



The Bay Run



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

Volume 11 Issue 1

Spring 2011

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



The Beginning

*America's first organized attempt to save
shipwreck survivors dates back to 1791
when Humane Society of Massachusetts
erected a hut on Lovell's Island in Boston
Harbor to serve as a shelter for shipwreck
survivors. In 1807, the Society built the first
lifeboat station.*

*The LSS traces its roots in New Jersey in 1847
when Congress appropriated \$10,000 to provide
equipment for "better preservation of the life and
property from shipwrecks on the coast of NJ lying
between Sandy Hook and Little Egg Harbor"*

(Continued on page 3)



TATHAM LIFE SAVING STATION and MUSEUM

*Home of Stephen C. Ludlum Oldest building in Stone Harbor, New Jersey
Prominent "Historian" Keeper DBLHKFA Board member Bill Geilfuss
standing in front of the mural*on the now American Legion Post 331*

U.S Life Saving Service Stations



Tatham Life Saving Station Sea Isle



Ocean City NJ Life Saving Station



Indian River LSS Delaware

BREAKING NEWS: " Money helping old O.C. Life Saving Station" The garden State Preservation Trust will award \$450,000 in grants and loans. See internet article; PressofAtlanticcity.com Region section April 9, 2011

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The Bay Run

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



President's Message

Hello everyone from Cape May. It has been a rather snowy winter and we wonder if the cold weather will ever end.

Our January meeting in Ocean City, New Jersey was extremely interesting. We learned about the Ocean City Life Saving Station and the history of the Life Saving Service.

It's hard to believe that this was the forerunner of the Coast Guard Search and Rescue.

Our next meeting will be in Delaware on April 30th with a trip to Indian River Life Saving Station and Lewes to visit the completely refurbished OVERFALLS Lightship and to dedicate a Porthole in the name of our founder Carole F. Reily.

Check out the itinerary in VP "Dusty's" Log and Peggy's Corner in this issue.

Don't miss the 2011 Cruise schedule and our SPECIAL CRUISE planned for July 10th. We hope many of you can attend at least one or more of our Fun Cruise's in 2011. Cruises get more interesting every year.

So once again the New Year has started off well.

Let's hope many more of you can attend one or all of our Special Lighthouse oriented, informational planned meetings, Lighthouse Outreaches and great camaraderie with other Lighthouse enthusiasts.

REMEMBER! AN ORGANIZATION IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT.

"Keep the Lights Shining"

Angelo



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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.....Martha Ruddick

Publicity.....Jean Jones

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Ways and Means Anthony Giletto

Newsletter.....Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan

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Rod Mulligan, Bill Geilfuss, Tony Giletto

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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

US LSS Beginning (con't)



This 1871 style station or "Red House" named because of its exterior color 42ft long x 18 ft wide with 4 rooms

The first LSS built with federal funds was originally located in a cove in Sandy Hook, NJ and was moved to Twin Lights State Park, Atlantic Highlands, the highest point on the East Coast, in the late 1950's or early 1960's

Buildings were built every three miles along the Jersey coast; these "houses of refuge" were fully stocked and manned by volunteer crews. The early boats were a lot like the surf boats we presently use.



From the era of IRON MEN AND WOODEN SHIPS

One of the neighborhood boys was used as a "bailer". The equipment was the same on all boats so volunteers were interchangeable.

Wives sometimes went to rescue survivors if husbands were away or busy rescuing other people. Three women were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroics. This was also one of the first services to use dogs in the rescue process.

Prior to 1882, the Life Saving Stations were numbered listing the number before the name of the station. After that, the stations were called by name; then the Coast Guard started the numbering system in the early 1920's listing the number after the name. There are approximately twenty LSS buildings remaining along the New Jersey coastline. Some of the Life Saving Stations listed in and around our South Jersey area are: Toms River 109, Barnegat 113, Little Egg 119, Brigantine 121, Atlantic City 123, Absecon 124, Corson Inlet 128, Sea Isle 120, Townsend Inlet 130, Avalon 131 Hereford Inlet 133, Cape May 137 and the Life Saving Station 30 in Ocean City. Our January Winter DBLHKFA Meeting guest speaker was historian John Loeper; he brought us up to date on the plans for the restoration and preservation of the USLSS #30 located at 801 4th Street and Atlantic Avenue in Ocean City, NJ. The people manning this station from 1848 through 1936 saved hundreds of lives of those in peril on the sea.

