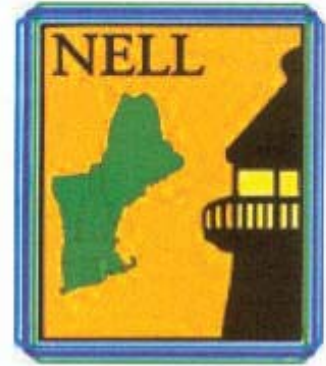


January 2009

NELL: New England Lighthouse Lovers
A chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

Tenth Anniversary Issue

NELL Beacon



NELL Members Visit Alaskan Lighthouses

Our journey to Alaska began one weekend in the spring of 2007 when a group of NELL members got together. First we had to decide how long the trip should be and make a wish list of the sights. Some could not spare the time to do more than the seven day inside passage cruise, so we opted to take longer and do some land sightseeing before meeting up with everyone. Next we had to pick a cruise and, from there, work backwards to plan what we would do on land.

Four of us opted to fly to Fairbanks. Our flight from NY was delayed, so we were late for our connecting flight in Seattle. Alaskan Air actually held up the flight for us! We finally made it to Fairbanks where we met up with Judy & Lee Hall, got a shuttle to the hotel, and collapsed for the night. Alaska is four hours behind NY, so at 1 am it was really 5 am to us, so it had been a very long day.

Prior to our arrival in Alaska they had had forty-nine straight days of rain. For our stay we had some rain and some cloudy days but also saw the sun. We spent four nights in Fairbanks, doing the local sights as well as one thirteen hour day trip to fly over the Arctic Circle, returning to the hotel by coach. This was quite an experience and did give us an idea how vast and remote Alaska really is. There is only one road north of Fairbanks, the pipeline road, which was put in just for the building of the Alaska pipeline. Most of the

road is not paved and you travel miles without seeing any sign of civilization. We flew into Coldfoot, a town of twelve: four adults and eight children. The town consists of one truck stop and a motel of sorts, if you could call it that. The road does continue further north to Prudhoe Bay, but since 9/11 you must have prior approval to go all the way as the last eight miles are a restricted area. On our return journey we did stop at the Arctic Circle, the pipeline and the Yukon River. This road has the only bridge that crosses the Yukon River; otherwise it is canoe or swim!

Next stop was Denali. We decided to travel by train in the interior of Alaska, instead of renting a car and driving ourselves. The Alaska railroad goes as far north as Fairbanks and south to Anchorage with a separate line east from Anchorage to Seward and Whittier.

We opted for gold star seats, which were in the upper level of the first of two, two tier glass domed cars. Below us was a full service dining car. Our car also had a bar with free coffee, tea or soft drinks. Alcohol could be purchased. The four and a half hour journey from Fairbanks to Denali was filled with amazing scenery. We were fortunate to see Mt. McKinley in the sunshine with blue skies and without clouds. This apparently is a rare sight that they had not seen all summer. The town of Denali is only open May to September. We stayed four nights at The Denali Princess: beautiful location, very small rooms, but excellent food. Our full day excursion into Denali National Park was a journey into nature. Spectacular scenery, Brown Bears, Dall Sheep, Caribou, deer, moose, a fox, a

Golden Eagle, a marmot, Ptarmigans (the state bird), hares and squirrels. This day was truly one of the highlights of the trip.

Our journey continued south by train, once again in the domed car. From Denali to Anchorage is an eight and a half hour journey. We were met by a shuttle that took us by road to the Alyeska resort in the town of Girdwood, where we spent the next four nights. Girdwood is surrounded on three sides by mountains and one by water. From the hotel you can take a tram to the Seven Glacier Restaurant, so named as you can see seven glaciers from the restaurant. The view from the top is quite something. The town of Girdwood even has resident Black Bears. During our stay, we did a day trip to see The Kenai Fjords National Park, traveling by train to Seward then by boat out into the fjords. We got to see glaciers up close, Sea Otters, Sea Lions, seals, Bald Eagles, puffins, many other sea birds and even whales on this trip. On our last night at the Alyeska we were joined by three other NELL members, Ellen & Bob Granoth and Anthony Savino and a couple of friends, Pat & Marsha.

The next day we all traveled together to Whittier for day one of our cruise. Along the way we stopped at the Alaska Wildlife Centre, Portage Glacier and a salmon spawning spot. Once on board and underway on the Carnival Spirit each party got settled in their respective cabins before meeting up for dinner, where we were joined by Lynne & Bob Kerber.

