



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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



STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



Number 38, August 2020

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

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

A Summer of Uncertainty

As we all know, Covid-19 has put a major crimp in our plans to visit lighthouses this summer. A great deal of uncertainty continues to surround when lighthouses are or will be open in 2020. Phone calls and emails indicate that some will not be opening at all while others only recently opened with limited hours. While our stamp volunteers have contacted all locations, many responses came with caveats. If you plan to visit a specific location in the near future hoping to collect stamps, you are strongly encouraged to check their website or call before you travel. This is also true for lighthouse accommodations and lighthouse cruises. All we can do is hope for a brighter future and look forward to an active season in 2021.

USLHS Emergency Relief Grants & Support Needed

The USLHS Preservation Grants program recently provided 24 lighthouses emergency relief grants. Grants were made to help ease the financial stress on preservation groups struggling during these uncertain times. Grants were made even though a major source of funds, Society lighthouse tours, was almost totally eliminated for 2020. While some members have made donations in addition to renewing their memberships, additional financial support for the Society is needed. If you are a member of the Passport Club but not yet a member of the Society, please consider making that next step toward lighthouse preservation. Or, make an outright donation which supports preservation efforts and the Passport Stamp program. Whichever you do, it will go a long way toward helping the Society to continue its mission of preserving lighthouses and their history.

For details on how to help visit:

<https://uslhs.org/society-donation> or <https://uslhs.org/membership>

New Summary of Stamps Available

The summary list of stamps that are available has been updated to include all recently added stamps. You will note that it now also includes the list of Lost Light stamps (3 series) as well as the Christmas ornament stamps that have been issued since 2012. The total now is 713 locations (lighthouses, museums, life-saving stations and lenses) with a stamp.

The summary list is available at:

https://uslhs.org/sites/default/files/assets/full_page_mini_list.pdf

Donations for stamps

When the passport program began over 30 years ago, Society founder, Wayne Wheeler, suggested that \$1 be donated for each stamp received. Today, adjusted for inflation, that same dollar is worth about \$.41. So the purchasing power of your dollar donation today won't even buy a postage stamp! Therefore, we would like to encourage you to consider start donating a minimum of \$2-\$3 for stamps received via mail or at the lighthouse. While even this amount won't make much of a dent in preservation efforts, it will help with some basic operating expenses.

Stamp Policy

We continue to receive emails asking questions about whether or not a particular stamp qualifies as a valid entry in passports. First, we very much appreciate everyone's desire to include only acceptable stamps and abide by our stamp policy. Secondly, these questions have prompted us to restate the policy and make some minor changes. These changes will be implemented over time and anything that may have been previously accepted but now isn't, will still count in your current Passport.

For domestic and international lighthouses listed on the USLHS website of participating locations:

- The stamp must be obtained from the listed location.
- If the stamp is only an image, write the name of the lighthouse where you obtained it in your Passport.
- If more than one stamp design is available from a listed location they may be included in your Passport. Note: It is always a good idea to ask if another stamp with a different design is available.
- Stamps with different designs (listed as Design #1, #2, etc.) for the same lighthouse may be available at different locations. Each of these designs counts as a separate entry.
- A photo may be used in place of a stamp. Please write the name of the lighthouse underneath it in your Passport.
- National Park cancellation stamps are part of a different program and should not be included in your passport, with 2 exceptions: Cape Hatteras and Bodie Island. No other lighthouse stamp is available at these locations. All other NP lighthouse locations have an acceptable stamp available at a participating site.

For domestic lighthouses not listed

- Submit a copy to the Passport Club via email for possible inclusion on the list of acceptable stamps.
- If you find a location not listed that is interested in becoming part of the program, have them send an inquiry to passportclub@uslhs.org

For international lighthouses not listed

- A stamp may be included IF it has both an image and the name of the lighthouse as part of the stamp.
- Image or name only stamps as well as photos of international lighthouses may not be included for awards.

One final note: We will no longer include in our listings if a single location has more than one stamp design available. In many cases, the presence or absence of these "extra" stamps changes all the time. What we do know is that if a location is listed, they have at least one stamp. We will leave it up to you to decide if that is sufficient to document your visit or if you would like to ask if other stamps are available.

Lost Lights Series III

A new Lost Lights stamp series has been created and is now available. The four lighthouses chosen for Series III are:

1. Smith Island, Washington (Est. 1858)

Collapsed into the water due to erosion in the 1950's, but its lantern room lives on at the Skunk Bay Lighthouse near Hansville, WA.

2. Desdemona Sands Lighthouse, Oregon (Est. 1902)

One of a number of aids to navigation that lit the way into the Columbia River in an area known as the Graveyard of the Pacific . Removed in 1942

3. Lightship LV-117 (Launched 1931), Massachusetts

Rammed and sunk in thick fog by the British White Star Line SS Olympic in 1934. Seven sailors lost their lives as a result of this incident. They are memorialized as part of the Lightship Sailors Memorial in New Bedford, MA.

