President’s Year 2000 Report

Wow - what a year! It started off with worries about Y2K but ended up with one of the most successful programs our Society has ever done. There is no question that October’s Lighthouse 2000 program put us on the map, new memberships have been coming in fast and furious, as have donations, and enthusiastic comments. The most frequently asked question is when are we doing it again? We are planning Lighthouse 2001 event so stay tuned.

The Society continued its successful year of meetings. At Tuckerton Seaport we saw the most members at a meeting ever – 240. Other meetings were held at Hereford Inlet in March, always a great place. The Hereford Lighthouse folks are very accommodating and go out of their way to make our members feel at home. The two photo guys were just as accommodating. They were there to talk about what makes an interesting photograph. An appropriate topic for our annual photography contest meeting. They gave out (or should I say threw out) lots of free film and other items for members to use. In September we were in Sandy Hook, New Jersey where Henry Stephenson of the National Lighthouse Museum gave an excellent presentation about the new museum on Staten Island, New York.

After our West Cape May meeting I hope you had a chance to spend some time in Cape May looking at the holiday decorations. My wife and I got caught in the Festival of Lights parade unknowing having parked along the parade route. A friendly Cape May police officer got us out during a break in the festivities, only to find we had become part of the parade. We smiled and waved to the crowd for a block or two, but could not find a piece of poster board to make a sign that said “New Jersey Lighthouse Society float” – next time!

Trips continue to be another highlight of the organization. Members went to Prince Edwards Island, for a five-day trip and viewed about 28 lighthouses. About 100 members took a bouncy but beautiful one-day trip on the Chesapeake Bay out of Annapolis, Maryland to visit five lighthouses.

Bill Volpe’s Educational Committee placed 30 lighthouse educational kits in schools and educational institutions in 2000. The kits include information about our organization, copies of the New Jersey Network video Eye of the Mariner, and copies of books about New Jersey Lighthouses.

Our fund raising efforts continue to be well received and provide the organization an opportunity to promote lighthouse preservation. Donations were made to the National Lighthouse Museum ($10000), Tuckerton Seaport ($700), and Cape May ($500). A donation of $1700 was made to the Coast Heritage Trail of the National Park Service to assist with the design of exhibits for the Lighthouse Keepers Quarters at Sandy Hook. Another $2400 has been approved for the fabrication of the actual exhibit panels which will take place this year. We have budgeted $6000 for our preservation efforts thanks to the success of the Y2K Preservation Raffle held last June. Our most successful raffle to date raised just over $6000 to be placed in that fund. We look forward to the coming year and being able to work with lighthouse groups in New Jersey to fund projects.

Financially the organization is in good standing. We will have a budget this year of $55,000 to pursue our activities and manage the Society. We are getting the word about New Jersey’s Lighthouses to the public and getting an excellent response. It is a credit to all the hard work our members do. Thank you for your efforts. I look forward to another year of continued success for our group.
Message from Membership
(Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair)

A Few Reminders

Renewal Forms: If you have not returned your 2001 renewal form, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Changes: If you’re moving, changing your membership status, phone number, or e-mail address, please let me know so I can have your most current information. I like to keep the database up-to-date!

Gift memberships: A membership to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society would be the perfect gift for that person who has everything! If you’re interested, please allow enough time for me to process the membership packet. I can send the packet to you to give as the gift or I can send it directly to the recipient...it’s up to you!

Meeting Attendees

There were 174 people that signed-in at the Cape May meeting in December (the youngest being a set of six month old, identical twin girls). Meeting totals for the year 2000: March 174, June 235, September 125, and December 174. Reminder: If you attend a meeting, please sign the book—we like to keep track of how many people are coming to the meetings to ensure enough chairs.

Membership Numbers

At printing time of this issue, the membership numbers are as follows: Single Memberships = 274
Family Memberships = 306 x 2 = 612
Total = 886 members

Please note that the numbers are lower due to the fact that all renewals have not been returned.