Day two we awoke in College Fjord. All the glaciers here are named after eastern US schools that helped fund the Harriman Expedition. We saw Amherst, Bryn Mawr, Harvard, Smith, Wellesley, and Yale Glaciers, before continuing along the inside passage. We did pass close enough to see Cape Hinchenbrook Lighthouse. It was quite foggy so getting a decent photo was tough. That evening was the first formal night, so the group got



Photo by Lynne Kerber

Alaska Lighthouses continued

to dress up and have our photos taken. We also got to see the first show in the theatre on board.

Day three we arrived in Sitka. Here is where the transfer of Alaska took place in 1867, purchased by America from the Russians for \$7.2 million. The town still has a Russian church and left over from the Russians, a guard tower, to safeguard the town against attack from the Kiksadi Clan of the Tlingit Indians. Some of the guys in the group opted to go fishing; three of us in the group took a Sea Otter and Wildlife Tour. We saw dozens of Sea Otters, eagles, puffins and Humpback Whales exhaling from their blow hole (never knew it had such a strong smell) and showing their tail flukes. On our way back into harbor we saw Rockwell Lighthouse which could also be seen from shore. This is a private light that is available for overnight rental. After lunch in town there were plenty of interesting things to see and buy in the local shops, still full of Russian artifacts like Russian Dolls decorated in the traditional way. That evening on the ship a group of us decided to eat in the Nouveau Supper Club. This restaurant is at the top of the ship and has first class service to go with prime cuts of meat and other fare. The night time sailing from Sitka to Juneau took us past Cape Spencer lighthouse. I did get to see its light flashing from my balcony as we passed.

Day four we sailed into Juneau, Alaska's capitol, which is accessible only by boat or plane. Here four of us took a private boat charter, for five hours, to see Eldred Rock, Point Retreat, Point Sherman and Sentinel Island. Quite by chance we were able to have the curator of Gastineau Channel Historical Society accompany us. This group manages Sentinel Island, so we were able to land on the island and have access to the lighthouse, which we climbed. We were also fortunate enough to land at Eldred Rock, go inside and climb. In the afternoon we visited the Juneau-Douglas Museum to see Mary Island's 4th Order Fres-

nel Lens and Alaska State Museum to see Cape Spencer's 3rd Order Fresnel Lens. We also stopped at the famous Red Dog Saloon, saw the State Capitol and the governor's house as well as did some local shopping.

Day Five's port of call was Skagway at the end of the Lynn Canal. Here five of us had breakfast in a bordello which was lots of fun. We then shopped till we dropped with plenty of 'end of season' bargains to be had. Later we took a ride on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad up White Pass into Canada and back, to relive one of the original routes from the gold rush. That evening was the second formal night and the midnight buffet. This was a splendid spread of carved and decorated food. The restaurant is open for half an hour before consumption begins to allow viewing and photographing of all the goodies.

Day six, in the wee hours of the morning, we passed Cape Decision. Two of us were crazy enough to stay up to see its light flashing at 4 in the morning. We arrived in Ketchikan where our entire group of eleven took the Lighthouse, Totems and Eagles boat tour. This took us to see many eagles nests, Totem Pole Park and Guard Island Lighthouse. We also passed the Lightship *Umatilla*. On our return to Ketchikan four of us boarded a float plane for a flight over Tree Point and Mary Island lights. The pilot also flew us over Guard Island and the *Umatilla*, before returning to shore.

Day seven we cruised the inside passage into Canada, sailing past Pine Island, Cape Mudge and Scarlett Point Lights.

Day eight we arrived in Vancouver. After disembarking, each party went their separate ways. We rented a car and together with Anthony headed for

Stanley Park. Here we did the circle drive, stopping to see Brockton Point and Prospect Point Lighthouses. We crossed the bay to Lighthouse Park. Here we were fortunate to meet the lighthouse caretaker, Elaine Graham, wife of the last lighthouse keeper, who allowed us to drive from the parking lot down the half mile steep trail, to see Point Atkinson Lighthouse. As we were about to leave the lighthouse we met Larry McHale a supervisor with West Vancouver Parks and Community Services Forestry/Trails/Wildfire Control. After a chat, he was kind enough to invite us to follow him to the shop where he gave us a t-shirt, with the lighthouse on it and a couple of parks hats. Saying goodbye to Anthony we headed via ferry for our B & B in Victoria on Vancouver Island to meet up with Lee & Judy Hall for the rest of our stay.

The next day we visited Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Light, sights of Victoria, went to Bastion Square to see Trial Island's 4th order Fresnel Lens and had dinner in the oldest China Town in Canada.

