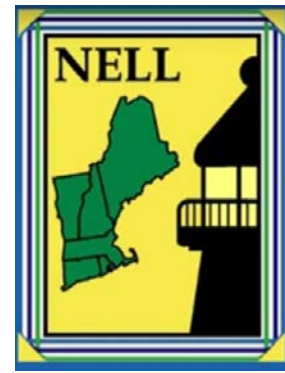


NELL NEWS



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

WHERE WERE YOU ON AUGUST 7 - NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY?

Henry and Arlene Winkleman visited Connecticut's Watch Hill Lighthouse.



Sharon and Bob Mills bought some of the new Mid-Atlantic Lighthouse stamps and took photos of Cape Neddick's "Nubble" lighthouse lit up at night for York Days.



I had the pleasure of interviewing Sharon Mills, our NELL News editor. Since taking the position, Sharon has been interviewing members of our Board for the news. Now it is time for us to get to know her a little better.

Sharon Mills has lived in Kittery, ME most of her life. She believes the first lighthouse she saw was Nubble Light (Cape Neddick), York, ME, but it wasn't until years later (in the late 1990's) that her interest in lighthouses developed.

A friend of Sharon's sent her a news article about the late Connie Small (the author of the book "The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife") and suggested that she contact her. Connie invited Sharon to visit her at a nursing home in Portsmouth, NH and from there a friendship was formed.

It was after a couple of trips to Cape Cod that Sharon's interest in lighthouses grew. She and her new husband Bob were on their honeymoon in West Yarmouth in May of 1998. The hotel in which they were staying offered a free cruise to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket which they took advantage of. They were also given tickets for a free Hyannis harbor cruise. It was raining the day of the cruise and nobody else showed up for it. Sharon and Bob were hardy souls and decided to go despite the weather, so they got a private cruise!

Sharon joined NELL in November of 2006 and is also a member of the American Lighthouse Society (ALF) and the United States Lighthouse Society (USLHS). She volunteered at Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and is currently a volunteer with the USLHS Passport Program. Sharon has collected a remarkable 20 books of passport stamps and is at the *Pharos of Alexandria* level! She has seen almost all of the lighthouses from Maine to the Florida Keys, the Florida Panhandle to Port Isabel, TX, and all of the Great Lakes, along with many others in most Provinces of Canada. The west coast may be on her bucket list in the future.

Sharon recently retired from being an in-home caregiver for approximately 20 years. During that time, she provided companionship, did housework, prepared meals and did errands for elderly and disabled people. She still maintains friendships with some of her clients.

One of Sharon's talents is playing the piano. She took lessons as a child for about ten years. Her parents bribed her to practice while they washed the dishes. If she didn't practice, she would have to do the dishes. She now plays regularly at her church.

She has an extensive collection of lighthouse memorabilia, including Harbour Lights and other replicas, books, cups, bells, pictures, etc. Most items are displayed in a former garage where Bob built shelves for her collection. Her Harbour Lights are organized by state. Other collectible items are displayed in her home. Her favorite item is a lighthouse that was carved out of a tree stump in the yard by a friend who is a chain saw carver. (see March/April NELL NEWS for photos of it)



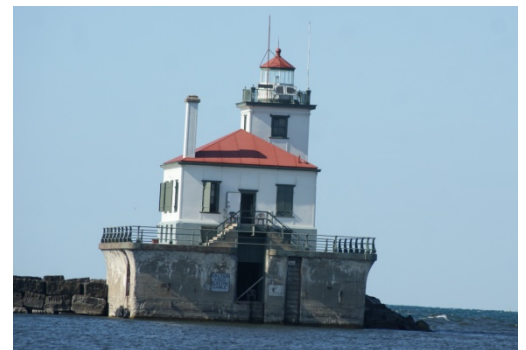


The next time you see Sharon or Bob, ask about one of their misadventures while traveling. They have some great stories and should write a book!

