



SPRING NEWSLETTER

2010

On the Web at
www.CanaveralLight.org



Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Annual Meeting June 12, 2010

Good news

By Bob Merrilees, President

I sent you an information newsletter on February 25, 2010 briefing you on some good news relating to the Lighthouse. This is an update with more positive news on our Foundation's plans in support of the Air Force 45th Space Wing. Cleanup of the lead deposits on the Lighthouse grounds is actively underway and should be completed prior to our Annual Membership Meeting on June 12, 2010. As stated before, you will see improvements at the Lighthouse when you attend the Annual Meeting. The lead will be cleaned up, the grounds re-sodded, and we hope to be able to see the Keepers Cottages foundations. A trailer has been obtained by the Air Force for our Keeper's Closet and will be located on the lighthouse grounds. The trailer will be air conditioned and have a storage area. Restroom facilities will be provided nearby.

Several members of the Board of Directors joined me in a meeting with Colonel Ed Wilson, our new 45th Space Wing Commander and Colonel Andre' Lovett, Vice Wing Commander, on April 14. We had the opportunity to present our plans for restoring the buildings, landscaping and fencing to make the facility look like it did in the 1800's. The plan was enthusiastically received.

Colonel Wilson, who has been selected for Brigadier General and hopefully will be promoted by June, will be our keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting. We congratulate Col Wilson on his selection.

HERE IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP – our Foundation is about to embark on an exciting venture far surpassing anything we have done before. In order to do this successfully, we urge you to renew your membership for the next year. This will be a teamwork project involving our recently increased membership. We will need volunteer help and participation by all of our members. We will be asking you to urge friends, neighbors, and work associates to join our effort. BUT FIRST, we need you to renew NOW. A renewal notice is enclosed with this newsletter. Please respond.

Life on a Lighthouse

By Jim Roche

Most would say living on a Lighthouse is pretty cool and romantic, for me it was down right fun. I am one of only a very few passionate people who was lucky enough to grow up at a Lighthouse. This will be the first in a series of articles about Life on the Lighthouse ending with my experience as an unofficial Keeper of the Light. I say unofficial because in the seventies Lighthouse Keeping gave way to automation. The Lighthouse Keeper was a thing of the past. However the light still needed to be kept. I got my chance to become a keeper in 1981 at Eaton's Neck Light, New York.

I began life on the Cuckold's Lighthouse in a little place called Boothbay Harbor, Maine. The Lighthouse was on 7 acres of granite rock one quarter mile off Cape Newagan, the southern end of Boothbay Harbor. At 3 days old I started life on an offshore light with my parents and another couple. From the start, both my parents knew what my destiny was going to be, a boatswains mate in the Coast Guard. The engine box of the 40 footer, the Turtle back of the 44 Footer and the Fog signal all were of the greatest comfort. The safest place for a high energy, fearless and adventurous little tyke was the 15 foot Peapod, the Lighthouse's service boat, or the family boat. As I got older the adventure began, keeping mom and dad on their toes. I hope you enjoy Life on a Lighthouse.



We encourage our members to share your Lighthouse stories in the Newsletter. If you have stories about the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse or another Lighthouse you've visited, please mail a 250 word story to: CCLF; P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Membership Report—by Yvonne Thornton

Our Membership was doubled at the November Lobster Fest and we now have 540 + members. We want that number to increase and hope all of you will renew at, or before our Annual Membership Meeting which is scheduled for June 12, 2010.

CCLF WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

Lighthouse Keepers

Michael & Joyce Hager
J. Ben Smegelsky

Assistant Lighthouse Keeper

Marjorie Braxton

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Saturday, June 12

This is a meeting and trip to the lighthouse you will not want to miss! Your support as a member has helped the Foundation reach many of its goals. This year you will be privileged to be one of the first to see the recently exposed foundations and walkways that were used by the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Keepers **from 1894 to 1967.**

Excavation of the lead paint contamination is now in progress. This project will allow us to see where the homes of the Keepers were located. Also, the walkways that were used daily will be exposed showing us where they walked throughout the property surrounding the lighthouse.

The 2010 Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 12 from **11:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

Submit your reservations by **May 10 and receive a \$5.00 coupon** toward any item at the Keeper's Closet. The Membership Renewal form and envelope are enclosed. **Deadline for registration is May 31.**

Registration will be held at the Space Florida Building on Poseidon Road at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Remember to bring your beautiful blue Membership Card as it will be your name tag. A vinyl holder will be provided to display your name tag. New members will receive their Membership Cards at the Cape Café Membership Desk.

Buses will board from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Space Florida Building. You will be transported to the CCAFS Cape Café where you will have an opportunity to meet the new 45th Space Wing Commander Col. Ed Wilson after he welcomes the Foundation members. A slide presentation of old Lighthouse photographs and early Cape Canaveral residents will be given by Dr. Sonny Witt. Our Keeper's Closet Gift Shop will be open featuring many new items.

Lunch will be served at the Cape Café. The cost will be \$5.00 per person. Please include this amount with your Membership renewal fee.

Buses will transport us to the Lighthouse to take photos and climb to the 3rd level. You will have an awesome view of the Keepers' Cottages foundations and the walkways!

We are looking forward to a super day and want you to be there to share in the fun and history.

The renewal form is attached for your convenience. Please complete and mail by **May 10** to receive your \$5.00 Keeper's Closet coupon. Please have your Social Security Number and photo I.D. when you arrive at the Registration Desk, as this is an Air Force requirement to gain access to the Cape.

Cape Canaveral
Lighthouse Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1978
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

New Volunteer Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Volunteer Coordinator to handle all Lighthouse events. Eric Kucera has been a loyal and active member since 2003 and is looking forward to working with all of us. The upcoming Annual Meeting will require a large number of volunteers for the following areas:

Registration Table (at Space Florida Building)

Check-In & Handouts (at Cape Cafeteria)

Parking (directing traffic to park cars at the Space Florida Building parking lot)

Bus Escorts (badged personnel to ride buses from Space Florida Building to Cape Café to lighthouse to Space Florida Building)

Setup and Take Down Food Service and Clean-up

Security at Lighthouse

If you can lend a hand in any of these areas, please let Eric know. He can be reached at (321) 452-6660 or kucerae@yahoo.com

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Sonny Witt, our Air Force Advisor to the Foundation Board has written a book entitled "*DRAWN TO THE LIGHT*". His book depicts the Lighthouse and the history of Cape Canaveral. This is an historically factual work and will be ready for sale by June 12. Also, Dr. Witt will be available for signing his new book.

If you wish to receive your Newsletter by email please send your email address to bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com The Newsletter is also on our website at www.CanaveralLight.org