



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB



Number 42 - March 2022

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

Email: passportclub@uslhs.org

Is that the End of the Tunnel or a Train?

There is that old saying that when you see a light at the end of a tunnel there is always the possibility that what you are seeing is a train coming at you. Last year at this time we thought it was the tunnel's end, but it turned out to be the Omicron train. Well, once again we see a light and this time we are hoping it will guide us past submerged rocks and into safe harbors. If it does, we will once again find lighthouses ready to greet visitors, open for climbing and eager to stamp our passport books. Your passport stamp regional volunteers have already been contacting lighthouses and obtaining updated information to make your journey planning easier.



While some areas of the country are still experiencing winter, lighthouses appear to be gearing for opening up in the spring and summer. We also are receiving passport orders and requests for stamp replacements indicating that these locations are getting ready for your visit. So, let's pause to thank the following volunteers who are busy doing the work to keep our website fresh.

Wayne Cotterly

Nicole Grashik

Sharon Mills

Marion Zobot

Marge Czop

Judy Grigg

Sue Moffit

Yvette Dills

Wanda Mayo

Andy Robinson

Special thanks to Scott and Diane Walbert who coordinate the efforts of half of the regional reps and also maintain the lighthouse cruises and accommodations pages on the Society's website.

Happy Anniversary to Us - We've Come a Long Way, Wickie!

Ten years ago this month, the Passport Club website was launched. For the first time extensive information about stamp locations was made available, the Hall of Fame was created and the stamp only (flag) was added to the awards. Prior to that, stamp locations were listed with an address and a phone number and a P (open to the public) or V (only can view). It was all on one line. 269 lighthouses and museums were listed: today there are 727. Maine listed 19 stamps: today there are 71. Michigan listed 26 stamps available: today there are 103! This only reinforces the importance of those people listed above and previous volunteers who worked to keep the website, created 10 years ago, up to date.

New Cape Hatteras National Seashore Stamps

As we have previously announced, our program no longer accepts National Park cancellation stamps in the USLHS Lighthouse Passports. This is for two reasons. First, the NPS stamps are a separate program with their own passport. Secondly, acceptable stamps for our Lighthouse Passport are available for all lighthouses that also have a NPS cancellation stamp.

In fact, several of them have more than one stamp. Remember, you can include cancellation stamps but they must be in addition to the 60 stamps required for an award level. The locations with new stamps are Cape Hatteras, Bodie Island and Ocracoke lighthouses. Also available, during 2022 only, is a special 150th anniversary stamp for Bodie Island. For information regarding when and where all of these are available see their listings on our website. You will have to visit the Outer Banks to get these stamps since they will not be available by mail.

Coming Soon - Lost Lights Series IV

A new series of Lost Lights will soon be available. This series features:

- Mare Island, CA (1873-1917)
- Brazos Santiago, TX (1879-1940)
- Gull Rocks, RI (1887-1961)
- Parris Island, SC (1881-1912)

All Club members will receive an email when they are ready for purchase. The previous three series are currently available at: <https://uslhs.org/shop>

New Stamps

Au Sable Light Station, Michigan

The Au Sable Light Station, located in the Pictured Rock National Lakeshore, now has a stamp with a new design. After being closed during Covid, they plan to be open this year from Mid-June to end of September, Wed-Sun, closed Monday/Tuesday. The lighthouse grounds are open year round and are a 1.5 mile hike from the Hurricane River campground.



Bolivar Point Lighthouse, TX



We are excited to have the Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation take possession of a stamp with a new design for their Texas lighthouse. The original stamp was designed for the 2012 USLHS Texas tour. Unfortunately, at that time, they were unable to take possession. Keep an eye on the website for



information regarding when and where this new stamp will be available. The previous stamp will be retired. To learn more about Bolivar Point listen to Jeremy D'Entremont's Light Hearted Podcast 161 featuring an interview with Foundation founders Amy Maxwell Chase and Mark Boyt.

St. Simons Lighthouse, GA

St. Simons Lighthouse has a new stamp design commemorating their 150th year anniversary in 2022 (right image). This is a good opportunity to show how a stamp might change over the years. Only early collectors have the first stamp (left image). This is why it is a good idea to always ask if another stamp is available.



Whitefish Point Light Station

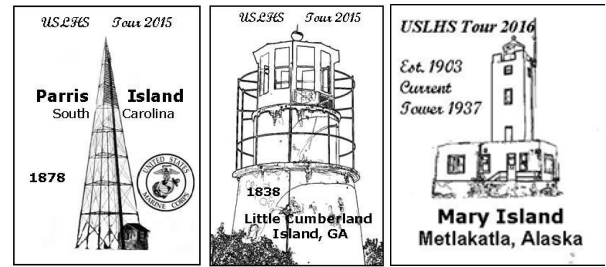
Speaking of old stamps, the current Whitefish Point stamp (at right) did not even identify the lighthouse. This stamp also caused some issues because it would not fit into one square of the passport book. Problem solved! They now have a brand new stamp with a great new design to fit into your book nicely. See their listing for availability.



Lighthouse Tours on Steroids

While the internet makes it relatively easy to develop your own itinerary for visiting lighthouses, nothing beats participating in one of the tours available from the USLHS. These tours often provide participants an opportunity to visit, view or climb lighthouses that are not accessible to the general public. Examples include Parris Island, Little Cumberland Island and Mary Island lighthouses. Not only are these difficult to

see, but passport stamps for them are only available to tour participants. And, while a stamp may be available for a lighthouse, accessing it may be a different story. For example, tour participants have climbed the lighthouses at Alcatraz and Diamond Head and stood inside the hyper-radial Fresnel lens at Makapu'u Point, the only one of its kind in the U.S. To see what's next on the tour schedule, check out the USLHS tour page: <https://uslhs.org/tours>



Displaying Your Awards

What do you do with the award patches and flags you receive for Passport achievements? Hopefully, you don't just put them in a drawer where nobody can see them. I am sure many of you create some type of display that acts as a great conversation piece. Passport Club member, Randy Chase, has framed his to show off his badges, wings and flags. As you can see, he has reached the limit of our awards by having 660 passport entries. Nice job, Randy! If anyone out there would like to share how you display your patches, send a photo to: passportclub@uslhs.org. We would be happy to share them with other Club members.



We would like to thank all of you who take the time to contact the Passport Club to inquire about whether or not a specific stamp qualifies as a passport entry. This really helps us a LOT and makes our job a whole lot easier. So, if you are ever unsure if a photo or stamp will count, please send an inquiry to passportclub@uslhs.org. We will do our best to respond in a timely manner. However, we are all volunteers so please be patient, we do have another life!

[Donate Today](#)

The USLHS Passport Club is a free club that was created to help everyone have fun collecting passport stamps, to provide help to finding those elusive stamps and to provide the most accurate up to date contact information for each location. We are happy to say that the Passport Club's popularity has surpassed our wildest dreams and continues to grow. Consider making a [donation](#) to help support our efforts so that lighthouses and their history continue to be there for all to enjoy.

To make a tax deductible donation visit our donation page: [USLHS Donations](#)