

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. 6 **November 1, 2026**

Message from Our Foundation President



As autumn settles over the Space Coast, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation has much to celebrate, and even more to look forward to in the weeks ahead.
On September 25th, we hosted a private watch party at the Sands Space History Museum for the WUCF Florida Road Trip episode featuring our lighthouse, and the evening exceeded every expectation. We packed the house and surpassed our fundraising target of $3,000, remarkable for a donation-only event. None of it would have been possible without Laura Lee Walko, whose leadership, coordination, and promotional efforts were nothing short of outstanding. I also want to extend special thanks to Jamie Draper at the Sands Space History Museum for his gracious hospitality; Todd McDowell with AOTC for donating the hotdog vendor and popcorn; and Jeanna Merrifield with Wild Ocean Seafood for donating all of the beverages, including the exclusive Lighthouse Lager. To Laura Lee and every volunteer who gave their time, we extend our sincerest gratitude.

And if one television feature weren't enough, the lighthouse was also spotlighted on Spectrum News' Florida on a Tankful. The story of this lighthouse is reaching new audiences, and that is a wonderful thing.

Now for the news so many of you have been waiting for, the cottages are nearly done. Drywall installation is underway, with painting, electrical, mechanical, and flooring work to follow in close sequence. Brick walkways and remaining sitework will wrap up once heavy equipment clears the site. Barring any unforeseen disruptions, we expect to complete all work within the next 30 to 45 days, and we remain on budget. Throughout this entire journey, Hal Row, Rocky Johnson, and Becky Zingarelli have been indispensable. Their dedication and professionalism have made all the difference, and I am deeply grateful for each of them.

The ribbon cutting is coming. After years of perseverance, through storms, supply chain challenges, launch disruptions, and everything in between, we are almost there. Stay tuned for details on what promises to be a truly historic celebration.

Keep Shining,

Shane Smith
Board President

Museum Highlights

Museum Highlights

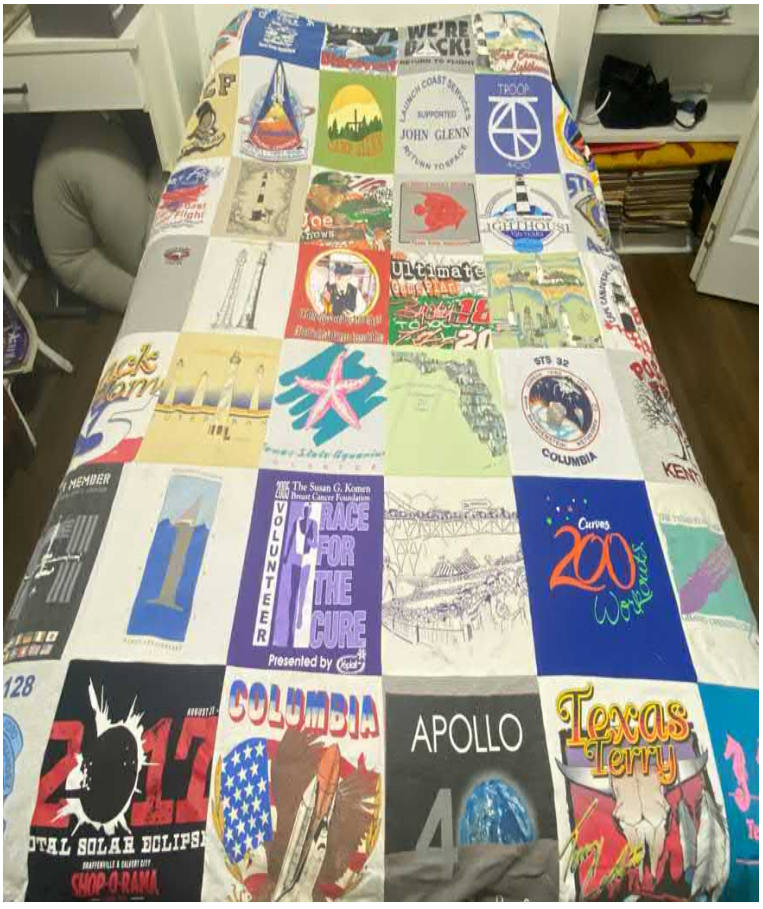
By the time you read our next Beacon, the new cottages will be finished. Once construction wraps up, we'll begin installing the exhibits we've been developing for more than a year. Each cottage will open as soon as its exhibits are ready, likely a few months after construction is complete.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our many fundraisers to help outfit the cottages with these new exhibits. Two fundraisers will continue through next March:
-**Honor Their Watch, Restore Their Station** allows donors to designate how their contributions will be used. It also offers unique suncatcher thank you gifts, and enters donors into the final drawing for a climb to the top of the lighthouse for up to ten guests. See Flyer on page 6.
-**Our Lighthouse Quilt Project** is collecting vintage Cape Canaveral Lighthouse t-shirts to create a one of a kind quilt that donors can win. Drop off your old shirts at the museum or contact Ginny Davis 321-795-6009 ginnydavis289@gmail.com. Chances in the drawing are based on donation level. You must go to: https://pci.jotform.com/form/262575132452152 to complete your "Win a Lighthouse Quilt Form" online.

