



# The Run



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

Volume 11 Issue 4  
Winter 2011

"Our mission is to preserve the history of  
the Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships and their  
Keepers

## Our Lighthouse Christmas

*Throughout the days and nights the light remains constant*

*The message is clear: I will lead you to safe harbor,  
and Guide you...Follow me.*

**"Once Upon A Time"** Can you imagine the life of the Lighthouse Keeper and his family? Since there supposedly are no known records of decided that a family life in this area about 1850's Now it's time we structure son 17, the Keeper's main helper, about 6 years old .



family life at East Point Lighthouse it was could be almost factually imagined for this era the family. Our Keeper and his wife, 1 teenaged 2 daughters ages 15 and 12, a young brother

Christmas is a joyous time, going to church in Port Norris, shopping trip by wagon to Millville and preparations for a holiday dinner. Wild turkey, rabbits curing in the cellar along with many vegetables from the garden. Fresh beets, potatoes, herbs, many varieties of beans and corn, some dried some mother preserved, pumpkin, fresh cranberries from the bog over near Maurice River Lighthouse .If the water isn't too cold we may even have clams and oysters for a hearty soup. Our friends at Maurice River plan to share some venison and salted cod fish. We will cut down a scrub pine and the girls will gather up holly and bayberrys for decorations. The boys will grind up some of the bayberries and add them to tallow to make window candles and they will make sure we have an abundance of wood in the wood shed for the fireplace and stove. Mother will be cooking for days on our great new black iron wood stove. The smell of freshly baked bread and biscuits, can't forget the pies, especially the pumpkin and dried apple. Each night before and after dinner we take turns reading chapters and verses from our Bible. Mother and the girls have sewn new dresses and pants, shirts for the boy's and father (Keeper).for Christmas. Father's duties as Keeper will keep him busy as it always snows for Christmas.



Santa, Mrs Santa w/Keeper and wife Santa delivering wreath Keeper and wife decorating

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



### President's Message

Another year has come to its end. This was a year with both ups and downs. Our first boat trip to Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse was a complete sellout. For me, this was a trip with bitter sweet memories going back and seeing the light I closed 38 years ago. Two boat cruises were cancelled due to poor weather conditions and one was cancelled because not enough people signed up. The annual picnic was held at the Cape May County Zoo once again. It looks like we will be going back again next year. Our partnership venture with Hereford Inlet Lighthouse took us to Maritime Days and the Lighthouse Challenge. Both weekends were very profitable for our organizations merchandise sales. Finally, our Annual Keepers Banquet at the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City finished up our year.

I want to thank all these members behind the scenes who make our organization the success it is. Rod Mulligan, our Board of Directors Chairman along with Maxine Mulligan, our treasurer who also handles all of the scheduling of the cruises and my go to person for almost everything. Peggy Stapleford sets up all of our activities, outreaches and meeting locations. She already has the 2012 meetings planned and in order. Jim Moffatt prepares the newsletter and does a wonderful job. The newsletter looks so professional in every way. Tony Giletto, Board Member and our Ways and Means/Scholarship Chairman, travels everywhere with his car loaded with our merchandise and helps to select the scholarship recipient. Tony earned his "Hard Hat" this year (Inside joke) Eva Moffatt compiles all the information for membership and keeps the records in perfect order. Jean Jones writes all the newspaper publicity and helps with the cruises. (continued on page 4)

*"Keep the Light Shining"*  
Angelo

#### In This Issue:

- 1-Christmas at East Point Lighthouse
- 2-Beam from the President-Officers Directory
- 3-A Tribute to William W. Johnson, Jr.
- 4-From the VP's Log- Beam from Pres. Con't

**ENCLOSED: Membership Renewal – Annual Scholarship – DBLHKFA Merchandise Forms**

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### The DBLHKFA, Inc. Officers and Directors

