

**OUTER BANKS LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY BOARD
(OBLHS)
Ninth ANNUAL MEETING**

May 23, 2004

Avon, North Carolina, at the home of Charlie and Shirley Votaw

Board members who were present:

Judy Castleberry, Doward Jones, Jim O'Donnell, Mabry O'Donnell, Bett Padgett, Shirin Pagels, Betty Parrish, Bruce Roberts, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Charlie Votaw, and Shirley Votaw

Board members who were absent:

Sandra MacLean Clunies, John McPherson, Richard Meissner, and Brent Westwood

There were no honorary Board members in attendance.

(A complete list of Board members will be attached to this report.)

President Cheryl Shelton-Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

The minutes of the 2003 Board meeting were approved as written.

Unfinished Business:

- Membership Report: 451 (330 renewals, 121 new). This number is down from last year. Let's publicize OBLHS, even at Outer banks weddings.
(The official report of all paid memberships and donations is available from the Vice President for Membership.)
- Publications
 - Newsletter
We printed three issues in 2003 with the summer issue being four pages longer than the other two issues. We will continue to print three issues of 2,000 copies each if we produce the layout ourselves and Doward Jones prints them. In gratitude for service we will send issues to lighthouse volunteers at Hatteras, Bodie, Currituck, Lookout and Bald Head; their copies will not list an "expiration date" but will be marked "volunteer."

We will seek e-mail addresses from the newsletter and through the member information form. We also need the nine-digit zip code address for all members.

It would be nice to put past issues of the newsletter on the web. More discussion about this will follow at future Board meetings.

- Pamphlet
Jones will print the new pamphlets for cost in the future We are awaiting copies from Rowan Printers that Ralph Burrows has arranged. Jones suggests that we add more color, include Internet addresses, and highlight membership in the society more prominently.
There is a constant need for these pamphlets, because lighthouse shops, educational organizations, and welcome centers request them frequently.
- Treasurer's Report: Total assets as of April 30, 2004, are \$17,298.
 - Bodie Island Fund CD: \$8475
 - Hatteras Lighthouse CD: \$5116
 - Cash: \$3707
(A complete OBLHS Treasurer's report and a 2002 Tax Return were distributed.)
- The Board decided that a finance committee is unnecessary. In the future we must contact the Board about any expenditures over \$200.
- Update on Coastal Lights:
 - **Currituck Beach Lighthouse** continues to have disagreements with the Currituck County Commissioners. Outer Banks Conservationists have been audited and found to be in compliance. The most recent issue has been the number of bathroom facilities and parking spaces. Since the number requested by the Commissioners is outside the possibility for OBC, John Wilson of the OBC has asked that the property be grandfathered which would allow the lighthouse to operate with fewer parking spaces than previously requested and to operate the museum gift shop in a residential area. The NC State Attorney's office agreed that the property be grandfathered but Currituck County Commissioners continue to demand that OBC comply with zoning laws even though the zoning restrictions were put in place after OBC opened the lighthouse to the public. The OBLHS continues its support of OBC.
 - **Bodie Island Lighthouse** (BILH), within Cape Hatteras National Seashore, remains a line item in 2007 for its complete restoration. The money, if approved by Congress as submitted within the National Park Service's (NPS) budget, will be awarded partially in 2005 with complete contracting and actual construction to begin in 2007. The amount is about

\$1.4 million. On April 30, Homes and Gardens TV honored the BILH on its “Restore America” series. A check for \$25,000 was given to the park. The Board watched the program and praised Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and HGTV for a job well done.

Nick Johnston, Fresnel lens expert, inspected the BILH lens on behalf of the OBLHS and stated with assurance that the lens can be easily stabilized in place. His report has been submitted to the NPS at Harper’s Ferry. The issue at this point is the transfer of ownership from the Coast Guard to the NPS, since the NPS will not spend money on the lens until they own it. The NPS expert who examined the lens found it in good shape. The only negative assessment of the lens came from the Coast Guard expert who declared the lens “dead.” The OBLHS Board is hopeful that a transfer from the Coast Guard to the NPS will allow us to partner with the NPS toward a successful restoration of the BILH lens.

As we continue our work at BILH, we may need financial assistance. Harbour Lights may be willing to provide some support.

- **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse** opened for the season on Friday, April 9, 2004. Fees increased to \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for senior citizens and children 12 and under. Hours for the season are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., extended to 6:00 p.m. after Memorial Day until Labor Day. Our celebration for 200 Years of Light at Cape Hatteras was extremely successful. The stones that were moved by Hurricane Isabel are being put back into place and the sand covering the stones is being removed.
- **Cape Lookout Lighthouse** was transferred on June 14, 2003 from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service. Lowe’s donated the supplies to paint the lighthouse.
- **Bald Head Lighthouse:** Access to Bald Head Lighthouse is by passenger ferry only that costs \$20 roundtrip. This money goes to the real estate firm that owns half of the island. The other half of the island is controlled by Donna and Kenneth Mitchell, cofounders of the Old Baldy Foundation. The additional \$3 lighthouse admission fee frustrates visitors once they have paid the transportation tariff; they are not aware that none of the money collected for transportation from the mainland to the island is donated to the lighthouse.
- **Oak Island Light:** Oak Island Lighthouse, not considered an historic structure (1958), is claimed by the town of Caswell Beach. The town is working with the friends group that is led by Judy and Gary Studer.

