
KEEPER'S LOG

Point San Luis Lighthouse



Photo taken in the early 1900's by an unknown photographer, enhanced by Bob Mihelic.

Welcome to the Keeper's Log!

Happy 2021! We miss seeing you. We are eager to re-open this year, once we get the "all-clear."

Meanwhile, docents are leading Zoom tours. Go to My805tix.com to find out about tour dates and purchase tickets.

Issue 27, January 2021

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A lighthouse is not interested in who gets its light! It just gives without thinking. Giving light is its nature.

~ Mehmet Murat ildan ~

A Note from the Executive Director

www.pointsanluislighthouse.org/donate

I'll be blunt. 2020 was tough. With tours and events shut down, a major source of revenue was cut off. Still, when one door closes, others open. Zoom tours and smartphone tours for paddlers helped fill the void. KSBY, Mechanics Bank, Coast Hills Credit Union, Avila Beach Community Foundation and others provided funding, grants, and sponsorships. And government programs like EIDL and PPP helped shore up our bottom line. But YOU made a BIG difference. You responded to our annual appeals, bought raffle tickets, donated on-line during our August virtual concert, and renewed your lighthouse membership. Thank you for making Point San Luis part of your personal philanthropy. We enter 2021 strong, steady, and ready to go.

Happy New Year! *Deb Foughty*

Letter from Board Chair Jim Ellsworth: Looking Back at 2020

2020 was a very challenging year for our non-profit. In March, COVID-19 restrictions shut down all of our tours and events. This was the year we were to celebrate our 130th anniversary; five spectacular events were postponed a few times and finally moved to 2021. We also had eight concerts scheduled which ultimately had to be cancelled.

The light station was closed to the public for van tours and hiking, but paddlers were still able to reach us. Volunteers Meg and Keith Evans created a Walking Tour for those who come by water. Guests can view images and learn more about each structure by aiming their smartphones at the QR codes on the windows of our buildings.

Virtually, the public can still visit the light station. In celebration of our 130th anniversary, a video was filmed featuring Lucy Wickstrom, our Cal Poly intern, leading a tour of the station. The video can be seen on our new website, created by the son of new Board member Paul Irving.

New Board member Ed Taintor and Board member Rojean Dominguez emceed a virtual concert in August, organized by Paul Irving and featuring Carbon City Lights, to also celebrate our 130th. A raffle with great prizes helped raise additional funds.

Board member and docent Kathy Mastako gave Zoom tours of the light station during the last half of 2020, with photography done by docent Bob Mihelic. Additional docents are lined up to give Zoom tours in 2021 while our buildings remain closed. Docents Char and Mike Hoffman decorated the Keeper's residence for the festive season, and special Zoom holiday tours were given during December. A generous sponsorship from Mechanics Bank allows those living in assisted living facilities, youth groups, and others the opportunity to participate in these interactive tours at no cost.

Preservation work continued, with Bill Bodgan refinishing the floors in the Lens Room and Gift Shop thanks to sponsorships from Coast Hills Credit Union.

About 25 volunteers staffed the voter service center at the Pismo Beach Vets' Hall over the four days leading up to and including election day in November, earning us a payment of nearly \$6,000 from the county elections office.

We received an EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) grant, were approved for the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) and also received an EIDL loan. Staff is currently working on an application for a California Small Business COVID-19 grant.

Paul Irving and Ed Taintor filled two Board vacancies that occurred last year. Barton Dennen passed away unexpectedly in March and is very much missed. Barton served as a docent, Tuesday work crew lead, and Board member for many years. He was our "go-to" guy. Joe Bradbury resigned from the Board but continues to serve as a docent and Tuesday work crew carpenter and graciously assists with anything you ask of him. His beautiful engraved wooden boxes are for sale in our gift shop.

