



## UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE \* Hansville, WA 98340 \* 415-362-7255 \* [www.uslhs.org](http://www.uslhs.org)



# STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



**Number 49 - January 2025**

Website: [www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club](http://www.uslhs.org/fun/passport-club)

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## Happy New Year!

We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. This is a great time of the year to look back at our lighthouse adventures from last year and ahead to those planned for this year. As many of you know, sometimes it is the journeys we remember more than the destinations. Anyone who has spent time wandering around back roads looking for a lighthouse or trying to find a better view for the best photo know what we mean. It is not only about the lighthouses but also the other wonderful sights you encounter along the way. It might be floral & fauna, historical locations, wonderful landscapes or any one of a dozen other sights. Also, it may not be the journey or the destination, it might be the company. Seeking lighthouses with family and friends makes it even more enjoyable. Of course the cherry on top is getting that lighthouse stamp. So, as you make your plans for 2025, be sure to factor in some extra time to enjoy the journey and company as well as the view from the lantern room.

## Types of Lighthouse Stamp Collectors

Thinking about the journey leads us to consider the fact that people collect passport stamps for different reasons. There are a variety of collector types, but here are two to get us started:

### One and Done

Some folks use the Lighthouse Passport the same way U.S. Passports were once used to chronicle international journeys. Technology has all but eliminated these stamps but USLHS lighthouse stamps continue to be used to keep track of where we have been and where we still want to go. This type of collector's challenge is to get a stamp for every lighthouse they visit. If the location does not have a stamp, they put a photo in their passport. More than one stamp for the same location is of little interest. This is the "one and done" approach.



### The Stamp Ferret

Others take on a different challenge and attempt to find as many stamps as possible. This involves seeking multiple stamps at the same lighthouse or at other locations, trading and sharing stamps, returning to a lighthouse that has a new stamp and taking commercial cruises and USLHS tours. This term was coined by James Hill, our collector highlighted in our last issue. These folks really leave no stone unturned when it comes to finding stamps.





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In upcoming Collector Profiles you will see different reasons for collecting such as using it as a family activity or collecting all of the stamps for a certain region or state. But, whatever your motivation is, the ultimate result should be having fun as you help to preserve lighthouses and their history. Finally, if you are looking for another challenge, you can always begin collecting lighthouse postage stamps. This is a whole different world. Visit the [Lighthouse Stamp Society](#) website to learn more about collecting these stamps.



### **How Many Lighthouses, Not Stamps**

Collecting lighthouse stamps can be fun, but an even bigger challenge is to visit all or a specific group of lighthouses in a state or the United States (and maybe Canada). A good start is to use the [summary list](#) of the stamps available in the USLHS Passport Program. Currently, there are a total of 776 stamps on this list. However, remember this list:

- Does not include all lighthouses since some do not participate in the program.
- Includes replicas, some faux lights and related maritime locations (e.g. Life Saving Stations, Coast Guard Stations and maritime museums).
- Includes anniversary, Fresnel lens and USLHS stamps (e.g. Lost Lights).

A better list would be to use Kraig Anderson's website [Lighthouse Friends](#). It includes all of the lighthouses in both the U.S. (838) and Canada (811). It also contains some that are no longer standing but were historical navigational aids before they were abandoned. This is the source we use to identify stamps for "Lost Lights." The [Lighthouse Enthusiast Community](#) resource found on the Society website uses Anderson's list and the book by Bob & Sandra Shanklin (2003), *List of All Existing U.S. Lighthouses*. It also includes which lighthouses have a passport stamp. While the site is password protected you can gain access by setting up an account by creating a user name and password. We urge you to give it a try. It is a little daunting to begin with but once you get going you can track your progress and view how others are doing.

Using these or other sources you can develop your own list based on your goals and set it all up in a spreadsheet. So, what are your goals? All the lighthouses in Michigan (good luck with that one), all the existing Lightships, all the standing screwpile lights, all the lighthouses on islands or as many as we can visit with the family? Our collector profiles may give you some ideas?

### **Changes in Participating Location Website Information**

Beginning this year we will no longer be listing the days and hours a stamp location is open. This information changes on a regular basis and since our volunteers contact the lighthouses only once a year, it can change without us ever knowing. However, we will continue to list the website and Facebook links as well as phone numbers where available. So be sure to visit these links or call if you are planning on visiting a lighthouse to avoid being disappointed.



