



# 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. 15, No. 5

September 1, 2025

## Message from Our Foundation President



HELLO AGAIN. A BIG thank you to all of you who attended the third annual Christmas in July event. This was a successful event, with about 225 people in attendance and generating over \$15,000 to our operating fund. Thanks to everyone whose efforts made this event so successful.

THANK you to the planning committee Chair and Co-chair, Jeanna Merrifield and Jim Underwood. They were able to work with the owner of the Rising Tide Tap & Table, who is a long standing Sponsor of CCLF, to close the restaurant to the public so we could have a private event. Having the restaurant to ourselves allowed the dynamic decorating "TEAM," (Douglas Smith), to transform the restaurant into a Christmas scene, along with Christmas music.

Thank you to Sean and the working staff of Rising Tide for the professional way everything was managed. The buffet line was kept filled, the food hot and the drinks flowing; there was even a parking space for the reindeer.

THANK you, Laura Lee Walko, for the best silent auction that CCLF has ever had. Laura Lee assembled the baskets and secured donations from local businesses. Except for one basket, all the baskets went for more than the face value. Thank you, Bev Merrilees, Nancy Garwood, Ken & Karen Arbuckle, Jim & Kathie Underwood, and Laura Lee, for everything you donated for the silent auction.

THANK you, Jim Underwood, for MCing the event and supplying the Christmas music, and to Rocky Johnson for being the auctioneer for the live auction "climb to the top." Once again, he was able to get two winners.

And a special Thanks to all the volunteers who did a variety of tasks to keep everything running smoothly from working the front desk checking people in and giving out wristbands, handing out the Christmas necklace, and assisting with the silent auction.

Again, THANKS to all who donated their time and effort to make this event so successful.

Thanks for your help in keeping our light shining into the future.

Ron

## Museum Highlights

The Museum Team has been busy researching, visiting other lighthouse museums and visualizing how to make our new cottages the best experience ever for our visitors! Many volunteers have stepped up with great ideas, high energy and dedication to helping complete the Light Station. To be part of this effort, please donate to our outfitting fundraising campaign seen elsewhere in this edition: Honor Their Watch, Restore Their Station.

With the addition of a replica Keeper's Cottage, we'll have the opportunity to showcase how the keepers and their families lived at Cape Canaveral around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our Antiques Team is currently evaluating the many antiques donated and offered for donation to see if they fit what the Keepers would have owned at Cape Canaveral during this period. We are focusing on plain but sturdy furnishings. We have no more storage space, but if you have something you would like to donate that you believe fits this time period and the modest socio-economic status of the Keepers, we would be happy to evaluate it for inclusion. You would have to keep it in your possession, however, until we have the building completed, towards the end of 2026. If you're interested, please send an email with a photo and detailed description to Becky Zingarelli, [museumdirector@canaverallight.org](mailto:museumdirector@canaverallight.org).

### Did You Know?

Life was very isolated and the Cape on the Cape back in the late 1800s to early 1900s. It was only accessible by boat. There were no modern conveniences, like electricity, running water, telephones, stores, schools or churches. In addition to living off the land, early settlers were also able to take advantage of the misfortunes of passing ships who foundered off the shoals. Numerous shipwrecked goods washed ashore at Cape Canaveral, allowing locals to recover lumber, rum, clothing, and even gold coins. One time a ship carrying French shoes foundered and its cargo spread along the beach. It was said for years, the settlers wore mismatched shoes they had found!



Becky Zingarelli  
Museum Director  
[museumdirector@canaverallight.org](mailto:museumdirector@canaverallight.org)

## Honor Their Watch, Restore Their Station

*Help us Outfit Our New Cottages – Get Exclusive Gifts and a Chance at a Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience!*

Your generous donation will help us furnish and equip our beautiful new Cottages — a replica Lighthouse Keeper’s Cottage circa 1900 and a Lighthouse Experience cottage with interactive and engaging exhibits. As a thank you, you’ll receive unique gifts and be entered for a chance to win an unforgettable private tour to the very top of the lighthouse — a breathtaking experience not open to the public. Bring up to 10 of your family and friends for a memory that will last a lifetime!

**Honor their Watch, Restore their Station!**

GET EXCLUSIVE GIFTS and a Chance at a Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

LEARN MORE

Donate Now!

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse & Museum

## Help us outfit our new cottages under reconstruction!

### TARGET YOUR DONATION FOR:

- 1 - KEEPER’S COTTAGE
- 2 - LIGHTHOUSE EXPERIENCE
- 3 - USE DONATION WHERE MOST NEEDED

- For every \$25 you donate, get one chance to win an exclusive private climb to the top of the lighthouse for up to ten people.
- \$100 to any 1 category & receive a Unique Gift\* for that category.
- \$100 to each category (totaling \$300) & receive the full set of 3 Unique Gifts\* plus 4 additional chances to win a climb to the top!

