



The Bay Run



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

Volume 10 Issue 4

Winter 2010

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

A Coast Guard 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.

There is a Santa Claus, there really was a Santa on the Bay

"Yes! There is a Santa, there really is a Santa Claus," the voice from one of the Delaware Bay's lighthouses crackled over the radio one Sunday afternoon back in the early 70's. This announcement was made shortly after members of the Flotilla 36, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, with Commander Bill Horn at the helm, they then started delivering Christmas trees, presents, candy, cookies and cakes to the Coast Guardsmen stationed on the lighthouses. Knowing these men spent long dreary winter days and nights manning the lights that guided commercial traffic to and from the many busy Delaware River ports.

(con't on page 6)



May the light shine on you and yours this Holiday Season

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



President's Message

Greetings and Happy Holidays from Cape May to all lighthouse families and friends. Can you believe another year is coming to an end? As we look forward to 2011, I am sending wishes of good health and prosperity to all. Here at DBLHKFA, we have the next year already planned with lots of fun and educational events

So please keep in touch and plan on joining us as many times you can.

Sadly, we had two recent resignations, Sharon Hewitt, as membership Chairperson and Stephen Hewitt, from the Board of Directors. We thank you both the time you devoted to these positions and wish you well. We hope you will still be joining us at the various outreaches and meetings.

On the brighter side we look to 2011 and welcome 2 more volunteers, Eva Moffatt as our new Membership Chairperson and James Gardner as the replacement on the Board of Directors. Both have been regular attendees at our meetings and events. Thank you for stepping up to take over these positions. I am looking forward to working with you as we all contribute to the future of our organization.

On a personal note, by the time you read this, we will have a new addition to our family. Little Liam Matthew McKeown is due to enter this world sometime in December. Liam will be our 5th grandchild, our second grandson. So everyone have a wonderful, safe holidays and remember to...

“KEEP THE LIGHTS SHINING!”?

Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.

**Happy Holidays
See you at our
Members Meetings
Outreaches
Cruises in 2011**

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Chairman of the Board.....Rod Mulligan
Treasurer.....Maxine Mulligan
Secretary.....Darlene Rigazio
Membership.....Eva Moffatt
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Sunshine/Hospitality.....Martha Ruddick
Publicity.....Jean Jones
Historian.....Peggy Stapleford
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Newsletter.....Jim Moffatt, Maxine Mulligan
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Jim Gardner and Fred Ruddick

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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.

Christmas at the Light

By Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.



Seven A.M. December 25, 1972, another dawn to another day. Except that you're 3.5 miles off the coast of Delaware at Harbor Refuge Lighthouse.



(Postcard photo of Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse by Carole F. Reily) As you climb the spiral stairs to the watch deck, you open the door and say "good morning" to the only other person you will have contact with for the next seven days. All went well on his watch. It's time to take over the watch, have breakfast and chat for a while. As he leaves to get some sleep, you realize that you're alone on Christmas Day

Cape May calls for a weather report and radio check. Six weather reports every 24 hours: check the instruments and gauges, wind 18 knots, visibility 25 miles, seas 4 to 5 feet, swells 3 feet, air temp 25 degrees. This is your contact to the world. Step outside and look toward the northeast and you can see Cape May Point Light 17 miles away. To the southeast is Lewes, Delaware. To the west are ships in Anchorage, Eastward is the Atlantic Ocean and nothing but Spain for the next 2,000 miles. The winds cut through you like a knife and you go back inside.

Manfried the cat greets you with a rub and a meow. Say hello and give him something to eat. Now watch TV. This is your solitude on Christmas Day. After watching TV and some Christmas shows, you give Cape May a call on the radio and have them call your wife on a landline to wish her a "Merry Christmas". Fifteen minutes later, Cape May radios back with a message from her. And the rest of

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the keepers of the lighthouses are repeating the same to their families on shore.

At 12:30 P.M., you can hear a boat horn blowing outside your dock. There is a pulling along side. On board is Santa waving to you. He's the Coast Guard guy from Delaware bringing cheer to all the lighthouses. There are cookies, presents and small artificial tree. As night comes you watch the twinkling of the lights on shore and it lets you know that you are not alone on Christmas Day.