President.....	Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.
Vice President.....	Gaylord F (Dusty) Pierce
Chairman of the Board.....	Rod Mulligan
Treasurer.....	Maxine Mulligan
Secretary.....	Darlene Rigazio
Membership.....	Eva Moffatt
Activities/Programs.....	Peggy Stapleford
Sunshine/Hospitality.....	Katie Moser
Publicity.....	Jean Jones
Historian.....	Peggy Stapleford
Ways and Means	Anthony Giletto
Newsletter.....	Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan
Webmaster.....	Kelly Mulligan
Scholarship Committee.....	Anthony Giletto

### **Board of Directors**

Rod Mulligan, Bill Geilfuss, Tony Giletto  
Jim Gardner and Katie Moser

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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.**

**5-Peggy's Corner - SITREP Christmas**

**6-Meet our New Director**

**7 Sinking of the USS Radford**

**8- Annual Reunion-pictures Misc.**

# A Tribute to William W. Johnson, Jr. 1921-2011

*"Bill," one of the framers of our organization, was the oldest remaining Lighthouse Keeper of the Delaware Bay Lighthouses.. He was stationed at Miah Maull and Ship John Shoal. In 1944 during the "Great Atlantic Hurricane," he was credited for rescuing 50 people at Beach Haven, NJ . During World War II he was a member of the US Coast Guard for six years and a member of the US Navy for 14 years. Also a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, Bill retired in 1964 as a Master Chief Petty Officer. The first Annual Keepers Reunion was held in 1995 at his home in Newport*



Keeper Bill and Sylvia Johnson  
Attending a DBLHKFA Reunion



William W. Johnson USCG (age 21)  
Keeper of Miah Maull 1946  
and Ship John Shoal 1947

*In a ceremony at Millville Senior High School in 2004,  
Bill was awarded the CUMBERLAND COUNTY MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL.*

*He was also honored at Florida's Disney World, one of his favorite vacation spots. Bill was very honored and humbled by these events. He was also very proud to be a founding member of the DBLHKFA Organization. Being very civic minded, he belonged to the Millville American Legion, VFW, and the Newport Fire Company plus, the Cumberland County Fire Police. He enjoyed being a Civil War Re-Enactor where he played a Lt. Colonel. Bill will be sadly missed by his family, friends the Community and especially our Lighthouse Organization.*



*Semper Paratus, Chief Johnson as you "Cross Over the Bar"*



First Annual Delaware Bay  
Lighthouse Keepers Reunion

August 6, 1995

Capt. Jimmy Gale, Ray Pfaff,  
Dan McFadden, Bill Johnson



One of the 1<sup>st</sup> Organizational  
Meetings- at Alloway, NJ



Bill Johnson conducting a  
meeting at his Newport home

In August NJLHS member Carole F. Reily organized a reunion of former Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers at the home of Bill Johnson former keeper of Miah Maull and Ship John Shoal lights. Member Bill McFadden (14 Ft. Bank) Ray Pfaff (14Ft. Bank and Harbor of Refuge) Capt. Jimmy Gale, former Oyster Boat Capt.

Bill after  
receiving his  
Military  
Service Award  
NOTE the  
USCG-4  
license plate

They swapped stories, shared photos and dined on Bill's outstanding Miah Maull Clam Chowder (Recipe below) Carole made this a regular event and was then interested in contacting anyone who served, or is related to anyone who served on the "Lights of Delaware Bay". (Story excerpt from: "The Beam" newsletter of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society Sept./Oct. 1995)

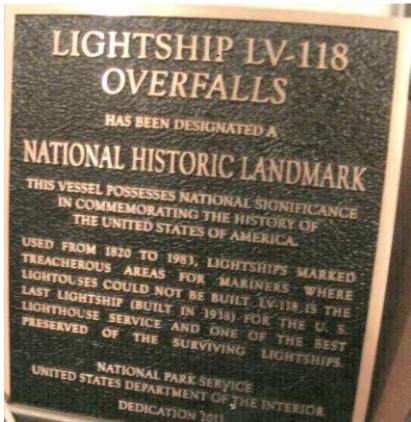
Bill's Famous..."Miah Maull Clam Chowder" found in the "Tales of the Galley" THE BAY RUN Summer 1999 Vol. 1 Issue 6. (Chowder heralded by Carol F. Reily)

