

Railway Post Office Express

An Official Publication Of The Twin Forks Chapter NRHS
Summer 2009

From The Presidents Desk

Presidents Report
Richard Gordard

I am sending you this *Express* edition of the *RPO* to update you and keep you informed. We are waiting for the *RPO* Newsletter to be sent out, but while we are waiting, I want to tell you about some past events and events that are coming up. Also I feel its important keep you, the member in the loop and keep you up to date. I do expect the regular *RPO* to be arriving in your mailbox soon, but until then, I am sending you this *Express* edition of the *RPO*.

Caboose C-60

As you know by now, our Caboose C-60 has been restored and the work has been completed on the caboose.

We successfully moved the caboose from the Riverhead restoration site to the NY City Transit Museum in Brooklyn where the caboose is on loan to that museum.

Thanks to the FRA, NYCTM, LIRR, NY&A and the NY City Subway System for all the assistance that we received as we made the trip and move to the NYCTM, which is located in an old NY subway station.

The car is now on display and I urge you to visit the caboose if you get a chance to get to Brooklyn.



Morrison International, of Buffalo, NY, built the Caboose in 1961.

The caboose was restored to as delivered appearance.

All the lights inside and outside the caboose are in full operating condition.

The caboose is now on display in Brooklyn.

The picture above shows what the looked like during the final days of work.



This is how the caboose looked on the morning that the LIRR arrived to pick up the caboose to begin a long trek to the NYCTM.

The caboose had to interchange with the NY&A at Fresh Pond, Queens and with the South Brooklyn RR at the Linden yards, Brooklyn.

C-60 is the first caboose ever to travel in the tight confines of the NY City Subway System.

Chapter Runs A Successful Fan Trip To Southern New Jersey

On May 2 the Chapter operated a great trip from Long Island all the way to Camden, New Jersey, completely by Train.

We left from the LIRR Ronkonkoma Station early in the morning.

We picked up several others along the way who signed up for the trip.

After a brief layover in NY Penn Station, we boarded the new bi-level fleet of New Jersey Transit for a trip South down the Northeast Corridor to Trenton, NJ.

We then transferred to the NJT River Line where we rode the DMUs (Diesel Multiple Unit)

At the 36th Street station, we made the short walk thru the rail yard and we entered the shop and Maintenance area.

We also were able to visit the dispatch center, where dispatchers were actually interacting with the other trains on the line. After a great visit to the shops we boarded a South bound train and continued on to Camden. At Camden, we were able to view the Battleship New Jersey, and the city of Philadelphia across the Delaware River.

After our visit to the waterside, we continued our trip this time heading North, retracing our steps till we made it back to Long Island.

In addition to the DMUs we saw NS, CSX and Conrail units drilling the yards on the line. This is part of the Conrail Shared Assets area of operations.

A PRR inspired SW unit and a PRR N-5 Caboose were in the lay up yard as the River Line leases that equipment for MOW service.

The Crews and employees were great to our group and we all had a good time.

I would like to express my thanks to John Kilbride who took care of all the arrangements on the New Jersey side of the trip.
Hopefully we will be having another trip in the near future and I hope to see you all onboard.

Here is a group picture in front on one of the River Line DMU units.

This picture was taken at the Trenton Station as we were heading back to Long Island.

Everyone enjoyed the our ALL rail trip to South Jersey



Members Paint our Hi-Rail Jeep

After years of resting on the grounds of the Railroad Museum of LI, we decided to do some work on our very rare Fairmont Jeep

We recently applied a NY Central green to the Vehicle to resemble a NYC MOW truck.

Decals will be coming soon, but the truck is looking sharp and drawing a lot of attention



Chapter Works With RMLI To Clean up Turntable Pit



Several years ago, the chapter took on a project to repaint the old LIRR turntable located at Greenport, NY. The Table is at the very eastern end of the LIRR Mainline, and was exposed for years to the salt air of the Peconic Bay.

We decided to repaint it, and we did a heck of a good job if I may say so myself.

However, the years took its toll on the brush growth in the pit.

The Chapter, along with RMLI took to task to remove the overgrowth from the pit



In this photo, we are only half way done with the project. It was July 18, it was Hot Humid and Muggy. We had to take frequent breaks to re-hydrate ourselves from the oppressive heat.

But we got the job done and what a difference. We wanted to get this task completed before the LIRR 175th Anniversary arrived at Greenport on July 25th.

In this Picture, you see the work is finally completed.

Thanks go to Anthony De Bellis, John Thompson, Bob Bender, Rich Gordard, Don Fisher and Art Christian.

Notice the Safety First on the Turntable, under which it says Twin Forks Chapter - NRHS



Get Your LIRR 175th Anniversary Polo Shirt



To celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the LIRR the chapter designed this polo shirt to mark the event. The shirt comes with a pocket on one side and the logo above on the other, and come in Navy Blue with gold logo or Tuscan red with gold logo.

Sizes come in Medium, Lg, XLg, XXLg or XXXLg. Shirts are a LIMITED Edition, once we sell out we will not make more. You can get yours at an upcoming meeting or show or by mail. Shirts are \$25.00 (includes tax) if you like it mailed please add \$5.00 for S&H to

Twin Forks Chapter NRHS
PO Box 188, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11779



The Chapter was invited by the Railroad Museum of LI to display a table at RMLI in Riverhead **and** Greenport for the arrival of the 175th Anniversary Train. We set up the table as you see here in Riverhead and did quite well on sales of chapter items and the Anniversary shirt as well. We also had another table at RMLI in Greenport We had a large chapter turn out for the events, for which I would like to thank each and everyone who helped out. The list of volunteers is too long to print here but you know who you were, and I thank each and everyone who helped the chapter during the event!

Upcoming Events

Railroad Festival

We are seeking volunteers to staff and man the Chapters tables at the annual Riverhead Railroad Festival sponsored by the Railroad Museum of Long Island at their Riverhead location.

The Event is on Aug 29 & 30 from 10 AM – 4PM. If you can spare a few hours please contact our events coordinator VP Bob Bender by email at bob_annamarie@verizon.net or by phone at 631-921-0591.

Membership Meeting

We will have a membership meeting on Saturday September 26 at 6 PM at the Riverhead Board room of the Railroad Museum of Long Island.

We will have a brief meeting, and then we will see two PowerPoint presentations. First will be by Anthony DeBellis about his adventures at RailCamp 2009 at the Nevada Northern Railway. The chapter was a co-sponsor of Anthony along with RMLI. The second show will be by Richard Gorddard from a trip he took in 2001 to Cuba. Light refreshments will be served. VP Bob bender can fill you in with more info by email at bob_annamarie@verizon.net or by phone at 631-921-0591.

Greenport Maritime Festival

For the 3rd year in a row, we will be staffing a table at the Greenport Maritime Festival on Sept 19 and 20.

We staff the table on behalf of the Railroad Museum of Long Island and all proceeds and sales go directly to the Museum.

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist us in the staffing of the table.

If you can help, you can contact, you guessed it VP Bob Bender at the following contact points by email at bob_annamarie@verizon.net or by phone at 631-921-0591.

General Information

I hope you enjoyed this brief *RPO Express Edition*, so I could bring you up to date on Chapter news and events. Until next time.....

Twin Forks Chapter President Richard Gorddard

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