

The Beacon

PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
~PART OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT~

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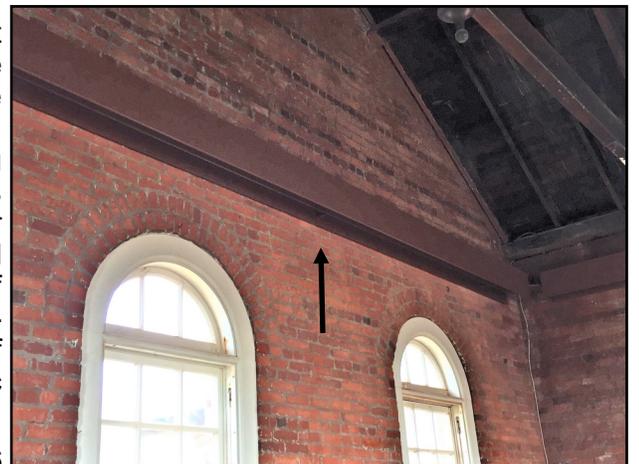
RESTORATION WORK COMPLETED ON THE FOG SIGNAL BUILDING

The final phase of a multi-year restoration of the Fog Signal Building (1906) was completed in August, 2018. And what a journey it has been!

A comprehensive Management Plan drafted in 2007 by the Bureau of Land Management noted that the Fog Signal Building, an unreinforced masonry structure, was in a serious state of disrepair. It recommended a full restoration of the structure that would return the building to what it looked like during the first decade of the 20th century, its period of greatest historic significance. That plan set in motion an 11-year saga of rehabilitation and preservation that followed strict standards governing restoration of historic buildings.

With help from a generous grant from the Hind Foundation, work began in 2010 with the removal of hazardous lead paint. In 2010, the Yosemite Historic Preservation Group replaced the original sash windows and door with exact replicas. A structural engineering analysis in 2013 revealed that the foundation was deficient and failing. New reinforced footings were poured in 2014. Remaining restoration work, completed in 2018, focused on masonry repairs and extensive retrofitting of the building to protect it from earthquake damage. A new cedar shingle roof was also installed, including period reproductions of original copper ridge vents. The latter phases of reconstruction were funded and managed by the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association. All of the structural engineering and building plans were done by Shoreline Engineering of Morro Bay. Wellsona Iron and Engineering of Paso Robles was the lead contractor for the foundation and seismic retrofit work.

While the Fog Signal Building looks little-changed from its 1906 origins, visitors can see tell-tale signs of the modern restoration work. Next time you visit the building look for the mesh of crack repairs on the building's exterior, proudly revealing its signs of age. More prominently, notice the steel I-beams running along the top of the interior brick walls. Those beefy beams lock the building in place in case of an earthquake, saving it for the next generation of stewards to enjoy, protect and preserve.



Above: Interior I-beams run along each wall for seismic stability.



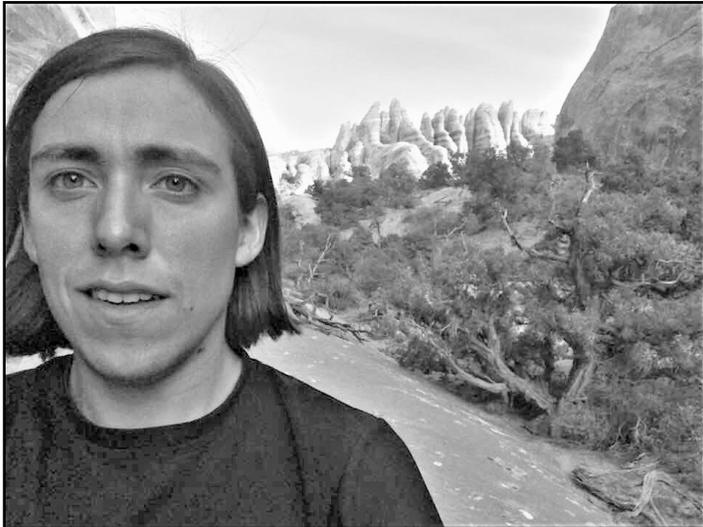
The Beacon is a joint publication of the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association and the Bureau of Land Management. The PBLSA is a nonprofit partner of the BLM and provides support for the restoration, conservation, interpretation, and stewardship of the unique natural, historical, and cultural resources at the Piedras Blancas Light Station. © Copyright 2018



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR 2018 INTERNS AVERY HERNANDEZ AND ELLIS BATTRELL

Each year we are lucky to augment our operation with interns from the American Conservation Experience (ACE). Interns are a tremendous help during our busiest season when summer tours are 5 days a week.

