

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

LOCAL MUSEUMS OFFER A PROUD LOOK INTO AREA'S HERITAGE

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Correspondent

As the weather turns colder, look no further for fun indoor activities: Ocean County's range of interesting museums offers the whole family a look at the area's rich history.

TOMS RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

Opened in 1976, this museum aims to preserve the rich maritime heritage of Barnegat Bay, Toms River and surrounding waters. Located within an 1868 carriage house that served the estate of Joseph Francis, inventor of the nautical lifesaving device known as the lifecar, the museum features nautical relics, historic boats and models, a maritime reference library, and the Joe Lappin Boat Restoration Shop. According to Administrative Director Pat Huizing, the museum will complete by year's end construction on an annex housing the famous catboat called The Spy. Entry to the museum, at 78 E. Water St. in Toms River, is free; year-round hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For more information, call 732-349-9209 or visit www.tomsriverseaport.org.



OCEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & RICHARD STRICKLER RESEARCH CENTER

Chartered to preserve the history and heritage of Ocean County, which broke away from Monmouth County in 1850, this Victorian-era house features rooms containing period furniture, photos and ceramics, as well as a one-room schoolroom, an exhibit on early industries, Barnegat Bay decoys, and artifacts related to the Hindenberg and the Lenape tribe. Hard-to-find data is a museum specialty, according to Research Center Chairwoman Betsy Dudas. "Our research center is an invaluable source of information on Ocean County history and includes vital statistics, census records, a collection of newspapers dating back to 1852 and information on over 500 local families," Dudas said.

There is no fee to view exhibit rooms, but a \$3 donation for a guided tour is requested.

The museum is at 26 Hadley Ave. in Toms River. Museum hours are from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 1 to 4 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

Current exhibits are open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The Research Center is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and the first Saturday of each month.

For more information, call 732-341-1880 or visit www.oceancountyhistory.org.

MUSEUM OF NEW JERSEY MARITIME HISTORY

Opened in 2007, this museum houses documents on more than 7,000 shipwrecks off the New Jersey coast since the 1600s and boasts a rare maritime book collection containing volumes that are not even in the Library of Congress.

The museum's two exhibit floors include artifacts from famous shipwrecks such as the Andrea Doria and the Morro Castle, the latter of which grounded off Asbury Park in 1934, and also feature information on the Coast Guard's history and rescue techniques

as well as a library and an Internet cafe.

Entry to the museum, at Dock Road and West Avenue in Beach Haven, is free, though donations are welcome. Winter hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, visit www.museumofnjmh.com or call 609-492-0202.

NAVY LAKEHURST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered to promote the history, heritage, and future missions of joint bases McGuire, Dix, and Lakehurst, the two-to-three-hour tour of this museum begins at the actual site where the Hindenberg crashed on May 6, 1937.

Other tour highlights include displays of various Navy ships and aircraft as well as exhibits on the history of naval aviation, women and minorities in the military, and Lakehurst's role as an airship base from 1919 to 1962.

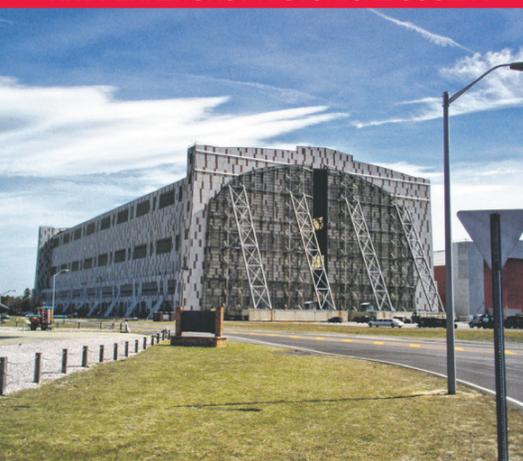
From October through April, tours are conducted at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays and on the second Saturday of every month.

Tours are free, but visitors must pre-register two weeks in advance to allow for security clearance.

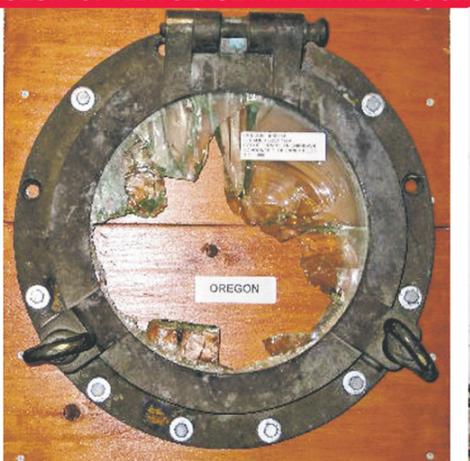
For more information, call 732-244-8861 or visit www.nlhs.com.



NAVY LAKEHURST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MUSEUM OF NEW JERSEY MARITIME HISTORY



TOMS RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

