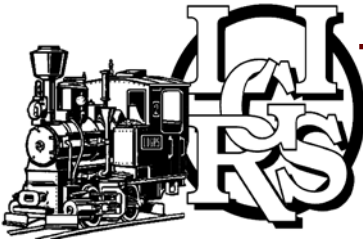


August 2020

All August Activities are  
Cancelled.

Looking forward to seeing everybody at  
an in person September meeting.  
See next month's Sn'C for details



Looking for a modeling project?



Go to page 9 for a really great idea.

See our Member Profiles Article  
With photos of Paul Simon's indoor layout.



Check out the 2 page Member Profile complete with many photos  
beginning on page 7 of this newsletter.

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Special points of interest:

- Photo contest winner p 5
- Member Profiles p 7 & 8
- LIGRS Covid-19 policy p 9





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## 2020 LIGRS Meetings & Events Schedule

Date	Program/Notes	Time	Place
<b>August 22, 2020</b> <b>SATURDAY</b>	Club Picnic	<b>Has been cancelled</b>	Long Island Live Steamers
<b>August 29-30, 2020</b>	Railfest	<b>Has been cancelled</b>	RMLI at Riverhead
<b>Sept. 12, 2020</b>	BOD Meeting	10:00 AM	<b>ZOOM MEETING</b>
<b>Sept. 19, 2020</b> <b>SATURDAY</b> (Rain date Sept. 20)	Monthly Meeting And Nominations	11:00 AM	<b>Paul Bonney</b>
<b>Oct. 10, 2020</b>	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	<b>Location TBA</b>
<b>Nov. 15, 2020</b>	Election Meeting	11:00 AM	<b>Northport Yacht Club</b>

**Driving the train doesn't set its course. The real job is laying the track.**

*Ed Catmull*

### 2021 Dues Reminder

Please remember to renew your membership to LIGRS. Individual memberships, the 1st member of a household, are \$40 per year. Family Memberships for members over 18 years old are \$15 for **EACH** additional member in the same household. Please send a check made out to **Long Island Garden Railway Society, Inc.** (full name please as the bank frowns on "Pay to the Order of LIGRS") for the appropriate amount to:

**Tom Rizzo**  
32 Semon Road,  
Huntington, NY 11743,

## View From the Cab

On Sat. August 1<sup>st</sup> we had an interim Board meeting on the Internet via Zoom. Instead of repeating here everything said at the meeting, please read the secretary's notes and see our calendar of club events on page 2 in this issue of Smoke n' Cinders.

The board is working hard to try to have an "in person" September meeting somewhere. Please stay tuned, and read your emails. The board believes we all need to have some safe inter personal contact; it would be good for morale.

I have wanted to write about the following subject for a long time and since I can't think of anything else to write about, I believe it's time. The subject is my adventures with Trolleys. I do enjoy riding; to me they are neat and fun. Even though this is a train club, many members have trolleys. On our own layout we have a trolley that runs from the brewery, making stops in town and at the train station before proceeding to Der Biergarten.

My first encounter that I remember with a trolley was in the late 1940s. I remember my mother holding my hand, helping me off a trolley on the Myrtle Ave. Line in Ridgewood/ Glendale, Queens, NY. I also remember my father getting stuck behind a trolley on the same line. Myrtle was a two lane road. One lane in each direction. Cars shared a lane with the trolley tracks.

Many years later my brother and I drove up to CT to ride the Shore Line Trolley at the Shore Line Trolley Museum in East Have, CT.

Technically, the next one is not a trolley but I'm tucking it in because it runs on tracks. That is the San Francisco cable cars. They are open air cars. What really interested me the most was not the cable cars but the cable powerhouse. This is where the machinery is located that pulls the cable which powers the cable cars. Today the machinery is powered by electric motors. When the cable system was first built, the system was powered by steam engines. When I was in San Francisco in the late 1970s I had a chance to visit the cable powerhouse.