1-lg can stewed tomatoes (1lb. 12oz works well) 1 doz. Fresh clams finely minced (reserve juice) 5-6 med. Potatoes- peeled, cooked and diced 1/2 lb. bacon-fried, drained & crumbled 4 cups liquid (clam juice plus potato water) 1 Tbsp parsley, 1 lg chopped onion, 1/4 tsp. dried Tyme, 1 Tbsp flour (to thicken), salt and pepper to taste. Put all ingredients together in soup kettle and simmer for several hours. Add Tbsp of flour before serving to thicken if desired. (canned minced clams can be substituted). MUST be served with crackers.

**From  
The  
Log  
of the  
Vice President  
Gaylord F.(Dusty)**



What a great banquet we had thanks to Peggy Stapleford and all the "crew". The weather was beautiful, the view of the back bay from Sea Isle Yacht Club delightful, the buffet delicious (I especially liked the make your own sundae part) and the camaraderie enjoyable and relaxing. Overfalls Lightship has been designated as a National Historic Landmark



We have had several stories in the "Bay Run" Issues as progress was made of the Overfalls, which has now been returned to the edge of the Lewes-Rehobeth Canal in the Municipal Park in Lewes DE. The Overfalls serves now as a Maritime History Museum for future generations to enjoy. As reported previously we DBLHKFA members made a major donation for Porthole #24 dedicated to the memory of our founder, past president Carole F. Reily plus a Memorial Brick

**HAVE YOU?**

*Passed on your Issues of "THE BAY RUN" To a friend, relative, neighbor inviting them to become a member of DBLHKFA? Your Associations can only grow when you spread the word and enthusiasm about the successes of our "Mission" to preserve the history of the Delaware Bay and River Lighthouses, Lightships ad their Keepers.*

My wife and I dedicated Rivet # 85 and Porthole #9 in Honor of Charles Plummer my wife Eva's Coast Guard father.



On leave I went to Beebe Hospital in Lewes to visit a Coastguardsman who was in the hospital. He had spent 30 years in the Lighthouse Service and the US Coast Guard serving on the Overfalls and Five Fathom Lightships And many other assignments

On entering the hospital the switchboard lady gave me directions to Charles Plummer's room. On return I thanked her, that's when she told me Charles Plummer was her father. To make a long story short we have been married over 50 years.

**Beam from President (Con't from page 2)**

Katie Moser new Board Member has taken on the Sunshine/Hospitality sending out cards to members. Elma Gardner helps keeping track of the non-members for each cruise and coordinates with Maxine and Jean. Board of Directors Bill Guilfuss our lead photographer and Jim Gardner both Board Members faithfully make all of our Outreaches, meetings and always ready to help out. Also, thank you to all the volunteers who show up for each outing and always ready to lend a hand.

And of course there is our secretary. I can't miss her.

(Editors Note: Darlene Rigazio is so invaluable to our organization. She does more than just be our secretary Darlene takes fantastic minutes and keeps on top of label changes but she is our "Miss Personality" always making everyone feel welcomed.)

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that next year will be a successful one and that our organization will continue to grow.

