

[From Fall 2004]

Lighthouse Update

Over 3,100 visitors climbed the lighthouse in the month of July. Those who didn't enjoyed the experience of just being "IN" the lighthouse. CNHA staff and volunteers were overwhelmed by the appreciation of the visitors who were extremely happy about the new operating schedule.

Volunteers were gratified hearing the comments about how many years folks have wanted to see the lighthouse and have finally gotten to enjoy the experience of climbing to the top and seeing a panoramic view of Assateague and Chincoteague. Even though there were some days of very heavy rain, the lighthouse remained open, with only a few exceptions. However, because the metal steps get slippery when wet, climbing was occasionally curtailed.

CNHA staff collects the admission fee and operate the small lighthouse gift shop. A volunteer guide greets visitors at the front door and another "brave" volunteer guide greets visitors at the top.

Many visitors are amazed at the history of the lighthouse and the island. As revenue from admissions becomes available, CNHA is planning to develop exhibits, depicting lighthouse information and history, which will be displayed at the landings. The displays will inform climbers as well as provide good places to stop and rest while looking at the view and learning more about the lighthouse and its interesting history.

The lighthouse will be open from Easter through Thanksgiving, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hours of operation will be from 9 am to 3 pm.

More volunteer greeters are needed, especially to staff the top of the lighthouse. Shifts are typically 9-12 and 12-3. If you would be interested in volunteering for a few hours one or more of the light's operating days, please call Lynn at 336-3696.