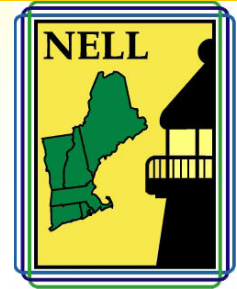


New England Lighthouse Lovers

A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

THE BEACON



January 2010

NELL's 2009 Year in Review

By Tom Kenworthy, NELL President

With NELL finishing its 10th anniversary year and the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF), our parent organization, celebrating its 15th anniversary, 2009 proved to be a good year.



NELL members waiting to climb Castle Hill LH

NELL started out the new year with our annual Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate and You (LHHC&Y). We stayed at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Newport, RI with a beautiful view of Goat Island/Newport Harbor Light right outside our windows. It was bitter cold during our visits to the area lighthouses. Nonetheless all, including many first time attendees, enjoyed the weekend.

One couple that will forever remember this LHHC&Y is **Alan Ells** and **Yadiira Tarnilla**. Upon returning to the hotel and thawing out, Alan asked Yadiira to marry him. Yadiira happily said yes.

As the weather warmed up in April and May, it was time for our scheduled Project H.O.P.E. work. The first lighthouse to receive an interior sprucing up was Long Point on Cape Cod. A small group of members spent Friday and Saturday nights at Race Point Lighthouse, allowing us to get to Long Point at low tide Saturday morning and return to Race Point just before high tide in the afternoon. After breakfast Sunday morning and a satisfying job well done, we departed Race Point and headed home.

The next project was at Rockland Breakwater in Maine. Members drove from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts on Memorial Day weekend to paint the walls, trim and ceilings of the dwelling's kitchen, living room, and two second-floor bedrooms, as well as the stairwell within the keeper's house at Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse.

With the arrival of spring, came our long awaited cruise and meeting in Newburyport, MA. It was a dreary start to what proved to be an enjoyable day as the sun started peeking out from behind the clouds to grace us with its presence for the rest of the day. Our cruise took us to 13 lighthouses as well as the Fisherman's Memorial in Gloucester Harbor, MA.

As summer gave way to autumn, it was time for our fall event. NELL cruised NY Harbor and Long Island Sound, seeing Execution Rock and some Connecticut lights. Since we were ahead of schedule, we also saw Jeffrey's Hook -- after we were redirected by the U S Coast Guard due to a sailboat race in NY Harbor to help celebrate Henry Hudson's 400th anniversary of the discovery of the river bearing his name.



Jeffery's Hook Lighthouse

The following day, we held our fall membership meeting, introducing the first of NELL's six special edition Little Light of Mine Harbour Lights sets -- Race Point Light, Cape Cod, MA. This special edition, which is consecutively numbered from 1 to 500, also sports the NELL logo on its back stamp.

The weekend of September 19, we held our 10th Anniversary Family Picnic at Lighthouse Point Park, CT. Many members rode the antique carousel, climbed the lighthouse, and walked the beach. The weather was beautiful which helped make our first picnic in many years a big success with many requests to do it again.

In November, the American Lighthouse Foundation celebrated its Fifteenth Anniversary Gala and Volunteer Award Dinner. The event was held at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, ME. We all had waterfront views, with some having a view of the Nonantum Lighthouse. Many awards were given out that night with each chapter of ALF having a recipient. NELL member **Walter Mills** received the

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Len Hadley Volunteerism Award for his hard work as Membership Chairman.

The donations and grants that NELL presented this year raised our lighthouse preservation total to an amazing \$134,402.88. Congratulations to all members, past and present. Without your dedication and hard work, this would not have been possible. In addition, our Preservation Committee has been working on the first grant for 2010.

As of today, our 2009 membership is 341 members, slightly down from a high of 349 in 2008.

Next year holds the promise of being more exciting than this year for lighthouse aficionados of New

England and beyond. Besides the events that are so adeptly planned by **Ron Bandock** and **Mike Boucher**, I am working on a "bonus" lighthouse trip for sometime in the first half of the year.

We will also collaborate with ALF on a fundraiser to run through the summer and culminate in the fall.



