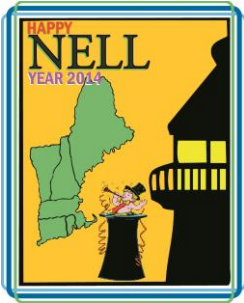


CHAPTER CHATTER



January/February

Happy New Year - Happy Valentines Day

LightHouses Hot Chocolate & You 2014



This year's Hot Chocolate trip is proving to be a true adventure to plan. As announced at the Fall meeting, it will be the usual Martin Luther King weekend (17-19 January 2014), in the Gloucester/Beverly, Massachusetts area.

Since we parted ways in Narragansett Bay, I've been working with contacts to work out this trip to get us the maximum number of special opportunities. In 2013, NELL had some great unique experiences...a gorgeous Hot Chocolate gathering to every climbable Cape Cod lighthouse, including a magical late afternoon celebration amongst the dunes at Race Point...a boat trip around Delaware Bay and some fun times down the Jersey Shore...some historic climbs in Narragansett Bay in the fall.

I want to continue those special opportunities in 2014, as that's what makes NELL trips so special.

The focus of the Hot Chocolate trip is the North Shore of Massachusetts. Over the past few months, I've learned two things, or had them reinforced: there is a lot of red tape to get through to arrange a special tour of a lighthouse, and sometimes that tape can't be cleared as far in advance as I'd like. Thus, I'm unfortunately still at the point where we have only partial concrete arrangements made for Hot Chocolate. I want to tell you what is definite, what is likely, and what didn't work out the past few months.

Before that though, I want to highlight one new idea we have this year, coordinated by NELL Treasurer Kathy Santucci. This is going to be a fun, interactive thing for everyone in NELL to get involved in.....

The First Annual NELL Cookie Contest!

This year we thought we'd try something different for LHHC&Y. Instead of buying baked goods for HC, individuals interested in entering the "Cookie Contest" would bake a batch of their favorite cookies, brownies, or bars. The winner will be selected by LHHC&Y attendees.

Please contact Kathy Santucci at Tucciball@aol.com if you are interested in participating in the contest. For allergy purposes, ingredients would need to be disclosed, but not specific measurements. Depending on the number of participants, single or double batches may be required. This could be a lot of fun!

What's going on with the Lights...

HC is going to be the weekend of 17-19 January 2014, with the climbs on Saturday 18 January.

We are confirmed for a climb of the Hospital Point Front Range Lighthouse. This is a very interesting light in several ways, as it is the home of the Commandant of the First District of the USCG, and the Fresnel lens has a very interesting and rare diffuser panel. This tour had to go all the way to the Commandant himself for approval, and I only got word the other day that it went through.

I have been working closely with Bob Trapani of ALF to arrange a climb of Eastern Point Light in Gloucester. This light, to my knowledge, is very rarely opened, and though the tower is managed by ALF, the rest of the station is USCG property. The light is also in a semi-private neighborhood. I've been communicating with Bob for a while on this light, but though I think things look positive, nothing is confirmed yet.

I am going to look into a last-minute arrangement with the Hospital Point Rear Range light (yes, THAT steeple!). From what I understand, the light/steeple is cleaned up since NELL's 2005 visit, and no longer do you risk avian disease to ascend it.

Lynne Kerber, our Second VP, has found us a hotel block at the Marriott in Peabody (where we stayed on our Spring 2009 cruise out of Newburyport). However, the contract isn't final yet, so please don't call them yet. She should have it signed by the end of the week, at which point I'll forward details on booking.

I tried hard to arrange us a tour at the Marblehead Light, New England's only skeleton tower. However, the harbor master there was unfortunately not able to get one approved, due to security reasons. I decided not to pursue Annisquam Light, for two reasons: the community it is in is very private and hard to navigate, and in the past few years the keeper's house was sold, leaving no USCG presence on the property beyond the tower. Where once you could walk in the gate, it is now shut tight. This just didn't seem healthy for lighthouse-local relations.

So...as we stand, that is what I know about the event so far. Hot Chocolate IS ON, but things may be a bit by the "seat of the pants" this year. No matter how far in advance you start planning these things, it seems something always gets hung up!

However, I think we will have another weekend of very special and exclusive experiences, which combined with getting to see great NELL friends makes a special weekend that only this club can provide. Getting all of this together the way it's been going is going to make a bit more of spontaneous event than we're used to (or that I'd like to be arranging), but with the NELL spirit of adventure, we will still have a fantastic weekend.

Remember your 2014 dues must be paid in order to attend this event!

