



# CANAVERAL BEACON

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

Follow us on Facebook @CCLighthouse



## Our Mission

*To assist the 45th Space Wing 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. 10, No. 1

January 2020

### A RESOLVE TO KEEP THE LIGHT SHINING

Happy New Year! With the wake of success cresting at our stern, it's full steam ahead for the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) as we venture into 2020. With an able crew and a bit of "dead reckoning" to navigate our course, I am eager to make way for our journey that lies ahead! Once underway, we'll follow the stars to grow our membership, continue our grounds restoration project, and increase public access to the lighthouse – and all while celebrating the events that alter and illuminate our lives. At the end of my watch, I hope the CCLF crew and I will have achieved our membership goal, secured funding for a second keeper's cottage, and raised over **\$100,000** from fundraising.



**MEMBERSHIP:** As the saying goes, "If you're not growing, you are dying." In 2019, CCLF made great strides towards achieving our membership goal of 750 individuals who pledge to annually renew their commitment towards preserving and promoting the history of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Achieving this goal in 2020 will provide assurance that CCLF can sustain operations and conduct enhanced lighthouse tours, operate our new Keeper's Cottage Museum, welcome Brevard County fourth grade students for educational field trips throughout the year, and host exclusive events for Cape Canaveral Lighthouse & Air Force Station descendants, CCLF sponsors, volunteers, and our members. If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time! We have made it easier to renew your membership, and we have made it easier for you to visit the lighthouse with the new Membership Caravans which we will offer on a frequent basis.

**EDUCATION:** During 2020, CCLF will surpass a milestone of 1,000 student visitors as part of Brevard County's educational program for fourth graders who come to the lighthouse to learn about the history of Cape Canaveral's beacon and how it has shaped Florida's Space Coast community. This year, we hope to expand this program to increase the number of students who participate and also secure funding for a second keeper's cottage to serve as an education center to facilitate classroom learning. To this end, State Representative Tyler Sirois has introduced legislation, HB 4257 "The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage Education Center," which would sufficiently fund this project.

**PUBLIC ACCESS:** Increasing opportunities for our community to visit the lighthouse complex while being constantly vigilant of the security requirements of this active military installation, and ever mindful of the strategically important space launch operations ongoing at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, is critical to our mission objective. In January, the KSC Visitors Center, operated by Delaware North, Inc., will begin offering a new "Cape Canaveral Rise to Space" weekly bus tour which will depart from KSC and include a stop at Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. We also hope to build upon the demonstrated success of Canaveral Tours, operated

*continue on page 2*

*Continued from page 1...*

by Shelley and Gerry Parker, which joined the CCLF family in 2018 and have been instrumental in helping us improve our guests' experiences.

**EVENTS:** Of course, nothing brings our Space Coast history alive quite like a lighthouse event and this year we aim to have many. In addition to our annual celebrations for members, docents and descendants, we will continue to participate in community events and promote our Speaker's Bureau program. To that end, our Board of Directors will meet on January 25 for an Operations Workshop to review planned events and discuss fundraising opportunities for the coming year, such as an evening "Sunset Under the Lighthouse" cruise aboard a local, commercial charter vessel.

Indeed, our course for 2020 is set. I thank you all in advance for your continued support of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. I look forward to seeing you at our light!

*Happy New Year, Jim*

## Lighthouse Events

### WHAT WAS ONCE, IS AGAIN!

Our long-term goal of building a replica of the original Keeper's Cottage as a museum on the lighthouse grounds has come to fruition!

On December 19, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) celebrated the opening of our Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage Museum & Gift Shop. The event included a dedication ceremony, honoring Sonny Witt, who has been an invaluable friend and supporter of CCLF's tireless effort and commitment to bringing our history to life.

Even before the cottage was finished, a team of dedicated volunteers began envisioning a museum that could teach the history of the lighthouse and inspire future generations. Starting with a blank slate after construction was completed this past summer, they papered the walls with giant stickies based on years of research into the lighthouse and its keepers, designed the flow and tempo of the visitor experience, learned to catalog and care for historic artifacts, integrated technology, planned for future improvements, and made all the large and small decisions needed to transform the space into a working museum.

