



the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.
www.floralighthouses.org

Presidents Message

Dear Fellow Lighthouse Enthusiasts,

It is with a great deal of humility that I take the reins as your leader for the next two years. Thank you for placing your confidence in me. Hopefully, your confidence will be rewarded.

This is an exciting time in the history of our association. I sincerely believe we are on the threshold of something very good. We will have opportunities to influence the destiny of our lighthouses more than at any time in our past. We must seize the moment and take the next step.

For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting at Ponce Inlet in October, I would like to summarize what I told the group there.

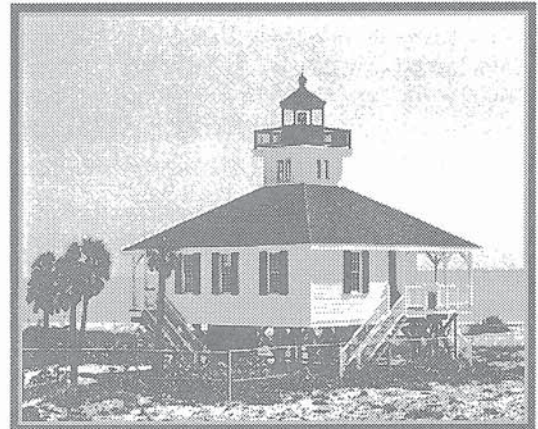
I am not Tom Taylor. I don't have Tom's education and knowledge. I am not Wayne Hawes. I don't have Wayne's personality and energy level. I do, however, have Tom's vision and Wayne's passion. I have a vision of the status to which all of our lighthouses should aspire and I see clearly how we should develop as an organization. Also, I have an intense desire to achieve positive results.

I have stated my vision for our Association as follows: **To ensure Florida's lighthouses are available for future generations to admire and study.** That vision can be attained by accomplishing three major objectives: 1) preserve our lighthouses through restoration and maintenance, 2) become an activist organization on behalf of our lighthouses, and 3) educate the public on lighthouses and lighthouse issues. Sound familiar? They are the principles upon which we were founded.

In my view, each of these objectives has as its foundation four primary cornerstones – funding, influence, publicity and education. These are the goals we will pursue in our quest to become the effective organization we desire to be. It is my intention that every activity we undertake will have one of these objectives at its core. Any activity directed at something other than one of these goals is wasted effort.

Finally, my earnest appeal to you is to get involved – volunteer. The activities in which our organization gets involved will be dependent on the commitment of our membership. I firmly believe that every member brings value to our organization. We will only be as successful as our willingness to work for our lighthouses. There is a place for you. Let us help you find it.

Gene - See you at Boca Grande in January 2005!



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Happy Holidays!

4th QUARTERLY MEETING - 2004 - OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Date: October 9, 2004
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Ponce Inlet, Florida

President Wayne Hawes called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. He thanked all present for their attendance and extended additional thanks to Gayle and Dennis Stemas for planning the meeting. Wayne also expressed his best wishes for all who had experienced the devastation of the recent hurricanes.

Ellen Henry of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse welcomed all to Ponce. She described what to expect as to the tours, including the 2:30 lens demonstration by the keepers in costume.

Wayne Hawes then announced the attendance of special guests, family members of FLA past President and co-founder, Tom Taylor. He introduced Kay Taylor, Tom's sister, Jean Taylor, his mother, and his close family friend, Gail Swanson. Ms. Swanson, in addition to being a friend of Tom's, also worked as an historian with Tom and on behalf of his works. Kay Taylor presented a special program regarding Tom by sharing the moving eulogy she wrote and gave at his funeral services. Photos of Tom were on display as well. The presentation was very moving as tribute was paid to Tom. Wayne then called for a moment of silence in memory of Tom.

Wayne Hawes then introduced and welcomed the new **FLA Secretary, Linda Kalpin.** There was no reading of the Past Minutes because this was the first meeting Linda has served in this capacity.

George Diller, FLA Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report and advised that the St. Augustine Lighthouse has agreed to allow the FLA to use the St. Augustine mailing address as the official business address for the FLA as of October 1, 2004. Please mark all FLA mail "Attention: FLA". The new address is 81 Lighthouse Avenue, St. Augustine FL 32080.

Vice President Kathy Fleming, was not present and no Vice President's report was given.

Vice President of Membership, Linda Koestel gave the membership report.

Gayle Stemas, Vice President - Special Projects, gave a report on future meetings. Gayle asked that everyone use the website to remain informed of any changes that may occur regarding meetings as Tim VeArd, always keeps things current and up to date. Gayle touched on registration forms and asked that they be mailed and not given to anyone to pass on. She spoke about the required deadlines and stressed the importance of honoring same. The help of all was asked for. She went on to describe some of the plans for the upcoming January 15, 2005 meeting to be held at the Boca Grande Lighthouse. The majority of information has been delayed due to the hurricanes and she hopes to have the meeting information posted on the Association's website very soon. Registration forms will be available for those who would like to attend this meeting. This meeting will be organized a little differently in that lunch will be enjoyed first, followed by a sunset meeting on the gallery with wine and cheese. A lottery will be held for 10 people to go up into the Lantern Room of this light.