Sharon and Bob's next lighthouse adventure is to Michigan in August. They will visit lights that they haven't climbed yet. I hope to hear about this adventure and see photos when they return.

I personally want to thank Sharon for stepping up to the plate and assuming the position of editor of the NELL News. She has been a very valuable and welcome addition to the Board.

Linda Sherlock
Secretary



(from the Editor: Here are several photos from the trip we just returned from Aug 29th. #1 is Oswego Light in New York, that I got to climb #2 is Vermillion, Ohio replica light – newly painted at waterfront that's being improved, #3 is Squaw Island in Michigan – saw from Shepler's Cruise out of Mackinac City, #4 is Pilot Island in Door County, Wisconsin from Shore Cruises out of Gills Rock. (Looked like a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds".) We saw over 88 official lights, over 30 faux and/or non-official lights, I got to climb 13 towers, and we saw several lenses, life saving stations and other nautical places.



The following article was written by Christine in memory of her husband Tommy who died two years ago on August 3, 2019. We all wish Christine well as she continues her life without her loved husband.

The Lighthouse Hunters Tommy & Christine Cardaci

Story and Photos by Christine Cardaci

My husband Tommy and I met at the Post Office in 1988 as I was starting my postal career. At the beginning, our vacations consisted of tent camping, “stay-cations” so we could work on our home or sailing his 25 foot sailboat. We would pass by some of the NJ, NY or CT lighthouses and not pay too much attention. As time passed we ventured out to see other places. In 1996 we decided to go to Nova Scotia, Canada because we heard it was beautiful. We saw a few lighthouses in our path one of which was the Peggy’s Cove lighthouse. It had a Post Office inside and with us both being letter carriers it was exciting. We mailed ourselves a post card with a special stamp of Peggy’s Cove on it. When we returned home we decided to seek out the lighthouses on our future vacations.

Our first official trip was in New Brunswick, Canada in 1997. We had no idea what we were doing, I assume, like a lot of you back in the day. We picked up a list of lights from an information place and tried our best. At the end of the trip we picked up a new list with tons more lighthouses listed on it, come on. Obviously over time we got better, researched more, bought books and maps and much later a gps. We would take two or three vacations a year seeing as much of the USA as we could. We would return to states to improve our shots by getting closer or having better weather. It was exciting when we went from film cameras to digital. No more limiting our film shots. The cost of developing twenty rolls of film each vacation was nuts.

In 2000 we began getting the joined the NJ Lighthouse Society, 2008 and **GLLKA** in 2009. lighthouse travel book on the USA. and draw the maps with the dots when we went on we kept improving and our kept getting higher. We went on we could get to the off shore lights. others who shared the same interest lifelong friends on some of these several private off-shore boat friends. It’s exhilarating to be in a plane or boat getting closer to a lighthouse you always wanted to see. The smiles on Tommy’s and my face and the feeling of accomplishment, I’ll remember forever.



Lighthouse Digest. In 2003 we then ChesLights in 2007, NELL in Back in 2005 Tommy and I wrote a It took eight years to take our photos where the lighthouses were. As time North American lighthouse count several boat trips with the groups so It was so exciting to be around in lighthouses. We met special adventures. Over time we shared charters I organized with our new

friends. Once I left the Post Office I had more time to plan our vacations. I planned in detail and filled our days from sun up to sun down. Tommy liked to do all the driving and he never complained. I would often work on my laptop on the long drives. I’d type in information about the lights we saw or write about our vacations. Tommy was happy because I wasn’t bothering him. Ha, ha.

