Tower Notes

The Official Newsletter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

Winter, 2001

Little River to be *Re-Lit*

After being dark for over 20 years the Little River Light Station in Cutler, Maine will soon again have a light shining from its tower.

A little over a year ago, when Little River Light was licensed to the American Lighthouse Foundation by the Coast Guard, it was listed as one of the ten most endangered historic sites in Maine.

Little River Light will take a lot of hard work and money to restore and restoration will not happen overnight. Part of the difficulty is the fact that the lighthouse is on an offshore uninhabited island away from any type of large population base.

One of the obstacles at Little River is that the boathouse, the only spot where supplies can be landed, is quite a distance from the tower and the house, much of it up a hill through a heavily wooded area. The walkway here had only received minor repairs in the past 25 years. Rotted out and covered with moss, the walkway had to be replaced in order to safely bring supplies and people to the station. Thanks to the help of the United States Coast Guard this process has been completed.

Currently, the beacon for Little River is on an erector-set style pole on the rocks, having been removed from the tower years ago. When the Coast Guard informed us that they would be solarizing the station this year, we asked if they would put the light back into the tower. They agreed, provided we would secure the lantern room from moisture and the elements by the end of June or early July of this year. We will do this by caulking and glazing the current windows and replacing windows that need replacing. We will also wire brush and paint the tower.



Many of the trees that have grown up around the light tower needed to be cut down, so the light could be seen by mariners. This process was completed this week. There is no need to worry; the island is 15 acres and there are still plenty of trees. There is no wildlife on the island, only a few birds of the common variety.

Last year we purchased a boat for the station. Other items purchased and delivered to the lighthouse included sleeping cots, solar shower, numerous tools, grill, blankets, first aid kit and medical supplies, life jackets, cooking supplies, and a radio (cell phones do not work from the island). This year we purchased a lawn tractor and a trailer that will primarily be used to haul supplies from the boathouse to the station.

After solarization the Coast Guard will turn over the ownership of the underwater electric cable to ALF and it will be our responsibiliity to maintain it. This will give us power to the house and boathouse. However, the power to the house cannot be hooked up until most of the electrical wiring is replaced.

The boathouse needs to be repaired and will probably need a new roof. The boat ramp also needs to be replaced. The current one is too dangerous to use, making landing on the island difficult and dangerous. We will also need a new boat winch, since the one that is there has not been used in 25 years.

The keeper's house will need all new windows, since the ones that are there have all rotted.

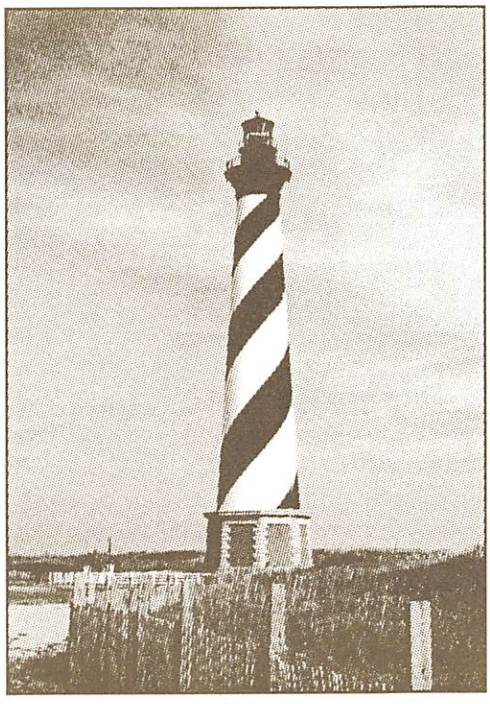
The keeper's house will also need a new roof, new chimney from the basement up, some new plumbing, new cistern, spouts, and heating system. All of the exterior wood siding will also need to be replaced. Since no debris can be left on the island, it will all need to be removed and properly disposed of.

We will need your continued financial support to restore this lighthouse.

Inside this issue!

1 Little River to be Re-Lit
2 Lighthouse Cruise, and Spring Meeting
2 Hatteras Homecoming
4 Lawmakers Seek Money for Avery Point
4 ALF now cares for 13 lights - helps others
5 Thanks to some of our corporate sponsors.
6 International Conference

Hatteras Homecoming



Between 1803 and the 1930's nearly 100 different families lived at North Carolina's Cape Hatteras Lighthouse (the tallest light in the nation) yet no photographs exist prior to 1893, and photographs of only three of the keepers have been located to date.

