

BIG DIAMOND

HILLSBORO
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

November 2010
Volume 13, Number 4

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NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY DRAWS RECORD CROWDS

Shuttle boats filled to capacity – over 350 people tour lighthouse grounds

On August 7, 2010, a record 362 people visited the Hillsboro Lighthouse on National Lighthouse Day, welcomed by the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

"We are proud to be here for

National Lighthouse Day, and despite the warm temperatures, I'm extremely happy to see the enthusiastic turnout to view the brightest Fresnel lens in the world," said Art Makenian, HLPS President. "Our Board Members and member volunteers work hard to educate the public about the Hillsboro Lighthouse. Each

tour, members of the public who visit the lighthouse will find a combination of knowledgeable members and volunteers who travel from all across South Florida to assist in emphasizing the storied history of the lighthouse and the grounds."

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A VERY SPECIAL LIGHTHOUSE

BY MARTHA CASSELBERRY

With the holidays coming soon and gift giving in our thoughts, I would like to recommend a very little book only a bit larger than 4" x 5", titled *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge*, first published in 1942. Typically for the three-to-six year old crowd, it was written by Hildegard Swift after she became fascinated with watching The George Washington Bridge being built to span the Hudson River, when

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The Little Red Lighthouse and Great Grey Bridge
Source: Warrington Dolphins

UPCOMING TOUR DATES

Saturday, November 13
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the last President's letter of this year, I feel obliged to report on the status of The Centennial Patio Water Fountain and Commemorative Engraved Bricks project that has been stalled by the Coast Guard (CG) since the year of 2003. Back then, when our lighthouse visitors got thirsty on a hot and humid day and requested a drink of water, we had no means to provide drinking water unless the water was brought to the grounds by bottles. Our Board members reacted to this situation by immediately approving and appropriating funds for a cast iron historic water fountain (circa 1907) to match the lighthouse structure - to be purchased and installed by HLPS. This concept was presented to the District 7 CG for approval. In the meantime, HLPS presented a comprehensive plan and a rendering of a circular patio with paved bricks accommodating the fountain in the center. Our presentation appeared to be favorable to most CG Officers to a point that we established a joint committee to oversee the project. This situation appeared to be so encouraging that the leadership of HLPS informed our membership of this plan for feedback. The idea was so well received by our members that over 100 contributors came forward at that time and purchased bricks with their personalized inscriptions to be engraved on them.

The 2007 Centennial celebration came and went without a mention of the above project. Knowing more than half a dozen units (departments) were involved, HLPS chose to stay obscure just in case we might possibly offend the person in the CG who was shelving this project. Five District Commanders came and went, and dozens of Commanding Officers have come and gone since 2003. For the past two years, I've had the good fortune to be associated with two helpful Officers in charge of the lighthouse grounds, and they both indicated that there could be some hope for resurrecting this project.

In my correspondence with many of our concerned members, I wrote the following: "The Hillsboro Lighthouse is on Federal Government property and maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard. This property is also included and accepted as a National Register of Historic Places for preservation purposes. HLPS is a legal organization chartered to preserve the lighthouse and the property on which it stands, in the event the present caretaker fails or is unable to maintain this historic place, then through legal means we can step in as a back up." The Coast Guard is on record destroying lighthouses that they no longer have use for. In 1996, our lighthouse came very close to being on the list for destruction, and that is when HLPS was created to reverse the idea and convince the CG that our lighthouse has many more useful years ahead of it. Unfortunately, the Cape Fear lighthouse near Wilmington, North Carolina that was four years older than her sister lighthouse on the Hillsboro River Inlet, fell victim to 62 sticks of dynamite. It is also known that the Government Services Administration has turned over hundreds of Government lighthouse properties to national, state, and local Parks and Recreational Facilities and to many not-for-profit organizations such as ours, even auctioning off some lighthouse properties to the highest public bidders.

Our patio project is a victim of red tape. As mentioned above, while many units or departments in the District 7 CG are involved to approve this project, it takes one person only to come up with a negative opinion that can kill the entire project. Since 2003, several other projects such as the Barefoot Mailman statue, the sand retaining wall, renovation of cottages, new landscape plus the construction of a new boat dock and gazebos were approved, and completed. Why is it this particular project, which is not much different in concept than all the others, has stalled? We know for a fact that other lighthouses under the jurisdiction of GSA and the National Register of Historic Places have installed commemorative brick patios or walkways such as ours without a glitch.