Tom Kenworthy presenting a check to the Friends of Portsmouth Lighthouse

NELL'S Fall Trip— Long Island Sound

By Mike Boucher

On September 12, 82 members and guests boarded the New York Water Taxi for our fall trip and the lighthouses of the East River and the north shore of Long Island. The day was overcast and rains threatened. We departed Liberty State Park in Jersey City and headed for the lower end of Manhattan and the entrance to the East River. Member Mike Boucher gave a narrated tour of the landmarks along the East River, including the eight bridges that cross the river.

The first lighthouse viewed was Blackwell's Island Lighthouse on Roosevelt Island. This light was built in 1872 by convicts from the NYC Blackwell Island Prison. The five-foot granite tower has been inactive since the 1940's. We proceeded north along the river past North Brothers Island and would stop on the return trip to find the remains of the former light. We passed the Whitestone Point and Throgs Neck Light poles which replaced former lighthouses.

We left the East River and entered Long Island Sound. First to greet us was the Stepping Stone Lighthouse. This active lighthouse, built in 1877, is a sister to the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse on the Hudson River. A fifth order Fresnel lens was the first lens in use and was replaced in 1932 with a fourth order lens. Today it has a 300 mm plastic lens that exhibits a green light occulting every four seconds.

The next two lights were next to one another. The first was Sands Point Lighthouse that was active from 1809 to 1922. This is the 12th oldest lighthouse

in the country. After it was deactivated, it was purchased by William Randolph Hearst.



Sands Point Lighthouse

The 46-foot brownstone tower had the lantern removed in 1922 and later replaced by a different wooden lantern room. Just under a mile off shore sits Execution Rock Lighthouse. The sixty-foot tower, built in 1850, remains active today and its rotating aerobeacon shows a white flash every ten seconds. The granite block, two-story keeper's house was built in 1868, replacing the original building.



Execution Rock

Up to this point in the trip, the visibility was good with gray skies. On the way to the next light, Cold Spring Harbor, we hit rain and fog. The Cold Spring Harbor lighthouse was built on a granite caisson on the eastern side of Cold Spring Harbor, marking dangerous shoals. The 35-foot wooden tower was built in 1890 but deactivated in 1965 and replaced by a square

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skeletal tower. A local resident bought the lighthouse for a dollar and moved it to her property on the west side of the harbor the following year.

We turned around and headed for Huntington Harbor Lighthouse. The rain continued and the water became a little rougher on the way to Huntington Harbor. Built in 1911 to replace the old Lloyd's Harbor Lighthouse, it opened on June 16, 1912. The concrete building has only two rooms, a living room and bedroom, as the keeper and his family lived in the old quarters at the Lloyd's Harbor Lighthouse. This active lighthouse shows a white light from a 300 mm lens.

Just a few miles to the east, we viewed Eaton's Neck Lighthouse through the fog. Eaton's Neck, also home to a Coast Guard Reserve Station, marks dangerous rocks close to the shipping channel. On March 14, 1798, Congress approved \$13,250 for construction of the lighthouse. President John Adams signed the bill authorizing the purchase of land at Eaton's Neck for a lighthouse on July 2. The Eaton's Neck Lighthouse was built for only \$9,750 and was first lit in 1799. This is the only lighthouse on Long Island to have its original 1857 third order Fresnel lens in the lantern room.

Since we had favorable tides and were ahead of schedule, the captain cruised across Long Island Sound to Connecticut to see some bonus lights. Once on the other side of Long Island Sound, the sea became calm and the rain stopped. We saw the lights at Peck's Ledge, Sheffield Island and Greens Ledge before continuing on to Great Captain Lighthouse in Greenwich, CT.



Huntington Harbor

This is the second lighthouse to sit on Great Captain Island. The first one was built in 1829 and replaced in 1868 by the current granite two-story keeper's house. This was one of six similar lighthouses built around Long Island Sound between 1868 and 1870. The optic was moved to a steel tower in 1970 and the building was vandalized soon after the Coast Guard moved out. The City of Greenwich placed caretakers on the island to watch over the lighthouse.