Multiple times we’ve been to the west coast, Gulf coast, Great Lakes American and Canadian sides, the east coast, and much of Canada. For seven days in the summer of 2012 **Tom & Darlene** Chisholm, John “Mac”



MacFarland, and Tommy & Chris (me) went to the Canadian side of Lake Superior. For our first boat charter we were on the water for over twelve hours and went 115 miles total. We were so excited to finally see Ontario’s beautiful Caribou Island lighthouse. We were on four other charters for the rest of the lighthouses but one ending in Thunder Bay, ON. Mid October we were on a Friends of Flying Santa Buzzards Bay/Vineyard Sound Lighthouse Cruise with many other Lighthouse Hunters. As you know from previous newsletter articles Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012 hit us hard! After we fixed our home and rental we were back on the lighthouse trails. In 2013 we took a quick eleven day trip and drove out to the Great Lakes. We finally got out to see all the Isle Royale lighthouses.

Too bad sometimes it was foggy. In different years we lifted both houses eight feet higher. Luckily we were still able to travel in between our work [here at home](#).

For the last few years we focused on the Canadian provinces even more. Then in 2014 a couple on the USLHS Community page contacted us to see if we wanted to travel with them. We hit it off! Over the years the four of us really enjoyed the company, and had dozens of awesome times on their 17 foot Grady White boat with a center console. We explored so much of Quebec's St. Lawrence River and saw so many lighthouses over the years. In spots of the St. Lawrence River the tides were similar to the Bay of Fundy.

The last article I wrote was about our three week trip in 2015 to [Newfoundland/Labrador](#), Canada. What a beautiful place and with kind people. We intersected with our friends, the Meloscis from Florida a few times and the Clays from Indiana for an hour. We did all have dinner together before departing the island. In 22 days Tommy drove 5,627 miles and we went 1,012 miles by ferry/boat. We saw 63 new and 43 repeat lighthouses and took almost 6,000 photos.



In the summer of 2016 we met the Chisholms and the Clays in Souris, PEI and boarded the ferry to the small Îles de la Madeleine, Quebec. The [six of us](#) had three jam packed days of lighthouses and a far off shore boat trip. This charter was on a 43 foot fishing vessel with a flat deck with six plastic deck chairs for us. The boat trip was 4 ½ hours of torture going around 50 miles total in strong winds and 6-10 foot waves. We were happy to see the Bird Rocks/Rocher Aux Oiseaux with tons of stinky birds and Ile Brion lighthouses. It was great to split the cost between three



couples.

In 2017 Tommy and I went back to Nova Scotia for 19 days. Our friends were supposed to meet us here but their car that pulls the boat broke. Tommy and I love to travel together and we had a great time. We improved on many of our shots since the last big trip here was in 2000.

In the spring of 2018 we joined the USLHS and went on their Gulf Coast trip. In eleven days we were on a helicopter for the Delta's off shore lights, several boat charters in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and the bus. It was a different type of trip for us and Tommy really missed driving. It was convenient having a bathroom on the bus. Tommy climbed nine lighthouses, his 9th was Anclote turning 67 years old and only was a [letter carrier](#) for 40 years.

Six weeks after retiring convention in mid-July 2018. with the Clays. We motored to We were able to beach the boat day we finally got to see the motored to Pelee Island, Pelee three hours we motored around to two of these for years. after dinner Tommy went right to sleep, which was very weird. The next two days we took the boat out in Ohio waters. We said goodbye to our friends and began to drive towards home. Tommy's problems got worse and I had to drive us half way home. There was now something very wrong.



Key. Tommy was a month away from five weeks away from retiring. Tommy

we drove to Detroit, MI for a union Then for four days we were on vacation several off shore lighthouses in Canada. and walk up to Bob-lo Island. Later that Colchester Reef light. The next day we Passage and Southeast Shoal. In those 38 miles. We've been waiting to get close Tommy's stomach began to hurt more and

Tommy's stomach began to hurt more and the next two days we took the boat out in Ohio waters. We said goodbye to our friends and began to drive towards home. Tommy's problems got worse and I had to drive us half way home. There was now something very wrong.

