A LIGHTHOUSE ADVENTURE ON THE WATERS OF NEW YORK HARBOR

At 9 am on August 20, 2005, 177 NJLHS members and guests gathered at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ to board the Sheryl Princess for the NJLHS sponsored New York Harbor lighthouse cruise. While all 177 passengers were on hand, the Sheryl Princess was not. Unfortunately, our boat had to contend with New York Harbor Home Security instructions that required all larger outgoing vessels to leave for the open seas thru the Narrows. However, all incoming traffic had to wait. Since the Sheryl Princess was coming from Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, our boat had to wait its turn. The Sheryl Princess finally arrived at Liberty State Park an hour and a half late. Thus began the transformation of a harbor cruise to a real lighthouse lover’s adventure. After this rocky start, including an oak door for our gangplank, our cruise was finally underway. And what an enjoyable cruise/adventure it was.

We began by sailing to the Statue of Liberty and all its beautiful surroundings. Expertly narrated by our own Jim and Nancy Cope, we were guided thru the harbor and passed our next light, Robbins Reef, sitting stately about two miles southwest of the Statue of Liberty. A brown and white sparkplug light, originally lit in 1883. The light is in a very busy part of the harbor, quite near the Staten Island Ferry dock in Staten Island.

As we passed along the Staten Island shoreline towards the Verrazano Bridge, we all saw the Fort Wadsworth light sitting atop of Battery Weed of the nineteenth century Fort Wadsworth. The fort was built on a bluff at waters edge overlooking and still protecting the harbor. Our captain gave a ceremonial horn blast to the fort and the park rangers of the Gateway National Recreation Area who were busy preparing for the relighting ceremony which was held on Sept. 24, 2005. The ceremony also honored the memory of Fort Wadsworth light’s most dedicated volunteer, Mr. Joe Esposito, who passed away this last spring.

Sailing under the Verrazano Bridge, the captain made sure to maneuver the Sheryl Princess very close to our next light, West Bank Lighthouse. This 55 foot brown sparkplug light is still used in tandem with the rear range Staten Island light safely guiding ships into the Ambrose Channel.

Continuing our way, we all felt the isolation of manning these lights as we got close to Old Orchard light which stands three miles from Great Kills harbor. This brown and white sparkplug is in a very popular fishing ground. It was at this point that the captain, using his discretion, decided that Great Beds lighthouse was too far for our cruise. He had to be guided by tides, winds, and time and water conditions. We therefore bypassed Great Beds and we will save it for another day.

Next on our lighthouse schedule was Romer Shoals, a 54 foot maroon and white sparkplug light that sits off the coast of Staten Island first lit in 1898. It was determined the light served as a training light for the US Lighthouse Depot on Staten Island. The depot is now the site of the National Lighthouse Museum, not yet opened. Romer Shoals was another preservation effort by Joe Esposito who almost single-handedly, saved the light from the doomsday list.

(Continued on page 6)
From the Editors... Carol and Joe Guchek

It is with sadness that we must say this is our last newsletter as editors. During the past five years we had the pleasure of bringing you 20 issues of the Beam. Trying to make the deadlines were sometimes tough but memorable.

We will be moving to Delaware shortly and still hope to see you at meetings and trips, as we continue our ongoing quest to see lighthouses.

We hope to have more time to enter the photo contests and write articles for the Beam as we travel.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year.

The Beam, the official journal of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, Inc., is published quarterly, March, June, September, and December. Membership dues are $20.00 single and $25.00 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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2005 Challenge Update

I'm happy to say that this year's Challenge was a success, not only in the money that we brought in for the New Jersey Lighthouse Society but also in the number of people who finished the Challenge (despite high gas prices and some flooding).

Here are the numbers:

Finished Challenge

New Jersey: 916
Combined Challenges
NJ and MD: 137
NJ, MD & L.I., NY: 96

I think these numbers are outstanding and show that there still is an interest in the Challenge, even after 6 years.

The rest of the statistics are still being compiled and will be reported in the next issue of the Beam.

Thanks to all of you for your help and support during this year's Challenge!

Doreen Lagattuta
Challenge Chair
WAYS AND MEANS ITEMS FOR SALE
FREE SOCIETY PIN WITH EACH ORDER

Ways and means items for sale include cookbooks, lighthouse journals, coffee canisters, tea, shirts, hats, and visors. Items are sold at various prices with additional charges for shipping and handling.