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## New Stamps

### **Petit Manan Lighthouse, Maine**

[Acadia Puffin Cruise](#), located in Cherryfield, Maine now has a stamp for the Petit Manan Lighthouse. This is the second design for this lighthouse and is available when you set sail on their two hour cruise to the lighthouse island which is home to Atlantic puffins as well as many other seabirds and both Harbor and Gray Seals.



### **Chicago Harbor Lighthouse, Illinois**

We are happy to report that a stamp is now available for the iconic Chicago Harbor Lighthouse courtesy of the Friends of the Chicago Harbor Lighthouse. The stamp will be available at the Chicago Maritime Museum which is open every day except Monday. You can learn more about the Friends group and the work they are doing to restore the lighthouse on their [website](#)



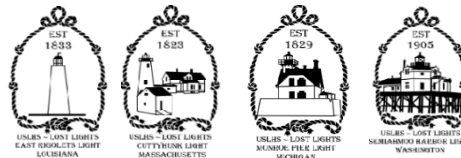
### **Point Hueneme, CA**

A stamp with a new design has been created for the Point Hueneme Lighthouse to replace the one which has been unavailable for some time. The stamp will now be available at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum in Oxnard which is a short distance from the lighthouse itself. More information about the Museum can be found on their [website](#).

## **Lost Lights VI**

In case you missed it, the sixth series of lights in our Lost Lights series is [now available](#). The four lights included are:

- Cuttyhunk Light, MA
- West Rigolets Lights, LA
- Monroe Pier Light, MI
- Semiahmoo Harbor Light, WA



## **Collector Profile - Al King**

Al King is a longtime member of the USLHS, avid lighthouse stamp collector and a member of the Pharos of Alexandria. Al, along with James Hill and John "Mac" MacFarland, has been instrumental in developing the policies and procedures for the Passport Program. Over the years they have been personally responsible for encouraging significant numbers of lighthouses to become program participants.

*My first lighthouse visit was at St. Augustine, Florida back in 2006. I had visited the area before but did not realize the lighthouse was open. After climbing the spiral staircase and visiting the museum a docent suggested driving south to visit Ponce Inlet. It was an amazing visit which included climbing Florida's tallest lighthouse and getting an up-close view of the 1<sup>st</sup> Order Fresnel Lens from Cape Canaveral inside the lens exhibit building. I found out about the Society passport program during a visit to St. Simons where a USLHS poster was on display in the gift shop. After additional research, I found out the Florida Lighthouse Association [FLA] was having a membership meeting at Tierra Verde with boat trips to Egmont Key. There were several members who had a passport book but were still working to finish it. After that meeting*



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*I set a goal to complete my first passport book - with only stamps from the Southeast. Over time, I set new goals to complete stamp only books from different areas (Northeast, Midwest, and West Coast).*

*Since that time, each lighthouse "season" my goal is to visit every state that has (or had) an officially recognized lighthouse, lightship or life-saving station. I am also a member of several lighthouse organizations (including USLHS) and helped provide updated information on existing stamp locations prior to the debut of the Stamp Flashes Newsletter. It has been great to meet others (past and present) with a passion for lighthouses and hear stories on efforts they took to visit a lighthouse or acquire a stamp that was hard to get.*

*One of the ways I was able to acquire a large number of stamps was to coordinate my travel itinerary around events (prior to lighthouse season) that provided a large opportunity for multiple stamps (examples: lighthouse challenge, organized cruises, special events and U.S. Lighthouse Society tours). This can also be a great way to meet others who collect passport books and exchange feedback on acquiring stamps. Al King*

### **Upcoming Stamp Flashes**

Future issues of *Stamp Flashes* will include additional Collector Profiles as well as the answers to questions posed by members about collecting lighthouse stamps or visiting lighthouses. For example, what lighthouse was the most difficult to get to and why? What was your most memorable lighthouse adventure? Was there a particular stamp that was difficult to obtain? How are you using lighthouse stamps as a family activity? We hope you will enjoy hearing the answers and perhaps sharing some of your stories.