

CHAPTER CHATTER



May/June

NELL Spring Meeting 2015

May 15 -17

Another exciting trip looms for NELL in the Plymouth-Boston, MA area. The core of our trip will be a sunset cruise with Captain John's Boats, from Town Wharf in Plymouth. We will depart at 4pm on Saturday to see:

- Duxbury Pier
- Gurnet
- Scituate
- Minot's Ledge
- Graves
- Boston Harbor

The cruise should be 4-5 hours and we should get some amazing photos with good weather! The cost will be \$75. Each for members. None members \$85.

The business meeting will be Sunday morning at 10am in the hotel. We will have the usual raffles and auctions, as well as lots of fun and comradery.

Holiday Inn Express
43 Harding Street
Middleboro, MA 02346
(508) 946-3398

Rooms are one king bed or two double beds at \$139 per night plus tax – the best rate we could secure with several graduations in the Boston area.

To book, call [508-946-3398](tel:508-946-3398) and tell them you're with NELL. The deadline to book is May 1st.

Please also fill out the form on the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1bE4CWd8N0fK7Ui-uggfu23z0ecl4uHDGqQiyrm4YcUE/viewform?usp=send_form

If anyone has skills or connections that they think could help with the Fall trip we're proposing to Staten Island and Brooklyn (likely in September, exact date to be determined), please let me know! It's going to be complex, but worth it, and I could really use some help spreading the tasks and communications.

Looking forward to another great trip with NELL!

Greg Fitzgerald
First Vice President

Other Lighthouse News

HARKERS ISLAND — Cape Lookout Lighthouse is getting freshened up.



National Seashore Superintendent Pat Kenney says the lighthouse will be getting a new coat of paint over the next few weeks, the first time it's been painted since 2004.

The existing exterior paint is at the end of its life cycle due to harsh weather. Three recent hurricanes have also caused the paint to fail, exposing the brick exterior to moisture and deterioration.

The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April, weather permitting. The park will be open during the project, but the immediate area of the lighthouse will be closed to the public. The lighthouse still plans to open to the public on May 12.

Whitehead Light Station – Pine Island Camp Registration now open for all 2015 Classes and Retreats

July 5-8	Knitting Retreat with Mim Bird
July 10-15	Latin Cooking with Daisy Martinez
July 16-19	Wine & Food Pairing with Daisy Martinez
July 23-26	Yoga & Narrative Collage with Dietlind Vander Schaaf
July 30-Aug 5	Applied Mindfulness with Dr. Robert Cox
Aug 20-23	Lighthouses of New England with Jeremy D'Entremont
Aug 26-30	Doing Craft Beer Right with Charlie Papazian

Accommodations

At Whitehead Light Station, guests stay in the beautifully restored seven-bedroom Lightkeeper's House on Whitehead Island, off the coast of Rockland, Maine. The Light Station captain is available throughout the summer to take guests on the short boat ride to and from the mainland

Rental Opportunities

The entire Light Station facility is available for families and groups to rent throughout parts of the summer and fall. Please **visit our calendar** to check availability and **contact us** if you would like more information.

Happy Birthday to:

Seamond Roberts	5/01	Harry Wass	5/07	Bob Trapani	5/14
Fran Dollinger	5/14	Tom Cardaci	5/25	MaryAnn Clark	5/27
Anna Klein	5/28				
Bob Kerber	6/01	Amy Wininger	6/06	Frank DePasquale	6/10
Terry Barnhart	6/12	Hilari Seery	6/16	Irma Streeter	6/16
Walt Mills	6/24	David Dingley	6/26	Linda Whidden	6/27
Mary Rosenquest	6/29	Doug Scott	6/30		

Anniversary Wishes to:

Bill & Odette Kent	5/01	Robert & Sharon Mills	5/09	Terry & Melody Barnhart	5/19
Bob & MaryAnn Scroope	5/28	Doug & Ellen Scott	5/30		
Hilari & Jim Seery	6/10	Bob & Barbara Kepple	6/13	Tom & Arlene Pregman	6/21
James & Nancy Cope	6/24	Henry & Arlene Winkleman	6/29		

International Lighthouse News

How to Talk in a Lighthouse

One of the first lessons a new lighthouse keeper in Scotland learned was the importance of conversation.

