



# CHESAPEAKE LIGHTS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER, U.S. LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

Herb Entwistle, Founding Chapter President, 1989–1997

Maryland Lighthouse Challenge

Special Edition No. 11 – 2017

## *Cruisin' for Coasters...*

### The 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge

by Karen Rosage and Lauren & Paula Liebrecht

If you hadn't known prior to the event, surprise! ...This year's event souvenirs are drink coasters! Each coaster depicts a lighthouse you will visit along the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge route. Over the years, the Chesapeake Chapter has presented to the public many wonderful Challenge souvenirs; but this year's coasters are arguably the most useful. So in that vein...*Cheers and smooth cruisin'* to you as you begin your 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge adventure!

**Note:** While we encourage you to visit any number of lighthouses this weekend, and in an order that best suits you, you may choose to follow our print directions in north to south order (or vice versa) along the Challenge route. Keep in mind, bonus lights are optional and do not count toward event completion. Include them in your itinerary as time allows.

### *Lighthouse Lovers...start your engines!*

If you've chosen to cruise along in the order the directions are presented (north to south), you will first happen upon the **Concord Point Lighthouse** in the historic and quaint town of Havre de Grace. The lighthouse grounds were the sight of a significant attack by the British during the War of 1812, so much so that local war hero John O'Neill, who single-handedly fought off the British during the attack, was given the honor of being named its first keeper when the lighthouse was constructed in 1827. The point marks the spot where the Susquehanna River meets the tidal flow of the Chesapeake Bay and the lighthouse was built to warn mariners of treacherous currents and shoals that existed offshore. The lighthouse is constructed of locally quarried Port Deposit granite, stands 36 ft. tall, and is the second oldest lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay, as well as the northernmost. It was decommissioned in 1975 and currently serves as a private aid to navigation.



Situated next along the route is **Millers Island Lighthouse**, more officially known as Craighill Channel Lower Range Rear Light. Viewing this bonus light is optional. This lighthouse was added to our Challenge in 2015 in an effort to present a skeletal lighthouse, a style not represented in past events. Constructed in 1873, Millers Island Lighthouse is one of a series of lights marking the Craighill Channel. Originally, a square keepers quarters was nestled at the base of the tower, but was removed when the light was automated in 1938. The lighthouse, easily viewable from the pier at the Dock of the Bay Restaurant,



remains an active aid to navigation. If your tank's feeling a little empty when you arrive at this location, the Dock of the Bay is a relaxing and picturesque spot to fill 'er up!...Maryland seafood anyone?

You'll be motoring next into Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor. The aura that surrounds the city conjures up thoughts of hot steamed Maryland Blue Crabs spiced with Old Bay Seasoning, or for those so inclined, an ice cold beer at Camden Yards. Of particular interest to us today, however, is **Seven Foot Knoll Lighthouse** on Pier 5. Built in 1855, this unique barnyard red, cylindrical lighthouse is constructed entirely of iron and measures 40 ft. in diameter. It was the first screwpile structure to be built in Maryland and the second in the Chesapeake Bay, with the added distinction of being the only one of its kind. It was placed at the mouth of the Patapsco River to warn mariners of dangerous shoals. Today, it stands on its own legs as part of *Historic Ships in Baltimore*.



Just a short stroll from the lighthouse is the **Chesapeake Lightship**, within clear view of the world-class Baltimore Aquarium. Currently moored on Pier 3, the *Chesapeake* is part of *Historic Ships in Baltimore*. The lightship, when constructed by the Charleston's Drydock & Machine Company in 1930, was considered the finest afloat! In its day, there was a crew of 16, including the cook. The crewmen, who served two-week stints, were charged with providing weather information, assisting with rescues, and warning of navigational hazards. The lightship measures 133 ft. long with a 30 ft. beam, with a 375mm electric lens fitted on each masthead. Being a "mobile" lighthouse, the *Chesapeake* served numerous tours of duty in the mid-Atlantic and served as a harbor patrol vessel off Cape Cod during WWII, protecting the strategic port of Boston. She was decommissioned in January 1971 and in 1989 was designated a National Historic Landmark.



On the road again...Destination: **Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse**, another optional light along the route. The caisson-style beacon sits offshore at one of Maryland's most popular state parks and is representative of other caisson structures that sit out in the Chesapeake Bay. The Sandy Point State Park sits at the western terminus of the Bay Bridge just shy of the city of Annapolis – dubbed America's Sailing Capital and home to the United States Naval Academy! Built in 1883 this lighthouse was electrified in 1929 and automated in 1963. The absence of keepers proved costly when, in 1979, vandals broke into the lighthouse and maliciously destroyed its valuable Fresnel lens, after which an acrylic lens was installed. This three-story structure was sold



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**Note:** Bolded dates indicate terms that are ending and Board members that are not renewing, please contact [president@cheslights.org](mailto:president@cheslights.org) if you are interested in joining the board.

