

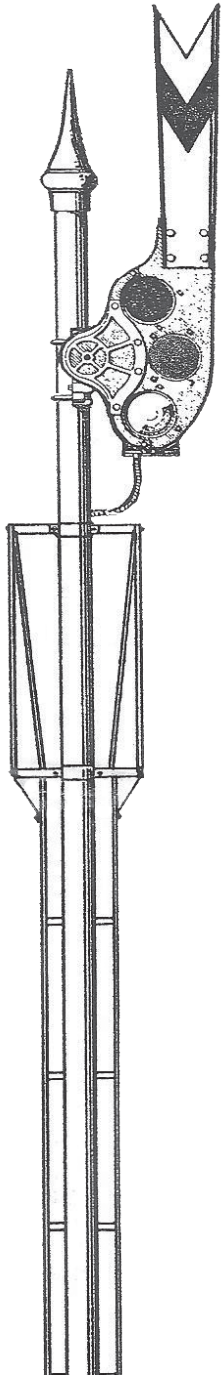


SEMAPHORE

Celebrating 60 Years Service to the Long Island Rail Enthusiast Community



October 2026



A New Haven FL9 working the Polar Express train on the Cape Cod Central. M. Boland photograph

Friday, October 16, 2026: Join your fellow Chapter members at 8:00 PM (eastern time) on October 16, 2026, for our monthly membership meeting. We will be meeting in our usual venue, The Van Bourgondien House located at 600 Albin Avenue, West Babylon, New York. The presentation this evening will be given by our own Board Member Mike Boland who will educate us on his working as a dress conductor on the Polar Express train operated by the Cape Cod Central via Zoom®. Full details and a Zoom® link are on Page 2. And yes, there is a Long Island Rail Road connection!

Saturday, October 11, 2026: The Railroad Museum of Long Island facility in Greenport closes for the season. It will reopen for one day on December 5, 2026 for a visit with Santa.

Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Our sister organization, the Sunrise Trail Division of the National Model Railroad Association will be holding their Fall Meet in the Knights of Columbus Hall – G.W. Hudson Council 3701 located at 49-18 Queens Blvd, Woodside, NY 11377. There is an admission fee for this event. Click on this link for more information: [Fall Meet 2026 – Sunrise Trail Division, NMRA.](#)

Friday, November 20, 2026: The November membership meeting of the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter will be held at 600 Albin Avenue, West Babylon, New York at 8:00 PM eastern. The presentation this evening will be given by John Titterton via Zoom®. This presentation is entitled "STOOGE" and is a 75 minute presentation describing the Presenter's firsthand experience working on board three Sperry Rail Service detector cars between April and September 1978 as entry level Assistant Operator.



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



OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING LOG IN INFORMATION

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.

The October membership meeting of the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter NRHS will take place at

8:00 PM on Friday, October 16, 2026
The Van Bourgondien House
600 Albin Avenue, West Babylon, New York, 11704

Longtime LIRR fan, author, LIST Board member and modeler Mike Boland was hired this past Christmas season by the Cape Cod Central Railroad's POLAR EXPRESS – Its annual Holiday Season event as a "Dress Conductor" to ride its "PEX" train to the North Pole for five weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Lifting tickets, assisting passengers, answering questions and posing for passengers, both adults and children, many dressed in pajamas and robes. Mike took along his camera and captured the magic of the season as the CCC's POLAR EXPRESS made up to three runs daily with its nine-car consist. With two full-dome cars and an interesting, colorful variety of other passenger cars, the train included two "old" LIRR C-1 bilevel cars complete with loading ramps! He was even assigned to work those cars on one particular evening, making it the thrill of a lifetime. The train was powered by rebuilt New Haven McGinnis painted and holiday decorated FL9's; and a chop-nose Geep in MASS COASTAL colors. Come along and enjoy a last look at Christmas 2025 as Mike relives his "experience of a lifetime."

Friday, October 16 at 8:00 PM eastern, **7:00 PM** central: The October Membership meeting of the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will feature a presentation by Chapter Member Mike Boland.

To attend your October LIST-NRHS Membership Meeting remotely, please click this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84175469882?pwd=IrlI3yqS58Rmi4lixRmNlIhYT82Se.1>

Meeting ID: 841 7546 9882 Passcode: 106612

While you are in the Zoom® meeting, out of respect to the presenter, you are requested to mute your microphones during this or any presentation.