The Commissioners of the Northern Lights operated the 212 lighthouses in the country with three-man crews who rotated every six weeks, unless weather intervened. In addition, many relief keepers were available to fill in whenever a regular keeper was sick, on vacation, or left his position.

With such change in personnel, communication was vital for each member of the crew to know the routines, as well as, the mechanics of each lighthouse. Chores and schedules were assigned, from cooking and cleaning to servicing the light. When one man got off duty during the night, he woke up the man taking over. However, to keep his replacement awake, it was the responsibility of the man getting off duty to make sure the sleepy man was fully awake and alert. Consequently, the men talked about anything they could think of to achieve that result while infusing the keepers with copious amounts of hot tea.

Despite the work schedule, the three keepers usually shared their meals together, meaning short hours of sleep for each of them. Yet sharing the routine and the isolation of the lighthouse, these men found conversation a means to allay the loneliness they'd feel otherwise. Even though the keepers were strangers to each other with different ages and backgrounds, conversation helped to unite them into an efficient work team.

There were times, though, that conversation was difficult to achieve. When fog rolled in, the lighthouse fog horn would go off and blast at regular intervals as long as the fog existed. Sometimes, the fog lasted for days, resulting in conversation that was restricted to intervals between the noisy blasts.

For example, at Ailsa Craig, each five-second blast was followed by a fifteen-second period of quiet. The keepers then divided up their conversation, and going clockwise around the table, each man had their turn to talk for fifteen seconds before the fog horn blasted again. The following period of silence, the next man talked for fifteen seconds until the next horn blast. Conversing in such a manner required the keepers to plan their words carefully so when it was their turn, they'd have the chance to say what they wanted to say with no one or nothing interrupting. As a former keeper said, "It was a very democratic way of communicating."*

An interesting result of talking this way for hours was that even when the fog lifted and the horn quit blasting, the keepers continued the same pattern of speech – talking in staccato punctuated by five seconds of silence before they returned to their normal routine.

Would you like to talk like a lighthouse keeper?

Abandoned Sea Fort Transforms into Luxury Hotel

Spitbank Fort



No Man's Fort



Horse Sand Fort



Originally constructed to defend the British from Napoleon III's navy in the 18th century, these three sea-forts have since been abandoned and are now being renovated as luxury getaway hotels! Each of the three bases house different functions. The Horse Sands Fort is now a museum, the Spitbank Fort has been transformed into a luxury hotel with eight suites, and the No Man's Land Fort will become an even larger hotel, able to accommodate more guests.

Perfect for history buffs, each of the suites were originally home to one of the bases' several defensive guns. To reach the strongholds, hotel skippers take visitors there by boat.

The completed Spitbank Fort offers patrons a variety of relaxing areas to lounge, including a recreation room, spa, outdoor heated pool, a *Victory Bar*, and a fire pit area that gives visitors a fantastic view of the Isle of Wight. The project cost upwards of four million dollars.

Three Lighthouse Hotels for that perfect romantic break

Corsewall Lighthouse Hotel, Galloway, Scotland



Dating back to 1815, the listed lighthouse at Corsewall Point is fully functioning, beaming a warning for ships approaching the mouth of Loch Ryan. On a clear day, the beautiful Scottish coastline is laid out before you, and you can sometimes make out the Irish coast, too.

Come nightfall, the beams of other lighthouses illuminate the water, as well as those coming from Corsewall itself. The hotel sits on 20 acres of grounds, and all of the rooms face either the sea or the meadow. But the Lighthouse Suite is the real stunner, separate from the main building, with panoramic sea views and a private conservatory almost right on the rocks.

There's also a restaurant on site, serving up delicacies like Barbarrie duck from a nearby smokehouse and local wood pigeon.

