



Alabama Lightkeepers

Summer, 2007

A publication for Alabama Lighthouse Members

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The making of an Exhibit...

By Jim Horner, Lantern Room Chairman

As most people now know, the Lantern Room rehabilitation has been completed. It was assembled in March and is on display at the Mobile Airport. But how it got rehabilitated and put on display is a much longer and more complicated story.

Lantern Rooms of this kind were generically constructed to basically the same design. Middle Bay Light's Lantern Room was lost years ago. Fortunately, one was found in California that



Jim Hall (L), Jim Horner, Pete O'Neal, and Brent Beall assemble the base



Getting the Lantern Room through the door was tough!

Lantern Room on a trailer, and took it to Grand Bay. That was four years ago.

Our next challenge was to find an indoor home for the Lantern Room. Once it was sandblasted, primed, painted and laquered, it had to be stored inside. It measured 8.5 feet wide by 12 feet tall and it also had to be on display for two to three years until the National Maritime Museum, its ultimate home, is completed. We tried the County Court House, the Convention Center, and even the RSA Tower. Nothing worked. But it was suggested that the Mobile Airport had displays and I immediately set-up an appointment with Bay Haas, then Executive Director of the Mobile Airport Authority. I took him pictures of the lighthouse and Lantern Room with our requirements concerning size and timing. He reacted very positively and got his authority to agree. We had a home. Now, the real work had to begin--in earnest!

needed a house and Captain Hal Pierce had the foresight to raise the money to have it shipped to Mobile. It arrived in March of 1997, and was placed in a hanger at the Battleship Park for another seven years.

In 2003, Peter Tanner and I located a sand blasting company in Grand Bay named Strip-Tech and owned by Phil Ostercamp.

We met Phil at the Battleship to show him the Lantern Room to see if he could handle the job. He brought a part of an airplane he had sand blasted with plastic beads that looked great. We gave him the job, put the



Guiding the top over the base took precision and time

Continued on Page 4

Sand Island Lighthouse “Keepers Report”...

By Warren Lee, Chair



Top of Sand Island Light

Much has been happening recently for the good of the Sand Island Lighthouse. The Engineering report draft has been submitted for review by Thompson Engineering to the Alabama Lighthouse Association, Dauphin Island Lighthouse Committee and the Town of Dauphin Island. This report will provide the data needed to create the restoration business plan. This plan will set-out what the finished project will look like, and what ongoing repairs and improvements will be done to the lighthouse and island. It will also setup the order of the repair work. You will be amazed at what is being built for the public!

The FEMA work the ALA has done in conjunction with the Dauphin Island Committee and the Town of Dauphin Island has resulted in some limited FEMA funds being available for the Lighthouse. These funds are nowhere near enough to complete even the emergency repairs set forth in the emergency repairs section of Thompson report. They are a great start to saving the lighthouse and FEMA and the Town of Dauphin Island should be commended for their efforts to save Sand Island Lighthouse.

The ALA is providing support for the emergency repair project now. After many years of hard work by lighthouse supporters like you, the lighthouse restoration repair work is beginning in earnest. Please keep in mind that we will need to raise over one half million dollars to do the emergency work to the tower that it needs now. FEMA is only providing enough to get started with the repairs. The finished project will be many times that amount.

Fund-raising for the Sand Island Lighthouse project will begin to be in the news very soon. Be sure to tell all the people you know about Alabama’s Statue of Liberty, Sand Island Lighthouse, and ask them to support the project with a nice donation to help with the funding. The Lighthouse and the development of the public recreation area are being done for them. The public and their children will be the ones to enjoy the lighthouse for generations to come.

We are in a race against mother nature in fund-raising for the Sand Island Lighthouse. We must complete emergency repairs before the next big hurricane or the Lighthouse might be lost. The tower has vertical cracks in three places that have weakened the structure. The engineers feel these can be repaired and that the foundation is still secure, but we must hurry!