Then in 1986, after a two week river cruise down the Mississippi river on a stem powered paddle wheeler, to New Orleans, we had the opportunity to ride another trolley. While in New Orleans Kathleen and I rode the St. Charles Street trolley. This was a beautiful ride with tree lined streets. The trolley rode in the middle and cars rode on either side of the trolley right of way. Beautiful old houses lined St. Charles Street. What impressed me the most were the wicker seats on the trolley car. I believe they were original wicker seats. Can you imagine wicker seats in a NYC subway? They can't keep fiberglass seats!

A few years passed and we took a trip to Orbisonia PA to ride the East Broad Top Narrow Gauge steam train. It is also the home of the Rockhill Trolley Museum. We did take a ride on a trolley there. Again, very nice.

Another short trip was to the CT Trolley museum, in East

Windsor, CT. There we rode the coolest trolley ever, a 1924 Montreal Tramways car. This car was built as a tourist trolley. It is completely open.

Seating is in the form of bleachers. Seats at the front of the car are normal seat height, but as you go towards the rear of the car each row of seats rises higher. The seat furthest to the rear is about 40-50 feet high on either side of the tracks and you're on this trolley buzzing along. Cool!

Is this a trolley? While in Astoria, OR, we saw a trolley car on the Astoria Riverfront Trolley ride which is powered by a diesel - generator set located on a trailing car, towed behind the 1920s-1930s trolley car. We didn't get a chance to ride because our tour bus was ready to leave.

While visiting Steam Town in Scranton PA we visited the Electric City Trolley Museum, which is located next to Steam Town. Trolley rides were not running on the date of our visit. The Museum was small but interesting.



We're nearly done. The last time we rode a trolley was about 5 years ago in Tampa, FL on 2.7 mile long City of Tampa trolley. It goes from down town Tampa to Ybor City Historic District. The system opened in 2002. Trolley cars are replica historic street cars. We rode this system a few times when visiting FL. One interesting thing, the trolley has to cross a main rail line. Each time it has

to cross the motormen have to call the train tower to get permission to cross over the line. The trolley runs every 15 minutes. That's a lot of calls.

Hope you enjoyed.

God bless and please stay save.

Mike Kmeth.



Tampa to Ybor City,  
FL



St Charles Street,  
New Orleans



Montreal Tramways  
Car

# From the Secretary July's Zoom Meeting



## LONG ISLAND GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY INC.

### NOTES OF THE ZOOM MEETING JULY 18, 2020

President Mike Kmeth opened the meeting at 11:15AM and asked for a moment of silence for the Men and Women who are serving this country and especially for those whose lives were lost protecting our freedom.

President Mike Kmeth welcomed all to our first attempt at a Zoom meeting. A special welcome was given for long time members Ernie and Marie DeCarolus from Delaware and Dave Smith from South Carolina.

**Treasurers' report** a short YTD report was given by Bob Sewall. Should anyone have any questions about the club finances please contact Bob and he will be happy to answer any questions you have.

**Membership report** - no report as Tom was not available.

**Program Directors report** – Nick noted he would speak to Steve Gittelman about the October meeting. Nick Stated he would be in contact with the North Port Yacht Club for a possible September, October meeting and also the rest of the winter months.

**Bob Russo Memorial Fund** – Pat updated us to let us know that the foundation for the bench has been done. The plaque wording has been sent. Pat is hoping for a date in September or October.

**Shows & Events:** No show planned at this time. Karl Wagner to call John Darcy of Clark Botanic Gardens to see what their schedule is for the remainder of the year.

**Photo Contest** – This month's winning photo "Reduced Day Industrial Transfer" was taken by Steve Gittleman of his Chichester and Sweet Hollow RR.

**Club Resource Librarian** – Nick noted he's has gotten a few more books but needs to list them on the website.

**Club Merchandise** – Georgiana stated she has a jacket for George and has pins for some members

**New Business:** None  
Our next meeting official meeting should be September 20 at Ed Assaf's house. The BOD will confirm on this.

President Mike closed the meeting @ 11:50 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Karl Wagner

Secretary

## LIGRS Layout Photos Calendar



Would you like a calendar with photos of LIGRS layouts? Check out our Shutterfly site. There are photos posted which have been submitted over the years to our photo contest. Even the ones that didn't win are amazing!

