



CANAVERAL BEACON

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

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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. 13, No. 4

July 1, 2023

Message from Our Foundation President



Is Cape Canaveral Lighthouse a unique lighthouse or just a lighthouse? I think that it is unique for a few different reasons. Definition of Unique – one and only, single/ having no like or equal / highly unusual, extraordinary, rare.

Is it because of its age? Not really. Built in 1868 it is 155 years old this year, making it the fifteenth oldest lighthouse in Florida; however, it is the oldest facility on Cape Canaveral.

Is it because of its height? Again, not really. At 151 feet high it is the fourth tallest of the 30 lighthouses in Florida trailing only Ponce Inlet (175'), St Augustine (165') and Dry Tortugas Light (157'). It is also the sixteenth tallest of the over 700 lighthouses in the United States of American.

Is it because it is a Cast Iron lighthouse? Again, not really. According to Wikimedia there are 4 cast iron lighthouses in Florida (Cape Canaveral, Garden Key, Hillsboro Inlet, and Sand Key). It also states that there are 65 cast iron lighthouses in the USA. Included in the total of 65 are some lighthouses that only have cast iron as the window support in the lantern room.

Is it because it was built to be lived in? Again, not really. In Florida alone there are at least ten other lighthouses that have living quarters attached to the tower. (Pensacola, St. Marks, Cedar Key, and Port Boca Grande) or the living quarters are part of the structure (Fowey Rocks, Carysfort Reef, Alligator Reef, Sombrero Key, American Shoal, and Sand Key). Throughout the USA there are many lighthouses that are part of the house.

Is it because it was moved? Not really but getting closer. According to Dr. Sonny Witt Cape Canaveral was the third cast iron lighthouse to be moved. The 1852 Matagorda Island LH in Texas was moved in 1873, the 1875 Hunting Island LH in South Carolina was moved in 1889 and the Cape Canaveral LH was moved in 1893/1894. Since then I have found four more lighthouses that have been moved: In 1993 the Block Island Southeast Light was moved; in 1996 Cape Cod Light was mover; in 1999 Cape Hatteras Light was moved; and more recently Cape San Blas in Port St Joe was moved in 2014.

Is it because it is owned by the United States Space Force? YES. It is the only operational lighthouse owned by the US Space Force. There are a total of 5 lighthouses located on military installations:, 2 on Navy bases, 2 on Fort Story Virginia, and 1 on a Space Force Base.

Built to aid ships navigating dangerous reefs, it now stands sentry to our celestial travels as rockets are regularly launched nearby. Yes, a UNIQUE lighthouse. I think Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is UNIQUE not only because it is owned by the Space Force, nor because of everything else. But most of all, it has the BEST members, volunteers and sponsors on the planet! Thanks for your help in keeping our light shining into the future. Ron

Museum Highlights

Our 4th Order Fresnel lens on loan from the Coast Guard is on display and ready to view! Check out the photos and additional information throughout this issue of the Beacon. We have ended the Fresnel lens crowd-funding campaign. The final amount received was \$3,796 from 38 donors. This covered 95% of the cost of shipping and display. Thank you all very much – we couldn't have done it without you!

On June 8th, we hosted a tour of 21 participants in a National Park Service Symposium on preserving the artifacts of the Race to Space. They came from all over the country, most having experience managing national historic parks and historic sites, like ours. They loved the lighthouse! One of the visitors had once been responsible for every National Park that has a lighthouse in it, then every Maritime National Park. He was lavish in his praise of what we've all done with the light station. It was very special to get that type of feedback from someone so knowledgeable. As a further tie-in, he mentioned that Candice Clifford used to work for him. She is one of the authors of "Women Who Kept the Lights", the book upon which our interpretive sign of the same name is based. Small world! Come see our sign and buy her book in the Keeper's Closet. If you can't make it out soon, the sign is available to view on the Explore and Learn page of our website, along with all our other interpretive signage <https://canaverallight.org/explore-and-learn/>



If you'd like to become a docent or other volunteer, please visit our website's Get Involved page and complete the Volunteer form. <https://canaverallight.org/get-involved/> Enjoy all the other interesting things you can learn on our website, as well at www.canaverallight.org.

Did You Know?

Our 4th Order Fresnel Lens on loan from the Coast Guard was manufactured circa 1905 by MacBeth-Evans, the first US makers of optical lenses. Most Fresnel lenses were made in France, making our American-made lens very rare.



Specifications

Lens height:	28.43"
Focal length:	9.8"
Weight of assembly:	440-660 lbs.
Useful range:	Up to 17 miles
Oil consumption per hour:	5.25 oz.