In 2008, the city awarded \$1.13 million to restore the building. The island is open to Greenwich residents only.

We entered the East River again and had a chance to photograph the Throgs Neck Light tower. We cruised up to North Brothers Island and sailed around the north side of the island looking for the remains of the lighthouse.

Once on the west side of the Island we discovered the oil house, the only remaining building. The lighthouse was built in 1869 and had been



The oil house is all that remains of North Brother Lighthouse

deactivated in 1953 when the light was placed on a steel tower. Severely neglected, the lighthouse has collapsed and the area has been overgrown by trees. North Brothers Island is famous for being the home of Mary Mallon, the infamous Typhoid Mary, who infected 53 people with typhoid fever while working as a cook and at other domestic jobs and was quarantined on the island twice, once from 1906 until 1910 and again from 1915 until her death on November 11, 1938.

Since we still had 90 minutes of boat time, we made a mad dash down the East River, around the Battery and up the Hudson River to get photos of Jeffery's Hook Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge. Known as "Little Red," this lighthouse was placed there in 1921. Prior to this, the lighthouse marked the point at Sandy Hook, NJ, from 1880 until 1917. It was dismantled and put in storage until being placed there. The lighthouse was darkened from 1947 until 2002, but is now a private aid to navigation maintained by the City of New York.

We turned around under the GW Bridge and returned back to the dock at Liberty State Park. It was a fun outing with the viewing of eight lighthouses, one set of ruins and four bonus lighthouses. Everybody had a good time.



The President's Corner

By Tom Kenworthy

Welcome to NELL's first edition of The Beacon for the New Year. Not only is it the first edition of 2010, but it's the first edition with our new Communications Coordinator, **Kevin Sullivan**, and Co-editor, **Mike Boucher**. I'd like to welcome them and wish them good luck. I hope you enjoy this issue. If you have any stories or articles you'd like to submit please don't be bashful. Send them to editors **Lynne Kerber** lighthousecats@comcast.net or **Mike Boucher** light-housemikesi@yahoo.com

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season, and I look forward to meeting our new members and welcoming back our returning members. Below are several things you should be aware of and one very important one which should make you all very proud!

Spring Event:

Make sure you mark your calendar for May 22 - 23, 2010 for our Spring Trip to Vermont on Lake Champlain to see approximately seven lights. For our new members: when we have an event we reserve a block of rooms for Friday through Sunday. You book your room on your credit card for whatever days you want.

Snail Mail:

As NELL grows, so does the snail mail list. I know there are a number of members on the snail mail list that have computers. With postage on the rise, the wise thing to do is to cut back where we can. Starting with the New Year, if you have a computer we ask you to use it to access Chapter Chatter and the other NELL e-mails. I will be sending most attachments as a pdf file, which you should all be able to open. If you have trouble or don't know how to open your e-mail attachments, please contact me.

2009 NELL Grants:

I am pleased to report that we were able to approve all the grants that were requested in for 2009. Our grants went to the following lighthouses:

- Sheffield Island Lighthouse, CT for preservation of the kitchen.\$5,000
- Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, NH for the lantern room and tower.....\$3,525
- Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse ME for the tower's watchroom door.....\$3,000
- American Lighthouse Foundation for computers, software and desks***\$3,000

- Project Oceanology, UConn Avery Point Campus, in honor of Brae Rafferty for providing our Board of Directors with a meeting room at no cost for many years***\$200

***The funds used for these two grants came out of our general fund.

Grants awarded this year totaled \$14,725 bringing our total donations to lighthouse preservation to \$134,402.88.



Tom Kenworthy presenting a check to Bob Trapani Jr., Executive Director of ALF

Extra event:

Things are looking good for that extra (off shore) lighthouse tour for the first half of the year. Once plans are complete (closer to springtime), I will send out the information.

Merchandise:

As I stated in the January issue of Chapter Chatter, **John and Nancy Satkowski** have stepped down as Merchandise co-chairs. Again, my thanks to them for a job well done.

Doug and Ellen Scott are our new Merchandise co-chairs and will now, for your convenience, be taking credit cards as payment for your purchases. Checks and cash are still accepted. Credit cards will be accepted for payment of merchandise only and will not be available via the web site, phone or by mail.