The April 2005 quarterly meeting will be held at St. Marks with the assistance of Barbara Revell. Please check the website. Membership will be limited to 65 attending due to limited space and the fire codes, so please plan to submit your reservations for this meeting early.

The meeting sites for the July and October 2005 have not yet been decided.

David Hanco, Photographic and Archives Committee Chairperson, was not able to attend the meeting and therefore no report was given. Wayne advised all that the plans for the photo contest have been postponed until next year. All were encouraged to participate and all photos submitted to date will automatically be held over and entered in the contest next year. Please check the website for more details as to how to enter the contest.

Tim VeArd, Co-Chairperson of the Website Committee along with his wife, Lynda, gave his report next. Tim went into detail about the new changes he intends to make and will provide a massive upgrade and overhaul of the site. He may be able to have your information on the website for on-line polling, auto email on activities, etc. and is working very hard to provide this informative website with new goodies. Watch the site over the next few months for a "face lift". The FLA is grateful for all of the time and work Tim and Lynda provide on the website and they were thanked by all.

Co-Chairpersons of the Education Committee, Dianne Levi and Hib Casselberry, gave their reports on the progress they are making with the schools in Broward County and their efforts to try to promote private schools to compete in the history fairs. Dianne reported that Escambia County schools were hard hit from Hurricane Ivan so the fair may not be conducted there this year.

Flash Editor, Rick Mau, was not present at the meeting. Regardless, Wayne Hawes thanked him for a fantastic job in getting the *Flash* put together. Wayne asked that submissions to the *Flash* could be made by contacting Rich at the email address on the FLA website, Flash@FloridaLighthouses.org. Wayne encouraged all lighthouses to provide reports to Rick for the newsletter and made available to the website.

Geneva Hopkins, Chairperson of the License Tag Committee was not present, so Gene Oakes reviewed the history of the tag and brought all present current on the status by reviewing the progress made over the last six months. Gene gave details of the structure of the plate and presented the design that was adopted by the committee. The design was painted by Bill Trotter of Jacksonville Beach. Cape Florida was used as the model and the slogan to be used on the plate will be "saveourlights.com". Tim VeArd already has this URL up and running so please take the time to check it out. Gene then gave the details with regard to the requirements and costs of obtaining the tag as well as how those costs are to be paid. Gene wanted all to know that donations are tax deductible and commented that chances of a waiver of these costs were small. He stated that lighthouses draw tourists and his tactic for raising legislative interest is to help the legislature recognize how the lighthouses

can assist in resurrecting the State's tourist industry which is currently suffering as a result of the hurricanes.

Wayne then turned the meeting over to **Mike Hancock and Ken Siebel, Co-Chairpersons of the Nominating Committee.** Mike presented their nominations:

President –
Gene Oakes
Vice President –
Eric Sharp
Treasurer –
George Diller
Secretary –
Linda Kalpin
VP Events –
Dennis and Gayle Stemac
VP Membership –
Diana Locke
VP Fund Raising –
Charley and Lottie Knox
District 1 Commissioner-at-Large –
Hib Casselberry
District 2 Commissioner-at-Large –
Rick Schulze
District 3 Commissioner-at-Large –
Richard Johnson
District 4 Commissioner-at-Large –
Dianne Levi

Rip Puls moved for the nominations to be closed, which was seconded from the floor, thereby resolving that said nominees take the prospective offices for 2004/2005. The new Officers and Board Members then came forward to be introduced to the Membership.



Reports for the following Lighthouses were given:

1. Anclote Key - Rip Puls
2. Egmont Key - Richard Johnson
3. Mayport - Ronald Scheibler
4. St. Augustine - Ray Hamel
5. Carrabelle - Barbara Revell
6. Cedar Key - David D'Amicol
7. Hillsboro Light - Hib Casselberry
8. Jupiter - George Blanck
9. Crooked River - Barbara Revell
10. Pensacola - Dianne Levi
11. St. Marks Lights - Dianne Levi
12. St. Joe's Point - Dianne Levi
13. Cape San Blas - Dianne Levi
14. Cape St. George - Gene Oakes
15. Reef Lights - Richard Schultz
16. Key West - Richard Schultz
17. Dry Tortugas - Richard Schultz
18. Garden Key - Richard Schultz
19. Loggerhead Key - Richard Schultz
20. Rebecca Shoals - Richard Schultz
21. Cape Canaveral - George Diller

All reports were submitted to be filed with the Minutes and made a part hereof. All reports are to be submitted for the website as well.