Both the final climb drawing and the quilt drawing will take place at the next Member/Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, scheduled for March 2027. You do not need to be present to win either prize, so please consider donating soon.

Becky Zingarelli
Museum Director
museumdirector@canaverallight.org.

This is a sample of the Quilt. Ours will be made using only Cape Canaveral Lighthouse T-shirts



Florida Road Trip Private Screening Watch Party

The Watch Party - Florida Road Trip, held Friday Sept . 25, 2026, at the Sands Space History Center, featured an exclusive screening of the Florida Road Trip: Florida Lighthouses episode, which aired on WUCF TV on Oct. 1 at 8 pm. WUCF staff in attendance included Executive Director Jennifer Cook, Executive Producer Heather Bailey, and Post-production Editor Brian Kelly.WUCF Watch Party was fun for all and a great success!

Donations were raised through concession ticket sales and raffle drawings. Concessions included gourmet hot dogs, freshly popped popcorn, beer, wine and soft drinks. Attendees enjoyed a fun, well-organized and educational evening.

The WUCF Watch Party was a fun and successful event! Thank you to everyone who worked hard for making this impromptu fundraiser possible. including volunteers who staffed the party and board members Jeanna Merrifield, who donated all the alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; Todd McDowell, who donated the hot dog experience and popcorn; and Shane Smith, who donated the aluminum cups and cozies. Special thanks also go to Publix and Sam's Club who donated the cookies and candies, and to Jamie Draper for providing the Sands Space History Center , an excellent venue for the event.

Because all goods and services were donated, the Foundation incurred no expenses and kept every penny raised. The biggest shout out goes to Laura Lee Walko, who conceived the event, worked tirelessly to bring it to life, and starred in our portion of the Florida Lighthouse Road Trip.

















Events, Tours and Visitors



Florida on a Tankful. Randy Rauch from Specrum News 13 visited the lighthouse on 3 September to film an episode of their Florida on a Tankful series. Despite a very rainy morning, the segment turned out wonderfully. A big thank you to Emre Kelly from SLD 45 Public Affairs for coordinating this visit. The episode aired throughout the day on 11 September. If you missed it, you can watch it and share it with your friends by visiting: https://mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2026/09/09/a-secret-side-of-the-space-coast-inside-the-cape-canaveral-lighthouse



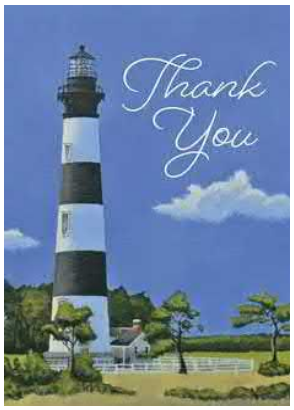
A Tankful of Thankfuls. It's easy to forget just how special a visit to the lighthouse can be. Every week, guests remind us what a rare and meaningful experience it is to stand beneath our historic tower and feel its story come alive. Below are two recent comments that beautifully capture the impact the lighthouse continues to have on our visitors.

From a tour on 30 June "All aspects of our recent lighthouse tour including the museum and gift shops exceeded our expectations. The well-organized planning made the event even more enjoyable. I commend each exceptionally well trained docent we interacted with. They added so much information and value to the recent experience."