On Shutterfly you can create and order your own custom calendar. (Three different types are offered)

<https://grli.shutterfly.com/>

More photos will be added as we receive them.

## Tom's What the Heck Puzzle (Solution on next page)

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### Photo Contest Winner

---



This month's winner is Mike Kmeth for his photo  
"Kathleen's Whimsical Garden Railway Division of the Sun Valley Railroad"



# Puzzle Solution



## Answer:

Schienezepelin, a German high speed train from the 1930s, top speed was 130mph

## Chic Chat Corner



Our first LIGRS Zoom meeting was a success. All of the members who expressed interest in attending were able to sign in and participate. They used desk tops, laptops, iPhones and iPads. Great job folks.

You can see from the Meeting Notes on page 4 a summary of the business that was conducted. Unfortunately, we were one or two people short for having a quorum. Remember, you and your proxies are very important. Keep this in mind for our September and November meetings because they are our nomination and election meetings.

I was not quick enough to remember to capture a complete screen print to show all of our club

attendees. Others who were virtually there were, Betty Engel, Jay Geyer, Nick Guarino, Ralph & Jane Isaacs, George Stamatides and Everette Phillips.

It was so good to see our out-of-town members.

*We are hoping that Pete Conte will have upgraded his electronics and be able to join us next time.*



## Member Profiles



Member Paul Simon has been a model train buff for many years. He did HO for 20 years but finally decided, as many other club members have done, that working in that scale was too small and detailed. Therefore he dismantled the layout and gave it to his son and gave his wife back their basement. He then began a new, LGB layout in their other home out east.

For the past 4 years he has been working on this new, indoor layout. It is approximately 13' x 27'. Paul likes steam so he is sticking with steam engines, no diesel at all. He likes logging and coal production but does not have enough room to model both so is just doing logging. He also loves a complex layout so this one is a 2 level layout with about 11" between the elevations including one 37" long climb from one level to the other at a 2 1/2% grade. Then to make operations interesting there is one reverse loop on the upper and one on the lower level. Trains can operate clockwise or counter clockwise. He is using

cab control. Including sidings it includes approximately 300' of track.

He now has about 6 or 7 engines with logging cars. One Christmas his mother-in-law gifted him with an R&E set containing 3 passenger cars, with a matching steam engine. The passenger cars have pot belly stoves inside that smoke. The set is a sort of Western motif with black roof and brown sides of wood-like simulation.

Paul cast his own portals from a Pola portal and sidewalls set using rubber molds he made using Hydrocal. The layout has about 10 portals and he also used portals to make a viaduct. Now he has the viaduct design and the wood but no time yet to construct it. If anyone needs portals just contact him and he will loan you the molds.

Paul loves mountains so during their 3 months of sheltering in place he did the casting and building of mountains. The layout has 4 major areas that are built up mountains with portals. As far as structures, he was at the Oyster Bay meeting and someone was selling off stuff. He almost grabbed the Victorian Station.

The layout is currently electrically and mechanically 100% wired but no remote switches wires. Reverse loops are all figured out. He met Dino through eBay and they got to talking trains. Dino invited Paul over to see his layout before Paul had joined our club. They had a discussion about wiring the 2 reverse loops, and Paul remarked what a nightmare it was for him. "No, no. It's a simple thing." said Dino. He dug through his stash and gave Paul 2 sets of track to get it working. The train must only enter it one way and leave the same way all the time. You come in, stop the train, throw the direction switch and then go again. It took 2 years for Paul to try to find a solution. Dino said, "It is a piece of cake."

Paul then joined the club and went through the roster. He noticed that there are not too many members with indoor layout but he is very happy with his. Both of their houses have plenty of trees which would make an outdoor one too hard to keep clean.

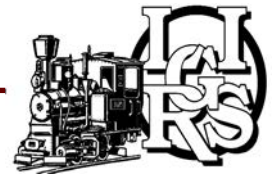


# More Paul Simon Layout Photos





## A Request from Pat Russo



Some years back, Bob Russo was customizing an E8 Engine to become a model of the LIRR FL9AC, the engine was never completed and Pat asked if anyone in LIGRS who is talented in customizing and interested in this project to contact her. She has offered to pay for the work and would like to see it completed. Please see her contact information in the roster and give her a call if you are willing and able to help.

