JANUARY 29-30, 2011 WINTER MEETING

Cape Canaveral, the “Built by Numbers” tower

Ron Ecker, Vice President Meetings/Events is pleased to announce the location for the FLA Winter meeting. The two-day event will be hosted by the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is the only operational lighthouse in the United States that is owned by the United States Air Force. The tower was transferred to Air Force 45th Space Wing ownership in December, 2000, but the optic is still maintained by the Coast Guard.

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is Cape Canaveral’s oldest historic landmark. Built in 1868, it is the only Florida lighthouse constructed of cast iron with a brick lining; the 151-foot tower is made of iron plates bolted together to form seven horizontal bands. In 1886, erosion brought the sea very close to the tower. Over a period of about 8 months, the lighthouse was taken apart and the pieces were placed on a rail cart and pulled by a mule, Nancy Hanks, to a new site 1 mile inland. Today, by looking through the first floor porthole window, the Roman numeral VIII is visible on the post going thru the tower. These numbers were used to piece the tower together after it was moved - hence, “built by numbers”. In 1993, the original 1st order Fresnel lens was removed after it was discovered that strong vibrations from frequent launches was causing damage. The lens is currently housed at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse complex. Restoration of the original oil house was completed in 2003. This is truly a ‘one-of-a-kind’ lighthouse to visit - where else can you see launch pads in one direction and the seemingly unending ocean in the other?

See pages 4 and 5 for all details and page 11 for registration form.
Over the past months I have asked many what you would like to see added to our meetings. You spoke, we listened. The upcoming Cape Canaveral meeting is really a jam packed two day event. Details start on page 4 and registration form is on page 11.

We’ve moved!! Well, not exactly, but we do have a new address and for the first time a phone number. It is printed at the bottom of each page.

In September I spoke at the National Maritime Conference in Baltimore sharing the huge successes our members have had in preserving many of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses in Florida. I also met many folks from around the country, but none as passionate about so many lighthouses as we are.

Congratulations to Pensacola and Ponce Inlet organizations, recent license plate fund grant recipients. These funds will be used as part their ongoing preservation efforts.

Our mission is to help our lighthouse organizations in these efforts. Thanks.

Keep the light shining,
Ken Smith, President FLA

Ken and Dede at Tybee Island Lighthouse

It was a fabulous weekend getaway. We boarded the Amtrak luxury train “Silver Meteor” in Winter Park, FL and rode the rails to Savannah, GA. Along for the ride were several FLA members and other friends. A visit to Tybee and a climb on a Winter’s day were the order of the day.

A hurricane in 1870 brought an interesting “gift” to the residents of Cape Canaveral. The French steamer, Ladona, had the misfortune of running aground stern first, dragging both anchors and with engines going full speed. Her cargo of French boots and shoes, hundreds of them, were gathered by settlers. They were so badly mixed that only one complete pair was found so the settlers wore miss-matched shoes for years -- but they were the finest French shoes that could be found.

Another ship wreck at another time gave the settlers several bolts of white cloth that had narrow blue stripe. Enough cloth was salvaged to provide every resident with new clothes. So, the fashions of that year included lots of shirts and dresses all of white with a blue stripe.
Florida Lighthouse Association Elects New Officers

Left to right, Rip Puls, District 3 Commissioner, Sharon Puls, Assistant Secretary, Terry Kemp, District 4 Commissioner, Stan Beckstrom, Vice President for IT/Web Master, Ken Smith, President, John Kennedy, Treasurer, Eric Martin, Executive Vice President, Linda Peck, Vice President for Membership, Ron Ecker, Vice President for Meetings/Events, and Joyce Hager, District 1 Commissioner. Not pictured, Charlie Knox, Vice President for Fund Raising, Neil Hurley, Historian, Ray Stewart, District 2 Commissioner, Anne Stewart, Education Chair.

New Retail Team

Left to right, Jo Dew, Teri Long and Ken Cutler will be working with Charlie Knox (Vice President for Fund Raising) with product sales.

New Meetings/Events Team

Left to right, Wanda Mayo, Ron Ecker (Vice President for Meetings/Events & team leader) and Sandie Mallett along with Janica Johnson will be planning meetings and other events, starting with the upcoming Cape Canaveral meeting in January.
FLA’s Biggest Meeting Ever To Be Held At Cape Canaveral Lighthouse
January 29 & 30, 2011

Our meeting on Saturday, January 29th, will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cocoa Beach. Following the meeting and lunch you will need to provide your own transportation to the Air Force History Center where buses will be available to transport us to the Lighthouse and other areas. On the Air Force Station, in addition to the lighthouse, we will also visit the historic town cemetery and the original lighthouse site where Sonny Witt will be our guide. At the present time SAFETY concerns prevent us from climbing past the third level.

