



SEMAPHORE



April 2024

The LIST Next meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 18th** at 8:00 p.m.

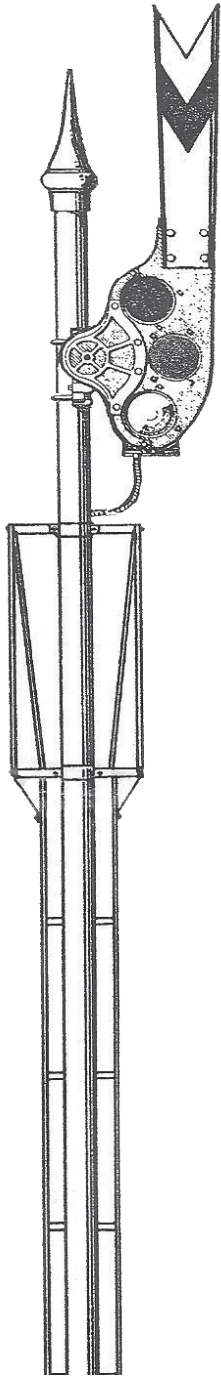
This meeting will be **IN PERSON** at the historic Van Bourgondien house in West Babylon, as well as by Zoom. The address of the Van B house is 600 Albin Avenue in West Babylon.

THIS MONTH

The April 18th presenter will be Mr. Rob Free, the acting president of the LIRR.

The meeting will NOT be open to the general public.

The meeting will begin at 8PM, usual time and will be available by zoom.



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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

PO Box 507

Babylon NY 11702-0507



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



March Membership Meeting Information by Ed Koehler

Check out the different day of the week for this event!

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.

8:00 PM on Thursday, April 18, 2024
The Van Bourgondien House
600 Albin Avenue, West Babylon, New York, 117

Our speaker will be the acting President of the Long Island Rail Road, Rob Free. In order to accommodate his schedule we will be meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 8:00 PM eastern, 7:00 PM central: The Zoom® side of this meeting will be restricted to members of the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter NRHS only. To assist us in this endeavor, please log in at least ten minutes before the meeting's scheduled start. We cannot guarantee having you admitted to the meeting before it begins otherwise. Please use your actual name when logging in due to these security concerns. Please keep your microphone muted during Mr. Free's presentation.

Our presentation will be made by acting Long Island Rail Road president Rob Free. If you are accessing this meeting from an email, to attend this event, click this link. If you are accessing this meeting from a digital copy of the SEMAPHORE, copy this link into your computer's search engine.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85012123486?pwd=eFRKSEXuSmFjZDJ5azlYMDNKTjRmUT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1212 3486 Passcode: 346903

UNFAMILIAR WITH ZOOM®?

About 15 minutes before the scheduled time on the date of the event you can connect to the meeting by entering the link shown under the event you wish to attend 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 asked 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.) Please log in with your real name or change the log in to your real name shortly after entering the presentation. Please don't try to log in earlier, it only generates a series of email messages to the series host that serve no purpose and you end up staring at a blank screen.

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

If you have any questions, please email Chapter Board Member Edward Koehler at EdwardMKoehler@NYC.RR.COM but remember Email service ends at 3:00 PM on the meeting date.

LIST Happenings by Steve Quigley

At this time, our special guest presenter at our THURSDAY, April 18th meeting will be Rob Free, Acting President of the LIRR.

OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18 NOT FRIDAY THE 19TH!

Our April meeting will NOT be open to the public, ONLY LIST, RMLI AND OBRM members will be admitted.

L I S T trip chairman, Bob Grant, is working on several tours and trips for Chapter members this coming spring. We have scheduled a tour of the Danbury Railway Museum on May 18th! We will be meeting at Grand Central Terminal and taking a 11:02 A M train to Danbury with a change at South Norwalk. We arrive at 1:11 P M. We leave Danbury at 4:33 P M and arrive back at Grand Central at 6:49 P M after changing at South Norwalk. You have to make your own travel arrangements to and from Grand Central. We will make the admission arrangements with the Danbury Museum. We will have a train ride in the yard at 2 PM plus a yard tour. There are 75+- pieces of rolling stock at the museum including ex-LIRR ALCo FA-1 #617 as well as the 20th Century Limited observation/lounge/sleeping car Tonawanda among other items.