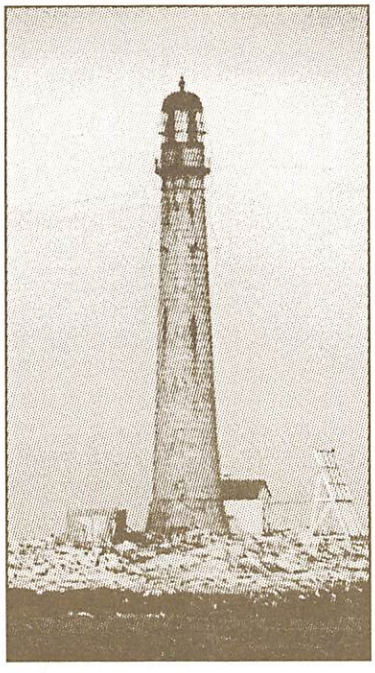
A nationwide search has been launched to find descendants of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse keepers, with a goal of publishing a history of them. Cheryl Shelton Roberts, editor of the book, *Hatteras Keepers, Oral and Family Histories*, is conducting interviews for a book that is expected to be published early this year. Bea McArthur of the Hatteras Island Genealogical/Historical Society is also helping to locate descendants of the area. Another goal is to display family trees during the homecoming event and Sandra Clunies, Certified Genealogist, is gathering the family data. If you can help locate descendants or know of vintage photographs contact Lyn Jennette at 252-995-6891 or write to HKDH at P.O. Box 550, Buxton, NC 27920.

The Cape Hatteras Descendants Homecoming is scheduled for May 4-6 at Cape Hatteras. The event is sponsored by the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society and the National Park Service and all descendants of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Keepers are invited. The American Lighthouse Foundation did send $1000.00 to help with expense of this historic event. Tim Harrison, president of ALF, has been invited to speak at the event. He will attend and travel at his own personal expense with no cost to the Foundation.

You Are Invited

Lighthouse Cruise and Spring Meeting

June 2-3



Boon Island Light, Maine

Saturday-June 2 - 10am Board the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company's *Thomas Leighton* in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to view Portsmouth Harbor Light, Fort Constitution, Jerry's Point Life Saving Station, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Navy Prison (Alcatraz of the East Coast), Whaleback Lighthouse, Isles of Shoals Light (White Island Light), Isles of Shoals, and the desolate and remote Boon Island Lighthouse (recently licensed to ALF), and other historic and interesting sites. This five-hour narrated cruise will include a boxed lunch, which is included in the ticket price, and a cash bar. On board there will be a book signing and lots of raffle prizes. Bring your camera and warm clothes as ocean temperatures can change dramatically. Cost is $35.00 per person.

5:30pm Evening Dinner at Yokens Banquet Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Choose beef or chicken, cost is $27.00 per person. More raffle ticket sales and the best selection of prizes we have ever offered! There will be a scheduled appearance by a surprise mystery guest. The evening speaker will be the famous Bill Younger, founder of Harbour Lights. Mr. Younger is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker.

Sunday - June 3 - 9am Breakfast Meeting, cost $20.00 per person. At Yokens Banquet Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Surprise guest speaker, plus some special door prizes. Afterwards, breakfast attendees only will be allowed for a rare opportunity to climb the tower at Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. This will also be an excellent opportunity to walk the grounds of Fort Constitution, the oldest fort of the government of the United States of America, and the site of the first overt act of the Revolutionary War when Paul Revere made his first ride. The gunpowder seized by the colonists at the fort was used in the battle of Bunker Hill and the "shot heard 'round the world."

Reservations are now being accepted by mail, email or phone to:

American Lighthouse Foundation
P.O. Box 889
Wells, Maine 04090
207-646-0515
LighthouseFoundation@hotmail.com

We take personal checks, Visa and MasterCard only. By purchasing the entire weekend for $75.00 you save $7.00 over the cost of purchasing each event separately.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Comfort Inn (adjacent to the Yokens Conference Center) in Portsmouth, NH. There are a small number of rooms being held for attendees. Mention that you are with the American Lighthouse Foundation group to receive discount rates. Phone number for hotel reservations is 603-433-3338.

