



# THE FLA FLASH!

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC  
[www.floridalighthouses.org](http://www.floridalighthouses.org)

## Florida Lighthouse Day!! April 25, 2009



CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

### FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY

WHEREAS, lighthouses have played a significant economic and historical role in the settlement and development of Florida; and

WHEREAS, since 1824, lighthouses have protected coastal shipping and guided mariners into Florida's rivers and ports; and

WHEREAS, 30 of the 59 lighthouses constructed are still standing on the land and in the waters of the Sunshine State; and

WHEREAS, lighthouses are tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, Florida's lighthouses represent the romantic spirit and sense of adventure of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, it is in Florida's best interest to preserve, protect and promote these treasures of our seashores;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 25, 2009 as *Florida Lighthouse Day*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year two thousand nine.

*Charlie Crist*  
Governor



## Stan's Beacon

Thirty-three members (17 voting officers/board members) participated in the dynamic interactive "bottom up" strategic planning session January 16 at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. They developed the priorities for the *2009 FLA Strategic Plan*; copy available upon request, but here are the top five goals:

1. Sell specialty license plates for sustained funding, 5,000
2. Increase and broaden membership; galvanize more volunteerism
3. Continue strong alliances with FAM, Florida Trust, Visit Florida, and lighthouse organizations; forge other partnerships, collaborations. ("We exist to support all Florida historical lighthouses.")
4. Promote increased public interest and support
5. Comprehensive support and funding with corporations, foundations, legacy gifting

### INTEGRITY STATEMENT

*Transparency, Accountability, Honest Governance*

### VISION STATEMENT

*Imagine if all were restored (Florida historic lighthouses) and open*

The members attending the session: Dennis Barnell, Stan and Dottie Beckstrom, Mike Bennett, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Alice and Dave D'Amicol, George Evans, Stan and Mary Farnham, Ed Gunn, Joyce Hager, Lou and Betsy Kellenberger, Skip and Terry Kemp, John Kennedy, Charley Knox, Eric Martin, Beverly Oakes, Arlene Oehler, Harry and Jean Pettit, Rip and Sharon Puls, Barbara Revell, Christi Sessions, Mary Ann Shields, Dennis and Gayle Stemas, John and Judy (Azbell) VanKoolbergen. Thank you to all!!

### "What Can I Do for Florida Lighthouse Day?"

Glad you asked! FLA appreciates your support if you show up at your nearby lighthouse in a recession-considerate short drive without an overnight hotel bill and just have the fun of the visit; or you can choose one you'd like to go to. You can also serve in a cause greater than yourself than simply having fun by helping promote FLA especially the number goal of selling our new *Visit Our Lights* tag. You can wear a license plate shirt (available for just \$15, on line or from Charley Knox), you can be sure the lighthouse has the license display and small business cards (Stan Beckstrom), you can be sure they have FLA membership applications (Christi Sessions), you can be sure they have some FLA brochures; and you can spend some time with folks telling them our story. Have fun! Take photos!

"What's In It for Me?" You ask. You'll not only have fun but *feel good*, and feel good about yourself, for contributing to our exciting mission. This is the "business" we are in and are happy doing it!!

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have attended every meeting (13) during my time as your president: Stan and Dottie Beckstrom, John Kennedy, Dean and Corrine Oleson, Rip and Sharon Puls, Christi Sessions, Ken and Dede Smith, Gayle and Dennis Stemas; and those who missed just one, Joe Bennett, Charley Knox, Eric Martin, Beverly Oakes, John and Judy (Azbell) VanKoolbergen; and those with 11: Norm and Pauline Collins, Kathy Kennedy, Al King, Linda Koestel, John Parkhurst, Harry and Jean Pettit; at 10 Hib Casselberry, Joyce Hager, Elaine Marr, Tim Roberts, Ray and Anne Stewart. Thank you to those who attended most of the meetings with 65 members attending seven or more of the 13 meetings: We appreciate all FLA members but have a heartfelt thank you to this dedicated core. Our team has made great strides and they deserve the credit.

Thank you to *Christi Sessions* for her service working on FLASH. We are looking for a volunteer to replace her (and me) to do layout and put the issue together. I did this one and will do the next one, but after October we need someone to do this newsletter!

## FLA NEWS BRIEFS



### FLA Hero!

FLA hero definition: *to give of yourself without reservation or expectation in volunteerism.* Please nominate those you believe are deserving of the recognition for effort on Florida Lighthouse Day.

### Membership By the Numbers

As of February, FLA had 376 memberships and 506 paid members (plus 68 reciprocal and others). See new member's names on back page.

### Visit Florida

Visit Florida has for years had a tourism day in Tallahassee. This year it was to be in March 24. That was canceled. Instead of a meeting all on one day, they are having people come on days of their choice scattered through the session, which saves money by not having a big meeting.

### Selling Plates!

Ed Gunn, Ponce Inlet Executive Director showed and explained the new FLA tag at a Ponce Inlet council meeting. He said the presentation went well. Barb Davis, vice mayor, "was so excited about the program and its benefits she challenged every resident of our seaside lighthouse community to purchase one."

