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Winter 2014

## LANTERN ROOM GLASS SPARKLES!

Have you noticed anything different about the Cape St. George Lighthouse in recent days? Does the light look a little brighter at night? Does the lantern room have a new sparkle when you see it in the morning sun?



16 panes of impact-resistant glass arrive at the Light.

Installation of the new lantern room glass has been completed, and what a difference it makes! If you haven't been to the top of the lighthouse lately (or even if you have), one of these coming spring days would be a great time to make the climb and enjoy the enhanced view.

The work was completed on March 12 by Alex Klahm and his team of metal artisans and glass installers from Alex Klahm Architectural Metal and Design, Inc. of St. Petersburg, Florida. The project was finished on time and on budget by this talented group of committed

and creative craftsmen.



Alex and Joe send up first box of glass.

The glass that was installed is impact resistant, consisting of two ¼ inch panes sandwiching a rubber membrane. The glass, which would not fit through the scuttle hole into the lantern room, was hoisted up the side of the lighthouse two panes at a time in a specially designed



Reggie and Joe install an upper pane.

wooden crate lifted by a cable attached to a pole in the lantern room at one end and a winch mounted in Alex's trailer at the other. Fortunately, they were able to lift all the glass before the afternoon winds picked up!

Also installed as part of the project was a system of eight metal vents above the upper glass panes in the lantern room. The vent system, which does not affect the architectural integrity of the historic lighthouse, was designed by Alex to provide ventilation at the top of the lighthouse during our steamy summer months. Because of the narrow gallery which is a feature of the design of our lighthouse, visitors are generally not allowed on the lantern room deck. Even with the one door open, it could still get quite toasty



Alex installs a steel header for the vent boxes.

in the lantern room. The grate on the door was replaced and outfitted with an improved latching system so that the door can still be opened for extra ventilation. While we are not advocating the premature arrival of higher summer temperatures, we are anxious to test the viability of the new venting system!



Vent boxes have moveable flaps.

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SGLA member Mark Vail will continue to work on touch up painting in the lantern room. Alex was very complimentary of the work Mark did to remove rust and corrosion, especially in the tracks that hold the glass. Mark used a needle gun powered by a portable air compressor for this work, which will be an ongoing part of lighthouse maintenance in our salty environment.



Alex Klahm and team member Richard (on ladder) with SGLA's Jim Kemp, Mark Vail, and Jim Dunkin.

## Flagpole To Be Dedicated on Memorial Day

Make this Memorial Day truly memorable by attending the dedication of the new flagpole in Lighthouse Park. Plans are underway for a ceremony to begin at 12 noon on May 26 with a traditional 21 gun salute fired from a series of miniature cannons. According to military tradition, the flag will be raised to half-mast at 8 a.m., then to full-mast after the salute.

While the dedication is still in the planning stages, we hope that speakers will include local County Commissioner Pinki Jackel and State Senator Bill Montford, who will present us with flags that have flown over the State Capitol in Tallahassee.

The flagpole will be dedicated to island resident Jim Lambert, who passed away last year. Several contributions in Jim's memory helped fund the cost of the nautical style flagpole, which is now flying the United States flag, the State of Florida flag, and the U.S. Light House Service pennant.

# *Tour of Homes Continues to Grow*

The Third Annual St. George Island Tour of Homes drew the largest crowd to date, as the event continues to earn its place as one of the highlights of the winter season!

An estimated 550 people visited seven island homes, plus the lighthouse and the St. George Plantation Clubhouse, and the comments were overwhelmingly positive. Ticket sales increased by 11 per cent over last year.

In spite of early morning drizzle that threatened to put a damper on the event, the skies cleared by mid-day and the tour came off without a hitch.

Based on our Guest Surveys, participants came from 21 states and Canada, lending evidence to the theory that the Tour is very popular with the area's snowbird visitors. More than half of the survey respondents said that they had attended a previous SGI Tour of Homes, and 95 per cent said that they would attend another island tour.

The Tour of Homes has become the premier fundraiser for the St. George Lighthouse Association, contributing about \$8000 to help fund maintenance and enhancements to the Lighthouse, Keeper's House, and Lighthouse Park.