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**Total Postage**

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______
Date _______ Phone _______ Email: ______

Make checks payable to NJLHS (Retain a copy of your order)
Mail check and order form to: Marty Hudspeth
Email njlshsways_means@verizon.net 15 Petunia Lane
Feed free to call or email for color/sizes and availability: Phone 609-877-1393 Willingboro, NJ 08046

YOUR PURCHASES SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE SOCIETY
Community Outreach

The name of this committee was changed because of some confusion with the Educational Outreach committee that Bill Volpe chairs. I would like to give a brief description of Community Outreach and hope to clear up the difference between the two.

Community Outreach sets up our NJLHS Exhibits at various places throughout the State and some outside of New Jersey. All of these sites are known to me because these various organizations have sent us invitations to join them. Some are sponsored by other lighthouse society’s, County and State organizations. We set up our diorama of the Lighthouses in New Jersey and our newest diorama of the ‘New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge’. We hand out brochures. Our membership, the Challenge brochure, our newsletter The Beam, brochures from other Lighthouse organizations and the New Jersey State Lighthouse Guide. With more volunteers, I hope to expand on the sites that we visit throughout New Jersey and surrounding states. If your community has a festival, craft show or anything similar please, send me the information to the Society’s address NJLHS, Inc. P.O. Box 332, Navesink, NJ 07752-0332. I will make the contact and hopefully with additional volunteers we can try new areas to talk about our lighthouses and speak the news.

I invite all of our membership to come out to our exhibits. Don’t be shy; if you are a lighthouse lover, you will be amazed at how easy it is to talk about them. If you are timid about not knowing enough, just come and listen to the other volunteers for a while and you will find that you are pitching in with information.

In June our Summer Meeting was scheduled the same day as the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and no one wanted to give up going to the meeting at Sleepy Hollow, NY. Many of the Outreach volunteers were on the Maine trip so that was a no go this year. Hopefully, I can work something out for next year. Ocean County is a strong supporter of our organization and the Lighthouse Challenge so I like to participate in their events also. The event took place at the Ocean County Community College in Toms River Last year. Not sure where it is scheduled for next year.

The Annual East Point Open house saw Jim Gale, Marty Hudspeth, Lynn Massimuccia, Rob and Linda Gleason representing NJLHS, selling our NJLHS merchandise and handing materials on the Society, New Jersey lighthouses and the Challenge. This was a very successful day!

On August 13th, we set up at the Cape May County Historical Museum Clambake. This was a hot and humid day. However, the wonderful seafood, barbecue and beautiful big old shade trees saved us. Debbie Magonigal, Marty Hudspeth, Sheila Hines, Anthony Albence and myself had a wonderful day. Turn out was off because of the hot day. But we will plan on going to that one again next year.

September 24th found Kate Klix and Mary Catherine Kennedy at the Tuckerton Baymen’s Decoy Show, They volunteered to cover this very important Outreach Exhibit for us even though our Fall meeting was happening in Paulsboro. However, on Sunday, September 25th, they were joined by Dixie Amento, Anthony Albence, Sheila Hines and Marty Hudspeth. They managed to give out lots of Challenge brochures and had really great sales of merchandise.

September 24th we also had an exhibit at Fort Wadsworth in Staten Island for the Re-Lighting of the Battery Weed Light on top of the Fort. Judy and Mike Boucher set up and manned the exhibit for us and there was great interest in the exhibit and our lighthouse materials.

On October 8th and 9th, the Society was invited by the New Jersey Maritime Consortium to set up our diorama at Coast Day. On the 8th we were to set up at Viking Village on LBI but the weather shut them down. However, overcast though it was, Debbie Magonigal, Anthony Albence and myself ventured to Cape May Harbor at the Lobster House. This was a non sales exhibit for us. We again handed out Challenge brochures, membership brochures and answered questions about lighthouses in general.

I want to thank all of the volunteers, there were many who repeated volunteering for several events and those who signed up for the first time for Community Outreach this year but especially Marty Hudspeth and Debbie Magonigal. While all three of us used these events as therapy, I couldn’t have accomplished any of it without them. Hope to see you next year. Happy Holidays and keep the lights shining!

Yvonne Miller Thies,
Community Outreach Chairperson
Before the Sherrill Princess headed home, the captain had a surprise for us. Sailing up the Hudson River passing Ellis Island, the old Central Railroad Station at Liberty Park, the old Colgate clock and the Newport City area, we located our "mystery" light. The mystery light turned out to be called Lefrak Point Lighthouse, a peppermint striped facsimile built by the developer Lefrak at the water's edge in front of the condominiums that were built a few years ago. This is a non-working light but is a standout for the Jersey City waterfront.