The following day was spent in Butchart Gardens before taking the ferry back to Vancouver past Active Pass and Portlock Point Lighthouses. The last day we took a Paddle Wheeler Lunch boat trip down the Frazier River, had a final drive around Stanley Park, ate dinner with the Halls and spent our final night in Vancouver before flying home the next day.

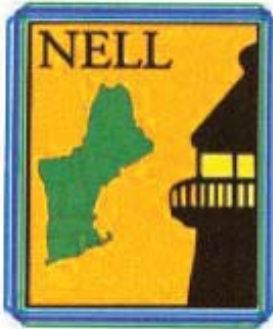
Story by Hilari Seery

Photo by Lynne Kerber



The NELL Logo

Some folks have wondered how the New England Lighthouse Lovers' (NELL) logo came to be and if there is any meaning designed into it. The logo was designed by Ron Foster in 1999 when the club was looking for a logo and then President Barbara Hupp held a logo-design contest. Several talented members submitted designs and the winning design was chosen which features some meaningful, yet simple, aspects.



The logo consists of a vertical rectangular shape (with height approximately 23% greater than the width) with rounded corners formed by the three intertwined lines of the border. The colors in the border are significant as they represent the earth, sky and water, the three elements integral to lighthouses everywhere. 1

The background color, a deep yellow, represents light (it can be from a sunset or sunrise, when lights normally turn on or shut off, or it can be light given off from the beacon). Originally, the deep yellow was the only yellow in the logo, but over the years a lighter/brighter yellow found its way into the lantern room. This other yellow is obviously the light in the beacon.

In the upper left corner are the initials 'N E L L', which obviously stand for New England Lighthouse Lovers. The original design had NEHLCC in this location, which stood for New England Harbour Lights Collectors Club, but this was changed when the club officially became NELL.

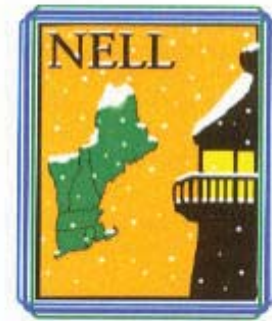
On the left half of the design are the six New England states for which NELL's mission is to help save, restore, and promote the education of all lighthouses in this territory. The states (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island) are represented in green outlined with black.

In the right half of the design is a black silhouette of the upper-left-quarter section of a lighthouse. This is a generic figure meant to represent all lighthouses.

There have been a few special event variations of the NELL logo to include:

1. A winter logo with snow falling and start-

ing to accumulate on the states, lighthouse and letters



and 2. Another variation is the red, white and blue patriotic version. This design was made for use on red, white and blue U.S. flag-design polo shirts. The green in the original logo became red and the black became dark blue.



Since its inception, the NELL logo has been used on many different products including clothing, tote bags, magnets, decals, patches and post cards to name a few. It is recognized throughout New England and around the country as a symbol of a great organization fulfilling its mission to help save, restore and promote the education of our nation's treasured beacons. More importantly, it stands for dedicated people who have a good time together on behalf of our lighthouses. Story and logos by Ron Foster

A Special Day of Kayaking

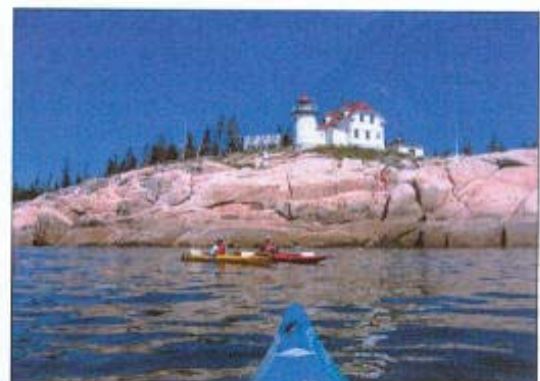
It seems funny to be writing this story today with the snow falling and the winter winds blowing at 40 miles per hour, but it brings back wonderful memories.

Last July, the one weekend that it was not raining, my mother and I took the ferry from Rockland, Maine to the island of Vinalhaven. My daughter-in-law's family has a summer home on the island, and we were invited for a visit. It is almost like heaven out there. No matter how hot it is on the mainland, there is a cool breeze and it is very comfortable on the island.

The trip takes about an hour and 15 minutes. It was one of the most beautiful days on the water. The skies were a vivid blue with scattered white puffy clouds and the waters calm except for the occasional lobster boat's wake.

When we pulled in, they picked us up at the dock and we stopped for lunch at a cute little place in town. When we got to the cottage, they surprised me with a belated birthday present. They had arranged to take me kayaking for the day. I love kayaking, but haven't been ocean kayaking since the 1980's. Oh God, I thought! They had it all planned. We had a guide that completely outfitted us and there were about 10 other people. I had a wonderful time and the biggest treat was that we kayaked right by Heron Neck Lighthouse. This lighthouse can only be seen by air or by boat. I am looking forward to next summer now!