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About 15 minutes before the scheduled time on the date of the event you can connect to the meeting by entering the link shown 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. 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 will end up staring at a blank screen. **You must use your first and last name in the Zoom® meeting.**

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

If you have any questions, please email your Chapter President Edward Koehler at EdwardMKoehler@NYC.RR.COM or ask your question via our webpage but remember Email service ends at 3:00 PM on the meeting date.

LIST PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

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

Chapter Publications



# _____	LIRR 2027 Calendar - <i>Just Released!!!</i>	@\$8 each	Total _____
# _____	LIRR 2026 Calendar – Clearance Price!!!	@\$5 each	Total _____
# _____	The LIRR drawings of Vincent Quatroche	@\$10 each	Total _____
# _____	The LIRR Co. A History 1834-1965 by R. Sturm	@\$38 each	Total _____
# _____	The LIRR 1949-1980 by R. Sturm Vol. 2	@\$38 each	Total _____
# _____	Volume 1 and 2 of Bob Sturm's books	both for \$68	Total _____
# _____	Shortlines of Long Island by Fagerberg & Koehler	@\$27 each	Total _____

Remaining Arcadia Publications in Stock

# _____	GCT + Penn Sta. Statuary & Sculptures by Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**
# _____	Jamaica Station by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**
# _____	LIRR 1925-1975 by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**
# _____	LIRR Morris Park Shops by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**
# _____	LIRR Port Jefferson Branch by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**
# _____	LIRR Port Washington Branch Dave Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**
# _____	LIRR Stations by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each	Total _____	**

Remaining Morning Sun Publications

# _____	The Long Island Rail Road, in Color Vol. 2	@\$48 each	Total _____	**
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** Less than five in stock and they are generally no longer available from the publisher.

Shipping for one calendar is \$4.00, \$5.00 for two calendars. Shipping for 1 book is \$5. Shipping for both of Bob Sturm's books is \$15. Shipping for other extra books or calendars, please email Chapter Secretary Christine Quigley (CSQuigley@optonline.net) for the shipping costs. *NY State Residents add 8.76% sales tax to the total of the merchandise AND the shipping.*

Book orders should be sent to LIST-NRHS; Post Office Box 507; Babylon, New York, 11702-0507.

CHAPTER DOINGS

Please look at the material contained on the other pages in this issue of the SEMAPHORE. They are all based on member contributions. If you have something appropriate to add, the November newsletter closes on October 23, 2026. Send your contribution(s) by that date to EdwardMKoehler@NYC.RR.COM in a Microsoft Word® compatible format.



Chapter Member Keith Denton, who is also the President of the Long Island Live Steamers was presented with his Twenty-Five Year Membership Pin and Certificate at the September 2026 Membership Meeting. He is being congratulated here by President Ed Koehler while National Board Member Mike Yuhas looks on. This image is from Neil Feldman, Chapter webmaster and was processed using Microsoft Copilot. Chapter member George Forero (of Antioch, Illinois) has also completed Twenty-Five Years of Membership but was unable to attend, a pin and certificate has been delivered to him via mail. Congratulations George!

Mr. Denton will be our host for the Chapter during our visit to the Long Island Live Steamers on October 3, 2026, an event that will be happening while the October SEMAPHORE is being printed. Coverage of that event will appear in the November SEMAPHORE.

(Empty)

This was going to be a photograph of the Chapter members working at our table at the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum on September 26, 2026. We believe that the volunteers would have included Chris Quigley, Bob Cecere and Ed Koehler. I sincerely apologize if I have missed anyone. This event did not happen as a Nor'easter storm rolled in off of the Atlantic Ocean Coast giving Long Island a gray, windy and rainy day. Definitely not a good day to be outdoors!

Believe it or not, we are working on our meeting entertainment schedule for January to June 2027! If you have something to offer or can recommend someone to us, please contact President Ed Koehler at EdwardMKoehler@NYC.RR.COM. Thanks for helping your chapter.

LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD (or thereabouts) HAPPENINGS



At our membership meeting on September 18, 2026, we were joined via Zoom® by President Marlon Taylor of the New York and Atlantic Railway, the freight hauler here on Long Island. Mr. Taylor spoke eloquently about operating a freight service in the suburban environment of Long Island and the need to develop future consignees for the NY&A. He then answered the members' questions, both from the in person folks and those on Zoom®. It was an enjoyable event for all in attendance. But there was one question unanswered; what is the reason behind the dark green and black paint scheme of the New York and Atlantic? The above image of Mr. Taylor was captured by Neil Feldman from the projector screen during the meeting, it has been edited using Microsoft CoPilot.

The Chapter's 2027 Long Island Rail Road Calendar should be available as you are reading this. See the book order form on page 3 for more information.

The Douglas Bay Horse Tramway located on the Isle of Man is the oldest operating horse railway in the world, marking 150 years of service on August 7, 2026. A full day of celebrations which included two cavalcades of the horse cars occurred to mark the occasion. But the really big event involving this horse railway happened back in early July when the Manx government voted the funds to finish the rebuilding of the car line from the foot of Broadway to the Sea Terminal in Douglas, IoM. This work had been suspended in 2018 when the government diverted the original funding for it to cost overruns on the rebuilding of the Promenade in Douglas. This re-extension work is scheduled to start after the horse car season in 2026 and will probably extend into 2027. The original line was a double track railroad down the middle of the road next to the Promenade, the current plans call for just a single track between the Promenade walkway and the road.



Horse Tram 35 (built by G.F. Milnes and Company in 1896) powered by "**Charles**" departing the Sea Terminal on July 30, 2009, image by Edward M. Koehler. (Relevance? Three LIRR branches early on were powered by horses!)

NRHS NEWS

Ken Katta, National Director/National Representative

As your LIST-NRHS National Representative, I attended the NRHS Convention, Organizational, and Annual Meetings held September 21, 2026 via Zoom® at the Crowne Plaza-Playhouse Square, Cleveland, Ohio. The first, Plenary session, was called to order at 8:45 AM EDT. This included a series of reports from various committees. I will report significant highlights.

The NRHS Bulletin has been moved to White River Productions which publishes RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN and RAILFAN AND RAILROAD magazines. There is exciting content planned for next year with an extensive historical feature on the CSX Blue Ridge Subdivision in a special issue celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. The NRHS Photo Gallery collection is now approaching 4500 pictures. Motion picture films continue to be reviewed, repaired and digitally scanned. The 2026 Edition of the Directory of Rail Attractions for NRHS Members was sent to members and posted on the NRHS Web Site. The NRHS Fund Report indicated an investment portfolio valued at \$1,509,339. The NRHS Fund transferred to the NRHS \$15,163 for Railcamp and \$159,486 for Heritage Grants. This year both East and Northwest Railcamp sessions were full. The competition for spots is getting tougher each year. A list of the 2026 grant recipients is posted on the NRHS website.

The significant detail of the 2026 NRHS Convention Financial Report was the theft of a \$10,000 check that was supposed to go to the Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah for the convention held May 30, 2026. As of this date, Wells Fargo Bank has not reimbursed the NRHS. There were no updates from the police. The remainder of the report indicated 7% lower prepaid dues compared to 2025. The largest expenses were 32% for the Bulletin, administration 19%, accounting 12%, Railcamp 6%, membership 9%, and rent 9%.

The Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM. There was an approval of the minutes of the Advisory Council Meeting on May 30, 2026. I attended this meeting also. The site for the 2027 convention will be Baltimore, Maryland as it is the 200th anniversary of railroading in America. The Fireside Chat initiative was highlighted which was designed to improve communications between chapters and National. New business at that meeting included a possibility of setting up Railcamp in the central part of the Country since NRHS is greatly under-represented in the area. There was consideration of deciding on a new mission statement. It was decided to set up a committee to further look at creating and simplifying the mission statement. New business included that the NRHS should investigate railroad collections in libraries throughout the country such as the vast collection of railroadiana at Grand Central Station, NYC that was donated by a past president of the New York Central Railroad. There was also consideration to increase attendance at conventions.

The Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 4:00 EDT. There was a consideration to bringing younger people into NRHS by engaging youth from a passive outreach to active participation with a video promo. There is a decrease in membership due to aging members. There has been no dues increase in 15 years. But dues do not cover expenses. Sometimes mailed checks take longer with the USPS due to cuts. It was recommended that dues be paid on-line. Dues paying membership is now 3102 active members, 498 family numbers, and 97 student members. These figures are down from 2025. There was a suggestion that there should be an outreach to the Boy Scouts and an interface with local colleges. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 EDT.

(Editor's Note: We thank Ken Katta for filing this report, we had it within twenty-four hours of the conclusion of these meetings.)

THE LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD MODELER BY MIKE BOLAND

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE: ATTENDING THE NEW ENGLAND RPM MEET IN MAY

After a year's absence, I attended this year's New England Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet on May 28, 29 and 30, 2026. I couldn't do it last year as I could not get the time off from work so I made sure this did NOT happen to me this year and everything worked out well. The meet was much fun and quite a success. Held again at the Sheraton Hotel in Springfield, MA, close to 300 modelers attended with a number of vendors and presenters as well as a great number of outstanding models on display.

This year's meet began on Thursday evening with a show by Ryan Twombly called "Southern New England in Kodachrome" followed by our own Matt Herson on Conrail and its predecessors, marking "Big Blue" on its 50th anniversary. Both shows were excellent.

On Friday, May 29th, the festivities began at 9:00 AM with two full days of clinics covering a variety of modeling and prototype subjects. I presented a show on passenger cars and passenger trains. I had shown it at the Cocoa Beach RPM Meet at the Hilton in Cocoa Beach, Florida back in early January and it was well-received.

At this RPM Meet, each presentation is offered only once and there were a number of fine presentations and clinics. It's a shame that just about everyone will miss a clinic or two that attendees would like to be present at since three different clinics are scheduled at the same time through both days but this might be the only negative about this meet; otherwise, it's a big win for everyone in attendance. In fact, it's a win-win.

Among the clinics offered were "Modeling Manhattan's West Side" by Dave JT Burke; "Scratch-building a Steam Locomotive" by Mal Houck; "Using AI for Your Railroad" by Matthew Zuccaro; "Modeling Mill River Junction-SS-79" by Ron Poidomani; "The Shay—More Than a Logging Locomotive" by Steven Meyer; "The Old Woman in the Basement" by Bill Schneider; "When the Photos Don't Seem to Match: Modeling the Montpelier & Well River, circa 1940-41" by Irv Thomae; "CaroVail Fertilizer Blending Plant at Auburn, NY" by Ed Olszewski; "Central Vermont's Southern Division 2nd District" by Glenn Annis; "Transporting Wheel sets on CP and now CPKC" by John Brown; "The Rich Lumber Company in Manchester, VT" by Bill Badger; "Bellefonte Lime Traffic to New England" by Peter Muto. And there were so many others.

Model Railroad magazine's Tony Koester made an appearance and presented "Two-town Branch Line in Proto:48." It was all about the progress he has made building an O-scale railroad that was the Mogul-powered Wabash High Line branch in western Illinois circa 1953.

Other Clinics of Note:

- Tony Sissons presented "Creating a GP33ECO Locomotive," a fantasy free lance locomotive.
- Ray Rhodes presented a show entitled "The Challenges of Designing Practical Staging Into Your Railroad." Ray looked at various design ideas on how to add multiple staging tracks and yards to a model railroad that will improve its operational flexibility.
- Rick Abramson's clinic was entitled "How to Paint a Brass Steam Locomotive" and it covered disassembling, preparing, priming, painting and finishing a steam locomotive.
- Ted Culott's latest clinic was on Pacific Fruit Express's Postwar Steel Fleet of reefers.

In addition to these clinics, there were a number of others that were entertaining and informative. Ongoing throughout both days was a superb hands-on weathering clinic and I weathered an Atlas B&O coal hopper that is headed to Steve Lynch in Florida. And then there are the models. All of them are fantastic and the modeling is simply superb. I brought a couple of my LIRR "Blue-Ribbon Fleet" of heavyweight Pullman parlor cars based on an article I wrote for *Railroad Model Craftsman* a number of years ago with hints at how to make these cars appear more prototypical. I also brought two LIRR commuter club cars that I kitbashed from the Walther's 12-1 heavyweight Pullman sleeping cars. They still need to be finished and lettered. It was good to see a number of passenger car models, too!