Now that the Coast Guard District 7 has a new Commander in RADM William Baumgartner, I hope his staff will reconsider reviewing this project by keeping in mind that ultimately, in addition to the transient Coast Guard, the people of South Florida and the United States will be the beneficiaries of this project.

HLPS is retaining your purchase money. In the event HLPS does not receive an approval by December 2010 from the CG, I will be obliged to request refunding your money from our Board of Directors and send it back to you with a letter of apology.

-Art Makenian

The mission of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society is to promote the history of the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education and public access tours.

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A VERY SPECIAL LIGHTHOUSE

(Continued from page 1)

the bridge began to overshadow a very proud, small and happy red lighthouse built in 1889 on the bank of the river near Riverside Drive in New York City.

Ms. Swift, using a bit of imagination, brings the bridge and little lighthouse alive. The bridge teaches the now sad and lonely lighthouse that his beam of light is still very important for traffic along the river, and when the construction is completed, passing boats still toot their friendly "Hello" to the little lighthouse. The lighthouse soon realizes the wise big bridge was right when he had told him

that "big" or "small" we are all needed and important.

Mr. Lynd Ward, who illustrated over 200 books through his artistic career, brings his beautiful and lifelike watercolors of both bridge and lighthouse to life for children and adults.

On your next visit to New York City, consider taking a tour of the Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse, also called The Little Red Lighthouse in Fort Washington Park. For tour information, call (212) 304-2365. *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge* is available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.



Jeffrey's Hook Light
Source: *Equipe C'est N'est Pas Une Pipe*

UPCOMING LIGHTHOUSE TOUR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2010

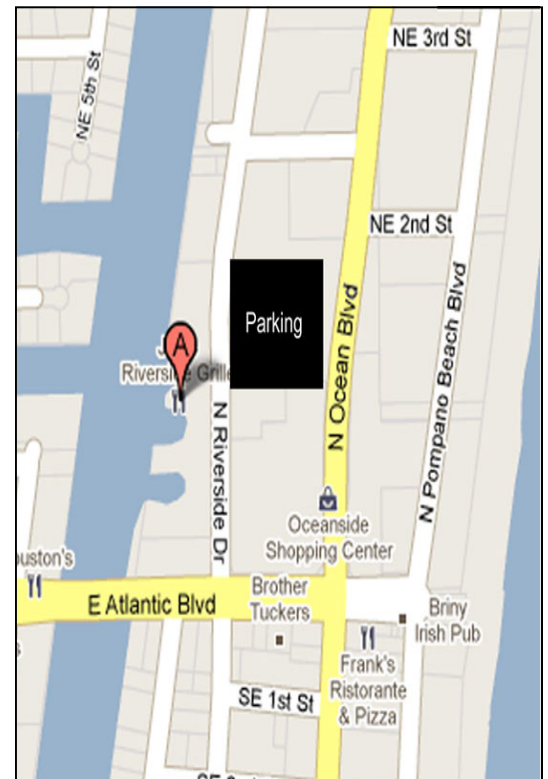
Please join the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society and the Coast Guard Auxiliary for a fall tour of the Hillsboro Lighthouse. The next tour is scheduled for **Saturday, November 13, 2010.**

Park in the **Pompano Beach City Parking Lot** (fee required) across from the **Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina**. HLPS member volunteers will be at the HLPS Lighthouse Tour table under the HLPS sign at the Sands Harbor Hotel dock.

Transportation to and from the Lighthouse is only by tour boat provided by South Florida Diving Headquarters via the Intracoastal Waterway. The HLPS table opens at 8:45 a.m., with the first boat departing at approximately 9:00 a.m. **Do not go to the Hillsboro Club or try to enter the lighthouse grounds by foot, as you will be denied entry.**

Round trip boat transportation cost is \$15 per person, but is FREE to HLPS members. Annual HLPS dues are \$25 for Individual membership, \$35 for Families and \$50 for Business or Organization (with the latter limit of 10 people on each tour date). While you can wear flip-flops on the boat, or go barefoot to walk the sandy beach at the Lighthouse, USCG regulations require that **in order to climb the Lighthouse, you must have flat shoes with rubber soles and closed toes. No sandals, flip-flops, or shoes with heels are allowed inside the Lighthouse.** Children must be accompanied by an adult and must be a minimum of 48" (4 feet) tall to climb the tower.

