



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



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Website: www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club

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A Restless Summer

As the leaves turn and cool weather approaches we can look back on a summer of somewhat limited lighthouse activity. Continuing Covid concerns restricted many of us from our usual lighthouse visits and some travelers found locations had limited hours or were not open. Personally, I was only able to add two new lights to our list of lighthouses visited. However, these two do have a special designation and created a couple of special memories - they are the two lighthouses in the U.S. which sit at the highest elevation. The first is Rubicon Point on Lake Tahoe (elevation 6,300 feet). We were fortunate to hike to it before the devastating Caldor Fire struck the South Lake Tahoe area. It was active for only a short period of time and bears a striking resemblance to an outhouse! The second one, located at the



Frisco Bay, Colorado marina on Lake Dillon stands 9,017 feet above sea level. While you can drive to the marina, mudslides on I70 during the summer near Glenwood Canyon restricted access from the west until September. Upon arriving in the town of Frisco we found the area around the marina under construction and the lighthouse was no longer in its original location. Like any true Wickie I hunted down its current location inside a fenced area surrounded by boats. After all this work, it dawned on me that we will need to create a stamp with images of these two lights and anyone who gets to both will join the USLHS Passport Stamp Mile High Club! That's my story - I hope you had some interesting lighthouse adventures this summer. Hopefully, next summer you will have a lot more.

Passport Entries Reminder

We would like to remind you that while photos can be included in your passport in place of a stamp, the only ones we can count towards an award are those of lighthouses listed on our website. This applies to both domestic and international lighthouses. We have no problem with you including other pictures for your own record of where you have visited, but in order to receive the appropriate patch you must include 60 qualifying pictures or stamps. This is why you might be asked to submit additional entries in order to obtain your award. Also, remember that an image of a listed lighthouse is acceptable, but you must write under the image the name of the lighthouse and where you obtained the stamp.

We would like to thank all of you who take the time to contact the Passport Club to inquire about whether or not a specific stamp qualifies as a passport entry. This really helps us a LOT and makes our job a whole lot easier. So, if you are ever unsure if a photo or stamp will count, please send an inquiry to passportclub@uslhs.org.

New Stamps

Eldred Rock, Haines, Alaska

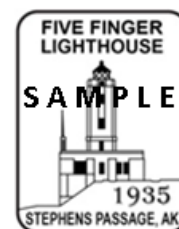
In 2014, the Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association was formed to rehabilitate the lighthouse. They were awarded a preservation grant by the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation in 2019 and in 2020 they obtained a 5 year lease for the lighthouse which will allow the association to begin restoration work. A great looking stamp is now available from the Association. For more details about the organization visit:

<https://www.eldredrocklighthouse.org/>



Five Finger Lighthouse, Stephens Passage, Alaska

The Five Finger Islands lighthouse and the Sentinel Island lighthouse were both activated on March 1, 1902. Since the Five Finger structures were completed before those on Sentinel Island, it is considered to be the first of the Alaskan lighthouses. This structure burned down in the winter of 1933 when keepers, who were trying to thaw some pipes with a blowtorch, accidentally set the building on fire. A replacement, practically fireproof lighthouse was placed in commission in 1935. This is one of the few locations with two stamps showing what the lighthouse looked like at two different points in time. One depicts the 1902 lighthouse and the other with an image of the 1933 structure are now available. A special thanks to the Society's top stamp collector James Hill for his donation which paid for the design and fabrication of these new stamps.



New Stamp Designs

As you know, over time stamps begin to wear out. When this happens, lighthouses request replacement stamps. Unfortunately, in many cases we no longer have the digital image of the original design. This is one reason why the number of stamps continues to increase. Those who obtained the original design can now also include the new design for the same lighthouse. We can't talk about designs without giving a shout out to our great volunteer designer, Mary Borkowski. Mary, who along with her cat Sherlock, not only creates many of the new stamp images, she is also responsible for designing the journals that are treasured by anyone who has been on a Society tour. Thanks, Mary, you are a Society treasure!

Sanibel Island Lighthouse, Florida

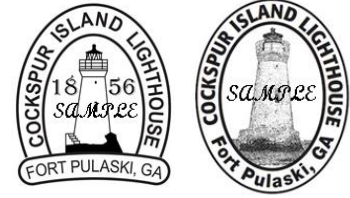
This new stamp design is available from the Sanibel-Captive Chamber of Commerce.

Big Bay Lighthouse, Michigan

The Big Bay Lighthouse, one of the great lighthouses where you can spend the night, has a new stamp design thanks to the generosity of super stamp collector, Hilary Seery, who donated the funds to create the new design.

Cockspur Island, Georgia

Fort Pulaski National Monument now has a new design for the Cockspur Island stamp. This is a good example of an older design being replaced.



California Lighthouse Society

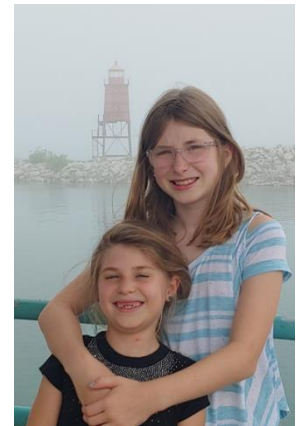
Andy Robinson, from Palo Alto, California, is one of our valuable volunteers who helps keep our stamp location and availability information up to date for the states of California and Washington. He has also helped write histories for the stamp program's Lost Light Series. He's now in the process of starting a California chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society, which will be called the California Lighthouse Society. The Society is dedicated to preserving and defending California's historic beacons by creating and financially supporting preservation efforts across the state. They also plan to institute new lighthouse-related events and work to raise public awareness of these structures' past, present, and future with the aim of unifying the state's lighthouse community. Learn more by listening to *USLHS Light Hearted Podcast #137* where Jeremy D'Entremont and USLHS Executive Director, Jeff Gales, discuss with Andy his vision for this new organization. You can also join their mailing list, make donations and get more information at their new website: <https://www.calighthousesociety.org/>. I need to mention that Andy is a high school junior and the kind of young person who will inspire others of his generation to help preserve our nation's lighthouses and their history.

Young Wickies

Speaking of the younger generations, in our 2015 Holiday issue of *Stamp Flashes* we met Sierra and Kayla Farrell of Valrico, Florida when they first began



collecting passport stamps. At that time Sierra, who was 5, had collected 17 stamps while her 2 year old sister had 13 stamps. Sierra used her birthday money to buy her first passport and is shown here with her "I Love Lighthouses" sticker. Note that they both are wearing lighthouse t-shirts. Fast forward to 2021 and they now each have received their Silver Star patches and two flags representing a collection of 120 stamps. We are thrilled to see that they have continued their family oriented lighthouse



visits and look forward to receiving more of their completed passports. These two young ladies are obviously lighthouse lovers and future supporters of lighthouse preservation. Way to go Sierra & Kayla!

2021 Holiday Ornament

In our last *Stamp Flashes* (#40) we announced the availability of a new stamp commemorating the 250 year anniversary of the Portsmouth New Hampshire Lighthouse. This lighthouse is also the image for the 2021 USLHS Christmas ornament. The image came from a painting specially created by Mark Kuehn.

The ornament and other items are part of this year's holiday fundraiser which also includes a 37th year Anniversary USLHS Patch. They can ordered from the USLHS Keeper's Locker (<https://uslhs.org/shop>). This year will also be the 10th year we have issued a special Holiday Ornament Passport Stamp which will be made available to collectors in December.