### Lottie Keplinger Memorials

Charley Knox suggested that memorials be given to FLA for the love of his life, Lottie Keplinger, who passed away in January. Many responded, including the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, the Stanley Warths, Patrick Keplingers, Frans and Donna Bosman, Pat and Linwood Doane, Julia Johnson, Richard Davis, Bob and Tobi Teeple, Stan and Mary Farnham, Maurice and Frances Bollinger, John and Kathy Kennedy, Rip and Sharon Puls, Harry and Jean Pettit, Beverly Oakes, Gordon and Dianne Levi, Ray and Barbara Hamel and *others*. The memorials exceeded \$1100. One person wrote: "She admired and cherished the 'beam of light' that guided many at sea to a safe haven and now, may her light shine brightly in heaven...her safe haven." Another sent a check in "loving memory of Lottie Keplinger, who was loved so much." Charley said: "There was no better memory for her."

### Magic Threes!

Top Personal Growth and Attitude Builders: *listen, learn, laugh.* Top Three "Mirror" Test: *Did I do the best I could? .Was I fair. Did I do what I said I would do!* Top Three Great Organization Characteristics: *Feelings, attitudes, relationships.*

### Meeting Locations

In just the past five years (2004-2008), FLA has visited 25 of the 30 historic lighthouses including all in Districts 1 and 4. Only four reef lights and Cedar Key have not had an FLA meeting.

**In District 1:** Ponce (10/04), Mayport/St. Johns River (10/05), Cape Canaveral (1/06), St. Augustine (1/07), Amelia (4/07), Hillsboro (7/07), Jupiter (10/07), Cape Florida and Fowey Rocks (1/08).

**In District 2:** Dry Tortugas Loggerhead, Tortugas Harbor, Sand Key, Key West (7/04)

**In District 3:** Boca Grande & Gasparilla (1/05), Anclote (4/05), Egmont & Tierra Verde (4/06), Sanibel (10/06)

**In District 4:** Pensacola (4/04), St. Marks (7/05), Cape San Blas & St. Joe Point (7/06), St. Marks (4/08), St. George & Crooked River (10/08).

### Visit Our Lights Specialty License

Through December, the first month of sales, 214 Visit Our Lights tags were sold in 36 counties with the leaders: St. Johns 47, Lee and Brevard 16 each, Volusia 16, Orange and Pinellas 13 each. In January 162 were sold. Our first year goal is 5,000 but we must sell at least 1,000. The report is updated at the beginning of each month. If you want to check it here's the link: <http://www3.hsmv.state.fl.us/apps/spectagsales/> The valid registration report can be viewed at <http://www.flhsmv.gov/specialtytags/SLP.html>. This is also updated the beginning of each month.

### FLASH!

Although our April meeting will be a scattered "meeting" on Florida Lighthouse Day, April 25, at the lighthouses, and then the next meeting in October, we issued this March FLASH to highlight the exceptional meeting at Ponce and information on Florida Lighthouse Day events. We will do a FLASH late summer to highlight the Florida Lighthouse Day events, a page on membership renewal and information on the annual meeting, October at St. Simon. Thus, we will continue to have this year a quarterly newsletter as promised to members.

### Did You Know?

Of our remaining 30 historical lighthouses, 17 are on the National Register for Historical Places: Amelia 2003, Mayport 2003, St. Augustine 1981, Ponce Inlet 1972, Jupiter 1973, Cape Florida 1971, Carysfort 1984, Sand Key 1973, Ft. Jefferson 1970, Sanibel 1974, Boca Grande 1980, Anclote 1999, St. Marks 1972, Crooked River 1978, Cape St. George 1974, Cape San Blas 1981, and Pensacola 1974.

A Florida Trust impact study "clearly proves that every dollar invested by the state in preservation pays a 10:1 return."

## Membership has its Privileges

By Gayle Stemas

Our FLA meeting at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse January 17, 2009 was a prime example of *membership value* for allowing people who love lighthouses to see and do things that they would not otherwise be able to see and do.

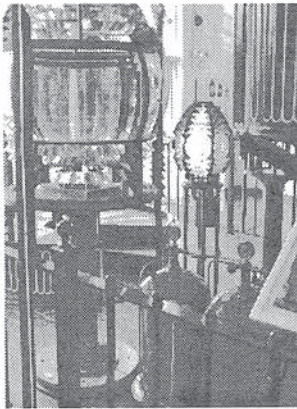
Many of us attend meetings so we can visit a particular lighthouse. The meeting at Ponce Inlet was way more than a visit to a lighthouse. At day's end, our members had the awesome experience of a night time climb. Anyone who has climbed a lighthouse at night agrees there is nothing quite as magnificent as standing out on the gallery and watching the beams from the Fresnel lens gliding across the horizon. On a clear night, it appears as though you can see the beam cross the curvature of the earth. It is a breath taking and exhilarating experience. Then you look down and see the sparkling lights of the surrounding area and the boats on the sea. Once you've done it – you must do it again. Most everyone at the meeting went to the top. Hib Casselberry at 86 years of age



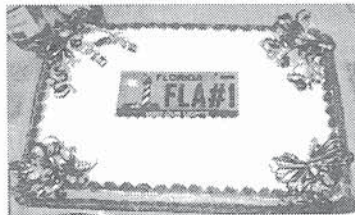
ascended the 213 steps with ease. John Cronin and John Kennedy went slowly, but they went up too. Sharon Puls hates heights, but she made it. Many stopped on the landings, but kept going because they knew the reward was at the top. But, it even got better. Ed Gunn, Ponce Inlet Executive Director, asked his staff to open the lantern room. We climbed the very narrow steep ladder and there it was – the lens was shining as bright as the sun that it was almost blinding when you came into direct vision of the beam.