When completed Ocean City, NJ will be the only LSS in the country that will be "period perfect" The displays will be designed as "touch and feel" making it interesting for everyone attending, especially the children.

For complete information on this Life Saving Station, check out the website:

www.uslifesavingstation30.org

Many Thanks to our treasurer Maxine Mulligan for taking such great notes at the January meeting and for her additional research.*

*(Note) Veasey, David "Guarding New Jersey's Shore's Lighthouse and Life Saving Stations" South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing Co. 2003

Carole F. Reily Scholarship Fund "Alive and Growing"

We have received many requests asking if donations are still being accepted.

YES! The Scholarship Fund has been growing annually. We have awarded Scholarships in 2009 and 2010 to two outstanding students since the Carole F. Reily Scholarship Fund was established. Donations can be sent at anytime to:

Treasurer Maxine Mulligan
1049 Simca Terr. Vineland NJ 08360

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



Wow! Spring is finally here and the thought of our warm, sunny cruises out on Delaware Bay aboard the BONANZA II are within sight.

We have a New Cruise this year that I'm really excited about. This has been in the planning for some time. Start planning for July 10th and sign up early. It will be an early sell-out

We will head down river to the Delaware Breakwater and Harbor Refuge Lighthouses.

We will as usual, cruise up close to some of our other favorites on the way. Angelo and I can "strut our stuff" (personal Keeper) information narrating this new adventure trip.

Check out our other cruises including our infallible Moonlight Cruises guaranteed outstanding "Full Moons"

I have had many inquires about my Hawaiian shirt. A member of the last cruise was from the Islands. She noticed my Lighthouse shirt and kiddingly she said she would like it. Being as "valiant" as I am!, I took my shirt off and gladly gave it to her.

Some weeks later in the mail I got this wild, colorful Hawaiian shirt with a big thank you note and a check with a request to become a member.

(See me in my Hawaiian shirt page 7)

Join us at the April 30th DBLHKFA Meeting it will be in my home area .One of the locations we will visit is very close to me the totally refurbished Lightship Overfalls

I have been involved in seeing the completion for over a decade and I'm more than proud for you to see the Overfalls and the new Mariner Park.

This is one meeting I know everyone will enjoy!
Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

US Life Saving Station #30

Ocean City, New Jersey



For nearly a century from 1848 through 1936, intrepid rescuers went forth from the Ocean City Life Station to save lives of those in peril from the sea. In 1840, William Newell a young New Jersey physician witnessed a shipwreck off the South Jersey coast that took 13 lives. Newell felt helpless to prevent this outcome but eight years later as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, he introduced legislation establishing the Ocean City station and other stations and eventually creating the United States Life Saving Service in 1871.

After that event, the Ocean City station formerly called "Beazeley's" became Station #30. It was rebuilt in 1885-86 and expanded in 1905-06 doubling the footprint of the building to make improvement for a new boat bay and a wrap-around porch. Ocean City Station is the only 1882 type station to be expanded in the "Historic" New Jersey styling. It featured a gabled roof and a lookout tower allowing space for surf men and boats.



Credits cover Artwork on the Tatham Life Savings Station- Sea Isle City by American Legion Member James J. Thompson

Winter Meeting photo Bill Geilfuss, Katie Moser

Photo of the Overfalls lightship- Rod Mulligan

Have you renewed your 2011 Membership? Your Registration form is enclosed.

PEGGY'S CORNER

By Peggy Stapleford
Activities/Program Chair



A great time was had at the Bayside Center and Museum the former Wheaton Glass family Estate in Ocean City right on the Bay.



