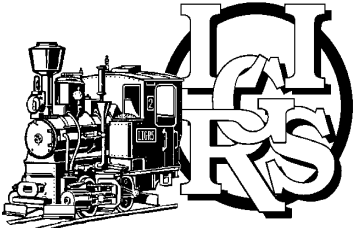


December Lite 2011

Next Monthly Meeting on
Sunday, January 22, 2012
Northport Yacht Club
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Modular Group Exhibitions

- ◆ **Cradle of Aviation Museum**, December 19, 2011. Set up 2:00pm. Regular museum hours are from 9am to 5pm. The Module Group will be in the atrium right inside the front doors. Bring your membership card for admission.
- ◆ **Freeport Recreation**, January 8, 2012, set up 8am
- ◆ **Bethpage High School**, January 14, 2012, set up 8am. The school is at the intersection of Cherry and Stewart Avenues, in Bethpage.

Annual LIGRS February Auction at Northport Yacht Club



Start off the new year by coming down to the **March 25th** LIGRS meeting at **11:00 am**, and join the entire auction team for another great LIGRS Annual Auction. Don't have room for all of those new trains? The LIGRS Annual Auction is the perfect solution. So clean out the attic, closet, basement and/or garage and bring all those unwanted train related items to February's Annual LIGRS Auction or donate them to the club. Watch the LIGRS auction team perform its magical alchemy by transforming those excess trains into cash.

For our train challenged members, clean out that bank account and watch the auction team transform those greenbacks back into magnificent trains. The auction is a wonderful event that combines aspects of *Let's Make A Deal*, *The Price Is Right* along with a bit of *Family Feud*. Not to be out done, we even have a touch of karaoke, where you can try a hand, or is it voice, at being an auctioneer. If you're bashful, you can still come down early and lend a hand logging in auction items, become a "*Vanna*" for a day by displaying items or help out with the auction items. Please contact Bob Sewall at (516) 541-4837 if you can lend a helping hand at the auction.

See our distribution policy on the home page of LIGRS.org

Election Results



Elections - The following officers were voted into Office at the November meeting, Robert Russo - Vice President, Bob Sewall - Treasurer, Thomas Rizzo - Membership Director, Peter Conte and Mike Kmeth - Directors at Large.

Thank you gentlemen for returning to serve this organization for another two years.

2012 LIGRS Meeting & Event Schedule

Date	Program/Notes	Time	Place
December 10, 2011	Christmas Party	1:00 PM	Northport Yacht Club
December 19, 2011	Modular Display	Set up 2:00 PM	Cradle of Aviation Museum
January 8, 2012	Modular Display	Set up 8 AM	Freeport Recreation
January 14, 2012	Modular Display	Set up 8 AM	Bethpage High School
January 22, 2012	BOD Meeting	9:30 AM	Northport Yacht Club
January 22, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Northport Yacht Club
February 2012	No Meeting due to construction		
March 25, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Northport Yacht Club (Annual Auction)
April 22, 2012	Planting Fields in Lieu of mtg.	TBA	
May 20, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Rich McGorty
June 24, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Rick Padley
July 22, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Jack Eckert
August 18, 2012 SATURDAY	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Jack Lane
September 16, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	Frank Clemente
October 20, 2012 SATURDAY	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	John Hagedorn
November, 2012	Monthly Meeting	11:00 AM	TBA
December, 2012	Christmas Party	TBA	Christmas Party

The
Postboy

Preserving Long Island's Rich Railroading Heritage



L.I.G.R.S. Members support Riverhead Railroad Festival 2007

The Long Island Garden Railway Society continues to care for the Ron Freeman Garden Railroad. In August and September, a series of work sessions attended by many of their members produced beautiful landscaping and handmade telegraph poles placed along trackside. The layout's buildings were given close attention to repair them from effects of outdoor weather and the "river" was redirected with new plantings, truss bridges and a cut out in the track-tie foundation. Work on G-scale track connections and transformers have given the Museum a fine running garden railway. Thank you L.I.G.R.S. for your hard work and support!