Story and picture by Linda Graham



Greetings to all NELL Members!!!

My recovery thus far is going well. I'm being kept very busy on one hand by Brigham & Women's Hospital, with frequent visits to monitor my various blood elements (sugar, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, etc.). I'm being monitored by my wife, Barbara and following my doctor's instructions to keep my feet elevated to reduce the swelling in my legs which accompanies any type of major surgery.

I'm seeing a cardiologist to monitor my heart, because during the intake process several months ago, an anomaly was found on an EKG which told them that some time in the past, I sustained a "silent heart attack" on the anterior wall of my heart. I'm OK despite that glitch.

My list of doctors includes a renal specialist, post transplant nurse, a surgical resident, my transplant surgeon, nutritionist cardiologist, social worker, an "outside therapist," and my primary care physician.

I'm restrained from doing "any" physical work for at least the next 6 months.

I still have many staples holding the 12" incision together and hope to have them removed sometime over the next 2 weeks.

I'm also carrying a drain in my left side which has to be measured for outflow and total content each time it's emptied.

My daily regimen of meds is some 50 or so pills for control of infections, ulcers, heart beat control, anti-rejection pills, multi-vitamins, calcium additives, and lots more

Receiving a transplant of any type makes one an amateur scientist due to the many and varied types of meds that MUST be followed each and every day.

It's been amazing to have experienced such a life giving procedure and to have also received so many emails, cards, letters & phone calls and to have been the recipient of so many wonderful meals that were delivered to Barbara and myself from so many generous people.

The many prayers that were also offered for us have kept us on an even keel. I don't know how many of you wonderful people have ever stepped into a situation such as mine. If you

have ever experienced such an outpouring of support, consider yourself blessed. Having received so many prayers, especially from the lighthouse community, has been an extra special blessing and Barbara and myself sincerely appreciate every gesture from the members of NELL and ALF.

I still have many more weeks of physical therapy ahead of me to get back to where I was before I started dialysis, but with you wonderful folks and the generous support you've extended to us, we'll achieve the goal of "lighthouse hunting" once again. I can't wait to get the doctor's go-ahead to travel so that I can see the Lighthouse Museum in Maine and attend some of the many events we mutually look forward to each summer.

Please accept our respects and best wishes for another eventful year ahead.

Doug & Barbara Bingham

Notes from the President

The year 2008 was a good year for NELL. We increased our membership by 70 new members and on behalf of NELL, I'd like to give our new members a warm welcome and say we're glad to have you join us in our preservation efforts and our fun events. I know we look forward to meeting you at a future NELL outing. Should you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

The Beacon is NELL'S quarterly newsletter. We need member participation for it to be successful. If we don't have the stories and articles we can't publish it. With that said, I am asking you, all NELL members, to send in your adventures and pictures to Lynne Kerber. As we've said before, they do not have to be lighthouse related. The author doesn't need to be a NELL member, but permission must be obtained before submitting their story.

With this issue of the Beacon, the first of the New Year, we have added a lighthouse word search puzzle and a recipe section for your enjoyment. If these are received as well as I think they will be, we will continue them in future issues. Lynne has also included the very interesting history and meaning of the NELL logo along with the history of Mr. and Ms. NELL. Please be sure to read them and give us your feedback on these sections and any other article. Also, feel free to make suggestions as to what you would like to see in your newsletter. Then write a story and send it to Lynne.

Chapter Chatter is a monthly electronic publication. It contains current chapter news, members' birthdays, anniversaries and updates. It is also sent to our USPS members. By design, Chapter Chatter is meant to be "short and sweet." Since Linda became Chapter Chatter Chair she has, as was requested of her, streamlined it to be what it was meant to be and at the same time, gave it a new look. She was even able to add two new sections. Photo of the month and "Where the NELL are They," to which you have responded very favorably.

If members would respond to the Beacon with your stories and pictures the way many of you responded to Linda Graham's call for short stories for Chapter Chatter, there would be no shortage of material for the Beacon and we would have no problem publishing it. This does not mean for you to stop sending the short articles (nothing longer than 5 lines) to Linda for CC. Please continue doing so and send your more detailed stories on to Lynne for the Beacon.

Maybe some of our members that also belong to a "Friends of ____ Lighthouse" would like to submit an article to the Beacon with a history of your lighthouse, including a picture or two. Or, send in a story about one of your past events.

