Above, we’re encouraging New London school children and their families to get to know our local lighthouses.

**It’s Lighthouse Summer!**

Trips for NL youth & parents to Ledge and Harbor Lighthouses are just $5. Sign up now!

**from the president**

You have heard a lot about Lighthouse Summer. But what does that mean to you? When you think of Lighthouse tours you may think that is something for tourists, or for people who visit lighthouses on their vacations. Well, of course tourists love our lighthouses.

But Lighthouse Summer is for the entire community this year. Our goal at the Custom House Maritime Museum is to get as many people from the community out into the lighthouses, which by the way, belong to all of us.

New London Maritime Society had custodianship of three local lighthouses, Race Rock, Harbor, and Ledge Light. It is our obligation to educate, preserve, and give public access. We educate the public about our local lights everyday in our museum and our Local History & Landmarks Program for the Third Grade. We continue to work on preserving all three lighthouses, throughout the summer.

Here is why this is important and why we are so excited to be able to do this:

New London is rich in Maritime history and historic landmarks. But New London is also very much alive and making history. The lighthouses are not just old historic structures, they are important aids to navigation and central to the success of the maritime industry of the area. People come from all over the country to visit our lighthouses but this summer we are going to get as many kids from New London out into Ledge Light and Harbor lights. The children are the ones who will be charged with preserving these beautiful gems that will represent our maritime heritage for years to come. And if you have ever seen the excitement in a child’s eyes when they climb up into the Lantern Room of Ledge or Harbor Lighthouse you will know why New London Maritime Museum volunteers and our director Susan Tamuleivich are committed to fulfilling our goal of getting as many local families as possible to love the lighthouses as much as we do. Hopefully this is just the first of many more Lighthouse Summers!

--Christina Corcoran, NLMS president

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**the New London HarborCam is back!**

Watch it 24/7 at [https://nlmaritimesociety.org/NLHarborcam.html](https://nlmaritimesociety.org/NLHarborcam.html).

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There’s a lot to celebrate this summer. Photo top: neighbors visit in the lantern room of Pequot Light in June – it’s spectacular; middle: NLMS president Christina Corcoran, who taught our 3rd-grade local history in NL public schools, wants all her students to take advantage of the $5 tickets to visit inside the lighthouses; bottom: intern Sebastien Jean Michel is running our lighthouse programs this summer.

Photo: We wish to thank all of you who donated to restore the NL HarborCam. The new camera was installed in June and we’re still learning what it is capable of. You'll be in downtown New London that evening seeing it live. No worry - we'll post a tape within a couple of days so you can watch it all again.
Essex has a special resonance that conjures up the disaster that occurred in 1820 when the unfortunate Nantucket whaling ship was attacked and destroyed by a sperm of the wreck and its aftermath, in his Narrative of the most extraordinary and distressing shipwreck of the whale-ship Essex, of Nantucket: which was attacked 1821 by G.B. Gilley in New York. Several decades later the story inspired H. Melville's novel Moby Dick. In recent years the story attracted new attention after the publication of Nathaniel Philbrick's account of the incident in his book In the Heart of the Sea.

The Maritime Society is pleased to announce that the library has acquired a copy Caroline Boutard from the library of her late father Peter Black. The copy now in the McGuire Library is imperfect. The paper is foxed and the book is nearly disbound. It also shows evidence of a misguided attempt in the past to hold it together with tape. But it is a thrill to add such an iconic maritime title to our growing whaling collection.

SUMMER 2022 highlights - for full listings, go to nlmaritimesociety.org

■ Tours to climb Harbor Light House run all year. The views at the top are spectacular! We meet at the lighthouse, then climb 116 steps to the lantern room – all the while learning about the 261-year history of Harbor Light, the oldest and the tallest lighthouse on Long Island Sound. A 4th-order Fresnel lens, installed in 1857, remains in the lantern today. NL schoolchildren & families may get $5 or fully-sponsored tickets, thanks to Veolia/NL Water Authority and Edw. Chale. brownpapertickets.com/event/5127942. customs: 860-447-2501.

■ Tours to explore inside Ledge Light House run in July & August. This summer, we've charted the Water Taxi on New London Waterfront Park. Special this year, only, NL schoolchildren & families may get $5 or fully-sponsored tickets, thanks to Veolia/NL Water Authority and Edw. Chale. brownpapertickets.com/event/5127942.