Art Hahn, a volunteer at the lighthouse, was in the lantern room in full uniform. Talk about going back in time!!

It simply doesn't get any better than this.



At the same time as some were climbing, others were enjoying the buildings housing the museum as well as the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building and the new Educational building. The newly restored Chance Bros Lens was on display and many new exhibits were in the museum. The Educational building offered an old fashioned crystal radio



made with an oatmeal box along with multiple other exhibits. It was a busy evening as we were the recipients of a wonderful dessert reception continuing throughout the entire time.

The surprise highlight was a large cake featuring our *Visit Our Lights* specialty

license plate. The evening was full of fun, friendship, and camaraderie.

Before visiting the lighthouse, we had an exciting general membership meeting at the Palmetto Women's Club followed by a catered supper. Many members commented that the meal was outstanding. "One of the best we've had" was heard repeatedly. The meeting focused on the Governor's Proclamation for April 25 as FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY. Guest speaker Ellen Henry, curator of the museum at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, provided a detailed and humorous discussion of the process of restoring a Fresnel lens with accompanying photos.

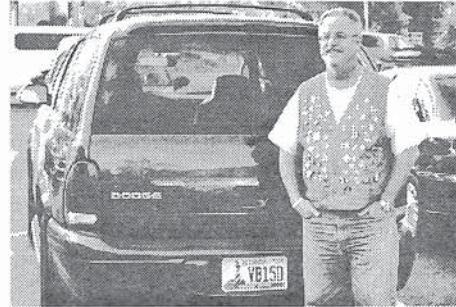


In an email after the meeting, George Diller stated, "The Ponce meeting was a roaring success." Many who attended agreed.



## VISIT OUR LIGHTS Specialty License Tag

By buying a tag, you show your love for lighthouses and feel good knowing you are giving back to your community.



What an exciting time with 19 vehicles sporting the new *Visit Our Lights* specialty license plates at the Palmetto Women's Club parking lot, upper left. Dede Smith photographed a number of FLA members with their vehicles showing off the beautiful new plates. At right top, Eric Martin. Next row, left to right: George Evans, Dennis Stemas, Stan and Dottie Beckstrom. Next row: Ed Gunn, Norm Collins, and Elaine Marr. Next row: Mary Katzer, Tom and Bonnie Spade and Jim Boyle.

**See the photos in color on FLA's website: [www.floralighthouses.org](http://www.floralighthouses.org).**

## Florida Lighthouse Day, April 25

### Affordable Getaway Day for a Memorable Experience

Day trip excursions can be a happy time with cherished memories for families, but a Florida Lighthouse Day visit can have compelling benefits in promoting not only our historic Florida lighthouses but informing hundreds of people about the opportunity to invest in the new *Visit Our Lights* license plate. With the spring FLA "meeting" at a record of more than a fifteen venues, we can also shatter the record for attendance for an April "meeting" and perhaps reach dizzying levels of achievement of our key goals. Wear a license plate shirt. Imagine the impact of FLA'ers wearing the shirts. Stan Beckstrom said, "Our number one goal is to sell the plate and these would help do that. In addition, on the back the shirts have our FLA name and the Web site, so they also promote the Florida Lighthouse Association."

Indulge yourself. Escape the bad news on this important day. Renew your lighthouse passion.

Capture the moments by taking photos and then send them to us for the next FLASH newsletter. Do it this day! Possibly take a page out of Gayle and Dennis Stemac's playbook. They plan to go to Egmont, wearing license plate shirts and with card table, chairs, license display and cards and tell folks about the *Visit Our Lights* plate.

Nine lighthouses are publicly open, but several other lighthouses not usually open to the public, also have events for the day. Among the celebrations:

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse plans a wide variety of workshops and activities, at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, included with regular admission: Activities and Artifacts, Kid's Craft Workshop, Lighthouses by Night and Day, Answer Board of Florida's 29 Lighthouses Map, Radio Beacon Navigation, Florida Lighthouse Association-Promote Visit Our Lights license plate, U.S. Coast



Guard Aids to Navigation; and Canaveral Lens Demonstration at 1 to pm.

St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum will have extensive activities, exhibits, and demonstrations to celebrate the day. Joe Cocking, former U.S. Coast Guard member and who restored the St. Augustine lens will do a lecture on Fresnel Lenses and lighthouse restoration. There also will be education stations on site for guests to learn about how lenses and lighthouses work (Lighthouses and the Land; Why Do We Have Lighthouses?). The new license plate will also be displayed to promote state restoration efforts. A Harbor Lights (lighthouse replicas) sale is planned.

Cape Florida Lighthouse, at Bill Baggs State Park, is open 9 am to 5 pm with guided tours at 10 am and 1 pm. Entrance to the lighthouse is free. You can watch a 20-minute video of the history of the recently painted 1846 lighthouse, which was restored in 1996.

Jupiter Lighthouse will celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day with free admission for children.

Boca Grande Lighthouse, open from 10 am to 4 pm, not only plans special events of guided tours, children's activities and cake and beverages for all visitors, but also celebrates its Museum 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Carrabelle has an annual riverfront festival the last weekend of April, so the Crooked River Lighthouse in a great tie-in, is offering a discount rate to climb the lighthouse April 25.