## **Lighthouse Chili Makes Money for Fire Department**

Lighthouse Competition Chili Chefs Bob Heide and Vito Bell cooked up a tasty pot of Red, full of secret ingredients, for the Lighthouse Chili booth's entry into the St. George Island Charity Chili Cookoff on the first Saturday in March. Over 150 enthusiastic chili tasters stopped by the Lighthouse booth to sample the competition entry, as well as the big pot of Chili with Beans prepared

by Chef Jim Kemp.



Chili chefs Bob Heide and Vito Bell

It was the perfect day for chili and beer, and there was plenty of both to be had at the ever-popular annual event, which raises funds for the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department. Selling

chili samples for \$1, the Lighthouse booth raised \$175 for the Fire Department. Reports were that the event, which included an auction, boat raffle, and golf tournament in addition to the chili competitions, was one of the most successful in recent years. As always, the Lighthouse Chili Team was happy to be a part of the festivities!



Lighthouse Chili Booth

(Photos by Jackie Bell)

# Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew your annual membership in the St. George Lighthouse Association. Renewal letters will be in the mail later this month. If you don't receive a renewal letter, but still wish to renew or purchase a new membership, please send your membership contribution to the St. George Lighthouse Association, 2B East Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, Florida 32328. Membership categories are \$25 for an Individual Membership, \$50 for a Family Membership, \$100 for a Keeper Membership, and \$500 for a Lifetime Patron Membership. Business Memberships are \$125. All members are entitled to climb the Lighthouse at no charge during the membership year, with climbing privileges for family members varying by membership level. Members also receive a 10% discount at the Lighthouse Gift Shop.

## *Please Patronize Our Business Members*

Aloha Bugs Pest Management  
BJ's Pizza  
Kristy Branch Banks, P.A.  
The Butler Agency  
Century 21 Collins Realty, Inc.  
Collins Vacation Rentals  
Steve Harris, Realtor  
Island Adventures  
Island Outfitters

Bobby James Roofing  
Journeys of St. George Island  
Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty  
Resort Vacation Properties of SGI  
Thomas M. Shuler, Attorney-at-Law  
Survivors Bait and Tackle  
St. George Island Civic Club  
St. George Island Realty  
Jerry Thompson, Realtor

## Quick Blinks

- The Florida Panhandle Lighthouse Challenge, normally held in April of even-numbered years, will not be held this year due to major changes underway at two of the participating lighthouses.
  - Plans are proceeding to move the Cape San Blas Lighthouse away from its eroding location on the Cape to a more stable site in downtown Port St. Joe. To this end, lampist Joe Cocking and USCG Curator Arlyn Danielson recently removed the bivalve Fresnel lens from the lantern room.
  - The transfer of the St. Marks Lighthouse from the USCG to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been approved and will be made official at a Change of Command ceremony on March 28.
- Discussions are underway for approval of a Wayside Exhibit providing information about the Big Bend Scenic Byway to be installed on the island this spring. The Cape St. George Light and the St. George Island State Park are two prominent features of the Coastal Trail West segment of the Byway which highlights environmental features in Franklin, Wakulla, and Leon Counties.

- The conclusion of the 2014 St. George Island Tour of Homes brought good news and bad news. You may have read about the good news earlier in this newsletter. The bad news is that tour organizers and longtime SGLA members and volunteers Dany and Marty Ray closed on the sale of their island home shortly after the tour and moved to their new home in Brevard, N.C. We thank Dany and Marty for their many contributions to the TOH and to the lighthouse, and wish them great success on their mountain adventure. We are hoping that they will return to the island to participate in the Tour as snowbirds!



Island friends gathered at Sometimes It's Hotter to say farewell to Marty and Dany. (Photo by Jackie Bell)

- Gift Shop Manager Carol Talley invites everyone to stop at the Lighthouse Gift Shop to see new spring merchandise including delightful capiz shell boxes with sea life designs, night lights, decorative plates, sand resistant cellphone cases, and, of course, more fabulous and fun jewelry! Also welcome new Gift Shop sales assistants Sandy Dixon and Sissy Ivey, who join Carol and Adele Colston to help fulfill your island shopping needs. The Gift Shop is one more place where former staffer Dany Ray will be missed.
- Be sure to visit our website at [www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org) for the listing of 2014 Full Moon Climbs. The sunset and moonrise will be even more spectacular with our new lantern room glass!

## A Parting Shot . . .



This photo of the shadow of the lighthouse with the flagpole in the park below was taken from the lantern room through the new glass. Except for a little reflection, it's almost like there's no glass at all! Come check it out . . .