

**New England Lighthouse Lovers - NELL**

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## **NELL 2009 SPRING TRIP**

**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 cruise 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 thru the trees, which made for a nice picture.

From here, we went 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 “a little green around the gills”. Things did not change as we approached the twin lights of Thatcher Island but the anticipation of seeing the lights helped, albeit temporarily.

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, Ten Pound Island Light. When we finished at Ten Pound Light, the captain set course for Annisquam.

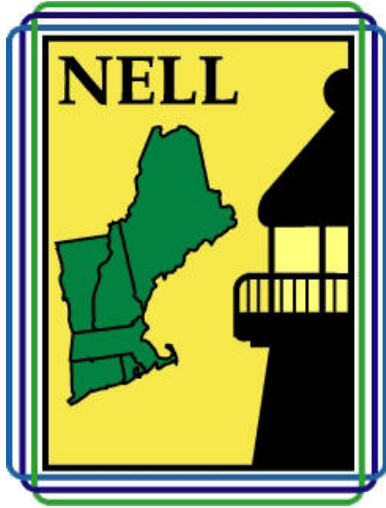
Cruising to Annisquam, we saw the 1923 Fisherman's Memorial in Gloucester Harbor, Gloucester MA. This touching memorial is an eight-foot tall, bronze statue of a fisherman dressed in oilskins standing braced at the wheel of his ship, and is resting on a granite base. On that base is an inscription (in 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 Blvd. 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 thru 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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2009 Spring Meeting  
Newburyport, MA  
photos by Tom Kenworthy



Newburyport Front & Rear Range Lights



Newburyport Rear Range Light



Newburyport Rear Range Light



U.S.C.G. Station Merrimack River & Newburyport front Range



Plum Island & Fisherman



Plum Island



Ron & Frank talking about NELL's new LLOM





Plum Island Light



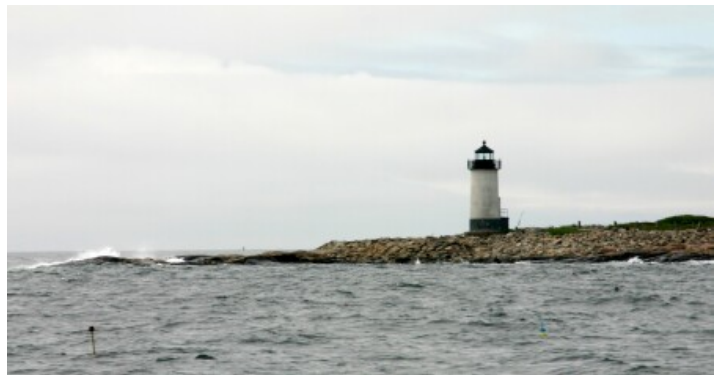
Relaxing Topside Portside



Relaxing Starboard Topside



Straitsmouth Island Light



Straitsmouth Island Light



Straitsmouth Island Light



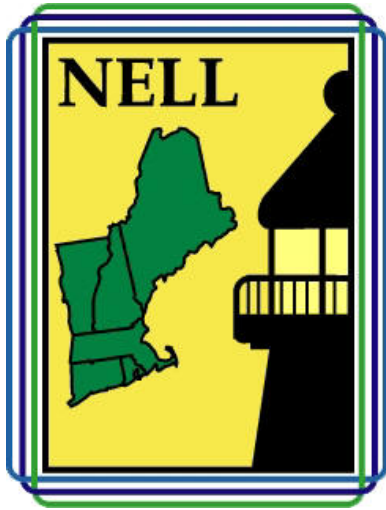
Straitsmouth Island Light



Thacher Island Light



Thacher Island Light



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2009 Spring Meeting  
Newburyport, MA  
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Twin Lights of Thacher Island



Relaxing Inside



Hold on Tight, Linda



Eastern Point





Eastern Point Light



Gloucester Breakwater & Eastern Point Light



Gloucester Breakwater & Eastern Point Light



Grilling the steaks



Bakers Island Light



Fishing at Bakers Island Light





Sailing by Bakers Island



Sailing by Bakers Island



Hospital Point Light



Hospital Point Light



Fort Pickering - Winter Island Light



Fort Pickering - Winter Island Light





Fort Pickering Boat & Red Buoy



Derby Wharf Light



Derby Wharf Light



Motoring through Salem Harbor



Marble Head Light



Marble Head Light (digital)



