



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. 16, No. 4

July 1, 2026

Message from Our Foundation President



Summer has arrived on the Space Coast, and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation has plenty to celebrate.

Cape Family Day on April 23rd was nothing short of spectacular. With an estimated 6,000 attendees, the energy across the base was electric. With food trucks and vendors anchored at Hangar C, the lighthouse was once again a natural focal point for the day. Attendance was steady and wonderfully manageable, with only brief waits to enter the lighthouse and museum. What stood out most, however, were the children, more than we have ever seen, genuinely curious, well-behaved, and eager to learn. Moments like those remind us exactly why we do what we do.

Construction on the final two cottages continues to progress well. Framing is complete and the buildings are dried in, keeping us on track for a fall completion and a ribbon-cutting ceremony before year's end. We are getting close, and the finish line is clearly in sight.

I would be remiss not to address the Blue Origin New Glenn launch anomaly that captured national attention. I am relieved to share that the lighthouse and surrounding cottages sustained only minor damage. It is a testament to this enduring structure that through 155-plus years of history, including that extraordinary and sobering event, the light never stopped shining. That felt like more than coincidence. It felt like a statement.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that our 4th Annual "Christmas in July Fun-raiser & Raffle Drawing Party" is just around the corner, and tickets are nearly gone. Join us on July 14th from 5:00–7:00 PM at Rising Tide Tap & Table in Cape Canaveral for a festive evening of great company, exciting live and silent auctions, and celebration of everything this community has built together. This event is more than a party, it is a direct investment in our mission. Visit canaverallight.org to secure your spot before they're gone. (See the Flyer on page 6 for more information).

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to preserving this irreplaceable piece of American history.

Keep Shining,

Shane Smith
Board President

Museum Highlights

Museum Highlights

Not only did the lighthouse prove its resilience during the Blue Origin New Glenn anomaly on nearby Launch Complex 36 on 28 May, but the adjacent cottages came through well, also. We were able to reopen for tours as soon as the area was cleared by the Space Force. The Kildeer bird chicks hatched a few days prior and were seen migrating away. No wildlife near the lighthouse appeared to be harmed.

Many dedicated volunteers are not only continuing to support tours and maintaining the light station, but they are also pitching in to help prepare for all the wonderful things we're planning for you to see in the new cottages. You can help us bring these ideas to life by donating to our "Honor Their Watch, Restore Their Station" project.

Please see the flyer on the next page for more information or scan this QR Code:



Did You Know?

In addition to providing a visible light for Mariners to reckon their positions, the Lighthouse also provided an audio signal for triangulation. A radio beacon was installed in 1931, and operated until 1996, sending out a unique Morse Code signal – the letter "Z", or "dash dash dot dot. From a nearby 125-foot antenna tower, the transmitter sent the signal out for one minute at a time at 21, 24, 27, 51, 54, and 57 minutes after the hour. In bad weather, the signal was sent for one minute every three minutes.

The 3 Rs - Radios, Radar and Reckoning



The original 1931 radio tower can be seen at far left. A new 1950 radio tower is under construction just to the right of Lighthouse.

Transmissions were coordinated with the radio beacons at St. Johns River and Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, providing ships with a cross bearing in order to help fix their positions. The signal could be received from 50 to 150 miles out to sea. A modern differential GPS beacon replaced the radio beacon in 1996.

...and Did You Know?

The Space Force now owns another lighthouse – this one next to our counterpart launch facility – Vandenberg Space Force Station in central California. **The Point**

Conception Lighthouse, first lit in 1856, sits atop a bluff 133 feet (41 m) above the ocean. It was rebuilt in 1882 to improve visibility and reduce fog obstruction. The lighthouse was electrified in 1948 and automated in 1973, and its original first-order Fresnel lens is now displayed at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The light-



house remains an active aid to navigation but is surrounded by private property, limiting public access. Some hiking routes, such as from Jalama Beach, allow visitors to approach the lighthouse during low tide, but the lighthouse itself and surrounding cliffs remain off-limits.



Becky Zingarelli
Museum Director
museumdirector@canaverallight.org

Lots of Fun Activity at the Lighthouse

Space Coast Office of Tourism (SCOT). On June 23rd, two film crews and some other members of the Space Coast Office of Tourism visited the lighthouse and LC 26 for a photo shoot to support our marketing efforts. The videos and photographs will not only be used to support our current Marketing Support Grant under the Tourism Development Council, but also for future SCOT marketing over the next several years.