Remember, your organization is only as strong as its members, so volunteer whenever you can. "We Need You"

Keep the lights shining...Buon Natale!  
Angelo

## PEGGY'S CORNER NEWS n' VIEWS

**By Peggy Stapleford**

*Activities/Program Chair*



**DBLHKFA 2012 ACTIVITIES**  
**WINTER MEETING Saturday,**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup> Tinicum Rear Range Light**  
At Sportsman's Club 10 am  
Lunch available: Hot Roast Beef, Hot Meatball sandwiches, Potato Salad, Chips, Soda \$7.00  
Topic Update on Tinicum Light

DIRECTIONS to Paulsboro Sportsman Club...  
SOUTH on Rt 295: Exit 18 (left side, 2<sup>nd</sup> exit)  
Rt 678 Clarksboro/Mt Royal ) Right at light top of ramp to Berkley Rd. Follow to end at Rt 44 intersection. Left on Rt 44. Take immediate right at light to Billingsport Rd.  
NORTH on RT 295: Exit at 16A. Turn right at top of ramp. Stay on this road it becomes Billingsport Rd: (follow directions below) Stay on Billingsport Rd. past Valero Refinery, past Exxon/Mobil Tech. Center. To stop at Delaware St. Go straight to the sign for the Paulsboro Sportsman's Club. Make left at sign. Go to end and right on Riverview Ave. Sportsman's Club on left.

## SPRING MEETING

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Tatham Lifesaving Station

117<sup>th</sup> St & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Stone Harbor, NJ

Bring Brown Bag Lunch & Beverage

Topic: History of Tatham LSS Station

## SUMMER MEETING-PICNIC

**Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Cape May County Zoo

## SUMMER CRUISES

**July and August (Make Up in Sept.)**

Dates to be announced in your Spring Issue of The Bay Run. Members receive 1<sup>st</sup> choice for all cruises

## HEREFORD MARITIME DAYS

**Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

## AUGUST-NEW EVENT Tentative

**TUESDAY, August 7<sup>th</sup>...Combination, National Worldwide Lighthouse Celebration, Ham Radio Operators sending and receiving from Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Children's activities, music, Civil**

War Enactors, Food, and variety of vendors. IN PLANNING STAGES. Watch for complete details.  
**Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey**  
**Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Join us at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse  
**ANNUAL MEETING and**  
**Keepers Reunion Banquet**  
**Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Date down NOW!**  
Location to be announced at a later date



## SITREP

Z 211948Z Dec 69 FM Grucom Cape May to CCGDThree Info Zen/CGC PT Franklin ZEN/CGSTA Cape May BT UNCLAS To O SITREP One and Final Disabled Jolly Old Man in a sled- 1.SITUATION (A)- 21093OQ RCVD Call via 2182 FM F/V Joan three that there was a sled disabled with eight reindeer and one Jolly old man in a red suit 5 miles NE of Five Fathoms L/V. (B) WX: B- Wind calm sea N 1 Ft vis 10 mile (C)-Desc: 10ft. Sled loaded with stacks of "Good Tidings and Merry Christmas Joy, 1 POB, name Santa Claus was last reported wearing a Jolly looking Red Suit with long white beard. 8 reindeer pulling the sled, NR 1 deer reported to have a very shiny, almost glowing red nose.

(2) ACTION TAKEN: (A)-1000Q CGC PT FRANKLIN U/W to investigate and assist the strange goings on. (B)- 1115Q CGC FRANKLIN on scene, subj. requested to be towed to Five Fathom LV for his yearly visit to bring good tidings and joy to the men of the lightship. (C)-1122Q subj. in tow en route to Five Fathom LV (D)-1200Q PT FRANKLIN arrived at L/V, Santa Claus aboard VLS (E)-11230Q Subj. now to be towed to Delaware Bay where he could continue his round of good tidings and obtain replenishment for his reindeer after their long trip from the North Pole. (F)-1300Q CSG PT FRANKLIN arrived at Buoy 10 Delaware Bay and relieved of tow by CG  
(Continue page 6)

## Meet Our Newest Board Member **Katie Moser**



Katie Moser, our newest Board Member, was born in Philadelphia and raised in Glenside, PA. I am an identical twin so in your travels if you see another attractive woman it might not be me, but say hello anyway. As my twin, Carolyn is used to being mistaken for me. I spent many summers at Ipperwash Beach on Lake Huron, so it was only natural that she chose Michigan State University. MSU had a highly rated education department and I always dreamed of becoming a kindergarten teacher (just retired after 30 years of teaching) I always had a "Lighthouse week for my students so they learned a bit about lighthouses their history and lore. My love of lighthouses began when I vacationed on Long Beach Island many years ago, and fell in love with 'Ol Barney (Barnagat Light) in Barnegat, NJ.