New Members

Since the December meeting, the following members have joined our Society. If you happen to meet them at a future meeting, please welcome them:

- Cheryl, Alison, Kimberly
- & Stephanie Ahrens
- Robert & Lisa Anderson
- Anthony & Ruth Asselta
- Philip & Jean Austin
- Michael & Denise Brophy
- Paul Cavicchio
- Rich Chicimino
- Ken & Debi Crane
- John & Irene Cunningham
- Michele D'Avanzo
- Patricia Davidson
- Ann Doherty
- Raymond & Sandra Dorell
- JoAnn Dougan
- Sloan Gale
- Robert & Susan Griffith
- Frank A. Hackius
- Ronald H. Hansen
- William Healy
- Linda & Jack Heininger
- Lucinda & Family Holsinger
- Teresa Jablow
- Merle & John Jenik
- Aaron & Tonia Judah
- Thomas & Karen Kauffman
- Mary Catherine Kennedy
- Wendy Kennedy
- Susan Konoldzie
- Ray & Terry Lavanture
- Paul & Terry Lopez
- The Mattias Family
- Robert Melick
- Rose Menton
- William & Josephine Noonan
- Cindy Nylen
- Mike & Maggie Ott
- William Posch
- Michael Rehrig
- David & Gloria Rosner
- Joe & Diane Sergi
- Bob & Gerri Seufert
- Richard & Patricia Shuss
- Robert & Family Wall
- Rey, Chris & Elyse
- Washington
- Barbara & Robert Wilson

- Belford, NJ
- Tinton Falls, NJ
- Vineland, NJ
- Hazlet, NJ
- Bogota, NJ
- Sparta, NJ
- Cape May Point, NJ
- Butler, NJ
- Tinton Falls, NJ
- Hoboken, NJ
- Linwood, NJ
- Pt. Pleasant, NJ
- Williamstown, NJ
- Pitts Grove, NJ
- Millville, NJ
- Glen Ridge, NJ
- Philadelphia, PA
- Maywood, NJ
- Glen Rock, NJ
- Pennsauken, NJ
- Browns Mills, NJ
- Bordentown, NJ
- Beach Haven Terrace, NJ
- Colts Neck, NJ
- York, PA
- Barnegat, NJ
- Asbury, NJ
- Philadelphia, NJ
- Cherry Hill, NJ
- Absecon, NJ
- Lanoka Harbour, NJ
- Ocean Gate, NJ
- Roebling, NJ
- Barnegat, NJ
- Ocean Beach, NJ
- Little Egg Harbor, NJ
- Riverside, NJ
- Kingsland, GA
- Tarrytown, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
-Thorofare, NJ
- Belle Mead, NJ
- Newton, PA
- New Brunswick, NJ
- Philadelphia, PA
Congratulations to the Officers and Committee members of the 2001 Team, pictured at left (left to right): Ray Vliet, Cindy Mitzen, Al Smith, Barry Wood, Betty Smith, Yvonne Miller, Bill Volpe, Elinor Veit, Tom Laverty, Debby Megonigal and Mary Beth Doherty

Best Wishes to those who have finished their term as Officers. Pictured at right (left to right) Judy Swiencki, Steve Martorano, Rick Weber joined by Tom Laverty, President

NJLHS Calendar of Events
--2001--

3/24 General Membership Meeting, Audubon Park, NJ
Annual Photo Contest

5/5&6 2001 Lower Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip Two Day Trip
Crisfield to Portsmouth, VA. Two lunches
Saturday night stay at Holiday Inn in Portsmouth

6/02 East Point Bay Day--Outreach

6/23 General Membership Meeting, Highlands, NJ
11th Anniversary Picnic
Navesink Twin Lights
Annual Preservation Raffle

8/01 Celebrate National Lighthouse Month

8/04 East Point Open House—Outreach
8/25 Boat Trip up the Hudson River**

9/22 General Membership Meeting*
Annual Sweatshirt/T-shirt contest

9/25 Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum Outreach

10/18 Week Long Bus Trip to North Carolina Lighthouses**
10/13&14 NJ Lighthouse Challenge Weekend, Statewide Event**

12/01 General Membership Meeting—Sea Girt, NJ
Annual elections 12/01
Membership Renewal Time

Mark you calendars

? Date to be determined
* Location to be determined
** Information Details to Follow
(856) 565-1115 - NLHS Hotline
Rose Island Respite

By Bill Volpe

Ever wish you could turn back the hands of time, retreat to a period when life was simple, the pace was slower and you were isolated from the every day pressure? Rose Island Light, one mile from Newport, RI in the Narragansett Bay provides just such an opportunity.

