



# The Bay Run



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

Volume 12 Issue 2  
Summer 2012

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

## A Marvel in Restoration! Tatham Life Saving Station and Museum

The Home of Stephen C. Ludlum American Legion Post 331  
117<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Stone Harbor, NJ



Original photos of Life Saving Stations  
Seven Mile Beach-Stone Harbor-Avalon



Bill Layman American Legion Officer  
Jim Thompson Member Artist at the Mural  
building front



Dress and Uniforms  
Both Keepers and Surfmen

This outstanding history and museum displays of the Maritime Service are preserved in this oldest building in Stone Harbor. Starting as a US Life Saving Service Station (#36) from 1895 to 1915 it then became a US Coast Guard Station (#132) 1915 to 1948 and now American Legion Post 331 since 1948 Through the major restoration efforts by the Legion members and community the Tatham Life Saving Station is on the New Jersey and National Registries of Historic Places. It is dedicated to the memory of PFC Stephen C. Ludlum, a twenty year old soldier, who was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross (our nation's second highest award) and the Purple Heart for heroic action he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country during World War II. The Life Saving Service traces it's roots to New Jersey in 1848 when Congress appropriated \$10,000 for "Preservation of life and property from shipwrecks"  
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**A BEAM From  
The Presidents  
Desk By  
Angelo S. Rigazio, Jr.**



**President's Message**

Hello everyone from Cape May. Fourth of July has come and gone. What a great weekend for us really hot, but great weather, and great family to visit us, what could be better. As you all know, this is our busiest time of the year with all of the fun events planned for the next three months. Check them out in Peggy's Corner (page 5) or on our website.

I'm looking forward to our first boat cruise on July 15<sup>th</sup> to Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse (my USCG "home away from home") and to the rest of the lights in Delaware Bay.

On a personal note it is going to be hard to replace Jim Moffatt, our Bay Run "Chief". The last 25 newsletters he put together not only have they been done professionally but also by adding color pictures, changing the layout he has turned it into one great publication. You will be missed by everyone at DBLHKFA. Also Eva will be missed since the job of taking over membership was a great one also. We wish you both the best as you make your move to Florida

**"Keep the light shining" Angelo**

**Jim's farewell**

This is my last "Bay Run" Newsletter. It has been a privilege working with so many wonderful members who have contributed to making the newsletter an interesting source of information for DBLHKFA's membership and others. Carole asked me to take it on temporarily at a meeting at the Biden Center in Delaware in the Spring of 2007. Now anyone knowing Carole (like the godfather) how could I say no, considering all she did for/with the association.. Temporary? 26 "Bay Run's" ago. It's been a good run and I personally have benefitted by learning so much more about lighthouses, US Coast Guard, Lighthouse Keepers life and the maritime community. Although, I have always been a lighthouse enthusiast Thank you for the opportunity to be your editor. Now Eva and I are headed to Florida to be with our daughter, son and especially our grandchildren. But! "You have to keep the light shining!"

**Jim Moffatt**

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  - Vice President..... Gaylord F (Dusty) Pierce
  - Chairman of the Board.....Rod Mulligan
  - Treasurer.....Maxine Mulligan
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  - 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.**

Ship John Lighthouse is a notable Victorian styled structure rising from Ship John Shoal near the mouth of the Cohansey River on Delaware Bay built in 1797.

## Notes from the Spring Membership Meeting.

### From the notes of Maxine Mulligan

The Spring Membership Meeting at the Tatham Life Saving Station in Stone Harbor was called to order by VP “Dusty Pierce, filling in for Pres. Angelo who was on vacation. He welcomed everyone, it was our largest attendance recently. Minutes read, approved and second.

Treasurer Maxine Mulligan reported ending balance of \$7,859.39 all transactions final. Thank you note to John Cronin of the Villages Lighthouse Group for a donation in memory of Bill Johnson, several others came in with membership renewals

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programs/Activities/ Historian: Peggy Stapleford announced corrected dates for future events. Annual Keepers Banquet, location not set yet.

Sunshine: Katie Moser reported sending several get well cards and a sympathy card to Doris Simpson.

Publicity: Jean Jones asked that media E-mails be sent to her for publicity releases.