Monthly Photo Contest

There will be voting held at the Christmas Party to determine the yearly winner of our 2011 Photo Contest. The winner will receive 2 free adult tickets for our 2012 summer picnic.



Please remember that we also need photos of your layouts for the LIGRS website and a don't forget to begin taking winter photos for entry into the 2012 photo contest.

This month's winning photo was taken by Karl Wagner of his Cross River Rail Road

Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanical Garden

Just a reminder that the display will be open from November 19th to January 16th. The website is www.nybg.org

The Christmas Train Exhibit is a true wonder. 140 New York landmarks are recreated entirely in plant parts from berries to branches. This cherished tradition delights people of all ages. Marvel at the charming model trains and New York City landmark replicas, stroll the spectacular grounds, decorate (and eat!) gingersnaps, break for lunch and hot chocolate, and shop for everyone on your list.



Train Station Watches Were Just The Beginning

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all the telegraph operator was. Most of the time, the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

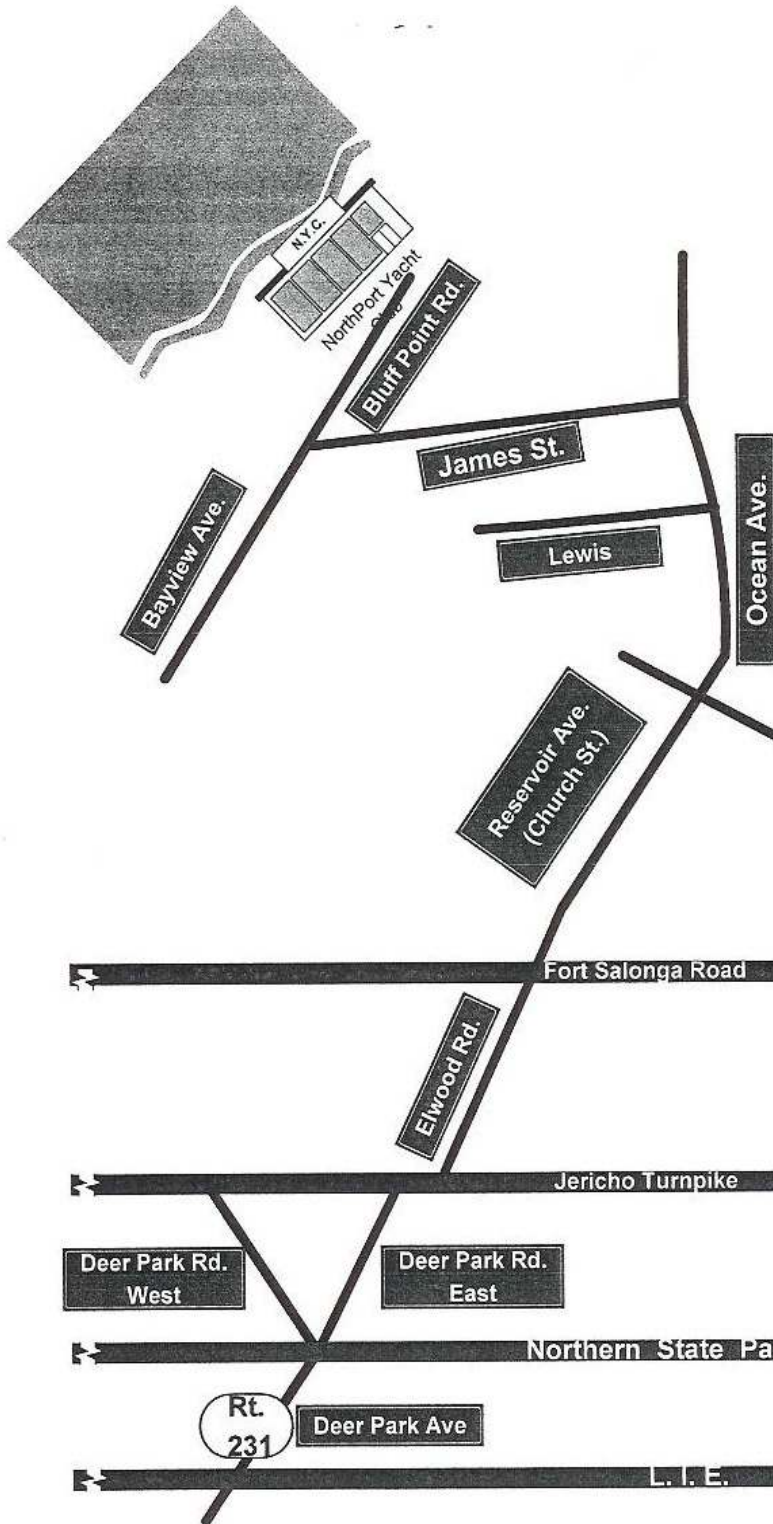
This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the east. It