That is about all I have space for right now. If anyone asks what they can do to help, might I suggest you tell

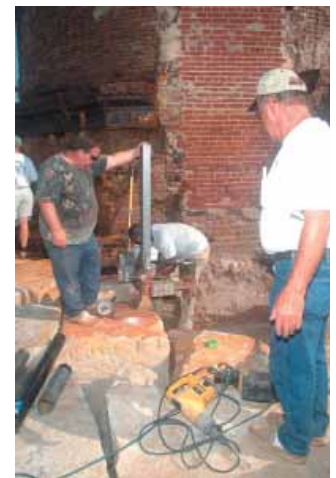
them to join us by making a donation to the Sand Island Lighthouse or to the Alabama Lighthouse Association. Please become a member of the Alabama Lighthouse Association; \$25 a year dues go a long way toward helping all of Alabama Lighthouses.



Warren Lee looks on



Rappeling down



Drilling a core



Looking down from the top



Fresnel Lens once set upon here

Pictures courtesy of Brent Beall, Maritime Museum and Thompson Engineering

President's report.....

by Pete O'Neal, President

I can hardly believe that two years have passed since becoming President. We have accomplished so much in just a short time and I am very proud to be associated with such an active Board and the Association.

We now have a quality museum exhibit located just inside the main entrance to the Mobile Municipal Airport. Many thanks to Brent Beal of the National Maritime Museum and ALA Board member Jim Horner for the construction of the exhibit and the support of Bay Haas and the Mobile Airport Authority. The Fresnel lens is the final piece we need to complete the exhibit and we look forward to permission from the USCG to loan us the lens in the near future. The lantern room will remain at the airport until the Maritime Museum is built and will be its first exhibit.

Sand Island Lighthouse has been on high priority this past year. We are in the final review of the study made by Thompson Engineering to determine the actual condition of the lighthouse, structural status of the foundation, and what needs to be done to stabilize the lighthouse. To this end, the Town of Dauphin Island (owners of the lighthouse) and ALA have worked closely together with Thompson Engineering to have the best opportunity to succeed. There will more to come so stay tuned.

Middle Bay Lighthouse is a survivor and carries many personal memories for all of us around Mobile Bay. Our new chairperson, Art Thomas is making plans to both scrape and paint the rooms and exterior of the lighthouse. This needs to be accomplished in the near future. Want to help, give us a call.

Mobile and Baldwin County are in a unique position of having three lighthouses that have had a significant historical impact on the area. I know you are wondering which the third is....it is Fort Morgan Light. Wouldn't it be great to be able to visit each lighthouse and gain a unique perspective of our heritage? You can by joining us in achieving this endeavor.

I am glad to say there will be more to come. The Alabama Lighthouse Association is your Association, come join the fun and promote our history for generations to come.



Pete O'Neal

It's here and on the web site....

By Marie Bidney



A big "thank you" for all that participated in the Alabama Lighthouse Association's first cookbook. Your contributions made this first edition possible. We are already selling many books and perhaps in the future we will do another edition.

The cookbook is on line now at our website, and you can order from:

www.alabamalighthouses.com
or contact me and I will see you receive your cookbook. The on-line price is \$10 for each cookbook (plus shipping and handling).

It will make a wonderful birthday, anniversary, or Christmas gift for your family. Remember that most of you helped put it together.

Alabama Lighthouse Chairs

~ Mobile Point ~
Johnny Newman

~ Lantern Room ~
Jim Horner

~ Membership ~
Jeff Davis

~ Specialties ~
Frank Brown

~ Property ~
Kim Lea

~ Newsletter/Web ~
Marie Bidney

It was decided from the outset that the Alabama Lighthouse Association would pay for the rehabilitation of the Lantern Room and construction of its base. A budget of \$6,500 was approved by the Board; the actual final cost was \$5,625.13. The Maritime Museum would pay for and build the keyasks and display surrounding the Lantern Room.



Jim Horner (L), Sandy Horner, and Hal Pierce place brass around the windows



The exhibit starts to shape up

Brent Beall, Exhibits/Facilities director, of the Maritime Museum was in charge of that project, which helps explain the history of Alabama's lighthouses.

I was very fortunate to find a number of people eager to help, and for that, we are very grateful. Joe Lovelady of NFL Building Center helped us with the cost of lumber as did Tracy Holobaugh of Eastern Shore Glass help us with the cost of the tempered glass. Bill Lees gave us brass bars to replace the two missing ones. Bill Potzner, President of Southern Machine Works, and his son

Zane milled the brass bars into duplicate window retaining bars. You can't tell the difference. Southern Fastner gave us over 60, hard to obtain, red brass bolts to fasten the retaining bars. The ball vent valve was another challenge. We found a company named W. F. Norman Corporation in Nevada, Missouri, who made copper balls. The 15 inch diameter size was calculated by extrapolization. They also gave us the 5/8 inch diameter lightning rod. A metal fabricator in Daphne put the vent valve together.

