



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



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www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club

passportclub@uslhs.org

It's Summer Time and Collecting is Easy!

Memorial Day marked the beginning of "stamping" as many winter bound lighthouses opened their doors to stamp hunters. This is also begins the season of lighthouse festivals, challenges and cruises. The result is many opportunities to fill up your Passport book and achieve new award levels. One key to success is being familiar with the USLHS website "Fun" page (www.uslhs.org/fun). Here you will find all you need to know about the Passport Stamp Program location and policies as well as information about lighthouse accommodations, cruises, festivals and events.



Some Reminders about Stamp Collecting

With a new season of collecting in full swing we would like to remind you that:

- Only those locations listed on the website in **bold** letters have had their information about stamp availability recently verified.
- A stamp by mail is **only available if** (a) the listing states that this service is provided and (b) your request is accompanied by a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) and a donation for each stamp or for each copy of the stamp you request. To make it easier for staff and volunteers to sort mail, please note on the envelope that this is a "Passport Stamp Request."
- Stamps provided by lighthouse cruise companies are only available when you participate in the cruise. Also, they are not available by mail. Remember, another stamp for the same lighthouse may be available at a different location.
- You should ALWAYS leave at least a \$1 donation when you get a stamp. If you ask for multiple copies, please consider making a donation for each copy you receive.

New Stamps

For details on stamp availability see the Passport Program website.

Colchester Reef Lighthouse, Shelburne (Vermont)



The Colchester Reef Lighthouse, originally off Colchester Point northwest of Burlington, Vermont in Lake Champlain, was relocated in 1956 to the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont. A stamp is now available at the Museum.

Cana Island Lighthouse (Wisconsin)

The Door County Maritime Museum has a stamp with a new design for the Cana Island Lighthouse. Stamps for other Door County lighthouses are also available from the Museum.

New London Ledge, New London Harbor and Avery Point (Connecticut)

The Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk has added three more stamps which are now available on their lighthouse cruises. This brings the total number of stamps available from them to fourteen.

Little Cumberland Island (Georgia)

This stamp is available at the Sapelo Island Visitor Center near Darien, Georgia. The island is privately owned and only the top part of the lighthouse is visible from the water.

Brown's Head Lighthouse (Maine)

A new stamp design is now available at the Owls Head Interpretive Center and Gift Shop in Owls Head, Maine. The stamp is also available with a donation to the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF). Stamps with different designs are available from Camden Harbor Cruises and on the Stonington/Deer Island Lighthouse Trail.



Maine Maritime Museum (Maine)

Located in Bath, Maine, the Museum offers exhibits about Maine's maritime heritage, culture and the role Maine has played in regional and global maritime activities. It offers lighthouse trips to some of Maine's most iconic lighthouses and has a new permanent exhibit for lighthouse lovers called: Into the Lantern: A Lighthouse Experience.



Duxbury Pier and Plymouth Lighthouses (Massachusetts)

These stamps are available during open houses and occasional tours. See tour dates at www.buglight.org. They are also available by mail with a SASE, donation and photo of the lights with the date you visited. See listing for details.

Coming Soon

The following new stamps are currently being fabricated and will soon be available.

Bluff Point Lighthouse (New York)

One stamp will be located at the Lighthouse on Valcour Island. It is open Sundays from 1pm to 3pm in July and August. A stamp with the same design will be at the Clinton County Historical Association, 98 Ohio Avenue, Plattsburgh, NY.

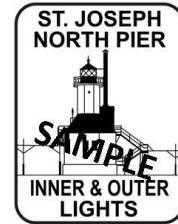
Patos Island (Washington)

Open for visitors on weekends during the summer, the Patos Light Keepers now have an official Society stamp. Reached only by boat, Patos Island, is the northernmost of the San Juan Islands archipelago located north of Puget Sound.



St. Joseph North Pier Inner and Outer Lighthouses

The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center in St. Joseph is now providing tours inside the North Pier (Inner) Lighthouse on Fridays & Saturdays (11:00-2:00 pm) during the summer. You can get this newly designed stamp on one of those tours or in the off season or non-tour days at the Museum located at 601 Main St., St. Joseph.



Museum Stamps

A number of maritime museums with lighthouse displays, including Fresnel lenses, are official sites for the Passport Program. These are listed along with lighthouses and lifesaving stations on the Program website. We have recently discovered several museums with *museum* stamps that were not previously listed, but now have been added.

- **National Lighthouse Museum (Staten Island, NY)** - In addition to the many stamps they have for lighthouses, they also have a stamp for the Museum itself.
- **East End Seaport Museum (Greenport, NY)** - The museum houses the 2nd order lens from Little Gull Island lighthouse and the 4th order lens from Plum Island lighthouse.
- **Hudson River Maritime Museum (Kingston, NY)** - In addition to other maritime exhibits, the museum displays the 5th order lens from the Rondout Lighthouse.

Are You a 1st Order Wickie?

