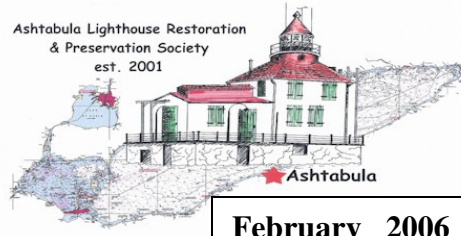


The Beacon

Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society



February 2006

A Message from Our President

This is an exciting time for the Lighthouse Society. The board has completed the second application (five copies) to the GSA for ownership of the lighthouse. This has been a grueling task which we began a year ago. Many many hours have been spent on organizing, collecting, and writing. The application is approximately 100 pages in length and features lots of data as well as photographs and narrative concerning our short and long term plans for the structure and how we hope to utilize it. The government does not make it easy for groups to acquire one of their buildings but we are working with them and will continue to hold fast to our dream. We hope that the second reading of our packet has given the additional information required to satisfy the government to obtain the light. The original application is somewhat vague and each lighthouse is unique, whether a land based light or as in our case, an offshore light. This makes it difficult to understand exactly what information they are requesting; hence the phrase "government red tape." We will do whatever is necessary to give the National Park Service and the General Administration the information they desire to satisfy their requirements.

Unfortunately our weather conditions on the North Coast give us a short period of time in the summer to get crews of workers and supplies to the light to work on the ever growing structural concerns. The continuing deterioration of the light, due to the fact that the Coast Guard has not completed the necessary maintenance, is worrisome to us. We are very anxious to receive the lighthouse and begin the restoration process. We thank you for your support and hope you will renew your membership in the society and become an active participant in this exciting endeavor. Please help us to enlist the support of others by informing your friends of this project. It is very important that our historic landmarks are saved for future generations. The light from the lighthouse was an unwavering beam that brought all back to safe harbor. Thank you again for your continued support.

Joe Santiana, President

Original Lighthouse Painting

Two of our active lighthouse society members, Jan Pallo and Judy Kaminski, have recently received an original painting of the Ashtabula Lighthouse by Art Fronckowiak. Voted *Best Florida Artist* in 1995 and named to *Who's Who in American Art* in 1997, Fronckowiak's distinctive style and technique is immediately recognized throughout the country. The society is so grateful and excited to have this amazing painting. Prints of the painting, as well as note cards, will soon be available to society members.

March Membership Campaign

Enclosed with this newsletter is one of our new brochures. We request that you share this flyer with anyone you believe might be interested in joining the society and working to restore this important historical building. In March you will be receiving your renewal form and we hope that we can continue to count on your support.

Next Lighthouse Society Meeting

Wed. March 8th 2006

Old Coast Guard Station

(East side of Lift Bridge)

7:00 P.M.

Please Attend

Message from Our Vice-President

I am currently working on a number of projects in anticipation of the society acquiring the lighthouse. One of our first obstacles will be the construction of a floating dock as a means of getting onto the structure in a safe and practical manner. We have begun discussions with a few firms concerning the design and structure of the needed floating dock system **CT Consultants, Inc.** located in Willoughby Ohio performed a structural evaluation of the lighthouse in May 2005. This evaluation was done at no cost to the society and took many hours to evaluate the hundreds of pictures taken during the tour and many more to compile this information for the report. An engineering service such as this should have cost the society \$15,000. The society is truly indebted to Mr. Robert Himes and Mr. Ron Champlin and their firm for this invaluable service. I am also analyzing the necessary scope of work and specifications that will be required to repair and reconstruct the concrete crib deck. Since our first tour of the lighthouse in 2002 an appreciable amount of damage has occurred due to the winter winds driving the lake water up onto her deck. Water has seeped into every nook and cranny. When the temperature drops and the water freezes and expands, it causes great destruction to the concrete surfaces. This process continues to grow worse with every passing year and has been neglected by its present owners. We have been in contact with other construction firms from around the Great Lakes soliciting their advice and opinions on the most practical and cost effective way alleviate these problems. These are just a few of the hurdles that we are currently working on!

Lloyd Bogue, Vice-President

New Funds Are Needed

One of the major concerns the society now faces is the tremendous amount of money that will be necessary to restore the lighthouse and make it accessible to interested individuals. At present, the majority of the money in our treasury has been obtained through grants. This will continue to be a major source of income. **HOWEVER**, as a society, we must reach out to individual donors and businesses to help us. We have conducted a Summerfest for the past four years. While this was beneficial in educating the public about the society and the lighthouse, it was not profitable financially. Last year, the society only realized a profit of \$400.00. Another problem was the small number of individual members who were able to donate their time and efforts to this endeavor. After **MUCH** discussion the membership voted to curtail the Summerfest and conduct other fund raising events this year which will not be as "labor intensive."

