NJ Lighthouse 2000
by Richard Weber, NJLH2000 Coordinator

Upon arriving at Twin Lights at 9:15 Saturday morning to drop off supplies, there were a number of people already waiting to start the tour including a group of PT Cruiser owners waiting to take the trip as a rally for their club. My next stop was to my headquarters for the weekend, Sandy Hook Lighthouse, which is a very symbolic site for the base of operations in many ways to both the lighthouse establishment and the NJLHS.

There were already people at the lighthouse waiting to start. We opened up a little before 10 a.m. and the rush was on. My help consisted of NJLHS volunteers and Sandy Hook Volunteers. We were swamped until about 11:30 a.m. The tour guides were busy with full tours all day. We even added 3 extra tours for the day. Later in the day we started to receive visitors with cards showing stickers other than the Twin Lights. These were people that had started in the middle of the tour route or were only able to visit a few of the sites prior to reaching Sandy Hook. Our last tour was given at 5:30 p.m. and my family and I went to dinner. The peace and quiet of an after hour walk up the tower turned out to be a stark contrast to the crush that was to occur on Sunday.

Sunday morning started slow. The first person to arrive at Sandy Hook for his last stamp and join the 11 Points of Light Club was Mr. J. Meehan of Holland, PA at 11:10 a.m. (And they said it couldn't be done!). We were out of control from then on. The tours including the additional tours were full by 1:30 p.m. The NJLHS greeters were giving away stamps as quick as they could and it looked like the gift shop was running blue light specials on everything. Lucky for me my wife didn't sell either of my two sons, although I think I lost a shirt or two. We officially close at 5:00 p.m. Since we had to clean up and pack, we were still handing out stamps to any late arrivals until around 6:00 p.m. Most of the other participating sites reported having to increase their hours to accommodate the number of people.

We had a great weekend with fabulous weather to our advantage. The event was worth the effort because of the recognition the society gained from it. The event was mentioned in well over 40 publications in and around the state. I personally spoke with a number of them and gave an interview for a New Jersey Public Radio Station. We had over 81 NJLHS volunteers and 84 site volunteers helping out at the 11 lighthouse sites throughout the state.

Approximately 340 people qualified for the 11 Points of Light Club. My congratulations to all of them. I know it wasn't easy, but that was part of the idea. The event was supposed to be a challenge, and those people showed that they were up to it. This was a good number of finishers considering approximately 1100 people attempted the tour. Most finishers were from New Jersey. However, we had people that completed the tour from Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Massachusetts and Texas.

We had many wonderful comments and compliments. Even the people who didn't make the whole tour remarked what a great idea it was and how much they enjoyed it. Most asked if we would repeat the event.

There were suggestions for improvement. Some asked for more time, others asked for better directions. The NJLHS Board of Directors and the different lighthouse groups that participated will take all the suggestions into consideration as we discuss the future of the event.
New Jersey Lighthouse 2000
October 14-15, 2000

Wayne Paulsen TRRLHS docent, with the first family to complete the 11 Points of Light tour ending at the Tinicum Rear Range Light — John, Carol, Laura and Johnny Nappo.
Photo by Yvonne Miller.

First to complete the 11 Points of Light Tour at the Tinicum Rear Range Light on Sunday, 10/15, being greeted by Marc Kamp, President of the Tinicum Rear Range Lighthouse Society. Docent Wayne Paulsen looks on.
Photo by Yvonne Miller.

Youngest to complete the lighthouse tour — 5 months old.
Photo by Yvonne Miller.
The Beam, the official journal of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc., is published quarterly, March, June, September and December. Membership dues are $15.00 single and $20.00 family, and are for the calendar year. Back issues are available free for members joining mid-year. All materials are copyrighted and cannot be borrowed or reproduced without permission of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. The NJLHS - New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc, is a non-profit educational corporation (501c3).

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I would like to thank my wife and children for their help and support. I'd like to also thank the Event Committee, Outreach Volunteers, Board of Directors, the NJLHS membership and the local lighthouse organizations. If not for their support and participation the event would never have taken place.