**History,** The LIRR FL9AC's were originally New Haven FL9's, they were bought from Metro North and rebuilt in 1991 to operate as Dual-power Locomotives capable of running in Diesel territory and powered by 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail to run with C1 Double Decker Passenger cars. They did run into Penn Station from Port Jefferson. These engines had a 2 axle truck on the front end and a 3 axle truck on the rear, They ran with one engine on each end of the train, one facing East the other West. There were 3 and they were dedicated to the 3 heroes who stopped and disarmed Colin Ferguson on December 7, 1993. They were numbered 300 - Kevin Blum, 301 – Mark McEntee and 302 – Michael O'Connor. Information from [railroad.net](http://railroad.net) Photo credit William J. Skeats, 1996 Port Jefferson



## Notice from the LIGRS Board of Directors

### LIGRS Covid-19 Policy

All in-person club sanctioned activities, meetings, shows, displays and presentations involving membership presence shall conform with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 general infection control protocols (face masks, social distancing to the extent possible, hand washing/sanitizing, etc.) for the duration of the pandemic emergency irrespective of the venue's policy. These protocols shall apply to all members as well as any persons accompanying them.

This policy is being enacted by the Board of Directors of the Long Island Garden Railway Society, Inc. in the interest of protecting and respecting the health, wellbeing and safety of the club's membership, keeping in mind the number of members considered at risk due to their age and/or underlying medical conditions. The club will make disposable adult face masks, hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes available at sanctioned events to participating LIGRS members and accompanying individuals as needed.

Members are ultimately responsible for assessing their personal health situation and their willingness to accept any inherent risks when deciding to attend any LIGRS event.

**When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.**

*Corrie ten Boom*

## From the Secretary August BOD Meeting



### LONG ISLAND GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY, Inc. EXECUTIVE BOARD ZOOM MEETING AUGUST 1, 2020

Meeting was held using Zoom.

Attendance: President Mike Kmeth, Vice President Steve Gaherty, Secretary Karl Wagner, Membership Director Tom Rizzo, Treasurer Bob Sewall, Program Director Nick Guarino, Directors at Large, Louis Cortese, Frank Clemente, Bruce Kropp, Pat Russo, Louise Sewall.

President Mike Kmeth asked that the meeting be opened @ 10 AM. A motion was made by Bruce Kropp and seconded by Bob Sewall

Mike asked for a moment of silence for the men and women that serve in our military at home and abroad that have lost their lives protecting our way of freedom, and for our police and member Pete Conte

President Mike Kmeth asked for a motion to forgo the reading and approve the minutes of the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 BOD. Mike Kmeth made a motion to accept as is, seconded by Lou Cortese. BOD approved.

After much discussion on the proposed policy below a motion by Bob Sewall and seconded by Frank Clemente was approved by the BOD. The policy below was approved in the best interest of all club members.

#### LIGRS Covid-19 Policy

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ed.

Members are ultimately responsible for assessing their personal health situation and their willingness to accept any inherent risks when deciding to attend any LIGRS event.

**Treasurer's Report** – was given by Bob Sewall. Bob gave a synopsis of the report: Year to Date 2019-2020 as of 6/31/20 Starting \$9,247.37 Ending \$10,120.51. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Starting \$10,441.51 Ending \$10,194.01. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Starting \$10,194.01 Ending \$10,120.51.

**Membership Report** - Tom Rizzo – No report at this time

**Program Director** – Nick Guarino

September 20th Meeting – Nick to check with Ed Assaf, if no, then will check with Paul Bonney. If no then NPYC for Sept 27

October 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Nick to check with Steve Gittelman, if no then NPYC

November 15 (Election of Officers) Date is confirmed with NPYC

December - Holiday party is cancelled. New meeting date to be confirmed with NPYC

2021 - January 10, February 20 & March 21 dates to be confirmed with NPYC

**Bob Russo Memorial Fund** – The three trees have been planted and the slab for the bench has been set. The Plaque wording is being worked on. Pat is hoping for an early September memorial date. More info coming

**Anniversary for 2021 (30years)** – Karl Wagner (Pat Russo & Lou Cortese) – We are looking into several different ideas but social distancing has been an issue. We may push date off for a year due to the pandemic.