If enough people sign up for the trip, we will be able to take advantage of Metro-North's Group Fare so please call or email me to let me know you would like to attend. However, the senior citizen fare on Metro-North is very close to the individual cost of the group fare. We are working on a special admission price, the more people sign up, the lower the price will be! Let Bob Grant know you are going and I am sure you will have an interesting day!

Bob Grant's email is gorailroading2018@gmail.com. His telephone # is 917-327-5151. I hope to see you May 18th!

On July 27th the LIRR will sponsor a trip to Greenport with our assistance. There will be giveaways, raffle prizes, free admission to the Railroad Museum of Long Island and other fun things. During our layover in Greenport, there will be a special plaque dedication commemorating the LIRR's arrival in Greenport on July 27, 1844. There will be more information to follow in future editions of the Semaphore.

Don't forget, the 190th Anniversary of the LIRR is April 24th. We/LIST will be part of the celebration. I have been told that a ceremony will take place honoring the 190th anniversary in Grand Central Madison station on the morning of April 24th. An exhibit showcasing LIRR memorabilia will be located in GCM across from the ticket windows.

We [LIST] are publishing a book similar to our 175th and 185th anniversary books with all new stories about the LIRR in time for the April 24th anniversary. We will have our Anniversary book available in time for our April 18th meeting. As usual, members receive a discount off the retail price.

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.

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE THE SEMAPHORE EMAILED TO YOU, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND I WILL EMAIL IT TO YOU MONTHLY.

ALSO, IF YOU MOVE, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR NEW ADDRESS!

LIRR News by Steve Quigley

THEN and NOW

THEN:

"What's in a Name?"

In the April 1984 edition of the "Along the Track," which was 150th anniversary of the LIRR, the following column was noted.

LIRR's present-day names are derived, or changed or altered from colorful names of the past, and today's commuter would be hard-pressed to identify 1984 stations from the names that some had at one time. For example:

Far Rockaway – Lockwood's Grove
 Glen Head – Greenwood, Glenvale, Cedar Swamp
 Greenvale – Week's Station
 East New York – Howard House
 Rosedale – Foster's Meadow
 Great Neck - Brookdale

Did you know that the LIRR owned Traction or Trolley Lines that served many communities on Long Island? Some of the communities are as follows:

Rockaway Peninsula [Ocean Electric Railway] Northport, Amityville to Babylon [The Babylon Railroad], Bayport to Patchogue, Jamaica to Flushing and Amityville to Halesite [the Huntington Railroad] The Babylon Railroad went from Amityville to Babylon paralleling the LIRR tracks and then on Deer Park Avenue and Fire Island Avenue to the Babylon Dock. From there, you transferred to a ferry to get Fire Island. [Back then, there were no bridges to Fire Island]

Did you know that the LIRR once owned a fleet of boats called The Montauk Steamboat Company? The boats sailed to various ports in New England from several ports on Long Island.

The LIRR is comprised of as many as 30+ predecessor railroads. There were two major competitors to the LIRR, the Flushing, North Shore and Central RR and the South Side RR of LI [SSRR]. The SSRR paralleled the South Shore of LI and became the Montauk Branch. The Central RR of LI was financed by A. T. Stewart who conceived Garden City as a model community. The Central RR ran from Flushing to Babylon. It ran through the present day Kissena Park Corridor, Floral Park, Garden City, Island Trees [presently Levittown] Bethpage, adjacent to the present day Route 109 to Babylon. A. T. Stewart's bust adorns the station plaza in Garden City. Garden City had as many as 5 stations serving it. Nassau Blvd., Garden City, Country Life Press, Clinton Road and Stewart Manor.