- **Roanoke River Light:** A reproduction of the Roanoke River Light has opened at Plymouth. Doward Jones reported on the success of the light and the nearby museum that incorporates some 5000 square feet of space. The North Carolina Department of Transportation donated money for the project because of its relationship to transportation.
- **Roanoke Marshes Light:** This reproduction light on the waterfront in Manteo procured a 4th order Fresnel lens from the Coast Guard.
- Cheryl-Shelton Roberts reported on her trip to represent the society at the St. Augustine preservation meeting. St. Augustine is the only lighthouse that has the ownership of its lens.
- The Board of directors was approved at the members' meeting, October 17, 2003. Board members are Judy Castleberry, Sandra MacLean Clunies, Doward Jones, John McPherson, Richard Meissner, Jim O'Donnell, Mabry O'Donnell, Bett Padgett, Shirin Pagels, Betty Parrish, Bruce Roberts, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Charlie Votaw, Shirley Votaw, and Brent Westwood.
- Honorary Board members are Cullen Chambers, Edward Green, and Debbie Hildebrandt.
- The October 18 event was a success, in spite of the hurricane that had recently visited the area. Judy Castleberry reported on the raffle where the four major prizes netted \$5,961. The auction generated \$2,418. After discussion, the Board decided to use the same procedure next year (each member will be asked to bear the responsibility for 5 tickets at \$2.00 each). We will have a deadline for accepting items for auction, which should go more smoothly since we will have a description of each item and words of credit for the donors. It is also hoped that a practice with the information earlier in the day will add efficiency to the auction.
- Two changes to the bylaws were made at the October 18, 2003, meeting.
 1. "The OBLHS Board of Directors shall consist of at least eight board members with a quorum consisting of five board members."
 2. "Future meetings of the membership shall be on the North Carolina coast as deemed most beneficial to the membership body and afford a diverse experience for said membership."
- The dedicated web site was launched in March:
<http://www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org>. Purchasers are able to use Paypal at the Keeper's Store.

The Board expressed appreciation for the work of our founders, Bruce Roberts and Cheryl-Shelton Roberts. They are caring, determined, and perspicacious.

Outgoing President Cheryl-Shelton Roberts presented the presidential gavel to incoming President Bett Padgett.

New Business:

- The fall meeting of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society will be October 21-23, 2004, at Harker's Island, North Carolina at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum next to the Cape Lookout National Seashore headquarters at Shell Point. The general meeting will be on October 23, 2004, before the clambake. There will be a trip to Portsmouth Island with Lee Babb Dominique, the last baby born in Portsmouth Island August 2, 1927.
- In October the members will be asked to vote on the by-law change: "The President of the Outer Banks Lighthouse Board shall serve a term of two years."
A committee composed of Bett Padgett, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Jim O'Donnell, Mabry O'Donnell, and Judy Castleberry will propose by-law changes for next year.
- **Officers:**
 - President: Bett Padgett
 - President-Elect: Judy Castleberry
 - Vice President for Membership: Betty Parrish
 - Vice President for Marketing and Special Events: Bett Padgett
 - Vice President and Director of Fund Raising: Judy Castleberry
 - Secretaries: Mabry and Jim O'Donnell
 - Treasurer: Bruce Roberts
 - Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Shelton-Roberts
 - Directors of Community Relations: Charlie and Shirley Votaw
- Society Awards: *Note*--Awards will be given only when appropriate.

President's Awards:

Betty Parrish	1997
Bill Parrish	1998
Betty Shelton	1998
John Gaskill	1998
Tom Yocum	1998
Connie Jones, Bodie Island	1999
Tim Harrison	2000
Bett Padgett	2000
LERC (maker of Coastal Cubs)	2000
Sandy Clunies	2000
Rick Polad	2001
Henry and Chris Gonzales	2001

Roy's Folks (Roy Ackland & David Weatherly)	2001
John Howard	2001
Bank of America	2001
Lynn Jennette	2001
Charlie Votaw	2002
Shirley Votaw	2002
Bruce Roberts	2002
Jack McCombs	2002
Sandy Semans	2003
Richard Meissner	2003
Ralph Burroughs	2003
Judy Castleberry	2004
Nancy D'Andrade	2004
Nick Johnston	2004
Brent Westwood	2004

Founders Award:

Senator Marc Basnight	1997
Bill Younger	1998
Bill and Betty Parrish	1999
Governor James Hunt	2000
Tim Harrison	2001
Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc.	2002
Jim and Mabry O'Donnell	2003
Kim Younger Andrews	2004

Cape Hatteras Award:

Russell Berry	1997
Dr. Ellis Cowling	1998
National Park Service Cape Hatteras Seashore, Outer Banks Group	1999
Joe Jakubik of International Chimney	2000
Charlie and Shirley Votaw	2001
Glenn Eure	2002
Bett Padgett	2003
Kevin Duffus	2004

Bodie Island Award:

Cullen Chambers	1997
John McPherson	1998
RAI Associates	1999
Lloyd Childers	2000
Patty Lockamy	2001
John Gaskill	2002

Doris and Dave Reed	2003
Paula and Lauren Liebrecht	2004

Currituck Award:	New award in 2002
Lloyd Childers	2002
Outer Banks Conservationists	2003
John Wilson	2004

- The Votaws were thanked for their continuing support and hospitality.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, May 22, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the home of Shirley and Charlie Votaw in Avon, North Carolina.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabry M. O'Donnell, Ph.D.

James H. O'Donnell, Ph.D.