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank everyone who visited the lighthouses. Even if you were only able to see one light, you helped to prove that the ongoing efforts of all lighthouse groups are appreciated.

The U.S. Lighthouse Depot

In 1852, a newly organized and Congressionally empowered Light-House Board divided the United States into twelve lighthouse districts—the first in Maine and the twelfth on the west coast. Each district had at least one supply depot. The Third District Depot was located on piers and in warehouses in Manhattan. It supplied lighthouses from Maine to Delaware. Because many of the materials were flammable or explosive, safe storage was costly and warehouses were at a distance from administrative offices.

In 1863, Admiral William B. Shubrick, Chairman of the Light-House Board, and Professor Joseph Henry, head of the Board's experimental department, set out to find a location for what was to be a super depot "...a facility to receive and test or inspect all oil, lenses and supplies before transferring these materials to the various district depots" (WorthyLake, 24). In addition to lighthouse needs, other navigational aids, such as buoys, were centrally supplied. Admiral Shubrick and Professor Henry sought a location that combined convenient anchorage for large ships with room for new construction, including storage areas for flammable materials. In 1863, the U.S. Light-House Board took control of the southern half of the 30 acre site, with the northern end of the property occupied by the U.S. Revenue Service. After the end of the Civil War, the Light-House Board took control of the entire site.

Technological developments in lighthouse operations in the United States had not kept pace with those abroad, especially in France. The new Depot was not only to consolidate operations—it was to serve as an experimental station where new methods and new materials could be tested and then shared with all of the lighthouses in the United States. Necessary Light-house Service implements such as brass dust pans and service boxes were manufactured on the site. Oils, lenses and wicks were received, tested, and distributed to the districts. In 1883, a cast iron lighthouse tower 60 feet in circumference was erected at the Depot for training and experiments, including research into the use of electricity in lighthouses. In the late 1880s and early 1890s, pioneering experiments in toroidal fluorescent lights resulted in self-luminous buoys off Staten Island. Other experimental buoys were lighted by compressed gas or by electricity-carrying underwater cables.

The Lighthouse Depot had 200 employees in the 1920s. It was a site crowded with buildings and full of men at work. Off shore was busy as well. Service tenders and lightships were moored at the wharf. In 1939, the responsibility of the Light-house Service passed to the U.S. Coast Guard and, over time, lighthouse keepers were slowly automated out of existence. In 1966 the Coast Guard moved to Governor's Island and the future development of the site became a question that took decades to resolve.

The demolition of more than a dozen buildings on the site (see site plan) and the planned construction of the large Ferry Maintenance Facility prompted a strong response from elected officials and citizens. In 1991, the Coast Guard Base Task Force was created in response to the public debate over the future of the waterfront and the use of the site and its historic buildings. Composed of community groups, civic leaders, preservationists and city agencies, the Task Force sought to prepare recommendations for the future use and development of the site, compatible with ferry maintenance conditions.

Several of the Task Force recommendations were implemented. They called for the creation of an Esplanade link through the site, (to be landscaped by a consultant selected through a Request For Proposal); they proposed modifications to the design and site plan of the ferry maintenance facility, including the relocation of parking; and they called for the utilization of the Per Cent for Art Program. These three elements turned the site from a weed-choked ensemble of historic buildings and brand-new construction into one of the most interesting spaces in New York City.

(The above reprinted from The National Lighthouse Center & Museum: The Site & The Buildings. Past, Present & Future by Tamara Coombs.)

On July 11, 1998, the former Depot site was selected by the National Lighthouse Museum steering committee as the future home for the new museum. The New Jersey Lighthouse Society participated in the site selection process and NJLHS President Tom Laverty currently serves on the National Museum’s Board of Directors. Progress is slowly being made to convert the historic depot buildings into a functioning museum.

At the Society's Sandy Hook meeting Henry Stephenson, former director of the new museum, updated the progress made to date. At the conclusion of the presentation the NJLHS presented him with a $1,000 donation for the museum.
The Site
At the Historic Lighthouse Depot

PIER
Lightships, Tenders & Tourboats

Some of the most famous lighthouses in the country are less than an hour's boat ride from the pier. See Maritime New York on pages 14 & 15.

