

Joe's Corner

Spring is fast approaching and wasn't it nice to have a mild winter for a change? We are hoping to have a better weather pattern for this summer so we can get out to the lighthouse sooner.

Our biggest problem with doing work at the light is the lack of able bodied men to go out to the lighthouse to work. It's hard to schedule a day of work at the light because of wind conditions and waves if the dock isn't in place so it's hit and miss if I call anyone to go out and help. If you know someone willing to work at the lighthouse and is available at a phone call's notice, please let me know.

Our organization is made up of older members including me now, and it gets harder to find the energy to do some of the work while keeping up with our duties at our own homes. We need to get some younger people interested in our task who can take some of the pressure off the small group who are now handling duties out at the light.

Although our main priority is to restore the lighthouse we would still like to run a few tours out to the lighthouse. However, tours are not our main concern. Our main priority is working to find the funds necessary to complete the larger restoration projects. The majority of grants available deal with everything except "nuts and bolts" projects which we are seeking. Although we do have some money in our treasury, we have to retain a certain amount for matching funds grants should we find some.

I wish we could get our community more involved in this project and enlist help from our elected officials. I've read many articles concerning the successful restoration of lighthouses by groups like ours which ultimately hinged on participation by the local community as well as city and county government. I would hate to see us fail to restore our lighthouse and have to return it to the government to be sold on the open market. If that were to happen, it will be closed forever to tourism and the public. Hope to see you at our meetings and also hope all our members pitch in and do whatever you can to forward our goal.

Thank you Joe Santiana, President

Note from our V.P.

Well gang, spring is in the air. Soon, weather permitting, the dock will be taken out to the lighthouse for the season. Then work can commence again for the year. Instead of just asking for volunteers to work at the lighthouse and the fundraising events, I would like to challenge the members to upgrade their annual membership to a higher level, Grants are hard to come by and since we can not get much help, more money is needed to help restore the lighthouse. I hope that our membership can rise to this challenge.
Mark Patterson

The Beacon

Ashtabula Lighthouse
Preservation and Restoration Society

April 2016



April Membership Campaign

Our yearly membership campaign is now in full swing. Your continued support would be most appreciated. As costs keep rising, we remain on the lookout for new funding opportunities. However, your membership dues help with the cost of insurance, communication and maintenance of our workboat and floatation docking system as well as funding needed repairs out at the light. Our membership levels have not changed. We also request that you invite your family and friends to join us as we work to restore this historic landmark. Please return your dues in the envelope provided at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your support!

Lighthouse Fish Fry

At last year's Fish Fry at Lake Shore Park we served 276 dinners. On **July 16th** we will once again be offering our wonderful fish/ shrimp dinners at the Main Pavilion at Lake Shore Park. Along with the dinner, we conduct a Chinese auction that is always well received. Please plan on helping this year with this most important fund raising event.



Next Lighthouse Society Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 PM. We will be meeting at the VFW Hall on Main Ave. in Ashtabula (same location as our Christmas party) on the lower level. Please try to join us as we plan for the summer. Your input would be most appreciated.

From our Historian

As many of you know, the Ashtabula Lighthouse and Restoration Society lost two key members over the past year. The first was Dennis Hale who passed away on September 2, 2015. Dennis was one of the founding members of our organization. The second was Neil Barton who passed away on January 21, 2016. Neil was one of the light keepers who served at the Ashtabula Lighthouse. Both will be missed greatly.

Neil Barton possessed a wealth of knowledge concerning our lighthouse and the life of a light keeper that I truly wished to record for our archives. Somewhere there is a video of him speaking about his life at the lighthouse that was recorded during one of our Light-house Festivals. It, and the recordings of the other lightkeepers, should really be a part our collections.



After joining the United States Coast Guard in 1955, Neil served as a light keeper in Ashtabula from 1957-1959. Unlike most Coast Guardsmen Neil enjoyed the solitude and isolation of serving on the light house and would frequently trade assignments in order to be able to use the lighthouse as a place to think and plan his future. His longest stretch of duty was 3 months without having left the lighthouse. Neil was on duty, September 18, 1958, the day the Car Ferry Ashtabula struck the break wall and sank in the harbor.

Neil was an accomplished pianist and held a degree in Psychology. In college he became involved in a circus fraternity where he did flying trapeze. Besides the USCG, Neil also worked as a salesman, real estate broker and later invented a water filtration system for vending machines which lead to developing a company called "Vend Friend" which he operated with his wife, Susan. I had the privilege of participating in several tours of the lighthouse where Neil was present to speak and found his talks interesting and personable. His kindness, generosity and enthusiasm for our lighthouse will be so greatly missed.



Happy Birthday Ashtabula Lighthouse

This year we celebrate the centennial of our lighthouse. Yes, this is the 100th birthday for the lighthouse in its current form. In 1915 they moved the existing structure further out the breakwall to its current location and added on the engine room which is what we now see. They finished the renovation in or around 1916.



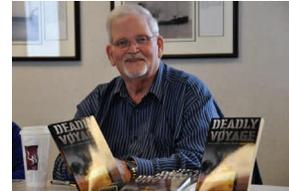
Dennis Hale... There is so much that I could say about Dennis. Dennis was a 'plank owner' (founding member) of the ALPRS. I was fortunate to be able to call him, "friend." I recall that after meeting Dennis for the first time, thinking to myself, "We have our own 'sailorman', a regular 'Poop Deck Pappy', right down to the earring, the rolling gait and the jocular personality.



Prior to ALRPS, Dennis worked as a cook, machinist, tool & dye maker and as a sailor. He was the sole survivor of the sinking of the Daniel J. Morrell, which sank in Lake Huron on November 29, 1966. Later he became an author and speaker about his experiences. He wrote two books, **Sole Survivor** and **Shipwrecked: Reflections of the Sole Survivor**. Dennis, along with his wife Barb donated many hours of service to the Lighthouse Society. Their efforts were so important to the start of the Lighthouse Society and will always be remembered and appreciated.

We can all be proud to have had some association with these two men and what they have each contributed to our organization. Our heartfelt condolences are sent to both Susan, Barb and their families. Rest in Peace my friends!

Earl B. Tucker



Odds and Ends

- If you have an email address and are currently NOT receiving email notices, please contact Lorna at lornagreicius@gmail.com
- Additional newsletters, brochures and membership envelopes are always available upon request.
- Be sure to check out our website (www.ashtabulalighthouse.org)
- Did you know that if you shop with Amazon you can click over to AmazonSmile and they will donate .5% of your purchase price to the non-profit of your choice? That would be the Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, of course!
- Our oldest member, Dixon Greenwood continues at Serenity Suites, 620 W. 44th St., in Ashtabula Ohio 44004. If you get a chance, drop in for a visit or send a card.
- 2017 Ashtabula Lighthouse Desk Calendars will be available at our Fish Fry in July. We received a very positive response from this year's calendars. If you would like to preorder please send me an email. lornagreicius@gmail.com