If you have not yet paid your membership dues, they are due by January 31, 2014.

Individual membership is \$20.00.

Dual membership is \$30.00.

Make your checks out to "NELL" and send to:

NELL, 38 Lime Kiln Rd, Tuckahoe, NY 10707.

Please complete the renewal form by going to the following site online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dfsvru9rAxl3GaWMvApTXnFAA1ToDZic3VLLYY_emww/viewform

When you have completed the form click on the submit button at the bottom of the form and your form will be sent.

Thank You,
Walter Mills, NELL Membership

Other Upcoming Events

January 24-25

Florida Lighthouse Association winter meeting will take place on Amelia Island.

Friday evening 6:00 - 7:30pm FLA Board Meeting, 7:30 - 9:00pm Social.

Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 FLA Membership Meeting, 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch & Raffle/Auction.

to be held at Atlantic Auditorium, 2500 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach, Fl.

Keynote speaker will be Arlyn Danielson, Curator for the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard archives in Washington, DC. has an amazing collection of Coast Guard artifacts and memorabilia, including a collection of Fresnel lenses. Arlyn and her team have rescued many lenses and are painstakingly researching each lens, trying to discover where each served with the desire to have them properly restored and then put on display in a museum setting near that location.

1:00 - 4:00 Tour/climb Amelia Island Lighthouse and Grounds.

You must be a member of FLA in order to attend this meeting.

Congratulations to Linda Graham on her Christmas engagement to John Whidden of Ellington, CT. Linda and John went to high school together in Portland, Maine and re-connected after 46 years. A late summer wedding is planned and Linda will be moving to Connecticut.

Congratulations to all our members who became parents and grandparents in the last year.

And sincere condolences to all those who lost loved ones in 2013.

Happy Birthday to:

Helene Hoffecker	1/03	Georgi Flandera	1/04	Ron Foster	1/08
Debbie Heckman	1/09	Bill Geilfuss	1/10	Linda Grumman	1/10
Carolyn Carbone	1/13	Winston Taylor	1/16	Sharon Mills	1/17
Patrick Clark	1/18	Linda Ronne	1/19	Penny Miller	1/19
Kaitlyn Thomas	1/23	Herb Carpenter	1/24	Chris Heacock	1/26
Melody Barnhart	1/27	Greg Fitzgerald	1/28	Kristine Mays	1/28
Henry Winkleman	1/29	Mary Jane Foster	1/29		
Debbie Brew	2/06	Maureen Kitching	2/07	Al Pocek	2/08
Sandy Coates	2/09	Janice Dingley	2/11	Judy Hall	2/14
Lynne Kerber	2/17	Linda Speece	2/23	Bill Kent	2/24
Bob Taylor	2/25	Phyllis Idell	2/26		

Anniversary Wishes to:

Belated best wishes to Patricia & Barry Wagner who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on November 24, 2013.

Ron & Mary Jane Foster 1/14 Hank & Chris Heacock 1/30

Lee & Bonnie Benford 2/15 Eugene & Lori Carew 2/22

International Lighthouse News

500th Anniversary of Trinity House

Trinity House the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar. They provide Aids to Navigation to assist the safe passage of a huge variety of vessels through some of the busiest sea-lanes in the world. Regular traffic ranges from nimble dinghies to mighty super tankers, which have stopping distances running to miles and turning circles to match. To meet their obligations they deploy an impressive array of in excess of 600 aids to navigation, ranging from lighthouses to a satellite navigation service. Their responsibilities also include the annual inspection and auditing of over 10,000 Aids to Navigation provided by local port and harbor authorities and those provided on offshore structures such as production platforms or wind farms. Trinity House is also responsible for marking, and dispersing wrecks which are a danger to navigation.

To mark the occasion The Royal Mint has issued a commemorative coin.



Captured during a storm this image of St Mary's Lighthouse is to star in a Breast Cancer Campaign



Braving the treacherous weather photographer Tina Stobbs was able to snap the moment a bolt of lightning lit up the sky over the North sea. It impressed campaign organizers so much they plan to adopt the striking photo as their main image for next year's Paint the Town Pink Campaign. It's hoped the pink lighthouse will become an iconic symbol of the breast cancer campaign on Tyneside.