Becky Zingarelli
Museum Director
museumdirector@canaverallight.org.

The 4th Order Fresnel Lens is on Display

On Wednesday, May 3rd, just over three years after we first reached out to the Coast Guard Curator to loan us a 4th Order Fresnel Lens, we finally received it and immediately put it on display. We had a team of dedicated volunteers who had prepared the base to hold this over 500 lb. artifact from circa 1905. Two volunteer lampists supervised the opening of the crate and the monumental task of moving the heavy lens to the base. The lens was placed on its reinforced display base equipped with vibration dampening material to mitigate any potential impacts from rocket launches. The lampists cleaned it and taught retired Coast Guardsman, Jim Jarnac, how to dust it in the future. Jim will be the only one touching the lens.

An interesting fact about these lenses is that the sunlight shining through them can damage the prisms over time but can also cause a build-up of heat and potentially ignite anything flammable on the other side of the focused beam. For that reason, lighthouses with Fresnel lenses have curtains that are kept closed during the day and only opened at night when the lamp is lit. We potentially have the same issue, as our lens is on display next to a sun-facing window. We keep it covered when not on display, have nothing flammable around it and plan to install a blackout shade on the window in the near future, though that will also be open during tours so the lighthouse may be seen in the background.



Cape Family Day Draws Huge Crowd to the Lighthouse

On Saturday, May 13 from 8am to 2pm, the Space Force held their 2023 Family Day. This is the annual opportunity for active-duty military and contractors who work on the Cape to bring their families to see what they do, since the station is otherwise restricted. While individual launch sites and hangars are open throughout the station, the focal point is the lighthouse and Hangar C. Food trucks, bouncy houses, games, and displays lure the vast majority of participants to visit the lighthouse. This year, Space Launch Delta 45 estimates at least 10,000 people visited us! It was beautiful weather and a great time was had by all.



Keeping the Light Shining - Membership Musings

The [Cape Canaveral Lighthouse](#) Foundation (CCLF) is currently 641 members strong. Since the May newsletter, 17 new members have been added to the roster, and 66 have renewed. To all our members, new and renewals: Thank You All! With your help, we will continue to grow!

In May we were quite honored at the lighthouse to have family members of a former First Assistant Keeper at Cape Canaveral in the 1930's visit with a Canaveral Tours group (see note below).

I, along with my wife, Judy Hodge Thames, and her mother, Janice T. Hodge, will be touring the Cape Canaveral lighthouse on Saturday. My wife's grandfather, Arthur Frank Hodge, was a First Assistant Lighthouse keeper at Cape Canaveral in the 1930's. He was married to Wilbur Mills Hodge. My wife's father, Crawford Lee Hodge Sr. was a boy while Mr. Frank was stationed there.

Frank Hodge went on to become the last civilian lighthouse keeper at St. Simon's Island Georgia, before the military took over and he retired.

My mother-in-law is 87 and this will be the first time she has actually gotten to see the lighthouse. She and my father-in-law took a tour before he died that, unfortunately, did not stop at the lighthouse. We are all very excited to finally get to see a place of such great family importance.

Thanks for all the work that you do to preserve and protect these great historical landmarks.

Randy Thames

To Janice Hodge, her daughter, Judy Thames, and son-in-law, Randy Thames, thank you for sharing your family connection with your visit. We love hearing from lighthouse families.



Registrations are now being taken for the next Member / Brick Owner convoy on 15 July for those whose membership is current, i.e., good at least through 30 June 2023. If you aren't sure whether you are up to date on your dues, all you need to do is check the upper right corner of your membership card which provides the month/year of the expiration date. These convoys have proven to be quite popular since the first CCLF Member / Brick Owner convoy in 2019. It's a great benefit to our members.



**Welcoming the newest members of the
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Family!**

NEW MEMBERS 25 April –22 June 2023

Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)

Fredric Rosario

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)

Joseph & Leann Castner

Danielle Catoe

Christopher Davis

Michael Hoffmann

Aryne & Robert Patterson

Jody Yeomans & Margaret Gibb

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 + 2 Members)

Bernard Kirley

Frank & Sherry Youngkin

***...And celebrating our renewing members of the
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Family!***

RENEWALS 25 April—22 June 2023

Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)

Kathy Coon

Shelly Robinson

Becky Zingarelli

Doris Durette

Noel Sinchak

Tonya George

James Wolfrum

Sandra LeBlanc

Michael Zeiler

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)