■ August's two tours to Race Rock Light House SOLD OUT immediately. We'll offer them again next summer. brownpapertickets.com/event/5127942.

■ Jibboom Club #1, meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM. Upcoming dates are July 19, August 16, Sept. 20. Join us for a talk, good company, coffee & cookies. Sponsored by the Maco Family Fund, the gatherings are FREE and open to all. On July 19, diver Jay Kane will discuss the dive display at the Customs House. Much of that collection is on loan to the museum from Jay. Jay Kane is a commercial diver and diving supervisor with forty years experience with underwater construction, ships husbandry and salvage operations.

■ Benefit Premier, July 26, 4 PM: The History of Race Rock Light (see page opposite)

■ OpenMic at the Museum, meets from 6-9 PM the last Sunday of the month: July 31, August 28, Sept. 25. Share your original music, poetry, prose, stand-up, or just say what is on your mind. OpenMic welcomes performers of all kinds. Bring your bongos. Perform, or just enjoy. By donation.

■ On Sept 11 we hope to present Arm-of-the-Sea Theater's production KEEP THAT LAMP TRIMMED & 'N BURNING, which employs live music together with large-scale...
Museum Movie Premiere: The History of Race Rock Lighthouse

This 45-minute video directed by Pierce Rafferty and Marisela La Grave chronicles the remarkable story of how a lighthouse came to be erected in 1878 on a dangerous submerged ledge amidst some of the most unpredictable and swiftest moving tides on the


Race Rock lighthouse is a two and a half story, Gothic Revival style, granite masonry keeper’s dwelling with a three and a half story tower. The 67-foot high tower has an octagonal cast iron lantern and gallery surrounded by a wrought iron railing. There are brick-lined rooms in the basement and dwelling.

Building Race Rock Light was a feat of engineering bravery directed over seven years by New London’s own Captain T. A. Scott. For 144 years, Race Rock’s red lantern light and foghorn have guided mariners through the roiling currents at the Race.

In 2013 Race Rock Light Station was entrusted to the New London Maritime Society (NLMS) by the federal government through the National Lighthouse Preservation Act. Immediately upon receiving the lighthouse, NLMS went to work sealing all broken windows, re-painting the masonry, and installing a new emergency generator to ensure that the lighthouse is fully functional.

In 2018, the Maritime Society launched an initiative to raise $11,000 for an architectural assessment and restoration plan for the lighthouse. Walter Sedovic & Jill H. Gotthelf of Walter Sedovic Architects, were selected. Previously the firm did the restoration assessments for both Block Island lighthouses and for Faulkner’s Light off Guilford, CT. They noted that Race Rock Light remains in extraordinary condition, in large part due to its construction technology which was decades ahead of its time.

A great deal remains to be done. Once the property has been safely prepared as a construction site, it must be stabilized before beginning the work. Necessary stabilization projects include sealing the perimeter from rainwater that is intruding through open masonry joints; replacing the gutters and flashing systems associated with the roof, walls, towers, and chimneys; weatherproofing the lantern and lantern tower; and either restoring an electric power cable to Race Rock Light from Fishers Island or increasing the solar array to prevent the structure from freezing during winter months.

The Maritime Society is dedicated to lighthouse preservation. In addition to Race Rock (1878), the Maritime Society also owns New London Harbor Lighthouse (1760) and New London Ledge Light (1909)—all active aids to navigation. Together these are the three historic beacons leading from the ocean to New London harbor.

Illustration detail, Race Rock Light by Helen Clark Perry, "The Romance of Labor: Scenes from Good Novels Depicting Joy in Work", 1916
Summer at the Custom House Maritime Museum!

May 2022

Thanks to a Good to Great grant from the State of Connecticut, we commenced landscaping at New London Harbor Light in November, 2021. The property was cleared. Stone planters were built. Fences installed. We ended June cleaning out poison ivy at the entrance and planting periwinkle in the shaded front section of the property. Ornamental grasses already rise 6” above the planters’ back wall. What’s next? A Go Fund Me campaign will allow us to Wash the Lighthouse some day soon. Our next fundraiser will be to install a proper gate rather than a chain across the front, and put up our sign.

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nlmaritime.org


New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum
150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320

BENEFIT PREMIERE
The History of Race Rock Light
July 26, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
photo: Mark Bigelow

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local friendly authentic