Thanks to Dr. John DeCato for his generous membership

Merchandise Available

We have t-shirts and mouse pads as well as etched coffee cups, lighthouse water goblets, felt and canvas lighthouse banners, cold beverage cups and caps with the Lighthouse logo, still available. There are a few t-shirts, from last year's festival, also available. Some of these items can be purchased right from our website

www.ashtabulalighthouse.com

New Officers

Election of officers will take place at our general meeting in March. Present officers include: Joe Santiana-President, Lloyd Bogue-Vice President, Lorna Greicius-Secretary, and Debbie Santiana-Treasurer. Our historian is Bob Frisbie. Terms run for two years. Anyone interested in nominating a member or running for office should contact Lorna at 440-964-5009 or lornadoonekdg@alltel.net.

New Lighthouse Society Brochures

Karl Rabeneck, a member of the society has designed a new color double sided society brochure. Karl is the semi-retired President of the Trade Show Group Inc. & TSG Publishing Co. a Pennsylvania corporation that develops funding and communications resources for nonprofit associations and professional societies. WE are so fortunate to have his expertise and enthusiasm. Karl recently printed 100 of these brochures and conducted a test mailing of individuals and businesses at his own expense. We hope to have many more of these well designed brochures printed as a means of encouraging others to join in our mission as well as inform them of the society's goals.

Society Christmas Party

On December 9th the Society held its fourth annual Christmas Party for members and special friends of the society. Special thanks go to Carol Cunningham and Father Miller for all their generous efforts to make the night so special. The decorations and food (especially the chocolate fountain) were really lovely. The society truly appreciates all their hard work. Everyone had a great time!

News on the Lighthouse Light

Bob Frisbie reports that the Ashtabula Marine Museum received a grant of \$10,000 to repair and restore the original lens in the Ashtabula Lighthouse. The light is a 4th Order, Classical, 109 year old Fresnel lens that required the attention of a specialist because of its deteriorated state due to the natural lifespan of some of the materials used in its construction. As this lens is on loan from the United States Coast Guard and one of the stipulations of this agreement is that the museum be responsible for maintaining the lens, lampist James Woodward was called to complete the restoration. Mr. Woodward is one of only four qualified lampists in the U.S. Now that the lens has been stabilized and restored, the museum plans to seek additional funding to make the lens rotate once again.

If you would like to be contacted by email concerning lighthouse/society news

Please send your address to Joe Santiana

straitliner@suite224.net

Happy Birthday to our Lighthouse The existing higher section of the present lighthouse

Was 100 years old in 2005 !

Calling all Ashtabula Keepers

Amy Winger and Bob Frisbie have worked very diligently during the past four years to locate members of the Coast Guard that served as keepers on our lighthouse. Following is a list of those we have been in contact with-many of which are active members of the society. Please contact Amy or Bob if you know of any others.

1881 – 1908 Keeper John Henry Oakley's Great Grandson
1904 - 1907 Keeper Fredrick J. Hartley's Daughter
1940 – 1941 First Assistant Keeper Thomas Baker's Daughter
1938 – 1951 Second Assistant Keeper Werner Meyer's Grandson
1953 - 1953 Keeper Noel (Buck) Price
1954 - 1954 Keeper Al Chance
1954 - ? Keeper Harry Solomon
1957 – 1958 Leonard (Lenny) W. Kucera (Only spent a week at light!)
1957 – 1959 Keeper Neil Barton
1958 – 1959 & Part of 1960 Keeper Eric (Rick) Chalker
1959 - ? Keeper John Parenteau
1958 – 1959 Keeper William (Bill) Knipper
1959 - ? Keeper Jasper M. Henderson's Daughter
1964 – 1968 Keeper John Friend

An Update from Our Lighthouse Queen

I have been very busy with my duties as your 2005 Lighthouse Festival Queen. I participated in parades at the following events in our county: The Conneaut 4th of July Festival, The Ashtabula County Fair, The Kingsville Bicentennial, The Grape Jamboree, and The Ashtabula Christmas Parade. I plan on participating in the Chardon Maple Festival and the Ashtabula Memorial Day Parade which are schedule for this spring. I am also very active in a number of school activities. I am involved in the high school band and choir, the Ashtabula County Choral Music Society, volleyball, and ballet. I also recently earned a part in the Edgewood High School Spring Musical. I want to thank John Rocco from Great Lakes Auto for the use of his cars in the parades. I appreciate all the help Karen Davis and Earl and Kendra Tucker provided for the Christmas parade. I would also like to thank Terry Vincent for all her help during this exciting year. It certainly is one I will never forget.

Thank you, Carey Santiana

July Lighthouse Society Fish Fry

A group of eleven society members, who reside in the south part of our county, recently volunteered to organize a fish fry to benefit the restoration of the lighthouse. It is scheduled for **July 8th at Lakeshore Park**. We are hopeful members will support this endeavor by selling tickets and attending. Additional volunteers would also lighten the work. Lighthouse lemonade, boat rides around the lighthouse, and lighthouse items will be available for purchase. The dinner will run from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the lower pavilion. We also are anticipating that a few of our lightkeepers will speak to the diners about their experiences on the light. Music is also planned.