

UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

9005 Point No Point Rd. NE * Hansville, WA 98340 * 415-362-7255 * www.uslhs.org



STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT PROGRAM



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

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

Summer Is Here!

As we move into the heart of the stamp collecting year here are a few reminders and suggestions to keep in mind:

1. Carry some \$1 bills so you can easily donate \$2 per stamp. Also, purchasing items from lighthouse gift shops helps provide funds for operations and maintenance.
2. Ask if they have more than one stamp. For the most part, our website listings do not include the locations that have multiple stamps.
3. If you get a stamp (image) that does not include the name of the lighthouse be sure to identify it and let us know where you received it.
4. Do not call, email or mail requests for a stamp unless the listing indicates that their stamp is available by mail. If they do offer this service always follow the instructions provided under their listing. Finally, remember that donation! You should make a donation for **each copy** of each stamp.

AI Providing Bad Intel

We have received several emails asking if a stamp is available for a particular lighthouse based on some AI searches. It appears that some folks are using AI instead of our website listings and the AI information has been incorrect on a number of occasions. For example, it has confused Frying Pan Island, MI (no stamp) with Frying Pan Shoals Lightship, NY (with stamp) and the Frying Pan Shoals Texas Tower Lighthouse, NC (no stamp). Some locations that are not part of the program are getting requests based on this false information. I know you are all aware of how careful you have to be with AI information. This is just another example of how misleading it can be. We suspect that it is non-members that are the culprits, but this is a heads up for the rest of us also.

Delayed Awards

Due to the implementation of a new database, server glitches and our volunteer Passport Inspector's recent two week absence, processing for passport awards have been delayed. We appreciate your patience and can expect them to be handled in the next several weeks. When they have all been entered in the system we will update the Hall of Fame

New/Redesigned Stamps

Ocean City Life Saving Station, MD

The Ocean City Maryland Life Saving Station has two newly design stamps. One depicts the original 1878 station which followed the standard red house style design use by the Life Saving Service at that time. It was replaced in 1891 by a new station built in the Duluth style. This building was moved to its present location in 1977 and now houses the Museum located at the southern end of the boardwalk in Ocean City. Well worth the visit.



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Point Wilson Lighthouse Relighting, WA

On June 7 over 1,000 visitors gathered at Point Wilson Lighthouse in Port Townsend, Washington to celebrate the restoration and relighting of the original 4th order Fresnel lens. The lens was actually re-lit for the first time in 17 years on October 29, 2024, but the celebration featuring tours, education displays and live music took place recently and a special stamp was created to commemorate the event.

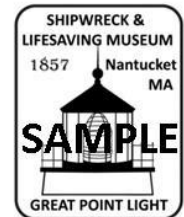


Thomas Point Shoal, MD

This summer marks the 150th anniversary of the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse one of only two remaining screwpile lighthouses in its original location (the other is Middle Bay in Alabama). A celebration is planned for August 9th in Annapolis. They now have a stamp to celebrate this event.

Nantucket Shipwreck and Lifesaving Museum, MA

New to the program is the Shipwreck and Lifesaving Museum on Nantucket which is run by the Egan Maritime Institute. The purpose of the museum is to preserve and interpret the history of shipwreck and lifesaving in Nantucket waters. It has Fresnel lenses from Brant Point and Great Point Lighthouses with the latter being featured on their new stamp.



Petit Manan - Bottom Line Fisheries, ME

Also new to the program is Bottom Line Fisheries, a family-run lobster fishing and tour operation based out of Corea, Maine. They host "Catch Your Dinner" tours offering hands on experiences where participants help haul in traps and enjoy freshly steamed lobster. In addition to spotting seals and puffins they provide great views of the Petit Manan Lighthouses. And now you can get a stamp to go with your lobster.

Stonington Point, CT and Manitowoc Breakwater, WI

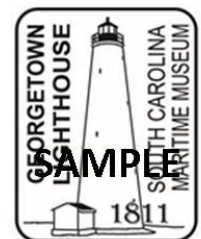
Both of these stamps have been slightly redesigned. The Stonington stamp now reads Historic Stonington instead of Stonington Historical Society. The Manitowoc stamp is available at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc. The design is basically the same, but the image has been cleaned up.