Guest Speaker Elinor DeWire was announced by Wayne Hawes and she presented her fascinating program on "Women in the Lighthouse Service". Elinor dedicated her new book *Florida Lighthouses for Kids* to the memory of past FLA President, Tom Taylor. Elinor is also the author of *Boston Light*, *Twin Lights of Plymouth Mass.*, *Robbins Reef Light*, *New York Harbor*, and others, all of which were offered for sale at the meeting site.

Wayne Hawes then handed the meeting over to newly elected FLA President Gene Oakes, who presented Wayne with a plaque for his service as President. Gene then touched on his expectations of the FLA and presented his vision of what the FLA is about and shared some of the goals that he intended to pursue as President of the FLA.

Lunch was served and the meeting was then adjourned at 1:00 p.m

Specialty License Plate Committee Report

The Specialty License Plate Committee continues to make progress. The committee recently submitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles our Notice of Intent to pursue a specialty license plate. This action puts us "on record" with the state. By submitting the Notice of Intent, we are now locked into the current requirements for obtaining a specialty license plate. Regardless of future actions to make the requirements more stringent, we are obligated only to the requirements currently in force.

In response to the requirement to identify the use of revenue accruing from sales of our license plate, the following statement was included in our notice: "Our goal is to establish a consistent source of funding to 1) restore the lighthouses to their original and historically correct condition, 2) ensure regular maintenance of same, 3) provide quality museums and exhibits to explain the history, purpose and operation of lighthouses in Florida, and 4) ensure

that the public has as much access to Florida's lighthouses as is permissible within safety and national security measures."

The last remaining hurdle is the funding for the project. The cost for obtaining a Specialty License Plate is significant. The Committee continues to seek potential corporate sponsors. We have applied for donations from nationally known corporations but have not met with success to-date. The Committee would welcome suggestions from the membership regarding potential donors and fund raising ideas.

In addition, we will begin to formulate plans to obtain funds through normal fund raising activities. If you have not done so, please visit www.saveourlights.com to learn how you can contribute. The Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership regarding potential donors and fund raising ideas

Fund raising has begun!

Please make a contribution to the FLA Florida Specialty License Plate Fund using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed with this issue of the FLA Flash.

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION - QUARTERLY MEETING

Boca Grande Lighthouse – January 15, 2005

“LET IT SHINE”

The first meeting of the *Florida Lighthouse Association* for 2005 will be held at the Boca Grande Lighthouse on Gasparilla Island on January 15. This meeting will be very special in that we will be celebrating the sole reason that lighthouses were built – *to shine in the night*. In breaking with tradition, we will not start our program until noon, but we will end our day on the porch of the lighthouse at sunset with wine and cheese and offer a toast to the light as it begins to shine for the night. (Sunset is at 5:56 p.m.) Access to the lantern room is extremely limited due to size and time constraints, so we will be having a lottery drawing that will allow 10 fortunate winners to participate in an escorted trip into the tower.

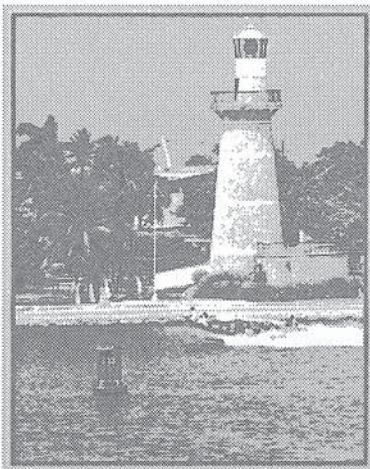
Our luncheon will be at the South Beach Restaurant on Gasparilla Island with its spectacular views of the Gulf of Mexico.

Our meeting will be at the restored Amory Memorial Chapel, which is just a few hundred yards North of the lighthouse. Strict fire codes allow an absolute maximum of 70 people in the building; therefore we will be limiting the total number of registrants to **65** to allow for our invited guests and speakers. To avoid disappointment, please **register early** and don't be a "walk-up" as there will be no extra room

available. During the meeting, we are fortunate to have as our guest speakers Robert W. Johnson who is a 3rd generation harbor pilot and Dian Miller, former keeper Cody McKeithan's daughter. A Coast Guardsman will also discuss the history of the rear range light. There will be two break periods during the day to allow for navigation from one location to another and use of the facilities.

The Gasparilla Island Light is located nearby. It is a white, cast iron skeletal tower with a central cylinder with a 250mm optic. It was originally built in 1881 and served as the Delaware Breakwater Rear Range Light. It was discontinued in 1918, and then disassembled in 1921. It was later reassembled in its present location. There was never a keeper's house in this location; the keeper of the Boca Grande Light also tended this light. This light served as the Boca Grande Entrance Rear Range Light until 2003, when its name was officially changed to Gasparilla Island Light. Courtesy of the US Coast Guard, this light will be open at 10:30 am. Due to its deteriorating condition, we will NOT be able to climb.

The Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority charges \$4.00 per vehicle to cross over to the island. There is also a park entrance fee of \$2.00 per car. The cost of the luncheon, wine and cheese celebration, and donation to Boca Grande Lighthouse and facility rental fees will be \$30. per person.



Florida's lighthouses are well represented on the Internet at sites besides the FLA's own. Try these for representative samples.

<http://lighthousegetaway.com/lights/florida.html>

<http://users.erols.com/lthouse/home.htm>

<http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/lighthouse/fl.htm>

http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/lighthouse/news/fl_news.html

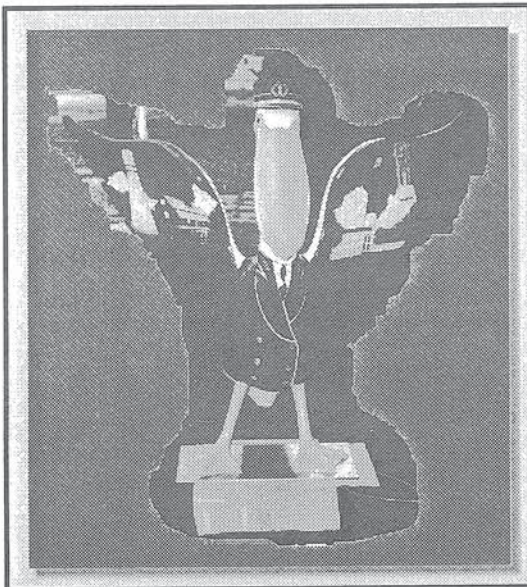
(This one references Gasparilla (Boca Grande))

Speaker Bio's – *Dian Miller and Robert Johnson were childhood friends at Port Boca Grande known locally as South Dock. Our program will engage Dian and Robert in a trip down memory lane.*

Dian McKeithen Miller is the second of two daughters to Lighthouse Keeper Cody McKeithen who served at Port Boca Grande Lighthouse from 1941 – 1951. Dian was three years of age, her sister Joyce eight, when they moved from the Egmont Key Light Station (at the mouth of Tampa Bay), with their mother Viola, and father Cody, for his new tour of duty at the Gasparilla Island Light Station (as it was officially called back then). Dian's memories of the lighthouse as her home are rich and have influenced her way of life to this day. After Cody's retirement, from the Light House Division of the U.S. Coast Guard, the McKeithens moved to Sarasota, where Dian met her husband, Richard 'Dick' Miller, who shares her love of the water (SCUBA, shelling and fishing) and nature in general (backpacking in the mountains and animal photography). After raising four children and Dick's retirement from the Sarasota Police Dept., the Millers have traveled from Atlantic to Pacific, across the U.S. and Canada, visiting and photographing many lighthouses. According to Dian, "All lighthouses are beautiful in their own way, but none can compare to the beauty of that 'Great Lady' on Gasparilla Island," known today as Port

Boca Grande Lighthouse. Cody McKeithen passed away in October of 1960, Viola in September 1995. Daughters Joyce Kuhl and Dian Miller both currently live in Sarasota.

Robert W. Johnson was born in 1938, not in the shadow of Gasparilla Island Light, but in the loom of the light about 1,000 feet to the north. He grew up on the south end of the island. His parents became friends with lighthouse keeper Cody McKeithen and his family shortly after their arrival in 1941. Carey Johnson, Robert's father, was a Port Boca Grande Harbor Pilot, so it was only natural that a Johnson/McKeithen friendship would evolve. Robert graduated from Boca Grande High School in 1956 and attended three years of college. After marrying island-girl Roberta Presley in 1959, he began the required 4-year Pilot Apprenticeship and in 1964 became a Harbor Pilot at the Port. In doing so, he followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather going back to 1888. Robert continued his duties as Harbor Pilot through 1979 when the last phosphate ship departed Port Boca Grande. He became licensed for the port of Key West in 1984 where he plied his trade until retirement. Robert and Roberta's Boca Grande home is the historic Quarantine Station House built in 1895, which was restored in 1995 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



"The Pelicans have Landed"

Project by Gordon Levi for the Pensacola News Journal project of the same name. The left wing depicts the Pensacola lighthouse in 1824. The right wing shows the Pensacola light built in 1858-59.