The results of their efforts can now be seen in a creative, cohesive, and professional museum you can see on your next visit. There are timeline boards that tell key historical facts and stories from 1848 until now, historic artifacts from this lighthouse and those on loan from the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum, and photos and videos to pique your interest. There's even an interactive light box that shows how a Fresnel lens works to focus the light. You will also notice several blank spaces along the walls where big plans are afoot, so stop back often to spot what's new. The docents are trained and eager to show you around, so come on out and bring your family and friends!





# Building Our Lighthouse Legacy, One Cottage at a Time

## CCLF CELEBRATES OPENING OF KEEPER'S COTTAGE MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

*Photos provided by Cheryl Bennett & Nancy Garwood....*





## Luminaries That Matter

### CCLF Honors Dr. Sonny Witt at Lighthouse Museum Opening

During the opening celebration of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Museum, the Foundation unveiled a bench dedicated to Dr. Sonny Witt who has been integral to our success. Since CCLF's beginning, Dr. Witt has tirelessly working to establish procedures for granting access to the lighthouse and securing support the USAF 45th Space Wing and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. As one CCLF member put it, "Truly through thick and thin - and a LOT more thin than thick - Sonny has been a true hero of our history." The procurement of the bench with inscribed brass plaque was sponsored by CCLF President Emeritus RADM Bob Merrilees and his lovely wife, Bev. The plaque reads: "With Sincere Appreciation Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Recognizes Dr. Sonny Witt for His Outstanding Support and Selfless Devotion as the 45th Space Wing Air Force Liaison to the Foundation - Presented Museum Opening Day, December 19, 2019."



### Highlights from CCLF's Sponsor Appreciation Event

**Thank You to All  
Our 2019 Sponsors!**

AECOM  
 Coastal Health Systems of Brevard  
 Florida Power & Light  
 Fishlips Waterfront Bar & Grill  
 Ginny Davis  
 Go Travel  
 Merritt Island Auto Group  
 Jon's Fine Jewelry  
 Canaveral Port Authority  
 Rising Tide Tap & Table  
 The Underwood's Rancho Relaxo  
 Wild Ocean Market  
 The Viera Company

On Thursday, December 12, the Officers and Board of Directors of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) welcomed the 2019 sponsors for a special appreciation event. Though the weather outside was frightful - horizontal sheets of rain and wind in excess of 25 knots - the brave souls who ventured out to the lighthouse were treated to a reception and private tour of our museum. Thanks to our sponsors Fishlips, Rancho Relaxo, Rising Tide and Wild Ocean, guests enjoyed a hearty reception complete with beer, wine, shrimp cocktail, smoked fish dip, a cheese and fruit platter, and a warm pasta casserole. Light banks were provided by Ivey Construction and Sun Belt Rentals, which helped illuminate the night despite the storm.

It is incredible how much we were able to accomplish this past year thanks to the generous support our "community beacons." In addition to completing the construction of the first of three keeper's cottages and opening of our Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Museum and Gift Shop, CCLF's history education program also achieved a participation milestone, surpassing more than 800 fourth-graders from Brevard County Schools since the first field trip took place.

We also hosted a variety of events this year including our "Night Under the Stars" dinner at the lighthouse; a membership appreciation event at Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral; a fund-raising reception at the American Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne; and a special Descendant's Day luncheon at the lighthouse which included a preview of the Keeper's Cottage.

Being a CCLF sponsor is an excellent way to increase your company's visibility within Florida's Space Coast community. For more information, please contact Jim Underwood at [radmjim@aol.com](mailto:radmjim@aol.com).



Left to Right: Mary Anne Moore; Rocky Johnson; Becky Zingarelli; Florida Senator Tom A. Wright (R); Connie & Bob Harvey (Port Canaveral); Jon & Melanie Miller (Jon's Fine Jewelry).