How to reach us

American Lighthouse Foundation
P.O. Box 889
Wells, Maine 04090-0889
www.lighthousefoundation.org

Officers
President
Tim Harrison
P.O. Box 1690
Wells, ME 04090-1690
Ph # 207-646-0515
Email-Timh@Lhdigest.com

Honorary President
Ken Black
104 Limerock Street
Rockland, ME 04841
Ph # 207-785-4609
Email-KNB@IME.net

Vice President
Bill Collette
90 Suomi Rd
Hyannis, MA 02601
Ph # 508-771-2816
Email-wcollette@capecod.net

Treasurer
Kathleen Finnegan
P.O. Box 2100
Wells, ME 04090-2100
Ph # 207-676-3131
Email-Finnegan@Lhdigest.com

Secretary
Doug Bingham
34 West St # B-1
Randolph, MA 02368
Ph # 781-986-5224
Email-Dbingham@mediaone.net

Historian
Jeremy D'Entremont
3205 LaFayette Road #125
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Ph # 603-431-1955
Email-Keeper@lighthouse.cc

Friends of Little River Lighthouse
Chairman
Joe Lebherz
178 Waldoboro Road
Friendship, ME 04547
Ph # 207-832-7384

Friends of Rockland Breakwater
CoChair
Dorothy (Dot) Black
174 Sennebec Rd
Union, ME 04862
Ph # 207-785-4609
Email-DOT@IME.net
www.midcoast.com/~brkwater

Friends of Rockland Breakwater
CoChair
Pam Hooydonk
P.O. Box 93
Spruce Head, ME 04859
Ph# 207-594-2815

Jim Walker
Chairman-Cape Cod Chapter, ALF
726 Falmouth Rd
Hyannis, MA 02601
Ph# 508-775-0100
Email-Jim-Sil@mediaone.net

Dave Lombardi
President
Dutch Island Lighthouse Society
P.O. Box 40151
Providence, RI 02940
Email-dlomba@loa.com
www.dutchislandlighthouse.org

Jim Streeter
President
Avery Point Lighthouse Society
64 Pleasant St.
Groton, CT 06430
Email-JIMSTREETR@aol.com
www.apls.tripod.com

Help save lighthouse artifacts

Thanks to the generous donation of space by Lighthouse Depot in Wells, Maine, the American Lighthouse Foundation has a museum to display many of the artifacts that we have either purchased or have been donated to us. The space is small and has filled up quickly, thanks in part to some great help from the United States Coast Guard.

Lighthouse Depot has also graciously loaned the American Lighthouse Foundation a number of rare artifacts that it owns for display in the museum. Lighthouse Depot also recently purchased brand new Howard Miller cabinets for the Foundation to display many of the new artifacts that it recently acquired. We thank them for their generosity.

Our board of directors has felt that 90% of the money raised from corporation donations and membership must be used directly for lighthouse restoration, our primary goal. This causes us to lose many lighthouse artifacts that become available for sale. We feel that artifacts of the old United States Lighthouse Service should be in museums for all to see and learn from. They should not be in private collections to only be enjoyed by a single collector. We also realize that private collectors and maritime antique dealers are a way of life. In recent months a number of rare and unique lighthouse memorabilia items could have been purchased for the museum, but we simply did not have the money. However, with your help, we can compete on the open market for these artifacts. Naturally we always ask for items to be donated or given to us on long-term loan, but, the answers is generally no. Buy it or lose it.

We have now established a special Artifacts Account to be used for the purchase of lighthouse and nautical memorabilia. But this account can only be successful with your financial help. As the value of lighthouse artifacts continues to rise, your immediate donations are vital to saving these items for all of us, not just the few.

If you would like to help, send your donation to:

American Lighthouse Foundation
Artifact Account
P.O. Box 889
Wells, Maine 04090

ALF now cares for 13 lights—helps others

The United States Coast Guard has licensed 13 lighthouse to the American Lighthouse Foundation. It is now our responsibility to take care of these lighthouses for the future. They are:

* Cape Elizabeth Light, Maine (tower only, house is privately owned)
* Pemaquid Point Light, Maine (tower only, house belongs to town of Bristol and has a museum)
* Boon Island Light, Maine (tower only, all other buildings destroyed)
* Halfway Rock Light, Maine (tower only, no house)
* Little River Light, Maine (tower, house and out buildings, restoration in progress, approximately $100,000 in funds still needed to complete the work)
* Prospect Harbor Light, Maine (tower only- tower in excellent condition thanks to the Coast Guard - house belongs to U.S. Navy)
* Perkins Island Light, Maine (tower only - house and outbuildings belong to State of Maine- tower in good shape only needs minor work - hope to form local group to help State raise funds for house which is endangered)
* Race Point Light, Cape Cod, Massachusetts (tower, house, and outbuildings. The house and outbuildings restored)
* Long Point Light, Cape Cod, MA (tower only, restored by ALF, house destroyed years ago)
* Wood End Light, Cape Cod, MA (tower only, restored by ALF, house destroyed years ago)
* Newport Harbor Light (a/k/a Goat Island Light), RI (needs restoration)
* Dutch Island Light, RI (tower in bad shape, needs restoration. Local chapter formed to raise money for the estimated $110,000 needed)
* Prudence Island Light, RI (tower needs minor restoration-goal is this year)

Other lights we are involved with...