LIGHTHOUSE PLAZA
Outdoor Exhibits & Community Events

FUTURE LIGHTHOUSE
Relocated from Raritan Bay

WATERFRONT ESPLANADE
To the Staten Island Ferry

LIGHT HOUSE BRIDGE
NYC Public Art Project

UNDERGROUND VAULTS
Special Exhibits

MACHINE SHOP
Cafe / Restaurant

1907 LAMP SHOP
Museum Reception & Store

ORIGINAL LAMP SHOP
Museum Exhibits

ADMINISTRATION BLDG.
Museum Offices & Archives

BARRACKS BUILDING
Galleries/Workshops

Map by Henry Stuphamen.
President's Corner

Anyone who did not participate in the lighthouse 2000 tour missed a great event. Not only were their a lot of people who came out for the tours setting attendance records at various lighthouses around the State, but the weather cooperated and provided a beautiful weekend as well. There were a lot of interesting experiences including all the dedicated people who sat in traffic at Navesink waiting to get up the hill. Then there were the people who came running up to the lighthouses after the doors were closed to get that one last stamp, and the dedicated lighthouse enthusiast who was so determined to make all the lights, she got a speeding ticket on the way. It was quite an experience and you will be reading reports from Rick Weber the event coordinator as the statistics for the day are compiled and we meet with lighthouse people around the State to review the weekend’s activities.

An event such as this does not happen without a lot of dedicated people put their heart and soul into it. Rick Weber proposed the idea to the Board of Directors more than a year ago and planning started immediately. Thanks to Rick and his committee of Bill Volpe, Mike Grant, and Judy McCann who did most of the basic leg work to put the event in motion. A special thanks to Rick’s wife, Mary Anne who had to endure the endless phone calls to their home. Their phone number was published in a couple major newspapers as a place to call for more information about the event. Another special thanks to Sarah Cureton and the folks at the Inlet Public Private Association at Absecon Lighthouse for their assistance in getting publicity out to the right sources. Then there were all the NJLHS volunteers who help staff tables at each of the eleven lighthouses. Without them, the cards, stickers, and directions could not have been given out. Finally, thanks to all the volunteers and employees at the various lighthouses. I know what the employees at Navesink went through to accommodate nearly 2,200 visitors for the weekend, and the volunteers at Sandy Hook who gave tour after tour and still could not take everyone. It took a tremendous amount of cooperation between all of you and our volunteers at the NJLHS to make this event the success it was. We look forward to Lighthouse 2001.

P.S. – One item we did not plan for was the nice T-shirts that the volunteers were given to wear on that day. Please note that they will be on sale at our December meeting and through the mail. Look for additional information in this issue of The Beam.

Society News!

Limited Edition T-shirts for sale!

There were many requests at the NJ Lighthouse 2000 Weekend for the t-shirts that were worn by the volunteers. Because of this, we’ve decided to make available a limited amount of shirts without “Volunteer” on them. They will be available for sale at the December 2, 2000 meeting for $12.00. In addition, the shirts can be purchased by mail order until December 31, 2000 for $15.00. Sizes 2X and above will be an additional $2.00. Send mail orders to:

NJLHS
c/o B. J. Smith
7 Goldfinch Road
Audubon Park, NJ 08106

Payment must accompany all orders. Please make checks payable to “NJLHS.”

New Jersey Lighthouse 2001 Calendars and Donna Elias New Jersey Lighthouse mugs will also be available at the December meeting.

NJLHS Has a New Address

NJLHS has a new address. Effectively immediately, please address all correspondence to the society’s new address:

NJLHS, Inc.
P.O. Box 332
Navesink, NJ 07732-0332

NJLHS 2001 People’s Choice Photo Contest

Our Annual People’s Choice Photo Contest will be held at our Spring meeting tentatively scheduled for March 24, 2001. A flyer with rules and an entry blank is enclosed with this issue of The Beam.

