

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

May 25, 2003

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

Board members who were present:

Ralph Burroughs (see notation later in minutes), Richard Meissner, Jim O'Donnell, Mabry O'Donnell, Bett Padgett, Betty Parrish, Bruce Roberts, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Charlie Votaw, and Shirley Votaw

Board members who were absent:

Lloyd Childers, Sandra MacLean Clunies, Maureen Griffin, John McPherson, Charlene Wiles-Perry

There were no honorary board members in attendance.

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

Guests:

Judy Castleberry and Brent Westwood

President Cheryl Shelton-Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

The minutes of the 2002 board meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

- Resignation:
Rick Polad has resigned from the board.
- New Board Members as of the members' meeting on November 9, 2002, are
Richard Meissner and Maureen Griffin

- Membership Report: 678
(The official report of all paid memberships and donations is available from the Vice President for Membership.)
- Newsletter Report:
We printed 5,000 copies of the past two issues at a cost of \$2500 per issue. The President reminded us that the goal of the newsletter is education and awareness, not financial return.
We decided to continue printing 4 issues a year--2 will be historical in nature and 2 will update our membership on various concerns.

We will seek e-mail addresses from members through neon inquiry strips on the newsletter and through the member information form. We can then send newsletter updates by e-mail.

The board discussed the newsletter advertisements, but reached no decisions.
- Ralph Burroughs said that we have the paper necessary to print 25,000 additional *North Carolina Lighthouses* pamphlets; he will attend to this matter immediately.
- Treasurer's Report: Total assets as of May 1, 2003, are \$16,955.
The Bodie Island video produced by Coastal Productions and containing some footage from the History Channel should sell better this summer, especially when John Gaskill is available to talk with visitors.
- Update on Coastal Lights:
 - **Currituck Beach Lighthouse** has been transferred to the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. (OBC). The decision on Currituck County's appeal will be made the first week in June. Within the provision for the lighthouse to remain with OBC, there is a reversion clause for the state of NC. OBC continues its ten-year lease on the keepers' house. The OBLHS supported the OBC in this effort by connecting OBC with lighthouse societies nationally; thousands of letters were written to members of Congress. OBLHS has received several phone calls, emails, and handwritten letters from John Wilson and OBC thanking the OBLHS for its assistance. (An addendum: Currituck County Commissioners appealed the decision by the Department of the Interior; OBC and the county have been asked to "partner" in the running of the lighthouse. There is no further information to date.)
 - **Bodie Island Lighthouse's** (BILH) lead abatement procedure is complete in the base of the lighthouse; the next step will be a laser survey to measure the precise dimensions of the structure. These reports have been

completed toward the restoration of the lighthouse, funded by the Save America's Treasures program. Cape Hatteras National Seashore Historian, Steve Harrison, has explained that the restoration of Bodie Island Lighthouse is a proposed line item for 2007. If approved by Congress, the money will be awarded partly in 2005 to complete contracts and the remainder in 2007 to begin construction. The priority of the 1.4 million dollar project can be expedited if our Congressional representatives support the restoration. Because of the lead abatement work, the tower was open for only a few days last year. 196,780 people visited the historic site during 2002.

An additional concern regarding BILH is the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) proposal to remove the first order Fresnel lens from the light. In response to this suggestion and in view of the differing opinions about the condition of the lens between the USCG and the National Park Service (NPS), the latter has asked for ownership of the lens as well as for a partnership with OBLHS to maintain the lens. The decision about ownership will be made after June 1. Should a partnership be formed, one or two OBLHS members should attend a lens workshop or visit a site where they can be instructed on the care of a lens. We have been invited to the Coast Guard Exhibit Center in Forestville, Maryland, where Chesapeake Chapter United States Lighthouse Society (USLHS) does volunteer work on Fresnel lenses. We voted to enter a partnership with the NPS and to suggest that a shade, usually made of black heavy cloth, be made to protect the lens. Bruce and Cheryl Roberts will pursue this partnership and the production of the lens covering. Maureen Griffin will guide the efforts to bring all related structures within the proposed Bodie Island Historic Lighthouse District.