#### **Upcoming Shows and Events:**

**Picnic LILS** – CANCELLED by the BOD

**Riverhead Rail fest** – CANCELLED by RMLI

**Sayville Garden Club** – Trains in the Garden still on for

## From the Secretary August BOD meeting continued



now.

**Bayard Cutting Arboretum** - No Events scheduled

**Clark Botanic Garden** – They are planning an event. We are waiting to see what it is.

**COA** - As of this time Set up is Dec 21 and Take down Jan 4

**Ground Displays; Red Trailer** – New tires and inspection should be done in August, Mike, Frank & Bruce.

### New Business:

The BOD has authorized Bob Sewall to purchase the necessary PPE for the clubs next meeting.

The BOD Authorized Bob Sewall to purchase a gift card to pay for the next Zoom meetings.

Next regularly scheduled BOD meeting will be a ZOOM meeting September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Lou Cortese made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Bruce Kropp. Motion approved

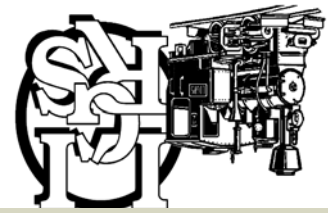
Meeting ended at 11:32 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Karl Wagner

Secretary

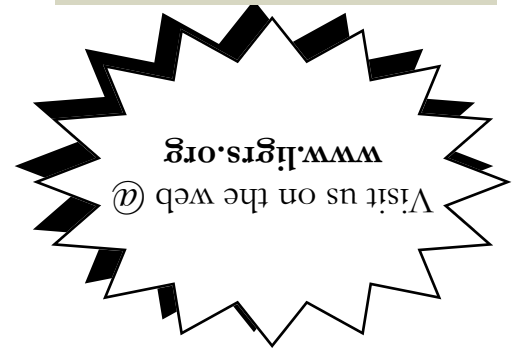




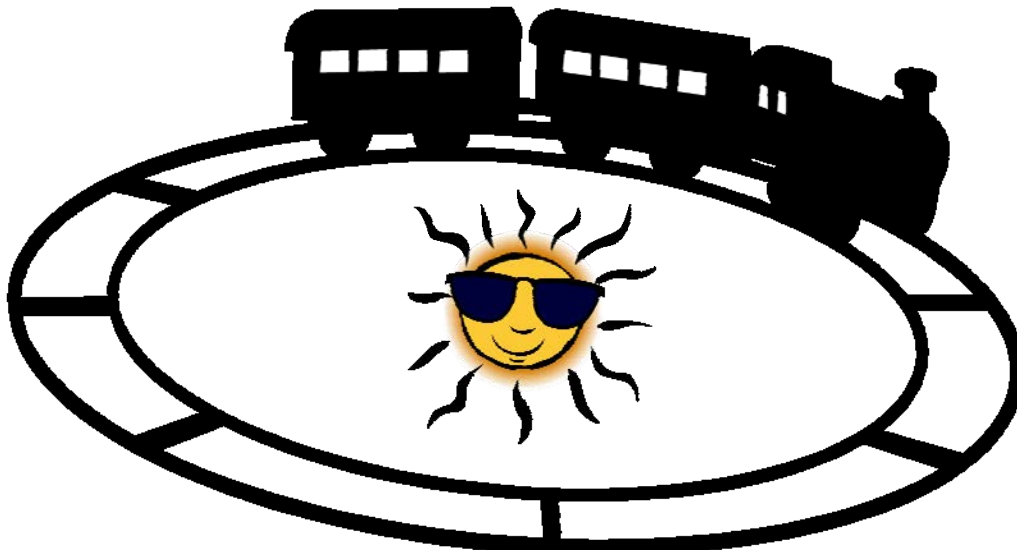
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND  
GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY INC



“The restlessness and the longing, like the longing that is in the whistle of a faraway train. Except that the longing isn't really in the whistle—it is in you.”  
— Meindert DeJong, [The Little Cow and the Turtle](#)



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