Our adventure continued once back at the dock. Since we left one and a half hours late, the timing of high tide couldn't have been worse. Using his trusty oak door, doorknob and all, our "gangplank" was secured. However, high tide lifted the Sherrill Princess considerably and created a very low threshold opening in order to disembark. Once at a time, ducking under the low bridge opening, our plunky group safely exited the vessel much to the relief of a very worried cruise coordinator.

The cruise was very successful and it proved once again that lighthouse lovers are a very hearty and fun-loving group. Everyone enjoyed the cruise, received seven lovely lighthouse beach towels as door prizes, and were very attentive to our narrators who furnished excellent, detailed information on each light. They also spread good will and personality. Jim and Nancy Cope are veteran narrators and will be heard from again.

Our passenger list not only included NJLHS members but a contingent from New England Lighthouse Lovers (Nell) with its president, Shirl Pagels, on hand and a group from the Long Island chapter of the US Lighthouse Society with activities director, Chuck Chapman, on board. Also a number of members of the Chesapeake Chapter of the US Lighthouse Society were on hand including Tom Wade, Board Director. Our passengers came from as far away as Michigan and a good number of Pennsylvanians attended as well.

A successful cruise could not be accomplished without a number of volunteers whose contributions were immeasurable. A great big thank you to my wife, Marie, who aptly handled all record keeping, and to my daughter, Lisa, who printed all announcements and name tags. Thank you also, to Marty Hudspeth, who with help, lugged our Ways and Means articles and manned the NJLHS table on the cruise. Ways and Means did very well, as did our 50/50 and raffle run by Dennis Whelan – thank you. To Treasurer Debbie McConagall who ably controlled the checkbook. A special thank you to First V.P. Yvonne Miller who controlled me and to whom I look to for all answers. She is truly a guiding light. And to our passengers who made our cruise a memorable occasion. I now move forward to our next adventure.

Renard Petronzio
NJLHS Program Assistant

Certain lighthouse descriptions were taken from Jim Crowley's, Lighthouses of New York
Before the Sherryll Princess headed home, the captain had a surprise for us. Sailing up the Hudson River passing Ellis Island, the old Central Railroad Station at Liberty Park, the old Colgate clock and the Newport City area, we located our "mystery" light. The mystery light turned out to be called Lefrak Point Lighthouse, a peppermint striped facsimile built by the developer Lefrak at the water's edge in front of the condominiums that were built a few years ago. This is a non-working light but is a standout for the Jersey City waterfront.

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Renard Petronzio
NJLHS Program Assistant

Certain lighthouse descriptions were taken from Jim Crowley's, Lighthouses of New York
Lake Champlain Lighthouses

Bus trip to see 14 lighthouses on Lake Champlain

Friday, September 22, 2006 to Sunday, September 24, 2006

I am hoping for a pick-up in South Jersey and North Jersey.

We plan on seeing all 14 lighthouses on Lake Champlain plus pay a visit to the Shelburne Museum. We will be taking a 5-6 hour cruise around Lake Champlain (with dinner aboard) to see the lighthouses that can not be seen from land.

Trip will include transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, gratuities for meals, boat cruise and admission to the Shelburne Museum. Price will be approximately (possibly less): Single $495 Double $795

A deposit of $50.00 per person is due at registration. First come, first served basis. There will be a payment plan on the remainder of 25% on January 31, 2006, 25% on March 31, 2006, 25% on May 31, 2006 and final payment due by July 31, 2006. After the trip is a go, full refunds minus $25 administrative charge will be made up until March 31, 2006. After that time, refunds will be made only if your spot is filled.

Send deposit and the attached coupon to Betty Smith, 7 Goldfinch Road, Audubon Park NJ 08106 as soon as possible. Telephone number 856-546-7810. Make checks payable to New Jersey Lighthouse Society.

Name

Address

Phone #

Email

Amount of deposit $
Members 2006 Annual Photo Contest

By Cindy Mitzen,

The March 25th meeting at the Surf City Fire Hall on Long Beach Island will be the site of our
member’s annual photo contest. The categories are as follows: 1) International Lighthouses; 2) National
Lighthouses; 3) New Jersey Lighthouses; and 4) Lighthouses in Autumn. There is also the Masters
category that includes members who have won first or second in the past two years. These contestants
will be notified by the end of January that they are in this category.

