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Highlands, NJ 07732

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FRIENDS OF TWIN LIGHTS



Photo courtesy of, Betty Ulicki

*For Immediate Release:*

## **A Traffic-Stopping First for the Twin Lights**

*History Is Illuminated as Mariners and Motorists “See Double” Along Jersey Shore*

(Highlands, NJ - June 19, 2008 ) Mariners and motorists in the vicinity of the Highlands Bridge this evening were treated to a rare sight when both the North Tower and South Tower of the Twin Lights were lit simultaneously for the first time in over a century. One thousand watts of light beamed out of the normally non-illuminated South Tower in order to recapture a bit of the past for a new video production on the Twin Lights.

The South Tower light has not been visible to sea traffic since the post-WWII era, as the Twin Lights were officially decommissioned in 1949. Records at the Twin Lights Museum ([www.twin-lights.org](http://www.twin-lights.org)) indicate that the last time both lights operated simultaneously may have been 1898.

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“Longtime Jersey Shore residents might recall that it was the South Tower that was lit for the first half of the twentieth century,” says Margaret Carlsen, Curator of the Twin Lights National Historic Site.

“The South Tower was home to the massive Fresnel Lens that is currently on display in the Generator Building. After its decommissioning, the lens was removed and the North Tower was lit as an aid to private navigation. That's the tower that has been active over the past few decades.”

Carlsen adds that the North Tower was used as a “back-up” light source to the Fresnel Lens, which was installed in the South Tower in 1898. It appears that the two lights were not used in tandem after that—until June 19th, 2008.

“It is amazing to think that people traveling along Route 36 on Thursday evening saw something that no one in an automobile has ever seen,” smiles Carlsen. “We think that's how long it has been since both towers were illuminated.”

A.S. “Andy” Anderson, whose grandfather Ole was the keeper of the Twin Lights from 1903 to 1927, was on hand to witness the historic event. “That was the first time I remember seeing the South Tower lit,” says Anderson, who has spent most of his life living in the area.

The lighting of the South Tower was a temporary exercise. The South Tower lens room is normally empty in order to accommodate school groups and tours. The Twin Lights, a National Historic Landmark and State Historic Site, is open every day during the summer from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Visitors can climb to the top of the North Tower, which offers panoramic views of New York Harbor, Sandy Hook Bay, and the Two Rivers area.

For More Information Contact:  
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