My wife must have sensed my need to get away when she presented me with an overnight stay as a Christmas gift in 1998. We invited Carol and Joe Gucek to join us and began to plan for a long weekend around our smallest state.

To prepare us for the visit we did a little research and learned that the light was first lit in 1870 and continued as a navigational aid until 1971 when the building was abandoned and the light extinguished. Between 1971 and 1984, when concerned citizens organized the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, the ravages of the elements, neglect and vandalism took a significant toll on the keeper’s quarters and light tower. Over the next eight years the Foundation restored the light to its 1912 appearance and transformed the first floor into a living museum.

The island is only 17 acres, with the lighthouse grounds and keeper’s quarters occupying 1.5 acres. The remaining land has military ties of more than 200 years to British occupation and includes dilapidated buildings from World Wars I and II which are covered with thick brush that provide an ideal location for the existing bird refuge.

When we arrived at the Goat Island dock (Newport) we were greeted by Charlotte Johnson, the Executive Director of the Foundation and the driving force behind fundraising, restoration, acquisition of the adjoining military acreage and day-to-day upkeep of the facility. She and her constant companion, Wigan, a playful golden retriever, accompanied us to the island. Charlotte provided a one-hour briefing on the do’s and don’ts during our stay.

Rose Island is not a bed and breakfast. Although beds, linens and fluffy down comforters are provided, you must bring your own food and beverages. In the event of bad weather you could be stranded on the island for an extra day or two ... so guests must be prepared.

Our overnight stay in the museum keeper’s bedrooms included the use of the library, kitchen, living room and water closet (“WC”). We had no running water. However, rainwater collected from the roof was stored in a basement cistern, chlorinated, filtered and available via hand pump in the “WC”. Bottled water was provided for drinking purposes.

The charm of the kitchen was enhanced by the cast iron coal stove. Our cooking was done on a single burner gas stove (an outside grill was also provided). Antique china cups provided for guests seemed to be the perfect complement for Ann and Carol as they enjoyed afternoon tea. With a minimum amount of furniture rearranging we were able to transform the ambiance of the living room into one of a fine dining room. Complete with linen tablecloth, candlelight and a view of the bay. A wind turbine generated power to charge batteries sufficient enough to power a 15-watt fluorescent bulb in each room. Surprisingly, this provided adequate illumination. The museum also included a souvenir shop (actually a closet) of Rose Island memorabilia, which was available for purchase on the honor system.

As overnight guests in the museum we got to heat up water for bathing, washing dishes and cleaning. An outside solar heated shower was also available out back, some 200 feet away. The second floor keeper’s quarters requires a one-week minimum stay. Those accommodations include luxuries as a black and white TV, running water, gas powered refrigerator and a small microwave. Those guests are assigned daily chores such as raising and lowering the flag (which Joe demonstrated for them), mowing grass, chlorinating the water, measuring precipitation and logging the daily high and low temperatures.

The restored wooden staircase to the lantern room was as pristine when we visited as it was when the renovation was completed. As guests are required to remove shoes before climbing the tower. The lantern room provided a great view of the island, Newport Harbor, passing ships, and America’s Cup 12 meter yachts.

(Continued on Page 5)
Rose Island Respite .......... We also had a bird's eye view of the gulls gliding around the tower. There was a unique feeling as we sat high up there on a cool day with the warmth of the sun shining through the glass. It seemed to invoke a feeling that you belonged to the lighthouse and that it belonged to you.