(More about the real Lighthouse Santa in the issue)

A Coast Guard's Christmas

(By Star Reporter Maxine Mulligan)

We decided to interview various Coast Guardsmen to find out how they spent their Christmas holiday in service.



(Rod aboard the "AGASSIZ" Patrol/Search and Rescue Ship also made Lighthouse deliveries.)

....Our board chair and former "Coastie" Rod Mulligan reported that during Christmas of '58 he had leave to go home to Long Island. Leaving Base Gloucester, NJ he took the Trailways Bus to Camden, then on to the Port of NY Authority, where he got the subway to NY Penn Station. From there he went by train to Babylon Long Island to his home town of Bridgehampton. Most of his leave was spent traveling. Sometimes he even hitchhiked to spend the holidays with family and friends.

....Rod's grandmother would cook Christmas dinner on an old wood burning stove. Refusing to use the new stove her husband bought her. The Christmas of '58 while stationed at Base Cape May, NJ he and Maxine became engaged; they just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

John Mastrobuono

2038 W. Main St., Millville, NJ

**Rod Mulligan, Chairman
Board of Directors**



REFLECTIONS OF 2010

Maxine and I were unable to attend the January General Membership Meeting hosted at the First United Methodist Church in Sea Isle City due to a previous commitment out of town. We received very positive feedback from those attending that meeting. Thanks to our speaker Phil Bur, who discussed the Ludlum Lighthouse in Sea Isle City, past, present and future history with really great historic and present day pictures.

Our Spring meeting was held at Cape May Point State Park. Rich Chimengo, an icon with Cape May Point Lighthouse. Rich gave an excellent slide presentation on the history of the many Lighthouses at Cape May Point dating back to the early 17th century. He also related in some detail to the maritime history of the Cape May area. The program was enjoyed by all those members present.

Our next endeavor was the first outreach of the year "Bay Days" which is held annually in BiValve/Port Norris, NJ the second weekend in June. We had a good turnout of volunteers, a really nice location and great weather. An especially good day for our sale items and socialization.

Also in June we held our Annual Picnic in the Gazebo at the Gardens at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse in North Wildwood, NJ A productive meeting, again great weather, and as usual a delicious selection of homemade picnic fare. Steve Murray, Hereford Board member and the designer and caretaker of the spectacular gardens at Hereford he spoke to the members about Hereford Light and his new book about Hereford Inlet, Light and the maritime history of the surrounding area.

On July 16 and 17 Hereford Inlet Lighthouse hosted their first Maritime Festival. We, DBLHKFA were invited to exhibit our merchandise and distribute information and discuss the Mission and Goals of our association.

On October 16 and 17 we returned to Hereford Inlet for the New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge

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weekend which was very successful thanks again to our volunteers, members Betty Mugnier, Steve Murray and their staff at the Lighthouse.. From the "Grapevine" we heard that over 2,000 people participated in this wonderful Lighthouse weekend.

Last but not least! Our Annual Keepers Reunion/Banquet was held at the Yacht Club in Sea Isle City on October 24th. A really terrific day. Our guest speaker, Dr. Anthony Waskie (aka General George G. Meade gave a great presentation on the general's life and participation in designing some of the coastal lighthouses in our area. Everyone enjoyed him! The 50/50 was won by Steve Mortarano who turned the winnings back to our association... Thanks for the donation Steve.

The next planned events were the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Cruises held in July and August. It was necessary to cancel one sunset cruise in August due to the fact that Mother nature just wasn't in a good mood that day!! Over all our Bay cruises were successful; every cruise was full. Many thanks to the volunteers, the Bonanza II family and, of course the passengers.

In the planning stages for 2011 we may venture to the Delaware side of the bay to visit Harbor of Refuge and the Delaware Breakwater Lighthouses.

(Tentative dates for our 2011 cruises are listed in the Cruise News in this issue of the Bay Run)

NOT AN EASY DECISION

At our last Board of Directors and Membership Meeting we discussed the necessity of eliminating the Single Membership. Our cost for just the Bay Run Newsletter all but exceeds the cost of a Single Membership; cost running at \$12.50+ annually and this does not take into consideration the possibility of an increase in mailing costs. Leaving NO "Wiggle Room" for our Lighthouse/Maritime Preservation Mission. Our membership dues have never been increase since our beginning in 1995. Many of our active volunteers pick up most of our miscellaneous expenses. The Board truly hopes everyone understands our option and continues to support our Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association.