Since the Lighthouse is located on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and security is tight, this meeting will be limited to US citizens with picture identification. In addition, you will need to provide date of birth, birth place and Social Security number; this information will be used by the Air Force to grant us access to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and WILL BE shredded after the meeting.

Activities on Sunday, January 30th, will be at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. The lighthouse keepers at Ponce will be doing a special lens cleaning and care demonstration on the Cape Canaveral first order Fresnel lens that is in their museum. They will also tell us about their newest lens rebuilding on two new additions to their collection. This will be a rare and up close encounter on this special part of maritime history.

Included will be an educational program, which was developed for the Volusia County schools called “The Science of Light.” This program will be rolled out in the near future and their effort to take the lighthouse into the classroom.

Of course, we will be able to climb the tower and enjoy the other parts of the museum but Mike Bennett, Director of Operations for Ponce Inlet will open the lens room so we can climb to the top. For the second day activities we will need to provide our own transportation and lunch; travel time is approximately one and a half hours from the Marriott Courtyard.

The cost for this 2 day event which includes lunch, transportation to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse on Saturday, as well as donations to both lighthouses, will be $60, if you are unable to attend the Sunday activities the cost is $45. The cost for non-members will be $75 for both days and $60 for Saturday only. Registration form is on page 11.
Sonny Witt to be Keynote Speaker

Sonny Witt retired from the United States Air Force as a Master Sergeant after serving just over 20 years. He left Wichita, Kansas in 1983 to live on a sailboat with Kay, his wife, Chris, his 9 year-old son, and a 4 month-old puppy, “Mandy.” Sonny and crew set out in a 35-ft. sailboat to spend his life savings, which was accomplished in about 2 years. Sonny and crew traveled the East Coast with a foray or two into the Atlantic. They arrived in Melbourne, Florida in late 1985, where they promptly ran aground. Sonny announced to the family that they had run out of money and this might be a good place to start over.

Sonny has spent the past 25 years at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station as a part of the Eastern Space and Missile Center, now the 45th Space Wing. He has held jobs ranging from Quality Assurance for the GPS Satellite, the Solid Rocket Booster program; Quality Advisor to the 45th Space Wing and 45th Logistics Group and the Deputy Commander of Detachment 1, 45th Mission Support Group, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Among his duties is that of Facility Manager for Facility 7700- The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse.

Sonny has recently completed a book “Drawn to the Light – the History of Cape Canaveral and its People”, which will be available for purchase and signing by the author at our meeting. We are excited to have Sonny be our keynote speaker on Saturday.

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In Memory of George Evans -- A Hero
February 29, 1942 - October 1, 2010

Thoughts from Stan Farnham, Past-president
FLA lost a dedicated contributing member, George Evans, October 1, 2010 after a courageous battle with cancer. This page started with photos to remember the good times. When we first met George he volunteered to help write letters to legislators about our campaign to gain a specialty license tag for sustained funding for lighthouse restoration...but he quietly let me know his doctor had given him only a short time to live and he might not see the day when he could have a license plate. “Well then, let’s get hopping and get this done sooner than later,” I replied. He chuckled and as he left said, “Have a blessed day.” In the many e-mails we had back and forth, he always signed off, “Have a blessed day.”

George also contributed money to the effort. He sent me a check with a note: “I intended to put this money in my will for FLA, but decided to send it now.” He was a member of the 365 Club (a dollar a day a year)...and a $1,000 Challenge member. He was of modest means so his contributions were significant.

George ecstatically cheered the day he got his license plate. What you may not know, is the effort he put into writing eloquent letters to many legislators, going to St. Augustine for one of their events so he could pass out license plate cards and sending me ideas. The doctor told him his passion for meeting the goal prolonged his life. In August 2009, he traveled to New York to “take some tools and say goodbye to my relatives there” he told me after ending some treatments. But he persisted and attended the annual meeting in St. Simons.

During my time as President of FLA, members inspired me and provided energy but perhaps none more than George Evans because I was aware of his treatments and pain. Yet, he persisted. Once the license was approved he worked to boost sales, including handing out cards at Pensacola in the photo at left. In October, I had the honor to present him with the prestigious Thomas Taylor award for outstanding contributions to FLA in an emotional and tears of joy ceremony. He was an FLA Hero. Have a blessed day!

Thoughts from Ken Smith
George Evans was a native of New York state who moved his family to Florida 30 years ago (something about not wanting to shovel any more snow). He was a theater projectionist by trade who had found a niche. He made and sold specialty parts for projectors to theaters world-wide. He was a good husband, good father of five and the kind of neighbor everyone wishes they had. He was a man of passion.