Here’s the category breakdown:

- New Jersey Lights: larger than 5X7.
- New Jersey Lights: 5X7 and smaller.
- Other Lights: larger than 5X7.
- Other Lights: 5X7 or smaller.
- Master’s Category: any lighthouse, any size photo.

The rules are the same as last year:

- No names on the picture anywhere!
- Each photo must have an entry blank with it that is completely filled out.
- 3 photos per person: You decide which category or size you want to submit your photos in. You may submit photos in multiple categories but only a total of 3 pho-
tos may be submitted.
- 2 photos per person in the Masters category.

Tip: Smaller photos will be grouped on poster board; we do not have enough stands (or hands!) to put each one up individually. They may not be displayed to full advantage that way.

Photos may be dropped off at the December meeting or mailed to me at:
Al Smith, 7 Goldfinch Rd., Audubon Park, N.J. 08106

They may also be delivered to anyone who can get them to me. We will accept your photos the day of the meeting but please come early if you are dropping them off that day.

No photos will be returned by mail without return postage.

An entry form (which may be duplicated) is enclosed with this issue of The Beam.

Correction: Ludlum Beach Article
Even editors make mistakes. In my Ludlum Beach Light- house article, I mentioned that Joshua Reeves was a formerly an assistant keeper at the Absecon Lighthouse. Reeves was an as- sistant keeper at Barnegat Lighthouse, not Absecon. Thanks to Elinor Veit for bringing the error to my attention. Seems I had it correct on the draft of the article but changed it to Absecon somehow as we went to press.—Kim

Kudos!
It’s always nice to hear that our members are appreciated. This one was e-mailed to us by Ron & Pat Bandock.

“We would be remiss if we didn’t say a huge thank you to all involved in the terrific New Jersey Lighthouse weekend. We thoroughly enjoyed it. You did a super job. Carol [DiNapoli] deserves a big thank you for another great boat trip out of Annapolis. We always enjoy them – the only bad thing was my husband’s camera decided to work only 7 times out of 48 pictures. Oh well, there’s always the next time. Thanks again for all the hard work that everyone does to make this such a great organi- zation.”

A Message from Membership

by Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair

This is something new that you’ll be seeing in The Beam.

As Membership Chair, I do a report for the Board meetings and General Membership meetings, but I thought that our members who don’t make the meetings might like to know what’s going on behind the scenes. Below are a few things I thought might be of interest.

It’s Membership Renewal Time!!
It’s amazing how the year 2000 has flown by! In a few days you’ll be receiving your 2001 renewal form. Please review the information carefully and if any changes need to be made, please do so directly on the form. (If you’ve already renewed for 2001 or if you became a member after 9/30/00, you will not receive a renewal form in the mail.) Upon receipt of your renewal form and payment, you will receive your membership card for the year 2001.

Membership Numbers
At printing time of this issue, the membership numbers are as follows:

- Single Memberships = 369
- Family Memberships = 325 (x 2 = 650)
- Total = 1019 members

Membership applications come from many sources. A few of these places include: Sandy Hook Lighthouse, East Point Lighthouse, Absecon Lighthouse, Sea Girt Lighthouse, Lighthouse 2000 Weekend, the Internet, and a variety of members handing out the brochures/applications.

New Members
Since the September meeting, the following members have joined our Society. If you happen to meet them at a future meet- ing, please welcome them.

- Steve Alexander, Flemington, NJ
- Linda & Bob Barth, Somerville, NJ
- Russell Becker, Bergenfield, NJ
- George & Kim Beyer, Long Branch, NJ
- Jake & Tracy Biehl, Nanticoke, PA
- Tom & Darlene Chisholm, Albion, MI
- Joan, Michael & Marie Delehanty, Monmouth Beach, NJ
- Anastasia Galata, Long Branch, NJ
- John Garmendi, Old Bridge, NJ
- Robert Gasecki, Bordentown, NJ
- Donald Grove, Hamilton Square, NJ
- Melissa Haber, Piscataway, NJ
Chesapeake Bay Lighthouse Cruise

by Carole DiNapoli

October 28, 2000, a perfect autumn day for 93 NJLHS members to cruise the Chesapeake Bay. We departed from the Annapolis City Dock at 9:30 a.m. on the Annapolitan II, a 65-foot motor yacht.