We suggest you allow at least two hours to enjoy the Lighthouse and all that the grounds have to offer. The last boat leaves the Sands Harbor Hotel at 2:30 p.m., with the last boat from the Lighthouse returning at approximately 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.hillsborolighthouse.org and click on **Tours.**



- Sorry, no pets are allowed -

LIGHTHOUSES OF PUERTO RICO

Sixteen lighthouses on the rocky coastline of Puerto Rico and the surrounding islands

In 1869, the Spanish government approved plans to build lighthouses at strategic points along Puerto Rico's coastline, not only for the safety of international ships delivering goods to Puerto Rico, but for the local ships that transported goods between the ports of Puerto Rico along the 311 miles of volcanic and plutonic rock that makes up her jagged coastline. Thirty years later, the newly sovereign government installed after the Spanish-American war



Guanica Lighthouse Ruins
Source: HLPS Member

was able to complete construction on the few lighthouses that had not been finished, delivering on the very well-planned marine illumination system.

Today, Puerto Rico's 16 surviving light stations include 11 historic lighthouses built by the Spanish before the annexation of the island by the United States. While many of these lighthouses are revered national monuments, many others still remain abandoned and endangered, with five of these lighthouses remaining on the *Lighthouse Digest* Doomsday List.

Each year in late January, 600 serious endurance athletes from around the world circumnavigate the entire island on a three day, 375 mile bicycle tour of the island, stopping at nine of the historic lighthouses along the way. *La Vuelta Puerto Rico*, with the support of police escorts, passes

through 43 Puerto Rican towns along the coastline, enjoying breathtaking landscapes, sparkling ocean views and coastal lighthouse communities such as Guánica, Rincón and Arecibo.

While you may not be a world-class bicyclist, the next time you are in Puerto Rico be sure to leisurely traverse the island to visit some of its many lighthouses, a few of which are highlighted below.

Guánica (ruins) - Designed by José María Sainz, the Guánica lighthouse had an elaborate brick cornice and parapet in traditional Neoclassic style, with a sixth order lens that projected light nearly eight miles. Extinguished in 1950, the lighthouse has deteriorated so that only exterior walls, the tower and a very small section of the roof remain. In 2007, the Guánica municipality and the Department of Natural Resources signed an agreement to restore the lighthouse and its surroundings, but work has not started.

Rincon - The first Rincon (Punta Higüero) lighthouse, ultimately demolished in 1931,



El Faro de Punta Higüero en Rincón
Source: HLPS Member



Guanica circa 1898
Source: Memory.gov

“Before the new lighthouse could be built, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake severely damaged the lighthouse”

first came into service in January, 1893. Also designed by José María Sainz, the light was built to guide ships navigating the Mona Passage on the western end of Puerto Rico.

The second Rincon light was lit on January 12, 1922, after the first lighthouse was damaged by an earthquake in 1918. Today, the light is just a small beacon fed by solar panels, and is part of a park open to the public, but the tower itself is closed to tours.

Los Morillos (Cabo Rojo Light) - Entering service on August 20, 1882, the Cabo Rojo lighthouse, or *Faro Los Morillos de Cabo Rojo*, was built on the very cape (or *morrillo*) that forms the

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LIGHTHOUSES OF PUERTO RICO

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southwestern tip of Puerto Rico. The lighthouse is located over a white lime



Cabo Rojo Lighthouse
Source: HLPS Member

cliff which is surrounded by salt water lagoons and marshes, nearly 200 feet over the ocean. Due to the isolated nature of the area, the light took nearly five years to complete, and unlike most other lighthouses in Puerto Rico, this Enrique Gadea designed structure is distinguished by its simplicity, with an original third-order lens that projected eighteen miles. Today, the present light is an electrical beacon originally designed for airport use. Ultimately restored in 2002, the Cabo Rojo lighthouse is open to the public for tours.

Punta Borinquen (ruins) - Completed by the government of Spain, the original Punta Borinquen lighthouse was first lit on September 15, 1889 at the edge of a 200 foot bluff in the northwest corner of Puerto Rico. Made of stone and brick, the light contained a 3 ½ order Fresnel lens and thirteen rooms designed to house two keepers. Due to erosion threatening its structure, an act of Con-

gress in June 1917 provided monies to build the new Point Borinquen Lighthouse in a more apt location. However, before the new lighthouse could be built, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck on October 11, 1918, severely damaging the lighthouse, with the resulting tsunami triggered by the quake engulfing the light, nearly killing Keeper Francisco Cavallieri, his wife and three children. Strong aftershocks damaged the light to the point that a temporary wooden light had to be built until the new light at Punta Borinquen could be completed.