New Ventures:

Please be sure to read our New Ventures Committee report on the NELL Little Lights of Mine New England Lighthouse Series by Harbour Lights. The first issue of the series is Race Point, model (HL LLOM 304). This is our first time doing this type of fundraising and with your participation we can make it a huge success.

Does Lighthousing Run in Families?

By Lynne Kerber

I wonder if the love for lighthouses is handed down from generation to generation? Many NELL members have children and even grandchildren that belong to our group. I don't think I got my love of lighthouses from either one of my parents, although my mother does enjoy them. I think I got my love of lighthouses from my mother's sister! I remember years ago making her a lighthouse flag to hang off the front of her house.

About two years ago, my Aunt Phyl gave me eleven beautifully cross-stitched lighthouses that she had made. She knows I love lighthouses and thought that I would like to have them. I told her that I could not take them; they were too much work to give away. She insisted that I have them, so I took them, vowing silently to myself that I would get them back to her somehow.

Finally, I came up with an idea. I would sew them into a quilt and give them back to her. This would combine our love of lighthouses with each of our individual talents. So began the search for lighthouse fabric to border the quilt. Not as easy as you might think. It took about a year to find the right fabric. It had to not only match the colors in the cross stitch, but had to look like real lighthouses, not cartoons. My next problem was that I had eleven lighthouse blocks. Prime numbers do not make for good shaped quilts! I needed another block, but what to do? I decided to search the internet for a lighthouse poem to put on the twelfth block.

I finished the quilt just in time for my aunt's birthday in August! My mom and I invited her out to lunch. We have long since abandoned giving each other presents for birthdays and Christmas, but I figured that this would make an excellent exception to the rule. I presented her the quilt in the restaurant and many of the other diners made her turn the quilt around so that they could see it too. She loved it, but promised me that I would get it back someday when she was gone, as her children do not like lighthouses! I told her that I hoped that I would not get it back for a very long time!

P.S. My aunt recently sold her house and moved in with her daughter. She gave me all of her lighthouse stuff that she wasn't taking with her. I got first pick and the rest she is donating to NELL for fundraising. One of the items is an 11 x 13 inch matted and framed Thomas Kinkadee cross-stitch. It is gorgeous! Happy bidding!

NEW ENGLAND WINTER POEM



It's winter in New England
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour
At thirty-five below.
Oh, how I love New England
When the snow's up to your butt
You take in a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut.
Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave New England
I'm frozen to the ground!
Happy Winter!!!



The poem above appears in the quilt's bottom-right block

The Lighthouse Christmas Gift

By Lynne Kerber

We received the most unique Christmas present from my sister, Lori, this year! She knows that we love lighthouses and is always on the lookout for unique lighthouse gifts.

This year, she may have outdone herself! Bob and I received a beautifully decorated gingerbread lighthouse from her! She found it on the L.L. Bean website (in case, you too, need to have one)!

It is way too cool to eat, so the question is, how do we preserve it for years to come?



10th Anniversary New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge

By Linda Speece

For those of you who wanted to and couldn't be there, here is the update on the Tenth Anniversary of the NJ Lighthouse Challenge. As everyone knows there was a northeaster on Friday afternoon October 17, 2009, that lasted most of the weekend depending on where you were. I was on Sandy Hook at Fort Hancock. Sunday was the worst day. There was rain, flooding, wind and high waves. On Friday, arriving at the Hook, the waves were awesome and continued throughout the weekend. Those who climbed the tower had a fantastic view.



Waiting to climb Sandy Hook

It was clear as far as the Empire State Building during both the day and night climbs. We didn't get any rain until late Saturday night, and it rained through Sunday afternoon. All the volunteers from the Challenge Committee and the Sandy Hook volunteers who did the tours and attended to the gift shop had a great time even though

Mother Nature brought rain and cold weather for the last challenge, hopefully, until we regroup.