Ken & Karen Arbuckle

Jerry & Mary Dean

Barbara & David Eberle

Erich & Louise Konjevich

Barbara & Enoch Moser

David Shelton

Lee & Al Vicidomini

Robert & Marilyn Barnini

James Draper

George & Phyllis Eustis

Capt. Robert & Mary Johnston

Merritt & Vicky Nord

Lorenz & Phyllis Simpkins

Gaylord Withers & Jack Sippel

Richard & Gail Beagley Jordan Chambers

George & Mary Lou Coleman

Amy Gottsche Bob & Karen Kelley

Albert Praetorius Tom & Kathy Royal

Romie Purdy & Sharon Simcox

Sean Morrissey (Canaveral Pilots)

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 - 2 Members)

Ann Bonner

Katherine & Ian Chase

Caroline Engrand

Coleen Seitter

Student (\$15—1 Member)

McKenna Ecker

Mikey Ecker

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Lifetime Members

Pierre & Kathy Alix Titusville, FL	Larry Kaczor & Caroline Kaczor Elliott Cocoa Beach, FL
Julia & Joseph (Jett) Black, III Cocoa Beach, FL	Al & Carol Koller, Jr. Titusville, FL
Carolyn Burby Port St. John, FL	Eric Kucera Merritt Island, FL
Lloyce Campbell Merritt Island, FL	Lynn & Mike Mariotti Naples, FL
Barry & Sheila Compagnoni Melbourne Beach, FL	Jeanna & Mike Merrifield Titusville, FL
Preston A., Jr & Nancy C. Creech Goose Creek, SC	RADM Robert & Beverly Merrilees Merritt Island, FL
Sharon Crockett Rockledge, FL	Cal & [Virginia] Myer Naples, FL
[Charles] & Ginny Davis Manvel, TX	Ellen & [Donald] Myer Washington, D.C.
Robert Davis Merritt Island, FL	Jamie & Jessica Myer Los Angeles, CA
Jill & Jim Dooley Merritt Island, FL	Jeff & Cathi Myer Burlington, MA
Cynthia Dropeski Melbourne, FL	Larry & Elva Ostarly Rockledge, FL
Ron & Christine Ecker Satellite Beach, FL	Caroline & Jimmy Raleigh Merritt Island, FL
Albert & Marie Elebash Melbourne, FL	Jim Ravitch Merritt Island, FL
Ric & Nancy Garwood Merritt Island, FL	Hal Row Mims, FL
Rep. Tom Goodson Rockledge, FL	Dixie & Jerry Sansom Cocoa, FL
(Bud)/Liz Gravuer Cocoa, FL	Michael & Susan Schwarz Port Canaveral, FL
Beth & Dwight Greenberg Cocoa, FL	(Yvonne)/Bob Thornton Titusville, FL
Bobbie Grine (Deceased) Tuscaloosa, AL	James Trammell Melbourne, FL
Bob & Dianne Heidersbach Cape Canaveral, FL	RADM James and Kathie Underwood Merritt Island, FL
Christy & Randy Horn Oviedo, FL	Rose Marie Wiley Cocoa Beach, FL
Bill Jelen Merritt Island, FL	Dr. Elbert (Sonny) & Kay Witt Melbourne FL
Gene Johnson Merritt Island, FL	Dr. Jess & Bertie Yates Melbourne, FL
Rocky & Lisa Johnson Cocoa, FL	



It's NOT TOO Late!

Tickets Still Available for this Fund Opportunity!

Join us for a *Christmas in July* Drawing & Party [at the Rising Tide restaurant in the Port Canaveral Cove](#), and potentially come away with \$5,000! This is a fundraiser for the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation supporting goals including rebuilding three of the cottages that once surrounded the lighthouse, preserving and sharing the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and surrounding area with school children as they study local history, with Scouts when they visit the lighthouse, and a myriad of out of town visitors who come to see up close the beginning of our space program: the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. If you think about it, besides the stars in the heavens, lighthouses were the first GPS systems used for navigating our coasts.



For a requested donation of \$100 you may come away with a 1st place drawing of \$5,000 or 2nd place drawing of \$500, but you will certainly be helping the CCLF. Only 200 tickets will be printed, so you won't want to miss this opportunity. **Call or text Jim Underwood at 321.750.7227 for information or tickets.** The drawing will be held on **12 July 2023 from 6-7:30pm at the Rising Tide restaurant in the Port Canaveral Cove.** You don't have to be present to win the first prize. There will also be a live auction for the deluxe Tour to the Top with a champagne toast and hors d' oeuvres for up to 20 guests! Come out and support the CCLF as well as one of our sponsors, Rising Tide Tap & Table.

***** 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

Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers

Phone: (321) 452-5426

Email: bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com

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 lighthouse. 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 Shane Smith

Whenever the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation holds the next 5k/10k race at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Shane Smith will likely be the lead organizer.