Cape St. George Lighthouse will be open for climbing at *no charge*, 9 am-4 pm on April 25.

Historic lighthouses not open full time that plan celebrations: The Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation, Inc. plans to celebrate Florida's six offshore reef lights at the Cape Florida Lighthouse. Eric Martin says he will bring binoculars so you can see Fowey Rocks from Cape Florida.

Pensacola Lighthouse will be open to celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day with special events.

Although normally not open to the public, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse will hold its annual Descendants Day also on April 25 as well as Florida Lighthouse Day. Descendants of people who lived at the lighthouse or on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station before it was a military installation come back and reunite, visit the lighthouse, go back to the areas where their families lived, and visit the as the family grave sites.

Rarely open Amelia Lighthouse will be open 10 am-2 pm. Anclote Key Lighthouse will have open house April 25.

Egmont Key Lighthouse and the U.S. Coast Guard Lighthouse Museum on the island will be open with Egmont Key Alliance President Richard Johnson in historic lighthouse keeper uniform there to greet you along with other members.

Hillsboro Lighthouse plans a celebration with the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association broadcasting from 1 to 4 pm; and reaching all other lighthouses.

Other lighthouses are considering celebrations as FLASH goes to print so *check with your local lighthouse for hours and events*. Of Florida's remaining 30 historic lighthouses, only a private residence (St. Joseph Point), two at the Dry Tortugas and two at Mayport Naval Station do not have planned events.

# Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

**Member Meeting Minutes**  **Historic Palmetto Women's Club**  **January 17, 2009**

**Call to order:** President Stan Farnham called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Stan announced that the meeting starts at 2 pm, the dinner this evening at 5 pm and the lighthouse climb is at 7 pm. He noted that during the lighthouse climb there would be an USAF launch from Cape Canaveral at 7:33 pm.

**Invocation:** Hib Casselberry led the group in prayer.

**New Members:** Stan welcomed and introduced new members: Anthony Girolami, Bob and Karen Gieser from the Villager's LH group. Lou and Betsy Kellenberger were from St Marks Lighthouse and Wildlife Refuge.

**President's Comments:** Stan gave an explanation of the lighthouse uniforms that were being worn by him and others in the meeting room. His uniform is a replica of those worn by lighthouse keepers a hundred years ago. The white uniforms being



worn by some from Ponce Inlet Lighthouse were authorized to be worn in Florida and special events with a special approval.

Stan announced that George Evans made a donation to the 365 Club and is now a member for 2009! Congratulations George!!

A brief update of the Strategic Plan was given from the Friday night meeting. The top Strengths and Weaknesses changed significantly from the ones identified in the previous Strategic Planning meeting of June 2006. The top Strengths are 1) the Specialty License Plate to provide sustained funding to support the local lighthouse, 2) dedicated volunteers, 3) a website and 4) energized leadership. The top

Weaknesses are 1) too few volunteers and 2) lack of a 'Best Practices' round table. The top Opportunities are 1) the Specialty License Plate, 2) a common front, 3) alliances with other organizations and corporate sponsors. The top Threats are 1) the economy, 2) the closings (ex. Egmont Key), falling down, abandoned and 3) we must sell 1000 specialty license plates this year. The Critical Issues are 1) selling the specialty license plate, 2) increase and broaden the membership, 3) promote public interest, 4) forge alliances and partnerships and get corporate sponsors and 5) a strong board of people who care. This will provide a clear direction and a sharp focus on what the organization needs to be doing. We will have a meeting in June or July 2009 to take these points and create the Goals. Under each of the Goals will be top Action Items. Stan asked for a show of hands on how the membership would like to receive their copy of FLASH, in an email or through the mail. A short demo video on Florida Lighthouses was shown to portray how a 6-7 minute trailer would look. This trailer would be used to sell the one-hour video. The one-hour video would contain the stories of lighthouses failing and the restoration, the history of the Florida Lighthouses and then the stories of the lighthouse keepers of the past.

Next the Specialty License Marketing Plan power point was quickly reviewed and only the high points discussed with the membership. For example: 1) Sell not only 1000 license plates the first year but 5000! 2) contact newspapers, Chamber of Commerce, Visit Florida partnership, 3) short-term marketing such as letters to businesses with 'Lighthouse' in their name, 4) business card size license cards for distribution, 5) media information package, 6)

Florida LH Day, 7) review the schedule for the video.

Stan recognized the Thomas Taylor Award recipients; Dennis Barnell (2008), Paul Bradley (2007), Hib Casselberry (2006), Gene Oakes (2005) and Tom Taylor (2004). The predecessor President's Award: went to Barbara Revell, George Blanck and Tom Gardener (2001) and Hal Belcher (2002).

**Auction:** Rip Puls did a fine job in getting the bids for Paul Bradley's lighthouse drawings which included prints, note cards and a book full of US lighthouse sketches.

Before the break, Stan, Dennis and Gayle presented Ed Gunn with a certificate for being such an outstanding host for the January 2009 members meeting and the strategic planning meeting on Friday night. Next Stan and Dede Smith presented Charley Know with a certificate for Lottie Keplinger Knox in memory of her cheerful volunteerism. Dede also presented Charley with a picture collage of times spent together at FLA meetings.