We had the good fortune to have John Loeper, curator as our guest speaker. He is so interesting with his enthusiasm and knowledgeable presentation of the Ocean City Life Station but more in particular the fantastic plans the Station's Restoration Committee has and is moving forward to Historic heights. They will have, when completed the only Life Saving Station in the country that will be "period perfect" Just can't wait for us to get back there in the relatively near future to see the completion of Life Saving Station #30 and the authentic artifacts in their Museum in Ocean City. In doing some research for this issue I came upon a very interesting article on an unusual Life Saving Station in Pea Island, North Carolina. In 1880, Richard Etheridge, a former slave, Civil War Veteran, became keeper at Life Saving Station #17, Pea Island, N.C. He recruited a crew of African Americans making it the only all black station in the nation. During their time of service, they saved the lives of many men, women and children.

Have You?....

Passed on issues of the "Bay Run" to a friend, relative, neighbor inviting them to become a member of DBLHKFA?

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Keeper Richard Etheridge (on left) and the Pea Island Life Saving crew circa 1896

In 1896 the crew, unable to use their standard equipment due to weather conditions, swam out to the schooner, beached off shore, a total of nine times, to rescue all aboard. This event was unheralded until 1996, when the Coast Guard posthumously awarded the crew the Gold Life-Saving Medal.

(Note: from "Fire on the Beach" by David Wright & David Zoby, Scribner 2000 Copyright 2001 Simon & Schuster)

WHAT A YEAR WE HAVE PLANNED!

Starting with our...

SPRING Membership Meeting

SATURDAY APRIL 30th 2011

in Lewes, Delaware.

The Jersey folks will be taking the Cape May Ferry to Lewes and meeting up with the PA's & DE's on their side of Delaware Bay.

First Stop will be at the...

INDIAN RIVER LIFE SAVING STATION

Rehoboth Beach DE.

(There is a slight charge of \$4 or \$3 for seniors 62+ for the tour and museum at this location)

Back to Lewes for Lunch at the

"IRISH EYES" Restaurant

NO BROWN BAG LUNCHES!!!

For our Meeting and Lunch

Lunch prices are very reasonable

RESERVATIONS A MUST

Reply! No Later than April 20th

To Rod Mulligan 856-691-8224 E-mail him

Memax1@juno.com-

Peggy Stapleford 484-947-3191

mspegstapleford@dejazzd.Com

Then directly across from the restaurant is the completely renovated:

LIGHTSHIP OVERFALLS

Where we will dedicate a "PORTHOLE" In Memory of Carole F. Reily our founder.

Bulletin Board con't on next page

The Bay Run

BULLETIN BOARD (con't) **Saturday June 11th BAY DAY**

At Bivalve, NJ (Port Norris)
Saturday, June 25th
Annual DBLHKFA Picnic

Cape May County Zoo Picnic Area
Saturday July 16th Sunday 17th
Hereford Inlet Maritime Days

Sunday October 23rd 2011
Annual Keepers Reunion
and Awards Banquet
At the Yacht Club of Sea Isle City

Speaking of Annual Reunions...

We lost/misplaced/etc. this picture.
NOW that it is found I'm happy!



Here I am presenting Linda Peirson with a Certificate of Appreciation for her many, many years of loyalty to our Association as Ways and Means Chairperson and enthusiastic supporter.

For those attending the Spring Meeting we will meet at the Lewes Ferry Terminal at approximately 10:00 a.m. depending on the Ferry schedule.

Ferry Walk on's from Cape May will be met and transported by Caravan.

Indian River Life Saving Station

We will be visiting one of the oldest U.S. Life Saving Stations still standing

One of the East Coast's most valuable historic landmarks.

A full picture story will be in the Summer Bay Run featuring coverage of Lightships of our region.

Several stories and picture have been submitted by families with personal accounts and vintage pictures of Lightship crews and officers.

If anyone has information/pictures etc. to contribute, contact Jim Moffatt or Maxine Mulligan (Our Info on page 2)

If you have sent in your dues for this year 2011, **THANK YOU!!***

***Your New Membership Card is enclosed with this Bay Run Newsletter**

Everyone should have received a Membership Renewal form in the Winter/Holiday Issue of the "*Bay Run*" in December 2010

Maybe because of the Holiday rush you misplaced it. A new one is enclosed for your convenience.

