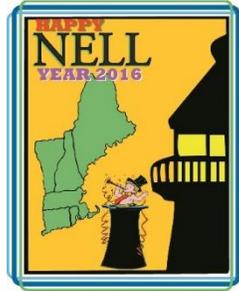


CHAPTER CHATTER



January/February

Happy New Year - Happy Valentine's Day

It's time for Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate and You 2016!



This year will take us to the northern Jersey Shore. We've done some great LHC&Ys the past few years, with the side effect that we've sort of run out of winter-friendly places in New England to do the event that wouldn't be a repeat too soon. So...welcome to the Garden State!

The event will be held the Saturday of Martin Luther King weekend, 16 January 2016. We will plan to visit the Sandy Hook, Navesink, and Sea Girt Lights.

The trip will begin with a block of tours at Sandy Hook from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. We will get to climb the oldest light in the country in groups of 8. From there, we will proceed to the Twin Lights of Navesink, one of the most unique lights in the country. We will visit during normal operating hours here.

The culmination of the trip will be a visit from 3-5 at my personal favorite lighthouse, Sea Girt. I've arranged a private tour here of the light, and we will enjoy our traditional Hot Chocolate and Cookie Contest in the light's living quarters. I'm looking especially forward to giving tours of a light I've been a volunteer at since 2003 to NELL.

Because of required attendance caps at Sandy Hook and Sea Girt, we will only be able to allow 40 people to come, whether or not you plan to climb. This is because of strict fire safety capacity regulations at Sea Girt, and under the National Park Service's discretion at Sandy Hook.

To sign up, please fill out this Google form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XIAECSrNg3Q8fCz03xf-194tbzr2g-VuYN8Qn6Z2kY8/viewform?usp=send_form

Please note – we will *not* have a group rate at any hotel. These have been proving a lot of effort and aggravation to arrange lately, for not a huge discount. As its off-season at the Jersey Shore as well, rates are somewhat lower. Places to look for hotels around on your favorite website include: Long Branch, Eatontown, Wall, Middletown, Hazlet, Red Bank Plugging any of these towns into a site like Expedia or Hotels.com should give you a good idea of the options. (Make sure to book directly with any chains if you really want to collect points with their program – many won't give them on discount site bookings.)

Looking forward to another fun trip with NELL! Greg

Open the New Year with A View from Cape Lookout Light



Now here's a fun way to open the New Year -- with a view from the top of the Cape Lookout National Seashore lighthouse.

In collaboration with events of the Crystal Coast Countdown, Cape Lookout Superintendent Pat Kenney is pleased to welcome the public to the first climb of the year on Friday, January 1, 2016.

Next year is an exciting year for Cape Lookout National Seashore, one of 409 National Park Service sites located across the United States and its territories. On March 10, 2016, the seashore on North Carolina's Outer Banks will celebrate its 50th Anniversary as a national park unit. Throughout 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its Centennial with special events and activities that will take place at various times in the year. Cape Lookout National Seashore will kick-off the Centennial year on New Year's Day with the first climb of the year. With a lighthouse view, experience your favorite beach with stories of the light keepers, the lighthouse, and the natural barrier island in winter.

Reservations are required for the event. You can make one beginning on December 1 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. by calling Administrative Assistant Cathy Frazier at (252) 728-2250 x3020.

The cost of the program is \$25 (price includes ferry fee) and is non-refundable (weather dependent). The program will accommodate 40 visitors. The ferry will depart Harkers Island at 10 a.m. and return at about noon. Children joining the climb must be at least 44-inches tall and must climb the steps on their own. Children 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult (16 or older).

Dress accordingly to weather conditions; Closed-toed shoes are required.

The Enchanting Story of the Little Red Lighthouse

If you happen to look down at just the right moment while speeding across the George Washington Bridge, you may spy a flash of red, a plucky little structure that pre-dates even the bridge itself. You, my friend, have spotted the Little Red Lighthouse. So just what is this super-cute, colorful lighthouse all about?

The 40-foot tower was actually built all the way back in 1880 to protect the shore in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, but as boat traffic (and accidents) increased on the Hudson River, it was moved to Manhattan in 1921. For 10 years, it shone, protecting ships traveling the waterway between New York and New Jersey from the dangerous, rocky protrusion called Jeffery's Hook. But in 1931, the behemoth bridge was built, dwarfing this hard-working house's beam with its wealth of 600 navigational lights.