**Break:** The members took a 15 minute break.

Stan shared that Ray Hamel had counted 19 cars in the parking lot with the lighthouse specialty tag on them. He asked that everyone with a new tag move their cars to a certain place after the meeting for photo shots. Dede Smith will be taking the pictures of the owner with their car. Also the sample plates cost \$10 from the state. FLA receives \$25 per sale of the *Visit Our Lights* license plate.

FLA receives nothing from the sale of the sample plates. We are asking that everyone purchase our new FLA logo tag that has been redesigned and will also sell for \$10. We now have some new brochures that contain a map of all the lighthouses and will be placed in the interstate welcome centers.

**Host:** Stan introduced our guest speaker, Ellen Henry. Ellen is the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Museum Curator. Ellen started by introducing some of the other guests from Ponce Inlet, Ed Gunn, Executive Director and Jimmy Vanover, pioneer in Fresnel lenses restoration. She also introduced the current Ponce Inlet restoration team who are all volunteers, John Mann, catalog glass; Art Hahn, bronze specialist and Jerry Harris, prism aimer. This team recently finished the restoration of an 1850 Chance Brothers lens. Ann Canear was introduced as the person with the vision that saved the lighthouse station from being just a park with picnic tables to its present lighthouse station with its original buildings. She was also the first FLA president.

Ellen narrated a very informative and interesting slide show of the various lens that have been restored at Ponce Inlet and are currently on display in the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building, 1) the rotating first order Fresnel Lens from Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, 2) the newly restored original Ponce Inlet Lighthouse first order Fresnel Lens and 3) a Chance Brothers fixed third order middle Fresnel Lens.

**Officers Reports:**

**Secretary:** Beverly Oakes said copies of the Lighthouse Reports were available on each of the tables. The previous meeting minutes were distributed in writing, available in the FLASH and on-line. No corrections or questions, so the minutes were accepted as written.

**Treasurer:** John Kennedy provided a breakdown on the last quarter's income and expenses. He also reported receipt of \$1070.00 in memory of Lottie

Keplinger Knox. Key figures reported thru December 31, 2008: Total Cash/License Plate/CD: \$61,435.79, Total Assets (including inventory): \$75,593.99.

**Executive VP:** Eric Martin announced that Harbour Lights will be making a replica of Carysfort Reef Lighthouse.

**VP of Membership:** Christi Sessions reported we have 14 new memberships for 25 new people. We have 299 paid memberships and 24 lighthouse associations that are delegate members. Hopefully, *PayPal* will be available on our website before the next renewal period. We are encouraged to renew early or on time since there won't be a July meeting.

**Way to Go!** Thanks to Terry Kemp for soliciting our newest corporate member...Murphy & Orr Exhibits. They worked on the display racks in the visitor center at Cape St George Lighthouse.

Christi encouraged everyone to pick up the membership brochure on their table and give it to a friend. We need to increase our membership and spread the word about Florida Lighthouse Association.

Boca Grande and Jupiter both put coupons for their gift shops in the last copy of FLASH. Please use them when you visit their lighthouse. A discount for Ponce Inlet Lighthouse will be in our next newsletter. Free Admission is being offered by Ponce Inlet, Crooked River, Cape St George, St Augustine and Jupiter...present your membership card for this "Members Only" benefit. Christi also asked everyone to send ideas on other benefits that are important to the membership. She can be reached at [flamembership@gmail.com](mailto:flamembership@gmail.com).

**VP of Fundraising:** Charley Knox thanked everyone for their interest in the latest t-shirt...a colorful shirt displaying the new Florida Specialty License Plate with a slogan of "Wouldn't this look great on your car?" A new t-shirt will be coming out later in the year with the map of Florida and all 30 lighthouses. The new metal

FLA license plate will also be on the website soon. Visit our website!

Gayle introduced John Cronin from The Villages who presented Stan Farnham and the FLA with a \$200 donation in appreciation for the goal of opening all thirty lighthouses in Florida.

**VP of Meetings:** Gayle Stemas gave instructions for the rest of the afternoon and for visiting Ponce Inlet Lighthouse for the night climb. Gayle announced the next general meeting will be in Georgia at the St Simons Lighthouse on October 17, 2009. A ghost tour will be available on Saturday and on Sunday a Trolley Tour will be available for your added enjoyment of the area.

**VP of IT, Webmaster:** Stan Beckstrom announced that *PayPal* is now available on the website. Currently we have had nine sales on the website using this new feature. One sale was made in Illinois and others came from Pennsylvania! He noted that Florida lighthouse names in any news articles on the website will be now be in red. If it is a US lighthouse outside of Florida, the name will be highlighted in purple, all others will be black. He made a display board for the little "Visit Our Lights" business cards and made them available to the lighthouses to put in their gift shops. At least 10,000 of these little cards have been distributed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education:** No report.

**Newsletter:** We are looking for a volunteer who would like to work with publishing the newsletter after each meeting. Volunteer! You'll have plenty of help from others to get started.