Deleted Stamps

Georgetown Lighthouse, SC

Former stamps for the Georgetown Lighthouse in South Carolina are no longer available. The appropriate stamp for this lighthouse is the one that is available at the South Carolina Maritime Museum in Georgetown, SC. The stamp is for the Museum but depicts the Georgetown Lighthouse.



Collector Profile - John (Mac) MacFarland

In recent collector profiles we have met James Hill and Al King. The following profile of Mac MacFarland completes the trio of collectors (aka the three amigos) who provided major input and support for the early development of the passport stamp program.

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I had always been a collector from coins to stamps to baseball cards as a youth to mountain bagging, highlighted by a summit ascent of Mount Rainier, and backpacking miles upon returning from Vietnam. This was highlighted by backpacking from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail in 1978. I then became interested in birdwatching. From 1981 until 1999, I spent many miles on the road visiting all 48 states while locating all 630 species of United States birds. This had taken me to many out of the way spots, where at many there was a lighthouse. So, in June 1999, needing something new to collect, I decided to try to photograph every one of them in the Continental United States. I began with Currituck Beach on 30 June 1999. By 18 November 2000, I had photographed 149 lights which had taken me to seventeen states. At that time, I received a gift from my goddaughter, Sarah. While on a school trip to Portland Head Light she noticed a passport book in the gift shop. Knowing my current project, she purchased it and sent it to me as a present. It arrived on a Friday as I was leaving for Cape May, New Jersey. I was there to view the fall migration of birds heading south, but noticed that the lighthouse was open. After photographing and climbing it, I got my first passport stamp on 18 November 2000. It came with a checklist of all the locations of stamps. Many of those that I had already visited had a stamp, so that would mean return visits. As I began collecting, I found it a bit frustrating as the lighthouses would not be open or were out at the end of a breakwater. But I got what I could. I eventually reached a realization that I was not going to be able to see them all without help, so I started joining lighthouse organizations and going on trips that they sponsored.

While on a trip on 10 May 2003 with the Chesapeake Chapter of the USLHS, I noticed a fellow paging through a passport book. I approached him, introduced myself, and asked him if he experienced frustrations with the program. He introduced himself as Al King, and said yes. So, we exchanged information and agreed to keep each other informed as we successfully found locations. He had warned me not to rely on the USLHS data base because it had led him down many wrong roads. We stayed in touch, and decided to take a 2010 USLHS trip viewing the lighthouses of Puget Sound. Throughout the trip we had voiced our frustrations with the program to our trip leaders, Skip and Mary Lee Sherwood. At the closing banquet, Skip asked us to meet with Rich Gales, who had recently become responsible for the program. That night, Rich recruited Al and myself to help him with the program. It was our goal to update the checklist and data base and make sure that they coincided. Whenever, we could verify information, we got it to Rich who updated the list and data base.

While Al and I were on a Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation trip in December 2010, we were approached by a young man, who indicated that he was an avid collector of the stamps. His name was James Hill. We quickly recruited him to help us with our Passport Stamp project. James turned out to be more of a leader than a follower and set the pace for Al and I to add new stamp locations while visiting lights that had, once had, or would like to have a stamp. With many people now successfully adding stamps to their collections, a Passport Club came into existence in November 2011. To keep enthusiasts abreast of changes, the first "Stamp Flashes" was issued in 2012. There is now an active group of regional collectors that help do what, we "Three Amigos" once did. I finished photographing every Continental United States lighthouse on 22 October 2016, but have continued to collect stamps. I recently turned in my 22nd all stamp passport book. Obviously, I have reached this level due to longevity and having sought new stamps whenever they are created. When at a site, don't forget to ask if they have any older stamps. They count, so get them. Continue to enjoy our program and go on USLHS trips.

John "Mac" MacFarland