

October 2023



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY INC.

Smoke n' Cinders

October 21st **SATURDAY**
Hosts: John & Denise Girolamo
11:00am
202 Greenbelt Pkwy., Holbrook, NY 11741
516.398.9380



Elections will be held at the **November** meeting.
The slate will appear thus:

1. Vice President: No nominee
2. Treasurer: Ed Assaf uncontested
3. Membership Director: Anthony Bliss uncontested
4. Directors at Large: Tom Rizzo uncontested
Fred Bossert uncontested

IMPORTANT: In November, remember to send proxy forms if you can not make the meeting. (there is a proxy form on page 10 of this issue) and a link on our home page ligrs.org.

Food Donations Needed

As in past years we are gathering donations of non-perishable food items for the Grace United Methodist Church food pantry in memory of deceased member Doug Smith. Donations should be brought to the **November meeting**. Cash donations will also be accepted.



Lucky Winner of the starter set

This year's winner of the Piko starter set that was raffled off at the end of our ground display at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration is Dan Posanlla shown to the left with Mike Kmeth.



Photo on the right shows the ticket being drawn by Harper with president George Stamatiades.



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Transportation Coordinator	Bruce Kropp	631.789.4090

2023-2024 LIGRS Meetings & Events Schedule

Date	Program/Notes	Time	Place
Oct. 14, 2023	Anniversary Trip	11:30 AM Dinner Train	Essex, CT
Oct. 21, 2023	General Meeting	11:00 AM	John & Denise Girolamo
Nov. 18, 2023	General Meeting	11:00 AM	Bethpage Senior Center
Dec., 2023	Christmas Party	TBA	TBD
Jan. 20, 2024	General Meeting	11:00 AM	Bethpage Senior Center
Feb. 10, 2024	General Meeting*	11:00 AM	Bethpage Senior Center
Mar. 9, 2024	General Meeting	11:00 AM	Bethpage Senior Center
September 2024	General Meeting	11:00 AM	Ed Assaf

*Auction date to be confirmed



View from the Cab



Στις διακοπές, τα λέμε σύντομα.

On vacation, see you soon.

September Meeting at the Kmeth's



From The Secretary September Meeting Minutes



LONG ISLAND GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY INC. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING September 23, 2023

President George L. Stamataides called the meeting to order at 1:04pm and led the membership in a moment of silence in Memory and in Honor of those who served and are serving in our armed services.

George welcomed us all to our meeting at the home of Mike and Kathleen Kmeth.

We had 17 members present + 2 proxy forms. We have a quorum.

George then asked for a motion to read the July, meeting minutes, offer corrections or forego the reading and accept them as written. Bob Sewall noted that no 50/50 was included. Ed will supply the info by the next meeting. At that time, they will be updated and approval will be asked for.

Reports:

Treasurers' Report

Net YTD FY 2022-2023 as of today \$9,575.75. YTD -\$393. Net change. Collected for Essex trip \$2,070 and paid for tickets. Super 50/50 collected to date \$1,160. From the summer display at Old Bethpage \$490 including \$60 for raffle, \$30 donations and paid \$250 for starter set. We are in the black for this event.

Membership Report – Anthony Bliss sent a report which was read by Louise stating there are 26 individual members 14 family, 7 life, 5 honorary, 4 junior with a total of 70 members. Any members who still have not received their membership cards, see Anthony.

Program Director – Anthony Marino conducted a discussion and survey of the members present regarding the feasibility of holding a holiday tabletop display at Old Bethpage as in the past. Questions regarding the low participation of members, the storage of a part of the display, wanting a report from Ed regarding the profits for the last 3 or 4 years displays there. Decision was to hold off contacting Old Bethpage until after the October meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the club Holiday party. Voting showed majority would like to hold it in the beginning of January 2024. Anthony will check venues and other possible club trips for 2024. Other meeting dates: Saturday November 18th General meeting Saturday January 20th General meeting, Saturday February 10th General Meeting and Auction Saturday March 9th General Meeting 2024 Back Yard meetings: October John &

Denise Girolamo, September Ed Assaf

Bob Sewall reminded us that he will no longer be able to run the annual auction. Paul Simon and Tom Rizzo have volunteered to chair next year. They will meet with Bob for training.

