

Harbour Lights

Sponsors of ARLHS Again Offers “Little Lights” to LCL 2001 Participants

Prizes and Certificates:

Gold lighthouse medallions, coffee mugs, certificates — in addition to all these numerous awards and certificates offered for various categories in the Christmas Lights QSO Party, we are happy to announce that, once again, our Harbour Lights sponsor is offering what we are calling a “participants’ prize.”

The Harbour Lights company, makers of miniature lighthouse collectibles, has donated one lighthouse miniature for every LCL 2001 participant. These exquisitely detailed models are approximately 3-4 inches high and are part of the “This Little Light of Mine” series. They are among the most valued by collectors. All you have to do is participate in the LCL event and submit your valid log, along with US dllrs \$3.00 to cover postage and handling, to the ARLHS secretary, Lee Graves, WA7OBH, 4341 SE Satinleaf Place, Stuart, FL 34997. (*Special conditions apply to DX participants -- see the ARLHS web site for event Guidelines.*)

Every participant who submits a valid LCL 2001 log showing contacts with at least one lighthouse or one ARLHS member will receive a FREE Harbour Lights collectible lighthouse miniature prize. (See the Harbour Lights web site for samples of the “This Little Light of Mine” series of miniatures.)

<http://www.harbourlights.com/LittleLights/index.htm>

The ARLHS Lighthouse Beacon

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Ventura County, CA, USA-012
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Coming Events

LCL 2001
Lighthouse Christmas Lights
QSO Party
Guidelines inside!
Dec. 22, 2001, thru Jan 2, 2002

LSL 2002
Lighthouse Spring Lites
QSO Party
(See web site for details.)
March 28 thru April 7, 2002

FEATURED LIGHT — USA-012

Anacapa Island Light — California, USA



Year Station Established: 1912

Year Automated: 1968

Year Existing Tower Constructed: 1932

- Is the Light Operational? YES
- Foundation Materials:
REINFORCED CONCRETE
- Construction Materials:
BRICK & CONCRETE
- Markings/Patterns:
WHITE w/ BLACK TRIM
- Shape: CYLINDRICAL
- Tower Height: 40
- Original Optic: THIRD ORDER,
FRESNEL (1932)

The ARLHS BeaconBot

A lot has been happening in the ARLHS since the last issue of the Newsletter. One change has been the suspension of the ListBot service that many of us had grown to depend on. The service provided an almost instantaneous way of posting notices to the entire ARLHS group and was used extensively by many members to inform the group whenever a lighthouse or rare station was heard. At the end there were almost 300 registered list members.

And then we got notice that the server that had been offering the ListBot as a free service suddenly decided to start charging a monthly fee — a fee that most felt was much too high. This seems to be a trend lately. (See the article about our Quickbase database later in this issue.) Based on the expense, we terminated the service and cast about looking for a replacement.

We tried a service called Coollist, which worked for a while but then that service suddenly developed quite a few problems, not the least of which was a delay in posting messages from members to the group. Since we rely on almost immediate notification of on-air events, any delay was intolerable. Then the service shut down for almost a week and that made our decision obvious: we terminated the Coollist too.

Fortunately, at this point we were made aware of QTH.net, which hosts many, many lists for a variety of ham groups.

We signed up, and for the last month or more service has been exceptionally reliable. Delays from the time a message is sent to the list until it is actually delivered to the rest of the subscribers is usually a matter of minutes, and to the best of our knowledge the service has never been interrupted.

But one thing is unusual: whereas there were over 300 subscribers to ListBot, when we terminated that service and went to the list administered by the QTH.net, the number of subscribers dropped in half to only about 150 currently.

If you are not a subscriber, you should be! On an almost daily basis we post information about events and expeditions that are in progress. Also posted are notes to the membership about ARLHS happenings, reminders, news about members, and important notices of changes in our society.

To subscribe, just send an e-mail message to

majordomo@qth.net

and in the message body send one line in the following form:

subscribe arlhs [your e-mail]

After that you will receive a confirmation; and anytime you want to post a note to the group, just put it in e-mail form and send it to

arlhs@qth.net

NOTE:

By the way, your message must be in TXT form with no HTML coding or attachments, and be sure to post from the same e-mail address that you signed up with; otherwise, you won't be recognized as a subscriber.

The ARLHS Quickbase

Must be economic climate, but just before we were wrapping up this article on the Quickbase, we learned that their once-free database hosting service would begin charging about \$15.00 per month — like the ListBot service described elsewhere in this issue.