Ken Walla (AECOM) explores interactive Fresnel lens display.



Charlene & Ron Spangler with Ginny Davis.

## Community Outreach

### AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MUSEUM LOANS ARTIFACTS FOR MUSEUM

On December 17, Jason Titcomb, Chief Curator for St Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, delivered artifacts on loan from their collection to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Museum, helping to complete our display. During his visit, he met with Becky Zingarelli, CCLF's Museum Director and shared tips on how to bring history alive for our visitors. Docents Ron & Chris Ecker were also present and gave him a guided tour to the top of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. A special thank you to member Nancy Garwood, who captured these special moments from Jason's visit!



### CCLF DOCENTS RECEIVE TRAINING ON MUSEUM ARTIFACTS

In anticipation of the museum's opening, over the past several months many of the artifacts from the lighthouse were moved into the museum. This provided an opportunity to present new training for our docents. In December, CCLF held four training sessions.

Sessions were led by Ginny Blaetz and Mary Anne Moore. The training included both administrative and technical sessions. Docents were walked through the talking points of both the museum and the lighthouse as well as explained the expectations and duties of the docents.



So far, over fifty docents have gone through the training and just in time! This year will be an exciting time for the museum and lighthouse. Starting in January there will be weekly Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center (KSCVC) tours of approximately 50 people per tour. Because the KSCVC tours often include foreign nationals, part of the docent training included USAF Foreign Visitor Training. As well as the new KSCVC tours, Canaveral Tours will continue their Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday tours. In addition, we have special tours and educational tours being scheduled. In the coming months, with all this activity, there will be many opportunities for volunteers to help the foundation fulfill its mission.

### INVITE CCLF TO SPEAK AT YOUR NEXT EVENT & BRING LOCAL HISTORY TO LIFE

Would your Club or Group like to know more about the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse located on the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station? Would they like to know about our keeper's cottages restoration project and plans to recreate the lighthouse community as it was when lighthouse keepers and their families lived and worked there? Consider inviting a CCLF representative to speak at your next event.

Take a journey through time with a CCLF speaker and discover the rich history of Cape Canaveral Light and the role it has played in shaping Florida's Space

Coast Community. Your guests will also hear about the Foundation's education programs for Brevard County students and related grounds restoration project, as well as lighthouse tour opportunities and community events.

To schedule a lighthouse historian for your next event, please contact CCLF Speaker Coordinator, Yvonne Thornton, by email at [myvonneLight@aol.com](mailto:myvonneLight@aol.com) or by phone at (321) 267-5208. For further information, please visit CCLF's website at [www.canaverallight.org](http://www.canaverallight.org).

## Volunteer Spotlight

### DIANNE & BOB HEIDERSBACH



Meet the Heidersbachs. Bob and Dianne decided to join Florida's Space Coast Community in 2000 with the purchase of their retirement home in Cape Canaveral. To commemorate the event,

Bob gave Dianne, "the Light of His Life", a framed picture of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse as an anniversary present in October 2000.

Since moving to Florida, they added pictures of lighthouses from the places they have lived over the course of their marriage. The collection is impressive and decorates the entrance hall to their home. At first it was easy to identify lighthouses from Florida, Rhode Island, and California, but it took some guidance to make out others.

During their travels, Bob and Dianne have visited lighthouses in Japan, Denmark, England and Scotland, Malaysia, Morocco, Greece, France, Portugal, and Spain. They have also spent the night in lighthouse hotels in Scotland (pictured above) and Prince Edward Island, Canada. Also included in their collection were pictures of the Washington Monument, a TV tower in Stuttgart Germany, a round barn in Champaign, Illinois, and an oil derrick in Oklahoma.

Upon moving to Florida in 2002, Bob and Dianne moved to Florida, they joined the Florida Lighthouse Association. After meeting their neighbor, Lee Vicidomini, who told them about the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, they promptly joined our lighthouse family.

Today, they are staunch supporters of our Foundation and have freely given of their time and talents to help us toward our goals. Dianne has been helping at the Keepers Closet for over 10 years, and Bob donates his time serving as a CCLF docent. Both have worked special community events, representing our Foundation.

