



The Bay Run



Newsletter of
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers
and Friends Association, Inc.

Volume 11 Issue 3

Fall 2011

Happy 221st Birthday

United States Coast Guard

On your 221st year! This is truly commendable for the United States Coast Guard's outstanding history and service to our nation on sea, land and air.



The United States Coast Guard training ship *EAGLE* under full sail. Eagle is one of a very few "Tall Ships" or full size sailing ships, remaining in the world (Photo courtesy United States Coast Guard)

A Service History of the US Coast Guard

The service started as a vision of Alexander Hamilton who wrote "a few armed vessels judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws." In 1790, President George Washington brought Hamilton's vision to life which he signed an act of the First Congress creating the Revenue Cutter Service. Official history began August 4th 1790 when Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the 19th and 20th centuries as the Revenue Marine and Revenue Cutter Service, it expanded in size and responsibilities as the country grew in size. The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard began the country's aids to navigation, including the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939. In 1949 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Dept's Bureau of Marine Inspections and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing marine licensing and merchant vessel safety their purview. (Continue on page 3_)



In This Issue:

- 1-US Coast Guard 221 Birthday
- 2-Beam from the President-Officers Directory
- 3-Coast Guard Retiree -221 Birthday (con't)
- 4-Chaiman's Report "Day on Delaware/River"

- 5-Peggy's Corner- Lighthouse Challenge
- 6-Meet Our New Director
- 7- Con't, of Spring Panama Canal Trip
- 8 Summer Events in pictures

The Bay Run

A BEAM From The Presidents Desk By Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



President's Message

Well! was it hot enough for everyone? This has surely been one hot summer here in Cape May, NJ

Our first boat cruise had terrific weather, perfectly calm seas and a full boat. The trip down the Delaware to Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse was great. It was nice to see the old home I closed so many years ago. It looks a little beat up from the weather but I hear this is now getting some much needed repairs. The Maritime Festival at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was one of our most profitable "Outreaches" this year. This makes up for us having to cancel our second cruise because not enough people signed up. The worse happened the third cruise had to be cancelled due to our August storm and the fourth a Moonlight cruise which was a complete sellout, got swamped by Hurricane Irene but our enthusiasm for the cruises can't hold us down. "There is always next year." Considering of all the years of our cruises not many have ever had to be cancelled. We have several events planned for the rest of the year and I am hoping everyone who can, will try to attend one or more of these fun times. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there!! It's been a busy summer at our home with our five grandchildren visiting for the July 4th holiday and again at the end of July. We had Kylie age 11, Madison age 8 Brady age 4, Bella age 4 and Liam 8 months. We love seeing them but it takes a lot out of your energy level. Our Chihuahuas have finally come out of their hiding spots. We are looking forward to a very success fall!

"Keep the Light Shining"
Angelo

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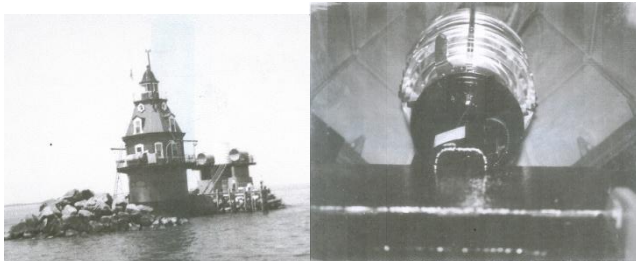
The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc. (DBLHKFA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit preservation and educational organization.

The Bay Run

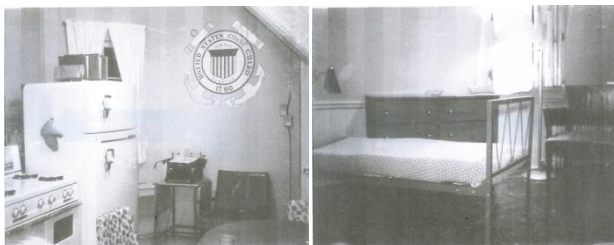
What we hear from our retired Coast Guard member

Martin Muldowney

Marty is a man of few words but he sent us some interesting old pictures of his duty location
Ship John Shoal Lighthouse



Ship John Shoal LH and Lamp Room



Comforts of home-Sleeping Quarters



Coast Guard Birthday Day

(continue from cover page)

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations in the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 it served as the only armed service afloat. The national defense responsibilities is one of their most important functions today. In times of peace the Coast Guard operates as part of the Department of Home Security, serving as the front line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war they serve under the Navy Department.

"We are Coast Guardsmen. Work as a crew. We serve as a family. This is our way. This is who we are. This is what we do."