Tommy put himself into the hospital and was started on insulin for diabetes. Once home the tests showed he has Pancreatic Cancer Stage 4. He began a very hard chemo every other week and he got super bad. A month later the chemo was changed. Tommy got so much better and we were so happy! Life mostly got back to normal with chemo every week with a week off. After Thanksgiving he had chemo and we got on a flight to Florida wearing masks. We haven't been down to the bulk of Florida since 2004. We were supposed to there in 2012 but Hurricane Sandy destroyed our houses and we cancelled. Our Florida trip was for twelve days and Tommy drove the whole trip. Tommy took it easy and stayed in the car at times when we revisited some lights. Next we headed down towards the Keys. We took the boat out to Boca Chita Key and I climbed it. The boat trip was 18 miles long. The next day in Key West, FL was the charter plane with Keys Seaplanes www.KeysSeaplanes.com In three hours we went 341 nautical miles photographing 14 lighthouses. Awesome! Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation www.floridakeysreeflightsfoundation.wildapricot.org organized three days of boat trips. Tommy and I knew several people on these boat trips, especially our friend "Mac". The first day was to see Sombrero Key and Faro Blanco and we went 14 miles in 3 ¼ hours. The second day was for American Shoal and we went 16 miles in 2 ¾ hours. The third day was for Sand Key and we went 14 miles in 3 ¾ hours. This took longer because it was an 80' Schooner Jolly II Rover square rigged Pirate tall ship. Tommy raised one of the huge rear sails; remember he used to own a sailboat. After, we and two new friends drove north and chartered a boat to see Tennessee Reef and Alligator Reef lights. We went around twenty miles. The next morning we and one of our new friends chartered a boat for Hen & Chickens Shoal. We motored twelve miles in 1 ½ hours. This was Tommy and my 1,616th lighthouse seen. On our way north towards the airport I was finally able to get on the grounds of the Key Largo lighthouse. We had a great trip seeing 12 new lights and 15 repeats and had great food. Tommy drove 1,696 miles.

After the holidays the doctor switched Tommy back to the aggressive chemo (like he had when this first began five months ago). The chemo took more of a toll on him. On March 6, 2019 Alex Trebek announced he has the same cancer and stage as Tommy. As time went on, Tommy's days of feeling good became less. We had his 68th birthday and Memorial Day party with his close friends and family. Tommy thanked everyone for being there for him and he loved them all. **Mac from**

Tommy was trying his best. By the end of June, Tommy went out to a nice dinner I of course took pictures. He ended up being his last one. worse. For some reason that for his last week while in the August 3, 2019 at 2:22 pm at diagnosed. Tommy and I married for almost 27 years. on National Lighthouse Day



NELL member Deb from PA made it through the rain to say good bye. While waiting for the rain to stop she enjoyed the hundreds of lighthouse vacation pictures of us in the slide show. The funeral home just happened to have the Sankaty Head lighthouse picture for his prayer card. That made me happy and meant so much. At the funeral I was talking to NELL's John "Mac" about our **friends from Indiana**. I was unaware they drove twelve straight hours to be here. Now those three finally got to meet. We have some awesome lifelong friends that have the same lighthouse passion.

Three weeks after Tommy's funeral the Clays and I traveled to CT, RI and MA. We originally planned this trip so Tommy could be closer to home if we needed. Tommy and I always needed to get closer to Faulkner Island. Well, on Aug. 27, 2019 we motored out to Faulkner Island. We took shots from both sides. "Tommy" visited us as a butterfly while we were on the east side of the light. He came to the boat and hung out and I had tears. He was excited that I was able to finally get close to this light.

I can't believe it's now two years that my love, Tommy's been gone. The Covid pandemic was hard on us all but doing it while grieving was crazy. My weekly zoom grief group reminds me to be grateful for the deep love and awesome times we had together. I plan to go on a lighthouse vacation with the Clays.