All articles submitted and received will be acknowledged by Lynne via email, phone or USPS. To submit your feedback please call or send your email to: Lynne Kerber; lighthousecats@comcast.net and Tom Kenworthy; regalhobo@msn.com

Preservation Funds Available:

To all New England lighthouse "friends groups" -- NELL has preservation funds available for your preservation work. To apply for these funds please go to our web site www.nell.cc. Then scroll down to Preservation Fund Letter and Application and click on it for more information and an application. Once your application has been approved a check will be forwarded to you.

Thank you, and we hope you enjoyed this issue of the Beacon.

Tom Kenworthy

NELL's '07 Raffle –the Beginning of a Love Story

Remember the work and the fun we had with our 2007 raffle? I had the privilege of heading up that committee and was thrilled to see the team effort and enthusiasm of NELL's members who drove the fundraiser to a profitable result. Never did I dream how that raffle would affect my life.

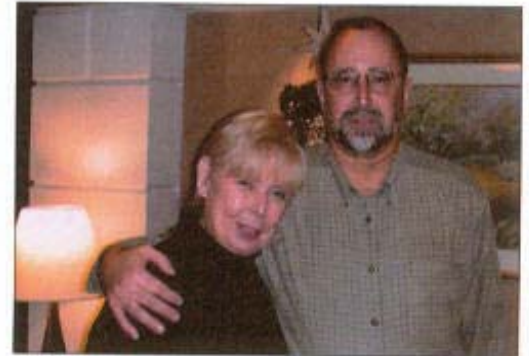
On a lighthouse tour of Long Island, in June of 2007, a group of NELL members traveled with raffle tickets in hand ready to sell to the other lighthouse people on the trip. There was a ticket-selling contest within NELL which created a frenzy of sales. Norm Bosse was one of the members who sold lots of tickets and he even asked our bus driver to purchase one.

Paul Graves, of Custom Coach out of Portland, Maine, was our driver for the second time. Many of the same group had enjoyed a lighthouse tour of the coast of Maine in October of 2006 organized by Dave Hannum. We all liked Paul so much that when the

Long Island trip was being planned, Dave again contracted with Custom Coach with the request for Paul to transport us on the New York trip. We knew it would be a safe and a fun trip with Paul at the wheel, and we knew Paul would join us on our tours and be very much a part of the group. Paul, wanting to participate and support the group's efforts, bought a ticket from Norm.

After months of selling lots of tickets, NELL held the drawing for the five prize winners at the annual fall meeting. One of the winners was Paul Graves! Since Norm had sold the ticket, he attempted to contact Paul, who was on tour in Canada at the time and not answering his cell phone because of the high tariff. After a week of trying to reach the ticket winner, Norm asked me to try. Paul returned to the US, turned the phone back on, and I finally was able to tell him he had won a four-day windjammer lighthouse cruise in Maine. This began a string of calls between us, and soon a strong friendship developed. Love happened quickly and grew to the stage of planning a life together. After a year of traveling between Virginia and Maine, using AT&T's mobile-to-mobile minutes, and making plans for the future, the time had come. This October, Paul rented a truck and car car-

rier, loaded up my household possessions and Jeep in Virginia and moved me 700+ miles to Litchfield, Maine, where we are currently sorting out the two toasters, two coffeemakers, two...of a lot of things and are happily beginning the rest of our lives together.



Now, with a lot of thanks to NELL and a raffle ticket, I'm a transplanted Southern girl in New England, living the good life with my best friend and soul mate, and trying to make my southern wardrobe warm enough for my first winter in Maine.

Story & picture by Judy Castleberry

The History of Mr. and Ms. NELL

In 1999 the ladies of NELL decided to have one lucky individual be designated as Ms. NELL. It all started when one of them went into a Burger King and noticed that the store had paper crowns. They thought it would be fun to select one of their own to receive the designation. From this simple beginning this annual event has evolved. The original cardboard crown has been improved upon over the years.

The following year, the men of NELL decided that after the very successful Ms. NELL event, they did not want to be left out on the basis of gender! Ron Drummer was chosen as the first Mr. NELL in 2000. He was presented with an oar on which his name appears. Subsequent honorees are responsible for adding their name to the oar. These honors have few responsibilities other than to keep an eye out at meetings and events for the individual who might be the next worthy Mr. or Ms. NELL.