The new lighthouse, completed 1921, is about one mile east of the ruins near the Borinquen (Aguadilla) airport, available

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RECORD TURNOUT ON NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY

(Continued from page 1)

As part of a tradition on National Lighthouse Day, amateur radio enthusiasts from the Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association (www.brara.org) and the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association (www.w4bug.org) were on hand to showcase amateur radio, and to attempt to contact points around the globe. Nelson Winter (NE4LS), President of BRARA, Lewis Lehman (K4LEW), VP of BRARA, Joey "Jet" Tiritilli (N4ZUW), President of GCARA, Jered Lambert (K4JLL) and John Holzapfel (KE4IDW) successfully contacted other radio enthusiasts in California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, as well as Canada, Columbia, South America, Costa Rica and Mexico. "There is an established following of lighthouse enthusiasts around the world, and amateur radio makes for an interesting connection," said Nelson Winter. "A lot of amateur radio

operators served as radiomen on ships, or were stationed at maritime coast stations, or spent some time in their life with regard to safety at sea." To learn more about the dynamic between lighthouses and amateur radio, look up the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society on the Internet.

Also on hand near the entrance to the lighthouse were volunteers of the South Florida USCG Auxiliary, offering tips, pamphlets and "illumination" about how to boat responsibly. "One of the great things about volunteering at the lighthouse is the opportunity to talk to kids and adults about their responsibilities when recreationally boating," said Marie Duda of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 38. "Not only are safety precautions such as life preservers essential, but in South Florida it is especially important to minimize your environmental impact when boating." She added, "Remember, you're in command. Boat responsibly!"

In addition to a record crowd, the Light Station was also visited by newly installed Sector Miami Captain Christopher P. Scraba and his family, who recently moved to the South Florida area from Virginia.



USCG Captain Christopher P. Scraba, the new Commander of Sector Miami, and family
Source: HLPS Member

PLEASE PATRONIZE HLPS BUSINESS MEMBERS

The following local businesses have joined HLPS at the Business / Corporate / Company level of membership. We thank them for their generous support of HLPS and our projects.



Ben & Jeannie Ellis, CRS Real Estate Brokers	PO Box 2103 Pompano Beach, FL 33061	954-401-6471	waterfronthomes@bellsouth.net www.waterfronthomesandliving.com
Beacon Images Photographs by Von Staden Nicholas & Sandy Von Staden	Pompano Beach, FL	954-695-0918 954-401-0932	nvonstaden@comcast.net
Black Rhino Hurricane Shutters & Impact Glass	1590 SW 4th Circle Boca Raton, FL 33486	954-734-4411	alexm@blackrhinoshutters.com www.BlackRhinoShutters.com
CareyCo Financial Group, Inc.	2920 NE 22nd Ct. Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-781-8549	
Computer Ways, Inc. Dave Noderer, CEO	10 Fairway Dr. Deerfield Beach, FL 33441	954-418-9799	daven@computerways.com www.computerways.com
ControlAltDispute Glenn Curran	2400 E. Commercial Blvd. Suite 206 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308	954-334-1883 954-938-9923 (fax)	sandy@controlaltdispute.com www.ControlAltDispute.com Christian Dispute Mediation & Resolution
Golden Passport Photos, Inc. Joe Suggs	1891 W. Oakland Park Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311	954-739-5190	
Grass River Publishing, LLC Bill Slager	5510 SW 7 th Street Margate, FL 33068	954-974-7383	wslager@aol.com
JenCo Plumbing Services Wayne Jenkins	901 E. Sample Rd. Pompano Beach, FL 33064	954-788-2802	JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net
Martin Kidwell, CPA	950 N. Federal Hwy. #211 Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-784-0090	Marty@Kidwellcpa.com
Palm Tree Doctor Doug & Linda Giles	430 S. Dixie Hwy W. Pompano Beach, FL 33060	954-946-3600	Linda@Palmtreeedr.com
Pompano Waterway Development Richard L. Niebling	2629 N. Riverside Dr. Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-943-9738 866-678-5997 (cell)	NieblingRichard@gmail.com
Pristine Marine Service	2275 SE 8th Ct. Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-781-6530	pristinemarine@bellsouth.net
Thomas Workman & Associates, CPA	1700 S. Dixie Hwy. Suite 403 Boca Raton, FL 33432	561-393-8220	
Triton Publishing Group	205 SE First Court Dania, FL 33004	954-921-9500	sar@rapdev.com
William A. Webb & Associates, CPA	404 E. Atlantic Blvd. Pompano Beach, FL 33060	954-782-5250	Bill@webbcpa.com

