

# CHAPTER CHATTER



**July/August**

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**Happy 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Save the Date - NELL Fall Meeting**



The fall meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September in New London Connecticut.  
Information to follow

**Don't Forget** – National Lighthouse Day – 8<sup>th</sup> August

Membership summary for 2015 - 2016

We ended 2015 with 188 members. Three new members joined NELL in 2015.

Two NELL members passed away in 2015: they are Marlene Grant and Pat Bandock.

To date we have 176 members. We have nine new members this year. This is six more than we had last year at the same time. Three members from previous years have rejoined NELL. This includes Spring Point Ledge Light in South Portland Maine. 22 members did not join from 2015.

Here are the number of members in the top six states:

Connecticut - 34, Massachusetts - 32, New Jersey -19, Maine & New York -15 and Pennsylvania -13

The 2016 membership directory will be sent out by email and USPS (for those who do not have email), by end of June.

Walter Mills, Membership

## Len Hadley Volunteerism Award

The American Lighthouse Foundation's "Len Hadley Volunteerism Award" was named after Len Hadley, one of the original volunteers of the organization in 1994. Len possessed a wonderful personality and ability to connect with others, and was a stellar volunteer for a number of ALF projects throughout the years.

The vital pillar in supporting the American Lighthouse Foundation's success in preservation, education and public access programs over the past seventeen years has undeniably been the dedication of ALF volunteers such as Len Hadley. When Len sadly passed away in October 2000 the ALF board of directors honored his uncommon dedication to volunteerism by naming an award after him that would recognize other outstanding ALF volunteers for the same passion, selflessness and commitment to lighthouse preservation for which Len stood for.



This year's NELL recipient of the award is Ellen Scott

In previous years the award was given to:

2015 – Kathy Santucci

2014 – No gala

2013 – Cyne Bosse and Tom Kenworthy

2012 – Lynne Kerber and Kevin Sullivan

2011 – Ron Bando and Mike Boucher

2010 – No gala

2009 – Walt Mills

2008 – Carolyn Carbone and Penny Miller

2007 – Ron Foster & Frank Carbone

2006 – Tom Pregman & Tom Kenworthy

## Other Lighthouse Happenings

### Montauk Lighthouse



In May a bill designed to protect the site of the Montauk Lighthouse from shoreline erosion passed the New York State Senate. The resolution, which asks that the State Department of Environmental Conservation be allowed to take on projects at national historical landmark sites owned by private not-for-profits, has been traveling through the legislature since 2014, when it was first introduced by Senator Kenneth P. LaValle and carried in the Assembly by Fred Thiele. Both legislators have introduced the bill again. Although it is not a local bill, the spirit of the legislation focuses specifically on the Montauk Lighthouse, which has been deeded to the Montauk Historical Society, but has been designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior as a national historical landmark. As of now, the state DEC cannot legally partner with the management of the site to take measures to protect it from shoreline erosion. "The legislation provides a solution to the issue," Senator LaValle said in a release. "Without this legislation, the DEC cannot assist with shore erosion there."

The lighthouse in Montauk, the oldest in New York State, was commissioned by Congress under the administration of President George Washington in 1792, and construction began on it in June 1796. It took six months to complete.

### Robbins Reef Lighthouse

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The [Noble Maritime Collection](#) at Snug Harbor Cultural Center is restoring historic Robbins Reef Lighthouse, the four-story, conical tower constructed of brick and cast-iron on a granite caisson along the west side of the main channel of Upper New York Bay, between Staten Island and the Statue of Liberty.

In the course of a seven-day stint in May, volunteers removed the metal and wood covers placed in the lighthouse windows by the Coast Guard in 1966, when the light was automated. This allowed sunlight and harbor breezes into the historic structure's interior rooms for the first time in 50 years, Noble Maritime Collection executive director Erin Urban told SILive.com. Old growth heart-pine woodwork is being brought back to its original patina, and exterior window casings are now primed and painted. The original sash windows have been removed as well and are under restoration. If you would like to donate time or services toward this long-term project, contact the museum at 718-447-6490 or by email: [nobleoperations@earthlink.net](mailto:nobleoperations@earthlink.net)

### 'MIND THE LIGHT, KATE'

The Noble Maritime Collection assumed stewardship of the Robbins Reef Lighthouse in 2010.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the lighthouse is well-preserved example of an offshore "spark plug"-style lighthouse, the Noble Maritime Collection notes. Its primary historical significance lies in the story of Katherine Walker, who took over lighthouse duties when her husband died in 1890.

