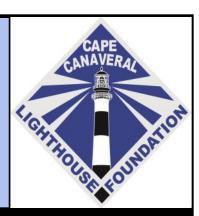


CANAVERAL BEACON

The official newsletter for members of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

Follow us on Facebook @CCLighthouse



Our Mission

To assist Space Launch Delta 45 in preserving, protecting, promoting, and interpreting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance to the Florida Space Coast, State of Florida, and our Nation

Vol. 11, No. 4 July 1, 2021

Message from Our Foundation President



We just finished our annual vacation with the grandkids, and it continues to remind me why we had children. That said, our lighthouse family has been very busy hosting tours, as well as hosting 100 volunteers at the annual Volunteer Celebration. It is truly our membership, and volunteers that sustain the Foundation and our ability to keep the light shining.

We are now at the middle of 2021 and the pandemic is nearly behind us, now it's time to start addressing the continuing challenge of fund raising so we can continue to share the light. The significant decrease in revenue during the pandemic is going to challenge the Foundation. The annual run we were planning for the last quarter of 2021 will now be in 2022. But mark your calendars for October 23, 2021 as we are reviewing another option for an event at the American Muscle Car Museum to help us generate revenue --- please stay tuned. We are ap-

preciative of our lighthouse community and look forward to your continued support.

Our long time friend of the lighthouse Dr. Sonny Witt retired from USSF Space Launch Delta 45 on June 30th after 50 plus years of service — 20 in USAF and 30+ as a civil servant. His personal support to the Foundation from the beginning has allowed us to meet our mission of bringing the lighthouse to everyone. Opening up the lighthouse on an operating Space Force Station requires a significant amount of coordination that would not have happened without Sonny. Sonny is an aficionado of the history of the lighthouse and the Space Force Station. He is truly the guy that knows where the bodies are buried. He has mapped all the cemeteries on the base. Dr. Witt's book <u>Drawn to the Light</u> documents the history of Cape Canaveral, the people, and the lighthouse. It is available for purchase in the Keeper's Closet. We will miss Sonny, and his wife Kay, as he leaves civil service, but hope to see him still working with the Foundation.

As a final thought I want to say thank you to our members, the brick owners, and our sponsors who provide the funding to keep the light shining. I hope each and everyone of you take advantage of the opportunities to visit the lighthouse and museum which continues to evolve and exist due to your generosity. If you are not a member please join; and if you are, please renew. All of you are key to the mission "to preserve, protect, promote and interpret the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance" to others.

Please visit our website https://canaverallight.org for additional information.

Let's keep the light shining bright.

Have fun and be safe.

Larry

Museum Highlights

We finally have a functioning aid to navigation, again! Instead of the VRB 25 they originally thought they would put there, the Coast Guard decided to have Cape Canaveral help test the next generation of navigation beacons. It's a dual configuration Sealite SL-300-2D5 Long Range Marine Lantern. It's visible up to 19 nautical miles. They set it to the same characteristics as currently: approximately 2 flashes in 5 seconds, then dark for 15 seconds. It doesn't look like our old light in that it blinks at those intervals and doesn't sweep across the sky. For more information visit: https://www.sealite.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SPEC_SL-300-2D5combined-Series.pdf.

On a related note, the Coast Guard has lowered the parts of the old DCB 224 and plans to reassemble it in our oil house for future public display.

Also, we are participating in the Lighthouse Keeper Grave Marker program. We have determined that six keepers buried in Brevard County do not have keeper grave markers. There will be a ceremony and we will invite any local descendants that can be identified. http://www.lighthousedigest.com/ USLHSGraves/index.cfm





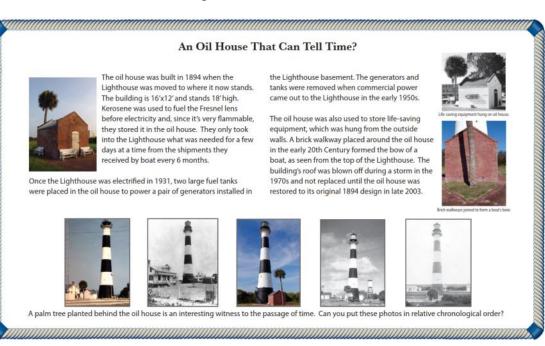
If you'd like to become a docent, please contact George Eustis at cclhdocent@gmail.com, or visit our website and complete the Volunteer form. Enjoy all the other interesting things you can learn on our website, as well at www.canaverallight.org.