**Lighthouse Reports:** See the "Lighthouse Reports" section for those that submitted information.

**Adjournment:** President Stan Farnham adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

*Beverly Oakes, Secretary*



## Florida Lighthouse Reports

### St. Augustine:

The four-month Lantern Preservation Project, funded by the Florida Department of Transportation administered by St. Johns County, was completed. Cracks were repaired, new upper gallery deck plates were cast and fastened, lantern windows were replaced and sealed, and several coats of high gloss paint were applied. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthouse Festival and 5K Run is on March 21, 2009. Admission to climb the lighthouse and tour the museum is free, but children must be 44" tall to climb, and an adult must accompany children under 12. The new *Visit Our Lights* license was promoted at the Sunset/Moonrise event. The museum will host the third North East Florida Symposium on Maritime Archaeology, March 25-27. Sponsored by the Lighthouse & Museum, the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP), the GTM Research Reserve, the Florida Public Archaeological Network (FPAN), and the St. Augustine Archaeological Association, the Symposium will feature three days of speakers, a dinner reception, and a cruise/sonar demonstration. For more information or to register, visit [www.lampmaritime.org](http://www.lampmaritime.org). For more information on educational programs, events, or membership at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum visit [www.staugustinelighthouse.com](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.com) or call (904) 829-0745.

### Ponce Inlet:

The Chance Brothers restored third-order-middle lens has been installed in the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building for viewing. The Chance lens, purchased by the Museum arrived in December 2007, took more than 1000 staff and volunteer hours and 12 months to do. The lens is on display with a Chance Brothers pedestal, fuel tanks, and incandescent oil vapor lamp. The lens itself is considerably older than the other Chance Brothers items included in the purchase, and the lens may possibly date to the early 1850s. Volunteers underwent extensive training to prepare them to help with the restoration. Museum staff decided that the work would be carried out in a converted gallery space so that visitors could observe. All of the volunteers on the project had experience as tour guides and were well suited to talk with visitors while the restoration progressed. The prisms were removed, cleaned, photographed, and condition reports were recorded for each. The bronze framework was photographed, dismantled, evaluated, and manually cleaned. Layers of heavy patina were left in place for the future protection of the metal.

### Cape Canaveral:

With the completion of a walkway over lighthouse grounds to the structure itself, access to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse is now again possible. The funding for the walkway was paid for by money raised by the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. Membership and fundraising events can also be held again at the lighthouse. The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has been

closed for more than two years, primarily for restoration and maintenance, but also because of lead found in the soil on the surrounding grounds.

The U.S. Air Force 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing is conducting monthly public tours of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station that also now include a stop at the lighthouse. The tour is conducted on the second Wednesday of each month and is free of charge. Visitors may walk into the lighthouse and climb to the second and third levels where the initial living and working quarters were located. For tour reservations, call the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Public Affairs Office at 321-494-5945 or 5949. Reservations are accepted up to a month in advance for U.S. citizens providing name, address, telephone and Social Security numbers. The minimum age is 12 years old. The bus is not accessible by the handicapped. For the tour, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Gate 1 pass and identification building of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This is located on SR 401 and can be reached from the SR 528/Beach Line Expressway exit. Two forms of identification will be required. Cameras and photography are permitted. The tour returns at Noon. For further information on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, go to [www.CanaveralLight.com](http://www.CanaveralLight.com)

### Jupiter Inlet:

Our new WeatherBug Camera was recently installed at the top of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and now broadcasts on CBS local TV news daily. A live video stream also appears in the museum lobby for visitors. Visit [www.cbs12.com](http://www.cbs12.com) & [www.weatherbug.com](http://www.weatherbug.com) December 5<sup>th</sup> kicked-off our National Dedication and Celebration Ceremony for the *Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area*. The first lands east of the pacific coastline to receive this federal designation, only one of three *Outstanding Natural Areas* (ONA) in the country and the first east of the Mississippi River. Afterward, a public reception, free lighthouse and boat tours were offered. The lighthouse special event on Valentine Day provided couples an opportunity for spending 20 minutes at the top to propose, a tradition started by Harry and Susan DuBois.

### Hillsboro:

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation group had nearly 350 attend the mid-October Lighthouse Tour via the 49 passenger chartered boat to shuttle back & forth to the new USCG dock at the Lighthouse for the first time in almost 4 years. We also participated in a land Christmas Parade in mid December; and a tour January 24. The next tour will be on Saturday, (8:45 AM to 2:45 PM), March 21 with four other tours lined up for every other month in 2009. We ask the people to use the City Parking Lot across the street from the Sands Harbor Hotel, 125 N. Riverside Drive in Pompano Beach 33062 and walk west to the north side of the hotel to the Intracoastal Waterway. Check in and receive a wrist band, then we give all a 4-mile boat ride up the Waterway to the new dock. There are 18 points of interests on the 102 year old

historic Lighthouse Station including the original Bare Foot Mailman statue, the original 1906 keepers' dwellings, climbing the 142 foot tower and seeing the Machine Room and the 9 ft diameter Fresnel Lens. Unlike Hillsboro's 6 older sister towers off southeastern shores along the Florida Keys, we can enter and climb this one that is on shore and part time accessible. We have upgraded our Website so we can have more pages and information on it. We are slowly adding to it. Check it out. [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org)

#### Cape Florida:

Following the pressure washing produced by a dozen hurricanes and tropical storms since 2003, we repainted the interior and exterior of the Lighthouse this fall. On the exterior we used a new improved formula discovered by our Assistant Park Manager Shaun Allen, on a National Park Service Historic Preservation Website.

On the exterior we used a parge coating - where cement was added to the lime and titanium dioxide mix in decreasing proportions, over three successive coats. Now the tower sparkles like new, awaiting the accolades of lighthouse enthusiasts from around the world.

#### Reef Lights:

If you are interested in being put on the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation email list, please email Eric at [ericlighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:ericlighthouse@yahoo.com).