**2011 Membership Renewal
enclosed in this Issue**

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PEGGY'S CORNER



By Peggy Stapleford

Activities/Program Chair

Mark your calendars NOW!

Just can't wait for our Winter Membership Meeting in Ocean City, New Jersey

Saturday, January 15th 2011

(Snow date January 22nd)

We will be meeting at the:

BAYSIDE CENTER

Formerly The Wheaton Estate

Location is Handicapped accessible.

520 Bay Avenue

Ocean City, NJ

John Loper from the preservation group will be our speaker from the Ocean City The New Jersey Life Saving Station Lives Saved! Equipment used plus the relationships to the area Lighthouses.

MEEETING SCHEDULE

10:15 Social Hour-Coffee n' Donuts

11:15 Membership Meeting

12: Ish BROWN BAG LUNCH

Bring your own Also your beverage

1:00 Guest Speaker John Loper

**Our Membership Meetings are always
interesting & educational**

Come Out and See for yourself!!

SPRING SPECTACULAR

Our Membership Meeting

Will be in Ocean City, Delaware on April 16, 2011

Chairman Rod and VP "Dusty" have really come up with and a full, exciting and interesting day!

COMPLETE ITINERY

In the Spring Issue of the Bay Run.

Just a hint! We will be visiting the

Ocean City MD Life Saving Station * PLUS: the newly refurbished Lightship Overfalls in its spectacular new surroundings.

(Just ask Dusty?) Plus our DBLHKFA presentation to the "OVERFALLS"

Rod has made restaurant reservations close by, reasonably priced menu.

Not to be confused with our Winter meeting at the Life Saving Station in Ocean City, NJ

Publicity Chairperson JEAN JONES



Jean Jones, I have been doing the publicity for the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association for some time now>

I have been a lifelong resident of Millville, NJ I attended Millville schools and later Moore Institute of Art in Philadelphia, for four years.

During that time I commuted daily by train. Upon graduation in 1952, I married Richard Jones and began raising our family of two boys, Richard and Robert.

I was for several years, president of the Maurice River Historical Society, of which I am a life member. I am also a life member of the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society and the Archaeological Society of New Jersey receiving their Appreciation Award and recently receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bayshore Discovery Project.

In the late 1960s I collaborated with Jack Lines, of Yakima Washington, on a 608 page genealogy of the Shelhorn family, published in 1972.

I went to work for the Bridgeton Evening News in 1970, then moved to the Millville Daily for several years, then back to the Bridgeton newspaper, now the News of Cumberland County. My "beat" is the municipalities of Maurice River, Commercial, Downe and Lawrence Townships, the Delaware Bay shellfishing industry and general environmental coverage.

It was inevitable that I cross paths with the late Carole F. Reily and there was no choice but to join the DBLHKFA. You just didn't say "NO" to Carole and with our common interests the two of us became good friends.

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Santa visited Delaware Bay Lighthouses (Con't from Cover)

This all started when one of the coast guardsman was talking on a CB radio and happened to mention that there wasn't much Christmas spirit on the lights and they had no Christmas trees.

Word was passed on to the Coast Guard Flotilla 36 and "Operation Lighthouse Christmas" was initiated. Donations came in from all over the area. Ken Husted who operated Husted's Landing, agreed to provide a boat and an ardent boatman agreed to pilot it to deliver the gifts to the lighthouses.

.... The crew set out on a Sunday morning stopping first at Brandywine Shoal Light; then on to Fourteen Foot Bank, Miah Maull and Ship John.

The Leesburg Flotilla had agreed to deliver Christmas goodies to the lights further down in the bay Harbor of Refuge and Delaware Breakwater.



(Dec.20,1970-Santa at Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse Photo courtesy of Bill Horn) Santa and his crew went aboard and visited with the coast guardsmen who were tending the lights; the men were ecstatic.