Penn Station opened on September 8, 1910. The first official train to Penn Station was a LIRR train. Even though the Pennsylvania Railroad built and paid for Penn Station, the first Penn RR train did not arrive in Penn Station until two and a half months later! The LIRR was owned by the PRR at that time.

Railroads had been known for only 9 years and most of their horsepower was still being supplied by real live horses when the Long Island Rail Road was chartered in Albany NY on April 24, 1834. It was noted in the April, 1984 edition of the LIRR newspaper "Along the Track" the following:

"Today, the LIRR is the oldest railroad in the nation still operating under its original name. More important, it is the busiest passenger railroad in the United States, providing the nation's most concentrated rail service to one of its fastest growing areas."

The above quote from 1984 is still true today!

LIRR News by Steve Quigley

NOW:

On April 24th, the LIRR will be celebrating its 190th Anniversary. It is planned that a celebration will take place in Grand Central Madison on that day at 10:00 am. The ceremony is open to the public as well as the media. If you happen to be in GCM at that time, I believe you will be able to witness it. There will also be LIRR memorabilia items showcasing various items across from the LIRR ticket windows.

If the ceremony is made available for viewing, I will try and obtain a copy or direct you to where it can be seen.

For most NYC train riders, honesty still seems to be the best policy. LIRR assistant conductor Christopher Nocito discovered a sack full of \$30,000 in cash on a Ronkonkoma bound train shortly after Christmas. He then turned it over to the MTA police. After asst. conductor Nocito turned the bag over to the MTA police, the owner of the money was located by looking through an appointment book that was found inside the bag of money.

Long Island native and rock star Billy Joel, recently revealed that he no longer takes a helicopter on LI to get to and from his work site, Madison Square Garden. Billy was noted as saying that he has safety fears over taking a helicopter so he decided to take the LIRR. In a recent interview with Stephen Colbert, Billy admitted that the turbulence of the helicopter would make him uneasy. "I now take the LIRR" he told Colbert. The choice of transportation to the Garden initially concerned his team but Billy said his commute has been uneventful. "People will sometimes look at me on the railroad and think, "Look at this guy, trying to look like Billy Joel, He's not kidding anybody," he related.

Like most Long Islanders who take the train to MSG, he now prefers the LIRR for his trips to MSG. Billy will play his 150th and final residency show at Madison Square Garden on July 25th.

The MTA is looking for a company to operate shops and restaurants inside the LIRR's Grand Central Madison Station. The MTA is looking for a firm to oversee the leasing the available 25,000 sq. ft. of retail space which covers 32 possible units of retail space. GCM presently serves approximately 65,000 riders daily. Right now, the anchor tenant of GCM is "Tracks Raw Bar & Grill" which when it was in Penn Station, was noted as having the longest bar in NYC. It was located in Penn Station for more than 30 years and moved to West 31st Street across from Penn Station when the LIRR concourse was being renovated. "Tracks" is expected to open in GCM this fall.

It was noted that the MTA will look for a mix of tenants similar to those found in Grand Central Terminal. Presently, GCM includes a mix of tenants including bars, restaurants, food purveyors as well as the Apple Store to Duane Reade.



Bits and Pieces



Wantagh Preservation Society

All Welcome!

The Wantagh Preservation Society's meeting, Tuesday April 16th, 7:00 pm at the Wantagh Preservation Society Museum, 1700 Wantagh Ave., Wantagh

Informative "Long Island Rail Road - Recent Historical Discoveries" program planned with guest speaker David Morrison. (LIRR train buff & Author of many fascinating books on the history of the LIRR)

Light refreshments will be served.



April 16, 2024



Railroad Museum of Long Island by Don Fisher, *RMLI President*

Our thirty-fourth Season at the Railroad Museum of Long Island began on Saturday, April 6th. This is a banner year for railroading celebrations on Long Island and the RMLI is planning an “Over the Top” Season.