Semper Paratus

Still Sailing the Tall Ships

The *EAGLE* is a three masted sailing Barque with 21,350 square feet of sail. It is homeported at the CG Academy, New London, Conn. It is the only active (operationally) commissioned sailing vessel in the U.S. maritime services. (One of five such Training Barques in the world)



The first "Eagle" was commissioned in 1792. Today's "Eagle" is the seventh in a long line of proud cutters to bear the name. Today the "EAGLE" serves as a sea going classroom for cadets at the Coast Guard Academy. "It is on the decks and rigging of the "Eagle" that the young men and women of the Academy get their first taste of salt air and sea life in the development of their Coast Guard careers."

Many thanks to BMI Dayna M. Shock. USCG Station, Cape May for assisting in researching the history and information for these articles.

Reservation Form Enclosed!! Make your Reservations Early for the Annual Keepers Banquet October 23, 2011

Please send your check(s) to Darlene Rigazio
NO LATER than October 18th.

We must have an accurate count by this date for the Yacht Club. Unfortunately, we will have to require a \$40.00 per person for all payments at the door.

We have a great speaker and program planned.

Our speaker is nationally known for his research of Lighthouses, Life Saving Stations and Maritime history of New Jersey's Shore

Rod Mulligan, Chairman
Board of Directors



Board Report

“A Beautiful Day on Delaware Bay/River”

On May 21, 2011 the NJLHS (through the combined efforts of Apryl Roach, Mike Bocher and other members of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society) sponsored an Upper Delaware River and Bay Cruise. This trip took place aboard the Bonanza II sailing from Fortecue, NJ under the command of Captains Joe Ronketty, Jr. and Mike Rothman and their crew who always give outstanding service.

It was truly an interesting, informative voyage. One of the first sights we saw was Ship John Shoal Lighthouse; next was a good view of the Salem Nuclear Generating Station #2.



Pix of Salem #2 and Bellevue RR Light

Captains Joe and Mike made sure we got a good view of the entrance of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. After passing beneath the Delaware Memorial Bridge, we sailed into the Christiana River in Delaware to view the Old Bellevue Rear Range Light which is now surrounded by a massive landfill that will someday tower over the light. While taking in all of the sights, one could also look up and watch the planes arriving and departing Philadelphia International Airport.

The Bay Run

We proceeded north, on the Pennsylvania side just below the Commodore Barry Bridge where we had an excellent view of the new Philadelphia Union Pro Soccer team’s stadium. Thick foliage blocked our view of the Tinicum Rear Range Light in Paulsboro. We learned of the history of the ships tied up at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard while passing fairly close to the USS United States, the luxury passenger liner that still holds the transcontinental speed record from the United States to England. Across the river from Penn’s Landing is the Battleship USS New Jersey, the most decorated ship of WW II. It also served in Korea and Vietnam.

Onward north under the Benn Franklin Bridge to Pyne Point Marina in north Camden to view the Barnegat Lightship (NJ) LV79/WAL506 it was built in 1904 at the New York Shipbuilding Company in Camden and was one of five lightships that served from 1904 to 1967. It performed many duties other than a lightship (*more information on the Barnegat Lightship in the Winter Chairman’s Report*)



Pix of the Barnegat Lightship

On the return trip southbound, we got to see the boat parade including tugboats at Penn’s Landing. We then had a good view of the Marcus Hook Rear Range Light, which is the tallest light on the East Coast. The 105 foot tower sits on a 173 foot hill giving Marcus Hook a focal plane of 278 feet.

We viewed many other range lights and maritime sites too many to mention. Many thanks to Apryl and Mike and the crew of the Bonanza II for a *“Beautiful Day on the Delaware River and Bay.”*

**PEGGY'S CORNER
Blackboard
NEWS n' VIEWS**

*By Peggy Stapleford
Activities/Program Chair*



Our Fall season is just chocked full of great opportunities to help our Association grow through member participation. The New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge October 15th, and 16th we will be at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse for our annual Outreach and Bay Lighthouse Lights PowerPoint presentation.

October 23rd don't miss our Annual Keepers Banquet at Sea Isle Yacht Club. Great new Menu and a very interesting guest speaker, Author David Veasey

"Images of America,-Guarding New Jersey's Shore Lighthouses and Life Saving Stations"

Tentative date for our Winter membership meeting JANUARY 14TH location, and full details in the Winter Bay Run

Museum would celebrate maritime history in Cape May

Southern Cape May County has one of the nation's largest fishing ports, saw a Revolutionary War naval battle, has a graveyard of famous shipwrecks offshore, once had a thriving boat building industry and figured prominently in the early years of the U.S. Life Saving Service. These are a few of the good reasons a group of organizers want to build a maritime museum and education center along Cape May Harbor. We will continue to follow the group's progress.