Ms. NELL	
1999	Penny Patch
2000	MJ Foster
2001	Shirin Pagles
2002	Arlene Pregman
2003	Carolyn Carbone
2004	Arlene Winkleman
2005	Cyne Bosse
2006	Pat Bandoek
2007	Linda Graham
2008	Kathy Santucci

Mr. NELL	
2000	Ron Drummer
2001	Walt Mills
2002	Fred Thumm
2003	Henry Winkleman
2004	Bob Taylor
2005	Norm Bosse
2006	Anthony Savino
2007	Lee Hall
2008	Tom Pregman

Story by Bob Taylor

NELL's Beginnings

The idea to start a New England Chapter of a Harbour Lights Collectors' Club was first proposed at the Harbour Lights Family Reunion in Providence, RI, during the October 1998 event. A signup sheet was available for those who wished to add their names. Barbara & Henry Hupp set up the first meeting in Andover, MA, at the Grill 93 Restaurant on November 8, 1998. Attending that meeting and signing the guest book were Barbara & Henry Hupp, Penny Patch (Bartnicki), Greg Clark, Penny & Randy Miller, Valerie & Ray Patnaude, Herbert Carpenter, Bob & Ellen Granoth, Chris & Penny Alex, Larry Thompson, Darlene Doyle, Lisa Davis, Ron & MJ Foster, Ron & Shirley Drummer, William & Odette Kent, Virginia Souza, Karen & Warren Kelley, Jeremy D'Entremont, Norm Davidson, Peter & Arlene Coy, Bruce Garrett, Kevin & Paula Arsenaule and Frank & Carolyn Carbone. From this initial planning meeting, what was to become NELL, was off and running. The name of the club was soon changed to New England Lighthouse Lovers when it was discovered that a non-profit group could not be raising funds if the name was also a copyrighted trade name.

The first meeting was held right next to Avery Point Lighthouse. Elmer DeWire gave a well received lecture and slide show. The next meeting was on October 9, 1999, at Portsmouth, NH, and included a trip to the 98 years young Connie Small's residence where she gave a talk on lighthouses and her experiences as the spouse of a lighthouse keeper. A special meeting was held in York, ME, where members enjoyed a presentation on the Flying Santa by George Morgan and witnessed the lighting of Nubble Light for the holiday season. In January 2001, the Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate and You event was added to the calendar. So the NELL of today has evolved into having three meetings a year: fall, spring and the Hot Chocolate event in January. In addition, the club participates in other special events to assist with and raise funds for lighthouses. For example, NELL assisted with the Avery Point relighting, organized and helped with a fund raiser for Southeast Block Island, RI, which raised over \$40,000 and attended the dedication of the Maine Lighthouse Museum in Rockland, ME. Story by Bob Taylor

ALF Chapters Volunteers Honored

ALF held its annual Volunteer Award Dinner and Gala November 22, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency in Newport R.I. The evening started out with a climb of Newport Harbor Light (Goat Island) from 3-5, for ticket holders only, which was followed by a cocktail hour. We were then treated to a terrific slide show that Bob and Ann Trapani put together. It was made up of all the different chapters that make up ALF. NELL was included showing NELL volunteers doing our Project Hope work at Long Point, Wood End and Race Point Lights. After dinner, the winners of the Len Hadley Volunteerism Award were announced. NELL Charter Members Carolyn Carbone and Penny Miller who were, and still are, our original secretary and-webkeeper, respectively, were the well deserved

recipients from NELL. Congratulations ladies and thank you for your over 10 years of volunteer work.

The Chapters also recognized Nina, Katrina and Dominick Trapani as super volunteers for all the work they do for lighthouse preservation. They do a great job and the award is well deserved.

Pictured is Carolyn Carbone accepting her award from NELL President Tom Kenworthy. Unfortunately, Penny Miller was unable to attend as she and her husband Randy were in Florida visiting their son. Congratulations to all recipients for a job well done!

Story and photo by Tom Kenworthy



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 O B R B U S D R T P F T I G T L A T N R C L S H W I

- Beavertail** 1856 Active
- Block Island Breakwater** 1876-?
- Block Island North** 1868 {1973-1989} Active
- Block Island Southeast** 1875 {1990-1994} Active
- Brenton Reef** 1962-1989
- Bristol Ferry** 1855-1927 Private House
- Bullock's Point** 1876-1938 Hurricane
- Castle Hill** 1890 Active
- Conanicut Island** 1886-1933 Private Home
- Conimicut** 1883 Active
- Dutch Island** 1857 {1979-2007} Active
- Fuller Rock** 1872-1923
- Goat Island** 1842 Active
- Gould Island** 1889-1947 Active Skeletal Tower
- Great Salt Pond Breakwater** 1898-?
- Gull Rocks** 1887-1960
- Hog Island Shoal** 1901 Active
- Ida Lewis Rock** 1854-1927
- Musselbed Shoals** 1873-1939 Active Skeletal Tower
- Nayatt Point** 1856-1868 Private Home
- Plum Beach** 1899-1941
- Point Judith** 1857 Active
- Pomham Rocks** 1871 {1974-2006} Active
- Poplar Point** 1831-1882 Private Home
- Prudence Island** 1823 Active
- Rose Island** 1870 {1971-1993} Active
- Sabin Point** 1872-1968
- Sakonnet** 1884 {1955-1997} Active
- Sassafras Point** 1872-1912
- Warwick** 1932 Active
- Whale Rock** 1882-1938 Hurricane
- Watch Hill** 1857 Active
- Wickford Harbor** 1882-1930 Active Skeletal Tower