4. Whale Rock Lighthouse, Rhode Island (Est. 1882)

Destroyed during a destructive New England hurricane in 1938. More than 600 people died, including the lighthouse's assistant keeper, Walter Eberle. A plaque in his memory can be seen at the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum

For additional information and where to purchase these stamps visit:

<https://uslhs.org/fun/passport-club/collector-stamp-series>

Note: When you purchase the stamps, this would be a good opportunity to add a donation to support the Society's preservation efforts.

New Stamps

Squan Life-Saving Station, Manasquan, MA

The newest addition to our Life-Saving Station stamps is now available. The Squan station was built in 1902 and has two stories for living quarters and an observation tower that is four stories high. It served under the USCG until it was decommissioned in 1996. Since 2000, volunteers have spent many hours restoring the station and developing exhibits and presentations of programs on maritime history.



Bird Island, Wings Neck and Cleveland Ledge Lighthouses, MA

Wade Charters, Wareham, MA, is a private charter specializing in small group excursions including a standard lighthouse tour which includes these three lighthouses. Stamps are available for those participating in one of these tours. For more information see listing under Massachusetts.



Cape St. George Lighthouse, FL

As most of you know, the Cape St. George Lighthouse collapsed into the Gulf of Mexico in 2005 but was rebuilt in 2008 using many of the bricks from the original structure. They have been part of the Passport Program for some time, but their stamp finally wore out. A new stamp with a *new design* has been created and is now available at the lighthouse.



Hilton Head Rear Range Lighthouse, SC

The Hilton Rear Range Lighthouse, also known as the Leamington Lighthouse, is located on the Arthur Hills Golf Course at Palmetto Dunes Resort. The same stamp is available in two locations: (1) Arthur Hills Clubhouse and (2) Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort Welcome Center. Instructions on how to access the lighthouse is provided in their listing under South Carolina.



Frankfort Breakwater Lighthouse, MI

For some time, there has been a very small stamp for the Frankfort, Michigan breakwater lighthouse available from the local Chamber of Commerce. We are happy to announce that they now have a brand new full size stamp and are now one of our official passport stamp locations. When you are in Frankfort, don't forget to also visit the Frankfort Life-Saving Station for another stamp.

Faro Blanco Lighthouse, Marathon, FL

A new stamp is now available for the Faro Blanco Lighthouse, at the marine of the Faro Blanco Resort & Yacht Club, 1996 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL. A stamp with a different design can also be obtained via mail from the Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation. For more information see our website listing.



Lansing Shoal & Squaw Island Lighthouses, MI

The Great Lake Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA) has added two more Lake Michigan stamps to those currently available. Lansing Shoal and Squaw Island can both be viewed on Shelper's Extended Westbound Cruise. Contact GLLKA or Shelper's for more information about availability this year.

Other Stamp News

Faulkner's Island Lighthouse, Connecticut

After being absent from our listings for a while, the Faulkner's Light Brigade is once again offering to provide its stamp to collectors. Since the island is closed this year due to COVID 19, they are willing to provide a copy of the stamp with a SASE, an item to stamp (e.g. an index card) and a donation. See the listing under Connecticut for details.

White Shoal Lighthouse Stamps

Like many lighthouses, the White Shoal Lighthouse is not open for tours this year. However, for a limited time, they are making their stamps available by mail. They have four stamps including: (1) 1910 image (no stripes), (2) current image, (3) a two color stamp with a black border and red image and (4) White Shoal Lens. Available with a SASE and donation. This offer is **only good for this year**.

For by mail instructions contact: jill@preservewhiteshoal.org.

Isle Royale Lighthouse Stamps, Michigan

Stamps for the four Isle Royal lighthouses (Rock of Ages, Isle Royale/Menagerie Island, Rock Harbor and Passage Island) are now available at Isle Royal National Park. These were created in 2012 and made available via mail, but now will be available at several park locations. The first two stamps will now be at the Windigo Ranger Station and the second two at the Rock Harbor Visitors Center in the summer. In addition, another complete set of the stamps will be held at the Visitors Center in Houghton. See their website listing for additional information about their availability. Thanks to the efforts of the park's Supervising Ranger, Chris Amidon, the stamps have found their way home!

Hall of Fame

Congratulations to all those who submitted passports for verification and awards.

Special kudos to the following individuals who have now "Seen the Light!"

Dan Brendel

John & Dawne Rohlf

Sarah Zelinski

Kim Darr

Jim Sampson

Denise Deuschle

Cathy Vedder



Join the U.S. Lighthouse Society Today!

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



Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse Restoration



USLHS
The Keeper's Log
Magazine



Society Members Tour Cape Arago Lighthouse, Oregon

To Join the U.S. Lighthouse Society and begin your subscription to *The Keeper's Log* Magazine...
Call - 415-362-7255
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