Ways/Means/Scholarship: Tony Giletto is completing a physical inventory of our merchandise. He announced two scholarships are awarded this year for the first time to member relatives graduating in 2012 (page 4 for details) He urged members who have graduating Seniors to apply for the Carole F. Reily Scholarships annually. The Scholarship Applications are always in the Winter Edition of your “Bay Run” newsletter. As a reminder we are always accepting donations to the Carole F. Reily Scholarship Fund. In Carole’s memory or in memory of anyone. Send any size donations to Maxine Mulligan, Treasurer.

Membership: Eva Moffatt reported 132 paid members to date

CRUISES: (page 8 for details/dates) Price increase to \$40 due to fuel costs. A Memorial Cruise in memory of the Fifth Anniversary of Carole’s passing is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> on the Ship John Cruise. A wreath will be placed in the Bay

### Board of Directors:

Rod Mulligan, thanked everyone for attending including Peggy Stapleford for making the arrangements for the meeting. Introduced new members Bud McCall and Penny McLosh to their first meeting. Acknowledged Jim and Eva Moffatt for their many contributions to the association, as they look forward to relocating to Florida.

### Old Business:

Bill Geilfuss Reported on this years Lighthouse Challenge Weekend in October.

Kevin Maloney spoke on taking on the stewardship of Brandywine Light. He thanked DBLHKFA for our letter of support.

### New Business:

Katie Moser mentioned the Maine Lighthouse Celebration is July 27,28,29 in Rockland Maine. Discussion on

### “Where are the next generation of Lighthouse Keepers?”

We need them to bolster our membership and keep our “Mission” alive and moving forward. Many great ideas/suggestion were discussed. NOW! we need additional input also from all of our membership. Contact President Angelo. Chairman Rod or any member of the Board with your suggestions and ideas or knowledge of similar youth groups. (Contact information on Page 2)

**LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS NEEDED!** To be honored at the National Lighthouse Day at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse on August 7<sup>th</sup> Just come! Be a part of this new local tradition.

Meeting was adjourned at noon. All were in favor. Brown bag lunch and our social time. Next an interesting video presentation on the history of the Service at Tatham LSS, plus other coastal Stations and their duties performed under adverse conditions.

Then our fantastic tour of both floors and tower of the museum by Bill Layman, Harry Clayton and Jim Thompson.(Con’t page 7)

**Thank You Bill Geilfuss for being our official photographer**

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



What a wonderful meeting at Stone Harbor's Tatham Life Saving Station. Thanks to our speaker, Bill Layman, we all learned a lot about the station and enjoyed the video and tour of the museum and tower. It was a nice meeting Jim Thompson who designed and painted all of the beautiful murals was there to explain the history behind each of the murals. Thanks to Peggy Stapleford who made all of the arrangements.

I had the pleasure of presiding at this meeting. It is always a pleasure to talk socially with members at these meetings and keeping informed of the latest news. Even the return trip to Delaware on the ferry was enjoyable and relaxing.

In February my wife Eve and I attended the Mardi Gras Celebration in Lewes, DE. for the benefit of the Overfalls Lightship. In April we attended their fundraising breakfast. A major portion of these proceeds go to the Overfalls "Float the Boat" fund; we are always happy to make a donation. The mayor of Lewes stated that the Overfalls is a great drawing card for tourism for entire area.

It won't be long before our Delaware Bay Lighthouse fund raising Cruises begin. I will be narrating them again this year. Sharing the responsibility with some of the cruises with president Angelo.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on August 7<sup>th</sup> at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse for National Lighthouse Day. They will be honoring former Lighthouse Keepers. Your Association will be well represented so be sure to stop by... We'll be happy to see you!