Dec. 20, 1970 Inside Ship John Shoal Lighthouse. L-Hank Linderman -R- Dennis Lawson- (Photo courtesy Bill Horn)

One coast guardsman exclaimed, "We've never had our refrigerators so full of food or our hearts so full

of thanks" Commander Bill Horn and members of the Flotilla received many letters of thanks for their efforts.

(NOTE Bill Horn is a member of our Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers and Friends Association

Coast Guard Christmas(con't)

When asked what it was like back in the 60's when he was stationed on Fourteen Foot Light, VP "Dusty" Pierce stated that Christmas was nothing special out on the light; no trees, decorations, lights or presents.

Everyone continued their responsibilities with thoughts of loved ones at home.

Members Bob Lamb and Fred Ruddick, who were stationed on lighthouses, reported that they were never on the lights for Christmas.

Bob was stationed on a lighthouse in Lake Michigan, since the lake was frozen for 2 weeks the lights were shut down and the men sent home. He was on Montuak and Stepping Stones lighthouses in the summer. Fred had leave from Ship John Shoal to go home to Ohio for Christmas.

Charlie Bolton was stationed at Corson's Inlet near Ocean City, NJ The local "Coastie's" let their out of state buddies go home and they would cover their duty for them. He also served as a Seaman on the Ambrose Lightship.

Then there is the Famous Flying Santa Claus

of the New England Lighthouses Check Google for an interesting history of Friends of the Flying Santa



More Fascinating Facts

This interesting story found on the Internet by member Bill Geilfuss of our own Cape May County area.

"Honoring our Fallen in Cape May Point, NJ for over 38 years!

This happens every night, who knew?

Thanks to CBS for covering the story IT'S A MUST! Check out this web site

<http://www.comcast.net/video-fallen-vets/1536192981/>

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2010 Members Getting Involved!

Our Annual Picnic in the Gazebo-Hereford Inlet Light
Great Locations; productive meeting, delicious selection of homemade picnic fare.



The DBLHKFA working gang at Hereford



Bill Geulfuss as the keeper



Our new merchandise

Fun in the Sun at “Bay Days” at BiValve/Port Norris
*Wonderful location on the historic Cohansey River home of the “Meerwald” Tall Ship.
Sell! Sold! Our new selection of DBLHKFA merchandise, plus lots of socialization*



Peggy & Paula



Angelo & Bay Run



Tony & Maxine



Katie at the merchandise table

2010 Annual Keepers Reunion/Banquet

Continue from back page



Bill & Angelo



Dusty Hawaiian Shirt



Katie as the Keepers wife

Scholarship Application enclosed in this Issue

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2010 Annual Keepers Reunion/Banquet

Members and friends enjoyed the hospitality and food at the Sea Isle Yacht Club. The highlight was speaker Prof Andy Waskie's portrayal of General George Meade



Raffle Items



Tony & Steve



Katie & Jen



Dusty & Friends



Gift Table



Angelo



Peggy making announcements



Maxine as Keepers Girlfriend



Peggy making presentation to Paula



Jean Jones & Tony Giletto



Dusty Talk of Overfalls



Angelo & Katie

CRUISE NEWS 2011



Reserve these Dates for 2011

SUNSET CRUISES

July 10th and August 14th 2011

MOONLIGHT CRUISES

July 30th and August 14th 2011

All Cruises leave from :

New Jersey State Marina in

Fortescue aboard the Bonanza II

Full Details in Spring 2011 "Bay Run"

GREAT NEWS!!!

Our very own Ship John Shoal

Lighthouse COASTERS

Carole F Reily

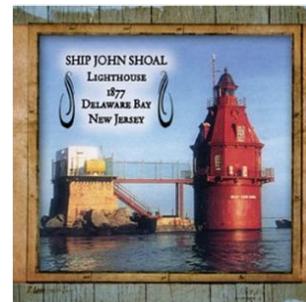
Founder/President of DBLHKFA

1995 Passing Over the Bar July 6, 2007

Set of 4 Coasters \$12 w/ Wood Holder \$15

Coasters are made of the finest quality Absorba Stone.

Drink proof Coasters w/ cork backing.



Original photo by Carole F. Reily