Marble Head Light



Ten Pound Island Light





1923 Fisherman's Memorial



Out for a Saturday cruise



USCG 47 Foot Motor Life Boat



Keeping the water's safe



Gears for Blynman Bridge



Going slow in a fast boat





Annisquam Light



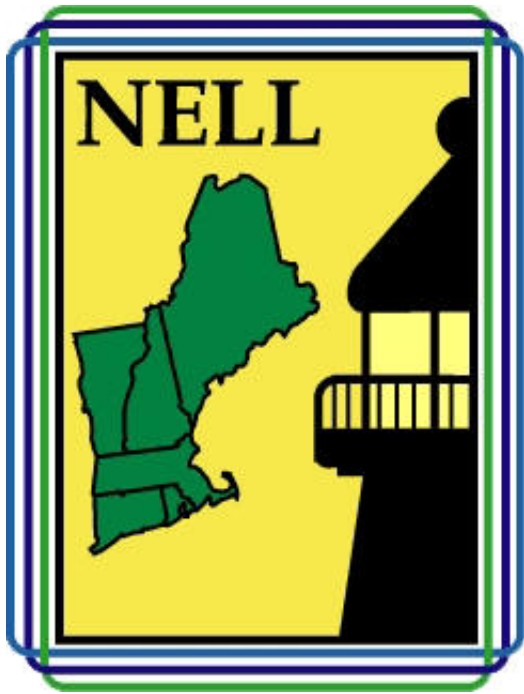
Annisquam Light



Annisquam Light



Photo by Gary Martin & Mike Boucher Photo



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2009 Spring Meeting  
Anniversary Party

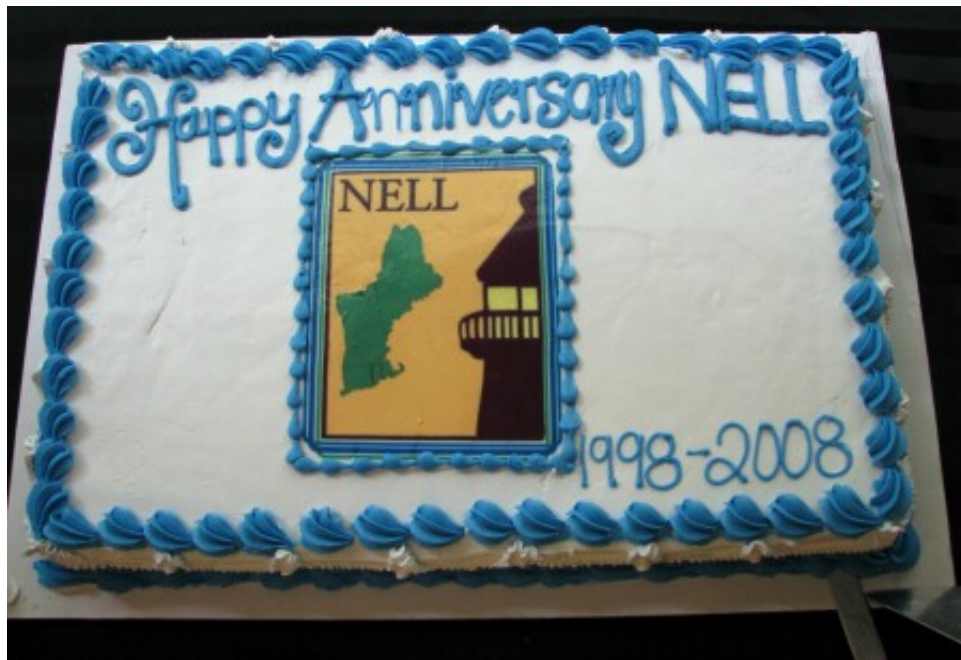


Photo by Hilari Seery





Chocolate and Vanilla Anniversary Cakes



Tom Kenworthy & Ron Bandock cutting the cakes  
Photo by Bob Taylor