Charlotte cautioned us to avoid straying beyond the lighthouse grounds into the thick brush area during mating season. Apparently, I ventured too close. The gulls began squawking. Joe yelled a warning and the birds began dive-bombing towards me. I got the message real quick that I was persona non grata. The island abounds with hundreds of wild beach roses, which add to the natural beauty. When you've completed your tour of the lighthouse grounds, you can head to the dock where a kayak is moored for guests who wish to paddle around the island.

In the evening our entertainment consisted of a player piano complete with 200 rolls of music and lyrics. We invited the second floor keepers to join us and sang and sang until our legs were weary and could no longer pump the pedals. As we prepared to retire, there were several knock on the kitchen door. When Ann and Carol responded, there was no one there. It must have been one of those lighthouse ghost things.

As part of our house keeping duties, we made up our beds with fresh linens in preparation for the next museum keepers and made sure we left everything in its place, just as we found it. Charlotte returned the next afternoon to transport us, our garbage and dirty linens back to Newport on a 30 foot Down East Lobster boat. As we approached the dock and parking lot full of cars, we quickly realized that we had returned to reality.

For additional information, visit the Rose Island website: http://www.roseeislandlighthouse.org

HOSPITALITY
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Your overwhelming generosity with cookies and cakes for our December meeting was greatly appreciated. Everyone at the meeting enjoyed all the goodies, and the leftovers were enjoyed by the West Cape May Fire Co. that night and by the visitors to Sandy Hook Lighthouse at our outreach table during the Hook's Christmas weekends in December. Thank you again to everyone who brought something.

If anyone would like to bring a baked good to our March meeting, please let me know. My phone number is 856-546-7810 or my e-mail is bjksmith@juno.com. If you let me know you are going to bring something, I will be able to better plan what I still have to get for the meeting.

The response from members as to buying your lunch at our March meeting was very good so the Audubon Park 4th of July Committee will be selling

- Hoagie $2.50
- Hot sausage, peppers & onion sandwich $2.50
- Sweet sausage, peppers, onion sandwich $2.50
- Kielbasa sandwich $2.00
- Hot roast beef sandwich $2.00
- Hot dog $1.00
- Soda $0.50
- Chips $0.35

If you did not sign up to buy your lunch at the December meeting, don’t worry. We will have extra of all of the above.

Your support of the Audubon Park 4th of July Committee by buying your lunch from them will be greatly appreciated.

Betty Smith
Hospitality Chairperson

From The Historic Tuckerton Seaport

Lighthouse enthusiasts will appreciate the special exhibit "Rider's of the Light" at the Tucker's Island Lighthouse, Tuckerton Seaport on Rt. 9, Tuckerton NJ. The exhibit is on loan from the Tuckerton Historical Society, Giffordtown Museum. The artifacts are from the original Tucker's Island.

Included is one of the last journals from Tucker's Island, a key for the Lighthouse, coins, and an original lighthouse porch post, that was carved into a boat, several photographs and more from the old Little Egg Lighthouse, lost to the sea forever in 1927.

See this special exhibit on the first floor when you visit the Lighthouse! More info at www.TuckertonSeaport.org or call 609-296-5810.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

Members should be receiving tickets for the Annual NJLHS Preservation Fund Raffle in the mail soon. The first prize this year will be the New Jersey Lighthouse Quilt which is being assembled by several members of the Society, pictured in this issue of The Beam. There will be nine other prizes offered. The raffle will be held at the June 23rd, Meeting/Anniversary Picnic, at Twin Lights.
2001 Photo Contest

The March 24th meeting will be our photo contest (one of these years we will do it in September, just to CONFUSE everyone).

Once again this year, we will be privileged to have Ted Skeen and Edd Mathisen, THE KODAK AMBASSADORS, with us to finish the job they started last year. Those of you who were there last year may remember the fun we had with Edd and Ted and all the good information they had for us. In previous years we were all hurrying off to a lighthouse to take MORE pictures and didn’t take ALL the time we had to learn how to make those pictures better.