Although it was now considered obsolete, the charming little house still inspired Hildegard Swift to write the 1942 hit children's book, *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge*, forever endearing the lighthouse to a generation of children. Which, it turns out, was a lucky break when a few years later in 1951, the unused lighthouse was scheduled to be dismantled and sold for scrap.

What ensued was an outpouring of support for the preservation of the house, a campaign to save it mounted by the children who had loved the book. And it worked. Later that year, the deed of the lighthouse was officially transferred to New York's Park and Recreation Department. In 1979, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2000, it got one final facelift with a fresh coat of red and a working lens.

Visitors to Fort Washington Park today can see this lighthouse as it once was: still little, still red but now with a charming and fascinating story of resilience, grit and pluck.

Gitmo lighthouse gets Suffolk help



The Windward Point Lighthouse on the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay has seen better days.

Also known as Faro Punta Barloventa, the 111-year-old all-steel structure that originally had a whale oil light perched atop it is pretty rusty.

The Windward Point Lighthouse at Guantanamo Bay will soon be getting some help from a Suffolk architect's design. So rusty, in fact, that it was listed for demolition about five years ago, according to Suffolk's Cathy McEntire of McEntire Design. McEntire, the owner and lead architect, knows this because after her firm landed a contract to design a rehab of the lighthouse, she's been delving into its history and has visited Guantanamo twice. "We are repairing it — trying to save it," she said. "It's an historical icon for Cuba; it's on all the tourist stuff that you pick up at the exchange."

McEntire was brought onto the project by Florida-based Islands Mechanical Contractor, which has handled Guantanamo Bay projects for the Department of Defense for years.

"They called and said, 'Would you be interested in working on Guantanamo Bay?'" McEntire said. "I said, 'Seriously? It's December — when can we come?' "It was a recommendation, basically," McEntire added of how her company came to be tapped.

Right now, McEntire said, the lighthouse is one of three Guantanamo Bay projects her company is involved in.

"We just started working with the contractor," McEntire said. "Hopefully it's a long-term thing. They are happy with our work, and we are happy with them."

The whale oil light in the 60-foot-tall lighthouse was decommissioned in 1955 and moved to the U.S. Coast Guard Museum. A weaker solar-powered light, installed in 1988, was in place until it was removed for the rehab.

McEntire took a team of three others to the base right before Christmas to document what is there. She has just arrived home from a second trip after the lighthouse was sandblasted to remove rust.

"We looked at what they need to do to repair it," McEntire said. "We do all the drawings that will show them the structural repairs and life safety repairs that need to be done so they can at least open the site to the public."

All that work will be completed back in Suffolk.

While the lighthouse has been closed for some time, it is part of a museum. The surrounding grounds have the remains of boats used to flee Fidel Castro's Cuba.

Relations between the U.S. and Cuba might be warming up, but the McEntire team wasn't allowed off the naval base to sightsee. Barbed wire, sentry towers and thousands of land mines seal the base off from the rest of Cuba.

Complete with McDonald's and Pizza Hut, "It's a little slice of America," Cathy McEntire said of the base.

There are roughly 6,000 people there, she said. The majority of workers are brought in from somewhere else, with many Filipinos and Jamaicans.

"We have worked on a lot of fun projects, but as far as going out of town ... this one ranks up there for us.

International Lighthouse News

Abloy Padlocks secure Fastnet Lighthouse



Security expert Abloy UK has supplied Commissioners of Irish Lights, a Maritime organisation delivering Irish coastal safety, with a number of high security Super Weather Proof padlocks for use at Fastnet Rock lighthouse.

Fastnet Rock – known simply as Fastnet – is a small remote island in the Atlantic Ocean, 13 kilometres from County Cork on the Irish mainland. It is home to the Fastnet Race, an offshore yachting competition known for its difficult and challenging course.

The lighthouse was designed by William Douglass and built under the supervision of James Kavanagh, with construction taking place between 1897 and 1904.

The lighthouse's inhospitable environment means it has to withstand incredibly severe elements, from both the cold temperatures and the relentless waves, which for much of the time submerge a good portion of the structure under saltwater.

Due to its remote location, access to the lighthouse can only be gained by helicopter. Therefore it is imperative that the security measures in place function correctly to allow authorised persons access when required.