Rates start at £80 (€100) per person per night, which includes a five-course dinner and full Scottish breakfast. Fly to [Glasgow](#) or get the ferry to nearby Cairnryan from [Belfast](#) from €79 one-way with Stena Line ([stenaline.com](#)). For more information: [lighthousehotel.co.uk](#)

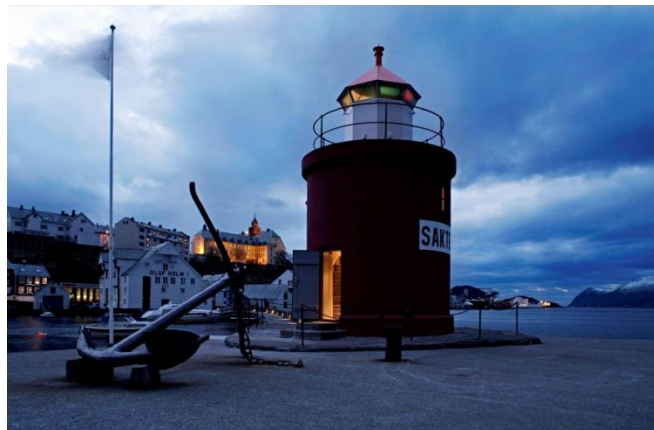
Clare Island Lighthouse. Co Mayo, Ireland



The best place to experience a lighthouse is on a dramatic, rugged and windswept island, where you can snuggle up by a roaring fire. Enter Clare Island, where the sea batters tiny rocky inlets and coves. At the Clare Island Lighthouse hotel, the Lantern Tower is open for all guests to enjoy. The bedrooms, with wood-burning stoves and underfloor heating, are in cottages, buildings and another tower, all huddled together behind a sturdy stone wall. Choose the Tower House suite for a unique circular bedroom in the old tower.

Prices start at €300 for 2 people sharing, including breakfast, a six-course dinner and collection from the ferry. The crossing from Roonagh takes around 20 minutes. For more information: [clareislandlighthouse.com](#)

Room 47 - Molja Lighthouse< Alesund, Norway



At the end of a jetty, in the pretty city of Ålesund, sits the 150-year-old Molja Lighthouse. Within the tiny building, there's a compact bathroom and a circular bedroom upstairs, complete with a custom designed bed. At only three meters wide, the lighthouse is cosy and effortlessly romantic. From the bed, you can look west towards Godoya Island and the Atlantic, and watch the ships pass as they're guided by the beacon above. The lighthouse is part of the Hotel Brosundet, which is a five-minute walk away, and the rooms all fit the same aesthetic - think thick wooden beams, rough linen curtains and textured stone walls.

A night in the lighthouse starts at around €542, which includes breakfast with chocolates and sparkling wine on arrival. At the moment, there's a special combination package, with one night in a junior suite and one in the lighthouse, from €349 per person. Fly from Dublin to Ålesund via Oslo with [SAS](#) ([flysas.com](#)). For more information: [brosundet.no](#)

Just for fun....can you guess the light?



Hint – NELL has been to this one.

If you think you know you can e-mail me. (answer next Chapter Chatter)

Last edition's answer: St. Augustine, Florida

Please Note:

We are looking for **volunteers** who are interested in serving on committees, those who have good ideas for lighthouse preservation, fund raising, suggestions on improving the operations of the club, or just getting more involved. Please contact Bill Kent: bktwo@comcast.net or 1(978) 809-7133.

The Lighthouse Digest – For each subscription, please use the subscription envelope that you can get from NELL's 2nd VP Lynne Kerber, or the form on the NELL website. Mail with check to Lighthouse Digest, ATTN: Kathleen Finnegan, P.O. Box 250, East Machias, ME 04630. Be sure to write NELL in the memo section of your check and NELL will receive \$10.00 per subscription to go toward restoration and preservation of lighthouses.

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

The NELL Beacon wants your stories too, send with pictures to Lynne Kerber: lighthousecats@comcast.net for publication. The NELL Beacon is our official club newsletter and will be published three times a year in time for our events. Deadline for the LHC&Y issue will be mid December, for the Spring Event issue mid April and for the Fall Event issue mid August.

If you know of a member that needs **some cheer, get well wishes, condolences or congratulations**, please let Cynthia Bosse - Sunshine Chair know at: bossnjc@comcast.net or call 1(860) 688-7347.

Please let me know your **birthday** (month & day only) and **anniversary** so I will be able to recognize you on your special day in our monthly Best Wishes section.