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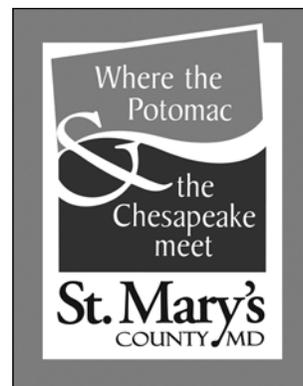
## In Appreciation

We would like to thank and gratefully  
acknowledge our 2017 event sponsors  
and special guests.

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# Welcome One And All To The 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge!

by Karen Rosage

On behalf of the entire Chesapeake Chapter, we'd like to welcome you to "Cruisin' for Coasters"—The 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. Whether you are a Maryland resident, or have traveled from afar to participate, you are in for an "enlightening" experience. It is with both pleasure and pride that we partner with the lighthouse organizations across the state to showcase this unique and diverse group of sentinels.

As you're cruisin' to each lighthouse destination, enjoy the scenery and remember that *getting there* is half the fun! Be sure to obey all speed limits and roadway signage along the way. Wouldn't want a pesky traffic violation to spoil *your* good time!

Three words of advice as you embark upon your Challenge adventure: Enjoy! Enjoy! and Enjoy! There is so much to see and so much to discover water's edge at some of the most scenic spots in the state. We hope the memories you make and the pictures you take this weekend will be treasured for years to come.

We are so pleased you are along for the ride...**The Maryland Lighthouse Challenge—Making Maryland Memories**—one lighthouse at a time!



## The Beacon

by Greg Krawczyk

Please accept my warmest welcome to the 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge!!!

The ultra-dedicated team of volunteers superbly lead by Challenge Coordinator Karen Rosage has once again put together another fantastic Maryland Lighthouse Challenge.

The Maryland Lighthouse Challenge is the Chesapeake Chapter's flagship recurring event. The primary purpose is to give all of you the opportunity to experience and enjoy some of the many lighthouses in Maryland. But it also gives you a chance to see first-hand how volunteers have worked to preserve the lighthouse/lightship history in Maryland.

As you visit the 10 staffed lighthouse/lightship sites, please take a few minutes to chat with these volunteers. Many have worked at lighthouses and other Chapter venues all over the state. They have a wide variety of experience and knowledge. Many of these volunteers provide extensive service to our members, manage our Chapters administration, communications and finances, supervise the many other programs the Chapter is involved in, perform maintenance and preservation of Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse and provide the same for other lighthouses and lightships in the Chesapeake Bay region.

We all share a love of lighthouses, stationary and floating, and we hope that your interaction with us this weekend will show you how much we care about these lighthouses and their history. If you are not a member of the Chesapeake Chapter, I hope you will find our work inspiring and agree to help us continue our mission by becoming a member and perhaps becoming a volunteer with us.

Be safe as you travel around Maryland and thank you for participating in the 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge! And don't forget to tell your friends, family, and neighbors what a great time you had!

**Cruisin' for Coasters** from page 1

at public auction to a private bidder in 2006 with a desire that it one day be restored to its former glory. The United States Coast Guard continues to maintain the light as a navigational aid.

While passengers are enjoying the beautiful view, drivers will need to keep their eyes on the road as they exit the park back onto Route 50 and drive over the impressive 4.316 mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge, which links Maryland's urban and more populated western shore with its laid back, rural eastern shore.

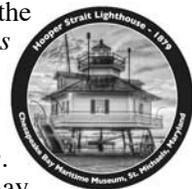
Your next destination will be St. Michaels, the small town that has been named the *Hamptons of the Chesapeake* for its upscale charm. St. Michaels is not short on accolades, having also been named one of the "Top 10 Best Small Coastal Towns in America" by *USA Today*. It is here that you'll find the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and its crowning jewel, the **Hooper Strait Lighthouse**. Resting on its screw-piles is a 44 ft. diameter, hexagonal wooden 1.5 story cottage, containing six rooms. The lighthouse was constructed in 1879 and houses a white light 5<sup>th</sup> order Fresnel lens. In 1882 a red sector was added to the lantern, and in 1954 the lighthouse was fully automated. The lighthouse

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## Earn a Special Edition Maryland Lighthouse Challenge Coaster

Become a member, renew your membership, give a gift membership, OR donate a minimum of \$10 to the H.E.L.P. Fund and you will receive a special edition souvenir coaster from the 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge, depicting a beautiful photo of Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse by photographer Bill Conway ([www.flickr.com/photos/bill\\_conway](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bill_conway)). **This is a limited time offer!** Your payment must be received between August 7 and September 30 to earn this souvenir coaster. Please use the envelope in the center of this newsletter, or on our website, [cheslights.org](http://cheslights.org)



## Cruisin' for Coasters from page 3

had deteriorated, but in 1966, was rescued by the fledgling Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and moved 40 miles upriver to the museum grounds where it was fully reconstructed and meticulously restored.

It's back onto Route 50 for a jaunt further down Maryland's eastern shore to the historic waterfront community of Cambridge. It is here that you will find the replica of the last standing **Choptank River Lighthouse**. Constructed in 1858 as the Cherrystone Bar Lighthouse in Virginia, it was moved to the Tred Avon River location in 1921 to replace the original Choptank River Lighthouse which succumbed to ice a few years earlier. This became the only *operating* lighthouse moved from one bay location to another until 1964 when it was dismantled by the Coast Guard. The 2012 replica, based on original plans from the National Archives, is a hexagonal cottage-style structure, and is showcased on the end of Pier A at Long Wharf Park.