This year, the meeting is being held at a ‘neutral’ site (one without a lighthouse, unless you count the one on Pelican Dr.) to allow Ted and Edd not only to give us their presentation on better picture taking without the interruption of another speaker but to also tell us why they feel the winning photos were, indeed, the winners. It is often the case that a well-illustrated example of something we KNOW about may help more than all the words spoken. So come armed with your best pictures and your best picture questions. Ted and Edd will be happy with both.

If you haven’t mailed your pictures by now, don’t bother. They probably won’t get here in time. Either bring them with you to the meeting or give them to someone who is coming to deliver them for you.

This year, sign-up for the various categories will be in separate parts of the hall so that we will not have people bunching up and waiting in lines so long.

And the categories are:

- Master’s Category (you get your notification and should you forget, we HAVE the LIST!) 2 photos maximum of any lighthouse, foreign or domestic.
- NJ Lighthouses Larger than 5X7
- NJ Lighthouses 5X7 and Smaller
- Other Lighthouses Larger than 5X7
- Other Lighthouses 5X7 and Smaller

For all those NOT in the Master’s category, you are allowed 3 photos total which can be all in one category or divided up anyway you wish among those categories. Smaller photos will be grouped on poster board due to limitations of space and the number of stands available so they probably won’t show to their best advantage. Photos do not have to be mounted, matted or framed but do SHOW better when mounted and matted.

So Come Out and SHOW OFF your Best work

Our thanks go out to the EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY for sponsoring the Photo Ambassadors.

Al Smith

HELP!

(Did you hear that?)

(Good!)

Yes, it’s that time of the year again. (SEEMS like it’s ALWAYS that time of the year!) We are, again, looking for volunteers for our program at Sandy Hook Lighthouse as well as Absecon & Tucker’s Island Lighthouses.

Yes, even though I concentrate on Sandy Hook, (IT IS an NJLHS project. NOT an AI Smith project as some may think), there are others out there looking for help too.

Last year you Sandy Hook’ers worked 1913 hours and spoke with, showed videos too or took on tours, 7334 people. Not to shabby for our little group.

But last year was also a hard year for the Sandy Hook project; I had to call for last minute help MANY times and I am VERY thankful for those who answered those calls. I was there much more than I wanted to be (Yeah, you believe that, right???) much to the detriment of my OWN house. I sincerely hope that Y2K was just a busy year for everyone and not an indication of what the future may hold for if that is not the case we may have to scale back our efforts at ‘The Hook’. I’d hate to see that happen but I also hate to see the load fall on those nice enough to heed my all to frequent calls for help. Last year we lost at least a half dozen of our regulars and several others appeared to be overwhelmed in their regular jobs and, of course. THAT didn’t help any. Hopefully, some of these people will see their way clear to join us again this year. PLEASE!! We miss you guys!!

By now, you should have gotten a letter with the dates for training and also some possible changes and suggestions for using limited help. I hope you will take (or have taken) the time to e-mail me with your responses.

We have approximately 1018 members in the NJLHS (counting family members). Wouldn’t it be nice to get JUST 10% of those members to volunteer? Will YOU be one of that 10%? Please?

Al Smith

Chesapeake Weekend Boat Trip

From Crisfield, Md. to Portsmouth, Va., May 5 & 6, 2001.

Overnight stay at Portsmouth, Holiday Inn. Depart Crisfield at 10 AM 5/5 and return approximately 3 AM 5/6. Cost includes boat trip, two lunches and stay and Holiday Inn $295 per couple, $195 for single. Flyer with more details will be mailed to all members. Minimum of 80 people needed for this trip to run.

Trips in the Making


Notice will be given in the next issue of the Beam.
E-mail Box..................
Brooxxe@dandy.net writes

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail is working on an historical signage project on the United States Life Saving Service. Word is it may be in place by spring 2001.