A few helpful tips to keep in mind as you prepare your photos. The general membership can place
three photos in the contest, in any category. Those in the Masters category can place two in their
category and one in the Lighthouses in Autumn category. Keep in mind that the photo can be any size,
but 4x6 is a little on the small size. Photos show better if they are matted. Try to stay away from frames
most are to heavy for the stands we have and there is always the chance it may break. Don’t place your
name anywhere on the photo. But please feel free to identify the lighthouse with its name and state or
country. Most of all have fun, go through those hundreds of pictures, remember the lighthouse visit, and
show the photo that says it all.

One last piece of business to finish up, I need volunteers the day of the photo contest. I need 2
people in each of the 5 categories to sign in the photos and set them up and 5 people to help count
ballots. Please see me at the December meeting.

Ways and means (Continued)

“Manning the Light” and “Weathering the Storm” by Terry Webb
Signed, Each book is $13.00, $3.00 S/H and $1.50 each additional S/H
Use order form page 3
A Message from Membership

(Mary Beth Doherty, Membership Chair; email address: NJLHSMember1@aol.com)

Just a Few Things:

It's that time of year again! Your renewal slips will be mailed after the December meeting. Please review the information on the slip, make any corrections, and return it with your check.

Many of you may already know of the passing of our Past President, Jack Granger. He was one of the Founders of the society, and President prior to my joining.

Meeting Attendees:

There were 108 members and guests that signed-in at our September meeting at Tinicum Light in Paulsboro, NJ.

Reminder: Please sign the book. We like to keep track of how many people are coming to the meetings to ensure a facility large enough and plenty of chairs.

Membership Numbers:

At the deadline for this issue, the membership numbers are as follows:

Single Memberships = 335
Family Memberships = 295 x 2 = 590
Total Members = 925

Reminders:

Please direct all membership questions to me. I have all the information and will be able to answer you immediately. Please feel free to email or call me.

Society Nametags: Stop by the Membership Table to order the nametags. They are $4.00 each, paid for when ordering, and will be mailed to you. (Orders will be taken at meetings only.)

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

Gift Membership: A membership to the New Jersey Lighthouse Society would be the perfect gift for that person who has everything! Please allow enough time for me to process the application!

New Members:

Since the deadline of the September issue of The Beam, the following members have joined our Society. (Please note that if you become a member after the deadline for The Beam, you will be listed in the following issue.) If you happen to meet them at a future meeting, please welcome them!

Banks, Florence
Brummer, John & Suzy
Cantor, Frederick
Crowther, Nancy
Daley, Thomas F.
& Thomas F.
Eith, Susan
Fee, Faith Michael
Finn, Robert T.
Gordon, Judy
Holmes, Mrs. Carolyn
Kahler, Diane
Kamp, Marc
Kochle, Karen
McMichael & Rudy
Macken, Lynda
Martin, Steven "Hutch"
Morrison, YN3 Antonio
Piazza & Family, Lori
Thele, Jon C.
Toepper, Karen
Collingswood
Glen Allen
Monroe Twp.
Laurence Harbor
Sparta
Westville
Rt. 34 Old Bridge
Baldwin
Newark
Nottingham
Paulsboro
Asburn
Forked River
Bayville
Chester
Swoyersville
Harleysville
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Program Signals:
By Yvonne Miller

NJLHS Winter Meeting/Holiday Social/Tree Decorating

The NJLHS Winter Meeting/Holiday Social and Tree decorating will be held on December 3, 2005 on Sandy Hook at the Education Center Building 102, History House and Old Fire House.

Itinerary:
10:00 to 11AM Lighthouse Tours (Stop at the Lighthouse to sign up)
10:30AM Hospitality Served at the Education Bldg. Cafeteria
11:00AM Meeting Call to Order
12:15PM Break for Lunch - Bring you own.
1:00PM Special Slide Presentation on Hawaii
1:30PM Preservation Raffle
2:00PM Tree Decorating at Fire Hall. Bring your Lighthouse Christmas Decorating) and Holiday Social at the History House.

I am really excited about the Winter Meeting this year. While the intention was to have the social at the Sandy Hook Keeper’s House, the building won’t be ready. However, all of the events of the day are a short distance of each other. Members and guests can tour the lighthouse, attend the meeting and then move on to either the History House or the Fire House to enjoy a little Holiday Cheer (Non Alcoholic), decorate the new Christmas Tree which will eventually be used in the Keeper’s House at your leisure. Don’t forget your Lighthouse Christmas Tree Ornament or two.

If you are bringing goodies for hospitality please notify Martha Brown at 609-877-0134. Also a reminder that since we are bringing the coffee prepared and ready to serve, donations towards the coffee would be helpful. If we don’t get enough to cover the cost of the coffee we will have to go back to the coffee urn system which takes much longer to serve.