* Rockland Breakwater Light, Maine (the group there is a chapter of ALF but the light is actually owned by the City of Rockland)
* Avery Point Light, CT (the light is owned by the University of Connecticut, but the group working to raise funds is a chapter of ALF)

ALF has also financially assisted the Grand Island East Channel Light in Michigan with a matching funds donation for its restoration efforts.

Last year ALF donated $5000.00 toward the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival Sharing Program, which divided the money up with various lighthouses in need.

Wreath Laying

Doug Bingham of the American Lighthouse Foundation lays flowers at the Lightship Sailors Memorial in New Bedford on the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the memorial.



Lawmakers Seek Money for Avery Point

The Avery Point Lighthouse Society may have some help from the State of Connecticut to restore the only lighthouse in the nation built as a memorial to lighthouse keepers.

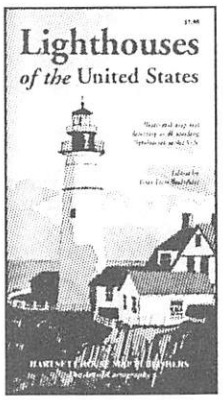
Connecticut State Senator Catherine W. Cook (R-Mystic) has submitted legislation that seeks state bond funds of $150,000.00 to be used to help restore the Avery Point Lighthouse. The bill was cosponsored by rep. Nancy A. DeMarinis, D-Groton and Lenny T. Winkler, R-Groton.

It is estimated that the lighthouse restoration may cost $250,000 or more. However, exact figures will not be available until a $40,000.00 engineering study by James Norden of the Old Saybrook engineering firm of Gibbs, Norden & Champion is completed. The firm is donating the study to the group.

The Avery Point Lighthouse Society is in the process of holding a number of fundraisers and applying for other local and state grant money.

Thanks to some of our corporate sponsors.

Maps to help ALF



Starting this year, Hartnett House Map Publishers will include an American Lighthouse Foundation brochure inside each map distributed nationwide. This includes the Southeast Lighthouses Map, Maine Lighthouse Map, Massachusetts Lighthouse Map, Florida Lighthouse Map and United States Lighthouse Map. Hartnett House has always been very helpful in the past, and this new move will help us spread the word about lighthouses to a larger, and until now, untapped audience.

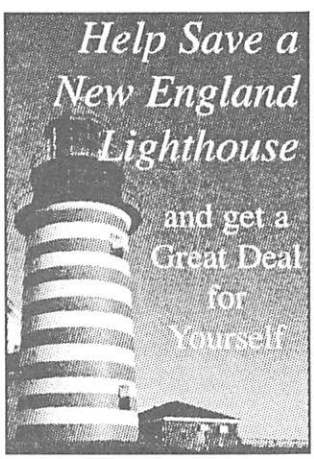
Lefton supports ALF



Lefton's co-owner, Margo Lefton, is shown here with the check she presented to the American Lighthouse Foundation.

The Lefton Lighthouse Company has taken a strong stand to support the efforts of the American Lighthouse Foundation. The company has made a commitment to donate a percentage of all of its Lost Lighthouse replicas to ALF. The money will be paid to ALF on a quarterly basis. Lefton recently presented its first check of over $7000.00 to the American Lighthouse Foundation to be used for lighthouse restoration.

Yankee Magazine comes through



Yankee Magazine, one of the largest magazines in the nation, has been a supporter of the American Lighthouse Foundation since we started in 1994 as the New England Foundation. Yankee Magazine donates $10.00 to us for each subscription that we sell.

Their special subscription forms are included in all of our mailings and all mailings done by *Lighthouse Digest*, in packages that Lighthouse Depot sends out, and are distributed at various locations throughout New England. Since Yankee Magazine is a New England based company, their only stipulation is that the money they donate be used for New England lighthouse projects.

We couldn't do it without Lighthouse Depot

The Lighthouse Depot Catalog and the Lighthouse Depot retail store in Wells, Maine has always been the strongest supporter of The American Lighthouse Foundation. Inside of every package sent out from the Lighthouse Depot Catalog an American Lighthouse Foundation brochure is included. People that buy lighthouse products are our best audience and they are the ones most likely to make a contribution. Also, the retail store hands out the ALF brochure to thousands of customers. Lighthouse Depot has also donated door prizes for raffles and fundraisers, helped defray the cost of postage, donated office space for meetings, donated the space for a lighthouse museum, and much more.