From a tour on 10 July by a badged visitor from the Military Sealift Command: "I wanted to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for your accommodating my visit to the lighthouse! It is a grand and beautiful structure and the experience and photos are a welcome addition to my lighthouse collection! I was fully impressed with the guides on site and their informative facts and history as not very many lights I have visited afford that personal type of hospitality. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and shared a great time with fellow visitors! Many great kudos to you and your fellow foundation associates for providing the services that you do and for keeping the light shining! Thank you again ever so much for allowing me the opportunity to set foot on the grounds and walk in the presence of one of our great historical landmarks!"









Volunteer Family and Friends Tours. Nearly a year ago, when it became clear we would not be getting our tour placards back from the Space Force anytime soon, we began offering quarterly volunteer appreciation tours so our volunteers could bring family and friends to visit. These tours mirror our regular group tours and include the Lighthouse, Hangar C, and LC 26. In addition to Lighthouse volunteers, Space Force Museum volunteers are also welcome to participate.

If you're a volunteer and a member of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (*and we hope you are*), you now have eight opportunities each year to bring guests for free, show them where you work, and help them understand why you so generously give your time and talent.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, you can sign up on our website under Get Involved - Cape Canaveral Lighthouse

Events, Tours and Visitors (Continued)

MAX POWER. In honor of America's 250th birthday, NASA is hosting special events at centers across the country. Here at Kennedy Space Center, the celebration will take place **November 7–8** with an event called *MAX POWER*, featuring an air show headlined by the Thunderbirds. NASA is also exploring a partnership with the Space Force to offer limited secure tours on the Cape to include visiting the lighthouse.

Celebrate American Leadership in Air and Space Technology. Experience the best of American aeronautics and space technology! In honor of America's 250th birthday, MAX POWER will pay homage to our remarkable past, explore current missions, and lay a foundation for our nation's future endeavors: from Earth to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. The two-day event will feature immersive experiences for all ages to enjoy, including air shows, skydiving stunts, technology demonstrations, spaceflight hardware, military aircraft, and behind-the-scenes access to America's spaceport. Attend talks led by NASA experts and meet astronauts from some of agency's most famous missions!

Space Force T-10 Miler. The Space Force will hold its annual T-10 Miler on the Cape, with this year's event taking place on Saturday, 12 December and once again finishing at the Lighthouse. Several thousand runners and spectators pass through the area during and after the race. Our volunteers open at the crack of dawn, welcoming family and friends as they gather to cheer on their runners—each one striving for a triumphant finish, whatever their personal goal may be. The public is welcome to run, so dust off your shoes and sign up!





Camera Club of Melbourne. The Camera Club of Melbourne took a Group Tour of the lighthouse, Hangar C and LC26 on Sept. 19, 2026. The images recording their visit were taken by Cheryl M. Bennett, except the group's photo by docent Silvia Zabalo.







Honor their Watch, Restore their Station!

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

Learn More

Donate Now!

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Keeping the Light Shining -Membership Musings

Thank you, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF) members, for your support of the CCLF. The annual dues you pay, your purchases at the Keeper's Closet, the bricks you buy, and your support of our fundraisers go a long way toward helping with expenses; things like the cleaning company that cleans our museum and restrooms every week, office supplies, cleaning supplies, maintenance supplies, and insurance costs just for starters. The annual picnic for our members and volunteers is our way to show appreciation for your support, but sometimes we just need to say "Thank You" as well. So Thank You for your generous support of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

The Member/Volunteer annual picnic was held on 17 October at Field Manor, and was well attended. This is always a fun activity with good food (Sonny's Bar-b-que), delicious and beautifully decorated desserts (cup cakes by Marcia Jordan), and music provided by Rick Brensinger. All in all, a great opportunity to visit with old friends while making new friends. All who attended received a comfy blanket with the CCLF logo, which is perfect for those "chilly" days when you need a light blanket while reading a book, or to keep in your car for those trips out of town. They were a big hit, for sure. See pictures below!

After a hot summer, the 3rd quarterly convoy was held on 12 September. Although smaller than usual everyone enjoyed visiting the lighthouse, Hangar C, and LC26 as always. We always enjoy meeting our members face to face at the convoys; we know your names through annual renewals, but don't often see your faces. The convoys are special times for all who attend.