A father and son team are putting the finishing touches to a revamp at one of South Tyneside's best known landmarks



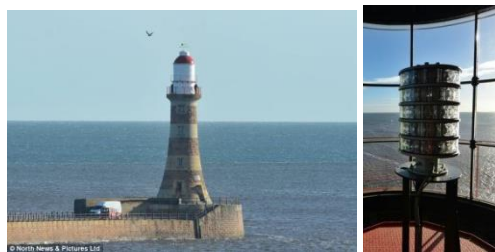
More than than 75 feet above the ground, Paul and Callum Smith are restoring Souter Lighthouse, a very important landmark in South Tyneside, which overlooks the North Sea, at Whitburn, with a £65,000 makeover. It was last painted seven years ago.

It has been cleaned with a high pressure jet to remove sea salt, before being coated in primer and two coats of special protective paint. The building and exterior walls at the site have also been re-painted. The weather has made the job difficult.

Between two and eight men on the job have had to work around school visits to the lighthouse.

The color of the lighthouse can never change. Each lighthouse throughout the country is a different color. That's because in years gone by, when there wasn't GPS, when ships come up the coast, the only way for them to tell where they were was by the color of the lighthouse. Souter Lighthouse first opened in January 1871. It's care and ownership was taken over by the National Trust in 1999.

ROKER Pier lighthouse will dazzle once again



The original lantern was gas powered and would emit a 45,000 candlepower reflected beam - visible for over 15 miles out to sea. It now has a new £200,000 LED lantern that will see the landmark shine for the first time in 40 years. The Grade II listed building that has kept North Sea ships safe for more than 100 years has been sandblasted, painted and polished back to its Victorian splendor. The Lighthouse was in a state of disrepair having stood for 110 years. Built between 1885 and 1903, it guided ships coming into Sunderland Harbor - one of the busiest ports in the country in the 19th century, with 15,000 tons of coal transported through it every day.

A gilded 1.6-metre weather vane, which has been daubed in gold-leaf, will be the lighthouse's crowning glory.

The landmark was the brainchild of Henry Hay Wake, chief engineer of the River Wear Commissioners. Constructed between 1885 and 1903, the lighthouse and pier were hailed at the time as a triumph of engineering. It was built with 45-ton blocks made from concrete plus grey and red Aberdeen granite. Concrete was poured into huge wooden moulds on shore, before the blocks were installed in to place by a crane - which some sources say was called 'Goliath'

Opinions sought on Britain's lighthouses

Fishermen and mariners around west Cornwall are being asked to take part in a survey of the effectiveness of lighthouses and other navigational aids. The General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) will be undertaking a review of Aids to Navigation provision around the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland during 2014. The review will be published in 2015 and will inform the GLAs' work plans for the following five-year period.

A Trinity House Notice To Mariners said "Marine users of Aids to Navigation are invited to contribute to the review by commenting on the usefulness and usability of existing aids to navigation provided by the GLAs. Any proposed requirement for the provision of new aids to navigation." Comments are invited by sending an e-mail to navigation.directorate@thls.org

Just for fun....can you guess the light?



If you think you know you can e-mail me. (answer next Chapter Chatter)
Last edition's answer: Eldred Rock, Alaska

Please Note:

We are looking for **volunteers** who are interested in serving on committees, those who have good ideas for lighthouse preservation, fund raising, suggestions on improving the operations of the club, or just getting more involved. Please contact Bill Kent: bktwo@comcast.net or 1(978) 809-7133.

Don't forget to bring your **lighthouse related donations** to the spring and/or fall meetings for fund raising raffles and silent auctions. 2014 Donation Tax Forms can be obtained from Kathy Santucci, NELL Treasurer.

The Lighthouse Digest – For each subscription, please use the subscription envelope that you can get from NELL's 2nd VP Lynne Kerber, or the form on the NELL website. Mail with check to Lighthouse Digest, ATTN: Kathleen Finnegan, P.O. Box 250, East Machias, ME 04630. Be sure to write NELL in the memo section of your check and NELL will receive \$10.00 per subscription to go toward restoration and preservation of lighthouses.

If you have any **knowledge of an upcoming event or news to share**, please send it to me: chapterchatter@outlook.com
All articles and information must be received by the 25th of the month prior to make the publication.

The NELL Beacon wants your stories too, send with pictures to Lynne Kerber: lighthousecats@comcast.net for publication. The NELL Beacon is our official club newsletter and will be published three times a year in time for our events. Deadline for the LHC&Y issue will be mid December, for the Spring Event issue mid April and for the Fall Event issue mid August.

If you know of a member that needs **some cheer, get well wishes, condolences or congratulations**, please let Cynthia Bosse - Sunshine Chair know at: bossnjc@sbcglobal.net or call 1(860) 688-7347.

Please let me know your **birthday** (month & day only) and **anniversary** so I will be able to recognize you on your special day in our monthly Best Wishes section.