

Meeting Notice

Our next Zoom Meeting is on Friday, February 19, 2021, 7:30 pm

Presenting This Month: Eric Oszustowicz

Our February program will consist of videos and still photographs by longtime ERA member and photographer Eric Oszustowicz. Many of the videos were actually taken by Eric's wife Mary while he was taking stills with his SLR camera. Eric presented the last live ERA show at the Roosevelt Hotel on February 21, 2020. That presentation was the first to include digital videos complete with professional speakers. This meeting was the last one in the "pre-Covid 19" era., with about 45 people attending in person.

Now that the ERA has a much wider international audience on Zoom, some of those same videos will be presented, but adding many additional videos and stills taken during the past year.

The new 2020 videos will include the new Boston Green Line trolleys and new Orange Line cars in addition to other Boston area footage. Footage of the Cincinnati Bell Connector light rail line and of the Pittsburgh light rail system will also be included. As always, footage of numerous freight trains and Amtrak trains taken on road trips from Maine to Ohio are also on the agenda. 2020 and 2021 footage of the New York subway system and area commuter rail lines in addition to behind the scenes stills will be shown especially for the benefit of our non-New York City area Zoom participants.

During early 2001, Eric took VHS videos at all stations on the New York City subway system through which the now retired "Redbird" R26 through R36 subway cars traversed. All of these videotapes were converted to digital media, and we will of course see some of these videos. Besides the Redbirds, Eric took videos on the IND and BMT during the same period, so we will also see videos of the now retired, R32, R38, R40, R40M, R42 and R44 subway cars in regular service.

This will be a long presentation, so make sure you have a comfortable chair in front of your laptop or desktop.....and have some popcorn ready. A sample video is on the ERA website under the February Meeting Notice.

Please join us for a fascinating evening and a trip back in time!

How to Join Our Zoom Meeting

Please go to ERA's website at <u>www.erausa.org</u> for the Zoom link to join. The home page with the evening's program will have the "Zoom Login" button for joining the Zoom meeting posted about five days before the meeting. The Zoom meeting becomes available for signing on at 7:15 PM. The show begins at 7:30 PM.

If you have any problems getting in, email Bob Newhouser at bnnyc1955@aol.com, or even better, on the night of the meeting text or call Bob at 917-482-4235.

Other Important Announcements: President Bob Newhouser

2021 Meetings —Our monthly meetings will remain virtual on Zoom until further notice. With the speaker's approval, all meetings are recorded and posted on ERA's website, www.erausa.org.

It's Easy to Donate!— Thank you very much to those of you who have already made generous contributions to ERA in 2020 and early 2021 to support our programs! The membership's response to date has been outstanding! If you have not already done so, please consider a donation this year to help ERA continue its 86-year record of traction education and entertainment. Our new online form makes it much easier to donate! ERA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation. Your donations are fully tax deductible and can be made using the new donation form on our website: www.erausa.org/donate.