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION - QUARTERLY MEETING

Boca Grande Lighthouse – January 15, 2005

Agenda – Saturday, January 15, 2005

- 10:30 Rear Range Lighthouse Open for viewing
 11:30 Meeting Registration at South Beach Restaurant
 12:00 Lunch
 1:30 Break
 2:00 FLA meeting at Amory Memorial Chapel with lottery drawing
 4:30 Break
 5:00 *Let It Shine* celebration at the lighthouse

Hotels

Inlet Boatel

- 25 doubles at \$125/night double occupancy
- 8 efficiencies with kitchen at \$145/night
- 941-964-2294

Uncle Henry's Marina

- 14 dbls at \$157/night double occupancy
- 941-964-2300

Days Inn of Englewood

- 2540 S. McCall Rd.
- Englewood
- 800-887-5412

Englewood Beach and Yacht Club

- 1815 Gulf Blvd.
- Englewood
- 941-474-7761

Englewood Lighthouse Resort

- 784 S. McCall Rd.
- Englewood
- 941-270-1254

Island House On The Beach

- 2580 N. Beach Rd.
- Englewood
- 941-474-5019

Englewood Chamber of Commerce

- englewoodchamber.com
- 800-603-7198

Member Survey for October FLA membership meeting

CRUISE SURVEY

We are considering the possibility of a 4-night cruise for our October, 2005 meeting rather than having the traditional quarterly meeting. The cruise would be to the Caribbean and depart from a central Florida port. At present, the pricing per person would be in the \$350 range but subject to change upon final confirmation of the cruise package. We need to know if there is an interest in this type of event. Please include your survey response with the registration form for the January meeting. If you are not attending the January meeting, please mail this survey so your opinion can be included. (For planning purposes, please indicate the # of expected cabins onboard. Please remember this response does NOT constitute a reservation.)

_____ YES, I am interested in the cruise

_____ NO, I am not interested in the cruise

The Florida Lighthouse Reports

A. Amelia Island. No New Report.

B. St. Johns. No New Report.

C. St. Augustine. No New Report.

D. Ponce Inlet. No New Report.

E. Cape Canaveral. No New Report.

F. Jupiter. See Lighthouse News on page x.

G. Hillsboro Inlet. No New Report.

H. Cape Florida. No New Report.

I. Reef Lights. Condition of the Florida Keys Lighthouses By Rick Schulze, President FKRLF, District II Commissioner FLA

The lights of the Florida Keys cover the area from Key Biscayne all the way to Fort Jefferson. I have made contact with the US Coast Guard, Aids to Navigation Team both from Miami District and Key West District. I was able to get up-to-date information on the physical condition the lights. Modern variable rotating beacons called VRB 25 or VEGA lights serve all the lighthouses involved. Additionally I contacted the rangers of the National Park Service at Everglades National Park and the Ranger in charge of Fort Jefferson. The 2004 hurricane season has been very damaging

to some of lower keys lights and others have suffered heavy damage from the environment and advancing age.

I will be giving you a written perspective starting at Cape Florida Light and ending with the Dry Tortugas lights, of which there are three.

Cape Florida -- As with the rest of South Florida we have been very lucky that this jewel in our inventory has escaped damage. As many of us know the beauty of the recent restoration has not been diminished and is enjoyed by countless tourists and devotees alike.

Fowey Rocks -- This light has in my opinion the most unique design of any of the six iron screw- pile lights that dot the reefs from 4-7 mile off shore. It has a Victoria designed keeper's quarter and clearly has the most personality. While I have no specific information on the interior of the quarters it is said to be in relatively good shape. The working gear has been stripped away. There is rust damage to the exterior structure due to the failure of the paint coating.

Carriesfort -- This light is in the same general condition as Fowey Rocks except for the steel flooring which comprises the first floor. There is heavy rust damage to the flooring plates and in some places it is too dangerous to walk on.

Alligator Reef -- The stairs are rusted and minor corrosion can

be seen on the platform and the walkway around the exterior of the lantern room. In 1990 repairs were done to the landing structure. The main body of the light is in good condition.

Sombrero Key -- On May 12, 1998 the exterior of the structure was repainted and repaired. In the period since that time only minimal rust damage has been seen. There was also some repairs done to the interior and the light is in good condition.

American Shoals -- Extensive repairs were done to both the interior and exterior of this light in late 2003 and early 2004. Many FLA members lucky enough to have been on the boat tour with me witnessed this transformation first hand.

Sand Key -- In 1989 an extensive restoration was nearing completion when workers left paint and solvents stored inside without proper ventilation. Tragically this resulted in a fire that started spontaneously. The result was the complete destruction of the keeper's quarters and the light structure itself. It stood crippled and inoperative until 1995 repairs were made to stabilize the structure when the keeper's quarters were removed as well as the stairway tube to the lantern room. On February 22, 1999 the US Coast Guard started work on the lantern room to make an active aid to navigation again. This put the structure back in good condition again even though the profile is

drastically changed from the original.

