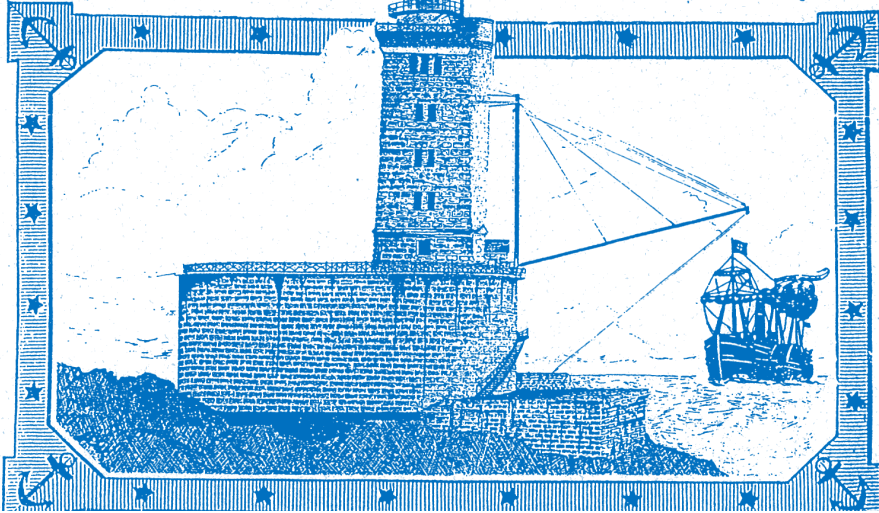


St. George Reef  
Lighthouse Preservation  
Society



THE **2** ND

WATCH

WINTER 2023

**FALL TOUR TO SAINT GEORGE**



Photo by Ranell Chisman

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Please call us at 707-273-1905  
Questions regarding memberships  
or volunteering Web site address:  
saintgeorgereeflight.org  
Find us on facebook:  
Saint George Reef Lighthouse  
Preservation Society  
Mailing address: PO BOX 577  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
John Zimmerman - Editor

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Annual Society Election Notice**

Ballots will be emailed to all members for the  
2024 - 2026 board of directors positions in  
January 2024. Please check your emails and  
return your ballots promptly.

**Long time volunteers honored**

**Veteran Volunteers Terry McNamara, Jim McLaughlin and Marilyn McLaughlin  
will be honored with plaques at St. George Reef Lighthouse  
for their many years of dedicated service.**

**Society Notices**

We are replacing the lantern room polycarbonate windows with framed glass panes as the optic is hard to see. Each framed pane of glass will cost \$800 as they are custom made with aluminum frames. Anyone contributing a glass pane will have a commendation plaque acknowledging their gift. It will be placed in the lantern room.  
All gifts are tax deductible as we are a 501c-3 charitable organization.

**Memorial Day Lighthouse and Coastal Tours**

We have plans for a Memorial Day lighthouse tour in 2024. We are planning this over two weekends, Weekday Helicopter flights flying south over Battery Point Lighthouse, Saint George Reef Lighthouse and the coast to Smith River and back to Crescent City Airport will also be offered.

For information check:

Facebook page: Saint George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society  
Web Page: Saintgeorgereeflight.org Phone: 707- 293-1905

**Report to the Del Norte Board Of Supervisors**

A verbal report was submitted to the supervisors Oct. 10, 2023  
regarding grant expenditures and restoration projects.

**Spring Prize Drawing**

We will be holding a drawing for overnight stays at the lighthouse, tour flights, assorted prizes, in the near future. For details check out our notices on Facebook and web pages.

## **November 2023 Lighthouse Tour**

Our tour November 3rd, 4th and 5th was a challenge. Flying south from Portland our pilot encountered foggy conditions delaying his arrival. Due to the fog our volunteers could not be transported to the lighthouse until Saturday morning on the 4th. This was followed by heavy rains and wind, but we were still able to conduct tours for 20 people. Everyone seeing the lighthouse enjoyed their tour despite the weather. Foggy weather and the possibility of thunderstorms caused the tours to be canceled Sunday. We hope those who could not go out on Sunday will try again our next tour once it is scheduled.