The photo shoot went extremely well. Additionally, they were transported by one of our commercial tour operators - **Jake Oleson's Space Shuttle.** The van was completely full and Jake did it for free! He also took care of all the security information and had his people give them the tour as if they were paid visitors while on the van, which they really appreciated. Thank you Jake and Space Shuttle for this exceptional support!



The Singing Angels. On Saturday June 20th, the lighthouse hosted a very special tour – The Singing Angels. Founded in 1964, The Singing Angels is Cleveland's premier youth performing chorus composed of kids from across Northeast Ohio. For over 60 years, The Singing Angels has pursued the mission of encouraging, fostering, and cultivating positive youth development by engaging youth from all communities in quality music and performing arts education that teaches discipline, builds confidence, and provides a foundation for life. The Singing Angels have spread music across the globe, traveling to more than 38 countries, the White House on numerous occasions, and throughout the United States for various special performances and tours.



After they toured the lighthouse, they delighted our volunteers and other visitors with a few songs, performed on the steps to the lighthouse.

The Singing Angels' motto is "Make Music, Make Friends, Make a Difference". You can find out more from their website "Singing Angels".

Phase 2 Cottage Construction Progress

As volunteers, docents and directors, many of us have frequent opportunities to visit the lighthouse and witness the exciting progress being made on the construction of our two new cottages which will complete our efforts to restore the Light Station as it existed when it was a “manned unit” of the US Lighthouse Service and later, the US Coast Guard.

For the majority of others, the following is a synopsis of progress as reported by the CCLF Project Manager Mr. Hal Row. As you may recall, Hal was also our project manager for the first phase of construction and graciously donates his time, expertise and wisdom to bring about the vision of “What was Once...”

May 28 Report: On site clearing and grubbing began in late January which was followed by a groundbreaking ceremony on February 10, 2026. Installation of the foundation footings and piers continued through March 1 in anticipation of the truss package to be on site on March 5. The truss package arrived on site on March 19 & 20.



Experiential Cottage



Keeper's Cottage

June 5 Report: The Experiential Cottage framing and decking is essentially complete. The front porch and ramps are approximately 90 % complete. Roofing will begin early next week and should have it dry by the end of next week. Substantial progress has been made on installation of the Hardy Board finish siding. The cottage floor framing and decking is essentially completed by the framing subcontractor. Wall segments are showing substantial progress.



Phase 2 Cottage Construction Update (Cont.)

June 26 Report:

Experiential Cottage

The framing and decking is complete. Windows and doors are installed and there is a water barrier membrane on the roof, so the building is essentially weatherproof. The front porch and ramps are nearing completion and are usable. The steps are currently being installed. The exterior siding is approximately 90 % complete.

Keeper's Cottage

The Keeper's Cottage framing and decking is complete along with most of the interior partitions and stairs.



IT'S NO SECRET!

JUST 14 DAYS UNTIL

CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!!

Get Your Ticket Now!

Tuesday, July 14th, 2026

CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION 'FUN'RAISER

4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Tuesday . July 14th . 2026

5.00 to 7.00pm



RISING TIDE TAP & TABLE

523 Glen Cheek Dr . Port Canaveral . FL
restaurant closed to the public

EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE RAFFLE PARTY

RAFFLE DONATION MINIMUM \$100.

EACH RAFFLE TICKET ADMITS 2 PEOPLE

5 VIP TABLES AVAILABLE \$1000. each

1/250 CHANCE TO WIN \$5000. 1st Prize

1/250 CHANCE TO WIN \$1000. 2nd Prize

INCLUDES: silent & live auctions, heavy appetizers, fun
swag, cash bar & Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Membership.

Must be present to win 2nd prize, but not 1st.

Wristbands will be given to ticket holders on entry.

Ticket Purchase Options

CCLF Board Member

info@canaveralLight.org

www.CanaveralLight.org

321.351.5052 | Scan QR Code



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Honor their Watch, Restore their Station!



Learn More



Donate Now!



CCLighthouse



cdighthousefoundation



cape-canaveral-lighthouse-foundation



Help us outfit our new cottages under construction!

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

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.

For every \$100 you donate, also receive a unique limited edition suncatcher only available here.

Scan QR code or Visit us @ canaverallight.org

email: info@canaverallight.org
phone: 321-351-5052

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Keeping the Light Shining -Membership Musings

In 2002, a few hearty folks, dedicated to the history and preservation of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, led by our first president, Christy Lehnertz, began the journey that has led to what we see today. The dream of recreating the lighthouse community as it once was, is well on its way to fruition.