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Alligood-Stilley, Donna	Dapuzzo, Steve	Larkin, Mr. & Mrs. Tom	Roberts, Brad
Anderson, Andy & Marty	Dreyer, Mark & Dolly	Lawson, Meagan & Eileen	Roy, Janet
Aparicio, Carlos	Dube, Chris	Lehman, Christopher	Santoro, Greg & Joan
Arseneau, Mary, Kathy & Bill	Evich, Robert & Karen	Lenkowitz, George	Schmidlin, Alice
Barrix, Scott	Fanning, Dennis & Linda	Maddalena, Bruce	Schottke Family
Behnam, Beth	Feltus, Ruth V.	Magnus, Robert	Schwartz, Cynthia
Biber, Teresa	Flakman, Rosanne	Maher, William J.	Scott, Ken
Bishop, Melanie	Florea, Joe	McGregor, Beth	Smith, James
Blakeslee, Sharon	Frazer, Dan & Kate	Mechtly, Robert	Sokolowsky, Leah
Blankfield, David	Funk, Kathy	Medeiros, Mark & Kathy	Sullivan, Catherine
Book, Dr. Lindy **	Garrick, Annie	Middleton, Robert & Becky	Thompson, Duane H.
Burchess, Anthony & Patricia	Gerhardt, Dave	Milford, Greg & Chris	True, Brandon & Lauren
Burton, Bonnie	Gill, Dave & Jill	Miller, Ron & Ruth	Van Rosmalen, Toine
Calloway, Bud	Gora, Michael	Miner, Mark & Karen	Velardi Family
Campbell, J.R.	Green, Margaret	Mogavero, Jacqui	Walker, Ed
Canton, Don & Michele	Halvorsen, Maryellen	Monteson, Patty	Weaver, Dacton & Edith
Carrigan, Donna	Herriman, Herbert	Morris, Ken	Weaver, Rich
Chapman, Michele	Hodel, Steven	Murillo, Robert & Barbara	Wetzler, Ernie & Deborah
Collins, James	Johnson, Richard & Jane	Norton, Larry & Lena	Wynn, Robert
Colt, Barbara	Keister, Kathy	O'Brien, William	Zimmerman, Deborah
Connell, Phil & Liese	Korsteins, Wm. & Virginia	Orr, Richard & Consuelo	
Connors, Sara	Kostue, Michael	Parrish, Craig & Ann	+ Organization
Cowdrey, Bob & Dot	Koszo, Marlene	Poist, David	* Business Membership
Curran Law Group*	Kubikova, Jarmila	Preston, John, Karin & Ciara	** Life Members
Cutrone, Suzi	Kung, Mark	Ritchie, Shirley M.	

AUGUST 7TH LIGHTHOUSE TOUR

HLPS Workers at Sands Harbor Hotel Dock	Martha Casselberry, Jeannie Ellis, Linda Peck, Susan Taylor
Coast Guard Auxiliary	William Bartley, Gene Cain, Liz Clark, Ed Duda, Marie Duda, Gail Edelman, Jerry Edelman, Pat Feighery, Liliane Meghabghab, Jane Mueller, Tom Thayer (USCG Auxillary Division 3)
HLPS Workers at Lighthouse	Jennifer Burns, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Steve Hoczak, Art Makenian, Dave Noderer, Bill Slager
Gift Shop	Joyce and Mike Hager
Narrator, Boat Ride	Dr. Ray McAllister
Narrator, Barefoot Mailman	Ben Ellis
Provided use of their dock, tables, chairs and umbrellas	Sands Harbor Hotel
Provided Water Transportation on Aquaview	South Florida Diving Headquarters
Provided Tables and Chairs at the Lighthouse	USCG Station Manager Chelsea Spyker

e-News

Join our mailing list and receive "eNews of HLPS" detailing HLPS news and the progress of projects at the Hillsboro Inlet.

Send your e-mail address to Hib Casselberry at:
info@hillsborolighthouse.org



Photo by Chad Brackeen
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cbrackeen> Email: thebrackeens@yahoo.com

LIGHTHOUSES OF PUERTO RICO



The Original Lighthouse at Punta Borinquen
 Source: Feliciano Alonso c. 1895

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only as guest housing for Coast Guard personnel. However, the original lighthouse ruins are accessible via a paved road that crosses through the Punta Borinquen Golf Course.



Punta Borinquen Ruins (Las Ruinas)
 Source: HLPs Member

Support Florida lighthouses by purchasing a 'VISIT OUR LIGHTS' auto tag.



www.saveourlights.com

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Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.
 P. O. Box 610326
 Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0326
www.hillsborolighthouse.org

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