Of the twelve historic sites that will be showcased by HGTV for its "Restore America" series, there is only one lighthouse--Bodie Island. The show will air for the first time on July 4, 2003.

The OBLHS received thanks and an article in the local OBX newspaper for assisting in the purchase of six drawings and documents related to the 1859 Bodie Light. We donated \$4,500 to secure the documents.

1. The materials were authenticated.
 2. As soon as the documents are preserved, copies will be made available to the OBLHS and the OBX History Center; a public display then will be arranged.
- **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse's** stairs have been repaired, the tower has been painted, and the facility has been opened to the public. The Bicentennial of the Hatteras Light will be commemorated with an original painting by Glenn Eure that will be auctioned at the October 18 celebration.

- **Cape Lookout Lighthouse** will be transferred on June 14, 2003, from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service, Cape Lookout National Seashore. A special tribute to former Coast Guardsmen and Lighthouse Keepers and their families will be a part of the events.
- **Bald Head Lighthouse** will be returned to its original single color by the Old Baldy Foundation (OBF). OBLHS commends the OBF on an outstanding job completing the 1850s keeper's cottage near the tower and for the display interpretation about keepers and their duties.
- **Texas Towers and Oak Island Light**
It has been reported that the Texas Towers will be discontinued at both Diamond Shoals and Frying Pan Shoals. It is also rumored that the Oak Island Light will be discontinued.
- **Roanoke River Light** (A reproduction of the Roanoke River Light is opening at Plymouth in June.)

New Business:

- The board of directors was approved at the members' meeting November 9, 2002, for a three year term of office. Board members are: Ralph Burroughs, Lloyd Childers, Sandra MacLean Clunies, Maureen Griffin, John McPherson, Richard Meissner, Jim O'Donnell, Mabry O'Donnell, Bett Padgett, Betty Parrish, Bruce Roberts, Cheryl Shelton-Roberts, Charlie Votaw, Shirley Votaw, and Charlene Wiles-Perry.
- Honorary Board members are: Cullen Chambers, Edward Green, and Debbie Hildebrandt.
- Judy Castleberry was elected to fill the unexpired term on the board, ending November 9, 2005, as allowed by our by-laws.
- Ralph Burroughs resigned from the board in order to pursue commissioned fund raising opportunities for the OBLHS.

Note: There will be a brief board meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2003.

- **Election of Officers:**
 - Chairman of the Board: John McPherson.
 - President: Cheryl Shelton-Roberts
 - President-Elect (To assume duties in 2005): Maureen Griffin
 - Vice President for Membership: Betty Parrish
 - Vice President for Special Events: Bett Padgett
 - Vice President for 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
 - Fundraiser/Consultant until next board meeting: Ralph Burroughs is to communicate directly with Judy Castleberry and Bruce Roberts, and ultimately the entire Board.
- 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
Rowan Business Forms	2003
Ralph Burroughs	2003

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

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

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 (volunteers)	2003

Currituck Award:**New award in 2002**

Lloyd Childers	2002
Paul Hanson and Keith Johnson	2003

Possible new award: Cape Lookout

(We will consider Superintendent Bob Vogel in 2004.)

- No changes were made to the by laws.
- Judy Castleberry and Brent Westwood will represent OBLHS at the cancellation ceremony for the five-stamp series at Tybee Island Light Station, Georgia, June 12, 2003. They will stand on stage and receive the stamp and say a few words.
- Castleberry and Westwood also will represent OBLHS at the stamp cover presentation event on June 29, 2003, at Old Cape Henry.
- Bicentennial Celebration: Come celebrate 200 years of a light at Cape Hatteras on October 17-18, 2003. Information about the various activities will be forthcoming in the newsletter and by e-mail. Bett Padgett reported on the October 18 dinner; Judy Castleberry reported on the raffle/auction to be held in conjunction with the dinner at the Comfort Inn in Nags Head.

- Next Meeting: Sunday, May 30, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at Richard Meissner's home on Harker's Island or park headquarters. Future announcements will give the specifics.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabry M. O'Donnell, Ph.D.

James H. O'Donnell, Ph.D.