

Lighthouse Updates

By Bett Padgett

Spring 2015

Currituck Beach Lighthouse is owned by the Outer Banks Conservationists, Inc. The lighthouse is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. beginning March 28th. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the lighthouse and grounds will remain open on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m.. Climbing fees for adults are \$10/person and children under 7 can climb free. They are introducing season passes this year: \$50 for an individual, \$120 for a family (5), and +\$30 to add another person on to the pass. They accept cash and checks. December 1st will mark their 140th anniversary. Plans for a free climb that day are being discussed. For more information visit <http://www.currituckbeachlight.com/>.

Roanoke Marshes Lighthouse (reproduction), situated in Manteo, is an exterior reproduction of an 1877 screwpile light that was originally at the southern entrance of the Croatan Sound to the Pamlico Sound located near Wanchese. The lighthouse is owned and operated by the town of Manteo <http://www.townofmanteo.com/index.asp> and is located on Manteo's charming waterfront near the Roanoke Island Maritime Museum. <http://roanokeisland.com/MaritimeMuseum.aspx>. The lighthouse is open daily, free of charge from 9a.m.-5 p.m. year-round.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) and its park visitor centers are open year-round, 9 a.m. -6 p.m. mid-June through Labor Day and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. the rest of the year. For more information call (252) 441-5711 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/caha/>

Bodie Island Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. The lighthouse opens for climbing April 17th. This year, the Bodie Island Lighthouse will be open as a self-guided experience, similar to how the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is operated. By switching to a self-guided experience, the wait time will be significantly reduced and the amount of time spent experiencing the lighthouse will be self-determined. This change should allow more visitors to have an opportunity climb the lighthouse each day. Climbing hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily with ticket sales from 8:45 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens (62 or older), children 11 years of age and under, and for those holding a *National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass*. Tour tickets may be purchased on site the day of the tour or may be reserved in advance. In the first thirteen days the lighthouse was open last season there were 2035 climbers. The NPS will offer Full Moon Tours this year. Information on climbing can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/bodie-island-lighthouse-tours.htm>.

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. A Condition Assessment for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was completed by Joseph K. Oppermann, Architect, P.A. in 2014. The NPS Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) will be developing a Historic Structure Report for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse to include a Management Summary, Developmental History, and guidelines for Treatment and Use; work on the report will begin this spring. These reports will serve as guidelines for future lighthouse renovations (no set dates available at this time). The lighthouse opens for climbing April 17th. Climbing hours for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse are 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily in the spring and fall, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., May 22 through Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Ticket sales for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse begin at 8:15 a.m. daily and close at 4:30 p.m. in the spring and fall, and at 5:30 p.m. May 22 through Labor Day. Climbing fees are \$8 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens (62 or older), children 11 years of age and under, and for those holding *National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass*. <http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/climbing-the-cape-hatteras-lighthouse.htm>.

Ocracoke Lighthouse grounds are open year-round. The National Park Service is working with Eastern National, their cooperating association, in efforts to purchase an undeveloped tract of land near the lighthouse that would be utilized for additional parking spaces

Chicamacomico Life-Saving-Station is located in Rodanthe, just north of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse at milepost 39.5. The station is open in the spring until the day after Thanksgiving. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10a.m.-5p.m. Exciting programs are offered at 2p.m. daily through August. This historic site has seven acres representing the United States Life-Saving Service with eight original buildings. The oldest dates to 1874 and the newest is the Main Station built in 1911. Please visit www.chicamacomico.net.

Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is located at the end of Hwy 12 on Hatteras Island near the ferry landing and is owned and operated by the state of North Carolina. It is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The museum operates under the NC State holiday schedule. Visitation is free but donations are appreciated. <http://www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com/index.htm>.