Despite having only one day to work our crew did a fine job cleaning, collecting trash, sealing the upper doorway leading out to the lighthouse balcony, removing the lantern room staircase for repair, and organizing and storing tools and equipment. They did a lot of work in a short time. Our thanks to volunteers Harlan Watkins, Russ Burnette, John and Pam Dolzadell, Greg Leconche, Ranell Chisman, Taylor and Taudine Andrew, Rahadra Glessner, Chad Hought, Bill Tedsen, Tim Weiland, Rick Weiland, and Bud Rigel. Clarke Moore installed a new battery for our optic that was donated by Backwoods Solar of Sandpoint, Idaho. The office staff at the airport worked their tails off calling people Sunday about the tour cancelations. Our thanks to Marla Benson, Jane Watkins and Merrilea Hoff for their work over Saturday and Sunday.

Bethany Shultze, from USGS Western Ecological Research Center installed Bat detection equipment at the lighthouse after a three year wait. Her patience paid off. Our thanks to KCRE Radio, KCIW Radio, and KFUG Radio for Lighthouse interviews and advertising our tours. Finally a big thank you to our pilot Thomas Corbin for his superb piloting of the helicopter. Everyone, tourists, and volunteers appreciated his skills getting us back and forth to Saint George.

L-R Russ Burnette, John Dolzadell, Tim Weiland, Ranell Chisman,  
Harlan Watkins, Bud Riegel, Chad Hought



Bethany Schulze



L-R Greg Leconche, Rick Weiland

**Bat study sener located on  
The Lighthouse balcony**



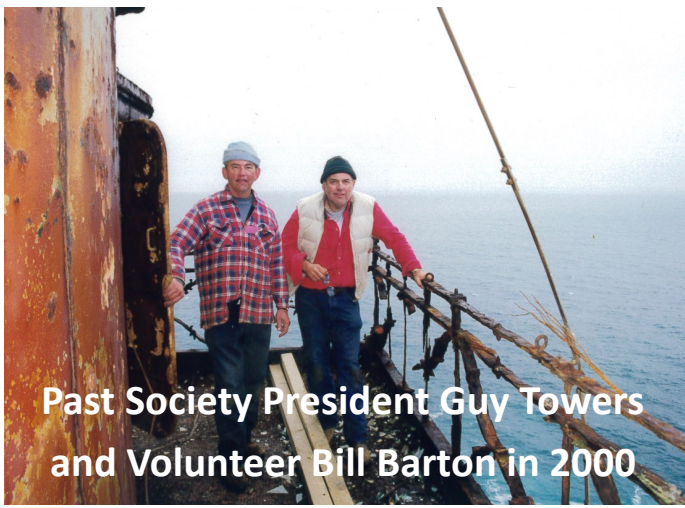
**Harlan Watkins in the engine room**



**Rahadra Glessner, assisted boarding  
tourists**



**Looking South East**



Past Society President Guy Towers and Volunteer Bill Barton in 2000



Volunteer Bill Barton and Jim McLaughlin in the Lantern Room before its renovation



Plaque honoring Bill Barton for his volunteer work with Saint George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society.

## **Former Coast Guardsman and volunteer, Bill Barton**

At his home in Eureka California, Bill Barton has framed pictures on his wall of his time in the Coast Guard and his volunteer work at Saint George Reef Lighthouse. His reminiscences of his time volunteering are vivid and it was obvious how much he enjoyed his time working at the lighthouse.

Bill was born in 1934 at Saranac Lake, New York. His family moved west to Portland, Oregon. In 1940, the family moved to Rainier, Oregon, where Bill's father, Harold Barton was employed with the Western Transportation company. Harold Barton worked as the engineer aboard the ocean-going tug, 'The Chief' hauling logs and sawdust to Los Angeles, California in the 1920's. Harold Barton was in the 'Lighthouse Service' working on the lighthouse tender 'Manzanita' based in Astoria, Oregon. While crewing on the ship, Harold Barton serviced both Tillamook Rock and Saint George Reef lighthouses, delivering fuel, groceries, fresh water and crew. Bill's extended family has a connection to Saint George Reef lighthouse as well. His first wife's uncle, Hector Sherman, quarried granite used in the construction of the lighthouse. A Reed College graduate, Bill's mother taught school at a one room schoolhouse in Apiary, Oregon.

