

From W1QK/LH: Avery Point Lighthouse - Groton, Connecticut US0190

**UConn**  
AVERY POINT

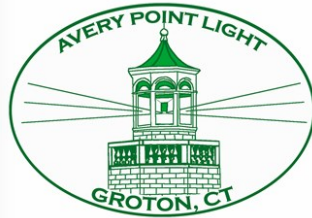


Bordered by the waters of Long Island Sound, the **University of Connecticut Avery Point campus in Groton** combines the resources of a top ranked research university with the feel of a small liberal arts college. The campus offers four-year undergraduate degree programs in American studies, English, and the unique ocean-focused majors of marine sciences and maritime studies, as well as graduate studies in education, engineering, and nursing. Students can start a UConn career at Avery Point in over 100 majors, then transition to the main campus in Storrs to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree. For more information, visit [www.averypoint.uconn.edu](http://www.averypoint.uconn.edu)

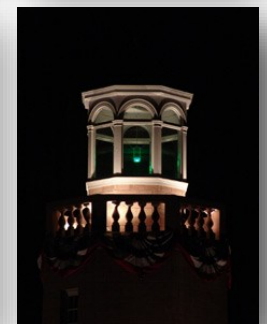


**The Avery Point Lighthouse** is situated at the southeastern end of the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus. The Avery Point campus was originally the site of the 72 acre estate of Morton F. Plant, a wealthy industrialist, philanthropist and yachtsman, who was very influential in local development in the early 1900's. Several large and ornate granite structures were constructed and completed on this site prior to 1903. "Branford House" is listed on the National Historic Register. In 1938, his estate was sold, at auction, to the State of Connecticut. In 1942, the property was sold by the State of Connecticut to the United States Government. The *Quit Claim Deed* for this transaction stipulated that the "United States of America erect and maintain on or over the land beacon lights or other buildings and apparatus to be used in aid of navigation". In 1942, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) occupied the site and established the USCG Training Station. Throughout the years, thousands of Coast Guardsmen received training at the Groton Station in a variety of schools, **including radio communications** and aids to navigation – the latter being established in 1945. In 1943, the USCG fulfilled the requirement of the *Quit Claim Deed* and completed the construction of Avery Point Lighthouse. It was at this time considered "ready for service"; however, World War II "hostilities concerns" precluded the light from being lit until May 2, 1944. The fifty-five foot octagonal-shaped structure has two internal levels including the upper level lantern room and a walk-around outer deck. The bearing walls were constructed of unusual block masonry units (blocks) made of a brown colored cement and sand.

In 1967, the Coast Guard closed its training center at Avery Point and relocated to Governor's Island, New York. The Avery Point property was again occupied by the State of Connecticut. UConn established an off-site campus at Avery Point shortly after the departure of the Coast Guard. Unfortunately, for a period of over thirty years, maintenance and upkeep of the lighthouse was sorely lacking and largely discontinued. The structure developed serious deterioration problems and, in 1997, the University considered razing it.



In May of 2000, a group of local citizens, calling themselves the **Avery Point Lighthouse Society (APLS)**, organized an effort to save, restore and relight the structure. APLS, subsequently became a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) of Rockland, Maine. For more information, visit [www.lighthousefoundation.org](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org) APLS was successful in saving the structure and in raising in excess of one half million dollars to restore it to its original glory. APLS was also successful in having the lighthouse placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Structural restoration of the lighthouse was completed in November, 2005. A dedication brick walkway, traveling a distance of over 1500 feet and consisting of over 3,100 engraved bricks was installed at the site of the lighthouse and completed in the spring of 2006. As a result of the efforts of APLS, ALF, and the University, permission was received from the United States Coast Guard to install a light in the lighthouse so it could once again be used as an official aid to navigation. A special relighting and rededication ceremony was held at the lighthouse in October, 2006. The light, which flashes green every four seconds, is an official aid to navigation and listed on the United States Coast Guard's List of Lights. For more information, visit [www.averypointlight.com](http://www.averypointlight.com).





**Avery Point Lighthouse (US0190)** was on-the-air during the ILLW event for the first time on August 17, 2014. **W1QK/LH** was operated by Dan Fegley, **W1QK**; Harlan Ford, **W1QH**; and Jay Albano, **N1NRP**; all members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service – ARES; which is a function of the American Radio Relay League in Newington, CT; and the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association in Danbury, CT. For more information visit <http://www.arrl.org/ares> and <http://www.cararadioclub.org>

**Total contacts:** 92; 14 SSB / 78 CW, 2 Lighthouse stations.

**Most memorable contact:** CW operator who graduated from the USCG radio school when it was located at the Groton Station.

**Equipment used:** ICOM IC-746Pro, ICOM IC-706MKIIG, Skeleton sleeve 20M/15M inverted Vee modeled and built by NG1R and W1QK, 40M/80M inverted Vee, 6M Squalo, 2M-440FM dualbander. Honda EU-2000i generator.

The weather became spectacular later towards the afternoon - and we enjoyed both making contacts and the awesome view.

Several visitors inquired about our operation, and we gladly explained amateur radio and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend event and that this was the first time that *Avery Point Lighthouse (US0190)* was on-the-air for the ILLW event. From our operating location, we could see six lighthouses; *Avery Point Light, New London Harbor Light, New London Ledge Light, North Dumpling Island Light, Race Rock Light* and *Little Gull Island Light*.

We contacted two other lighthouse stations (one in Wisconsin and another in New Jersey) and our total was 92 contacts with other hams worldwide on both voice and Morse Code (which is the mode that I prefer). Voice contacts were made with USA and European operators, and my most memorable CW contacts were with Ukraine, Latvia, Sweden and Spain. 73 de W1QK/LH

International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend - August, 2014

**W1QK/LH**  
Avery Point Light - US 0190

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Jay Albano, N1NRP - Harlan Ford, W1QH - Dan Fegley, W1QK  
Groton, Connecticut USA - New London County - Grid Square FN31xh - CQ Zone 5 - ITU Zone 8