Avery is a recent graduate of Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, with a degree in environmental chemistry. He is anxious to begin a career in public lands and is honored to be serving at such a beautiful location alongside great staff and volunteers. As an avid backpacker, runner and climber, Avery knows the value of public lands and the benefits they provide for both people and wildlife alike. He is ecstatic to be interning at a location that has such cultural and ecological value.



Before arriving at Piedras Blancas Light Station in June, Ellis was part of a conservation corps in Santa Cruz for 10 months doing trail and restoration work through ACE. Before joining ACE, Ellis was in college for 2 years, but he decided he wanted a life that would keep him outdoors and helping in any way he could. Ellis enjoys working at the light station because he is able to take care of a historic site and the surrounding ecosystem. He enjoys interacting with the public and answering questions about the light station and surrounding area.



THE ADVANTURES OF OUR 2017 INTERN BRENNA HARE

Brenna Hare joined the PBLS team in July 2017, kicking off her year of travel and exploration. During her stay at PBLS, she converted a commercial van into her own "adventure van" consisting of just 24 square feet of living space. At the beginning of the new year, Brenna set off on her first cross-country trip, spending three weeks on the road visiting such places as Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks. Eventually, she landed in Sanibel, FL, where she worked with Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, spending her weekends snorkeling in the keys, spotting alligators from airboats, and swimming in the clear waters of Florida springs. During her return trip in May 2018, Brenna spent four weeks on the road visiting numerous National Parks including Yellowstone and Arches. Arriving back in California in June, she spent the summer working for the BLM Ukiah Field Office as a Natural Resource Specialist Intern conducting Proper Functioning Condition and Visual Resource Management surveys. She hopes to continue her travels with a trip to Glacier National Park and, of course, a visit to PBLS where it all began.

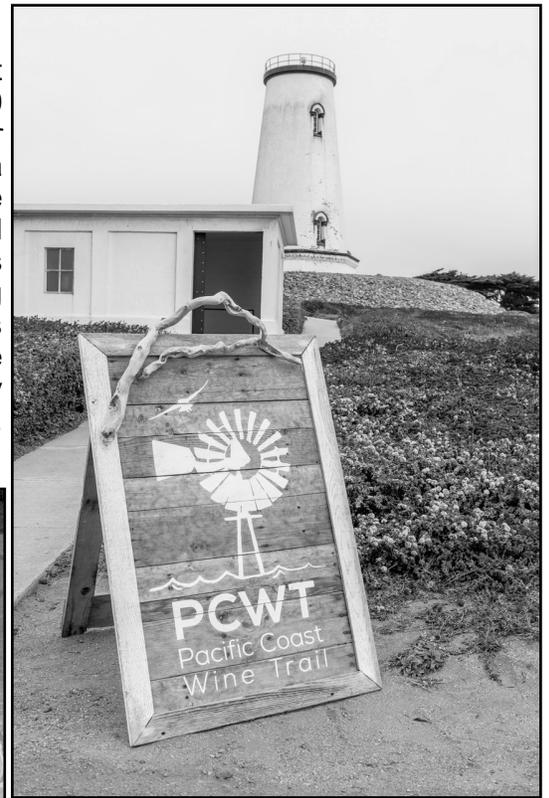


LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT? WE HAVE AN ONLINE GIFT SHOP!

We offer custom ornaments, etched wine glasses, shot glasses, mugs, t-shirts, fleece jackets and vests just to name a few. An engraved brick installed at the light station makes a fun gift, too! Prices include tax and shipping and all the proceeds stay here at the light station. You may also join or renew your membership online. Visit us at: piedrasblancas.org

SUNSET SOIRÉE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

On Saturday, September 22nd, the Pacific Coast Wine Trail held a sunset event to benefit the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association. Over 100 guests enjoyed wine from eight local wineries, wood-fired pizza from Bear & the Wren catering, and music by Marcus DiMaggio. Even though it was a chilly overcast evening, everyone raved about the light station and some remarked how this was the best event they have attended. We are grateful to Erin Martin of Harmony Cellars and everyone at PCWT for making this event possible. PCWT was established in 2013 to promote wine tasting along northern San Luis Obispo County coast. The course of the trail gives wine aficionados the opportunity to discover boutique wineries off the beaten path and includes Black Hand Cellars, Cayucos Cellars, Harmony Cellars, Moonstone Cellars, Stolo Vineyards and Twin Coyotes Winery. For more information visit PacificCoastWineTrail.com.