After graduating from Rainier High School in 1952, Bill went on to take a two-year course learning about heavy equipment repair at Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He joined the Coast Guard in 1954 and served on the "Willow", a 185' steamer that was a former army minesweeper/minelayer and later a buoy tender that was stationed in Eureka, California. In 1955, he was transferred to Eureka where he was part of the crew servicing the Blunts Reef lightship and Saint George Reef Lighthouse. Every two weeks they would change personnel and bring supplies. From 1956 to 1958, Bill served aboard the 'Balsam' working on the DEW Line (distant early warning line) above the arctic circle for two years. The 'Balsam' was the first patrol boat powered by 4-700 hp Cummins diesel engines.

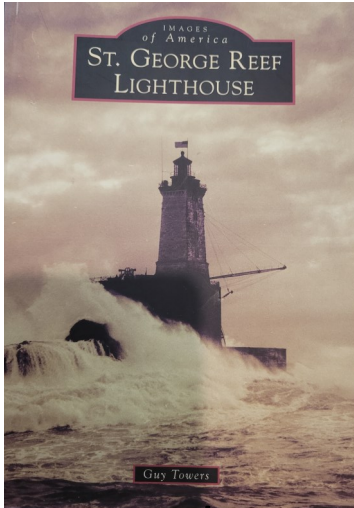
The last six months of his service was spent on a '95-300' patrol boat based in Hilo, Hawaii. After his service, Bill worked construction and then for the California Division of Highways for 30 years when he retired.

Bill was involved with the removal of the lantern room of the light in April 2000. He saved the broken pane glass after the lantern room was destroyed while bringing it in for restoration. Making "lemonade out of lemons" he utilized the broken glass for souvenirs, mounting the glass on driftwood from the beach. The glass was etched with an image of the lighthouse. Selling them raised much needed funds and were works of art. Bill worked with Jim McLaughlin on the old diesels in the engine room and helped with railing installation around the perimeter of the caisson.

Interviewing Bill Barton brought alive the lighthouse's history with his recollections of his extended family's involvement with the sentinel in the past. Bill's role in the Coast guard servicing the light and later as a volunteer bring the experience full circle.

Saint George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society thanks Bill Barton for all he has done for the organization.

**CALL 707-293-1905 TO ORDER OR EMAIL AN ORDER  
AT SAINTGEORGEREEFLIGHT@GMAIL.COM  
PRICES DOES NOT INCLUDE SHIPPING**



**BOOKS \$21.99**

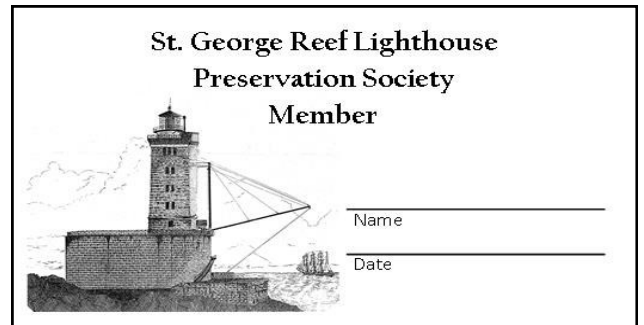


**PLACEMATS**

**\$7.00 EACH**



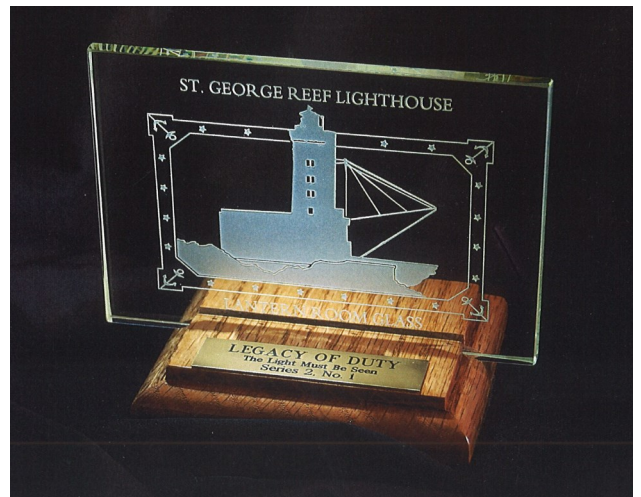
**MUGS \$15.00**



**Memberships \$25.00**



**HATS \$15.00**



**Original etched lantern glass  
with stand \$60.00**