



FMHA

FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
120 WILD RABBIT RUN
LEWES, DE 19958
(302) 645-0753

Fall /Winter 2008 Newsletter

As always, I would like to thank our active Board of Directors for their help during this past year. A special thanks goes to: Ted George, secretary; Merlin Beil, treasurer; Bev Dalecki; David Main; Bob Frederick; Joe Kosaveach; Joe Johnson; Ray Quillen; Bob fellows, Brian Lindsay, Jack Goins and new Board member John Roberts. Without their active and constant help and support, our FMHA would not be where it is today. We hold our Board meetings the third Saturday of the month during the winter at La Rosa Negra in Lewes, 8:30 am. If you would like to attend, please give me a call at 302-645-0753. We now have almost 400 members in FMHA! Thanks!!!

November 8, 2008 Event: Our next big event at the Fort will be on this date, 10-4 pm. This event will honor our veterans with a full program of WWII events and reenactors, and tours of Battery 519 and the 12" gun! Call the Nature Center at 645-6852 for tickets or Mike Rogers at 644-5007. This should be another super day so hopefully many can attend! We will be firing the 3" all during the day so hold your ears! We will also have with us photographer Hal Rummel who has done a great photo of FCT13 (opposite the Ferry Terminal.) Hal will be with us to personally sign each 11x18 photo. The photo is great and Hal is donating both the photo and it's proceeds to FMHA. Cost of the photo is \$45 and will look good on your wall! Join us!

December 6, 2008 FMHA Winter Meeting: All FMHA members are invited to our annual Winter Meeting at the Biden center, 10-3 pm, with lunch at 11:30. Give me a call at 645-0753 if you would like to attend so we can get a count for lunch. Lee, Mike and I will overview for the group what has gone on over the last year at the Fort at the morning meeting and the afternoon will be a tour of Battery 519. Lots of work has gone on in the battery so if you have not been inside in a while, you should attend the meeting and take the tour.

Oct 10, 2008 Teacher Training: led by a cadre of Cape Henlopen School District teachers, over 40 teachers from throughout the state met at the Fort Miles Orientation Building for an all-day staff development training on Fort Miles. The goal is to imbed Fort Miles in the curriculum and the state standards for elementary, middle and high school teachers and this was our first successful start, sponsored jointly by FMHA, Cape Henlopen School District and Delaware Parks and Recreation. Sue Lore of FMHA supplied breakfast snacks, FMHA supplied lunch and the day went very well. Special thanks to Mike Rogers for the great take-away CD on the Fort and teachers Gail Mack, Cindy Cunningham, Kathy O'Hanlon of Cape for the organization of the successful day. Special thanks to Lori Roe for organizing the successful GPS project in the afternoon.

Summer and Fall 2008 Events: FMHA had a busy Summer and Fall 2008. We attended each of the Lewes Craft Shows held at the Historical Complex as well as the Antique Show. New members were gained at these events along with selling our new tote bags, books, fire control towers, polo shirts and many other FMHA items. Especially successful was our participation in Coast Day on Oct. 5 where we met literally thousands of new folks and talked up Fort Miles. We also drew the winning ticket for the \$400 sterling silver tower (Abbey Christopher, GDW's granddaughter drew FMHA member Kenny Mitchell's winning ticket.)

Tower #3 Project: FMHA has joined with both state and the Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation to work to restore, and open to the public, Fire Control Tower #3, the southern most of the two towers in Dewey Beach. It is the one directly behind the bathhouse on Tower Road. FMHA and DSPR have joined forces to work to raise the \$300k required to open the Tower to the public to our folks to the southern part of Delaware and MD shore. By opening the 69' tower, folks will not have to drive to CHSPark to go up in Tower #7, the only tower presently open to the public. We will also be creating a WWII database for those who want to enter the service record of their loved one for historical preservation. This seven-year project has been moving along and recently a \$10k grant was received to support the effort. We will bring the membership up-to-date on the progress at our December 6th meeting.

Work Parties: FMHA Board member John Roberts has taken the lead in organizing work parties and has created a special website (<http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Fortmilesha/>) to organize. Although much has been done to date inside the battery, much more still needs to be done to make it ready to be a museum. Please read the attachment from John with this newsletter that gives more information as to how you can help.

Upcoming Events: Our first big event in 2009 will be on Sat. April 25, 10-4 pm at the Fort Miles Historical Complex. This is our annual April event with lots of reenactors, much noise made as we fire the 3" gun, fun things for kids and lots of tours of battery 519. We will also have a 1943 style dance, beginning at 7 pm at the Officer's Club. As always, it will be lots of fun!

Join Us!

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