It is the **190th Anniversary of the Long Island Rail Road**. Created on April 24, 1844 the LIRR celebrates 190 years of operating under the same Charter and the same Corporate Name on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

The Railroad Museum of Long Island celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the **LIRR Allan Herschel G-16 Park Train** that operates at Riverhead RMLI. On April 22, 1964 this park train began carrying visitors at the LIRR Pavilion at the New York World’s Fair near the Shea Stadium-Willets Point entrance to the Fair.

We also celebrate the 180th Anniversary of the **“First Train to Greenport – July 27, 1844.”** It took the LIRR ten years to build the mainline from the foot of the East River at Brooklyn, NY to the harbor at Greenport, NY. Plan to celebrate with us at Greenport on July 27, 2024 as we unveil a William G. Pomeroy Foundation – New York State Historic Marker to commemorate the Historic Greenport Transportation District and the first train to the Greenport Terminal.

And to wrap up the Summer, plan to join us at Riverhead on Saturday and Sunday, August 24 & 25 for the return of the **Riverhead Railroad Festival!** With the sponsorship of our Suffolk County Legislator, Ms. Catherine Stark and the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning we are pleased to reintroduce the ever popular Railroad Festival to our friends and visitors!

Please watch for news and our 2024 Events Schedule at: [www.rmli.org](http://www.rmlి.org) on our Facebook page and in future issues of our member newsletter, *The Postboy*.

I look forward to greeting you at the museums this year,
Don Fisher, President



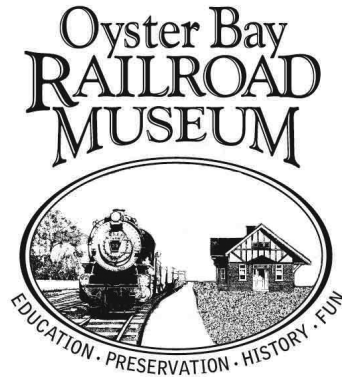
Our Thirty-fourth Year!

www.rmli.org

The Oyster Bay Railroad Museum by John Specce, *OBRM President*

On January 31st a segment for an upcoming thriller movie, *Babygirl*, was filmed on the western side of the Oyster Bay station. World renowned actress Nicole Kidman, starring, was present at the shoot. We made the interior of the station available for the movie crews and their equipment. Several board members were able to meet with Nicole and everything went smoothly. The movie will be released later in the year.

Another first for the Museum!



Bits and Pieces



LIST Publications ORDER FORM

The following price list is for LIST members only!

# _____	The 190 th Anniversary of the LIRR book NEW	@\$20 each Total _____
# _____	2024 LIRR Calendar	@\$8 each Total _____
# _____	The LIRR drawings of Vincent Quatroche NEW	@\$10 each Total _____
# _____	LIRR Port Washington Branch D. Morrison NEW	@\$18 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	@\$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 NEW	@\$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 _____

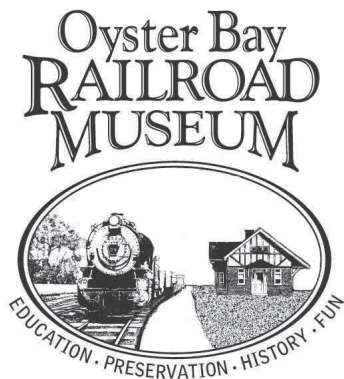
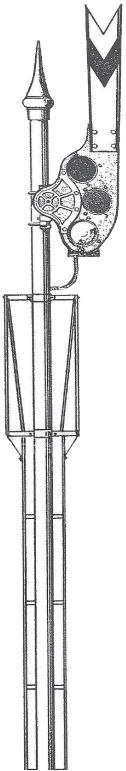
Shipping for 1 Calendar or book is \$4.00. One calendar cost is \$13.04 for New York State residents. Shipping for both Bob Sturm's books is \$10. Shipping for other extra books, please call or email Steve Quigley for the shipping cost. NY State Residents, add 8.625% tax to the total of the merchandise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

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Please support your local railroad museums!



Our Thirty-fourth Year!
www.rmli.org