#### Egmont Key:

At the Annual Dinner Meeting the membership approved the appointment of new Board members for the Egmont Key Alliance. Charles Canerday, Richard Sanchez, and Barbara Samuel join the Board. The officers for the Alliance for 2009 are: Richard Johnson, President; Jim Spangler, Vice President; Phil Sorenson, Treasurer and Barbara Samuel, Secretary. An ad-hoc strategy committee was formed to plan for the next steps for the Alliance to take regarding the potential shutdown of Egmont Key State Park. The Alliance will actively oppose this move by the Florida DEP.

#### Cedar Key:

Cedar Key will be open Saturday, July 4th. If anyone wants to go out and give talks & tours, please contact David D'Amicol ASAP. David & Alice will not be able to attend the opening July 4th. The regular once a year opening is October 17th and 18th. We need 4 volunteers to assist with the open house & cemetery tours. We meet in Cedar Key 11:00 am on Friday the 16th for our ride out to the island. We will be there until about 4 pm on Sunday, the 18th. It is a full weekend at the lighthouse. It is dorm style sleeping arrangements. We bring food, water and lots of bug spray for the weekend. Depending on the weather, bring appropriate clothes. Please contact David again ASAP so we can make the arrangements with Ranger Pam. You can reach David by email at [adamicol@cfl.r.com](mailto:adamicol@cfl.r.com) or phone 407-697-6990. We hand out many flyers about all of the lights who have provided materials. Applications for FLA are also distributed and

many others. Please join us for an exceptionally different and beautiful experience!

#### St. Marks:

The DEP has asked the US Coast Guard to do more contaminant testing on the St. Marks Lighthouse and we are all awaiting an approved FY09 budget. Transferring one federal property to another federal agency is really a very slow process!

#### Crooked River:

The replica of the Crooked River Lighthouse Keeper's House is under construction with a March 2009 completion. The project was funded by a grant from the Florida State Legislature and financial support from the City of Carrabelle. Plans for the original Crooked River Lighthouse Keeper's house were used by Ken Smith, architect, to design the construction plans for the replica. The beauty of the project is that the museum will look like the original structure, but it will meet all current building codes and ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliance. A ribbon cutting and reception is planned for spring 2009, when the building is completed. A grant from the Franklin County Tourist Development Council will assist with operating expenses. The museum will contain display spaces, a gift shop and a meeting room for educational presentations. Once the museum is open, the Crooked River Lighthouse will be open to the public on a regular basis for climbing. The museum is the final project to complete the Carrabelle Lighthouse Park, which already includes the restored and lighted Crooked River Lighthouse, a Pirate ship recreational playground, and a picnic pavilion, all nestled in a North Florida Forest habitat. A Carrabelle Lighthouse Association contingent attended the FLA lighthouse January 17 meeting at Ponce Inlet: Arlene Oehler, Barbara Revell, Maryann Shields, Debbie Kent and Mary Katzer

#### Cape St. George:

The reconstructed Cape St. George Light opened to the public at the end of 2008. While the "official" opening day was scheduled for December 1, we held "Lighthouse Preview Days" on the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving and allowed visitors to climb at no charge. We hosted 560 climbers on those two days, with many people waiting in line for over an hour, and would have had an even larger crowd if the weather had not turned rainy Saturday afternoon and most of Sunday! We invited other local non-profit organizations to benefit from our expected crowds, and were joined by the Boy Scouts, Franklin Needs, the Franklin County Library, Philaco Woman's Club, and the Franklin County Humane Society, who were all able to raise money for their causes. We opened with fee-based admissions on Monday, December 1, and had more than 1000 climbers in the month of December. The Franklin County Tourist Development Council awarded us a \$15,000 grant to help fund operation of the lighthouse, and increased that amount to \$20,000 at their January meeting.

Landscaping has been completed in St. George Lighthouse Park, and the lighthouse "restored and open." We would like to thank FLA for their continued support, and especially express our appreciation to the other open lighthouses who enthusiastically shared their rules, procedures, and experiences with us.

#### Cape St. George Dedication

The Lighthouse Dedication Ceremony which will officially honor the reconstruction of The Cape St. George Light will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009, beginning at 10 a.m. in St. George Lighthouse Park on St. George Island. FLA Historian Neil Hurley will be the speaker.

After the ceremony, the lighthouse will be open for climbing at no charge until 4 p.m. A Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser, with live music and a Silent Auction, will take place that afternoon. Funds raised will go toward the construction of the Keeper's House next to the lighthouse.

Florida Lighthouse Association members are invited to join with the St. George Lighthouse Association, descendants of former Lighthouse Keepers, and area residents to celebrate this historic occasion! For more information, please contact Terry Kemp at [fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net](mailto:fullmoon.sgi@fairpoint.net).

#### Cape San Blas:

Cape San Blas Lighthouse and gift shop has been active. The first "Full Moon Climb" was held December 12 with more than 40 adults making the climb. Our January climb was successful as well. Local and area news papers have publicized the events and guests are beginning to call for appointments to climb. Thanks to all who have visited and we hope to host others in the future.

#### Pensacola:

In December Ashley Brown, who plays Mary Poppins in the Broadway play and her co-star Gavin Lee, the Chimney Sweep, and his wife Emily

visited the Pensacola Lighthouse (shown with Gordon Levi). While it was cold and windy, the sun broke through the clouds when they arrived and their enthusiasm for the lighthouse warmed us all. It was a really fun afternoon!