This year's Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate, and You is in the state of Rhode Island. The smallest state in the country is rich in maritime history. Part of that history is its lighthouses. Thirty-three lighthouses have been built over the years with 17 of those lighthouses active today. Four of the former lighthouses are now private homes and three were destroyed by the Great Hurricane of September 21, 1938. Beavertail Lighthouse was the fifth lighthouse built in America in 1749 with the current tower being built in 1856. In the list, the first year is when the tower current tower was built. The second date is when the tower was deactivated and the inactive years are in brackets if it was relit. Only the **bold** part is in the puzzle. The answer will be in the next edition of the Beacon. RI word search puzzle thanks to Mike Boucher.

2008 NELL's Year in Review

On January 12 & 13, 2008, NELL held its annual LHC&Y in Plymouth, MA. We stayed at the Clarion Hotel, Nantasket Beach, MA, where we could view Minots Ledge, Boston Light and Graves Light from our rooms. The weekend started with a visit and climb of Gurnet Light, along with a tour of Gurnet LSS and Minots Ledge Keeper's House. Then we climbed Plymouth Light and toured Pt. Allerton LSS. After climbing Scituate Light we visited the Scituate Driftway Museum. The folks there gave us a nice warm welcome and had plenty of hot chocolate and donuts for us. We finished the day with a drive to Government Island in Cohasset to view the original Fresnel lens from Minots Ledge Light. The weather was cold, but the days were beautiful. A good time was had by all.

The brochure committee designed a new NELL brochure and the board voted to have it distributed to various visitor centers on the highways of MA and ME. They were also distributed (with permission) to the many different venues we visited. The brochure made its debut at the NELL spring meeting and was very favorably accepted.

On May 30th, NELL members headed to the Clarion Gold Star Inn in Groton, CT, where we stayed for the weekend of our spring meeting and cruise. The next day we all met in Waterford, CT, at the Sunbeam Fleet. We cruised to the following 11 lighthouses; Saybrook Breakwater, Lynde Point, Pequot, New London Ledge, Morgan Point, Latimer's Reef, North Dumpling, Race Rock, Little Gull, Plum Island and Orient Point.

Jim Streeter, NELL member and President of APLS, offered to open up the beautifully restored Avery Point Lighthouse for us to climb after the cruise. After making the climb, many members took the opportunity to look for their brick in the walkway. Jim also got permission from Mayor Popp of the City of Groton to allow us to use the Municipal Building for our spring meeting. NELL took the monies we collected from the donation to climb Avery Pt, added to it, and donated \$160 to Avery Point Lighthouse in honor of Mayor Popp.

The month of June brought the 2nd Annual Mid-Maine Lighthouse Challenge and the first Martha's Vineyard Lighthouse Challenge. Many NELL members completed both of these challenges with NELL making up half of the challengers on the Vineyard.

NELL members travelled to Wales, New Brunswick, CA, Alaska, and Hawaii. Locally, members travelled to Monomoy Island, MA, attended an ALF cruise out of Newbury Port, MA, and the first ALF Cape Cod Canal cruise. Members also went to Maryland and cruised to the lights of the Middle Bay along with Thomas Point.

August brought the first ever Lights Across the Border Lighthouse Challenge (from West Quoddy ME to East Quoddy Head in CA). Many NELL members attended that challenge and for some it was their first challenge. Crossing the border into Canada was no trouble at all -- except for the traffic coming back into the states for those of us that ventured deeper into Canada to see some lights not included in the challenge. Crossing back into the states was a wait of ¾ of an hour. (For the sake of space, I just listed the new challenges and not the established ones that many members do attend.)

Soon after the Cape Cod Canal cruise, member Doug Bingham received a kidney transplant which he had been awaiting for years. I am delighted to report that Doug is doing very well and is recuperating at home with his wife Barbara at his side making sure he does what he's supposed to do. We look forward to seeing you out lighthouseing in the near future Doug. God Speed!