*Drawing will be held in November. Do not need to be present to win.*

*\*Gifts are unique limited edition suncatchers designed exclusively for this project and only available here.*



The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation is supported by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and the Space Coast Office of Tourism.

Visit us @ [canaverallight.org](http://canaverallight.org)

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### Annual Lighthouse Days

Every year, we celebrate National Lighthouse Day on 7 August and International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on the third weekend in August. We provide an opportunity for individuals and families to visit at no cost and share our appreciation and love of lighthouses. These tours are typically fully booked weeks ahead and the visitors are all very excited for the opportunity — a total of 144 visitors over both events.

For the past nine years, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has hosted the Kennedy Space Center Amateur Radio Club as they participated in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. For this event, amateur radio operators



around the world reach out to lighthouses to see how many they can contact and how far away. The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has always been very popular, and the radio operators were busy all weekend! Another tradition they've had for the past four years has been working with Holly Purdy. She first joined them when her father was the Commander of the 45th Space Wing. He is an avid HAM operator and a great supporter of this event. Holly shared his interest and always took a turn at the console, coming back to help even after her father rotated to a new assignment. Holly can be seen operating inside the museum with Kevin Zari and Scott Vangen. **This year they made 703 contacts from 44 states and 11 other nations, from as far away as Turkey. They also contacted 22 other lighthouses in the US and 3 in Canada.**



And the tours are not only fully booked well in advance, but also supported by the our volunteers and docents who eagerly wait in the shade for the next group of history buffs and lighthouse enthusiasts.



## 3rd Annual "Christmas in July" - 2025 Best Yet!

*"WAY TO GO! I have received so many compliments this morning from folks who attended our event last night! Truly a success in so many ways! There are so many volunteers and supporters who are deserving of our thankfulness – not the least of which is Douglas and his decorating "team" and talent! The mood was festive and fun AND CHRISTMAS!"*

*"Laura Lee – that was the best Silent Auction I have ever seen. The way you wrapped packages and carried the holiday theme throughout combined with your attention to detailed organization set the stage for great success! Your effort complimented all who contributed items for the Silent Auction.*

*"Bev – the volunteers were awesome and truly more than managed the guest check-ins by making all feel welcome and engaged -the ponchos, wristbands, and perhaps most of all, the Christmas light leis brought everyone together and sold the exclusivity concept.*

*"The Rising Tide ownership, event management and working staff were fabulous! Christmas isn't Christmas without Chris, the fabulous elf! And Ron, thanks for letting us run with it and make it happen. All the Board members who sold tickets, all the members who bought tickets. All the publicity from Brevard Business News, to Facebook, to Becky's Volunteer Weekly Notes, etc.*

*"I can't wait for Cheryl and Nancy's pictures to arrive...this will be a fun BEACON article! (7/16/2025)"*

Jim Underwood . Director & Editor [Canaveral Beacon . radmjim@aol.com](mailto:radmjim@aol.com)  
 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation . [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org) . +1.321.351.5052  
 P.O. Box 1978 . Cape Canaveral FL . 32920 . US

### The Wait is Over!!



# Green & Red & Fun All Over!



## Keeping the Light Shining -Membership Musings



Christmas has come and gone already...well, Christmas In July, that is. But what fun we had. Very festive decorations, Christmas music, holiday attire complete with Christmas light leis on everyone, and holiday themed silent auction offerings. All the volunteers who helped did a fantastic job. If you weren't there, you missed quite a fun event, so make plans next year to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas In July fun(d)raiser. The more, the merrier.

Since the summer months are so hot, your Membership Committee opted not to plan a convoy until October when cooler weather (hopefully) prevails. By now current members and brick owners should have received notification to register. If you are a current member and have not received an email about the convoy, please let our Membership Committee ([cclf-membership@canaverallight.org](mailto:cclf-membership@canaverallight.org)) know because it may be that your email address needs to be updated. Even if you can't participate in the October convoy, let us know if your email has changed so we can keep it current.

Although there has been no Member/Brick Owner convoy since the end of May, there have been two lighthouse events in August celebrating Lighthouse Day: 7 August was National Lighthouse Day, and 16 August



was International Lighthouse / Light Ship Weekend. Both events were occasions for convoys so there were still visitors to be welcomed to our lighthouse. The Membership Committee and volunteers provided cookies and lemonade which were enjoyed by our guests.



Following the October convoy will be the annual Member / Volunteer Appreciation event, a gift to our members and volunteers from the CCLF Board. This year the picnic will be held on **1 November** at Field Manor on Merritt Island where you will be treated to Sonny's BBQ and live music. You should already have received a "SAVE THE DATE" email with more to come soon.