Our first photo stop was Sandy Point light followed by Baltimore Harbor light. A delicious box lunch was served while cruising. The next lighthouse we visited was Thomas Point. Always a highlight, Thomas Point is the last screw pile light left on its original site in the Chesapeake. With its beautiful red roof, it is truly “picture perfect”.

Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, the last screwpile lighthouse left on its original site in the Chesapeake Bay. It went into service November 27, 1875.

Photo by Carole DiNapoli.

Around lunchtime, the wind picked up causing our afternoon ride to be a little rough. Sharps Island Light was an interesting site with its 15-degree tilt and white caps breaking around the base. Our final lighthouse was Bloody Point. We arrived back in Annapolis around 4:30 p.m.

Sharps Island Light began to lean when its caisson foundation collapsed.

Photo by Carole DiNapoli.
Prince Edward Island Lighthouse Tour

by Carole DiNapoli

Our first adventure out of the U.S. was very successful. On a beautiful August day we departed Rutgers University and headed north. It was a two-day drive to Prince Edward Island—miles and miles of pine trees and beautiful scenery. We looked for moose and watched the Anne of Green Gables movie. We had a great driver and knowledgeable guide, and they kept things interesting. On our third morning, we crossed the New Confederation Bridge into Prince Edward Island. The bridge is a little over nine miles long and crosses the Northumberland Strait.

Our first stop was The Gateway Village Interpretive Center. We picked up our lighthouse lovers kits and spent some of our new Canadian money. The lighthouse lover's kit is used to acquire brass rubbings from the various lighthouses. Once you get at least eight lighthouse rubbings, you are awarded a certificate. Our itinerary called for 12 lighthouses, but our guide quickly changed that. Having grown up on Prince Edward Island, he knew it well. Everyday he would add several more lights to our tour.

We now began heading west, visiting Seacow Head, Summerside, Cape Egmont and West Point. West Point light is also an inn and restaurant. A beautiful spot on a beautiful blue-sky day, we were able to climb the light, have a delicious lunch and walk on the red sand beach! Our last stop of the day was The Potato Museum. We stayed overnight at a lovely resort and the President of the Prince Edward Island Lighthouse Society spoke to us.

Our next morning arrived with more sunshine and we now headed north stopping at North Cape first, then heading east through miles of potato fields. We visited Cape Tryon Light. The afternoon had us visiting Anne of Green Gables House before arriving in Charlottetown for the night.

All too soon it was our final day on the island. We visited six lighthouses in between the sun, wind and rain. Photography was quite a challenge that day, East Point being so windy; you couldn't hold your camera. After three days of touring, we had completely circled the island and saw a total of 28 lights. As we left the island the next morning, we were awarded our well-deserved Lighthouse Lovers Certificate.

Our travels home included a stop at Magnetic Hill in New Brunswick and L.L. Bean in Freeport. We arrived home safely with fond memories of Prince Edward Island and its many lights.
NJLHS Prince Edward Island Tour
Photos by Carole DiNapoli

Cape Tryon – The original lighthouse was built in 1865 but was relocated due to erosion. The present tower dates from 1905. This 39-foot tower overlooks the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The light stands 117 feet above sea level.
Photo by Carole DiNapoli.

Seacow Head – located at 46° 18' 57.5" N by 63° 48' 38.2" W. Built in 1863, renovated and moved back from the sea in 1987.
Photo by Carole DiNapoli.

Summerside Rear Range – Also called the Summerside Back Range was built in 1898. It stands on private property in town. It’s fixed green light shines from a focal plane of 24.8m. The white square tower is braced with guide wires.
Photo by Carole DiNapoli.
**West Point** - A black and white striped square pyramidal tower that dates from 1875. It stands on the southwestern tip of the island. It was painted the traditional Canadian red and white until 1915, when it was repainted black and white.