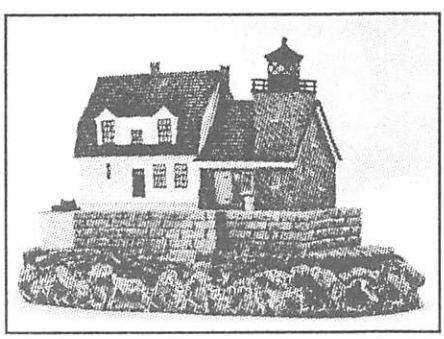


Members of the Friends of Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse accept the check from Tim Harrison of Lighthouse Depot.

Lighthouse Depot also recently donated $6,000.00 to the Friends of Rockland Breakwater, which is a chapter of ALF. Lighthouse Depot donated the money through the sales of Harbour Lights replicas of the Rockland Breakwater Light that Lighthouse Depot sold in the year 2000.

Harbour Lights, always a friend

Harbour Lights, the manufacturer of high quality lighthouse replicas, continues its fine tradition of supporting lighthouse preservation nationwide with ALF. Harbour Lights has always been more than generous with donations of products for fundraisers. One of Harbour Lights current projects is to donate $5.00 from the sale of each one of its replicas of the Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse. This amounts to $32,500.00, a check that we hope will be presented to the Friends of Rockland Breakwater this year. Bill Younger, founder of Harbour Lights, has attended several of our events, and this year will be the featured guest speaker at our June 2 annual spring fundraiser.



International Lighthouse Conference—Sept. 2002
We need your help!!

The American Lighthouse Foundation in cooperation with the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts will be hosting an International Lighthouse Conference in New Bedford, MA in September 2002.

The slogan of the Conference will be "Kids on the Beam - Education for Preservation."

Since the City of New Bedford is a major sponsor of the event as well as the host city, the logo for the conference will be picked from designs submitted by the school children of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The winning logo design and slogan will appear on flags and banners that the City of New Bedford will have made and flown throughout the downtown area prior to and during the conference.

The City of New Bedford will also provide trolleys, free of charge, to transport conference attendees to and from the motels and the conference meeting sites. The City has made other commitments to help make this a successful conference.

Our goal for the end result of the conference will be the development of a teaching program that can be used by schools across the nation to teach young people about lighthouse history and preservation.

In order for this event to be successful we will need outright corporate financial and personal contributions. We need your help here. If you know a contact name at a business that is likely to help, please contact us as soon as possible. Obviously the business or individual contribution will be recognized in the program of events and in the school program that we hope to make available to teachers nationwide.

More details on the cost of the event, speakers, conference agenda etc. will be forthcoming in the next several months, which will also be posted on the ALF website at www.lighthousefoundation.org

Membership Renewals

The label of each newsletter mailing will indicate the date that your membership expires.

Please watch this date carefully and be sure to renew your membership on a timely basis. We need your continued support. For each renewing membership only, effective Feb 19, 2001, you will now receive . . .

Supporting Member $10.00 - Membership Card and ALF Window Decal

First Assistant Keeper $20.00 - All of the above and a bumper sticker

Keeper $50.00 - All of the above and a ALF logo magnet

Head Keeper $100.00 - All of the above and a mug with ALF logo

Inspector $500.00 - All of the above and a desk clock with ALF logo

Commissioner $1000.00 All of the above and a sweatshirt with ALF logo

Larger donations will also receive a framed certificate of appreciation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Amount enclosed $_____

You may also charge your membership and donations to your Visa or MasterCard.

_____

expiration date: ____/____

ALF Products Available

Items that are part of the membership incentive program can also be purchased separately. All money from the purchase of these products goes directly to lighthouse restoration projects.

ALF logo mug - $6.00

ALF logo desk clock - $25.00

ALF logo sweatshirt -$35.00

ALF logo 4" patch - $7.00 *

ALF logo window decal $3.00 *

ALF logo bumper sticker $4.00 *

ALF logo magnet $4.00 *

Spencer Collin replica of Race Point Light, MA - $50.00

Coming soon will be an American Lighthouse Foundation logo suncatcher.

Shipping and handling charges, $5.00 for each item plus $2.00 for each additional item. Items marked with * have postage included.

The American Lighthouse Foundation accepts Visa, MasterCard, personal checks and money orders.

Orders can be sent to:

The American Lighthouse Foundation
P.O. Box 889
Wells, Maine, 04090-0889