Did You Know?

The Oil House didn't exist when the Iron Lighthouse originally stood near the ocean. It was only constructed after the Lighthouse was moved to its present location in 1894. Although we call it the "Oil House", it could be more accurately termed the "Fuel Storage House". While lard oil was used from the time the lighthouse was built in 1868 until 1885, our Oil House never actually stored lard oil. The fuel source was converted to kerosene in 1885, which was still in use when the Lighthouse was moved in 1894. Kerosene was stored

in the Oil House and was used until 1931 when electricity began to power the light. At that time, the Oil House converted to storing fuel for the first-floor generators that provided electricity to run the light until commercial electricity arrived in the early 1950s.

Becky Zingarelli, Museum Director



Luncheon in Honor of Dr. Sonny Witt

On Wednesday, June 16, we honored our longtime friend Dr. Sonny Witt at a luncheon held at Rusty's Seafood & Oyster Bar in Port Canaveral. Among his myriad duties at CCSFS Det 1, Sonny has been our liaison to the Air Force, now Space Force, and has enabled our success through channeling his personal passion for history, and the lighthouse to better educate and expose the general public to this unique landmark. With his guidance and direction, we have developed over the past 19 years into the robust and growing team of volunteers who support and feature the newest museum in Brevard County alongside one of its oldest structures—the lighthouse, not Sonny.



Joined by our dear friend Ginny Davis, who came all the way from Texas, numerous CCLF Board directors, docents, and other volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to share their personal appreciation. A special thanks to Mary Anne Moore for a superb job coordinating the luncheon and gifts; which included a very special picture of the lighthouse,



All photos courtesy of Gordie Elwell, CCSFS.

Keeping the Light Shining

Membership Musings

Good news ... we keep growing! There are currently 425 active members in The <u>Cape Canaveral Lighthouse</u> Foundation (CCLF). Since our last newsletter, 12 new members have joined, and we have had 51 renewals. We also have two new Life members whom we would like to recognize: Dr. Elbert (Sonny) and Kay Witt.

Dr. Witt has been an integral part of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation since being founded in 2002, and as our liaison with the Air Force, now the Space Force. Where would we be today had it not been for him? Thank you for all your efforts and expertise in support of the CCLF throughout the years. Welcome to Life Membership in the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, Sonny and Kay!



The most recent activity at the lighthouse was the picnic for CCLF members and volunteers on 12 June 2021. It was quite a fun event, and it was obvious we are ready to be out and about again....perfect timing for a picnic. There is more about that in this newsletter, so will not belabor the subject except to say we love to see our members and volunteers enjoy themselves at the lighthouse.

On occasion there have been issues with the Member discounts when purchasing items in the Keepers Closet. Although we all contribute to the CCLF as volunteers, docents, and members, the discounts at the Keeper's Closet are <u>benefits</u> of becoming a member. We have various levels of membership to accommodate your needs or desires:

Student (\$15) for students 18 years & under
Asst. Lighthouse Keeper (\$35) for an Individual Membership
Lighthouse Keeper (\$50) for a Family Membership
Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100) for a Family Membership
Life Member (\$1,000) – Lifetime membership for an individual
Life Member (\$1,500) – Lifetime Family Membership

For additional information regarding the benefits of each membership level, please check out the membership page on our website: https://canaverallight.org/get-involved/

Remember your membership card is important if you want the member discount, so keep it with you whenever you visit the lighthouse. If you have lost your card, let our Membership Chair know at cclf-membership@canaverallight.org.

When shopping online if you have an Amazon account, you can have 0.5% of the price of *eligible* purchases given to the CCLF through <u>smile.amazon.com</u>. If you don't have and Amazon account, it's easy to sign up and doesn't cost anything unless it's for AmazonPrime, in which case there is a fee. Once you have selected your charity, you must remember to go to smile.amazon.com each time you shop for all of this to work; *Amazon.com and Amazon mobile app purchases do not apply*.