Abloy padlocks were chosen because of their ability to withstand the toughest weather conditions, because the components are extremely well protected to ensure operation in all conditions. Security is guaranteed even with regular exposure to extreme heat or cold, storm-driven salt water or fine desert dust.

Abloy's range of Super Weather Proof padlocks includes both mechanical and electromechanical models in a range of sizes. All padlocks in the range offer the same high level of durability, and different sizes of mechanical and electromechanical locks can be combined in the same locking system.

Phil Lawlor, Lighthouse Team Lead at Commissioners of Irish Lights, said: "Many of our towers and dwellings are secured with Abloy locks, and I don't think you could place them in a more harsh environment. Several of them – such as Fastnet – are constantly washed over with corrosive salty seawater.

"With technology moving forward so fast, we only need to visit some of our lighthouses once a year for maintenance and it is Abloy locks keeping the towers and dwellings secure."

Pat Jefferies, Commercial Director at Abloy UK, added: "The Fastnet lighthouse is one of the most iconic lighthouses in the world, so we are extremely proud that Abloy padlocks are the chosen solution for securing this site.

"We are totally confident that our Super Weather Proof padlocks can be installed in any location – regardless of the environment or exposure to the elements – and they will continue to perform correctly whilst offering a superior level of security."

Sinking of the Lightship Guillemot

It's March 28th 1917, the height of the First World War and a time before advanced navigation technologies like radar. You are captain of the lightship Guillemot stationed five miles off the coast of Wexford providing a vital service to fishermen and sailors in the dark of night, warning them of the dangers of the nearby shifting sands of the Arklow Bank. And you're about to make the biggest decision of your life.



The Ship: Guillemot on duty off South Arklow

You discover there's a German U Boat positioned behind your ship, using it as cover and picking off unsuspecting vessels venturing out from Arklow bay. As a lightship you're officially neutral but you've already seen 4 boats ruthlessly dispatched to the bottom of the sea by the clever tactics of the German U-boat. You see a boat emerge from the Arklow harbour, it's the Irish boat *Harvest Home*, you see it near your ship, they don't stand a chance. What do you do?



The Crew: South Arklow Lightship 1917



U Boat Captain: Otto Steinbrinck

This was the predicament faced by Captain Rossiter and his crew of the lightship Guillemot in 1917. They had a decision to make; maintain their standing order of neutrality or signal the approaching ship in an attempt to alert it to the presence of the U boat.

On board the U boat UC-65 was Captain Otto Steinbrinck, a wily and experienced commander who'd had considerable success in the Irish Channel during 1917 laying sea mines and sinking ships. In the Arklow bank area, he had sank the armed British steamer *Snowden Range*, the Russian sailing vessel *Laima*, and the English *Ardglass* and Norwegian Steamer *Dagali*. Nestled behind the lightship Guillemot made for easy pickings for the U boat. And so Captain Rossiter and the crew made their choice, one of conscience and broke the standing order to remain neutral. They attempted to signal the oncoming boats. Unfortunately for them the loitering U boat got wind of the attempted warning and wasn't pleased. The U boat Captain Steinbrinck wasn't going to let them spoil his efforts again and sank the Guillemot. In an act of civility that may sound foreign to ears attuned to the harshness of modern warfare, the German captain allowed Captain Rossiter and the crew to disembark before the Lightship was sunk. The *Harvest home* was eventually sunk by the U boat.

The Guillemot crew returned safely to shore. In keeping with the strangeness of war time, Captain Rossiter was subsequently rewarded with a medal for his bravery but reprimanded for disobeying orders. Captain Steinbrinck would go on to sink a total of 216 boats during the war

Just for fun....can you guess which lighthouse I am in?



If you think you know e-mail me
(Answer next Chapter Chatter)
November/December answer: Point Judith, Rhode Island

Happy Birthday to:

Helene Hoffecker	1/03	Ron Foster	1/08	Debbie Heckman	1/09
Linda Grumman	1/10	Carolyn Carbone	1/13	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
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

Important membership dues notice

It is time to renew your NELL membership dues for 2016.

Your membership runs from January 1 through December 31, 2016.

If you plan to attend LHHCY (Lighthouse Hot Chocolate and You) your dues must be paid by December 31, 2015.

Single membership is \$18 and dual membership is \$30.

Make out your check to "NELL" and send it to:

Kathy Santucci, 38 Lime Kiln Rd., Tuckahoe, NY 10707.

If your address or email has changed, please notify me. Walt Mills, Membership

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@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.