Key West Light -- While no damage was sustained from the three hurricanes we Floridians have had to endure there was great financial damage from lack of revenue. The entire museum and gift shop had to be packed and taken to secure storage. The cost of board-up and removal for the three storms was very expensive. The lighthouse and museum make 90% of their revenue from gift shop sales and only 10% from ticket sales. This has made for a very difficult year indeed. There is a bright side though. Several grants have been approved and will enable new lighting to be installed in the museum. In January or February there will be the addition of live interpretations of the exhibits. The museum will also be tented as there has been damage done by termites. As you can see the future is bright for Key West and a brand new experience for visitors to the light. Interested members can contact Claudia Pennington for information at 305 853-1620 and at www.kwahs.com/lighthouse.

Loggerhead Key Light -- The structure is showing its age from a deteriorated paint coating system. The light itself was not damaged but the dock and the kitchen area were heavily damaged in Charley.

Tennessee Reef

Observations made by US Coast Guard Teams out in the field show that that the structure is in fair condition. There is 20% erosion on the waterline of the lighthouse and in the lantern room there are numerous bullet holes. Throughout the structure there is minimal corrosion due

to the failing paint coating system.

Molasses Reef Light "10" -- Due to the failing paint coating system there is a substantial amount of corrosion throughout the lighthouse. At the water line there is 25-30% of erosion at the base legs.

Northwest Passage Lighthouse & Tortugas Harbor -- I was not able to get any information on these structures. I will try to obtain their condition in the near future.

Rebecca Shoals Lighthouse -- It was reported that this lighthouse has been destroyed by storm surge in Hurricane Charley. The degree of damage was not contained in the report.

Dry Tortugas Lighthouse -- On November 19, 2003 United States Coast Guard made a formal request to have a structural engineer visit the lighthouse for an evaluation of its current condition due the continuing deterioration. Discrepancies noted on the request were; cupola door is 90% eroded, roof of cupola damaged due to numerous lightning strikes, catwalk cracked in numerous places, stairs within the lighthouse are supported by all-thread rods due to the complete failure of the preexisting support system. The entire structure needs to be sand blasted and painted. To date, no work has begun. The Coast Guard is working with the National Park Service on an agreement to turn over the structure to the Park Service while the Coast Guard will maintain the lighting equipment. The process is still in the works

and no official transfer has taken place as of yet.

Dry Tortugas Anchorage Light and Fort Jefferson, Garden Key - I was able to get current information from Mr. Bob Howard of the National Park service at Everglades National Park. He referred me to the ranger in charge at Fort Jefferson Mr. Mike Ryan. Ranger Ryan and his staff rode out "CHARLEY" at the fort. He said, " It's the safest place in Florida". The walls are 45ft. tall and 8ft. thick. They have provisions on site for three months or more should they become marooned in situations like this.

Fort Jefferson and Garden Key are protected from storm surge by extensive reef that surrounds it. There was heavy damage to the mote wall during Charley. All the trees on the Key were stripped or torn out all together. The service docks were destroyed and the main dock was damaged enough that the fort was closed to the public for three weeks. The damage that can be seen on the lighthouse itself is not from Charley. Garden Key was hit by a tornado in July. The watch room windows and sashes were ripped out and are now boarded up. Repairs to all the effected areas of the Fort and lighthouse were to have begun the last week of October and are presumed to be under way at this time. Anyone interested in the website for Fort Jefferson can view it at www.nps.gov.drto and the telephone number for the National Park Service at Everglades National Park is, 305 242-7700.

Further information can be obtained from the following sources:

USCG Miami:
Lt. Smiley, 305 415 6737
Mr. Charley Panalakas, 305 415-6739

USCG Miami Aids to Navigation Team:
MK-1 Chad Lavato, Engineering
Patty Officer

USCG Key West Aids to Navigation Team:
BM Chief, Jason Griffin

US Park Service, Everglades National Park:
Mr. Bob Howard, 305 293-0152

Fort Jefferson, Garden Key National Park:
Ranger in Charge, Mike Ryan,
305 242-7700

I hope this information has given all of our members a better picture of our beloved lighthouses and will spur you investigative interest.

J. Key West. See Reef Lights report above.

K. Sanibel Island. No New Report.

L. Port Boca Grande. No New Report.

M. Boca Grande Rear Range Light. No New Report.

N. Egmont Key. No New Report.

O. Anclote Key. No New Report.

P. Cedar Keys. No New Report.

Q. St. Marks. No New Report.

R. Crooked River. No New Report

S. Cape San Blas. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Wednesday, October 6, 2004, on site at Cape San Blas to begin the restoration of the Keepers' Quarters affectionately known as "Sleeping Beauty". The lease agreement from the US Air Force was presented during the ceremony. Work will begin shortly on the project.

T. Cape St. George. No New Report.

U. St. Joseph. No New Report.

V. Pensacola. No New Report.



Incoming FLA President Gene Oakes acknowledges the service of Past President Wayne Hawes with the presentation of a plaque at the Ponce meeting in October.