For questions, suggestions, or to join the team, please contact the Membership Chair, Christine Ecker at <u>cclf-membership@canaverallight.org</u>. Help us grow; fresh ideas are always welcome.

See you at the lighthouse!

Membership - Volunteer Appreciation Day

What a fun time was had at the Membership -Volunteer Appreciation event held on June 12, 2021. Having a casual, relaxed event at the lighthouse where we were able to visit without restrictions, was welcomed by everyone. Many guests brought their own tables and chairs and with the picnic tables and benches we had more than adequate seating. The Greenhouse provided delicious box lunches and cold drinks. Our 2nd Vice President, Todd McDowell, and his wife Jennifer picked up the lunches and brought them to the lighthouse and Liz Gravuer and Heather Johnson set up the lunch tent and distributed the meals to attendees. Ron Ecker brought additional iced-down water. Ron was our MC for the day welcoming everyone and expressing the Foundation's appreciation to the volunteers for their countless hours of service and to our members for their continuing support. Chris Kahl, Florida native and talented folk singer, provided the entertainment for the day. Chris also was gracious and loaned us his sound system/mic so that Ron could make his welcoming remarks and announcements throughout the day. The Keeper's Closet was busy and made \$981 in sales. Chris Ecker reported 2 new Family Memberships (4 new members) and 3 renewals. Ann Bolton, our Brick Coordinator, sold 1 brick and expects others when they decide on their engraving. Mary Anne Moore coordinated the convoy into the lighthouse which ran smoothly. Nancy Garwood and Cheryl Bennett took excellent photos documenting this pleasant day. Becky Zingarelli took care of obtaining the trash containers and bags and was around all day helping in any way needed. As usual, volunteers pitched in to make this a memorable occasion. We had many positive comments and recommendations that we do these casual events more often. All in all, a great day at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success.



More Fun at Membership—Volunteer Appreciation Day... ...Finding the Shade



Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation family!

Assistant Keeper (\$35 = 1 Membership)

Barbara Anderson Megan Voorhees

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 = 2 Memberships)

Jordan Chambers Frank & Cheryl Parravani Michael Piana Mark & Karen Turner

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 = 2 Members)Heather Johnson

Lifetime Membership (Family - \$1,500 = 2 Lifetime Members)

Sonny and Kay Witt

And Celebrate the Recent Renewals of Our Supporting Members

Membership Renewals Since May and June 2021

Assistant Keeper (\$35 = 1 Member)

Kathy Coon
Elizabeth L. Gravuer
Linda Hennig
Shelly Robinson
Dennis Thompson
James Wolfrum
Becky Zingarelli

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 = 2 Members)

Janet B Abt Ken & Karen Arbuckle John & Tammy Conway Amy Gottsche Josh & Emily Holsten Capts Robert & Mary Ann Johnston Robert & Karen Kelley Jerry & Mary Dean Merritt & Vicki Nord Thomas Quinn & Rosalie Wolf Tom & Kathy Royal David Shelton Rheta & Tank Sherman Lorenz Simpkins David & Rebecca Utecht Donn & Jeanne Weaver Gaylord Withers & Jack Sippel

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 = 2 Members)

Caroline Engrand Gerry & Susan Gleckel Matt McCaskill Ed & Kathy Otto

Student Member (\$15 = 1 Member)

J. Michael Ecker Mckenna Ecker

* * * CCLF Membership Application Form * * *

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & JOIN CCLF TODAY!

Completed forms should be submitted along with payment to: CCLF | P.O. Box 1978 | Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name(s):		
Address:		
City:		State: Zip:
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:
E-mail address:		
☐ Yes, please contact me regarding volunt	teer opport	unities.
Please select a membership level from the cat	egories belo	ow:
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS		
Head Lighthouse Keeper Lighthouse Keeper (Family)	\$100 \$50	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual)Student Lighthouse Keeper	\$35 \$15	Chris Ecker, CCLF Membership Phone: (321) 591-9844 Email: cclfmbrship1@aol.com
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS Life Membership (Family-2 member) Life Membership (Single)	\$1,500 \$1,000	Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers Phone: (321) 452-5426 Email: bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$		

To pay your membership dues online via PayPal, visit CanaveralLight.org

CCLF Member Benefits

- Admittance to annual membership appreciation meeting held at the lighthouse;
- Subscription to *The Canaveral Beacon*, CCLF's bi-monthly newsletter;
- Discounts at the Keeper's Closet Gift Shop, including 10% off commemorative brick orders;
- Volunteer opportunities to support & promote the lighthouse in its historical context; and, most importantly,
- Supporting CCLF's efforts to restore the lighthouse grounds and resurrect history!