Have you ever observed the extreme behavior often exhibited by lighthouse enthusiasts who will stop at nothing to get as close to a lighthouse as possible for a better view or photo? We refer to these individuals as “1st Order Wickies.” “First order,” since this is the largest Fresnel lens and “Wickies” from the nickname given to lighthouse keepers referring to their task of trimming oil



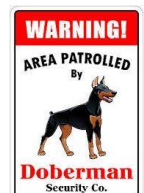
lamp wicks. So, just what does it take to be called a 1st Order Wickie. Well, if you have more pictures of lighthouses than you do of your children (or grandchildren), you just might be a 1st Order Wickie. Or, if you have ever waded through waist deep water in a swamp, in your bare feet, to reach a lighthouse, you just might be a 1st



Order Wickie. Get the idea? Here are some more:

You might be a 1st Order Wickie if:

- You can take photos of a lighthouse while throwing up over the railing of a rocking and rolling boat.
- You have a permanent lighthouse tattoo.
- You ignore warning signs to get a better look at a lighthouse.
- You are willing to absorb 7,000 volts of electricity



by climbing an electric fence standing between you and a lighthouse.

- You are extremely hungry and given a choice between food and one more lighthouse – you always choose the lighthouse.
- You get really annoyed when you hear someone say - “Don’t all lighthouses look alike?” or “Haven’t you seen them all?” or “Does Michigan really have lighthouses?”
- You are willing to hike two miles to a lighthouse, in the rain, uphill both ways, in January, without an umbrella, in the dark, on an empty stomach, while having to pee the whole time.



Look in the mirror. Is this you? If so, you just might be a 1st Order Wickie. In the next Flash we will share some more telltale signs of this incurable affliction!

Highlighted Lighthouse Cruises

Lighthouse cruises are a great way to collect lots of stamps while enjoying a trip to view off-shore or hard to reach lighthouses.

- **Harbor Tours, Inc. of Cape Ann**

Join Captain Steve Douglas for a 2.5 hour tour from Gloucester, Massachusetts, passing by the lighthouses of Ten Pound Island, Dog Bar Breakwater, Eastern Point, Cape Ann, Straightsmouth, and Annisquam. www.capeannhARBORTOURS.com/lighthouse.html



- **Save the Bay**

Want to see all the lights on Narraganset Bay, Rhode Island? Take Save the Bay’s Ultimate Lighthouse cruise, a 7 hour trip, which also stops at the Rose Island Lighthouse. They also have two shorter cruises which cover the Northern Bay or Southern Bay lights. The Northern Bay trip stops at Pomham Rocks and the Southern trip stops at Rose Island. Cruises depart from Providence, RI.



www.savebay.org/lighthouse

Both companies provide a discount with your USLHS membership card. Also, Passport books are available as well as stamps for all of the lighthouses they pass.

Kudos to our Regional Passport Stamp Volunteers

Many thanks to our volunteers who made contact with over 90% of the stamp locations to update their website listings. This is not an easy task and multiple attempts are often necessary to locate the appropriate individual. Everyone in the Passport Club is indebted to these folks for their efforts. As previously noted, locations listed in **bold** have been checked for accuracy. We have also received valuable information from others who have encountered locations where the information needs clarifying. So, during your lighthouse travels if you find new information, especially for those locations NOT listed in bold, please send me an email (skip@uslhs.org) with your update. Believe me; it really does take a village to keep track of these stamps!

Speaking of Volunteers

We are looking for one or two more volunteers to help us keep the Society website up to date. The work can be done from your home and primarily involves contacting lighthouse accommodations to make sure our webpage information is correct and

current. A similar task would be to verify the information we have listed for lighthouse cruise companies. Basic computer literacy is required as well as email and phone skills. If you would like to help us out or want more information send an email to skip@uslhs.org and tell me something about yourself.

Hall of Fame Additions

Congratulations are in order for the following individuals who have achieved new award levels. If you received more than one patch since the last listing; you are listed under the highest patch achieved. Asterisks indicate total number of all stamp flags achieved. Remember to check the Hall of Fame listing on the website to make sure your name and award level are correct. Send any corrections to passportclub@uslhs.org.

I've Seen the Light (60)

Jane Carr*
Linda Fisher*
Cherie Hancock*
Marie Holley*
Thomas & Delores Hopper*
Dianne Seymour*
Bab & Marion Zobot*

Silver Star (120)

Carol Ann Caslow*
Russ Katje**
Michael Minchak**
Sue Moffit**
Bob & Marilyn Zimman**

Gold Star (180)

John Hancock***
Kevin Keith***
Dee Werner**

Platinum Circle (240)

Jim Crawford***
Cindy Hopp****
John Hopp****
Diane Nuss*
Dan O'Neal****
Jerry Walker****

1st Wing (300)

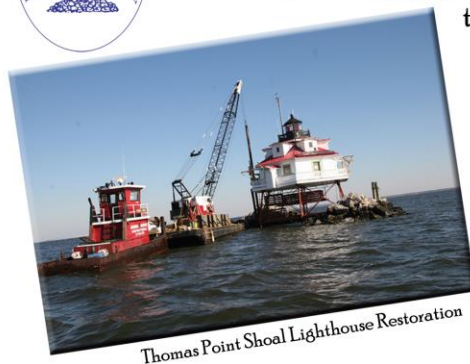
Jan Cooper**
Carole McCoy*****
Robert St. Clair**

2nd Wing (360)

Corey Rudzinski****
Glenn & Jeanine Swanson*****

>420

Burch Alford, Jr. (480)*****
Jeannette O'Neal (540)***



Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse Restoration

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Help us to continue our important work of preserving lighthouses and their history



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Society Members Tour Cape Arago Lighthouse, Oregon