

Number 19 – August, 2015 <u>www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club</u> <u>passportclub@uslhs.org</u>

Summertime and Light-Housing is Easy & Busy!

The summer months are the absolute best time to maximize lighthouse visits as many are open for business and tours. The result is a significant increase in requests to join the Passport Club, submission of completed Passports to be verified for achievement awards and questions about individual stamp locations. Passport orders may take 5-7 business days to be processed. Volunteers here at the U.S. Lighthouse Society ask for your patience as we get these requests handled as quickly as we can.

Some Stamp Collecting Reminders

We have had an increasing number of individuals joining the Passport Club, so it might be a good idea to reiterate some of the goals and guidelines for collecting stamps. See the following webpage for all of the policies: http://uslhs.org/fun/passport-club/guidelines

\$\$\$ Donations Help Keep the Lights Shining \$\$\$ - We wish to emphasize the importance of making a \$1 donation when you get your Passport stamped. We realize that this is not a "requirement", but the main purpose of the Passport Program is to help generate funds for lighthouses. Also, if you get several copies of the same stamp you are encouraged to donate \$1 for each one. While a dollar doesn't sound like much, if you multiply it by the thousands of passport holders and hundreds of lighthouses, it does add up.

Stamps Provided by Commercial Lighthouse Cruise Companies - Some stamp locations require participation in a boat tour in order to obtain a stamp. These stamps are identified in our list of participating locations. As such, they are not available via mail or without taking the tour. In some cases, other locations have different stamps for the same lighthouses which provide another opportunity to obtain a stamp for that site. If you encounter this situation and it was not made clear on our website, please let us know. Also, please note that many of these same cruise companies provide discounts for U.S. Lighthouse Society members when they present their membership card. Remember that membership in the Passport Club is free. Society memberships begin at \$40/year.

Stamps Held at Society Headquarters - The only stamps we have at our national office are identified as such on the list of participating sites. These are primarily for Hawaii and Isle Royale. For other lighthouses, you need to contact the lighthouse itself to see if they will provide you a copy of the stamp via mail. Make sure you get a verbal or email confirmation before sending in your SASE and \$1 donation.

National Park Cancellation Stamps – While multiple cancellation stamps for national parks, seashores and lake shores may exist, only those which have an image of the lighthouse or refer to the lighthouse itself can be used for lighthouse stamps. The top stamp on the right is acceptable since it says "Cape Lookout Light Station, NC." However the bottom stamp only refers to the National Seashore and, as such, should not be included in the Lighthouse Passport Book.

New Stamps

For complete contact information for these stamps visit the Passport Club website.

Bakers Island (Massachusetts)

A new stamp for Bakers Island Lighthouse is now available on tours to the island with the Essex National Heritage Commission. Society members receive a 10% discount. Call the Society Office (415-362-7255) for the promotional code. Essex National Heritage Commission, 221 Essex Street, Salem MA 01970. 978-740-0444.



Cape May, Cross Ledge, and Elbow of Cross Ledge Lighthouses (New Jersey)

Stamps are available from Cape May Whale Watcher on board their Grand Lighthouse Cruise, Delaware Bay Adventure. 1218 Wilson Drive, Cape May, NJ 08204.

Cape Romain (South Carolina)

A second stamp with a slightly different design is available four times a year on Coastal Expedition's ferry trip to Lighthouse Island to view the Old and New Cape Romain Lighthouses. 843-881-4582

Gull Rock Lighthouse (Michigan)

Stamp is provided on Copper Harbor Lighthouse Tours, 14447 Hwy. M26, PO Box 162, Copper Harbor, MI.



Escanaba Crib Light (Michigan)

Stamp is located at the Delta County Historical Museum, 16 Waterplant Road: Escanaba, MI They also have the stamp for the Escanaba Sand Point Lighthouse.

Ontonagon West Pierhead Lighthouse (Michigan)

Stamp is located at Ontonagon County Historical Society, 422 River Street, Ontonagon, MI They also have the stamp for the Ontonagon Lighthouse.

Guard Island Lighthouse (Alaska)

Guard Island Heritage, Inc., Lighthouse Excursions, Inc., 11380 Alderwood St. N., Ketchikan, AK 99901. Identical stamps are available on PV Lighthouse Endeavor and PV Totem Princess, 7 AM till 4 PM daily. 907-225-6919.



Choptank River (Maryland)

A new (second) stamp is now available for this light that includes the addition of their newly constructed wooden launch boat, *Miss Polly*. Both stamps can be used in your passport book - just make sure you donate that extra dollar.



Tawas Point Lighthouse (Michigan)

A newly designed stamp is located in the gift shop. Tawas Point State Park, 686 Tawas Beach Road, East Tawas, Michigan 48730. 989-362-5658.

El Morro Lighthouse (Puerto Rico)

Our first stamp for Puerto Rico is now available at the El Morro Gift Shop at the Castillo San Felipe del Morro, which is part of the San Juan National Historic site in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Special thanks goes out to Kurt Miller of the U.S. Coast Guard stationed in Puerto Rico for helping to design and find a permanent location for the stamp.



Broadwater Beach Hotel Marina Channel Light (Mississippi)

Stamp is available at Beauvoir; The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531. http://www.beauvoir.org/ This is across the street from the light.

Notes from the Field

Here are a few updates from the field. We try to update the website information as soon as we receive it, so it is a good idea to periodically check the website listings for changes. Thanks to those who took the time to provide us with this information.

- The **Bird Island Stamp (MA)** is currently being held by the Marion Massachusetts Harbormaster, 2 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738. (508) 748-3515. The Harbormasters office is to the left as you arrive in the parking lot and you need to go up some stairs to get to the office.
- Pemaquid Point Lighthouse (ME) has a second stamp which is the image of the back of the Maine state quarter which features the lighthouse. It is available in the light tower.
- Clarks Point, Palmer Island and Butler Flats Lights (MA) stamps are
 located in the Wharfinger Building at Fisherman's Wharf in New Bedford as indicated on
 our website. However, Google maps also calls this building the New Bedford Harbor
 Development.
- The stamp for the **Old Scituate Lighthouse (MA)** is kept at the lighthouse, however it is kept by the person who rents the lighthouse and they may not keep regular hours. This is a private residence, so you may want to call the Scituate Historical Society ahead of time to find out when the stamp might be available. 781-545-1083.

Hall of Fame Additions

Congratulations to our newest Hall of Fame awardees (Asterisks indicate number of "all stamp" books).

I've Seen the Light (60)

Nancy Camp*
Ginny First*
Patrick Greany*
Ann Hazelwood*
Ida Hoffmann*
Sylvia Patterson*

Silver Level (120)

Diane & Scott Walbert** Linda McKinney** Rick McKinney** Dan O'Neal**
Allen Walski**

Gold Level (180) Lisa Sidorsky**

Platinum Level (240)

Palmer Kane***
Leah Samuels**
Al & Betty Smith****
Bruce Wilbur

If you find an error in our Hall of Fame listings, please report it by emailing passportclub@uslhs.org.

Final Notes

Mark your calendars for two upcoming lighthouses "Challenges."
 The Maryland Lighthouse Challenge will be September 19 & 20 and the Lighthouse Challenge of New Jersey will be held October 17 & 18.



 While the U.S. Lighthouse Society tours are completed or fully subscribed for the remainder of this year, some great tours are scheduled for next year. Check out the 2016 tours at: http://uslhs.org/tours/tour-news. If you are interested in getting you name on the list of interested participants, please call the office (415-362-7255). Deposits will be required when exact dates and prices are published.