### **More thoughts on Tatham LLS**

Our meeting was held in the Boatroom where the Surfboats and Equipment were once stored. After the video, we toured the museum where artifacts of World War I, World War II, Korea and other major conflicts are housed. Uniforms of various Armed Forces have been donated; weapons, military insignia, pictures, books, flags, charts, and much more are all part of the memorabilia on display. On the third level is the Lookout Tower... similar to a Lighthouse Tower without the light. From the tower you can appreciate a

terrific view of Stone Harbor, the ocean, Hereford Inlet and the bay. Throughout the Station are murals depicting the history of the Station, use of the Life Saving Equipment during the 1900's and honoring our fallen soldiers. All of these magnificent Murals were created by artist and member Jim Thompson. We are so appreciative for this opportunity to visit American Legion Post 331 in Stone Harbor and to experience the major efforts that they have put into the preservation of this outstanding facility

### ***Carole F. Reily Scholarships.***

***Two outstanding young ladies, related to members received the annual \$500 awards.***

***This is the first time that the scholarships have been awarded to member's relatives.***

***Previous recipients have been selected by the committee to local high school seniors. Due to no submissions from our members.***

***Erica Lynn Coughlin 4.097 GPA Erica has a record of excellence, scholastically. A member of the National Honor Society at Middle Township High School Cape May County NJ. She has extensive Work experience, Volunteer Service and Extracurricular Activities. Her Athletic Achievements are also outstanding Softball, Winter Track, Field and Indoor Field Hockey. Erica was sponsored by Pres. Angelo and Sect. Darlene Rigazio.***



**President Angelo and Erica Coughlin**



**Tony Giletto and Ryann Ervin (Tony said "No! I'm not standing in a hole, she's just very tall")**

### ***Ryann Allyse Ervin 3.8 GPS***

***Ryann excels in so any activities over and above her scholastic excellence. Selected for the Principal's and Superintendent's Honor Rolls. She is a star Basketball, Volleyball player and outstanding in Track. Her volunteer accomplishments are amazing, she has been secretary, vice president and president of Future Farmers of America FFA, and actively involved in the FCA Food Pantry. Rural Oklahoma life has been very instrumental in selecting her life's vocation. She plans on attending the University of Oklahoma. Ryann is the granddaughter of a very proud Tony Giletto one of our most dedicated Board member/workers.***

## PEGGY'S CORNER NEWS n' VIEWS

*By Peggy Stapleford*

*Activities/Program Chair*



Quick observation on Maritime Days at Hereford Inlet Lighthouse on July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

Lots of great activity, beautiful weather spectacular displays a multitude of food vendors and merchandise. Just one thing we missed **“THAT’S YOU!** We are fortunate to have a small steady group of volunteers but we sure could use more hands to help with sales and passing out our literature and signing up more DBLHKFA memberships.

### **NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY**

**AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> 2012 Hereford Inlet Light “National Worldwide Lighthouse Celebration” Ham Radio Operators sending and receiving worldwide from Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. Many Children’s activities, Music to please everyone, Civil War Re Enactors. Terrific selection of all types of Food. Don’t miss the Lighthouse Keepers session discussing life on lighthouses of Delaware Bay. PLUS! Many new and interesting Maritime exhibits and displays.**

**You Just Can’t Miss This One!**

### **LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE of NEW JERSEY**

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> JOIN US AT HEREFORD LIGHT**

### **ANNUAL MEETING-KEEPERS REUNION BANQUET**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

*Location to be announced in the Fall Issue*

We really strive to present interesting Membership programs throughout the year.

Our speakers are always outstanding, We have the good fortune to engage speakers on every spectrum of maritime history, who they themselves, enjoy discussing their particular field of expertise with you Your questions to the speakers enhance every program. I am always looking for new and different locations and speakers. Don't be shy give me a call.

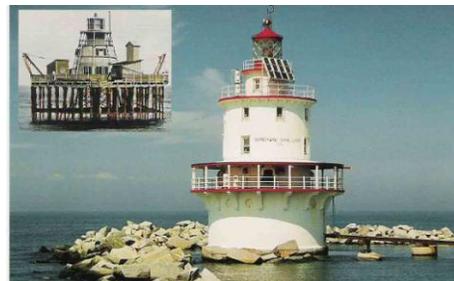
Just giving you the dates of our Outreach Events sometime go to " Davey Jones Locker" of the calendar. Steve Murray and Betty Mugnier of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse met with Rod and Maxine Mulligan and Tim to discuss the many features at the National Lighthouse Day Celebration planned for August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2012 at Hereford Light. Steve had requested DBLHKF A's assistance in setting up the program for this outstanding Lighthouse event. Top New Jersey legislators will be present, also several renowned guest speakers during the day. Looking forward to the US Coast Guard Base Commander and the US Coast Guard Band from Cape May Station. One of the most interesting highlights of the day will be the "Ham Radio Operators" sending and receiving messages from all around our country and the world.