This is the story of how George got interested in lighthouses. According to Maddie, his wife, almost on a whim he visited Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. He had a conversation with a man at the top who talked to him about lighthouse preservation and also matters of faith. As a result, George made two decisions. One was to become involved in a church and cultivate a relationship with his Lord. The other, to become involved in FLA. We are a better organization because of that chance encounter at the top of a lighthouse. But George would want you to know that his faith was important to him. His church was important to him. George and Maddie became active in Saint Andrews Chapel and involved with the minister there, internationally known theologian, R. C. Sproul. George was passionate about his work, his family, his faith and lighthouse preservation. Oh, and he had a very large collection of Shelia’s Collectable lighthouse art that he enjoyed sharing. Maddie wants each of you to know she appreciates all the kind words so many have shared.

And now you know why George was always so positive and always ended his conversations with, “Have a blessed day!”
FLA Annual Meeting At Pensacola Lighthouse -- October 2, 2010

Fred Gaskie is awarded Thomas Taylor President’s Award recognizing his help to FLA

John Hill receives $15,000 grant from President Stan Farnham for Pensacola Lighthouse restoration

Incoming president Ken Smith, presents this portrait to retiring president, Stan Farnham. The portrait, captioned “Faithfully Keeping Watch” was signed by over 100 FLA members expressing their gratitude for his five years of service. It is a stylized picture of Stan in keeper’s uniform in front of Gasparilla Rear Range Light.

Keynote speaker nautical archeologist Dr. John Bratten with Gayle Stemac and Ken Smith

Gayle & Dennis Stemac recognized for six years as VP Meetings/Events

Terry Kemp and Dennis Barnell present Stan Farnham an award from St. George Lighthouse
Fall 2010
Lighthouse Reports

**Amelia Island:**
Helen O'Hagan Sintes is featured in the 9/16/10 Florida Times Union article "Amelia Island Lighthouse is all in the O'Hagan family." For the article, pictures and video go to [http://jacksonville.com/community/nassau/2010-09-16/story/amelia-island-lighthouse-all-ohagan-family](http://jacksonville.com/community/nassau/2010-09-16/story/amelia-island-lighthouse-all-ohagan-family).


The Amelia Island Lighthouse grounds, are open to the public every Saturday between 11am and 2pm.

The Coast Guard will schedule needed maintenance on the optics; realign the lamp, replace the bearings, true up the light to the motor shaft, correct the prism chalking, and repair door-hinges on the lens.

**Ancloite Key:**
The Friends of Ancloite Key hosted a successful Open House on Sept. 11th to celebrate the 7th anniversary of the re-lighting.

Visit [www.anclotecco.com](http://www.anclotecco.com) for more information and schedule of activities.

**Cape Canaveral:**
The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse grounds are finally lead free. Our next event (February 12, 2011) will be held on the grounds! The Air Force has asked CCLF to take over ownership of the lighthouse lens. Volunteers will be trained in the maintenance of a new lens the US Coast Guard will install. Tours 3 days each week are in the beginning stages.

**Cape Florida:**
Friends of the Cape Florida Lighthouse are planning their 75th Anniversary Event on December 17, 2010 with a relighting ceremony.

**Cape St. George Light:**
Construction of the Lighthouse Keeper's House is almost complete. Preliminary design work on the exhibits for the museum has begun. If anyone has generic lighthouse artifacts (like a keeper's uniform, or a fuel bucket!) that you would like to donate or loan, please let us know. We have recently added several "storyboards" to the interior of the lighthouse to further educate visitors about the light. The research for the storyboards was done by our volunteer historian, Penny Angel. Sadly, Penny passed away on September 20.

**Cedar Key:**
The third weekend in October was the Cedar Key Seafood Festival and the open house of the light station. David & Alice D'Amicol were there.

**Crooked River:**
Our park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk, the museum and gift shop are open each afternoon Thursday through Sunday.

The lighthouse is open for climbing Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The second annual Lantern Fest took place on October 30, 2010. That date marked the 115th year (plus 2 days!) that the lighthouse has guided mariners on the North Florida Gulf Coast. The event included theatrical vignettes of sea adventures of long ago, lighthouse historian, Andy Edell entertained visitors with a presentation called "A Keeper's Memories", and underwater archaeologist, Chuck Meide, spoke.
Dry Tortugas:
There is great news to report. Installation of the replicated finial and spire on top of the Loggerhead Key lighthouse is done.

The whole project consisted of replacing the broken and missing windows with new glass, stripping all the metal lantern room/roof framing pieces primed and painted. Metal fasteners and other hardware were restored or replaced and a new copper roof was installed.

We have recently completed a Historic Structures report for the entire Coast Guard Station at Loggerhead which includes treatment recommendations for all the structures. The National Park Service will submit these projects for funds to begin Preservation and Stabilization efforts soon.