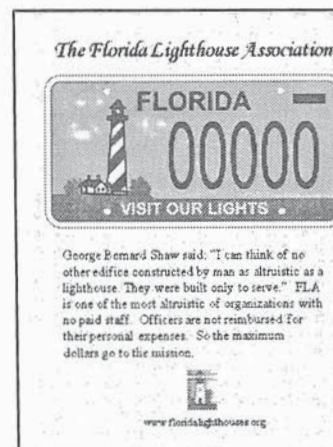
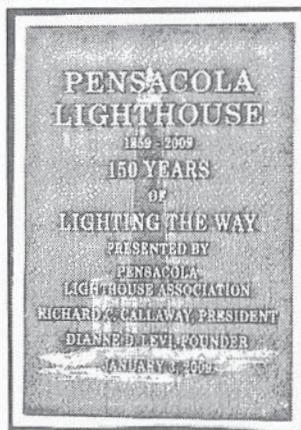
For 150 years the Pensacola Lighthouse has been lighting the way to Pensacola Bay. On Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, the Pensacola Lighthouse Association held the sesquicentennial celebration of the lighthouse which was actually lit New Year's Day in 1859. Mr. Harry White, NAS Public Affairs head, presided as Master of Ceremonies and welcomed nearly five hundred guests at the 2 p.m. ceremony. Among the special guests were former U. S. Coast Guard keepers of the Pensacola Lighthouse and family members of former U. S. Lighthouse Service keepers. Speakers at the ceremony included NAS Commanding Officer Capt. William Reavey; Capt. Steve Poulin, deputy commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile; BM1 Brian Day, OIC of the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation team and current keeper of the lighthouse. Gordon Levi, dressed in a keeper's uniform, told some of the tales learned over the years about the keepers and their families who lived at the Pensacola Lighthouse. Richard Callaway, President of the Pensacola Lighthouse Association unveiled a bronze commemorative plaque donated by the association which will be mounted on a pedestal near the entrance of the lighthouse.

#### Anclote Key:

Former President Linda Seabol sent us the new Anclote Key Lighthouse officers:

Steve Spencer, President; Pam Keim, VP, Kathie Hallett, VP Membership; Lisa Janetti, Secretary; Wayne Patrick, Treasurer.

See ad for Florida Tax Collector Annual Book below:





Quiz: What do these say? From Left, above: Christi Sessions, Beverly Oakes, and Anthony Girolami



From Left, above: Steve Miller, Dave D'Amicol, and Elaine Gridley

Others (not pictured): CKRVR (Mary Katzer), EGMNT (Barbara Schmidt), LENS (Ray and Barbara Hamel), PLHA1 (Gordon and Dianne Levi), LHKPR (Michael Koontz), LITE3 (John and Kathy Kennedy), KG BG (Karen and Bob Gieser),

The following companies have joined FLA at the corporate membership level. Check out their ad on the FLA web site. Thank you to them for their generous support of FLA and Florida lighthouses.

**South Georgia Brick Company, Inc.**

**Masonry Incorporated**

**Allen Architectural Metals**

**Salt Run Sales, Inc.**

**Murphy & Orr Exhibits**

Receive 10% off your total purchase  
**Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Gift Shop**  
 Offer valid only for FLA members  
 Valid through July 31, 2009  
 Present coupon at check out.

**Have Fun on Florida Lighthouse Day!!**

### Welcome to our new members!

Mike & Bobbie McFalls, Nancy & Anthony Renna, Braxton Allen, Jamie, Ally & Garyson Millender, Shelia Moser, Ruth & Craig Harvey, Lou & Betsy Kellenberger, Lee Capitano, Anthony Girolami, Murphy & Orr Company - Gerald & Lydia Murphy, Susanne Taranto, Joan Duffy, Marge Glapinski, Allen Architectural Metals, Inc. John Allen & Darlene Lynn, Steve Beasley, Jim & Anneli Magee, Sheila Nugent, James & Nancy Horn, David and Diane Shing

Membership year  
 October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
 Membership Levels and Dues are:

Individual \$25 – Family \$35 - Corporate  
 \$100

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### The Mission of the Florida Lighthouse Association

The Florida Lighthouse Association is a nonprofit group of citizen activists dedicated to the preservation of the 30 remaining historic lighthouses that line our state's 1200 mile coastline. Once central to the economic growth and settlement of our nation, many of Florida's lighthouses face uncertain futures.

Our mission is to preserve, restore, protect and defend Florida's lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.

For information, contact:

**Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.**

15275 Collier Boulevard, #201, PMB179 Naples, Florida 34119

WebSite: [www.floralighthouses.org](http://www.floralighthouses.org)

E-mail: [flapresident@gmail.com](mailto:flapresident@gmail.com)

Stan Farnham, *President*

Beverly Oakes, *Secretary*

John Kennedy, *Treasurer*

Christi Sessions, *VP Membership*

Stan Beckstrom, *VP Web*

Al King, *VP Grants*

Neil E. Hurley, *Historian*

Eric S. Martin, *Executive VP*

Sharon Puls, *Assistant Secretary*

Dennis & Gayle Stemas, *VP Events*

Charley Knox, *VP Fund Raising*

Hib Caselberry, Ray Stewart, Rip Puls

& Terry Kemp, *District Commissioners*