Left: The newly restored Fog Signal Building was a cozy gathering spot for guests perusing the silent auction items.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram for news about upcoming events:
[PiedrasBlancasLightStation](https://www.facebook.com/PiedrasBlancasLightStation)



THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY HAS LOST A FRIEND

We are saddened by the passing of J. Candace Clifford. Many of us in the lighthouse community are familiar with Candace's collaboration with her mother, Mary Louise Clifford, in the writing and publication of several books about lighthouse history. Most notably may be *Women Who Kept the Lights: An Illustrated History of Female Light*



Candace Clifford on top of the Alcatraz Island Lighthouse in 2016 while working as the U.S. Lighthouse Society's historian.

Keepers which she published under her own imprint, Cypress Communications, in 1993. In addition to her books, Candace shared her prodigious research online at her website: LighthouseHistory.info and on her blog at uslhs.org/news. Most recently, Candace worked closely with the U.S. Lighthouse Society as its historian assisting with the creation of the largest lighthouse related research archive in the nation, to be named in her honor. With unparalleled knowledge of the National Archives lighthouse section, she was a critically important consultant to the National Park Service Maritime Heritage Program from 1988 to 2001. Candace was primarily responsible for its databases, resource surveys and inventories, ultimately producing the first Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook. Honored for other types of maritime history services, she was an officer of the American Lighthouse Council and a recipient of the lifetime Ross Holland Award for distinguished service in lighthouse preservation. She will be greatly missed.

COOKING AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

Chocolate Sponge

4 eggs (Nulaid)
4 Tbl granulated sugar
3/4 C ground chocolate (Ghirardelli's)
1 C milk (Dairy Delivery)
2 Tbl cracker crumbs, sifted
Pinch of salt



Beat yolks of eggs until very light. Add gradually, beating all the time with Dover egg beater, the sugar and chocolate. When all is added, beat in gradually the milk and cracker meal. Beat egg whites very stiff and beat into the custard mixture. Pour into a well buttered ring mold or casserole. Place in a pan containing hot water to reach two-thirds of the mold. Bake in oven 330 degrees for 25 minutes.

Note: The Dairy Delivery company in Millbrae, CA, was acquired by the Borden Company in 1929. In the first half of the 20th century, milk was delivered to homes in much of the United States. The egg beater was one of two technological innovations which was purchased in sufficient numbers to make a substantial impact on American cooking (the other was the cast-iron stove). In the Sears 1897 catalog, a "Dover" egg beater, like the one pictured above, sold for 9 cents.

Excerpted with permission from Beverly Praver's cookbook "Dinner at the Lighthouse" available in our gift shop.

TRIVIA TIME

The word lighthouse in many languages comes from the word "Pharos." Why?

- A. Pharos means lighthouse in ancient Greek.
- B. Pharos means light in ancient Egyptian.
- C. Pharos was the name of the island where the earliest known lighthouse stood.

Which of these famous author's relatives designed and built lighthouses in Scotland?

- A. Emily Dickinson
- B. Robert Louis Stevenson
- C. William Shakespeare

The pattern painted on a lighthouse (stripes or diamonds, for example) is called:

- A. Light Pattern
- B. Night marking
- C. Daymark

Answers: C. Pharos was the name of the island; B. Robert Louis Stevenson; C. Daymark.

TAKE A PEEK AT THE LIGHTHOUSE ANY TIME

Since our live webcam was installed in 2016, many visitors have written to say how much they enjoy the live 270 degree view from the light station. You may see elephant seals on the beach or a beautiful moonrise. Check us out:

pedrasblancas.org/webcam

A NEW YEAR'S EVE POEM FROM A LONELY PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

When U.S. Coast Guard employee George R. Mayfield began his watch at midnight January 1, 1966, at Piedras Blancas Light Station, it seems he was feeling a little left out of the New Year's revelry. This official entry is from the archives of our keepers logs. George began his watch with a poem at 0000 hours (midnight):

*Relieved the watch, and here I sit, all sad and blue,
As the old year ends and starts a new.
The booze is flowing all over the place,
the women are running a second race.
Huggin and kissin all through the nite,
the mens hands feeling inside her tights.
But here I sit all alone,
dreaming of the fun that's going on.
So what the Hell, the time will be here,
when I can get drunk, and say "HAPPY NEW YEAR".*

The log continues with rather mundane entries:

0030- Sent weather to CG Station, Monterey.
0200- Security check of station, all secure.
0330- Sent weather to CG Station, Monterey.
0400- Security check of station, all secure.
0600- Security check of station, all secure.
0630- Sent weather to CG Station, Monterey.
0700- Made past A/N checks as per A/N bill. Relieved of watch by ALLEN FN.