We used the Quickbase to post our membership list with mailing and e-mail address, as well as membership expiration dates. We also had the ARLHS USA numbered list of lights in Quickbase format and available for viewing.

In view of the cost, it was decided to post the ARLHS membership database in Microsoft Excel format (XLS) so that members could download and use it for their own purposes (sort by call, number, zip code, etc.) This rapidly proved so popular (it took but a day!) that we converted the entire database to HTML format so that everyone, even those without Microsoft Excel, could view and download the file. And that's how it stands now. If you go to page 8 of the web site at <http://arlhs.com>, you will find all the accessible ARLHS databases ready to be downloaded.

Give an ARLHS Official Gift

The chandlery has some exciting items that will make ideal gifts or stocking stuffers for members.

Consider the logo name tag. This new item is custom made with your name, call, and QTH — all beautiful in full color with the ARLHS logo. Priced at only \$13.00 each + \$2.00 shipping.

Or how about an ARLHS ceramic coffee mug for those cold mornings huddled around your favorite beacon. \$9.95 + \$4.00 shipping.

Finally, may we suggest a pennant or yacht burgee? Great attention getters for the public when you activate those lights.

These, as well as shirts embroidered with your call or name are available custom made.

To order or see a sample, visit web site page 7. Allow time for shipping before December!

**See the insert in
this issue for
guidelines to the
2nd annual
ARLHS LCL 2001**

Are Your Dues Due?

You can look up your membership information on the ARLHS Membership Database, accessible through page 8 of the ARLHS web site. Memos are also sent about two months prior to the day of expiration. Renewals can be conveniently accomplished online by going to page 7 of the web site and using the PayPal feature. For those who don't want to send credit card info on the web, mail-in renewals are always welcome.

To Print and Publish

As most of you know, costs have been steadily rising, especially postage and shipping costs. Following publication of the last newsletter, a survey was taken of members subscribed online to determine what the group felt about the publication. The results were interesting to say the least. There was overwhelming support for a quarterly publication. Roughly 70% were willing to pay extra for a printed and mailed newsletter, but *more than 95% of the respondents said they would prefer an online publication in Adobe PDF format* in order to save money on postage.

We then decided that future issues of the ARLHS Beacon would be in electronic form — that is, until we recently discovered that less than 25% of the membership actually had internet service and subscribed to the BeaconBot! (See article elsewhere). It seems necessary, then, to offer a printed and a mailed version of the letter at least once during the year, just to be sure everyone is aware of crucial happenings. This is it!

Time To Vote on Issues: We need your input

One of the items hotly debated since our beginning of the ARLHS is our “line of sight rule” as it applies to awards and activating lights. Several groups and individuals around the world have written for clarification, and even more have expressed some disagreement with our policy. (A complete explanation of the rule can be found in answer to a FAQ on page 4 of the web site at <http://arlhs.com>)

After much discussion with some members and the awards committee, it was decided to consider a distance limitation to the rule. After even more discussion and debate a distance of 1000 meters or 1100 yards was agreed upon. This means that, although activating stations need NOT be physically located on the lighthouse property (for security, safety, or privacy reasons), they must be within a distance of 1000 meters (1100 yards) maximum from the light.

The complete revision and addition to the rule reads as follows:

Operation must take place within 1000 meters (1100 yards) of the intended lighthouse to be valid for ARLHS awards, with the following exceptions:

EXCEPTION RULE

If it is forbidden to set foot on or near the property (including islands or shoals) upon which the lighthouse is located; or,

If approaching or setting foot on the site is hazardous or impractical, the Exception Rule will be invoked. In case the Exception Rule is invoked, operation must be done as close to the lighthouse as permitted, safe, or practical; and the 1000 meter limitation is suspended.

Now we'd like your input. Please answer the following questions and return them by mail to the ARLHS, Box 2178, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 by January 31st 2002. The committee will then consider all suggested changes.

1. Do you think the present “line of sight rule” needs revision?
YES NO
2. Do you favor the revision as it is worded above?
YES NO
3. Do you agree that there should be a limiting distance?
YES NO
4. Do you agree with the 1000 meter / 1100 yard distance limitation?
YES NO
5. If your answer to question #4 was “NO,” what distance would you suggest? _____
6. What other suggestions do you have?
(Attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary and include your member number so we can contact you later if there are any questions about your suggestions [optional].)