Katie has two boys, Thor who lives in California and Robert who lives in Southampton, PA. She is also the proud grandmother of Alison and Alli is learning a lot of interesting facts about lighthouses. She went on one of our cruises last summer and loved seeing the Lighthouses of the Delaware Bay. When Katie met Bill Geilfuss it was "Love at first Light."



She and Bill usually plan their vacations so they can visit as many lighthouses as possible. Katie is thrilled to be an active member of DBLHKFA, she also enjoys recreating the 1890's lady lighthouse keeper's for many of our Outreach programs

*Photos courtesy of Bill Geilfuss, Dr. Bruce Middleton, Jim Moffatt  
Articles submitted by Maxine Mulligan "Sinking of the USS Radford" and Tribute to Bill Johnson, Jr.  
Cover story Jim Moffatt, SITREP recollection Chris Cooke*

Katie's favorite lighthouse is West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, in Lubec, Maine. First time she saw it she ran up hugged and kissed it.(sorry we don't have that picture)  
Now that's real love!



## SITREP continue from page 5



44318 (CMAY STA) in route to Delaware Bay Lighthouses. (G)-1305Q PT FRANKLIN was quoted as hearing the Jolly Old Man as he was towed out of sight "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." (H)-1350Q CG 44318 towed subj. to safe harbor for replenishments and to dry out from his slight salty run. (I)- CGC PT Franklin and CG 44318 moored and very happy at the service that they performed this day.

(3)-Future Plans and Recommendations: (A)- There will always be a good Jolly Old Man in a sled, and that there will always be a good feeling of helpfulness, during this season to help others as you would want them to be to you. (B)-Wishing a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. (4) CASE CLOSED: *but only for one year we hope.* (*Many thanks to Chris Cooke.. Cape May Station 1966 to 1971 for sending this first CHRISTMAS SITREP made by the Group Com. Center. Members stationed aboard the lightships and lighthouses will remember their yearly Santa's visit.*)

*Your 2012 Membership Renewal Application is enclosed*

*Order Membership Merchandise POSTAGE FREE!  
for the holidays*

*Carole F. Reily Scholarship Application due by  
March 30<sup>th</sup> 2012*

# THE SINKING OF THE USS RADFORD

*An Eye Witness Account by Gil Ewing, Jr. Chair, NJ Marine Fisheries Council*



*Sinking off Indian River Inlet Delaware*

On August 9, 2011, people from New Jersey, Members of the DEP, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, the news media and many fishermen and women from NJ boarded the Cape May Lewes Ferry (the MV Delaware) at 6:30 am. We set sail for Lewes, DE. to take on passengers from Delaware and Maryland. When all of the invited guests were on board, we started toward the site of the Del/Jersey Land Reef. Passing Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse, we were greeted with a beautiful sunrise and a surprise visit by a school of Bottlenose Dolphins. We sailed for almost 2 ½ hours to the site where the sinking of the USS RADFORD was to take place. Suddenly off our bow, there it was the “Great Destroyer, the Arthur W. Radford (DD958)”. A little history about the building of the Radford: her keel was laid down on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 1974 at Ingalls Shipbuilding, West Bank, Pascagoula, MS. (This shipyard was directly behind my father’s house) She was commissioned on April 16, 1977. Her length was 564.3 ft. and she was 55.1 ft. wide. The draft was 28.9ft. and her speed was more than 30 knots. The USS Radford was launched on Feb. 27, 1975, sponsored by Mrs. Arthur W. Radford widow of the late Admiral. A great effort by all 3 states to be used by the recreational fishing and diving communities. We were able to watch the workers cut access holes through the hull causing the ship to slowly sink below the surface. The sinking process took about 3 ½ hours. She sank one hundred thirty feet and settled perfectly in an upright position. The hull has now broken into 3 pieces and moved just a few yards from each other creating a tremendous site for fishing and diving. A beautiful sunset escorted us on the voyage home. A great experience!