Did you know that the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) has an Outreach Committee? The purpose of this committee is to attend various community events and activities and set up a table providing the public information about the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Just this year they have attended the Annual Pioneer Day event at Sams House, Field Manor's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Founders' Day fundraiser, and most recently they participated in the US Space Force Historical Foundation Space Collectible Show & Sale at the Sands Space & History Center. Yet to come on 23 September is the VCB (Visit Cocoa Beach) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual STAR (Service Teams Appreciation & Referral) Event at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel. If you are at an event, be sure to look for the Cape Canaveral table, talk to our volunteers, and take home something from their promotional gift basket which could be a poncho, small note pad, small first aid kit, etc. Most of all they provide good information about the lighthouse.



Is there something you as a member would like to see us do? Share your thoughts and let us know. Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you at the lighthouse!

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

**NEW MEMBERS 21 June—20 August 2025**

**Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)**

Marie Kost Elizabeth Schneider William tigner

**Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)**

Michael Hamilton Gail Hendricks Susan Lewis

**Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 - 2 Members)**

Lewis Barbara Sloan Debbie Swartz

**Student Membership (\$15 = 1 Member)**

**Lifetime individual Membership (\$1,000 = 1 Lifetime Member)**

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

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

**RENEWALS 21 June—20 August 2025**

**Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)**

Elsie Andreen-Mauer Sally Benson Ann Bolton Terrah Boring Kathy Coon  
Tonya George Laura Kelly Elaine Marr Eric Martin Jim Passarelli Coleen Seitter Noel Sinchak

**Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)**

George & Mary Lou Coleman Jerry & Mary Dean Linda & Jim Dubea George & Phyllis Eustis  
Thomas Guthrie George & Becky Holmes Erich & Louise Konjevich Scott Langdon  
Todd & Jennifer McDowell FPL (Michele Murrell) Michael Piana David Shelton David Smith  
Rik & Martha Spruitenburg John & Melinda Tribe Lee & Al Vicidomini Eugene Vogt  
Cowan & Judy Whitnable Heather & John Winkopp Richard & Barbie Wood

**Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 - 2 Members)**

James (Jay) Groves James Jarnac Heather Johnson Nancie Marin Dale & Eileen McClelland  
Norman & Elaine Moody Gary & Barbara Nawrocki Ed & Kathy Otto James Rudolph & Gail Talbott  
Barbara & Michael Wilson Ed & Lisa Wilson

**Student (\$15 = 1 Member)**

**Lifetime Individual Membership (\$1000 = 1 Lifetime Member)**

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



# Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Lifetime Members

Pierre & Kathy Alix Titusville, FL	Christy & Randy Horn Oviedo, FL	Michael & Susan Schwarz Port Canaveral, FL
Julia & Joseph (Jett) Black, III Cocoa Beach, FL	Jerry & Darleen Hunt Merritt Island, FL	John "Tank" & Rheta Sherman Cocoa, FL
Ginny Blaetz Cocoa, FL	Bill Jelen Merritt Island, FL	Dave Spain Merritt Island, FL
Gail Browning Cape Porpoise, ME	Gene Johnson Merritt Island, FL	[Yvonne]/Bob Thornton Titusville, FL
Carolyn Burby Port St. John, FL	Rocky & Lisa Johnson Cocoa, FL	James Trammell Melbourne, FL
Lloyce Campbell Merritt Island, FL	Larry Kaczor & Caroline Kaczor Elliott Cocoa Beach, FL	RADM James and Kathie Underwood Merritt Island, FL
Barry & Sheila Compagnoni Melbourne Beach, FL	Al & Carol Koller, Jr. Titusville, FL	Celeno West & Allen McFarland Cocoa Beach, FL
Scott & Liz Cooper Greenwood, IN	[Eric Kucera] Merritt Island, FL	Rose Marie Wiley Cocoa Beach, FL
Preston A., Jr & Nancy C. Creech North Augusta, SC	Lynn & Mike Mariotti Naples, FL	Dr. Elbert [Sonny] & Kay Witt Melbourne FL
Sharon Crockett Rockledge, FL	Jeanna & Mike Merrifield Titusville, FL	Dr. Jess & Bertie Yates Melbourne, FL
[Charles] & Ginny Davis Titusville, FL	[RADM Robert] & Beverly Merrilees Merritt Island, FL	
Robert Davis Merritt Island, FL	Joe & Barb Mihelcic Cocoa Beach, FL	
Debra Divich Merritt Island, FL	Teresa Moore & Don Nawalany Cape Canaveral, FL	
Jill & [Jim] Dooley Merritt Island, FL	Cal & Virginia Myer Naples, FL	
Cynthia Dropeski Melbourne, FL	[Donald] Ellen Myer Washington DC	
Ron & Christine Ecker Satellite Beach, FL	Jamie & Jessica Myer Los Angeles, CA	
Albert & Marie Elebash Melbourne, FL	Jeff & Cathi Myer Burlington, MA	
Rodger S. Fowler Merritt Island, FL	Larry & Elva Ostarly Rockledge, FL	
Ric & Nancy Garwood Merritt Island, FL	Caroline & Jimmy Raleigh Merritt Island, FL	
Rep. Tom Goodson Rockledge, FL	Jim Ravitch Merritt Island, FL	
[Bud] & Liz Gravuer Cocoa, FL	Rick & Michele Rohrmann Cocoa Beach, FL	
Beth & Dwight Greenberg Cocoa, FL	Hal Row Mims, FL	
[Bobbie Grine] Tuscaloosa, AL	Dixie & [Jerry] Sansom Cocoa, FL	
Bob & Dianne Heidersbach Cape Canaveral, FL		