Review of Shows & Events:

Photo Contest – Congratulations to Bob Sewall for the August winning photo “Gravel Pit” taken at the RMLI layout and to Lou Caputzel for the September winning photo “Whoops Derailment” taken at his layout “Pop’s Trains.” A link to the rules is on the LIGRS home page. Please remember to take pictures and send your best to Louise Sewall. The annual winner receives a \$25 check and the photo will be featured on the cover of the 2024 season copy of the LIGRS roster.

Club Merchandise – Georgie Gaherty displayed the newly designed and ordered 30th anniversary patches, now available of \$5 each. Please see Georgiana & Steve for other club items such as hats, shirts, jackets, mugs, pins and DVD’s.

Aluminum Can Tabs – Please save them to give to Eileen & Karl Wagner. This helps fund the Ronald McDonald House for Children needing treatment and their families. Please check them with a magnet as only Aluminum tabs are used, NOT STEEL.

Good and Welfare – If you know of someone in the club who is sick or has a baby or wedding, please let Eileen Wagner know so she can send a card from the club.

Old Business:

George praised the great job done at the Old Bethpage ground display even though not a lot of members were able to help out. Plans have been discussed regarding different organizing techniques, similar to that of the modular group which may enable a quicker set up e.g., standardizing the roadbed sized. More planning is needed.

New Business:

Veterans -In order to recognize and honor LIGRS members who have served during any time or are currently serving, please contact Louise Sewall at 631.486.2579 or email your info to louisewall@gmail.com with your branch of service and years served. Please check out last year’s November issue on page 7 to ensure we have your correct information.

President George opened the nominations for the following positions;

Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Dir. And Director-at-large (2).

Vice President – on hold for now
Treasurer – Louise Sewall nominated Ed Assaff, seconded by Karl Wagner. Ed accepts but only for the 2024 year. Sn’C will publish for a volunteer to be trained for the rest of the term.
Membership Director – Tom will call Anthony Bliss to confirm that he will continue to serve Director at Large – Ed nominated Tom Rizzo, seconded by Louise. Tom accepted
Director at Large – Mike nominated Fred Bossert, seconded by Karl. Fred accepted.

Super 50/50 – This year’s BIGBOY SUPER RAFFLE if all the tickets are sold will be \$5,000. The tickets will be \$10 per ticket AND The Long Island Railway Society Ticket Agent (Seller) will be awarded \$500 for selling the winning ticket. The seller’s prize will come out of the club’s profit. Drawing will be at the November Meeting. So far our big ticket agent seller is Bruce Kropp.

Food Donation – Ed Assaf - It’s that time again to help others less fortunate than us. As in past years we are gathering donations of non-perishable food items for the Grace United Methodist Church food pantry in memory of deceased member Doug Smith. Donations should be brought to the November meeting. Cash donations will also be accepted at the October meeting.

Bob made a motion to make Louise a lifetime member, seconded by Paul Simon and approved.

50/50 was won by Anthony Marino who donated a total of \$14 to our club.

Next General meeting will be held on Oct. 21st at John & Denise Girolamo’s.

Tom made a motion to close the meeting seconded by Mike. Motion approved. The meeting ended @ 2:11pm.

Respectfully submitted, in the absence of the secretary,

Louise Sewall



Old Bethpage Ground Display Photos



Our thanks to Emma's Garden Growers for once again donating the lovely plants used to beautify the layout for the 3 days exhibit.



Attention Veterans



In order to recognize and honor LIGRS members who have served during any time or are currently serving, please contact Louise Sewall at 631.486.2579 or email info to louisesevall@verizon.net with your branch of service and specific years served.

Check out last year's November issue on page 8 to ensure we have your correct information.