*Varoom, varoom!* It's time to backtrack over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Destination now...Southern Maryland and its diverse group of lights! It is at the next stop, the impressive Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, that you will view Drum Point Lighthouse and take a short bus ride to Cove Point Lighthouse in Lusby!

**Drum Point Lighthouse** is another screwpile transplant. The lighthouse was constructed in 1883 to mark the shoals at the entrance to the Patuxent River. This 46 ft., 1.5 story cottage on seven screw-piles was originally constructed in 10-12 ft. of water, very close to shore which allowed keepers to have their families live with them. In 1944 the lighthouse was electrified, in 1960 automated, and in 1962 deactivated. In 1966 the Calvert County Historical Society adopted the lighthouse; and in 1975, the 41-ton structure was cut from its pilings and found its new home at the Calvert Marine Museum where it was painstakingly restored.



The wheels on the bus go round and round...A few miles upriver, and a short bus ride from/and courtesy of the museum is **Cove Point Lighthouse**. Built in 1828, this 40 ft. masonry conical tower marks the shoal that extends offshore near Calvert Cliffs. In 1928 the light was electrified and in 1986 automated. In 2000 the Coast Guard transferred the light station to the Calvert Marine Museum, and in 2008 the museum received a grant to renovate the tower interior. The lighthouse continues to be an active aid to navigation, with the light maintained by the Coast Guard.

Heading south...The next destination: **Point Lookout Lighthouse**. History abounds at this location, having been the sight of both a Union Hospital and Confederate Prison during the Civil War. Many believe they have witnessed paranormal activities at this lighthouse, so much so that members of the Maryland Committee for Psychical Research conducted a study. The lighthouse was also featured in the Learning Channel's 1998 documentary, *Haunted Lighthouses*. Built in 1830, the integral-style lighthouse, sits at the mouth of the Potomac River. In 1883 it was raised to two stories and converted to a duplex in the late 1920's. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1966 and replaced with an offshore skeletal tower. In 1967 the lighthouse was transferred to the United States Navy, and then in 2006, transferred to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. That same year, the Point Lookout Lighthouse



Preservation Society was founded. In 2009 preservation efforts began on the lighthouse.

Next stop...**Piney Point Lighthouse** located on the Potomac River, just upriver from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. This squat, conical brick structure was built in 1836. It was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1964. In 1980 it was transferred to St. Mary's County Museum Division. In 2002, after years of renovation and installation of a new set of stairs, the tower was opened for climbing. Piney Point is called the "Lighthouse of Presidents" due to the by-gone era when a number of dignitaries including Presidents James Monroe, Franklin Pierce, and Theodore Roosevelt visited or vacationed on the grounds.



Wow...we've burned some rubber this trip; but next is a water taxi ride from St. Clement's Island Museum to another Potomac River lighthouse, **Blackistone Replica**. St. Clement's Island, on which the lighthouse is proudly perched, is Maryland's Birthplace! How apropos to visit the birthplace of a state through which you have been traveling all weekend! Blackistone is a bonus on this year's Challenge. The original Blackistone Lighthouse was built in 1851, a two story brick dwelling with integral tower. In 1864, Confederate troops destroyed the Fresnel lens which had been installed in 1857, but spared the lighthouse. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1932 and demolished in a fire of mysterious origins in 1956. In 2007-2008, *St. Clement's Hundred* launched a drive to build the replica, which was then built and is now open to the public.

And, last but not least...the closest light to Washington D.C., **Fort Washington Lighthouse** which sits at the intersection of the Potomac River and Swan and Piscataway Creeks. The present structure, erected in 1882, is a pyramidal, wooden fog bell tower. In 1901 the bell tower was further enhanced to house both lantern and lens, increasing its original height to 32 ft. The current tower was built to replace a small tower that had been constructed in 1870, which, in turn, had been built to replace an earlier cast iron column with a small "hoistable" light, both having served as rudimentary light stations at this location. Don't let this lighthouse's diminutive size fool you, it's all about location, and Fort Washington Lighthouse served at a very strategic one. Throughout a period in history, the Fort provided the only defense for our nation's capital from its Potomac River approach.



Well now...it's time to buckle up for the ride home. We hope you have enjoyed cruising to some of the most scenic spots in the state during the 2017 Maryland Lighthouse Challenge, and that you will treasure your memories and the souvenirs you've *earned* along the way...**You've seen the lights!**



## 9 Lighthouses • 1 Lightship • 2 Days!

Lastly...speaking of cruisin', were you aboard Captain Dave Schaubert's vessel for the 2017 Bonus Cruise either Thursday or Friday? If so, you had the chance to view some of the bay's more elusive lights. Not to worry, you may still have an opportunity. The cruise runs Monday, the 18th, too. You will find information on back of the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge rack card, available at most stops along the Challenge route!



