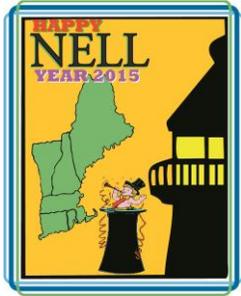


CHAPTER CHATTER



January/February

Happy New Year - Happy Valentine's Day

LightHouses Hot Chocolate & You 2015

JANUARY 16-18

Our schedule for Saturday 17th will start at the Portland Observatory, 138 Congress Street. Built in 1809 and on the US Register of Historical this structure is the last surviving maritime signal tower in the US. This tower allowed the ship owners to prepare in advance for the unloading of their cargoes. The tower is undergoing renovations by the City of Portland so we are still awaiting final word on our access.

From here we will proceed over the Casco Bay Bridge into South Portland to visit the Portland Breakwater (Bug) Light. The light is located in the South Portland Greenbelt Pathway.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The location of the light makes the trip to it treacherous. If the weather is not in our favor the lighthouse cannot be climbed or visited.

At this location is a new structure, the Cushing Point Museum, 55 Bug Light Park, South Portland. The museum will be opened for us and has exhibits which reflect the history of South Portland. This museum also has the USLHS stamps for those who collect the stamps.

The next stop is the Spring Point Lighthouse. Located at 14 Fort Road on the breakwater of the Southern Maine Community College, it is the only caisson style lighthouse that is accessible by land. We were unable to get inside years ago but we are attempting to do so this year. Again the weather conditions will dictate accessibility to the lighthouse. The lighthouse is also on the grounds of Fort Preble built in 1808.

From this location we will journey to Portland Head Light. This lighthouse is on the grounds of Fort Williams State Park, 1000 Shore Drive, Cape Elizabeth. Again, since this is off season the weather may be a factor since they do not plow the state park. They will open the lighthouse for us but facilities will be limited. Our last LHHCY picture was taken at this lighthouse so we should consider taking the picture at Cape Elizabeth which is next on the trip or at one of the previous lighthouses that day.

Our last lighthouse of this day will be Cape Elizabeth. ALF is currently working on renovations at this light but has indicated that the light will be opened to us for this trip. The important thing with this light is that it is on PRIVATE PROPERTY. Parking is at a premium so I suggest that prior to visiting the lighthouses today we think about CARPOOLING.

At the end of this lighthouse we will return to our accommodations to possibly crown a new COOKIE CHAMP!

The next day (Sunday 18th) we have a chance to visit the Maine Maritime Museum, 243 Washington Street, Bath, ME. The museum has several permanent exhibits and is located south of the Bath Iron Works. It takes approximately 45 minutes from Portland to the museum which is located along the Kennebec River. The fee is reduced for us to \$11.00. As with all other LHHCY events this is a time for members to bring friends with an interest in lighthouses who may wish to become members.

We will be donating to all the lighthouses we visit so please include \$30.00 with the NELL Event Registration Form. The trip to the Maritime Museum will be paid when we arrive on Sunday.

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland ME. The rate for our group is \$100.00 +taxes. The location is right downtown and offers views of Casco Bay. There is also a \$10.00 per day parking charge but street parking is also an alternative. WE HAVE A LIMITED TIME FRAME TO BOOK ROOMS AT THIS RATE (December 25, 2014 being the cut-off date. Those attending are to call 800-345-5050 and ask for a room from the NELL Room Block

Second ANNUAL NELL COOKIE CONTEST.

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 LHC&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!

Remember your 2015 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/1Dfsvru9rAxI3GaWMvApTXnFAA1ToDZic3VLLYY_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

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 2014.

Happy Birthday to:

Helene Hoffecker	1/03	Ron Foster	1/08	Debbie Heckman	1/09
Linda Grumman	1/10	Carolyn Carbone	1/13	Winston Taylor	1/16
Sharon Mills	1/17	Patrick Clark	1/18	Penny Miller	1/19
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:

Ron & Mary Jane Foster	1/14	Hank & Chris Heacock	1/30
Lee & Bonnie Benford	2/15	Eugene & Lori Carew	2/22

Pair of historic Nantucket lightships making New Bedford harbor a temporary home



WL612

(photo by Hilari C. Seery, taken in Rhode Island 2006)

NEW BEDFORD — A person could be excused if they thought they were seeing double in New Bedford harbor the last couple of weeks: There are two, not just one, nearly identical Nantucket lightships in port, both owned by the same entrepreneur, Quincy attorney Bill Golden.