Believe it or not, it's that time again. Yes, this is the 4th quarter of 2026, and time for our final convoy of the year to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse on 28 November. It's a good opportunity to join the convoy and bring your out of town friends and family with you the Saturday after Thanksgiving! I mean, what else would you want to do….shop? The convoy will be a lot more fun and won't cost as much as shopping. Think about it…..

We look forward to seeing you on the next convoy!







Board members from L-R – Back row: Laura Lee Walko (Marketing), Jim Passarelli (Treasurer), Norm Moody (Public Relations), Jim Underwood (Director), Ed Wilson (Governance). Front row L-R – Chris Ecker (Membership), Sharon Crockett (Speakers Bureau), Lisa Wilson (Education Co-Chair), Nancy Garwood (Archivist).













Thank you, Winnie Crawford, for taking photos.

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

NEW MEMBERS 21 August - 20 October 2026

Assistant Keeper ($35 - 1 Member)

Elizabeth Kent

Lighthouse Keeper ($50 - 2 Members)

Wendy Lee Morgan

Head Lighthouse Keeper ($100 - 2 Members)

Mark & Amy Fedor William Randall Kevin Stanaland

Student Membership ($15 = 1 Member)

Lifetime Individual Membership ($1,000 = 1 Lifetime Member)

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

Christopher & Heidi DuBach

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

RENEWALS 21 August - 20 October 2026

Assistant Keeper ($35 - 1 Member)

Joseph Nadolski Boneta Nord Janey Powell Cathy Riddell Pauline Simpson Kim Zocco

Keeper ($50 - 2 Members)

Carol Anderson Bryant & Carol Aumuck Julie & Bruce Bolton Gary Castner Thomas Guthrie
Beverly Oakes & Tommy Hasty Annette & Paul Pike Keith Vincent John Wilson
Richard & Barbie Wood

Head Lighthouse Keeper ($100 - 2 Members)

Cheryl & Dail Bennett Luke Crisafulli Phil & Bunny Finney Rich & Diana Grimison
Robin & Aaron Hattaway Jackie & John Kaiser Trey Loughridge Ed & Kathy Otto
James Rudolph & Gail Talbott Robert L. Socks Rik & Martha Spruitenburg Bill & Janet Strawn
Ray & Flory Valley Jeffrey Woertendyke Jack & Linda Young

Student ($15 = 1 Member)

Lifetime Individual Membership ($1000 = 1 Lifetime Member)

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

Ed & Lisa Wilson

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Lifetime Members

Pierre & Kathy Alix
Titusville, FL

Julia & Joseph (Jett) Black, III
Cocoa Beach, FL

Ginny Blaetz
Cocoa, FL

Gail Browning
Cape Porpoise, ME

Carolyn Burby
Port St. John, FL

Jack Burrie
Deerfield Beach, FL

Lloyce Campbell
Merritt Island, FL

Jim & Mary Clamons
Palm Bay, FL

Barry & Sheila Compagnoni
Melbourne Beach, FL

Scott & Liz Cooper
Greenwood, IN

Preston A., Jr & Nancy C. Creech
North Augusta, SC

Sharon Crockett
Rockledge, FL

[Charles] & Ginny Davis
Titusville, FL

Robert Davis
Merritt Island, FL

Debra Divich
Merritt Island, FL

Jill & [Jim] Dooley
Merritt Island, FL

Cynthia Dropeski
Melbourne, FL

Christopher & Heidi DuBach
Jensen Beach, FL

Ron & Christine Ecker
Satellite Beach, FL

Albert & Marie Elebash
Melbourne, FL

Rodger S. Fowler
Merritt Island, FL

Ric & Nancy Garwood
Merritt Island, FL

Julie Gottsche
Speedway, IN

Rep. Tom Goodson
Rockledge, FL

[Bud] & Liz Gravuer
Cocoa, FL

Beth & Dwight Greenberg
Cocoa, FL

[Bobbie Grine]
Tuscaloosa, AL

Bob & Dianne Heidersbach
Cape Canaveral, FL

Christy & Randy Horn
Oviedo, FL

Jerry & Darleen Hunt
Merritt Island, FL

Bill Jelen
Merritt Island, FL

Gene Johnson
Merritt Island, FL

Rocky & Lisa Johnson
Cocoa, FL

Larry Kaczor & Caroline Kaczor
Elliott
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[Al] & Carol Koller,
Jr. Titusville, FL