Because of timing urgency, Brent and I were totally consumed with constructing our parts of the display. The part we weren't able to work on was logistics. Jim Hall came to the rescue. He arranged a warehouse for storage and practice assembly. He also arranged for trailers and transportation to the airport. The quote



The final result

we had for this work was over \$6,000. Jim's guys did it for free. He also sized all of the 60+ bolts to secure the brass retaining bars.

On March 7, at 5:30 p.m., our convoy arrived at the airport. It consisted of a large trailer, large truck, and two vans. Curtis Samuels, Airport Maintenance Supervisor, met us and, to his great credit, helped us unload everything and get it into the airport. It was midnight before everything was assembled.

We now have an outstanding display of our Lantern Room, temporarily located at the Mobile Airport. It will stay there until the Maritime Museum is completed. We have several additions to make.



Pete O'Neal (L), Frank Brown, and Brent Beall (R) prepare one of the kesaks

A manikin, donated by the Museum of Mobile, has been rebuilt and will be placed in the Lantern Room as the light-keeper. We are still working on obtaining a Fourth Order Fresnel lens from the Coast Guard. We are also looking at adding red glass panels that some Lantern rooms used to demark the right and wrong side of the lighthouse to pass.

As I said, this was not a simple or one man project. It took the efforts and donations of many and the result is this display of our Middle Bay Lighthouse Lantern Room--a treasure from Alabama's lighthouse past.

*Join the Alabama Lighthouse Association
and make a difference
by helping protect Alabama Lighthouses*

*Middle Bay Lighthouse ~ Sand Island Lighthouse
~ Mobile Point Lighthouse ~*

*Alabama Lighthouse Association
P.O. Box 250
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(251) 626-4743*

www.alabamalighthouses.com

Please enroll me (us) in the Alabama Lighthouse Association. Enclosed is a check or money order in the amount of _____ for the level of membership I have selected below:

Member/Individual	\$25 per year
Watch Room (Family)	\$35 per year
Keeper (Individual and Family)	\$100 per year
Inspector (all member classes)	\$200 per year
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Maritime Museum Report....

By Brent Beal, Maritime Museum

The National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico officially launched its Charting the Course Capital Campaign Thursday at the museum's future site in downtown Mobile by announcing that over \$6 million has been raised toward the campaign's \$10 million goal.



View from the ship's terminal

Projected to open in 2009, the \$30 million project is a public/private partnership between the City of Mobile and the Maritime Museum, a non-profit organization that is underwriting the museum's exhibits and infrastructure. With over \$10 million in support from federal sources, the City of Mobile is working with the Maritime Museum to secure the remaining funding for the \$22 million building, which also will house the city's ferry terminal with passenger service to other Gulf Coast sites. The Maritime Museum will serve as the public hub of activity at Mobile Landing, which is already home to the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center, Cooper Riverside Park, and the Alabama Cruise Terminal.

City officials, museum trustees, civic leaders, and campaign donors gathered at Mobile Landing to launch the campaign and unveil the sign that will mark the museum's future home. "Today we embark on a new era in the history of Mobile," E. B. Peebles III, Chairman of the Maritime Museum Board of Trustees, said. "Through this campaign, we are bringing together those who wish to honor and celebrate the rich maritime heritage of Mobile and the Gulf Coast region."

The campaign's lead commitment of \$1 million has been provided by the McLean family – Miss Clara McLean and the sons and daughters of Malcom and James McLean. In the 1950s, at Waterman Corporation in Mobile, Malcom McLean pioneered the concept of "containerization" for transporting goods. With siblings

James and Clara, the McLean family operated businesses that transformed international shipping – a revolution that celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

In addition, lead gifts have been provided by Alabama Power Foundation, Atlantic Marine, Bender Shipbuilding, Cooper/T. Smith Corporation, The Crampton Trust, The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, Hearin-Chandler Foundation, Mobile Gas Service Corporation, The Monte L. Moorer Charitable Trust, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Peebles III, Regions Bank, The Seamen's Club of Mobile, The Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust, Admiral and Mrs. William H. Stewart, Wachovia Bank and Whitney National Bank. Collectively, the Maritime Museum Board of Trustees and professional staff provided gifts and pledges totaling over \$1.2 million, with 100 percent participation.