His last words to her were: "Mind the light, Kate."

In 1894 the Lighthouse Board officially appointed Katherine Walker the light's keeper, and she maintained the station from 1894 until 1919, one of only a handful of women lighthouse keepers.

During Walker's tenure at Robbins Reef, in addition to her duties as lighthouse keeper, she rescued 50 people and a dog from the waters around the light, and rowed her two children to and from school on Staten Island.

# International Lighthouse News

## The Princess Royal is to embark on another lighthouse-bagging trip off the Scottish coast.

One of her longest. It will get Anne closer to her quest to visit every one of the 205 lighthouses in Scotland. It has not been revealed all of the lighthouses Anne will visit in June on board the Northern Lighthouse Board vessel Pharos. But Anne as patron of the NLB will spend four days on the jaunt off the north west coast. Anne, who has been patron of the NLB since 1993, had her interest in lighthouses sparked at an early age. Aged just five, Anne accompanied the Queen on a visit to Tiumpan Head on the Isle of Lewis. Prince Charles got to blow the foghorn, but it was the princess who seems to have been hooked. Since then Anne's ambition is to see all the lighthouses in Scotland. It is believed she is now past the half-way point. Anne has also visited an unknown number privately on jaunts with her husband Sir Tim Laurence. The couple have a new £500,00 yacht 'Ballochbuie' based at Ardfern in Argyll – from where they can explore even more Scottish islands and lighthouses. Among the lighthouses Anne has already "ticked-off" is Bell Rock, the world's oldest surviving sea-washed lighthouse, off the coast of Angus; the spectacular Bass Rock, Cape Wrath, St Abbs Head and Fife Ness. And also among the lighthouses Anne has visited in the past is arguably the world's most famous – the Flannan Isles in the Outer Hebrides where on Boxing Day 1900, it was discovered that the three keepers James Ducat, Thomas Marshall and Donald McArthur had vanished. In 1998, she was present for the final shift of Scotland's last manned lighthouse in Fair Isle.

## Learning about lighthouses in Scotland

Many people are fascinated by lighthouses. They conjure up images of long voyages across vast seas, wild waves crashing on rocks and ships trying to return home successfully past many obstacles. In the days before computers and GPS systems, lighthouses were vital for the shipping industry, often the only way for the captain to know where danger near the coast lay. Scotland has an extremely long coastline, and the country has always been involved with the sea — fishing, whaling, carrying cargo and passengers, and now the oil industry — so lighthouses were prolific. The northeast part of Scotland in Aberdeenshire, that point that juts out into the North Sea with the Moray Firth on the other side, has always been important as it's close to the Aberdeen shipping industry and is on the U.S. shipping route to the Baltic Sea. There were four lighthouses along the coast, from the point to Inverness town, which were used as navigational aids. This was a ship's graveyard area, so captains knew they had to keep at least 10 miles out to sea. Each lighthouse had its own flash signal that captains had to know. The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses is on Kinnaird Head in Fraserburgh. It is housed in a huge warehouse-type building next to the old lighthouse. One has to take a tour to visit the actual lighthouse. The displays in the museum are a wonderful collection of lighthouse lenses and equipment and the story of the Stevenson lighthouse engineers. The Kinnaird Head Lighthouse is in a former small 16th-century castle — amazing what castles have been used for! This was the first lighthouse to be built by the Northern Lighthouse Board in 1787 and the only one on top of a fortified castle. Robert Stevenson reconstructed the inside in 1824, and in 1851, his son, Alan Stevenson, improved the light and the keepers' cottages. In 1902, David Stevenson, Alan's nephew, installed a new lens and developed the cottages that you can see today. It ceased to be a lighthouse in 1991, and the lighthouse building and engine room are preserved as they were left by the last keeper. Around the courtyard at the bottom are the three cottages, for the keepers and their families, and the large engine room for the equipment for the foghorns. Halfway up are the living quarters for the keeper, and the chart room. At the very top is the light, which was paraffin-run. It was first a fixed lens, visible for 13 miles, and was changed to a revolving lens, visible for 25 to 30 miles. There were always three keepers, and they led a very hard life. After two years of training, they worked four hours on and eight hours off each. They had to carry up heavy paraffin tins to refill the tanks at the top and keep up the pressure and rewind the weights that ran the clock mechanism, which ran the revolving lens. The stairs are steep and narrow, so the keepers had to be very fit. There's a panoramic view out from the top and the lighthouse has the record for the highest recorded wind gust (142 mph). Information about hours, costs and tours can be found at [lighthousemuseum.org.uk](http://lighthousemuseum.org.uk).