[Eric Kucera]
Merritt Island, FL

Lynn & Mike Mariotti
Naples, FL

Jeanna & Mike Merrifield
Titusville, FL

[RADM Robert] & Beverly Merrilees
Merritt Island, FL

Joe & Barb Mihelcic
Cocoa Beach, FL

Teresa Moore & Don Nawalany
Cape Canaveral, FL

Cal & Virginia Myer
Naples, FL

[Donald] Ellen Myer
Washington DC

Jamie & Jessica Myer
Los Angeles, CA

Jeff & Cathi Myer
Burlington, MA

Larry & Elva Ostarly
Rockledge, FL

Shelley Parker
Round Rock, TX

Caroline & Jimmy Raleigh
Merritt Island, FL

Jim Ravitch
Merritt Island, FL

Rick & Michele Rohrmann
Cocoa Beach, FL

Hal Row
Mims, FL

Dixie & [Jerry] Sansom
Cocoa, FL

Michael & Susan Schwarz
Port Canaveral, FL

John "Tank" & Rheta Sherman
Cocoa, FL

Dave Spain
Merritt Island, FL

[Yvonne]/Bob Thornton
Titusville, FL

Mark & NancyTomassone
Rockledge, FL

James Trammell
Melbourne, FL

RADM Jim & Kathie Underwood
Merritt Island, FL

Celeno West & Allen McFarland
Cocoa Beach, FL

Rose Marie Wiley
Cocoa Beach, FL

Dr. Elbert [Sonny] & Kay Witt
Melbourne FL

Ed & Lisa Wilson
Satellite Beach, FL

Chuck & Judy Wooderson
Cape Canaveral, FL

Dr. Jess & Bertie Yates
Melbourne, FL

Rebecca (Becky) Zingarelli
Melbourne, 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

☐ Head Lighthouse Keeper	$100
☐ Lighthouse Keeper (Family)	$50
☐ Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual)	$35
☐ Student Lighthouse Keeper	$15

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

☐ Life Membership (Family-2 member)	$1,500
☐ 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 Robyn Clark



Robyn Clark did not hesitate when asked to serve as an officer on the board of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.
She took on the responsibility as the secretary of the board after serving several years as a volunteer in the Keeper's Closet, the lighthouse gift shop. She helps with the Keeper's Closet whenever needed.

It's just a fun thing to do," she said of volunteering at the lighthouse.
The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation is only part of what keeps her busy helping in the community.

Clark, who recently became certified as an emergency medical technician, is also a volunteer at Health First's Cape Canaveral Hospital and Viera Hospital. In addition, she and her husband, Dan, also sing with Brevard Chorale.

They became members of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation in 2015 and soon became volunteers. Dan Clark's full-time job, however, does not allow him enough time to volunteer any longer, though he is always willing to help where he can.
Robyn Clark, who was born and raised in Daytona Beach, has visited some of the nearby lighthouses such as Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse and St. Augustine Lighthouse over the year.

She likes the distinct daymark; the markings each lighthouse has that distinguishes it from others. The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse iron tower daymark consists of black and white alternating horizontal bands with a black lantern room.

"The structures are different," she said. "The day markings are different."
Working in the gift shop gives Robyn the opportunity to speak with visitors to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Many of the visitors are from other states. They often tell her how they enjoyed their visit to the lighthouse.

Museums of Brevard Spotlight—Northern Brevard Historical Museum

The North Brevard Historical Museum preserves and shares the history of Titusville and the surrounding North Brevard area through photographs, artifacts, documents, military memorabilia, school collections, and everyday objects from the community's past. The museum also maintains local research archives and offers educational programs for the community.



The museum also maintains local history archives and reference materials, along with a reading area and children's library. Check the museum's website for upcoming events, educational programs, and workshops. Admission is free. North Brevard Historical Society Inc.
Check out all the other MOB members: Museums of Brevard Inc. – Welcome to the Museums of Brevard





A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words



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