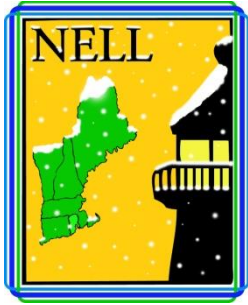


CHAPTER CHATTER



March/April

Happy Easter - Happy Pesach

NELL Spring Meeting 2016

Save the date - SUNDAY 5th June

Buzzards Bay cruise out of New Bedford details to follow

NELL Members if you have not yet paid your dues please read below...

2016 NELL Membership Dues are past due. Your membership dues payment must be received by March 25, 2016.

Send your check, \$20.00 for single membership or \$30.00 for a dual membership to:

NELL, c/o Kathy Santucci, 38 Lime Kiln Rd, Tuckahoe, NY 10707.

All unpaid members will be removed from the membership list at the end of March.

Thank you,
Walter Mills
Membership

Happy Birthday to:

Barbara Lunn	3/06	Wayne Grabner	3/06	Bonnie Benford	3/09
MaryAnn Scroope	3/10	Lee Hall	3/22	Gladys Grabner	3/27
Sheila Hines	3/30				
Arlene Winkleman	4/07	David Idell	4/13	Daniel Drogowski	4/14
Linda Shay	4/14	Nancy Satkowski	4/19	Edward Osso	4/22

Anniversary Wishes to:

Strickland & Donna Hyde	3/5	Jim & Irma Streeter	3/7
Walt & Laurel Mills	4/1		

2016 Lighthouse Challenge and Festival Dates

15 - 17 May	Michigan Lighthouse Conference	www.MichiganLighthouseAlliance.org
10 - 12 June	Door County 23 rd Annual Lighthouse Festival	www.dcm.org
18-19 June	7 th Annual Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Maritime Festival	www.herefordlighthousefestivals.org
25 - 26 June	Mid-coast Maine Lighthouse Challenge	www.lighthousefoundation.org
09 -10 July	Toledo Lighthouse Waterfront Festival	www.toledoharborlighthouse.org
08 August	National Lighthouse Day	
10 September	Maine open lighthouse day	www.lighthousefoundation.org
30 Aug-17 Sept	21st Annual Apostle Island Lighthouse Celebration	www.lighthousecelebration.com
09 - 11 Sept.	51st Annual Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival	www.mukilteolighthousefestival.com
15 - 16 Oct.	New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge	www.wildwoodsnj.com/calendar

2017 Lighthouse Challenge and Festival Dates

25-27 August	2 nd Traveling Michigan Lighthouse Festival	www.michiganlighthousefestival.com
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Not all the noted websites have been updated yet to reflect the 2016/17 information. They are provided so that you will have the event date and website location information together.

Foghorns at 17 Maine lighthouses will soon be mariner-activated

People on boats will use radios to initiate sound signals, replacing aging automated systems as the Coast Guard modernizes.



The U.S. Coast Guard is moving forward with a plan to install mariner-activated sound signals at 17 lighthouses along the Maine coast, the agency announced on Wednesday January 6th.

The Coast Guard released a plan in November to convert aging, automatically activated foghorns with Mariner Radio Activated Sound Signals, which can be activated on demand by boaters using a marine radio. The horns will sound the same as they do now. The change is part of a larger Coast Guard modernization initiative to replace older fog detectors that activated the horns with the Coast Guard-designed, radio-controlled system.

During an outreach campaign, some people in the maritime community wondered how recreational boaters will be notified of the changes and were concerned because many small vessels don't carry two-way Marine VHF radios, the Coast Guard said in a news release. The Coast Guard plans to continue education efforts and is encouraging all mariners to carry the radios, with which they can contact the Coast Guard in emergencies, as well as activate the foghorns. The Coast Guard plans to announce the changes at each lighthouse with a broadcast notice to mariners, notices in maritime publications and through meetings with boaters.

The new sound signals will be installed over the next six weeks at Seguin Light, Cape Elizabeth Light, Goat Island Light, Burnt Island Light, Portland Head Light, Spring Point Light, Dog Island Light, West Quoddy Head Light, Egg Rock Light, Fort Point Light, Heron Neck Light, Goose Rocks Light, Browns Head Light, Owls Head Light, Two Bush Island Light, Whitehead Light and Marshall Point Light.

Mariners with questions or concerns about the change can contact Lt. David Bourbeau at NNEwaterways@uscg.mil or 347-5015.

HMS Montagu

Montagu at her final resting place on Lundy Island in 1906. Aground in fog, the crew stumbled ashore and actually had an argument with a nearby lighthouse keeper about where they were. The light house keeper probably had the better info! She was broken up where she lay.

Definitely a bad day at the office but a great story.

HMS Montagu



HMS Montagu

HMS Montagu was a Duncan-class Pre-dreadnought battleship of the British Royal Navy. In May 1906 in thick fog, she was wrecked on Lundy Island without.

View on [___](#)

Preview by Yahoo



This might be the origin for the old navy vs light house joke.

Signal from HM Ship: Turn aside sir.

Signal from unknown: Turn aside yourselves.

Signal from HM Ship: We are a cruiser of His Majesty's Navy, turn aside!

Signal from unknown: We are a lighthouse. The decision is yours, sir.