Golden told The Standard-Times that these two lightships, one tied up at State Pier, the other at a North Terminal shipyard, are the last two lightships ever built in the United States, the only two ever built by the Coast Guard, and the last two to see service, ending in 1983.

The second-to-last one, the WL612, was built in 1950 and purchased on eBay by Golden 15 years ago for just over \$122,000, just ahead of the scrapyards, in what was then the biggest single item ever auctioned off on eBay.

After two years of renovation, the lightship was seaworthy and below decks it had become a luxury liner, available for charter at \$30,000 per week.

Her sister ship, the WL613, was purchased from the private foundation Sea Eye, which had been keeping it in the Wareham narrows. It will get a different treatment, Golden said. Instead of all the luxury accommodations, the interior of the ship will be restored to its original condition, which is very austere, all business. "There's not a toothpick of wood," he said.

The 613, he said, as the last of its kind, represented the sum total of the marine architects' ability and knowledge. They are ships built to withstand 150 mph winds, and then some, while remaining on-station. "For us this represents an era when average guys put their lives on the line to save others. They were putting up with extreme hardship, and the ships were "very strong, very seaworthy."

The 613 is topped off by not two but one lights, the biggest ever fitted to a lightship at 5.5 million candlepower.

The 613 will be hauled out in the Fairhaven Shipyard, as the 612 was, and begin work next year. Golden was effusive in his praise for the talent and skills available here. "You cannot find in New York City or the Jersey area the skills and talent's you've got in New Bedford," he said.

By Steve Urbon surbon@s-t.com Posted Dec. 14, 2014 @ 2:01 am

International Lighthouse News

Kiipsaar (or Kiipsaare), Estonia



The beach where the Kiipsaar lighthouse lies has been so severely eroded by the sea that it often stands in the water. It's tough to rank endangered [lighthouses](#), because you never know when one that's in a precarious position will suddenly topple, as the one on Half Moon Caye in Belize did in the fall of 2010. But even if it's not the most endangered lighthouse in the world, the one built in 1933 at Kiipsaar, Estonia, on the Baltic Sea, is without a doubt the most famous endangered lighthouse on [Earth](#).

The Kiipsaar light is widely known as "the leaning lighthouse." It's a favorite subject for photographers, partly because it's so unusual looking, and partly because everyone who has seen it expects it to fall any day. Not surprisingly, the lighthouse has been inactive for some time.

Erosion caused many of the lighthouse's problems. The beach where the lighthouse stands has been washed away so that the lighthouse often lies in the water. For several years in the early 2000s, it leaned as much as 15 degrees. By 2008, it had straightened considerably. But that correction isn't good news. It is, rather, evidence that the waves have further eaten away sand under the base of the lighthouse. A fall is probably even more likely.

The only hope for this lighthouse is to move it, but there are no plans in the works for such a project.

The Fascinating Fate of North America's Lighthouses

Lighthouses across North America's Atlantic coast have been falling into disrepair, their original function antiquated first by automation and then by GPS. But *Country*—the magazine for readers who love the land and life of the countryside—finds that in oceanside towns throughout Canada and the US, grassroots movements are finding ways to keep these beacons lit. Some may no longer guide ships into harbor, but they're drawing people in other creative ways.

Quirpon Island Lighthouse: With the lightkeeper's home converted into a small Inn, this island is now a popular tourist attraction. The lighthouse used to keep whaling ships from being dashed upon the rocks, but now it's the perfect place to kayak through pods of whales and dolphins, or just to sit back and enjoy the spray as sculpted icebergs drift by.

Sambro Island Lighthouse: Built in 1758, Sambro Island Light is the oldest continuously running lighthouse in North America (and besides two Churches, it's the oldest surviving structure in Canada!). Now a National Historic site, that's the same 80-foot, red-and-white-striped tower that first welcomed thousands of sailors, immigrants, and even the Titanic survivors, to the continent

West Point Lighthouse: In the 1980's, a campaign to "bring new life to an old light" saved this famous beacon from crumbling into disrepair. West Point Light was successfully converted into an inn, museum and restaurant, leading to the creation of a visitors' boardwalk and public beach

Not only were these historic sites successfully preserved, they are now serving a purpose by attracting tourists and reinventing coastal towns. Lighthouses were always a way to open coastal towns to exciting opportunities, from the whaling industry to immigration to scientific research. Now, they are fulfilling that creed in a different way, as those same towns embrace their history as a means to bring in new visitors.

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: Ponce de Leon, Florida

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@comcast.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.