was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, soon, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and his partner Alvah Roebuck. From [Sears - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#) *Courtesy of Tom Rizzo*

Instructions to the Northport Yacht Club — Christmas Party 12/10/2011



Turn by turn directions:

Take the LIE or Northern State Parkway to Deer Park Ave (Rte. 231) north.

Bear right onto Deer Park Road East. Merge onto Jericho Tpke. (Rte. 25) and make the next left onto Elwood Road.

Elwood changes into Reservoir Road and then into Ocean Ave. Make a left on James Street and follow to Bluff Point Road and make a right.

Northport Yacht Club is on the left.

631-261-7633

2012 Dues Reminder

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

Individual memberships, the 1st member of a household, are \$30 per year.

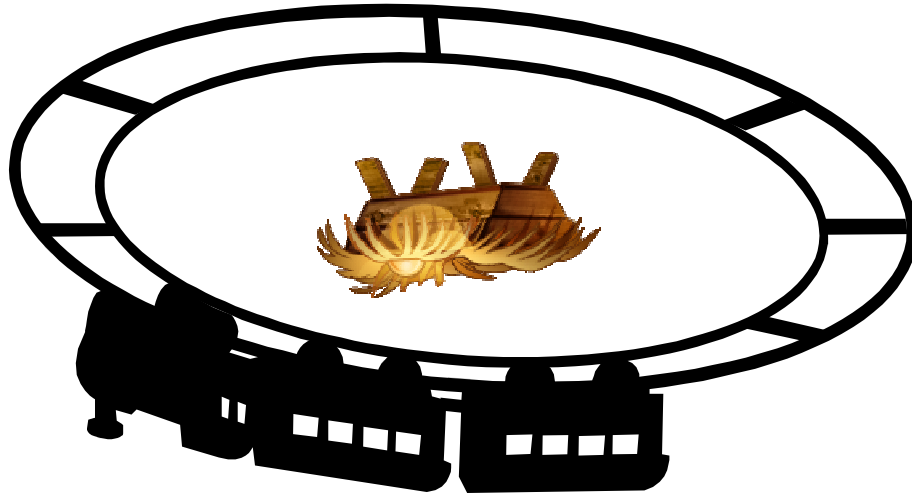
Family Memberships for members over 18 years old are \$10 for **EACH** additional member in the same household.

Please send a check made out to **Long Island Garden Railway Society** (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,



Questions? Contact Tom Rizzo at:
(631) 470-2217
tomjudyriz@optonline.net

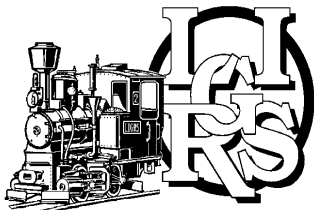


Merry Christmas to All!



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. 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 and basically reimburses The club Treasury for postage expense. Artwork is The responsibility of The advertiser. 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 advertisers 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.