## NEWS BRIEFS:

New Jersey Lighthouse Society Meeting  
Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at the Sea Girt Lighthouse with hospitality. (lunch on your own)  
Business Meeting, starting at 1 p.m. Check our website for Business Meeting, Holiday Social & Awards Wall Tnsp. Intermediate School.

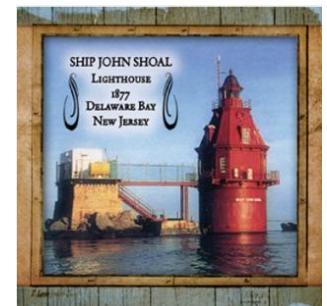
CAPE MAY MARITIME MUSEUM  
Is one of 4 organizations bidding to acquire *Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse*. The light, a 1914 structure is on the state and national historical registers. Southern Cape May is hoping to acquire a Delaware Bay Lighthouse. This is an energetic group seriously dedicated to preserving the Maritime history of Cape May County. Website information at;  
[Kevin@capemaymaritimemuseum.org](mailto:Kevin@capemaymaritimemuseum.org)

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

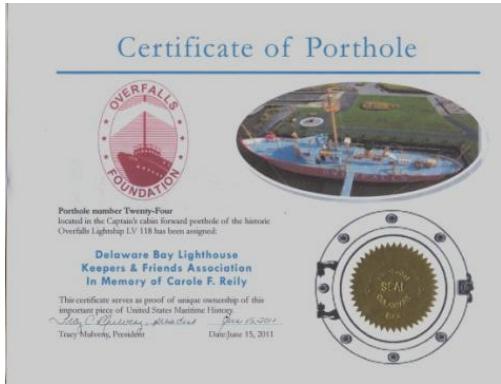
*Shipping/Handling by USPS \$7.50*

Order from Jim Moffatt

[JamesMoffatt@Comcast.net](mailto:JamesMoffatt@Comcast.net)



## What a Beautiful Tribute to Carole F. Reily from the Overfall Foundation “Her Porthole Twenty Four in the Captain’s Cabin”



Forward Porthole of the historic Overfalls Lightship LV 118 has assigned to:

**Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association in Memory of Carole F. Founder President**

We had an interesting speaker this year. Author David Veasey who spoke on Lighthouses going back to the days of the PHAROS of ALEXANDRIA Egypt. The earlier European lights to present day American Lighthouses

### 2011 Annual Keepers Banquet



1<sup>st</sup> row: Linda Pierrson “Delaware Lighthouse Lady” giving her report- Maxine Mulligan, Jim Moffatt, Lois & Dr Bruce Middleton in newsletter discussion -l-R Peggy Stapleford, Steve & Ruth Martorano, Jean Corliss, Elma Gardner & Jim Bill Geilfuss, Katie Moser, Rod & Maxine Mulligan, Darlene & President Angelo Rigazio, Steve Murray, Betty Mugnier, Eva Moffatt Guest Speaker David Veasey, 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Bob Lamb, Paula Shannon, VP “Dusty” Pierce, Linda & Paul Pearson, Dr John & Marilyn La Mar, Jean Jones & Tony Giletto. Kim & Sandy Maloney, Gail & Rodney Derickson, Steve & Ruth Martorano, Joe & Pat Jones, Gail Robinson, Tony receiving his “Hardhat” from Bill Geilfuss his merchandise protector.

Santa delivering the wreath Santa & Mrs. Santa with gifts Santa & Keeper Wife at bay