The souvenir this year was a passport book. Each participant received a stamp photo at each lighthouse or museum. The stamp was placed near a little description of the lighthouse or museum in the passport. A beautiful 10th Anniversary Challenge Program could be purchased with photos of challenge memorabilia (pins and shirts) from previous years along with other information about the lighthouses. It was wonderful keepsake written and designed by **Mike Boucher** with assistance from many other people who helped put the program together. All the visitors and reports from other lighthouses were very favorable and many expressed their sorrow for not being able to do the challenge next year. East Point volunteers were so dedicated that during the flood when the participants couldn't get to the lighthouse they stood out in the rain and gave out the commemorative souvenir at the road to the lighthouse.

I was proud to be a volunteer this year along with many others, in an organization that is celebrating its 20th year, looking forward to the next twenty.

NELL'S 10th Anniversary Family Picnic

By Tom Kenworthy

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, the New England Lighthouse Lovers (NELL) held a Family Picnic at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven, Connecticut on September 19th. The day started out with a ride on the antique carousel. After the carousel ride, most of the members walked across the road and climbed Five Mile Point Lighthouse.



As we waited for our turn to climb, many of us took advantage of the beautiful day to walk the beach or take pictures of Southwest Ledge Light, which could be seen in the distance.

After climbing the tower, we returned to the pavilion where NELL member Chef **Mike Boucher** was busy grilling a selection of chicken in three different marinades. We dined on a variety of delicious foods made by the members and then had our anniversary cake.

After the picnic clean up, some members went home while others stayed on the park grounds to soak up some rays and relax.



Chef Mike Boucher

About 50 members attended with several bringing family members and a couple even brought their well behaved pets. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all. There were many requests to have another picnic soon.

I'd like to thank **Linda Speece** and the picnic committee (**Kathy Santucci, Kevin Sullivan** and **Auggie Kurdt**) for all their hard work in putting this picnic together for all to enjoy. Also, thanks to all the members who attended for helping to make our anniversary family picnic the success it was.



Rosalie Sullivan and Eli

ALF 15th Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner

By Tom Kenworthy

On November 7, 2009, the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) held their 15th Anniversary Gala and Award Dinner at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport, Maine. There was a great turnout to celebrate ALF's anniversary and to honor the volunteers from ALF's 13 chapters for their hard work and dedication to lighthouse preservation. Two other special individuals were also recognized for their efforts for lighthouse preservation.

The 2009 Distinguished Lighthouse Community Award was received by the Honorable Susan M. Collins United States Senator and the 2009 Keeper of the Light Award was received by Raymond "Skip" Empey.

The honorees that received the Len Hadley Volunteerism Award were; Ginger Allison, Caren Clark, Laura Davis, Ron Foster, Todd & Marcia Gipstein, Mary Manning, **NELL's Walt Mills**, Nikki Nunes, Capt. Neil Odams, Ted Panayotoff, Florence Quigley Mal Stallings, Rodger and Linda Van Tatenhove.

The following was read aloud by Bob Trapani Jr. Executive Director of ALF as Walt received his award:

"NELL's awardee has been on the Board of Directors and the co-chair of the NELL Preservation Committee for over nine years. More importantly, he is one of NELL's founding fathers, joining on November 8 1998, as NELL member #7. He was also an active member of Faulkner's Light Brigade and their Board of Directors.

If you know Walt Mills, you know how quiet and unassuming he is. He will probably take Tom to task for saying this, but about three years ago, when the position for NELL Membership Chair became available, Tom received an e-mail from Walt volunteering for the job. In that e-mail, Walt stated he had a very good knowledge of Excel, which is one of the priorities for that position. To be honest, Tom had some reservations about appointing Walt as Membership Chair due to the visual challenges he has.

Then he thought to himself, Walt wouldn't volunteer for something he felt he couldn't accomplish, so Tom told him he would nominate him to the board, and thanked Walt for volunteering. The board approved Walt's nomination and the rest is history."

One of Walt's many accomplishments as Membership Chair was the extensive overhaul, update, and improvement of our membership roster. Walt also designed NELL's membership application, directory and renewal notice.

