual holiday high rail model train layout for the December meeting. Join your fellow Sunrise Trail Division NMRA at this 192 square foot 'U' shaped layout.

There is a small parking lot to the rear of the Old Town Hall, it must be entered off of Deer Park Avenue by going west on Grove Place, turn south on Oak Place and then bear left onto Cottage Row. The Museum will be on your right at the far end of Cottage Row which serves the parking lot. Street parking is also available. Meters are typically suspended during December, but bring a couple of quarters, just in case.

Through the courtesy of the Town of Babylon Museum and the Railroad Museum of Long Island we will again be attempting to broadcast this visit to the exhibition via Zoom®.

To attend this event, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81516960239?pwd=WnZ1SmQ1ZEw5OEN3RlRFcTNSQlNndz09>

Meeting ID: 815 1696 0239 Passcode: 793339

## LIST Happenings by Steve Quigley

The 2024 dues renewal notice is again included in this edition of the Semaphore. We would appreciate it if you send back your dues renewal as soon as possible. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO OUR TREASURER, ALAN MARK AT THE ADDRESS NOTED ON THE FORM. If you send it to our PO Box we have to forward it to Alan. Your timely renewal is appreciated. If you wish to order a calendar or book, please make a separate check for the dues as we prefer them separately.

WE INCLUDED THE DUES NOTICE IN THIS MONTH'S SEMAPHORE AGAIN AS A REMINDER TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT SENT IT IN. IF YOU ALREADY SENT IN YOUR DUES, PLEASE DISREGARD THE NOTICE.

Our 2024 LIRR calendar is almost sold out! If you wish to order our calendar, please do so now! The order form is in this month's Semaphore.

Thanks to Chapter member Al Johnson, our website is being totally revised. Al has taken on the task of managing the substantial changes that are taking place to it. We should have the revised version completed soon. When it is finished, I will let you know and I hope you will peruse it and provide us with comments.

The December meeting will be held at Old Town Hall in Babylon Village. A 250 sq. ft. "O" gauge train layout was built and you are welcome to bring your O gauge trains to run them on the layout. If you wish to be a train engineer for the evening, bring your trains!

L I S T trip chairman is working on several tours and trips for Chapter members this coming spring. One possibility is a tour of the SONO Switch Tower Museum and another is a trip to the "Walkway across the Hudson in Poughkeepsie. We will keep you informed as they develop.

Just a reminder!

The presenters of our Chapter meetings put in a substantial amount of time and effort in producing a show that we hope you like. PLEASE do not interrupt the presenter and keep comments to yourself. Hold your questions until the end of the show unless the presenter states they are open to questions. Courtesy and etiquette should be maintained during the meeting. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter!

THERE WILL NO VIDEO TAPING OR PHOTOS OF THE MEETING CONTENT WITHOUT THE EXPRESS CONSENT OF THE PRESENTER.

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 hard copies of your articles. Please email your articles as we have to retype mailed copies.

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND I WILL EMAIL YOU THE SEMAPHORE WITH COLOR PICTURES!

## LIRR News by Steve Quigley

### THEN and NOW

The June/July 1984 edition of "Along the Track," the LIRR employee newsletter noted the following:  
 "Locomotives undergo overhaul"

In March [1984] a new overhaul program for diesel locomotives began at Morris Park and the first unit to be completed was No. 250, a 2000 hp GP38-2 that was placed in service in January 1976 as one of 28 locomotives purchased between 1976-1977. Since then, No. 250 has clocked ½ million miles and carried 4 million passengers. During overhaul all components were disassembled and measured for wear. Trucks were rebuilt, wheels replaced, alternators, power assemblies, air compressors, auxiliary generators were reconstructed and cabs weather-stripped. Work, performed by machinists, electricians, pipefitters, boilermakers-blacksmiths, and carpenters, take approximately 16 days; locomotive fleet will be placed on 8 year cycle.