**\*\*\* 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**

Phone: (321) 452-5426

Email: [bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com)

**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!

**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 Mike Piana

Mike Piana believes in occupying himself with the things he loves. And among those things are lighthouses. More specifically Cape Canaveral Lighthouse.

Piana, a Cocoa Beach resident since 2018, is a docent at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. In addition, he serves about once a week as a driver and tour guide with Canaveral Tours. The tours allow him to indulge in another passion, the space program.

“The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is so unique,” he said, “how it ties in with the space program.”

Piana retired in 2020 after working for many years as a television producer with the Golf Channel in Orlando. The following year, while considering how to occupy some of his spare time, the lighthouse was almost natural. He was already fond of lighthouses and had visited a few in Florida, including a tour of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse.

He started volunteering at the lighthouse in March 2021.

“I love doing it,” he said. “It’s something I enjoy.”

The tours allow him to see the historic launch facilities and rockets first-hand. Hangar C, with many rockets and missiles on display, is next door and is almost always included with tours of the lighthouse.

“I’ve always been a space kind of a nerd,” Piana said. It’s a treat for me.”

Piana also helps with the educational tours, which offer visits for students. Brevard County School Students from public, private, charter and home school often visit the lighthouse.

In addition to his volunteer duties as a docent with the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, he works one day a week with Canaveral Tours. Piana also works two days a week with Disney Cruises.





# Florida Lighthouse Association

Protecting, Preserving, & Restoring Florida's Lighthouses

## Save the Date!

You won't want to miss the Florida Lighthouse Association's next exciting season meeting and social!

You will have the unique opportunity to meet and interact with lighthouse enthusiasts, professionals, historians, and preservationists. Learn what's happening around the State at Florida's lighthouses, and enjoy some beautiful locations and great food! So please mark your calendars for the following events:

### **Fall/Annual Membership Meeting**

Cape Florida Lighthouse, Key Biscayne, Florida; Friday and Saturday, **November 14 and 15, 2025**

Venue for the social and membership meeting will be the Key Biscayne Community Center, Key Biscayne, Florida.

### **More information to come!**

Dora Lee & Alan  
Chairpersons  
Meetings & Events Committee  
[meetings@floridalightouses.org](mailto:meetings@floridalightouses.org)

**Florida Lighthouse Association Inc.**  
P.O. Box 10834  
Pensacola, FL 32524  
Phone: 888-213-3084

**Keep Our Lights Shining!**



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## Bon Voyage Shelley Parker

Shelley Parker has officially completed her turnover of Canaveral Tours to Liz Schneider and is off on new adventures. Thank you so much for everything you've done, Shelley! It's been fun and a privilege to work alongside you for these past 6 years and to see your dedication to the lighthouse and your care for your guests make a remarkable and memorable experience for all! The Foundation would not be half as successful if it hadn't been for your pioneering efforts and willingness to do whatever it took to keep going and share our treasure.

Shelley left her own words for all of us: "I just want to say it was a pleasure to partner with you all. The many hoops we all had to jump through, albeit stressful, will be a fading memory compared to the privilege and enjoyment I had these many years. I will miss you all very much. I have no idea what my next endeavor will be. I can't imagine it will be any better than being with all of the Lighthouse volunteers as we worked together to share the lighthouse and history of the Cape to the thousands of people we brought out."



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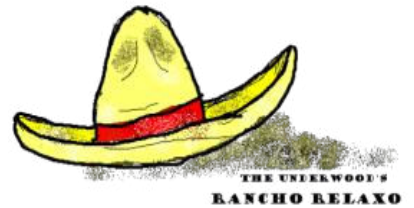


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