PA was able to come and he saw that Mac coming meant a lot to both of us. had only one good day out of 14. We with his closest friends of 60+ years and drove himself to his 28th chemo which In July things really changed for the I don't understand Tommy didn't speak hospital bed. Tommy died on Saturday home with me. He lasted one year after were together for 31 1/3 years and I was only 53 years old. His wake was and we had torrential rain. Our fellow



I plan to go on a lighthouse vacation with the Clays.

We'll continue where we left off in New England in 2019. We've seen them all already though. We hope to get back to Canada next year.

Join our Facebook group The Lighthouse Hunters <http://www.facebook.com/groups/132951743410237>

If anyone needs any information about a private charter or cruise we've ever taken, please feel free to contact us by phone or through our expanding website. www.thelighthousehunters.com

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www.thelighthousehunters.com

I highlighted some words in red in the article to match the photos.

1. **GLLKA** Us at Poe Reef-Sheplers-MI-09-TLH
2. **Tom & Darlene** Mac,Darlene,Tom,Tom,Chris at Shaganash 7-15-12-TLH
3. **Here at home** Tom,Al King, Mac,Chris 6-14-14-TLH
4. **Newfoundland** Us at Cape Bonavista-NL-8-17-15-TLH
5. **six of us** 6 of us at Cap aux Meules, QC 8-7-16-TLH
6. **letter carrier** Cardaci, Tom-PO=5-TLH
7. **Mac from PA** Us-Mac at Pigeon Island-ON-12
8. **friends from Indiana** Jon-Anita Clay and Chris-Tom Cardaci-QC-Brandy Pot-2014-TLH

UPDATE ON CAPT. BURKE'S SIGN IN YORK BEACH, MAINE

The sign has now been installed in front of the store and Herb Carpenter hopes to "officially" unveil it soon. Here is a photo taken by Mr. Carpenter.





© Can Stock Photo - csp6503412

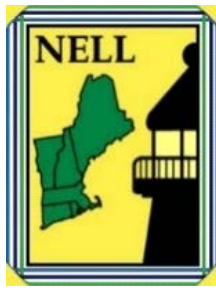
Dot Black	9/02	Tim Harrison	9/03	Tom Kenworthy	9/06
Ann Solaequi	9/13	Marcia DeClerk	9/16	Odette Kent	9/18
		Bob Scroope	9/22		
Christine Cardaci	10/06	Anthony Savino	10/12	Jessica Schulman	10/17
Tom Pregman	10/22			Frank Carbone	10/30



Herb & Tracie Carpenter 10/07

To the family and friends of Nell member Madelene Taylor from Gray, Maine who died recently and has been a member of Nell since May of 2004 we all wish you:





**LAKE SUNAPEE, NH
SEPTEMBER 17-19**



M/V KEARSARGE

NELL MEMBERS:

Our fall event is quickly approaching. If you haven't yet signed up to attend, now is the time! There is still room on the chartered cruise but accommodations in the area are booking quickly. **If you haven't already sent your payment, please do so!** The final count and your payment are required by September 3, 2021. There is no better time than the fall to travel to New England and reconnect with your lighthouse friends!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

9:30 AM - Membership Meeting

Sunapee Lake Lodge, Newbury Room
1403 Route 103, Newbury, NH

12:30 PM - Chartered Cruise

Town Dock, Sunapee Harbor
GPS: 1 Lake Avenue, Sunapee Harbor, NH

*The Lake Sunapee Chamber of Commerce
may have suggestions for lodging.
(603) 526-6575*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

8:30 AM - Buffet Breakfast

Sunapee Lake Lodge, Newbury Room
1403 Route 103, Newbury, NH

10:00 AM - Guest Speaker

Author Eric Jay Dolin

The cost of the weekend's events is \$90.00 per person. Please send your check, payable to NELL to: Kathy Santucci, 38 Lime Kiln Road, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. If you have already sent your payment, thank you!

Please inform me of your plans to attend so I can add your name(s) to the roster.

Also be reminded that your membership dues must be paid to attend this event.