I hope to offer some model-building clinics in the future and want to get away from my previous prototype shows on the LIRR, but this does not mean that I'll be turning away from *The Route of the Dashing Commuter*.

Unfortunately, there were about a half dozen model layouts that were shown via open house but I could not attend since I had to get back home and couldn't stay the extra day. I had hoped to visit Bill Schneider's NYO&W layout but it will have to wait. Maybe next year, for sure!

As for vendors, while there were not as many as I would have liked, I did purchase a number of models including some Funaro & Camerlengo LIRR double-deckers and P72 coaches for future modeling and kit-bashing—more about this later.

Until next time, happy modeling!

LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD "EXTRA" ROBERT EMERY'S JOURNAL



Robert M. Emery (March 23, 1925, - August 1, 1995) LIRR conductor and historian, documented LIRR track configurations over the years with scores of annotated hand-drawn maps, many of which now reside in the archives of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His many maps appear on my Trainaarefun.com [website](#) in support of related LIRR subject material. Additionally, an Emery [map archive](#) is available posted on line.

He joined the Long Island Rail Road in 1943 and retired in 1976. His first job after graduating from Mattituck High School, NY was as a trainman; he was later a conductor at the time of his retirement. In 1976, Stony Brook University acquired, through purchase, his extensive collection which documents the history of the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) equipment and operations during his tenure with the railroad, via photographs and maps.

This document is his [268-page journal](#) outlining his early years and "...thirty-three and a 'little bit more' as an employee..." journey as he wrote it down. The photos and captions I have provided are from my website to further help illustrate the Emery Journal. It is broken down into chapters, by year, for ease of the reader to follow along on his journey and combined into a single chapter pdf file to facilitate reading and/or downloading. Photo: Emery on GP7 BAR #74 at Riverhead Station in 1975

Here's Page 1 of his Journal to illustrate the format and design of the pages.

FIRST HAND MEMORIES -----,or
 " All Of My Life-----Watching Trains Go By " *

My first memories of trains started in 1930 when my parents and I were enroute to Somerville, N.J. from our home in Cutchogue on the north shore of Long Island. We were coming west on train 281, known by east end local folk as the "first morning train", while the following train, no. 205, carrying the mail was always referred to as the "second morning train". Until 1933, no. 281 was the Greenport section of the morning "Cannonball". At Manorville it would become the rear two cars of train 3, the Montauk part of the "Cannonball".



**Manor Station, Manorville - View E close-up
 c.1900 Archive: Dave Keller**

We were sitting on the south side of our coach and while waiting at Manorville for no. 3 to come over the Manorville Branch, I remember my dad pointing out the arriving Montauk section coming around the curve with it's "high-wheeled" Atlantic type locomotive. Shortly it backed it's three cars on to our two on the main line and away we went to New York.

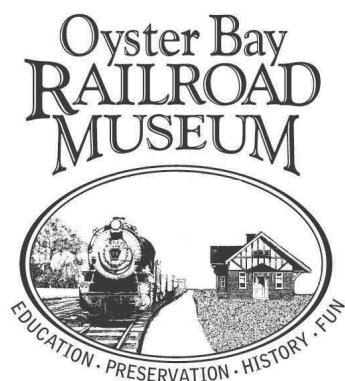
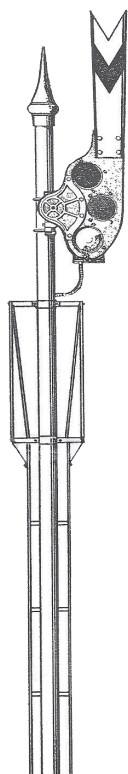


**PRR E3sd #4176 Richmond Hill Storage Yard
 4/23/1939 Archive: Dave Keller**

Other "Railroad Memories" from that trip included my dad pointing out the Riverhead turntable, wooden coaches on the CNJ at Somerville and a ride on the South Branch of the CNJ to Three Bridges to visit people my dad grew up with there. I was already a "Railfan", but of course that term for the "affliction" would come years later!

* From the words of a popular song of a few years back.

Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter
National Railway Historical Society
PO Box 507
Babylon, New York 11702-0507



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