Hereford Light
A matching grant of $103,000.00 was received from the NJ Historical Trust. This money will finance a new roof (cedar shake) like the original and repair chimneys. This work is to begin in the spring of 2001. Hereford light is in need of volunteers for the upcoming season, please call Betty Mugnier. (609-522-4520)

Snail Mail..................

Cindy sends these words
Dear Keepers,

Volunteers are always needed at Sandy Hook and in your spare time if any, you can take pictures of camera men taking pictures of models.

Board Meetings
April 12
May 17
July 12
Paulsboro Boro Hall
8 pm
All are Welcome.

Tinicum Rear Range Light

Dave Birch standing at left, with NJ Lighthouse 2000 participants. Dave is the grandson of Captain John Birch the last light keeper at Tinicum Light. Above are the Captains Great, Great Grandchildren: Shannon, Lacey, David, Kaylo and Jacob.
February 14, 2001

THE BEAM
Joe Guchek
16 Labakan Drive
Highland Park, NJ
08904

On December 11th, 2000, Mary Elizabeth Bennett Rott passed peacefully away in her sleep. She was 98 years young, and an enthusiastic supporter of New Jersey Lighthouses.

Her uncle and aunt, Edwin and Vinnie Hughes, were among the last lighthouse keepers at the Cape May Lighthouse. Mary Elizabeth lived at the lighthouse for several years during her childhood. Her many adventures were the subject for a juvenile historic fiction book entitled "Mary Elizabeth and the Cape May Point Lighthouse". The book was written by her daughter, Katherine Von Ahnen, who worked for ten years at the lighthouse, greeting and meeting people from all over the United States and many foreign countries who had come to visit the lighthouse.

Her cremated remains will be interred at Cold Spring Cemetery, in Cape May, on May 18, 2001, her 99th birthday. Along with her remains, her family is preparing a "Memory Box" with mementos of the highlights of her life to be interred.

During the last three months of her life, Mary Elizabeth talked freely of her days at the Cape May Lighthouse and how she helped her uncle tend "the great light" and her aunt with the housework. It was evident to all her listeners that those childhood days were one of the happiest periods of her life.

Memorable items from several organizations will be placed in the "Memory Box". One of the most meaningful will be her membership card for 2001 in the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. All of the members of Mary Elizabeth's family are sure she will be putting it to good use, flitting up and down the New Jersey coast from her new vantage point, making sure the lights never go out.

Old lighthouse members never die...they just fly away.

Submitted by:

Katherine Von Ahnen
19415 SW 15th Avenue
Newberry, Florida
32669
NJLHS QUILTERS

The following participated in bringing this quilt to fruition: Mae Barringer, Virginia Freas, Charlotte Hagmaier, Robin Harker, Debbie Megonigal, Yvonne Miller, B. J. Raymond, Joan Smarrito, Kathleen Stout, Ilia Vliet, and Trish Wylupek.

This quilt is to be the First Prize in this years Annual Raffle. The drawing will be held on June 23, 2001 at the annual picnic to be held this year at Naversink Twin Lights.

Quilters (left to right) are Joan Smarrito, Debbie Megonigal, Tricia Wylupek and Robin Harker.

Lighthouse 2000

Submitted by Rick Weber

Anyone who volunteered for lighthouse 2000 and hasn't yet receive a map to contact Rick Weber either through email rick-weber@mindspring.com or phone 973-328-3615. Also, a meeting to plan the 2001 event was held in February.

The Beam

The following dates will be used for deadlines of articles for submission to the Beam for publication:
- May 13, 2001 for the June issue
- August 15, 2001 for the September issue
- October 22, 2001 for the December issue

From the Editor.......... Sincere thanks to those who contributed articles and reported on lighthouses and events.
New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge - 2001
October 13th and 14th, 2001
Email: njlighthouse2001@excite.com

Dear Lighthouse Fans,

I am pleased to announce that the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, in cooperation with the various lighthouse preservation groups throughout New Jersey, will host the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge - 2001 event.

A similar event was held in October of 2000, and it was an overwhelming success. Over 1500 persons participated, and almost 250 of them visited all 11 participating lighthouses.