All attendees will be required to abide by state and local restrictions and protocols, if any, regarding COVID-19, as well as protocols issued by Sunapee Cruises. It is strongly encouraged that you wear a face mask when indoors or in enclosed spaces.

Linda Sherlock
(617) 697-3325
lms12356@gmail.com

CANVAS BAGS AVAILABLE WITH LAKE SUNAPEE LIGHTHOUSES PICTURED ON THEM

Ellen Granoth has ordered a number of heavy canvas bags for our Fall Trip.

Medium Size will cost \$12.00

Approximate size: 13 ½" x 13 ½"

Large Size will cost \$15.00

Approximate size: 14 ½" x 16"

Contact Ellen if you want to make sure one is available for YOU.

ellenig@sbcglobal.net

This is what the bags look like:



Membership News

No new members to report in this newsletter. How about each and every one of us ask our friends and family about joining NELL and going on a neat trip to Lake Sunapee in September? **Forward them a copy of this month's NELL News and explain what you're doing and what it's all about. There's a membership application included already with all the information needed to join.** I got my sister to join and she lives in Florida so you never know what response you might get. Besides, the worst that can happen is you'll be told **No**.



Name(s): _____ Birthday _____ Anniversary _____ MM/YY
 _____ Birthday _____ Anniversary _____
 _____ Birthday _____ Anniversary _____

Address: _____

Put an X next to any information
 you wish to omit from our
 Membership Directory

Telephone: _____

Cell phone(S): _____

Email: _____

Membership Type check one

- _____ **Junior Members** (ages 6 through 17)..... **\$10.00**
- _____ **Individual** (one adult age 18+)..... **\$20.00**
- _____ **Dual** (2 adults living in same household, age 18+)..... **\$30.00**
- _____ **Family** (1 or 2 adults age 18+ and children through age 17)..... **\$40.00**
- _____ **Life Individual** (one adult age 18+)..... **\$500.00**
- _____ **Life Dual** (2 adults living in same household, age 18+)..... **\$800.00**
- _____ **Business, Corporation, Organization Membership Dues**..... **\$50.00**

Make checks payable to NELL
 and send to:

NELL
1 Princeton Ave
Riverside RI 02915-2632

Payment made also be made through PayPal at newenglandlighthouselovers.org
 PayPal account not necessary to complete the transaction.



Check this out if you might want to travel to Door County in Michigan and attend the Fall Festival as tickets are on sale now.

<https://shar.es/aoUYES>

Portsmouth Harbor Light celebrates 250th year Anniversary

[\(20+\) Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses | Facebook](#)

Maine Open Lighthouse Day Expected to be held this year

[Maine Open Lighthouse Day 2021 – American Lighthouse Foundation](#)



Burnt Island Lighthouse, Maine celebrates it's 200th Anniversary after being restored. I understand the lighthouse & keeper's house are open for tours on occasion now.

[Keepers of Burnt Island Light - 200 Year Anniversary](#)

The New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge expected to take place on October 16 & 17 this year

[Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey](#)

Check out Pomham Rocks as they celebrate their 150 year Anniversary

[Pomham Rocks Lighthouse"150 Years of Guiding the Way Along the Bay"](#)



Please Note:

The position of Vice President is currently still open. This BOD position also oversees NELL trips. Please consider stepping up to help. We are also 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 Henry Winkleman (617) 731-5181 or via e-mail: wink8@mindspring.com

The Lighthouse Digest - For each subscription, please use 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 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.

If you have any knowledge of an upcoming event or news to share, please send it to smills8839@aol.com. All articles and information must be received by the 20th of the prior month to make the publication. Also 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 Best Wishes section.

Final words from your Editor: I am becoming less technically challenged and learning as I go. I have not heard of any problems downloading the NEWS since creating it in a PDF file. Please remember that your ideas and suggestions are welcome as well as articles you'd like to see included in the NEWS. The NELL NEWS is your (the members) newsletter and my position is just as Editor. Sincerely, Sharon Mills