Trackside Views by Dave Smith

WHAT'S A BLUNAMI SHAY?

Twenty years ago, we converted a large scale Bachmann 2-truck Shay to a radio control, battery powered, sound specific system. The radio control was manufactured by Remote Control Systems (RCS) of Australia and consisted of a receiver, a distribution board and a handheld transmitter. Batteries were Ni-Cd and the sound system was a separate Soundtraxx, Shay only, sound card. The limited space in the Shay required components to be installed in the tender, inside and under the cab.

The wiring looked like this:



Recently, Soundtraxx released a sound decoder, BLU-4408, that can handle large scale trains and I thought this would be a good opportunity to upgrade my Shay. I wasn't disappointed! At a retail price of \$205, this sound decoder is not inexpensive. However, considering the cost of the old system twenty years ago needing a transmitter, receiver, distribution board(s), RF filters and sound card, the BLU-4408 is a lot less expensive in terms of dollars and installation headaches.

The BLU-4408 is controlled by a free APP d/l from Soundtraxx and can be run from an Apple or Android smartphone, tablet or iPad with Bluetooth capability. Yes, I wrote Bluetooth! Controlling the BLU-4408 is done via Bluetooth and means compatibility and upgrades are available across all systems. Too, instead of just a fixed locomotive sound there are dozens of whistles, chuffs, bells, and other sounds that are EASILY selected through the APP. No dealing with DCC CV values. Simple touch and select options from the onscreen menus.

Installation starts with removing the one screw under the water fill cap and then labelling all the wires. A very important step! Taking a few photos of the wiring layout before cutting is also my recommendation. The BLU-4408 board is clearly marked and, unlike some other boards, reversing the polarity hookup will not burn out the board. Almost fool proof but, I digress.

I hooked up the new BLU-4408 board to the existing Soundtraxx speaker of twenty years ago and promptly blew out the amplification circuit on the board. Soundtraxx, under warranty, repaired it. **IMPORTANT:** since the BLU-4408 amplifier circuit is rated at 3 Watts, you **MUST** use a speaker of 3 watts or greater. My old speaker was rated at two watts and was the cause of the failure.

I needed to call Soundtraxx to clarify some points and specialist George

was most helpful. There is a hookup called "Function Common" where any positive accessory wires from lights (cab-rear-head) or glowing firebox must go into. I use LEDs in my lights and had to be certain to connect negative wires to board labels and positive lighting wire to the Common Function for the LEDs to light. The board is clearly labelled for ALL these hookups so there is no guess work once you understand the function of each hookup. Speaking of hookups, all terminals on the board are screw down type so there is no soldering needed. A real plus from the "old days". The original Bachmann chuff activation wires were no longer needed as the BLU-4408 has the capability of adjusting the chuff through Back EMF.

I'll quickly mention the batteries I used. The space in the Shay tender is tight and I used two 7.2V 1600 mAh NiMH batteries in series to fit the back of the Shay tender and get my required 14.4 V. These are perfectly shaped for installation in the Shay, and I purchased mine from BatterySpace.com part# CU-JAS131.



Here is what the BLU-4408 installation looked like:



After completing the installation, I bench tested all functions. Then came the scary part for me. Putting it all back together and perhaps finding a wire connection came loose or something I hadn't planned on occurring. Fortunately, when taking the locomotive out to the layout, it ran flawlessly and with a transmitter range I haven't seen in years. Given the quality and functionality of the BLU-4408, I would recommend it to anyone looking for a premium sound decoder that can be powered by track or battery, with an outstanding App and all controlled via Bluetooth.

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



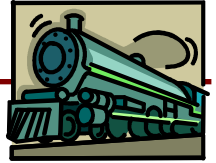
Photo Contest Winner



"Downtown Station" this month's winning photo, was taken by Bob Sewall on Dan Saporito's D&P Railroad.



Elections



Elections will be held at the November meeting. If you can not attend, please fill out a proxy form (see below) and give to another member in order to ensure that we have a quorum and are able to have an official meeting. Thanks to the following candidates for accepting their nominations.