Many NELL members are unaware that Walt took it upon himself to go through old rosters making a list of the lost members. He then composed a letter and sent it along with the newly designed membership application reflecting NELL's many accomplishments and asked if they would like to rejoin. Walt received many positive responses to his letter and NELL gained several new members. Walter, you are doing an outstanding job and we all thank you for your dedication and commitment.



Tom Kenworthy, Walt Mills and Bob Trapani, Jr.

TURNING POINT

It was only a lighthouse at evening
On a shore lined with cottages small,
But its glow so illuminated my spirit
As no other I've ever recalled.

There are times when the evening is falling
And the weight of the world closes in,
But it's then as the darkness has gathered
That I see the old lighthouse again.

As the years seem to flow ever faster
Like the outgoing waves of the tide,
One harbor of hope I still cling to
A beacon of light deep inside.

It was only a lighthouse at evening
On a shore lined with cottages small,
But my life from that moment of being
Has never let go of its call.

- By Rod Nichols ,1999



Photo by Judy Boucher

NELL and Project H.O.P.E.

By Tom Kenworthy

In the fall of 2008 the New England Lighthouse Lovers (NELL) received two requests for our Project H.O.P.E. (Hands On Preservation Effort) to be done in the spring of 2009.

The first, was a request made by Jim Walker of the Cape Cod Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) requesting that NELL return to Long Point Lighthouse for a day of painting.



NELL volunteers at Long Point

It was soon after the holidays were but a memory, that Jim was able to get a copy of the newly released tide charts. After studying them carefully, he saw there was one weekend the tides would be low enough to allow us to safely drive across the sand to Long Point Lighthouse, get the work completed and drive back

across the sand to safety before high tide returned. He called to give me the news and the wheels were put in motion for NELL to return to Cape Cod and Long Point Lighthouse in April.

The long awaited day finally arrived, and the NELL volunteers met at the Ranger Station on Cape Cod. After loading the equipment and personal effects we piled into the chapters's Suburbans and drove across the sand to our home for the next two nights...Race Point Lighthouse and the keeper's house. The weather was beautiful and several of us went for a walk on the beach after we unloaded the Suburbans.

The whales were visiting Cape Cod and it didn't take long for the word to spread through our small group. Soon we were all outside waiting and watching, trying to get a picture of them breaching. Even with a long lens it proved to be a difficult task at best and soon it was time for dinner and pictures of the sunset.

Morning came quite fast next day and after a hearty breakfast made by our in house chef, Maureen Kitching, we went to meet our Park Ranger escort to take us to Long Point. The escort was required due to the nesting Piping Plovers, a small bird that nests in the sand.

Making the successful drive across the sand to Long Point, we unloaded the equipment and touched up the gallery, painted the interior of the lantern room including the floor, the ladder to the lantern room, and the tower stairway. We also repainted the exterior base of the tower.

We had painted the complete exterior two years ago and Jim stated he was out there in the fall and it looked fine. Now, seeing it after the winter passed, it looked like we were never there. The winter played havoc with the lighthouse and it looks like we'll be returning when tide and weather permits.

Our second request came from the Friends of Rockland Breakwater (FRBW) and was for a more extended period of time.

On Friday, May 22, 2009, a small group of NELL members drove from as far away as southwestern New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts to Rockland, ME to help the FRBW restoration efforts. The NELL volunteers started the work on Saturday morning, the beginning of Memorial Day weekend and finished Tuesday afternoon, painting the walls, trim and ceilings of four interior rooms, as well as the stairwell, within



More NELL volunteers at Rockland Breakwater, Maine

the keeper's house at Rockland Breakwater Lighthouse. The work included the dwelling's kitchen, living room and two second floor bedrooms.

The Bandocks and I had been to Rockland Breakwater lighthouse prior to any restoration work beginning at the site and what we saw was enough to stagger the mind at that time. Suffice to say the interior was in dire need of a complete makeover. I must say that the Friends of Rockland Breakwater have done an amazing job over the past years in their restoration efforts and the New England Lighthouse Lovers are proud to have played a small part in the restoration of the beautiful sentinel that protects Rockland Harbor.

