

## 2007 NELL'S Year in Review January, 2008

The calendar says the New Year starts on January 1, but for NELL members it's not official until LHC&Y. So, on Friday January 12th, the New Year became official with NELL members headed to Massachusetts for our annual members only, Lighthouses Hot Chocolate & You. This year would be a little different than past years as members headed for the lights of Cape Cod in what would be NELL'S first weekend long LHC&Y.

We stayed at the Four Points Hotel, by Sheraton, in Eastham, MA, Friday and Saturday nights, starting our hot chocolate adventure in, what else, but the cold and rain at Chatham Light. From there, we went to the Three Sisters of Nauset, and then made the short walk to Nauset Light. After climbing the tower at Nauset we broke for our box lunch.

Arriving at Highland Light, we were treated to hot chocolate and home made baked goods as we leisurely climbed the tower. Before leaving, we took our group picture and then headed to see Chris and Marie Alex who opened their store, Collectors World, for NELL members only.

After Sunday morning breakfast, the majority of us headed to Race Point Light. There we saw the new wind turbine that would supply electricity to the keepers' house and the whistle house, along with the improvements that were made to the whistle house. As some folks climbed the tower, others purchased Race Point souvenirs while the rest of us enjoyed some hot chocolate and home made cookies provided by the volunteers of Race Point Light. While some of us headed for home after visiting Race Point, many of us stopped at the Coast Guard Heritage Museum located at 3353 Main Street, in Barnstable Village, which was also opened just for us by NELL members and volunteer curators Doug Bingham and Bill Collette.

A NELL Project HOPE took place the weekend of March 31 & April 1; destination, Wood End Light and Race Point Light (if time allowed). On Friday, March 30th, 12 members of NELL (some seasoned HOPE members and some not) slept at Race Point Light in anticipation of sprucing up Wood End Light. Fate was good, letting us finish the painting of both the lighthouse and oil house in one day. After a good nights sleep, we were able to get some painting done at Race Point Light before departing for home.

On June 8, 2007, with winter but a recent memory and spring in bloom, 76 members boarded the M.V. Monhegan for NELL'S first dinner cruise. The next day, 105 lighthouse enthusiasts boarded the M.V. Monhegan for a lighthouse cruise to Monhegan Island with "photo-stops" at 4 other lighthouses. Jeremy D'Entremont did the narrating accompanied by some story telling by Retired Lighthouse Keeper Ernie DeRaps.

Sunday, the semi-annual NELL meeting was held at the Top of the Rock in the Trade Winds Hotel. All the new NELL members that were in attendance stood up and introduced themselves giving a short bio. President, Tom Pregman presented a Harbour Lights replica to Janet Garcia for being the newest member that traveled the farthest - from her home state of Hawaii. The announcement was made about NELL'S fundraising raffle and our new Merchandise Co-chairs, John and Nancy Satkowski also sold NELL merchandise. At the close of the meeting, Tom Pregman submitted his resignation.

Mid year brought about many changes in the make up of the NELL Board of Directors along with members traveling to various parts of the world; Las Vegas, Hawaii, Japan, Aruba, and more locally, trips in and around New England. The various Lighthouse Challenges were also visited by a good contingent from NELL.

The fall brought about a NELL milestone we can all be proud of. In less than ten years, NELL has donated over \$100,000.00 to various Lighthouse preservation groups and museums.

October 13th & 14th was time for our Fall Meeting and cruise of the Upper Hudson River Lighthouses. Due to the safety regulations of the boat, this trip was limited to 85 participants and was for members only. We stayed at the Howard Johnsons Inn in Saugerties, NY and Saturday morning we arrived at the Spirit of the Hudson which was docked at the Hudson Marina. Our first stop was at Hudson Athens Light and from there we continued south to Saugerties Light, Kingston - Roundout and then on to Esopus Meadows where we could just cruise by and then headed north to disembark at the Kingston Roundout Marina. Boarding the 2 waiting coach buses, we were transported back to our cars and then drove to the hotel. Sunday we had our meeting and held our big raffle. Afterward, many members drove south to visit Stony Point Lighthouse. What started out as a foggy, damp, Saturday morning, ended up being an absolutely beautiful weekend, enjoyed by all.

November was quiet with the approach of winter. But it was still an exciting month as ALF held its Annual Volunteer Award Dinner in Woburn, MA. This was the first time it was opened to the public, so a nor'easter decided to attend, preventing several chapters and some public from coming. Nonetheless, a good time was had by all. I was proud to call NELL members Ron Foster and Frank Carbone to the podium to receive their Len Hadley Volunteerism Award.

Christmas has come and gone and the New Year is right around the corner. 2008 should be an exciting year for NELL, as we approach our tenth anniversary in November. This January, we are revisiting NELL'S first LHC&Y and we're just about finished planning the spring trip, which I think you'll all enjoy. After the holidays, I will be sending you a notice asking

about an idea I have to help kick off our anniversary. If the majority responds favorably, we will do all we can to make it happen.

Before I close, I'd like to thank you all for the overwhelming support and encouragement you gave us, your new Board of Directors. I know I speak for the board when I say that it was, and is, very much appreciated, and we thank you.

NELL enters 2008 with a proven, strong, cohesive board. This, along with the fantastic improvements made by ALF in their financial stability and the changes in their officers and Board of Directors, 2008 promises to be a very good year for the lighthouse community.

Thank you, and God Bless you all. I wish you all a very, Safe, Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

For our new members, these complete stories are on the web site [www.nell.cc](http://www.nell.cc)

Tom Kenworthy  
President, NELL