All Candidates Are Uncontested

No Nominee—Vice President
Ed Assaf—Treasurer
Anthony Bliss — Membership Director
Tom Rizzo — Director at Large
Fred Bossert — Director at Large

Proxy Form for November Elections



PROXY --- LONG ISLAND GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

I _____, a member of the Long Island Garden Railway Society, hereby nominate and appoint _____, my true and lawful attorney with power of substitution, for me in my name, to vote as my proxy, at the Business Meeting of Members of said LIGRS to be held on _____ at _____, upon any and all matters which may be presented, considered and voted upon at said meeting, as fully and with like effect as I might or would have done if personally present, hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said attorney may do in my name, place and stead. I hereby revoke any proxy or proxies, heretofore given by me to any other person or persons whatsoever.

Dated _____

Signature _____

2024 Dues Reminder

Why not renew your membership to LIGRS before the busy holiday season?

Individual memberships, the 1st member of a household, are \$50 per year.

Family Memberships for members over 18 years old are \$15 for **EACH** additional member in the same household.

Student membership 18-22 years old \$25.

Please send a check made out to "**The 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:

Please note: Dues renewal policy change. As per By-Laws revisions, all renewal dues are to be sent to the treasurer at the LIGRS P.O. Box (see below)

Questions? Contact
Anthony Bliss
631.413.7647
anthony.bliss87@gmail.com

LIGRS
P.O. Box 2002, Massapequa, NY 11758



What the Heck Puzzle Solution



This is a scrap reclaimer that picks up old spikes and anchors. On tie and rail gangs, this machine is usually behind the spike pullers. The newer plate pluckers generally found on the rail gangs have a different design.

**Directions to MONTHLY MEETING
SATURDAY**

October 21st, 2023

Hosts: John & Denise Girolamo

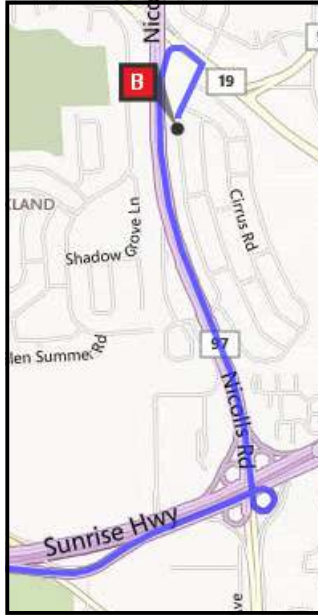
202 Greenbelt Pkwy., Holbrook, NY 11741

516.398.9380



1. From Sunrise Hwy, at exit 51, toward Stony Brook / Blue Point / Nicolls Rd
2. Take ramp right for CR-97 toward Stony Brook
3. Turn right onto Patchogue Holbrook Rd / CR-19
4. Turn right onto Greenbelt Pkwy
5. Arrive at 202 Greenbelt Pkwy, Holbrook, NY 11741

From the expressway take exit 62 Nicolls Rd South to Patchogue Holbrook Rd / CR-19 and go East
Turn right onto Greenbelt Pkwy and arrive at #202





**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND
GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY INC.**

Smoke N' Cinders at P.O. Box
2002, No. Massapequa, NY 11758-
2002

*Newsletter of the Long Island
Garden Railway Society Inc.*

Advertising Policy
Advertisement shall in no way be construed as an endorsement of any product, manufacturer, product or reseller by The Long Island Garden Railway Society, Inc. Commercial Ads or Ads from Non-members for large scale or garden railway products are at a rate of \$35.00/full page, or \$20.00/half page/issue. Artwork is the responsibility of the advertiser, at the discretion of the editor. Ads from Members for large scale or garden railway items are accepted at no charge and will run once. Ads may be repeated at the advertiser's request, space permitting. Ads should be submitted by e-mail to the editor. The deadline for ads will be the meeting prior to the next issue.

Happy Halloween!



“ And all at once Summer collapsed into Fall “
Oscar Wilde