MEMBERS SAVE 10% AT KEEPER'S CLOSET

Stop by the Keeper's Closet gift shop during your next visit to the light-house. Browse our selection of souvenirs, books, apparel, jewelry, children's items and other lighthouse memorabilia. Proceeds support Foundation initiatives and community events. Members who present their membership card when shopping will receive a 10 percent discount on their purchase.

Volunteer Spotlight on Brendan McMillin



Brendan McMillin has the tough job of serving as Treasurer of CCLF and is doing a superb job keeping the finances of our Foundation squared away. Brendan is a colorful person so we thought you would enjoy knowing him better. His own words tell the story best.

"So, a little bit about me and I figure the easiest way to do this is to "be kind and rewind" the clock. If you are under 40 years old, you may have to ask someone older what that means. Anyway, I am married to a great person, Sandra, who is from Italy and we have 2 cool kids Ian and Hendrik, 11 and 9, respectively. I fake speaking the German language pretty well. Yeah, I know, my Italian wife's first language is German which is a whole other story but suffice it to say she can speak Italian as well.

Currently, I am a Harbor Pilot with Canaveral Pilots Association where I have been for 17 years. Before that I was studying and taking tests to become a harbor pilot which took about 5 years. Yup, a lot of test taking. I worked on ships, tankers mostly, during my sea going career with Chevron and MariTrans. Although, the coolest job by far was when I sailed around the world on the cruise ship "Universe Explorer" with 800 college kids and 100 or so regular passengers. It was a floating university campus. During my sailing career I took a 2-year sabbatical to study music at FSU. I also taught sailing aboard 50' sailboats to high school kids for a few summers in the British Virgin Islands."

Brendan graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy. He is past President of the Propeller Club of Canaveral, Past Secretary of the Propeller Club of the SE Region, Former Canaveral City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem, Past Chairman of Canaveral Pilots, past Secretary of Canaveral Pilots, and past President of the Merritt Island Breakfast Rotary Club where he has performed as Josh the Baby Otter to support drowning prevention in children.

Brendan brings energy, dedication, and a great sense of humor to our Foundation and we are fortunate to have him on our team.

A Venue for Special Gatherings and Events

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, tours and scheduled events at the lighthouse are gradually returning to a steady pace of visitors and gatherings. Our volunteers have hosted three such events since last issue, including a picnic lunch for **Brevard County Schools' Food and Nutritional Services** group led by Director Kevin Thornton. They brought snacks and used the picnic tables afterward. It was our inaugural large group christening of the tables

- how appropriate to be the "nutrition" team from the schools.

"We are very thankful for the opportunity to tour the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Mary Anne was more than accommodating in organizing the event. Susan was a great escort that met the bus and told us interesting facts about the base. Becky and team welcomed us as we arrived and shared their knowledge of the lighthouse. It truly was an awesome experience the team was able to share together!! Thank you for a wonderful day that allowed us to take time to pause, reflect and relax. Thanks again for a perfect day!" Kevin Thornton

Later on June 8th, staff and board members from **Keep Brevard Beautiful** led by Bryan Bobbitt visited the Cape Canaveral Light-

house. The two organizations hope to join together to beautify and maintain the historic light station grounds with landscaping reminiscent of what surrounded the lighthouse keepers and their families 100 years ago. We hope this effort both educates and brings enjoyment to visitors at this historic landmark.



