



FMHA

FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2007 FMHA Newsletter

Summer Activities: Your FMHA was very busy over the summer and fall with representations at four Antique and Craft shows at the Lewes Historical Complex; Coast Day at the College of Marine Studies and the Lewes 375th Anniversary Celebration. Lots of new members were signed up at these events along with the selling of the popular FMHA tote bags, T-shirts, hats, polo shirts, books and other materials. We literally met and talked to thousands of people over the summer, spreading the word about FMHA and getting over 50 new members! Much thanks goes out to FMHA members who helped with the effort ... Brian Lindsay; Ray Quillen; Sue Lore; Merlin Beil; Bev, Fran and Paul Dalecki; Joe Kosaveach; Steve Hyle; David and Judy DiBetta and Ted and Sue George.

FMHA Fall Meeting: Please plan to join us at our December 9, 2006 Board Meeting at the Biden Center, Cape Henlopen State Park, 10-3 pm. Lunch will be served. We will have a short board meeting followed by two presentations that will run concurrently. The first will be a presentation by David Henderson, Coordinator of the DTCC Engineering Tech Program (CAD) who will present a CAD presentation of Battery 519, and exciting project his class worked on last semester. Also, as part of this presentation, Lee Jennings will discuss theme plans for the museum inside Battery 519. The second presentation will be by Bill Manthorpe, FMHA member, on the still very much secret Cold War Naval Listening Station (SOSUS) at Fort Miles. Many do not know about the USN role at the old Fort Miles during the Cold War so this is a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge! We will have FMHA items mentioned previously at the meeting so it would be a good time for some Christmas shopping! Please give me a call at 645-0753 to tell me if you plan to attend so we can put your name down for lunch!

Membership Renewal: Now is the time to renew your 2006-2007 membership. Remember that we have sent a reminder with each of our last two newsletters. If you have a membership form enclosed, you have not renewed and this will be the last newsletter that you will receive. We hope that you will continue to support our efforts to "preserve and protect" Fort Miles. It has only through strong and active membership that we can keep the Fort up-front on both the local community and political radar screens!

Battery Herring, Herring Point and Towers 5 and 6: As many know, Herring Point and the two FCT's at Gordon's Pond have been ravaged over the years by the ocean. Just recently the park staff closed part of the parking lot at Battery Herring due to the loss of the dune. Over the last year FMHA has been working with DENREC to protect both the Herring Point dune and the towers. In April, 2005 I met with DENREC Secretary John Hughes and his staff in Dover to discuss the problem. At that meeting we pressed for a study to be made of the ocean attack on both Herring Point and the two towers.

That meeting led directly to DENREC contracting with a beach consultant to both study the problem and to make recommendations. On June 26, 2006 DENREC invited the three involved stake-holders (FMHA, the Surfriders and Mobile Surf Fisherman) to the report presentation. At that time we all agreed that something had to be done immediately to protect our beach assets in the state park. After much discussion, all three groups agreed that the best plan is to restore the two groins in front of Herring Point that failed years ago, and then to replenish the sand both in front of Herring Point and the two towers. I am pleased to report that the permits for that plan have been filed and the effort will begin soon to repair the north groin at HP and tie it back to the dune line to begin the sand build-up in front of Herring Point. After the work is done, the south groin will likewise be repaired next year and in 2008 sand will be pumped to protect both FCT 5 and 6 and HP. This is great news! I know that one of the main reasons why the state became interested in this project is through the constant effort of our FMHA group that represents over 400 people! In little DE size does matter, so your continued membership is vitally important to keep the effort moving!

FMHA Support: Our organization has received strong support from many local groups, including our local politicians. Senator Gary Simpson has been very supportive, as has been Representative Joe Booth. We would also like to thank Sussex County Council for their continued support, and in particular Councilman Lynn Rogers who dedicated part of his Community Funds this year to the efforts of FMHA. And, the Delaware River and Bay Association has also been of great assistance. Thanks again to all who have joined us in this effort!

Book Review: Recently, the prestigious Coast Defense Journal, the quarterly publication of the Coast Defense Study Group, reviewed our recent book, *Fort Miles*, and FMHA member Bill Grayson's book *Delaware Ghost Towers*. I am enclosing one of those reviews for your reflection. Again, remember that both books will be on sale at our December 9th meeting and all proceeds from both got to further the goals of FMHA as all authors have dedicated their royalties to our group.

(Review included in members' direct mail newsletter.)

Thanks for your support!

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