Membership has always played a key role in our progress. To date, we have 600 members, 96 of which are Life Members. Members receive discounts at the Keeper's Closet; our bi-monthly newsletter, the Canaveral Beacon; the opportunity to bring friends and family to the lighthouse with our quarterly Convoy; and our annual Member/Volunteer appreciation picnic. The picnic this year will be on October 17 from noon to 2 pm at Field Manor on Merritt Island. In consideration of our many seasonal volunteers and members we are planning to schedule our next appreciation luncheon for the spring of 2027.



At our most recent Convoy on June 6 your membership committee, set up on the front porch of the cottage, offered cookies and lemonade to our guests along with flags to commemorate D-Day. We enjoyed the camaraderie with our members and their friends and families, spreading the word, and as a bonus selling two bricks, two "Christmas in July" Tickets and one membership along with \$28 in donations. All in all a great day!

Florida Lighthouse Association - Friendship, common goals, grants for lighthouse restoration and repair, and so much more. The Amelia Island meeting was a hit and enjoyed by our CCLF contingent, Ron & Chris Ecker, Sharon Crockett, & Bev Merrilees. At this meeting \$341,000 in grants were awarded for important preservation and restoration work. Over the years CCLF has received much-needed grants for various restoration projects. One of the high notes of the Amelia Island meeting was Keynote speaker, Michael Blake, the architect who is the lead on the rescue of the Mayport Lighthouse project. The team has devised a plan to dismantle and move the lighthouse from the Navy base to a nearby city park.



The next FLA membership meeting will be at Anclote Key Lighthouse; Tarpon Springs, FL on November 6,7,8, 2026. Check it out at <https://floridalighthouses.wildapricot.org>

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

NEW MEMBERS 17 April 2026 - 16 June 2026

Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)

Al King III

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)

Robyn Clark

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 - 2 Members)

Dottie Jelinek

Deana Smith

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 February 2026 - 20 April 2026

Assistant Keeper (\$35 - 1 Member)

Bob Cook Mackenzie Ecker Bailey Fore Sandra LeBlanc
Barbara Moser James Wolfrum Becky Zingarelli

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 - 2 Members)

Becky Anzevino Jordan Chambers George & Mary Lou Coleman
Jerry & Mary Dean James Draper Linda Hennig Michael Hoffmann
Florida Power & Light (Michele Murrell) Merritt & Vicky Nord
Nadine & Steve Peacock Michael Piana Albert Praetorius Charles Rikli & Angela Elliott
Tom & Kathy Royal Coleen Seitter Gaylord Withers & Jack Sippel Michael Zeiler & Shannah Pilson

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 - 2 Members)

Caroline & Peter Engrand Andrew & Tamera Kedzierski William Osteen
James Reed Sally & Steve Turner

Student (\$15 = 1 Member)

Mikey Ecker Matthew Ecker Mckenna Ecker

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	[Bobbie Grine] Tuscaloosa, AL	Larry & Elva Ostarly Rockledge, FL
Julia & Joseph (Jett) Black, III Cocoa Beach, FL	Bob & Dianne Heidersbach Cape Canaveral, FL	Dixie & [Jerry] Sansom Cocoa, FL
Ginny Blaetz Cocoa, FL	Christy & Randy Horn Oviedo, FL	Michael & Susan Schwarz Port Canaveral, FL
Gail Browning Cape Porpoise, ME	Jerry & Darleen Hunt Merritt Island, FL	John "Tank" & Rheta Sherman Cocoa, FL
Carolyn Burby Port St. John, FL	Bill Jelen Merritt Island, FL	Dave Spain Merritt Island, FL
Jack Burrie Deerfield Beach, FL	Gene Johnson Merritt Island, FL	[Yvonne]/Bob Thornton Titusville, FL
Lloyce Campbell Merritt Island, FL	Rocky & Lisa Johnson Cocoa, FL	Mark & Nancy Tomassone Rockledge, FL
Jim & Mary Clamons Palm Bay, FL	Larry Kaczor & Caroline Kaczor Elliott Cocoa Beach, FL	James Trammell Melbourne, FL
Barry & Sheila Compagnoni Melbourne Beach, FL	Al & Carol Koller, Jr. Titusville, FL	RADM Jim & Kathie Underwood Merritt Island, FL
Scott & Liz Cooper Greenwood, IN	[Eric Kucera] Merritt Island, FL	Celena West & Allen McFarland Cocoa Beach, FL
Preston A., Jr & Nancy C. Creech North Augusta, SC	Lynn & Mike Mariotti Naples, FL	Rose Marie Wiley Cocoa Beach, FL
Sharon Crockett Rockledge, FL	Jeanna & Mike Merrifield Titusville, FL	Dr. Elbert [Sonny] & Kay Witt Melbourne FL
[Charles] & Ginny Davis Titusville, FL	[RADM Robert] & Beverly Merrilees Merritt Island, FL	Dr. Jess & Bertie Yates Melbourne, 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	Caroline & Jimmy Raleigh Merritt Island, FL	
Ric & Nancy Garwood Merritt Island, FL	Jim Ravitch Merritt Island, FL	
Rep. Tom Goodson Rockledge, FL	Rick & Michele Rohrmann Cocoa Beach, FL	
[Bud] & Liz Gravuer Cocoa, FL	Hal Row Mims, FL	
Beth & Dwight Greenberg Cocoa, 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