Newsorthy Lighthouse Notes

Dry Tortugas Trip Report – Eric Sharp

On July 17, 2004, the third Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association for 2004 was held aboard the Sunny Days "Fast Cat II." At 8:00 AM 75 members of the Florida Lighthouse Association boarded the Fast Cat to begin an exciting day of lighthouseing.

Our journey began with a 2-hour ride across a very smooth Gulf of Mexico. The wind was light and the sky was partly cloudy, in other words a perfect day to visit Ft Jefferson and the lighthouse located on Garden Key.

Upon our arrival on Garden Key, park ranger Mike Ryan, who would conduct our tour of the fort and lighthouse, met us. Mike welcomed us to the island and then escorted us across the moat and into the fort. He then began to tell the history of the first lighthouse that was built on Garden Key in 1825. This tower, which was 65 feet in height, was the first permanent structure in the Dry Tortugas. The light was first lighted on July 4th 1226, which also happened to be the day Thomas Jefferson died. This is an interesting coincidence, as it would be the construction of the fort named after President Jefferson that would render the original tower useless. The original tower was torn down after it was damaged in a hurricane in 1873, and today all that remains is the foundation, which is visible inside the fort as a concrete and brick circle.

Mike then escorted the group into one of the forts gunrooms. There he told of the history of the forts construction and the never-ending problems that faced the soldier and construction crews. One problem was the lack of fresh water. Another was the fact that the island itself was not as stable as the engineers thought and this resulted in the fort never being completed. He told of the day-to-day activities of the fort and it's use as a prison during the Civil War. Of course we all wanted to hear the story of Dr. Mudd, and his actions as he was held prisoner for setting the foot of John Wilkes Booth. So Mike escorted us up to the second level of the fort and showed us the room that was used as Dr. Mudd's cell.

Afterwards Mike led us up to the top tier of the fort and out onto the top of the fort through the base of the current lighthouse. Outside on the parapet is one of the finest views one can see. Here Mike told use of the history of the current light and a little of the history of the other islands in the Dry Tortugas.

The Current Dry Tortugas Lighthouse was constructed in 1874, and was used to mark the harbor for the fort. It's job as a light for the shipping channel had been taken over by the Loggerhead Key lighthouse on July 1, 1858. In 1912 a fire that started in the keepers outhouse destroyed the keeper's house, his kitchen, the army barracks, and the other buildings on the lighthouse reservation. After the fire the light was automated and finally discontinued in 1921.

Mike's wife Nicky, then open the tower and we were allowed to climb it in groups of ten. Nicky commented that most people could not get into the lantern room as it has an extremely small entrance, but that she would open it up to allow visitors to look inside. This author must say that she was quite right about it being hard to get into, but as I never turn down a chance to climb into a lantern room, I must admit that I was the first person to enter.

After the tour of the light was finished, "Sunny Days" provided a lite lunch of sandwiches and chips. As members of the FLA set under swaying palm trees eating their sandwiches, 2 navy F-14s were engaging in mock combat over the area. After lunch was over everyone was free to explore the island or go swimming in the crystal clear waters of the Gulf. Of course ranger Mike opened the gift shop for the group and was promptly swamped by a stampede of lighthouse nuts looking for the lighthouse passport stamp, and other nautical goodies.

As it always does, all good things must come to an end and about 1:30 we were all back aboard the Fast Cat, to begin our journey back to Key West, but we still had a couple of stops to make before we were done. Just 3 miles from Garden Key sits Loggerhead Key. On Loggerhead Key stands a beautiful 150-foot tall lighthouse. This light is built

from the same plans as the lighthouses at Pensacola, and Cape Lookout NC, all three were built in the 1857-1859 time frame. Loggerhead light was damaged during the same hurricane in 1873 that forced the replacement of Garden Key Light, but while the lighthouse board repeatedly asked for funds to replace it, all congress would approve were funds for temporary repairs to be made. As the tower is still standing today, it would seem that those temporary repairs were well thought out and executed.

Our Captain got us as close to the key as he could and then stopped the boat for about ten minutes for the photo bugs in the group to snap pictures to their hearts content. As we watched the islands disappear in the distance behind us the last thing we would see was the tall tower on Loggerhead Key. One

could get an idea of how lonely a post this must have been before the fort was constructed, and latter after the army abandoned the islands back to the birds and turtles. As we approached Key West from the west, the captain of the Fast Cat swung a little ways south of the key so that our members could get a close-up photo op of Sand Key Light. After about ten minutes here the Fast Cat finally made for Key West and the end of our trip, but not the end of our adventure.

Our last stop for the day was the Key West Lighthouse. The group at the Lighthouse was kind enough to stay open after their normal hours and allow members of the FLA to tour the grounds and climb the tower for free. Of course this author is sure that the gift shop was probably empty by the time the last member if the FLA left.