The April 1984 edition of "Along the Track," the LIRR employee newsletter noted the following:

"Did you know that the Long Island Rail Road...

\*was the first railroad in the country to operate an all-steel fleet of passenger cars

\* has many communities named after its founders, for example, Hicksville [Valentine Hicks], John Lawrence, Joseph Albertson, Daniel and Joshua Smith [Smithtown]

\* was the first railroad in the U S to mount whistles on locomotives, in 1836

\*operated a piggy-back service in 1884 when it carried farmer's wagons on flat cars to markets in LIC and into Manhattan, the latter via ferry boat across the East River

\*track contains 3,000 hardwood cross-ties in a one-mile stretch

\*yard-length of steel rail weighs 119 pounds..."

More to follow next month!

### Now

Penn Station's entrance at West 32nd street and Seventh Avenue reopened Sunday, November 19th with a wider entryway, more robust escalators and easier access for passengers with disabilities, as well as people with strollers, wheeled luggage and other heavy items. The old entrance was closed in August 2022. The work also replaced the stairs with a new elevator added... Three escalators now support luggage and heavy items. The entrance width is now 50% wider, which goes along with the new much wider main concourse. The work is part of a partner-ship with Vornado Realty Trust which built a new sky lit canopy above the entrance and integrated it with a renovated office building. The ceiling in the main concourse is now 18' high and the concourse has been widened from 30' to 57'. The sidewalk is also being widened along the west side of Seventh Avenue between 33rd and 31st streets.

### MTA Transit Museum News

The Transit Museum continues its annual tradition of "Holiday Nostalgia Rides" on its 1930's R1/9 train cars. It makes stops between the 2nd Avenue station on the "F" line and the 145th station on the "D" line. The Holiday Nostalgia train will transport straphangers back in time every Saturday in December from 10 am to 5:30 pm.

## The LIRR Modeler by Mike Boland

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURE: BOWSER'S RS3

I had to delay my regular feature this month—it will appear at a later date—when I got an email from Hogtrainz, a New Jersey-based train dealer that the two Bowser LIRR RS3's that I ordered last spring were on their way to me. Wow! This was great news!

I deserve a little credit for this project. It began some time ago when I approached a Bowser representative at a long-ago West Springfield Amherst Train Show. I had heard that Bowser was going to do a line of ALCo RS3's so I pleaded my case to include a LIRR version. The gentleman whom I spoke to—I believe it was Lee English; he's the top guy there—seemed receptive to my request and I offered to send him an information package with photos of these locomotives, which eliminated the last G5s class steam locomotives on the LIRR and used in passenger service.

I did and the rest is history.

Bowser came through, all right, and brought the locomotives out in the very attractive and eye-catching "World's Fair" paint scheme. This was the second of three paint schemes these ten units, numbered 1551 through 1560, wore from their delivery in September 1955 until they were retired in 1977. There was the as-delivered smoky gray with orange ends and white condensed gothic LONG ISLAND lettering that was used until 1964 or so when the World's Fair scheme was introduced. With the purchase of the railroad by the State of New York in 1965 and operation by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, these units were eventually repainted a simple blue and yellow scheme with no lettering, aside from an MTA "M" logo beneath the cab window and black car numbers on the ends of the locomotive, above the headlight.

As stated, Bowser did the World's Fair scheme and really did a great job in replicating the orange and smoky gray colors. Ditto for the unique lettering; the two units are numbered 1552 and 1553, the same numbers are used for the sound version. I bought the soundless version.



## The LIRR Modeler by Mike Boland.... continued from page 5



This was the last version of ALCo's RS3. Production of the units started in late 1953 and was over by late 1956. Known as a Phase Three (3) model, its basic dimensions were the same as the earlier Phase Two (2) version but car body filtration changed and this is evident with its two vertical screens or openings on the long hood sides of each locomotive.