The summer of '08 was also the time that our 10th Anniversary raffle winners took advantage of the trips they won: a week's stay at Race Pt. Light on Cape Cod, a week at the Outer Banks, NC, on Hatteras Island, a Windjammer cruise on the Schooner Mary Day, a stay at the Nantucket Inn on Nantucket Island, MA, a stay on Thacher Island at the assistant keeper's dwelling, and a week stay in Hawaii.

With September came our fall cruise and meeting (9/12-14). We stayed at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Newark Airport, NJ. On Saturday, we departed Liberty State Park and sailed by the lights of NY City harbor, and the surrounding area including the Waterfalls of NY (an arts project commissioned by the City of NY). The weather was beautiful for our cruise of 19 lights and lightships. The following day we held our fall meeting where the new Mr. & Ms. NELL were crowned. Kathy Santucci was crowned by the outgoing Ms. NELL, Linda Graham. Tom Pregman was notified via cell phone that he was the new Mr. NELL by Lee Hall, the outgoing Mr. NELL.

November was ALF's annual Volunteer Award Dinner and Gala. This year it was at the Hyatt Regency in Newport R.I. All attendees got a chance to climb Newport Harbor Light

(Goat Island).

Bob and Ann Trapani put together a fantastic slide show of all the different chapters that make up ALF. NELL was included with our Project Hope work at Long Point, Wood End and Race Point Lights. After dinner, the winners of the Len Hadley Volunteerism Award were announced. I'm proud to say that NELL Charter Members Carolyn Carbone and Penny Miller who were, and still are, our original secretary and original webkeeper, respectively, were the well deserved recipients from NELL. Congratulations ladies and thank you for your over ten years of volunteer work.

November is NELL'S 10th anniversary. I am proud to be a member of NELL and even more proud to be her President during this time. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO NELL and to all her members past and present that made these ten wonderful years possible. In our short history, we have donated over one hundred thirteen thousand dollars to lighthouse preservation.

We started 2008 by partially revisiting NELL'S first LHC&Y and our first cruise of the year followed the same idea. Ron and I are planning a couple of special events to help celebrate our anniversary in the spring/summer of '09.

Your Board of Directors works hard to serve you and to make sure NELL stays on top as a premier lighthouse organization. On behalf of your Board of Directors I wish to thank you. Without your help and support this could not be done.

Lighthouse events are becoming more and more plentiful, therefore, harder to plan so they don't conflict with each other. If next year is as exciting and busy as this year was, we are in for one heck of a ride.

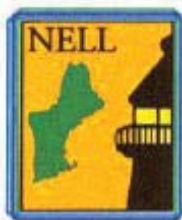
I'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, happy holidays and a safe, healthy, and prosperous happy new year!

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Tom Kenworthy
President, NELL

NELL: New England Lighthouse Lovers

A chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.NELL.CC

TO:

*NELL currently has more than
345 members in 26 states.*

*NELL Beacon compiled by
Lynne Kerber. Have an article to
submit? Email Lynne at
lighthousecats@comcast.net*

NELL's First Button

While cleaning out a storage bin over the holiday shut-down MJ and I came across the attached button. It is from the very first NELL event in Groton, CT, in late 1998-99 (?). The first day of the event included a gathering at Avery Point where we listened to author & lighthouse historian Elinor DeWire's lecture & slide show. The next day we visited New London Ledge Lighthouse. At the time I did not have the sophisticated technique used today with computer generated images, so I printed copies of a black and white image of New London Ledge Lighthouse on paper and colored each one in by hand with markers. I probably made less than fifty of them. As some folks collect the buttons, I wonder how many have this in their collection?



Story and drawing by Ron Foster

Cookie Recipe

My Grandma's Cookies

2 sticks butter at room temp.

1 cup sugar, 6 eggs

1 Tablespoon anise extract
(lemon, almond or vanilla may
be substituted)

6 teaspoons baking powder

5 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Using a mixer, cream together the butter and sugar. Gradually add the eggs one at a time. Add the extract and mix thoroughly. Slowly add the flour, baking powder and salt. The dough should not be sticky to the touch. If it is, add small amounts of flour until you can knead the dough. Shape dough into small balls or roll into knots. Bake for about 15 minutes until cookies are light brown.

Icing

1 lb box confectioners sugar

1 Tablespoon anise extract (or
whatever flavor was used in the
cookie dough)

Cold water

Mix confectioners sugar and extract together with a wire whisk and gradually add water until the consistency is that of a loose frosting (frosting should slowly drizzle from the whisk). Cookies can be frosted using a pastry brush or by simply pressing the face of the cookies in the frosting. Colored sprinkles add a festive look to the cookies.

Recipe submitted by
Kathy Santucci