And finally, on June 23rd, we provided a special tour for members of the U.S. Lighthouse Society. This was especially appreciated as you may recall USLS made the Cape Canaveral Light-

Next, our friends at **Space Florida** used the Lighthouse as a venue for the advancement of one of their employee's spouses - something we are doing more frequently - as Stephen C. Shell, Jr. was advanced to Chief Boatswain Mate in the US Coast Guard Reserve on June 11. In the first photo, Mark Bontrager is "officiating" the advancement ceremony. In the second photo, Sara Shell is swapping hats to the hat with a Chief's insignia. The last group photo is with spouses L-R, Mary Mills, Riley Mills, Stephen Shell, Jr., Sara Shell, Tim Green and Megan Green.



house Foundation one of only three lighthouses in the State of Florida to receive a grant to assist our organization's recovery from lost revenue due to the COVID pandemic.





Paving the Way & Building a Legacy

BRICK WALKWAY NEWS

Buy an engraved paver for your friend, colleague or family member to commemorate life's milestones and support Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation's (CCLF) Brick Program. CCLF's Brick Program is one of our major funding sources helping to rebuild the keeper's cottages and restore Cape Canaveral Lighthouse grounds. Some service clubs have special locations with members' bricks such as Propeller Club Port Canaveral and local Rotary Clubs. It's a great way to show your support of CCLF and another organization at the same time.



You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line. Insignias and art designs, such as a lighthouse or heart, are available for an additional \$20. CCLF members will receive a 10 percent discount on all brick orders. All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Ann Bolton, CLF's Brick Project Coordinator, at <code>annbolton@cfl.rr.com</code>.



Restore a Part of Florida's Space Coast History Today! CCLF Members Receive a 10% Discount on All Bricks

*** BRICK ORDER FORM ***

To purchase a 4" X 8" brick paver, complete this form and return along with payment to: Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name	
Address	
	Phone
☐ Member	
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Line 3	

Florida Lighthouse Association Update



The Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) mission is to protect, preserve, restore, and defend Florida's Lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts, and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation has been the recipient of about \$70,000 from FLA since 2011. If you are due to renew you tag and would like to help the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation and other Florida lighthouses, we hope you will consider buying the "VisitOurLight.org" tag. FLA raises most of its money through the sale of a specialty license plate, which currently features the Jupiter Lighthouse.

PRESERVING FLORIDA'S LIGHTHOUSES IS AS EASY AS DRIVING A CAR

Florida residents can show their love of lighthouses while driving when they purchase a "Visit Our Lights" license plate for their vehicle. The design features Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and 90 percent of the proceeds from plate sales help support the Florida Lighthouse Association's mission to protect, preserve and restore the Sunshine State's remaining lighthouses. For further information on how to get a "Visit Our Lights" tag, visit FLA's website at *FloridaLighthouses.org*.

Our members are also encouraged to join and attend the FLA meetings, which are not only informative, but fun as well.

For additional information about FLA membership and meeting registration, go to FloridaLighthouses.org.



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Shining a Light on Links of Interest

Almost everyone is now receiving their bimonthly issue of our newsletter *Canaveral Beacon* by email. This enables us to include even more information and news of interest by embedding links to other sites, videos. and stories of interest in our newsletter. Some of this material is also shared on our Facebook page as well as on our website. We hope you enjoy this feature. For example, thefloridachannel.org has four videos highlighting Florida's lighthouses. It's called Florida Crossroad – Tour of Lights. The first video includes Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and discusses the historical significance of lighthouses to Florida's maritime industry.

https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/tour-of-lights-the-atlantic-region/

Related Videos

09/10/2020 Florida Crossroads – Tour of Lights: The Northwest Region

07/22/2020 Florida Crossroads – Tour of Lights: The Southern Region

08/06/2020 Florida Crossroads - Tour of Lights: The Southwestern Region

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Barbara Moser, our historian, did an interview a few months back for Space Force Public Affairs. It's now available on our Facebook page. <a href="https://youtu.be/jA69WOVF4L8">https://youtu.be/jA69WOVF4L8</a>

The New York Amsterdam News interviewed us and made us the top story and only photo for an article on lighthouses along the Eastern Coast. <a href="http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2021/apr/15/lighthouses-east-coast/">http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2021/apr/15/lighthouses-east-coast/</a>

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Shawn Walleck, USSF Liaison

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