Florida Keys Reef Light Foundation:
I have been asked for a winter meeting especially from some snow birds, so we are planning a meeting for early December 2010, with a boat trip. Visit our website at www.reeflights.org for updates or email me at ericlighthouse@yahoo.com or call 407-658-0046.

This group represents six "Reef Lighthouses", all located on the world's 3rd largest reef in south Florida.

Hillsboro Light Station:
Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse's remaining 2010 scheduled tour was November 13, 2010.

Ponce Inlet:
The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse is pleased to announce the unveiling of its newest program Climb to the Moon. Held on the eve of the full moon each month, this special program will allow visitors to witness spectacular sunset and moonrise from the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse.

Climb to the Moon participants will learn the unique history of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station and the Halifax River region from the "Old Lighthouse Keeper" as he leads them to the top of Lighthouse for a personalized tour of the Lantern Room. Following the tour, guests will be invited onto the Gallery Deck where they may toast the setting sun with a glass of sparkling cider and enjoy panoramic views of the ocean, inlet,
and inland waterways by the light of the full moon.

This special event is limited to 25 participants only. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Mary at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10. Prices are $25 for non-members and $20 for members. FLA members wishing to participate in this unique event are encouraged to visit the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse website at www.ponceinlet.org for future event dates and times.

Sanibel:
On April 21, 2010, the BLM turned over the Sanibel Island Lighthouse, keeper's dwellings and the surrounding 44+ acres to the City of Sanibel. The city has applied for a $170,000 state historical preservation grant and will add an additional $100,000 to repair, paint and maintain the lighthouse. The city intends to transfer the property to the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village which has plans to turn one of the houses into a museum and the other possibly into a vacation rental to produce income to help maintain the property.

St Augustine:
The St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum had a sizzling summer season. Over 70,000 guests visited our Maritime site between Memorial Day and Labor Day but we also enriched nearly 200 children ages 6-12 through our Summer Camp program with the camps: "Be a Sailor," "Be a Lightkeeper," and "Be a Maritime Scientist."

The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) had a monumental summer. Field students were able to participate in the raising of an 18th century cauldron. It was the first of many fine artifacts to be brought to the surface from a newly discovered shipwreck off the coast of St. Augustine. Shipwreck artifacts are currently being conserved preserved, a process which, for some of the larger pieces, take years. For more information check out our blog at www.staugustinelighthouse.org.

A special exhibit in the third floor of our Keepers’ House has been devoted to the history and significance of the shrimping and boat building industries. Videos, personal stories, and memorabilia from local families highlight the exhibit.

For more information about daily and ongoing events come visit us at www.staugustinelighthouse.org or call (904) 829-0745.

St Marks:
We are still in negotiations with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and the US Coast Guard to complete all the paperwork for the transfer of the lighthouse. Hopefully, we will hear something positive soon.

Florida Lighthouse Association is a non-profit group of citizen activists dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses that line our state’s 1,200 mile coast line.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all donations are tax deductible.
CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE ~ January 29 & 30, 2011 Registration Form

Reservation Deadline: January 10, 2011

For security reasons the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station REQUIRES social security numbers, birthdates, etc. IN ADVANCE of this meeting. Due to the sensitive nature of this information, registrations should be mailed directly to FLA Board Member, Ron Ecker. Ron will provide the requisite documentation to the Air Force and then shred your registration form.

If you do not want to send your SSN through the mail, please call him at 321-777-4832.

NAME 1:

Street:

City: ___________________________________________________________________ ST: ___ Zip: __________

Email: __________________________________________________________________ Phone: __________________________________________

Date of Birth ______________________ Place of Birth ______________________

SSN ________________________________________________________________

NAME 2:

Street:

City: ___________________________________________________________________ ST: ___ Zip: __________

Email: __________________________________________________________________ Phone: __________________________________________

Date of Birth ______________________ Place of Birth ______________________

SSN ________________________________________________________________

Please make your check payable to the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION. Mail both form & payment to Ronald Ecker, PO Box 372153, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

☐ I/We want to become members ~ Check One

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☐ Meeting Registration ~ includes a hot buffet lunch

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Receipt of payment confirms reservation. Reservations received after the deadline will be returned.

You will also receive an email confirmation; if you do not have an e-mail FLA will mail your a confirmation.

Please note FLA has a no-refund policy.
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1676
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Give a membership to FLA to someone for Christmas.
It is a great gift and you will be helping to preserve Florida lighthouses.

Florida Lighthouse Association Membership

1. Fill out form
2. Make check to Florida Lighthouse Association
3. Mail to: FLA Membership Linda Peck
   2081 NE 27th Street
   Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

For more information or to give a membership on line:
www.FloridaLighthouses.org

Name(s)_____________________________________

Address____________________________________City, State, Zip________

Phone______________________________________

e-mail______________________________________