March is Membership Month.

You can appreciate that your continued financial support is essential to continue our Mission.

Thanks for your consideration!

IRON MEN & WOODEN SHIPS

This era is long gone. The men and the ships have slipped into history. Some buildings remain as a reminder but even their own service treats them as a forgotten legacy. For a brief period, the men of the U.S. Life Saving Service were heroes of the beach and warriors against the storm, according to Robert Bennett, retired Coast Guard officer. Modern communications, navigational aids, helicopters fast patrol boats from Coast Guard Stations provide more efficient systems safe guarding life and property-more proficient perhaps but certainly not more picturesque.

The motto of today's Coast Guard reflects some of the lifesavers spirit:

Semper Paratus, "Always Ready"

The Bay Run

Meet you at the "Overfalls" April 30th



VP "Dusty Pierce Says:



You will know me
in my Hawaiian Shirt

Chairman Rod Mulligan Says:
"I'm the conservative one... no frills"
I'll be your leader at Indian River and
Irish Eyes Restaurant Lunch Meeting



Cruise Schedule for 2011

NEW SPECIAL CRUISE

Sunday July 10th Leaving @3:00 p.m.
**To: Delaware Breakwater Lighthouse
Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse and
many others along the Delaware River**

MOONLIGHT CRUISES

July 30th Leaving at 6:30 p.m.
August 27th Leaving at 5:00 p.m.

REGULAR SUNSET CRUISE

August 14th Leaving at 4:30 p.m.

**Due to increased Fuel Costs all Cruises
on the BONANZA II will be:**
\$35.00 for Adults \$20.00 for Children



MAKE UP CRUISE
Saturday September 10th
Time to be announced closer to date

In the event a regular cruise is cancelled due to weather, etc

All registrants will be notified and their checks will be returned.

All Cruises leave from the New Jersey State Marina in
Fortescue aboard the BONANZA II

Cruise reservations can be made by contacting the following

Maxine Mulligan (856) 692-8224 or Memax1@juno.com

Darlene Rigazio (609) 884-1329 or Darlenej50@Yahoo.com

Elma Gardner (856) 825-0123 or elmagardner@Verizon.net

ALL CRUISES are narrated by former Coast Guard Keepers

Members receive FIRST CHOICE before public mailing

The Bay Run

Winter Meeting in Ocean City NJ

At the Bay Side Center former Wheaton Estate

There was a blustery wind all day on the Bay, Ice and snow on the ground but plenty of warm fellowship inside the Bay Side Center. Plus, good attendance, we all had a great time with an outstanding program.



Pictured from left to right:

- 1-“Let’s get this meeting going?”
- 2- President Angelo, coming to life with Secretary Darlene Rigazio and Treasurer Maxine Mulligan ready to give their reports from the previous meeting.
- 3-Mary Ellen Walker, Joanne Bolton, Katie Moser and Eve Moffatt discussing the latest book on Ocean City Life Saving Station.
- 4-John Leoper, curator, historian and finder of long lost equipment for the OC LSS
- 5-DBLHKFA members attending, listening intently to our speaker.
- 6-President Angelo Rigazio presenting our check to John Leoper to aid with the restoration of the Ocean City Life Saving Station and Museum
- 7- Ocean City Life Saving Station in its present condition just before the beginning of the major restoration.
- 8- Joanne Bolton, Charlie Bolton, Ron Simmons, Mary Ellen Walker, John Leoper, Rod Mulligan, Katie Moser, Jean Jones, Peggy Stapleford and the rest of us who couldn’t fit into the picture. ...“We’ll get even!”

East Point Lighthouse in the December Blizzard

Taken by a friend of Jean Jones, Donna Rudderow-Clendaniel of Collingswood NJ



Donna explained the conditions “Snow was coming down so hard and the wind was whipping that Saturday. I just couldn’t resist taking pictures of East Point Lighthouse. It seems we take more pictures in nice weather than the Winter. Donna remarked that the pictures actually looked like a painting in the snow.