Thank you, Bob and Diane, for being such hard-working, loyal, and enthusiastic members of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation!





## Keeping the Light Shining

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MUSINGS

2019 was quite a year for Membership. We started with 346 members in January, and by the end of the year had grown to 480. What a way to end the year! As we grow, we continue to seek ways for our members to visit the lighthouse, and now that our museum is open, everyone will have an opportunity to enter and learn its history. We thank you, our members – without you, none of this would be possible.

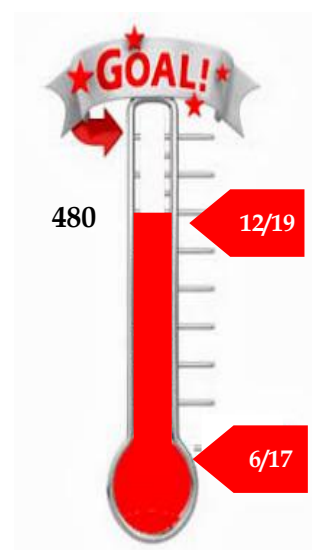
**Will This Be The Year?** As of December 20, 2019, CCLF is now 230 members shy of its membership goal of 750 sustaining members - individuals who pledge to annually renew their commitment towards preserving and promoting the history of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. First set in 2017, this goal has not been without its struggle – and though we’re inching ever closer, we’re not there yet and we need help if we’re going to achieve the goal this year!

**Create a Buzz:** One of the easiest ways to support us in achieving our membership goal is to share our lighthouse experience with others. As a member, you can invite your friends, neighbors and colleagues to a CCLF event so they can learn about the important work we do in preserving the community’s and our nation’s rich history along the Florida Space Coast. Then, share with them the value of membership and invite encourage them to join us in our quest to bring history to life by prompting them to become a member.

To join (or renew membership), please use the member application included on page 8 of this newsletter. Membership dues can also be paid online through our website at [www.canaveralight.org](http://www.canaveralight.org).

**Calling All Members:** With the holidays now behind us, we have a new year ahead of us. December was full of festivities, shopping, and an opportunity to re-group. As we begin 2020, we are starting with a clean slate, eager to grow our membership and enhance the member’s experience and enjoyment of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Is there something you would like to see us do? Let us know. Do you want to volunteer in some capacity? Let us know.

CCLF is always looking for fresh ideas to help us grow. The Membership Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at our office in the Space Florida Building. For more information or to share your suggestions, please contact our Membership Chair, Chris Ecker, at [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com).



**AMAZONSMILE PURCHASES**  
 Shopping on Amazon? Switch to AmazonSmile and contribute to CCLF with every order

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

**Lighthouse Keeper**  
 Kim Zuocco

*As of December 20, 2019*

**MEMBERS SAVINGS AT KEEPER'S CLOSET**  
 Be sure to stop by the Keeper's Closet gift shop during your next visit to the lighthouse. There, you can

**\* \* \* 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 volunteer opportunities.**

Please select a membership level from the categories below:

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Lighthouse Keeper                   | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Keeper (Family)               | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual) | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Lighthouse Keeper                | \$15  |

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Family-2 member) | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Single)          | \$1,000 |

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Chris Ecker, CCLF Membership**  
Phone: (321) 591-9844  
Email: [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com)

**Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers**

**To pay your membership dues online via PayPal, visit [CanaveralLight.org](http://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!



## Florida Lighthouse Association

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.



### PRESERVING FLORIDA'S HISTORY, ONE LIGHTHOUSE AT A TIME

FLA is a nonprofit membership organization whose members play a critical role preserving, restoring and protecting Florida's remaining 29 historic lighthouses and educating the public. Individual, family and corporate annual membership packages are available.