Thank You! For the continuing support and response to the Carole F. Reily Scholarship Fund. Checks of any amount can be sent to: Maxine Mulligan 1049 Simca Terr. Vineland, NJ 08360

The Bay Run

LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE of New Jersey 2011 OCTOBER 15TH & 16TH

LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE
of New Jersey 2011

Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey is a rain or shine, two-day opportunity to visit 11 land-based lighthouses, two museums, and two life-saving stations. Participants may purchase a souvenir pamphlet for only \$1 and have it stamped at each stop along the way!

New Jersey

Locations marked on the map include: Sandy Hook Light, Navesink Twin Lights, Sea Girt Light, Tinicum Light, Pines Point Light, East Point Light, Cape May County Museum, U.S. Life Saving Station 30, Tatham Life Saving Station, Hereford Inlet Light, Cape May Light, Absecon Light, Tucker's Island Light, Barreget Light, Barreget Light Museum.

Additional Activities!

DELAWARE BAY LIGHTHOUSE ADVENTURE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14: 10 am-5 pm • \$85 per person
Take a cruise up the Delaware Bay aboard the Spirit of Cape May to see lighthouses built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most stand on pedestals out of sight of land and are still operational.
CALL 609-884-5404 TO ORDER TICKETS

DELAWARE BAY LIGHTS
Saturday & Sunday: 10 am-5 pm • Hereford Inlet Lighthouse
Enjoy this PowerPoint presentation by the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Assoc. on lighthouses of the Delaware Bay

TATHAM LIFE SAVING STATION & MUSEUM
117th St. and Second Avenue, Stone Harbor, NJ • Open 8 am to 6 pm
Visit a New Jersey life saving station, built in 1895 and today listed on the state and national Registry of Historic Places.

New This Year! U.S. LIFE SAVING STATION 30
Atlantic Avenue & 4th Street, Ocean City, NJ • Open 8am to 6 pm
Visit the only U.S. Life Saving Service station left in New Jersey that was rebuilt according to the Service's distinctive 1882-type design.

Hours of operation & directions for each lighthouse are listed at www.lighthousechallengenj.org

Follow us on facebook!
Lighthouse Challenge of NJ

Cape May Lighthouse draws large Crowds for National Lighthouse Day August 7th

National Lighthouse Day marks the day in 1789 when Congress made lighthouses a federal cause. In 1989, the bicentennial anniversary was declared National Lighthouse Day, and the term stuck. The draw of lighthouses is hard to pinpoint. People just follow them from place to place to any location worldwide. Is it the locations, maybe the history, or just the thought of their history going back centuries even to the Pharaohs.? These were beneficial life saving lights for mariners.

Join us on October 14th aboard the Cape May Whale Watcher for a Delaware Bay Lighthouse Adventure. Call 609-884-5404 or www.capemaymac.org for information and reservations early. Seating is limited.

**Meet Our
Newest
Board Member
JIM GARDNER 4**



Jim, originally from Philadelphia, moved to Atlantic City in 1954, and entered the Army in 1960. After completing his tour of duty in Germany, Jim returned to Atlantic City and began his job in Vineland, where he met his wife Elma in 1963. They were married in 1964. They made their home in Vineland and raised their children Jennifer and James. Jim worked for 20 years as a diesel mechanic for Horner Mack Trucks. After the business closed in 1982, Jim opened his own diesel machine shop, Jim Gardner's Shop retired in 2000. Jim and Elma are grandparents to William and Cassidy.

Jim has been and continues to be very active in Scouting. He began as a Boy Scout at 8 in Cub Pack 315 where his father was Cub Master. Jim served as Scout Master of Troop 10 at South Vineland Methodist Church for 10 years. He is honored that many of his scouts became Eagle Scouts including his own son James. He became a District Commissioner in 1990 and is still very active. He is a 65 year member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Jim's interest in lighthouses began many years ago due to the close proximity of his family home in Atlantic City to Absecon Lighthouse. His involvement was broadened when his wife, a volunteer at East Point Lighthouse, got him involved. It was at East Point that he met Carole Reily. "The rest is history." He tries to divide his time between DBLHKFA and East Point functions. "I Try to keep educating people about the importance of preserving lighthouses." Jim's wife Elma is our dedicated Delaware Bay Cruise reservation coordinator.