We are ready for this New Year. The grounds are beautifully groomed – thank you, Meg and Keith – and have never looked better. The Tuesday work crew is anxious to get back to their routine. Our docents and volunteers are anxious, too – for "live" guests and "live" music. We will truly celebrate our 130th in 2021!

www.pointsanluislighthouse.org/donate

Richard Vincent (“Yogi”) Guizio was the officer-in-charge at Point San Luis in 1970. He lived here with his son Gary, his wife Mary, and Mary’s daughter Marilyn.

Gary recalls: “There were four families living at the station while we were here. The Coast Guard personnel were all married, but my father was the only one with children. We lived in the left side of the 1960 duplex. It was a three-bedroom middle-class-style house. The accommodations were fine but nothing fancy. The second-in-charge and his wife lived in the right side of the duplex. The other two lower-rank enlisted men and their wives lived in the cinderblock duplex down the hill.

“My father had an office behind the lighthouse that was also the armory where the military weapons and ammo were kept. Sometimes my father would take me down to the beach and set up some targets and allow me to shoot the M16 machine guns. As you might imagine, this was pretty exciting for a 12-year-old. The beach was private, for our use only, and we had a path down to it.”

Asked what it was like living at the light station, Gary writes: “At first it was pretty exciting. The lighthouse and foghorn set-up were pretty interesting. We could go abalone diving right off the cliffs in front of the station. But it got a little boring after awhile

Richard Vincent Guizio: 1970

At Point San Luis we are committed to documenting our history. If you know anyone who served at the lighthouse, or know their relatives, let us know and we will contact them to record their memories.

because I didn’t have any friends at the station and life after school just got kind of repetitive. I didn’t have school friends visit me here, but my father did allow my Boy Scout troop to camp out on our beach one time.

“When the foghorn had to be turned on it could be very difficult to sleep because it was extremely loud. The road that went in front of the equipment building was chained off with a warning sign when the foghorn was active. If you were to accidentally go in front of the foghorn when it went off, it would probably have made you deaf.

“My stepsister and I were the only children who attended school while we were stationed here. My father drove us down to the school bus stop at the harbor every morning. I took a long school bus ride to and from school each day. I went to Laguna Middle School. My stepsister went to a small schoolhouse in Avila Beach for elementary school.

“Another interesting thing is how we got our food. We would all get in the Coast Guard vehicle and head over to Vandenberg Air Force base. The base was on the other side of the bay. We would go to the commissary and shop for our groceries. The commissary prices were considerably cheaper than local grocery stores. We were allowed to do this because we were military. Another cool thing about the Air Force base was that sometimes we could watch them launch rockets.”

Richard Vincent (“Yogi”) Guizio passed away in 2012. Gary lives in Alaska but would like to visit with his son once the lighthouse re-opens.

The Keeper of the Light Station: Deb Foughty, by Mary Foppiano

In 2009, Deb Foughty purchased tickets for her folks to attend a fundraiser at the Point San Luis lighthouse, which put her name on their list of donors. A short time later she received a postcard asking if she was interested in becoming a volunteer. She quickly responded and began training to become a docent. Once she learned they needed a caterer to provide lunches for group tours, she let them know she had worked in the food and beverage industry and could put these lunches together.

Today, Deb is the Executive Director and finds it most rewarding to recruit, train and get to know her large group of volunteers, who work as docents, gift shop keepers, event workers, 4th-grade program teachers, etc. Perhaps one of the reasons she feels so close to her volunteers is because she started her association with the lighthouse the same way, as a volunteer.

Born and raised in Devils Lake, North Dakota, Deb grew up on a farm where they raised cattle, sheep, chickens and a few pigs. They had horses they trained and rode with their neighbors and 4-H club members. They were very self-sustaining because of her mother's large

garden and the vegetables they canned and froze.

Deb attended Moorhead State College in Minnesota and the University of North Dakota, earning a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Music. Her two brothers and one sister reside in North Dakota, and Deb's two daughters live on the Central Coast. Her parents live in Avila Beach. And she has a dog, Jude.