Previous NELL Project H.O.P.E. work has been done at New London Ledge Lighthouse CT, Pemaquid Point ME, and on Cape Cod MA -- Long Point, Wood End and Race Point Lighthouses. NELL has also donated over \$130,000.00 to New England lighthouses and lighthouse museum preservation efforts.

NELL has members in 30 states ranging from the six New England states as far west as Hawaii and Washington state, south to Texas and many states in between.

For more information on NELL, please visit www.nell.cc.

A Connecticut Lighthouse Staycation

By Kevin Sullivan

One of Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell's recommendations for saving money and fuel this past summer was for residents to take "staycations" in the state to visit the many treasures right here. With the abundance of economic issues, including state budget issues, rising unemployment, foreclosures, etc., it seemed a logical choice to spend my time and money here.

The heck with Maine, the Nubble Light and Portland Head. Sorry, Frank Carbone, the Massachusetts lights will have to wait. Sorry, Jeremy D'Entremont. No Portsmouth Light. I'm staying home. I packed my lunch and camera and embarked from the northwest hills on a sunny day for a trip to Groton and New London in the opposite corner of the state.



Avery Point Light

This commute would take some time because Connecticut is so spacious. Just kidding! My destination to maximize lighthouse viewing was the UConn-Avery Point Campus overlooking the Thames River and Fisher's Island Sound, the eastern end of Long Island Sound. From there, you can not only touch the refurbished Avery Point Light and see its unique brick walkway, but also get sparkling views of the New London Ledge Light and New London Harbor (Pequot) Light.



New London Ledge Light

On one of the park's benches, I had an unhurried brown bag lunch and took turns gazing at Pequot, the Ledge Light and various nautical traffic and scenery. The only

interruptions were the passing of occasional joggers or the squatting of dogs being walked around the park. And I thought doggie bags were for good left-overs.

After Avery Point, I stopped at the U.S. Submarine Force Museum next to the sub base in Groton. Admission to the museum includes a self-guided tour of the first nuclear sub, the USS Nautilus. You can only tour the forward area of the sub, as visitors aren't allowed aft where the nuclear reactors did their thing, but there is still plenty to see aboard the historic vessel. And the museum is packed with many interesting displays and items.

My next stop back across the Thames River Bridge was the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and its maritime museum. As the new cadets had just arrived days earlier, it was a busy time at the academy. There were some cadets in gym ensembles jogging, marching and chanting... and panting, lots of panting...while others enjoying a few final hours with their parents and families.



New London Harbor (Pequot)

The big museum attraction is the magnificent first order Fresnel lens from the Cape Ann (MA) light, which towers over visitors and just barely fits below the ceiling. It looked to stand about ten to eleven feet tall. Of course, being that I'm only 5' 6," everything looks ten to eleven feet tall. There is an authentic lifeboat and replica of the figurehead that adorns the USCG training barque, Eagle. Cannon, ship models, paintings, uniforms, and medals for valor are also included in the displays that trace the history of the Coast Guard from its beginnings, including the Revenue Cutter Service and U.S. Lifesaving Service.



I headed back to the northwest hills, taking comfort in the knowledge that this staycation idea was a sound investment. I recommend you try it, too. Connecticut has lots more lighthouses and could really use the money.



**Save
the
Date!**

May 22-23, 2010

**NELL's Spring Meeting & Cruise
Lake Champlain, Vermont**

NELL New Ventures Committee

By Frank and Carolyn Carbone

They have arrived!! The first of the NELL Little Lights of Mine New England Lighthouse Series Race Point model (HL LLOM 304) is in and ready for immediate shipping.

You can view photos of the model on the NELL website – www.NELL.cc.

For those who have already ordered your light(s) through Pat Bandoock, NELL New Ventures Co-Chair, please send a check made out to “New England Lighthouse Lovers” or “NELL” to Pat Bandoock, along with the attached form. The price is \$25.00 for the lighthouse plus \$4.00 shipping to mail (\$29.00 total for each lighthouse ordered). All orders must be paid before shipping.

You can have your lighthouse(s) shipped or, if you prefer to save the shipping cost, you can pick it up at a NELL membership meeting.

As a reminder to those who have reserved the full series of six, your \$50 payment is a deposit held in escrow that will be applied toward the price of the final two models.

