

CHAPTER CHATTER



July/August

Happy 4th

NELL Fall Meeting - 19th-21st September

Three Days

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Three States

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Three Lights



On the heels of a wildly successful Spring trip, it's time to move forward to our Fall trip.

Out of the frying pan and into the fire!

Originally, the plan for the Fall meeting was Long Island. However, September and October are prime season for the wine country on the North Fork, and we had an issue finding hotels that worked -- either the price was incredibly unreasonable, or there was no availability.

Thus, we've come up with a creative solution that will create NELL's first ever Tri-State Event!

The plan is for a 3-day weekend based in the New London area. With a combination of ferries from that city, as well as local lighthousing, it will afford us the opportunity to visit a good number of lights that I've wanted to get NELL to for a while.

Friday 19th September: I have secured a tour of Plum Island, NY for 30 people on Friday. Unfortunately, that's the only way to make a tour work there, thus the extension of the trip to a full Friday. It's a working government site, so we have to go during the work week, and their on-island transport only handles 30 people.

We will take the early Cross-Sound Ferry from New London to Orient Point, passing several lights on the way. We will return in the afternoon to New London by ferry as well. For this tour, we will have to collect birthdates and Social Security numbers from every attendee for a background check by the Department of Homeland Security. I'm going to talk to my contact at the DHS later this week to figure out how this will be done. Because I know this will be very popular, not everyone can go, it does require an extra day off work for some, and the DHS needs time to background

check everyone...there's going to be a "Pre-Registration" for this part of the trip. Within the next month or so, I will send out a call to register for this part of the trip, with a system that allows fair shot to everyone for a chance at going. The registration for the Plum Island tour will be separate from the registration for the rest of the trip, and will not require payment until the full trip is set up for booking; however, it will require commitment to going to the Island.

Saturday 20th September: This day will focus on Block Island, where NELL held a fundraiser in 2003 for the Southeast Light that brought in over \$50,000. There is a fast ferry from New London to Block Island, and we will take the first boat over and the last boat back. On Block Island, there is a school bus that we will rent to drive us to the North Light and Southeast Light, both of which we'll work to get open. I have to figure out the contact there and figure out the logistics. This trip may be capacity controlled, depending on how those logistics work out, but there would most likely be quite a bit more seats than on the Plum Island trip.

Sunday 21st September: This day will focus on the New London area lights. This region has been rich in NELL support, including substantial grants to Avery Point and New London Ledge Lights. The focus will be on boat trips out to New London Ledge, and hopefully climbs of New London Harbor and Avery Point. The business meeting will likely also be this day.

It's going to be a jam-packed weekend, but it'll be EPIC!

As always, if you have ideas for trips, please drop me a line at seagirtlight@gmail.com

Other Upcoming Events

National Lighthouse Museum

Thursday 7th August - Opening Educational Resource Center

Friday 8th August - Fourth Annual Light Keepers Gala - Museum opening celebration aboard Cornucopia Destiny

For more information: phone (855) NLM-SINY - or - <http://www.lighthousemuseum.org>

Save the Bay Lighthouse Tours - <http://www.savebay.org/lighthouse-ultimate>

5th July - 3.5hr - Northern Bay lighthouse tour including a stop and a tour of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

12th July - 7hr - 20 lighthouse tour with a lunch stop at Rose Island will include a tour of the Rose Island Lighthouse and the grounds.

23rd August- 3.5hr - Southern Bay lighthouse tour including a stop at Rose Island and a tour of the Rose Island Lighthouse and grounds. You're permitted to climb up the tower to view the new Fresnel lens up close!

Happy Birthday

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|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Randy Miller | 7/04 | Sandy Chase | 7/04 | David Schulman | 7/05 |
| Reg Kitching | 7/07 | Linda Jacobson | 7/10 | Lee Olson | 7/12 |
| Jeremy D'Entremont | 7/13 | Pat Bandoock | 7/15 | Tracie Carpenter | 7/15 |
| James Cope | 7/17 | Tom Chisholm | 7/17 | Odette Kent | 7/24 |
| Darlene Chisholm | 7/30 | | | | |
| Lauren Liebrecht | 8/01 | Paula Liebrecht | 8/01 | | |
| Elinor DeWire | 8/03 | Bill Newblom | 8/04 | Rich Flandera | 8/04 |
| Strickland Hyde | 8/07 | Pat VanDeVeen | 8/08 | Bob Kepple | 8/09 |
| Nancy Younger | 8/09 | Marguerite MacDonald | 8/11 | Geraldine Powell | 8/12 |
| Harry Hine | 8/13 | Ellen Scott | 8/17 | Bill Younger | 8/18 |
| Barry Chase | 8/21 | Ron Bandoock | 8/30 | | |