Directions: Assuming everyone knows how to get to Sandy Hook by now; from the guard gate continue North until you come to the Missiles at the fork. Take the road to the left past Officers Row. The History House will be the last building in this row of homes. Continue on until you see the big black cannon. Look to the right and you will see the Education Center. Take the first right turn and go into the parking lot. Entrance to the building is in the front. Handicap access is available.

Fall Meeting Recap: The meeting at Paulsboro opened with the presentation of the National Registry of Historic Places plaque by Tom Laverty to TRRLHS President Marc Kamp. Present for this presentation were Mayor Buzzichelli and Assemblyman Fisher. Following the business meeting Hank Hess, Delaware River Pilot, gave an informative and spellbinding talk on the life of a river pilot and the interaction of range lighthouses. We learned a lot about the role of the range lights and how important they are to the shipping industry on our rivers. Only 102 members and guests signed in but there were at least 140 chairs used so we know lots of people did not sign in that day. Please try to remember to do so to keep our counts accurate.

Next meeting: The Spring 2006 Meeting Annual Photo Contest will be held at the Surf City Fire Hall, 713 Long Beach Blvd, Surf City, NJ, on Long Beach Island. Cindy Mitzen, Photo Contest Chairperson is arranging for the speaker, visits to Barnegat Lighthouse and the Interpretive Center.

2006 Meetings:

Will be announced at a later date.
RV Coastal Heritage Trail Tour

After several months of planning, the Tour of the Coastal Heritage Trail by Recreational Vehicles began on Monday, October 10, 2005.

The tour began at Perth Amboy with the Secretary of State and her staff visiting the Perth Amboy Yacht Club and embarking on a State Police craft circling the Great Beds Lighthouse and arriving at Sandy Hook. While this was happening, the RV’ers who signed on for this trip began arriving at Sandy Hook around 8:30AM. By 11AM both the Secretary of State and twenty-two RVs had assembled. After a brief welcoming ceremony and some of the RV’ers and the NJ Youth Group who were a working part of the caravan climbed lighthouse and grounds at Sandy Hook, the caravan moved on to Twin Lights. Anticipating twenty two RVs and the steep climb up Lighthouse Road, the caravan moved up to the Henry Hudson High School parking lot and all of the party moved through the football and soccer field to Twin Lights where they were greeted by Tom Laverty and his assistant Kathy. After a slide show in the Auditorium, they climbed the South Tower, the generator room, the North Tower and the museum. By this time the rain and mist had begun but the group was undaunted. From there, the caravan moved on to their campsite for the night. This scenario continued each day, visiting Sea Girt Lighthouse, Allaire Village, etc. By Wednesday, it was Barnegat Light and Tuckerton Seaport where the heavens opened up and deluged us all. However this hardy group never wavered or complained. After a full soggy day, they again moved on to the camp ground of the day. If it’s Thursday, it must be Batsto Village and then onto Absecon Lighthouse where they enjoyed climbing the light, shopping and MURDER MYSTERY. The tour group was enthusiastic even though the rains still came.

Yvonne Miller Thies

New NJLHS Website on the Way!

By Greg Fitzgerald, Assistant Webmaster

In March, Mary Beth Doherty put out a solicitation for volunteers to design and build a new website for NJLHS. Howard Wright and I replied, and we began collaborating on features to include. Over the past six months, we have been working together via e-mail, sharing ideas back and forth, and implementing those which were agreed upon by the website committee.

I’m a 15-year-old high school student from Somerset County. I’ve been webmaster of another organization’s site and am designing a personal website with travelogues of my lighthouse adventures. Howie is retired after 27 years with IBM and 9 years with Hewlett Packard as a field engineer. He has done website work for ski clubs and has created his own sites to post photographs of his travels.

The new site is set to launch in December. Rest assured that all your favorite content will still be there. The site will look different, with a more modern, streamlined design. There will also be several new features added that will make it more of an “ultimate NJ lighthouse resource.”

Please note that we’re going to have a new web address – www.njlhs.org. We have a lot of exciting things in store, and can’t wait to share them!

After launch, Howie will stay on board as Webmaster with me working with him as Assistant Webmaster. We will continue to keep the website updated with new NJLHS happenings, news, and information. We aim for the new NJLHS site to be one of the best lighthouse sites. We’re looking forward to seeing you at our new home on the web in December!

www.njlhs.org
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Now is the time for volunteers to come forward to fill positions.

Publicity Chair
and
Newsletter Editor

Please contact a Board member