To those that haven't ordered but wish to purchase this stunningly detailed Race Point, MA, model for yourself or as gifts for your lighthouse friends, you may do so by completing the form below and enclosing your check as per the information above.

There is also still time to reserve the full series and have the same number reserved for you for all six models. The next model will be Isle of Shoals (White Island), NH, then Pomham Rocks, RI, followed by Avery Point, CT.

The final two (Maine and Vermont), have yet to be finalized. To order/reserve the series requires a \$50 deposit and must be done by calling Pat Bandoock at (856) 854-9350 between 6pm and 9pm Eastern Time.

Please print and complete this reply form giving us your delivery preference and return with your check to:

*Pat Bandoock
108 E. Linden Ave.
Collingswood, NJ 08108*

Previously ordered Race Point LH

New order for Race Point LH

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

please mail lighthouse(s) to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Please hold the lighthouse(s) for me to pick-up at the spring NELL membership meeting.

I will pick up the lighthouse(s) at the spring NELL meeting and pay for it at that time.



NELL 2009 Spring Cruise

By Tom Kenworthy

On Friday June 5, 2009, NELL members drove to the Marriott Hotel in Peabody, MA to attend New England Lighthouse Lovers spring cruise on Saturday. The cruise was a 13-lighthouse voyage on the Prince of Wales out of Newburyport, MA, which is considered the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard.

With overcast skies, the day did not start out as the best day for a cruise, but it did hold a promise of clearing later in the day. So at 9:30 a.m. with the order given to "cast off all lines," the Prince of Wales got underway and headed for the Newburyport Range Lights. As we left the harbor, Newburyport Rear Range came into view and next, on the grounds of Coast Guard Station Merrimack River, Newburyport Front Range. Leaving the area, you could see Plum Island light through the trees, which made for a nice picture.

From here, we headed to Straitsmouth Island Light and then to Thatcher Island. As we got into more open waters, the seas got a little rougher causing several folks to get green. Things did not change as we approached the twin lights of Thatcher Island, but the anticipation of seeing the lights helped, albeit temporarily.



Gloucester Breakwater with Eastern Point Lighthouse in the background

On the way to Eastern Point the sun started to peek out from behind the clouds and at Bakers Island the day started to brighten. By the time we reached Hospital Point the sun was shining, transforming what was a dreary day into a beautiful sunny day, just right for a lighthouse cruise, and just in time for lunch.

We continued on to see Fort Pickering Light, Derby Wharf, Marblehead, and Ten Pound Island Light. When we finished at Ten Pound Light, the captain

set course for Annisquam.

Cruising to Annisquam, we saw the 1923 Fisherman's Memorial in Gloucester Harbor, MA. This touching memorial



is an eight-foot tall, bronze statue of a fisherman dressed in oilskins standing braced at the wheel of his ship, and is resting on a granite base. On that base is an inscription (in bronze letters) taken from the 107th Psalm, which reads: THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS 1623 – 1923. The memorial is located on the south side of Stacy Boulevard at the edge of Gloucester Harbor.

Passing by the memorial, we approached the Blynman Bridge, known by the locals as the Cut Bridge. The bridge got its name from Rev. Blynman who, in 1643, supervised the first cut of the canal, which connects Ipswich Bay to Gloucester Harbor.



As the drawbridge opened and we entered the canal, we were followed by what appeared to be a small wagon train of pleasure boats. After a picturesque ride through the canal, we came to Annisquam Light, which when first built was a 32-foot wooden tower. A larger 40-foot octagonal tower was built in 1851. Then 46 years later in 1897, it was rebuilt again. This time brick was used and the tower still stands today on the same foundation as its predecessor.

In 1974, the lighthouse was automated. Then, in 2000, Annisquam underwent a major renovation with approximately 3,000 bricks being replaced along with metal support beams.

Annisquam was the last light on our schedule. Overall, we had good weather and everyone had a good time.





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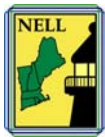
Did you know...NELL currently has more than 340 members in 30 states?

Have an article to submit? Send it to one of our editors:

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