Anniversary Wishes

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|--------------------------|------|------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Bill & Judy Newblom | 7/9 | Norm & Cynthia Bosse | 7/23 | | |
| Reg & Maureen Kitching | 8/11 | Tom & Darlene Chisholm | 8/16 | Lee & Judy Hall | 8/17 |
| David & Jessica Schulman | 8/20 | Sandy & Janie Coates | 8/23 | Frank & Carolyn Carbone | 8/24 |

International Lighthouse News

Ireland's All-Island Lighthouse Trail



Inisheer Lighthouse



Bull Rock Lighthouse

The Irish Landmark Trust, together with the Commissioners of Irish Lights, has recently launched the All-Island Lighthouse trail, and work is currently underway to open all the lighthouses around the country to the public. At present, there are four lighthouses with accommodation – offering visitors the unique opportunity to be 'keepers of the light' – while another three are open for informative tours and exhibits. There are six more in the development phase and the remaining properties are awaiting the final go-ahead.

Recently renovated, the first phase of the lighthouse trail includes:

Wicklow Head

This lighthouse has six octagonal rooms carefully constructed in the void that existed within the tower when it was first taken on by Irish Landmark. The arched windows are set into walls which are a metre thick, and offer stunning views out to the Irish Sea and the surrounding countryside.

With 109 steps from the front door to the kitchen, which is on the top floor, this property would not be suitable for anyone with mobility problems or small children.

One dog is allowed to accompany visitors and, sleeping up to four people, the property costs from €500 per weekend.

Galley Head

Galley Head Lightkeepers' Houses are perched on dramatic cliffs at about 130 feet above sea level, overlooking St George's Channel, close to Clonakilty village, Cork.

Visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities from dolphin and whale watching, surfing at Inchydoney Blue Flag Beach or a historical walking tour of the town. The property sleeps four and costs from €400 per weekend.

Loop Head

Loop Head lighthouse station in Co Clare is a major landmark on the northern shore of the Shannon River. Built on a cliff-top with 300 degree views of the sea down to Kerry Head and Dingle, and across to the Cliffs of Moher, the property is three miles from the nearest village, sleeps five people and costs from €320 per weekend.

Blackhead (Antrim)

Located on a headland 20 miles north of Belfast, visitors to Blackhead lighthouse can enjoy spectacular views over Belfast Lough and follow the popular coastal path which leads along in front of the lighthouse to the Victorian town of Whitehead.

This property sleeps seven people and costs from £290 per weekend. However, it is cliff-facing so children must be supervised at all times.

Mizen Head

Situated on the most south-westerly tip of Ireland, Mizen Head lighthouse and signal station offers many attractions to the public. Although it doesn't have any facility for accommodation, there are all sorts of interactive and informative exhibits, including a Navigational Aids Simulator, the Fastnet Rescue Tide Clock, the Engine Room and the Keeper's Quarters in the former Irish Lights Signal Station.

Entrance costs €6 per adult and family discounts are available.

Cromwell Point

Valentia Island lighthouse at Cromwell Point opened to the public last summer. It is maintained by the Commissioners of Irish Lights and still operates as a harbour light to guide vessels from the sea and lead them through the northern entrance of Valentia Harbour, past Harbour Rock.

Entrance costs €5 per adult and family/group discounts are available.

Hook Head

Hook lighthouse in Wexford is about 800 years old and is the oldest intact operational lighthouse in the world. Although it doesn't offer accommodation, tours of the lighthouse tower are available all year round and visitors can climb the 115 steps to witness the spectacular view from the balcony. A gift-shop, cafe and exhibition area is also open to the public. Many festivals are held throughout the year and the former lighthouse keeper's houses now play host to the visitor facilities.

For more information, visit irishlandmark.com and cil.ie

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: Spring Point Ledge, Maine

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.

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 LHHC&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.