Member benefits include:

- Actively working to preserve an important part of Florida history.
- Receive FLASH, the FLA newsletter published three times annually.
- Receive up-to-the-minute news via e-newsletter.
- Priority invitations to FLA Educational Meetings, vents and Lighthouse Tours.
- Free admission to 6 Florida lighthouses: St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, Jupiter Inlet, Crooked River, Cape St. George and Pensacola.
- Voting Privileges.

For additional information about FLA membership, or to join, go to [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### 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](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE  
OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE  
(800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY 410  
ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

## 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. Soon, the first of three cottages will be finished and we will begin paving the walkways to link it to the lighthouse, keeping with the historical accuracy of the restoration project.



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 [annbolton@cfl.rr.com](mailto:annbolton@cfl.rr.com).



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member       Non-Member

**Engraving Instructions:** Each line is limited to 12 characters, including punctuation and spaces.  
*CCLF retains the right of final approval of copy.*

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Foundation Sponsors

### 2020 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE

Becoming a Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Sponsor is an excellent way to increase your company's visibility within Florida's Space Coast community! In addition to event sponsorship opportunities, this year we are expanding the program to include annual packages as well. Our hope to attract local businesses and community partners whose dollars will enable us to continue educating today's youth, promoting public awareness and making the full restoration of the lighthouse grounds a reality. For more information on Sponsorship opportunities, please contact CCLF President Jim Underwood at [radmjim@aol.com](mailto:radmjim@aol.com).

## Activities & Upcoming Events

### LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

Interested in arranging a private tour for your office? Small group excursions for up to 10 people as well as larger group tours are available through Canaveral Tours. For more information and to schedule your trip, please visit [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org).

Beginning January 14, 2020, The Kennedy Space Center Visitors Center will be offering a "Cape Canaveral's Rise to Space Tour" which provides a unique experience in the early days of the rockets and missiles program that led to our current Aerospace Industry. It will stop at the lighthouse so tourists can visit our lighthouse and museum – the place where "the rise to space" started on Cape Canaveral.

## 2020 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

### OFFICERS

RADM Jim Underwood, President  
Mr. Larry Ostarly, 1st Vice President  
Mr. Shane Smith, 2nd Vice President  
Mr. Brendan McMillin, Treasurer  
Mrs. Cheryl Bennett, Secretary  
Mr. Rocky Johnson, Past President

### DIRECTORS

Mrs. Ginny Davis, Director  
Mrs. Chris Ecker, Membership Chair  
Mr. Ron Ecker, FLA Liaison & Special Projects  
Mr. George Eustis, Jr., Docents Coordinator  
Mrs. Nancy Garwood, Archivist  
Mr. Rich Hensel, Events Co-Chair  
Mr. Todd McDowell, Director  
Mrs. Jeanna Merrifield, Events Co-Chair  
Mrs. Bev Merrilees, Volunteer Coordinator  
Mr. R. Norman Moody, Public Relations/Media  
Ms. Mary Anne Moore, Tours Chair  
Mrs. Dixie Sansom, Legislative Advisor  
Mrs. Yvonne Thornton, Speakers Coordinator

### ADVISORS & LEADERS

Mrs. Karen Arbuckle, Keeper's Closet Co-Leader  
Mr. Ken Arbuckle, Keeper's Closet Co-Leader  
Ms. Ann Bolton, Brick Project Leader  
Mr. Chris Broome, Esq., Legal Advisor  
Dr. Maxwell King, Advisor  
Dr. Al Koller, Advisor  
Ms. Patricia Lautner, Community Outreach  
RADM Bob Merrilees, President Emeritus  
Mr. Ciro Morales, Social Media Guru  
Ms. Barbara Moser, Museums of Brevard Advisor  
Mr. Hal Row, Museum Construction PM  
Mr. Ray Valley, Webmaster  
Mrs. Kristi Blanchard, Education Co-Chair  
Ms. Laura Kelly, Education Co-Chair  
Mr. Jim Roche, Security Liaison

### 45TH SPACE WING REPRESENTATIVES

Lt. Col. Arthur Morse, AF Advisor  
Dr. Sonny Witt, AF Liaison  
Mr. Tom Penders, AF Archeologist