This year's event promises to be even bigger and better. On February 17, 2001, members of the Society met with representatives of the various lighthouses to plan this year's event. They chose the weekend of October 13th and 14th. The planners wanted to emphasize that the event is a challenge, although all are welcomed to visit as many as as few sites as they please. They have extended the open hours for each participating lighthouse to 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Some sites may extend these hours at their discretion. The group also plans to try to involve a few more organizations this year including the National Lighthouse Center and Museum, the United States Lighthouse Society, the Cove Neck Beacon, and the Barnegat Light Historical Society although no formal plans have been made yet.

- Look for updates in The Beacon or the Society Web Page: njls.org
- A special email address has been set up for the event: njlighthouse2001@excite.com

We need more member volunteers than ever this year in order to make the event a success. Please look for the sign-up table at the March meeting or contact me as noted below.

Thanks. I look forward to another great event!

Rick Weber
rick-weber@juno.com
973-328-3615

NJLHS joins Calvert Marine Museum
In “WINTERLIGHTS” Celebration

Betty and I traveled to Maryland on Saturday, January 13, 2001 for the annual celebration of “WINTERLIGHTS” the gathering of Lighthouse groups and associated organizations at the Calvert Marine Museum, home of Drum Point Lighthouse. Drum Point is a scenic lighthouse that was rescued, renovated and restored at the museum and is open for tours. The “Keepers” will give you a fascinating insight into their daily lives.

A number of lighthouses were represented including Concord Point, Point Lookout, the Cape Henry’s, and Piney Point. The Chesapeake Chapter, NJLHS, was also present serving, as we do, as an umbrella organization for the Bay lights. “WINTERLIGHTS” provides an opportunity to “network” with our fellow enthusiasts and update each other as to our programs, etc.

For us, it is the opportunity to let our southern friends know there is more to New Jersey than just Cape May and Barnegat lighthouses and many are surprised in the number of land based lighthouses in New Jersey. Many were also surprised that all New Jersey lighthouses have “Sponsorship Organizations” and that, with the exception of Fort Point, which is still undergoing restoration, all of them are in the “preservation and education” stage. We also talked to a number of folks who participated in NJLighthouse 2000 and many more who wanted to know if we were going to do it this year as they felt it was a great idea and a fun way to see our lights.

Tim Harrisson of Lighthouse Digest fame and co-founder of the American Lighthouse Foundation was autographing his books. Last Lighthouses and Endangered Lighthouses. He also spoke on the work of the ALF and the need for more volunteers to help with the rescue of and preservation of “our” lighthouses. We also noted that there is going to be a symposium on Youth and the Lighthouses in 2002 and he hopes that some good educational programs come from it. We told him of the NJLHS effort to get books and video’s into school libraries and of the Absecon “Education Trunk” and he was excited about these efforts and took our information for the symposium. He also said he would contact Eliott for information on the Absecon project (19 name basis, um, Eliott?)

We also had the pleasure of meeting Candace and Mary Louise Clifford, a mother daughter team, who were there autographing their books, Women Who Kept the Lights and Eighteenth Century Lighthouses.

All in all, it was a very interesting day.
Al Smith.
Absecon Lighthouse Rebuilding Once More

By Rich & Elinor Veit

In spite of the devastating fire that claimed the nearly completed keeper’s house in July 1999, the Inlet Public/Private Association (IPPA) kept moving forward with the opening of Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, New Jersey. On April 9, 1999 the lighthouse was officially opened to the public for tours. At the same time the IPPA was fighting a fierce legal battle with the insurance company that held the policy on the lighthouse. It took nearly two and a half years to win the law suite, but the IPPA never doubted the outcome. Finally in the fall of 2000, the judge ruled in favor of the IPPA and reconstruction started almost immediately. Completion of the keeper’s dwelling is targeted for late May 2001.

The wickie at work! Ray Schilliager, NJLHS member, took on the technical job of keeping the lantern lit every night. This photograph shows Ray inside the first order Fresnel lens making an adjustment to the lights that are controlled by a timer. The lantern is lit every night at dusk and goes off by 1 a.m.