At Thursday's launch, Campaign Chairman Lee Moncrief thanked current campaign leadership including Lead Gifts Committee Co-Chairs Cheryl Thompson and Marietta Urquhart for their time and effort, and acknowledged early donors as providing the campaign with a clear sense of momentum.

Members of the Lead Gifts Committee are Thomas Bender, Edgar Downing, Michael Lee, Lee Moncrief, E. B. Peebles III, Kate Seawell, Teresa McLean Smith and Admiral William H. Stewart. The campaign launch also involved the unveiling of signage that marks the future home of the Maritime Museum. The sign, shaped like a vessel rising from the site, has an interior space that features displays about the Maritime Museum's facilities and exhibits, the continuing development of Mobile Landing, and the museum's capital campaign.

"Donations of all sizes will be needed to underwrite the museum's exhibits and infrastructure," Tony Zodrow, Executive Director of the Maritime Museum, said. "The public phase will provide an opportunity for families and school children to sponsor nautical elements in the Maritime Museum and show their support for the project." For more information, please contact the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico, with temporary offices at the International Trade Center (250 N. Water Street, Suite 131) in Mobile.



View from ground level

Pictures courtesy of Brent Beall, Maritime Museum

Middle Bay Lighthouse.....

By Art Thomas, Chair



Art Thomas and Middle Bay

On June 12th, I accompanied Bill Wiggins, State of Alabama Building Inspector, Mae Williams, State of Alabama Historical Architect, and Kyle Thomas of Thomas Roofing Company for the annual inspection. Despite the four to five foot seas, we had a successful but wet trip.

The slate roof is generally in good condition, needing only minor attention to a couple of hip areas and some flashing details at the dormers. The slate has done a remarkable job of withstanding the rough weather conditions the Lighthouse has experienced the last few years.

The Lighthouse is in serious need of paint and some woodwork. I'm working to get estimates for paint and some general repairs. If anyone knows of a contractor that would be interested in working with us, please contact me.

Three weeks ago my wife and grandchildren rode out early in the morning just to enjoy the early sunrise. I hope they will catch some of the magic that Middle Bay Light has held for me since my grandfather took me for my first vist in 1950. Take someone out there, if you have a chance.

Sand Island Lighthouse Fund Raiser.....

The weekend of July 20 through the 22nd proved to be a hot and dry but a great weekend for the Sand Island Lighthouse Association and Alabama Lighthouse Association who teamed-up to sell their wares at the 75th Annual Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, sponsored by the Mobile Jaycees.



Pat Edwards (L), Hal Pierce (C), and Bill Edwards talk about the display

Under the direction of Bill and Pat Edwards, coffee mugs, shirts, Christmas ornaments, and more were sold and a lot of conversations were held about our lighthouses. All monies that were collected will go toward the renovation of Sand Island Lighthouse.

Three raffles were given away on the last day of the Rodeo and the winners were: 1st prize a ROD won by James Skipper, 2nd place was a HAND PAINTED PICTURE won by Anita Boyle, and



Pat Edwards (L) helps a customer pick a perfect souvenir

3rd place was a lighthouse PRINT won by Ted Broadus.

The Sand Island Lighthouse Association thanks everyone who helped with the exhibit and those who contributed funds to the cause. A big thank you goes to the Mobile Jaycees for letting the Association conduct this fund raiser and providing the air conditioned tent.



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- Features include both American and foreign lighthouses, past and present
- Technical articles, lightships and more

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Our Mission....

The mission of the Alabama Lighthouse Association is the historic preservation of lighthouses. To accomplish this the following objectives are included:

It is to establish support, promote efforts toward the preservation of Alabama Lighthouses through educational programs, newsletters, and other literature and films, publicity, and tours. To assist in whatever way possible in the restoration and preservation of lighthouses, lighthouse artifacts and literature everywhere, To endeavor to raise funds for this mission through donations, membership fees, grants, and fund raising events as authorized for exempt organizations under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Alabama Lighthouse Association

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