When George came back on duty later that day and relieved Mr. Allen from his watch at 1600 (4 pm) George's last entry of his shift was Happy New Year (we hope he was finally able to celebrate). All of us at Piedras Blancas Light Station wish you a happy holiday season!



CAMBRIA'S SCARECROW FESTIVAL HAS A MONSTER WHO LOVES SCARY MOVIES

The 10th annual Scarecrow Festival in Cambria is a big hit with locals and visitors alike. Thousands of people from across the country enjoy the varied scarecrows that are bowling, bathing, painting, pedaling and fishing through Cambria, San Simeon and Harmony. The festival has grown into one of the most unique festivals of hand-crafted folk art in the United States. Piedras Blancas Light Station has had a winning entry many times thanks to our longtime light station volunteer Abel Martinez. We are fortunate to be able to utilize "prime real estate" in the enclosed Fresnel lens building on Main Street so our yearly display is safe from the weather and vandals. This year, a loveable monster with rainbow hair named Curley is ready to watch his favorite scary movie, "The Monster of Piedras Blancas," as he enjoys eating a bucket of ice plant.



Above: Volunteer Abel Martinez and his entry "Scary Movie" in the 10th Annual Scarecrow Festival in Cambria. Sponsored by the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER!

Hi! My name is Marisa McDaniel. I began volunteering at the light station in July. I grew up in Orange County, CA, and studied Ecology at UC San Diego. I am currently working as an AmeriCorps Member for American Conservation Experience in Santa Cruz, CA, doing trail maintenance and habitat restoration. I absolutely love the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area and truly admire all the restoration efforts that have gone into maintaining the beautiful native habitat there!

Welcome to the Piedras Blancas family, Marisa!

JOIN OUR MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

The Piedras Blancas Light Station Association meets every 4th Wednesday of the month at 6 pm at Rabobank in Cambria. The public is always welcome to come listen, ask questions or voice concerns. Because of the holiday season, our November/December meetings will be combined into one meeting on Wednesday, December 5th.

We are currently accepting resumes from those who are interested in becoming a board member. The board is made up of people from all backgrounds and education who live in different parts of the county. We especially need someone who has fundraising or grant writing experience.

Please send us an email if you are interested or have questions: contact.pblsa@gmail.com

LIGHTHOUSE NEIGHBORS

Point San Luis Lighthouse

(58 miles south of PBLs)
Located in Avila Beach. For a complete listing of guided tours and special events and to reserve a ride on the shuttle, visit: PointSanLuisLighthouse.org or call 805-540-5771

Point Sur Lightstation

(65 miles north of PBLs)
From November through March, tours are offered at 10 AM on Saturdays and Sundays and at 1 PM on Wednesdays. During the summer there are additional days and times. For a complete listing of tours: PointSur.org or call 831-625-4419

Point Pinos Lighthouse

(90 miles north of PBLs)
Located in Pacific Grove, open Thursday through Monday, 1 PM - 4 PM. For more information: PointPinosLighthouse.org



PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION TOURS

Tours are offered year-round on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. From June 15 through August 31, tours are offered daily except Wednesdays and Sundays. There are no tours on federal holidays. Tours last about 2 hours and include the historic Piedras Blancas lighthouse and support buildings along with a half mile interpretive trail that provides spectacular ocean views and opportunities to view wildlife. Meet at the former Piedras Blancas Motel located 1.5 miles north of the light station at 9:45 AM.

Please do not wait at the gate to the light station!
For information, email PiedrasBlancasTours@gmail.com
or call 805-927-7361

Groups of 10 or more
please make advance
arrangements.

\$10 for adults, \$5 ages
6-17, no fee for children
5 and under.

Tours may be
cancelled on the day
of the tour due to
inclement weather.



Dress warmly and wear comfortable walking shoes. Sorry, no pets!

PBLA Association
P.O. Box 127
San Simeon, CA 93452-0127
805-927-3719
membership.pblsa@gmail.com



All memberships include our quarterly newsletter. Your dues help with the maintenance and restoration of the Piedras Blancas Light Station.

- ___ \$50 Friend of the Lighthouse
(1 complimentary tour)
- ___ \$100 Acting Keeper
(2 complimentary tours)
- ___ \$250 Assistant Keeper
(4 complimentary tours)
- ___ \$500 Principal Keeper
(engraved brick)
- ___ \$1000 Superintendent of Lights
(engraved brick & private tour for up to 6)

***Help restore
and preserve
Piedras Blancas
Light Station
by joining PBLSA***

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make check payable to PBLSA
You may also join online at piedrasblancas.org
Thank you for your support!



**PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT
STATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 127
SAN SIMEON, CA**