International Lighthouse News

PCG to repair 112 lighthouse stations nationwide



The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has a total of 112 lighthouse stations nationwide that are not available for service to provide aids to navigation of boats and vessels, reviving plans to restore them this year.

“We have plans to repair all of them. We have made great strides in improving our efficiency,” said acting PCG commandant Rear Admiral William Melad.

PCG, the lead agency in charge of the lighthouses, vowed to repair all of them, which the agency declared “not operational” in a report, to be supplemented with those functional.

The report, a copy of which was furnished the Manila Bulletin, showed that 80.45 percent of the lighthouse stations all over the country were working as of Dec. 18 last year.

This translates to 461 lighthouses that are working for the time being out of the Coast Guard’s 573 lighthouses.

The rest are not operational, most of which are stationed in PCG districts in Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao, with 20 lighthouses each, followed by 15 in Bicol, 13 in Southern Tagalog, and 10 lighthouses in Southeastern Mindanao.

In Eastern Visayas, the report said that lighthouse stations Saint Bernard, Manicani, Hindang, Guiuan, Suluan, Tugnug, Carigara, Biliran, San Juanico 2, North Limasawa, Isabel, San Pedro, Palompon, Tacloban, Mariquitdaquit, San Juanico 3, Binabaye, Canauay, Malitbog, and Daram have defective batteries, lanterns, bulbs, and solar panel, among others.

In Northern Mindanao, the tower of lighthouse station Punta Alegria, which has not been operational since Jan. 13, 2012, is “ready to collapse,” it said.

Among the defective lighthouses in the region include those in Magallanes Agusan River, Kahinaan, Sumilon, Sindangan, Coronado, Hinatuan North, Kanhandun, Loreto, Hinatuan East, Punta Beach, Selinog, Luyong Bonbon, Diuata, Socorro, Punta Bilar, Dahakit, Sinonoc, Orquita, and Tagolo.

Because of this, the lighthouses are allocated a fund of P73.5 million for 2016.

“This is more than double of last year’s budget for lighthouses,” said Melad.

PCG describes the lighthouses as beacons of the sea. They serve as guides of mariners, such as fishermen, vessel crew and other users of the sea, when it comes to sailing the seas and going to and out of ports.

At the same time, the lighthouses when they become fully operational makes the jobs of Coast Guard men easier and safer in sailing the dangerous waters at night.

U.S. Congress members support Taiwan's initiatives in South China Sea



The newly built lighthouse on Taiping Island. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications)

Washington, Dec. 18 (CNA) Six members in the U.S. House of Representatives recently expressed support for Taiwan's initiatives in the South China Sea, including its peace proposal and efforts to make Taiping Island a hub for humanitarian assistance and scientific research.

In a Dec. 15 statement, Rep. Donald Payne, a member in the House Committee on Homeland Security, praised Taiwan's willingness to work with other parties concerned to jointly ensure peace and stability in the region, uphold the freedom of navigation and overflight, and conserve and develop resources in the region. He also took note of Taiping Island, the largest natural and self-sustainable islet in the Spratly Islands group in the region, saying that it qualifies as an island according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. "Taiwan has set up a hospital in Taiping Island," he said. "Over the past decade, this hospital has offered humanitarian assistance to 21 people in 20 cases, including 12 Philippine and Myanmar nationals, which fully demonstrates Taiwan's dedication to humanitarianism." Payne's views were backed by other members of Congress.

In his statement, Scott DesJarlais noted the South China Sea Peace Initiative proposed by President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) in May, which reiterates Taiwan's position of shelving disputes and promoting joint resource development in the contested waters, and Taiwan's inauguration of a newly constructed lighthouse and renovated wharf on Taiping this month. "This infrastructure project will help support free and safe passage of ships through the surrounding waters, further enabling Taiwan to offer humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and provide emergency rescue support to passing vessels," said DesJarlais, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Sheila Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, and Mike Bishop, who serves on the House Committee on the Judiciary, also shared similar views and lauded Taiwan's efforts to promote peace and stability in the South China Sea.

In addition to praising Taiwan's initiatives in the South China Sea, Matt Salmon, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific under the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, also noted the agreement between Taiwan and the Philippines on law enforcement in fishery matters.

In a statement dated Dec. 17, he said that "this fishing agreement should serve as an example for other countries in the region in how to resolve conflicts peacefully and in a way that benefits all parties involved."

The negotiation of the agreement was one of the steps taken to restore relations between Taiwan and the Philippines after an incident in May 2013, in which the Philippine Coast Guard shot up a Taiwanese fishing boat operating in the two countries' overlapping economic waters, leading to the death of a Taiwanese fisherman.

Meanwhile, Madeleine Bordallo, ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Readiness, said in a statement that she appreciated that President Ma has worked to develop Taiping Island into a location for joint scientific research which can be conducted by Taiwan and other partners.

"The recent upgrades to facilities on Taiping Island will help to further facilitate the island as a location where the U.S. and Taiwan can better coordinate scientific research on climate change and other ocean issues in the South China Sea," she said.

In response, Taiwan's representative office in the U.S. said the remarks represented the support of the U.S. Congress for Taiwan to play the role of a peacemaker in the South China Sea.

The islands in the resource-rich South China Sea and their surrounding waters are fully or partially claimed by Taiwan, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

Taiping Island has been administrated by Taiwan since 1946.

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



If you think you know e-mail me
(Answer next Chapter Chatter)
January/February answer: Little River, 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 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.