Cape Lookout Lighthouse is part of Cape Lookout National Seashore. Park headquarters and the Visitor Center are located on Harkers Island and are open year-round from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. except

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days. The grounds are open year-round. In the winter the Visitor Center is closed on Sundays. The Keepers' Quarters Museum and facilities at the lighthouse and the Portsmouth Village Visitor Center will open in April. The Park has partnered with the Island Express Ferry Service for transportation to the Cape and other locations within the seashore. In April 2014 the Park opened a new center in Beaufort at the town hall, 701 Front Street, where you will find new exhibits. Ferry departures in Beaufort are from Graydon Paul Park across the street from the Visitor Center. Ferry tickets for Cape Lookout and Shackleford Banks will be sold at both Visitor Centers. Departure in Harkers Island will be from the dock at the Visitor Center. More information about reservations, fees and schedules about the ferries can be found at www.islandexpressferryservices.com. The lighthouse will open for climbing from May 12th until September 20th. People may climb Tuesdays through Saturdays. Also, it will open for climbing Sunday, May 25; Sunday, July 6; and Sunday, August 31. Ticket prices are \$8; for children 12 and under and seniors, tickets are \$4. Tickets may be purchased from TUESDAY through SATURDAY at the **Light Station Visitor Center** during the hours of operation. Tickets are sold on a first come / first served basis. Moonlight climbs will be offered; call for more information about dates and reservations. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/cal/> or call (252) 728-2250. The lighthouse will get a new coat of paint! The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. Cape Lookout National Seashore celebrates its 49th anniversary in 2015. Established by President Johnson, the 56 miles of wild and beautiful shoreline within Cape Lookout National Seashore has been a favorite recreational location for generations.

Oak Island Lighthouse is owned by the Town of Caswell Beach with ongoing cooperative efforts with the Friends of Oak Island Lighthouse (FOIL). General public tours to the second level only (just 12 steps up – NOT to the top) for anyone 7 years of age or older are available ONLY during the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Second level tours are only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Volunteers conduct tours to the top year-round with at least 2 weeks' notice. A request to climb can be made at their web site. Children must be 9 years-old to climb. The lighthouse grounds are open year round with limited 30 minute parking provided at the base of the tower from sunrise until sunset. (www.oakislandlighthouse.org). 3 different couples from the area asked for special tours in order to get engaged since the first of the year...and 3 said YES. Last year's tours to the top were a record-breaking 3500. Please visit their website for further information and to request a special tour.

Price's Creek Front Range Light (1850 ruins) is not open for public visitation, but from the Southport-Ft. Fisher ferry you are afforded a good view of this pre-Civil War tower, the only range light in NC still in its original location.

Old Baldy Lighthouse & Smith Island Museum: The Old Baldy Foundation (OBF) owns, maintains, and staffs this historic lighthouse. The museum and lighthouse spring climbing hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. & Sunday 11a.m.-4 p.m. Lighthouse and Museum admission \$6/adult (13 and up) \$3/youth (3-12) 2 and under FREE. The annual event, "The Pirates Are Coming," a fun family event is July 31st-August 2nd. To learn more about OBF, see <http://www.oldbaldy.org/>

Roanoke River Lighthouse (reproduction) is located on the town of Plymouth's beautiful waterfront about halfway between the northern and southern Outer Banks off Highway 64. Hours of operation are 11a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and by appointment. Call (252) 217-2204 to arrange a group visit. Visit <http://www.roanokeriverlighthouse.org/> The Roanoke River Lighthouse and Museum are projects of the Washington County Waterways Commission.

1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse in Edenton is located in Colonial Park on the downtown Edenton waterfront. The lighthouse recently opened to the public seven days a week, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m..A small fee is charged by Historic Edenton State Historic Site: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for youth 12 and over, younger children free. The lighthouse will be open for guided tours seven days a week for the foreseeable future. Visit their website: www.edentonlighthouse.org

Maritime Center Lighthouse Facility in Little Washington, NC opened October 24th, 2014. It is owned and operated by the city and operated by Washington Marina. The lighthouse was designed to resemble the architecture of the Pamlico Point Light, which once marked the entrance of the Pamlico River. The structure includes shower and laundry facilities for boaters, as well as public restrooms and, on the second floor, new quarters for the Dockmaster and Dock Attendants. Active; focal plane about 35 ft. (11 m); white flash every 3 s. 2 story wood building, upper story octagonal, with an octagonal lantern centered on the roof. Upper story and lantern painted white with red roofs. It is located on Stewart Parkway on the waterfront of Washington, a historic town on the Pamlico River estuary. Site and building open daily.

Mark your calendars for the annual OBLHS Keepers Weekend 9-11. Activities will be centered around the river lights of Plymouth and Edenton. In our history of 20 years we have never visited them as a group!