Two hundred sixty-two (262) units were built by ALCo and 27 railroads bought and operated these units even though no railroad had a sizeable fleet of these locomotives. Railroads that purchased these units were Chicago & North Western, Interstate, Maine Central, The Milwaukee Road, Northern Pacific, Western Maryland, Louisville & Nashville, The Nickel Plate Road, MO-IL, Grand Trunk, Central Vermont, San Manuel Copper, Missouri Pacific, Chesapeake & Ohio, Pakistan Railways (model RSC3 with six-wheel trucks), Green Bay & Western, Norfolk & Western, Spokane, Portland & Seattle, Federal Barge Lines, Pennsylvania, St. Mary's, A&S, MD&S, N de M, TP-MP Terminal and Tennessee Central.

The ten LIRR units were sales order 20975 and Works Order 53246 with construction numbers 81351 through 81360. These units had steam generators for passenger train service but they were later used in freight and work train service. EMD power replaced them in 1977.

Unfortunately, when I showed up at my railroad club's first open house after Thanksgiving, I thought I would be able to operate them and give them a thorough testing. Not to be! Alas, the club member who was operating the layout was not familiar with its operation and was using DCC, not the DC that these locomotives are set for. I was invited back for the following Friday night to try again but our meeting ran so late that everyone wanted to leave and I again could not run them. Oh, well! I'll have to wait until the Spring of 2024 to operate them in either freight or passenger service. By that time, I should have a number of LIRR heavyweight parlor cars ready to roll and I can make up a pretty good consist of the Cannon Ball or a parlor-coach train for a run to Montauk, complete with a B60B. I can't wait.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays from the LIRR Modeler.

And happy modeling, too!



# LONG ISLAND-SUNRISE TRAIL CHAPTER

*Founded in 1966*



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**NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## **2024 CHAPTER**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE**

**(Payable by January 1, 2024)**

<b><u>CHAPTER DUES:</u></b>	Membership	<b>\$20.00</b>
	Family Membership Per Person	<b>\$1.00</b>

**Dues Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Remitted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Alan Mark, 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.

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**Alan Mark, Treasurer**



FRA train on LIRR tracks



An M-9 and an M-7 in Jamaica station



An M-9, C-3 and an M-7 in Babylon station



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

# _____	2024 LIRR Calendar <b>NEW</b>	@\$8 each Total _____
# _____	The LIRR drawings of Vincent Quatroche <b>NEW</b>	@\$10 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Port Washington Branch D. Morrison <b>NEW</b>	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	The LIRR 1949-1980 by R. Sturm <b>NEW</b> 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	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Babylon Branch by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____	The 185th Anniversary of the LIRR book	@\$5 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Multiple Unit Cars by M. Boland Vol. 1	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Multiple Unit Cars 1953 - 2020 by M. Boland Vol. 2 <b>NEW</b>	@\$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 _____

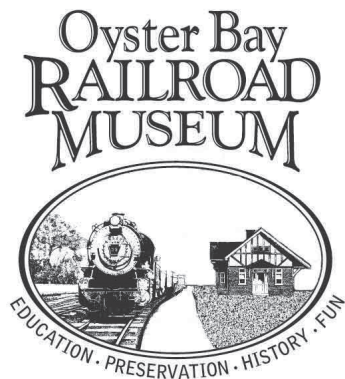
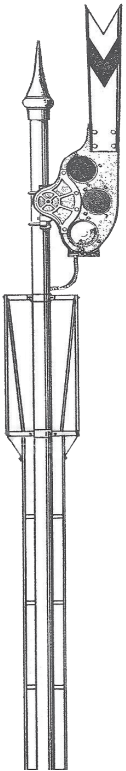
Shipping for 1 Calendar or book is \$4.00. One calendar cost is \$13.04 for New York State residents. Shipping for both Bob Sturm's books is \$10. Shipping for other extra books, please call or email Steve Quigley for the shipping cost. NY State Residents, add 8.625% tax to the total of the merchandise 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

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

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