Deb has always loved the water, in part because of the summers she spent at the lake with her cousins, where her grandmother taught her to fish. Later her folks purchased a ski boat, then a Hobie Cat. The family started racing competitively and formed a yacht club. Deb later learned to sail larger fixed keel sailboats and became the first woman Commodore in North Dakota.

Deb's goal is to continue the work needed to make sure future generations will know the importance of lighthouses. She believes it is her job to keep the lighthouse safe, but also open to the public so its history can continue to be shared.

— Adapted from an article in the September 2020 issue of *Avila Beach Life*. Used by permission. Mary Foppiano is executive director of the Avila Beach Civic Association.

130th + 1 Events
Coming up in
2021:

Pecho Coast Trail Plant
Life - 2/21/21

~

Sunset Photo Shoot -
3/19/21

~

Yoga on the Lighthouse
Beach - 5/29/21

~

Paint 'N' Sip at Point San
Luis - 6/19/21

~

Patriot Cruise of San Luis
Bay - 7/18/21

Go to [My805tix.com](https://www.my805tix.com) to
purchase tickets.

Due to COVID-19, dates are
subject to change.

New Board Member Spotlight: Ed Taintor

Ed Taintor was born in a small town in central Massachusetts which dates back to 1735.



Originally called Pequoia when settled by Native Americans, the town's name was later changed to Athol, which means "New Ireland." Ed was raised in Athol, remaining there until college. Following college, he relocated to southern Vermont and ultimately moved to Madera, Calif.

Ed attended the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He received an undergraduate degree in forest science and did graduate work in fire protection engineering.

To say that Ed has had a varied career would be an understatement. He's worked as a logger, forester, heavy equipment operator, firefighter, engineer, quality assurance specialist, educator, and historical docent. His career experiences have enabled him to understand and work with government

agencies and regulatory processes.

A new work assignment at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant brought Ed here; he had previously worked at power plants elsewhere on the west coast. A work reassignment to his company's corporate offices in San Francisco caused him to move away.

It was while commuting to Diablo Canyon every day that Ed became curious about the Point San Luis lighthouse. He also discovered the Pecho Coast Trail. This led him to volunteering as a trail docent and cross-training as a lighthouse docent. He's also worked with the Tuesday work crew and supported catering and special events at the lighthouse.

As a Board member (it's not his first rodeo; he served on the Board once before), Ed plans to continue to support Point San Luis and its outreach efforts through presentations and docent-led activities and is always available for tasks that support the maintenance and upkeep of the station. He also plans to get involved with new and ongoing efforts to secure funding sources for the lighthouse.

In his spare time, Ed enjoys historical research, woodworking and all outdoor activities. Retired now, he and his wife look forward to continuing their travels and explorations across the United States in their Volkswagen camper. Welcome back, Ed!

Point San Luis Lighthouse

KEEPER'S LOG

P.O. Box 308
Avila Beach, CA, 93424



As a way to honor the memory of a loved one in a very special way, Point San Luis offers dedication benches. Only a limited number are available. For information and pricing, contact SanLuisLighthouse@gmail.com or call (805) 540-5771.



Give the Gift of Membership

If you're looking for a unique gift idea, consider giving a Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers membership as a birthday or anniversary gift for someone special in your life.

Purchase an Annual Membership Online

www.pointsanluislighthouse.org/membership

Memberships help preserve a special piece of California; each membership level comes with premiums – check them out online.

- _____ Keeper - \$50
- _____ Mariner- \$100
- _____ Navigator - \$250
- _____ Inspector - \$500
- _____ Commander - \$1,000

Or send a check to PO Box 308, Avila Beach, CA 93424, payable to the Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers.

Donations and memberships allow Point San Luis to stay in operation. Consider donating or becoming a member today.

Special thanks to all who support the lighthouse!

If you shop on Amazon, use [AmazonSmile](#). Choose Point San Luis Lighthouse Keepers as the non-profit you're supporting. The AmazonSmile Foundation will give us 0.5% of the price of what you buy!