Lighthouse Park in Jupiter transferred to the town:

Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton was in Jupiter on October 20, 2004 to formally transfer a land patent to the town for Lighthouse Park. Prior to the formal transfer, Gale A. Norton, Congressmen Mark Foley and E. Clay Shaw climbed the 105-step Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse for an educational tour provided by the staff of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, which manages and operates the Lighthouse.



Photograph shows from left to right: Jamie Stuve, Executive Director of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society; Mike Nedd, Eastern States Director with the Bureau of Land Management; E. Clay Shaw, Jr., U.S. Congressman; Gale A. Norton, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; Mark Foley, U.S. Congressman; Bruce Dawson, Field Manager with BLM; and U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Brian Leavy.

Florida History Fair 2004-05 dates

Let us save Florida's historic lighthouses and enlighten our children of their heritage !

Visit <http://www.flheritage.com/museum/programs/historyfair/> for an overview of the program.

Important dates are Jan. 14, March 25, April 1, April 8, May 5-7, 2005 for the State contest.

The National Contest is June 12-16, 2005.

Each Jr. & Sr. High Schools, each county coordinator, AND EACH LIGHTHOUSE needs to act on these dates.

Florida Lighthouse Association

81 Lighthouse Avenue

St. Augustine, FL 32080

Phone: (813) 968-5640 Option 3

Fax: (813) 960-2065

www.floridalighthouses.orgEmail: info@floridalighthouses.org**Working to preserve Florida's Lighthouses****Welcome to our new members!**

No report this edition.

NOTICE!**Membership renewals and dues are due in
September.**Membership year is October 1st through September 30th.

Membership Levels and Dues are:

Circle of Light \$1,000 – Watch Room \$250 –

Commissioner \$100 – Inspector \$50

Keeper (Family) \$35 – Assistant Keeper \$25.00

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 Mau, Jupiter Event ©Loxahatchee River Historical Society.

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The *FLA FLASH* is a quarterly publication of the
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 benefit of membership in the organization. The FLA is a
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 preservation of Florida's lighthouses and interprets the
 history and significance of those lighthouses and of
 Florida's unique maritime heritage. For information,
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Dennis & Gayle Stemas, V-P Events

Charlie & Lottie Knox, V-P Fund Raising

Neil E. Hurley, Historian

BOCA GRANDE LIGHTHOUSE
EVENT RESERVATION

Reservation Deadline: January 8, 2005

NAMES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (please print):

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CHOICE OF LUNCH ENTRÉE:

(Includes fries, pickle spear, 1 non-alcoholic beverage with refill, tax and gratuity)

1) Fried Grouper Sandwich total # _____

2) Hamburger - Plain or with cheese total # _____

3) Grilled Chicken Sandwich total # _____

4) Greek Salad with bread total # _____

5) Caesar Salad with shrimp or chicken total # _____

With bread

***** PLEASE CIRCLE CHOICES WHERE APPLICABLE *****

Total number of persons _____ X \$30.pp = _____

Please make your check payable to the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION. Mail this form and your payment to:

Dennis and Gayle Stemas
10847 Duck Hook Ct.
San Antonio, FLORIDA 33576

- We do have a no-refund policy in effect. Receipt of payment confirms reservation.
- All reservations received **after** the deadline will be returned.
- For written confirmation of reservation, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

**GASPARILLA ISLAND
MOTELS**

Inlet Boatel

25 doubles at \$125/night
double occupancy
8 efficiencies with kitchen
at \$145/night
941-964-2294

Uncle Henry's Marina

14 dbls at \$157/night
double occupancy
941-964-2300

**ENGLEWOOD AREA
MOTELS**

Days Inn of Englewood

2540 S. McCall Rd.
Englewood
800-887-5412

**Englewood Beach and
Yacht Club**

1815 Gulf Blvd.
Englewood
941-474-7761

**Englewood Lighthouse
Resort**

784 S. McCall Rd.
Englewood
941-270-1254

**Island House On The
Beach**

2580 N. Beach Rd.
Englewood
941-474-5019

**Englewood Chamber of
Commerce**

englewoodchamber.com
800-603-7198

CRUISE SURVEY

We are considering the possibility of a 4-night cruise for our October, 2005 meeting rather than having the traditional quarterly meeting. The cruise would be to the Caribbean and depart from a central Florida port. At present, the pricing per person would be in the \$350 range but subject to change upon final confirmation of the cruise package. We need to know if there is an interest in this type of event. Please include your survey response with the registration form for the January meeting. If you are not attending the January meeting, please mail this survey so your opinion can be included. (For planning purposes, please indicate the # of expected cabins onboard. Please remember this response does NOT constitute a reservation.)

_____ YES, I am interested in the cruise

_____ NO, I am not interested in the cruise