This is one event you won't want to miss this summer. Food, Fun, Vendors and lots of Information. This will be an Event that we will need as many members to be there and assist our Association with acquainting everyone with our Mission and success'

Please make that extra effort to be there and work with us! Thanks in advance, Peggy

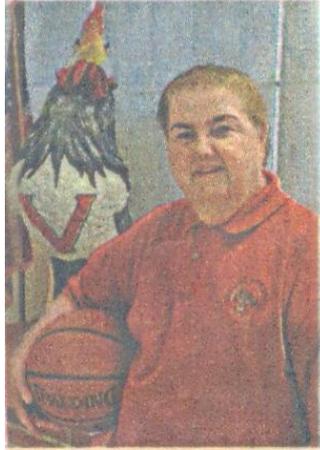
### **UPDATE of the Cape May Maritime Museum’s bidding for the stewardship of BRANDYWINE SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE**

*As reported by President Angelo Rigazio and Kevin Maloney.* President Angelo and Darlene met with Kevin and Sandy Maloney at their home in North Cape May. We discussed the progress of the application for Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse and Pres. Angelo presented them with his letter of support for the stewardship of the light. He also gave them some of his personal photos, showing the way the interior and mechanical spaces were during its manned years. Kevin and the Cape May Maritime Museum members are still looking for more sponsors. There is a good possibility that they will be confirmed by the National Park Service hopefully in July. We will keep everyone informed here, as news develops.



## MAXINE MULLIGAN HONORED

*“Maxine made the most of opportunity” When she attended Vineland High School her options were limited. As a female athlete the only interscholastic sport she could play was basketball being the only sport offered in the state of New Jersey*



*However Maxine made the most of her lone opportunity, not only did she make the team but they won the New Jersey State Championship. She didn't stop there she stayed after school and participated in everything from Softball, Hockey, Tennis to Ping Pong. By doing this she set an example for all female athletes in the area.*

*Maxine Mulligan was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Vineland High School on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 The induction took place at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual All Sports Banquet. She was also honored for her commitment to the Booster Club since 1987*

*Maxine is no sloucher when it comes to volunteering for high school sports and anything connected with sports. She buys for/manages the concession stand for all their home games, sells the ads for the program and even finds time to sell them.*

*When she was teaching she received the Governor's Award as Teacher of the Year, and the Who's Who Among American Teachers Award in 1991, 1996 and 1998.*

*Beside all of the above she is the "Mentor" for DBLHKFA. Everyone turns to Maxine for the answers, she never says NO! Never misses an Outreach or meeting. She books the Cruises, does the annual mailings for the cruises, is our treasurer, pays our bills and now will be "Editor and Chief of the Bay Run" And she has a normal lifestyle?*

## NEW POINT COMFORT LIGHTHOUSE

Story submitted by Bill Schneider from Palm Coast, FL. Friend of Katie Moser  
Virginia stonemason Elzy Burroughs built lighthouses at Old Point Comfort 1802, Smith Point 1803 and New Point Comfort 1804. During construction was struck by three hurricanes.

British Forces occupied the area for two months during the War of 1812, torching the keepers dwelling and greatly damaging the tower. A Fourth order Fresnel was installed in 1855, then darkened the entire Civil War. In a departure from then norm two blacks kept the light. In 1855 retired sea captain Isaac Foster was found to have a female assistant, most likely a slave. Preacher J. McHenry Farley was officially keeper 187173. Automated in 1919 with acetylene, then electrified in 1960, a lighted buoy in 1963 allowed the Coast Guard to decommission. New Point Comfort is the nations tenth oldest standing light and the third oldest on Chesapeake Bay.

## LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS?

If you're out there we would like to hear from you! From the Carole F. Reily "The Lighthouse Lady list There were, from the beginning of the Delaware Bay Lighthouse Keepers 38 Keepers who manned 25 different locations on Delaware Bay. If you know of anyone please have them contact President Angelo Rigazio. There are many who we would like to see, reminisce, and tell you stories at the National Worldwide Lighthouse Day on Tuesday, August 7th 2010 E-Mail [Keeperang54@yahoo.com](mailto:Keeperang54@yahoo.com). Call 609-884-1329 We are looking to see many ex-keepers and see them attend our Annual Keepers Banquet in October.

Hope to see you on August 7th Angelo



# *Our Day at the Tatham Life Saving Station*

At the meeting:



Signing In: #1 Katie Moser, Penny Mcloch, Jim Moffatt, Jim Gardner #2 Chairman Rod, V P "Dusty" prepare meeting, #3 Chairman Rod and Sect. for the Day Maxine Mulligan w/ minutes, #4 Membership attending.



#5 Tony Giletto Jean Jones Penny Loch & Bud McCall #6 Meeting Over/ Lunch break, Chas. Bolton, Ron Simmons, VP "Dusty" Jim Gardner wins 50/50 #7 Video Duties of the Service, #8 Members listen to the Bill Layman explain history of Tatham Life Saving Station-then and now.



#9 Seaman on Watch #10 Museum wardrobe collection #11 Memorabilia #12 Rod, Bill Layman, Maxine presenting our donation for the upkeep of the Station & Museum, V.P. "Dusty" Pierce

## **A Marvel in Restoration :**

This Life Saving Station was established in 1871. Life Saving Stations were constructed in this area since there were many ship wrecks along the coast of New Jersey. During the peak years from 1878 to 1915, lifesavers were popular folk heroes depicted as "Storm Warriors". Their courage was depicted in the phrase: "The regulations say you have to go out, they don't say you have to come back" There were 41 Stations along the Jersey Coast identified by numbers; Tatham was #36, Ocean City Life Saving Station was #30. The Coast Guard changed the numbering system in 1915. These brave men risked their lives daily to save others, saving 177,000 lives over a period of time. "You don't think about yourself, you think of others." The Breeches Buoy function Apparatus Drill was one way to save lives. They went by the Manual, practicing drills often. These life saving drills required complete cooperation...All must work together with precision. Let's remember! these Stations were manned solely by Voluntary Crews.

## **INTERESTING KEEPER STATISTICS**

As with most old records they never seem to be complete. This is the information available: H.B Richards was appointed in 1856. It is unknown when he left the service.

John W. Gandy appointed on Dec. 30, 1870. He left the service in 1874

Franklin Hand was appointed Nov. 27, 1874 left service in 1876

Richard C. Holmes was appointed Mar. 28, 1876 and was dismissed from service on Nov 29, 1887

# ANNUAL PICNIC at the CAPE MAY ZOO

The meeting was fun! Fellowship was great! The weather was fantastic.



#1 Sect. Darlene Rigazio's "Cupcakes" stole the show...and were they tasty! #2 Now she sits here with that cute smile, tantalizing everyone with her Lighthouse Crossword Puzzle. Jean Jones, Maxine Mulligan ponder over their answers. #3 Joanne and Charlie Bolton Oop's (is he cheating?)



#4 Peggy Stapleford in deep concentration. #5 Tony Giletto looks like he's eying the cupcakes instead of the puzzle. #6 Pres. Angelo out catching balloons (?) Oh! Yah!

## CRUISE NEWS 2012

### DELAWARE BAY LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE SCHEDULE



#### SUNSET CRUISES

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m. Ship John Shoal

Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> Make up date of cancellations\*

#### MOONLIGHT CRUISES

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m. Ship John Shoal

Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Brandywine

\*In case of any cancellation passengers signed up will be notified prior to their Cruise

On Seven Mile Beach the first station was located on or around 80th St. and consisted of an 1855 design which housed rescue equipment only. In 1872 this was replaced with a "Red House" style station which had provisions for both equipment and personnel. In 1893 and 1895 "Duluth" architectural style stations were built in Avalon and Stone Harbor, replacing the 1872 station and both structures still exist. Avalon's as a private residence and Stone Harbor as the home of American Legion Post 331. Approximately 28 Stations were built and only about 11 or 12 remain in existence today.