Photograph by Rich Veit

The keeper’s house under reconstruction. In spite of a cold and often snowy winter, Precido Construction Co. Inc., the General Contractor, is managing to stay on schedule with the rebuilding of the house.

Photograph by Elinor Veit

Landscaping of the grounds will be started just as soon as the weather allows. The grounds, like the dwelling, will reflect the period of interpretation selected by the restoration committee, 1925 when the lantern was electrified to 1933 when the lighthouse was decommissioned as an aide to navigation.

The lighthouse tower is opened five days a week, Thursday through Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is mostly staffed by volunteers, many of them are members of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society. Recruiting volunteers is an ongoing job. If you have a few hours a week, or even a month, to spare, helping at a lighthouse is a great way to make a contribution. It is also a lot of fun. If you give us your name and telephone number, we will sign you up for a training session. You can also contact Sara Cureton, Executive Director of Absecon Lighthouse, directly at 609-449-1360.
PROGRAM SIGNALS

By Yvonne Miller

Spring Meeting:
The March 24, 2001 meeting will be held at the Audubon Park Community Center. The normal meeting format will be followed:
- Hospitality 10:30 am (Members are encouraged to bring goodies)
- General Membership Meeting 11:00 am
- Break for Lunch between meeting & program
- Lunch will be available at the Center
- Presentation by Kodak
- Photo contest

Details about the meeting will appear in other columns on the Photo Contest and Hospitality in this issue of the Beam. Directions are supplied by Betty Smith who lives in Audubon Park and knows them better than me.

DIRECTIONS TO THE AUDUBON PARK

From Route 295: Take exit 28A (Bellmawr, Runnemede, Mt Ephraim) and go toward Mt. Ephraim. On Route 168 go past CVS, Mt. Ephraim Dodge, Black Horse Shopping Center (Acme, Pep Boys). After you go past Black Horse Shopping Center stay in right lane and look for signs for Berwick/Kennedy Road. Right before the traffic light take a right jug-handle. Turn right at Yield sign and you will be on Kennedy Boulevard and Audubon Park Community Hall will be right in front of you (Yellow & brick building). Park in front of the building, Hockey Field or go down the alley on side of hall and park in back of the hall. Handicapped accessibility is behind the hall.

From NJ Turnpike: Get off at exit 3 towards Camden and it will let you off on Route 168. Stay on route 168 and you will cross over Route 295 and then follow directions above from Route 295.

From Atlantic City Expressway: Take expressway to Route 42 and then to Route 295 and follow Route 295 directions.

If anyone needs directions from anywhere else, please call Al or Betty at 856-546-7810. If you get lost on the way, the meeting can be contacted at 609-932-2717 and someone will come rescue you.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2001

Cancellations due to weather etc. would be announced on the internet or on the Society Phone Number 856-546-0514.

SUMMER MEETING
June 23, 2001
Annual Raffle

FALL MEETING
September 22, 2001
Sweatshirt / T-shirt Contest

WINTER MEETING
December 1, 2001
Elections

WINTER 2000 MEETING RECAP

The December 2, 2000 meeting at the West Cape May Firehouse was well attended by 174 members and guests. The best attendance in the Society's history for an election meeting. Many of the faces we saw on the Lighthouse 2000 trail in October were at the meeting. We used all the chairs available in the building. Rich Chiemengo, Director of the Cape May Lighthouse gave a very informative presentation on Cape May, Cape May Point and the Lighthouse. Many Holiday Gifts were purchased and members went on to visit and climb the lighthouse. Some of us stayed on in Cape May to see the Christmas Festival, to participate in the Candlelight Tour, parade, (Tom & Becky Laverty even joined in the parade) or to enjoy the many restaurants in the Cape May Area. It was a nice start to the Holiday Season.

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- 2nd Vice President: Bill Volpe (732) 846-2186
- Secretary: Betty Smith (856) 546-7810
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