It is only one of the Foundation's fundraising efforts to preserve an important part of the Space Coast's history --- the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse --- in which Smith has been involved.

In 2010, the primary fundraising for the lighthouse was through the sale of bricks that line walkways around the beacon. Smith, the individual mobilization augmentee to the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Reserve Command, had been advising retired Coast Guard Rear Adm. Bob Merrilees on other options to raise money for the lighthouse. He created the organization's Facebook page and offered other ideas. Merrilees, who was president of the Lighthouse Foundation, then invited him to join the Foundation's board of directors. Since then, Smith has been involved in many other fund-raising events, including races.

Smith served as the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force base before becoming the individual mobilization augmentee to the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Reserve Command. In this position he acts on behalf of the Command Chief in his or her absence as the primary advisor regarding welfare, morale, discipline, proper utilization, readiness and warfighting capabilities of the command's 74,000 enlisted Air Force Reserve personnel stationed worldwide. Smith is a highly decorated combat search and rescue and rescue aircraft aircrew evaluator with more than 2,400 flying hours, including 56 combat sorties. He served in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa, during Operation Joint Endeavor, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

It was on a military aircraft on his way to Kuwait in December 2002, that he met Marian. They have now been married 17 years and have a son, Garrett, who turns 16 in July and will be a sophomore next school year at Melbourne Central Catholic High School. Marian Smith recently retired from the Air Force after 34 years of service.

Shane Smith spearheaded National Solar's effort to strategically plan, develop, finance and build numerous large utility-scale renewable energy power facilities in the Southeastern United States.

Since 2020, he serves as chief financial officer and co-founder of Operator Solutions, which fills a vital role for the human spaceflight program. The company provides rescue capabilities far beyond the typical first responder's and Coast Guard's reach, to areas that require parachute insertion. It provides terrestrial and open ocean rescue of astronauts, citizens and boaters in distress with world class special operators and physicians. Smith, who is now serving as first vice president of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, has received numerous military awards and decorations.



In addition to so many activities, Tours increased...

In late April a special tour for a group of Air Force Viet Nam War Veterans who served as linguists during the hostilities...



Followed by a tour of Girl Scout Troop 523 returning to see their brick, the lighthouse and the museum...



Where's the cookies?



And many other wonderful tours...

Brother Rice High School Physics Tour

On June 1st, a group of 26 scholars from Brother Rice High School in Chicago toured the Lighthouse as part of their Physics Tour—from early light physics of the fresnel lens to “rocket science” of today’s aerospace industry—something for everyone!



More pictures from the National Park Service special tour...



And a reciprocal tour for a few of our volunteers to visit the Artemis Production Facility

On June 12th, eleven CCLF volunteers and staff were privileged to take a tour of the Artemis production facility for the Orion spacecraft in the Operations and Checkout Building at KSC. This was a reciprocal tour they offered for a small group in appreciation for the tour we did for 35 of their personnel a month earlier. We went onto the factory floor and saw the next three Orion capsules in various stages of production. This included the crew capsule that will circle the moon and the one that will deliver the first crew of astronauts to descend to the Moon’s surface. The tour was extra special because this is the same building where the Apollo capsules were prepared for launch. The team photo shows everyone next to the reduced-size model in the lobby, since no photos were allowed inside the facility. A big THANKS to Joe Pellegrino, Orion Program Senior Manager with Lockheed Martin, for making this happen!



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.

You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Purchase includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line *as well as insignias and art designs, such as a lighthouse or heart and a matted 5 x 7 inch picture of your brick ready for framing - all at no additional charge.* 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.



**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 _____

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.

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.

Since 2012 the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) has benefitted to the tune of \$92K from grants provided by The Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA), of which CCLF is a member. These grants have covered such diverse things as the shell pathway leading from the road to the lighthouse, architectural drawings for our planned buildings, funding to plan and set up our museum, the outdoor signage around the LH grounds, and most recently \$22K for necessary repairs around the museum. CCLF submitted the latest grant request in September, where it was sent by the FLA Grants Committee to the Board for approval at the October meeting. These grants were/are made possible by the sale of the specialty license plate shown below. If you're looking for a new tag, please consider supporting the Florida Lighthouse Association by purchasing this tag:



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.

The most recent FLA meeting was 29 April 2023 at Alligator Reef Light, a new member of the FLA. For more information go to 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.



Joyful Group of Volunteers who helped with the uncrating, set-up and display of our 4th Order Fresnel Lens

2023 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

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Thank You to Our 2023 Annual Sponsors!



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OneWeb  Satellites



The Ostarly's

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