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.

A Day in the Life of a Keeper's Closet Volunteer - Debbie Divich

Debbie Divich is our July 2026 Volunteer in the Spotlight. She has a passion for lighthouses and community service. In addition to her terrific support of Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keeper's Closet, she also supports the efforts of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society. Her enthusiasm is contagious. What follows are her thoughts on a day in the life of a Keeper's Closet Volunteer.

“Volunteering at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is special from the very start — and for many of us, the heart of the experience happens inside the gift shop, lovingly known as the Keeper's Closet.”

“Even the drive in feels like an adventure. Passing through secured gates and traveling behind the scenes of Cape Canaveral gives every shift a little thrill. On some days, you might even catch a rocket launch or landing from one of the nearby launch pads — not a bad commute view!”

“Once you arrive, the Keeper's Closet becomes your home base. Volunteers welcome guests, ring up purchases, restock shelves, and share stories about the lighthouse and its history. From souvenirs to memberships, every sale helps support the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation and the ongoing care of this historic treasure.”

“One of our favorite conversations is introducing visitors to membership — especially the Lifetime Membership. It's a wonderful way for guests to make a lasting contribution, showing their support for the lighthouse's preservation for years to come while becoming part of a dedicated community that helps protect this iconic landmark.”

“But the real joy is the people. You'll chat with visitors from all over the country, answer questions, and help them feel connected to the lighthouse's past and future. Think part shopkeeper, part storyteller, part ambassador... and occasional rocket watcher.”

“For those who want to do even more, there are opportunities to serve as a docent, guiding tours and bringing the lighthouse's fascinating history to life for guests.”

“A few hours in the Keeper's Closet goes by quickly — filled with friendly conversations, a little retail therapy, and maybe even the rumble of a launch in the distance. It's volunteering with a view, a purpose, and just enough adventure to make every shift memorable.”

Debbie Divich

Thank you Debbie for all you do in support of our historical lighthouse.



Museums of Brevard Spotlight—Green Gables



Green Gables was built in 1896 in a beautiful Queen Anne style architecture and is located along the scenic Indian River at 1501 South Harbor City Boulevard, Melbourne. It was built by William and Nora Wells and served as their winter home until they chose to permanently retire here. Green Gables had two bathrooms and was one of the first houses in Melbourne to have electricity. The original site consisted of 150 acres. Tours of Green Gables are available every Saturday from 10am - 2pm. However the last tour begins at 1:30. Reservations are not necessary. Cost is \$10 per person. Children 12 and under are free.



Green Gables is well situated to offer VIP viewing of the City of Melbourne's annual Independence Day Fireworks display. They're also celebrating this special America 250 celebration with a patriotic pre-show, hot dog combos for \$5, and a children's game area. Cost is \$15 per car (with a maximum of 4 adults) or \$20 per car at the door.

To find out more about this and other events, please visit the [Green Gables Website](#).



Very Special Visitors—VIP Treatment

We've had some very special visitors for the past month or so. The shell walkway leading from the street to the lighthouse was off limits! The Cape Environmental department even taped off the entire walkway for these visitors. (Our equivalent to laying out the red carpet.) A pair of Killdeer birds had made a nest on the pathway and laid 4 eggs. It took about 28 days for the chicks to hatch, then another week before they could fly away. All other lighthouse visitors generously stayed away and gave them the space to come into the world without interference. Although killdeer birds are not currently listed as endangered species, they are considered as near-threatened due to population declines and are protected under Federal law.

As of June 7th, all four eggs hatched successfully, and the pathway was reopened. Now that's special!



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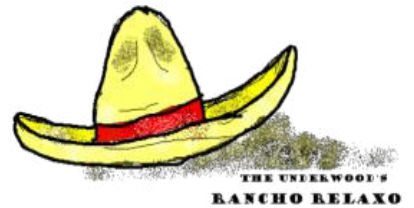
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