*Photo by Carole DiNapoli.*

**Cape Egmont** - Built in 1884 at 46° 27' 07" N by 61° 58' 20" W. Its white light flashes every 5 seconds from a height of 21.9m. This white square lighthouse is 12.8m high.

*Photo by Carole DiNapoli.*
Program Signals

by Yvonne Miller

The December 2, 2000 meeting will be held at the West Cape May Fire Hall on Broadway in West Cape May, New Jersey. The normal meeting format will be followed:

Hospitality will be served at 10:30 a.m. Members are encouraged to bring goodies (especially Christmas cookies etc. to share). General Membership Meeting & elections will begin at 11:00 a.m. Following the meeting and elections there will be a break for lunch followed by a presentation by Rich Chiemengo, a Cape May Lighthouse Director, at 12:30 p.m.

Tours of the Cape May Lighthouse will follow the presentation. REMEMBER to wear your Society name tag or have your NJLHS membership card. Visitors and new members will be issued a name tag that will allow them to tour the lighthouse. Admission to the lighthouse will be free as long as you have one of the above. In addition, members who want to travel up to Hereford Inlet Light in North Cape May are reminded that your membership card or Society name tag allows you free admission to Hereford Inlet. This was a perk that was offered to NJLHS members for this year, however, it has been extended to members anytime they visit. Thank you, Betty, for your generosity.

The directions for the meeting rout members directly into West Cape May, avoiding the City of Cape May. The Cape May Christmas Festival will be going on this weekend and if you are not familiar with the area, traffic in the city can get very congested. If you follow the directions below, you will avoid the city. However, if you are staying in the area for the weekend, take advantage of this wonderful historic city and all that it has to offer. It should be decorated for the holidays.

Directions to the West Cape May Fire Hall:

From the Garden State Parkway traveling south, bear to the right towards North Cape May (Route 109). Take the jug handle bearing right onto Route 9 (Sandman Blvd.). Proceed to the Seashore Road (Route 626 South) intersection.

Make the left hand turn onto Seashore Road and continue until Simpson Lane which is just before the RR tracks. DO NOT TURN. Seashore Road becomes Broadway at this point. You will also see the "Welcome to West Cape May" sign on the right. The West Cape May Fire Hall will be on the right-hand side 0.2 miles from Simpson Lane intersection. Turn into the parking lot at the Fire Hall and park behind the building. The entrance for the meeting will be marked with NJLHS signs.

Directions to the Cape May Lighthouse from the Fire Hall:
The lighthouse is 3 miles from the fire hall. Turn right out of the parking lot and follow Broadway to the first traffic light, Route 606, Sunset Blvd. Make another right and proceed on Sunset Blvd to the Junction of 629 (Lighthouse Avenue), turn left. You will see the lighthouse which is at Cape May Point State Park.

Upcoming Meetings:
The schedule of meetings for the coming year is listed below. The meeting places are not yet established but will be announced as they are finalized. If anyone would like to give a presentation on any lighthouse trips they have taken, please contact Yvonne Miller. Slides or video would be required for the presentation. If you know of someone you would like to have a speaker at one of our meetings, please send contact information to me at YMM615@aol.com or give it to me at one of the meetings.

Please understand the scheduled meeting dates could change due to unforeseen circumstance. Cancellations due to weather etc, would be announced on the internet or on the Society phone number, 1-856-546-0514.

Spring Meeting March 24, 2001 Photo Contest
Summer Meeting June 23, 2001 Annual Raffle
Fall Meeting Sept. 22, 2001 T-shirt contest
Winter Meeting Dec. 1, 2001 Elections

Fall Meeting Recap
On September 16, 2000, a beautiful autumn day, the meeting and lighthouse tours at Sandy Hook were attended by 125 members and guests. As usual, thanks to all our members who helped with membership, ways & means, memorabilia and clean-up. The T-shirt/Sweatshirt contest participation was fun as usual with many good sports participating. Our guest speaker was Henry Stevenson of the National Lighthouse Museum, who gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the present and future plans for the museum at the site of the former Staten Island Lighthouse Depot (see article elsewhere in this issue).

Have a Happy Holiday Season and Good Things for the New Year!