## Engineers shake things up at West Cornwall lighthouses

Lighthouses situated off Cornwall's coast will be shaken up as engineers prepare to [test](#) them for wave impact later this summer. Following £1 million of funding from Research Council UK to kick-start the project, lighthouse authority Trinity [House](#) is looking at how lighthouses at sea have been weathered by stormy conditions - particularly in response to the winter storms of 2013-2014. As part of the study, Longships Lighthouse, 1.25 miles from the coast of Land's End, Bishop Rock Lighthouse, four miles west of the Isles of Scilly, and Wolf Rock Lighthouse, 21 miles from the Isles of Scilly, will all be tested. Dr Alison Raby, who specialises in civil [engineering](#) and coastal engineering at Plymouth University, along with a team of academics and researchers from Plymouth, Exeter University and University College London, is running the project on behalf of Trinity House. She said: "We're looking at the most vulnerable lighthouses in British Isles "Some of the most vulnerable are situated off the Cornish coast."

### Bishop Rock Lighthouse, just off the Isles of Scilly.

During the day-long tests, vibrations will be set up in the buildings to measure the structural response - however, the vibrations are so minute, they will hardly be felt and are described as just a pulse. An electrodynamic shaker will be installed at the top of each one, as well as highly sensitive measuring devices on each floor, to vibrate each building. Results will then be able to provide indications of when the buildings are above their threshold, which will aid safety measures and continued monitoring.

"It's a couple of days work and we'll be using Modal test [analysis](#), a technique which is regularly used on bridges and buildings," said Dr Raby. It's the first time we've used this technique with a lighthouse though - It's groundbreaking. "It's been a real delight to see it develop."

### Longships Lighthouse, Land's End.

The test has already been conducted at Eddystone Lighthouse, nine miles from Rame Head in south-east Cornwall, by Dr Raby and her team, where they video-recorded waves as high as 40metres crashing into the structure during the storms, damaging it's base.

Similar lighthouses in the Channel Islands, Scotland and Ireland were also affected.

It is hoped that the results of the new study will lead to a greater [protection](#) of exposed lighthouses, allowing engineers to carry out essential maintenance work regardless of the weather.

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



If you think you know you can e-mail me. (answer next Chapter Chatter)  
Last edition's answer: Newburyport Harbor (Plum Island) Massachusetts

## Happy Birthday

Randy Miller	7/04	David Schulman	7/05	Reg Kitching	7/07
Linda Jacobson	7/10	Lee Olson	7/12	Jeremy D'Entremont	7/13
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	Strickland Hyde	8/07	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
Ron Baddock	8/30				

## Anniversary Wishes

Bill & Judy Newblom	7/9	Norm & Cynthia Bosse	7/23		
Bob & Ellen Granoth	8/10	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				

### **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](mailto: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.

**The NELL Beacon** wants your stories too, send with pictures to Lynne Kerber: [lighthousecats@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:bossnjc@sbcglobal.net) or call 1(860) 688-7347.

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

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.