Jim feels honored to serve on the Board of Directors of DBLHKFA

Looking forward to seeing you at the 17th Annual Keepers Reunion Banquet on October 23, 2011

The Bay Run

Ship Gains Historic Status



The Lightship *OVERFALLS* Is a historic gem that has just reached the important milestone of being designated a "National Historic Landmark". When the ship was returned to Lewes after its complete renovation it was then realized what a historic treasure it is. The *OVERFALLS* has been registered in the National list of Historic Places since 1989. Considered nationally as the last of the 3rd generation American lightships constructed, the last lightship commissioned for the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the only diesel/diesel electric lightship of her generation featuring modestly reduced hull dimensions.

The Overfalls Foundation held a public ceremony on Sept. 26th to dedicate the bronze marker for Historic Landmark status with many dignitaries in attendance for this grand occasion.

If you haven't had the opportunity to get to Lewes, DE. to view/tour the *OVERFALLS* and its Maritime Museum, there is no better time than a family trip this Fall..."It is a great experience. "Been there! Done that!" Enjoy!!

(Article and pictures courtesy of VP "Dusty" Pierce from The News Journal)

Have You?
Shared a copy of "The Bay Run" with anyone
Friend, Co-worker,
Relative, Neighbor ?
When they see what we accomplish there is good reason we could have a new member(s)

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Newsletter of The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association, Inc.
"Our mission is to preserve the history of the Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their Keepers"

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2-Beam from the President Officers Directory
3-Coast Guard History-221 Birthdays (cont'd)
4-Chairman's Report "Day on Delaware/River"

5-Peggy's Corner- Lighthouse Challenge
6-Most Our New Director
7-Capt'n. of Spring Panama Canal Trip
8-Summer Events in pictures

The Bay Run

CRUSIN' THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL

By Rod and Maxine Mulligan Board Chairman and Treasurer of the DBLHKFA

(Continued from the Summer 2011 Bay Run Issue)

While in the canal, the ships are guided by "Mules" that travel on their own tracks next to the Canal.



Pair of Canal Mules

Once the gates closed, 26 million gallons of fresh water is pumped in raising us 3 feet per minute. There are 100 holes 4½ wide to flush water into the chamber raising our boat 31ft. in 8 minutes. The fresh water comes from nearby Gatun Lake. When the gate opened for us to go to the next lock,



Traveling thru the locks

pelicans and seagulls were waiting for dinner since fish cannot survive in salt water. Frigate birds cannot swim so they torment the gulls making them drop their catch. Frigates have fresh fish for dinner, interesting entertainment The Canal was first opened in 1914, the locks are presently 110 ft. wide and 1500 ft. long. The cement used in building the Canal came from Portland, Maine. Now Panama makes its own.

With ships being built larger today the Canal must be widened to 180ft (note) the Battleship New Jersey only had 10" clearance. This project will cost Panama \$5.2 Billion but will enable them to make 10 million a day. We continued on to the Pedro Miguel Locks named after the nearby town.



Ship in Lock



Generic Lighthouse on Canal

We saw the largest crane in the world, the Titan used to lift the gates for repairs. Also, the world's largest dredge, the Canal is dredged constantly. The Canal was cut through dense jungle. Many workers lost their lives due to many diseases during the building. Amazing bridges crossing the waterway. There is the Pan American Highway Bridge "The Bridge of the Americas and the Centennial Bridge, built to celebrate Panama's 100th birthday

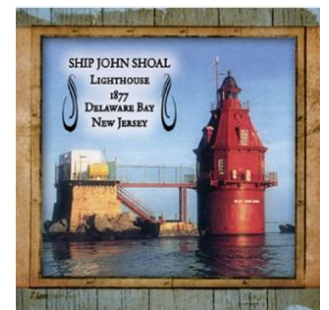
Sunday morning we left to return to New Jersey not only more knowledgeable of the Panama Canal but of the traditions and hospitality of the Panamanian people

Think Holiday's Early
Great Gift DBLHKFA Set of Ship John Shoal Coasters
REDUCED!! Now Only
Single Coaster Set \$10
w/ Coasters and Holder \$13

Shipping/Handling
by USPS \$7.50

Order from Jim Moffatt

JamesMoffatt@Comcast.net



The Bay Run

Fun! Work? Working Fun!! All Summer

Great member participation our, Outreaches, Annual Picnic, First Cruise



Annual Picnic held at the Cape May County Zoo



Maritime Festival Hereford Inlet Lighthouse



First cruise to Harbor of Refuge Great Success



Cruise to Harbor of Refuge to be added to Annual Cruise Schedule

Photos in this issue: courtesy of Bill Geiffuss, Dr. Bruce Middleton, Jim Moffatt, Katie Moser Maxine & Rod Mulligan. Technical assistance Harry Maloney, Sir Speedy Printing, Vineland