



THE POMHAM GLOW

October 2014 · Volume 10 · Issue 2

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse,
A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

Mission Statement

To ensure the historic restoration and preservation of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and to improve public awareness, appreciation and access to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER SPEAKER'S MEETING RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSES PRESENTED BY:

DAVID KELLEHER

Date: Monday, October 20, 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Riverside Congregational
Church
Corner of Bullocks Point
and Oak Street
Riverside, RI

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: The Old Oyster House
Building
Water Street
East Providence, RI

RESERVATION DEADLINE:

November 10, 2014

(see story on back page)

POMHAM SANTA

Date: Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014

Time: 12:00 pm (Noon)

Where: Starting at the Boat
Ramp at Haines Park,
Riverside, RI

Refreshments will be served
at Sabin Point Park

PROVIDENCE BOAT SHOW

Date: Friday, January 23-

Sunday, January 25, 2015

Where: Rhode Island
Convention Center,
Providence, RI

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse,

As the many articles in this edition of The Pomham Glow will testify, much has been accomplished since last spring.

Joe Estrella has worked many hours getting all the permits and materials to make the Lady Pomham Coast Guard approved. Joe, also along with his son Jeff and Andy Valerio, built and installed a new floating dock addition.

With help from a number of member work parties, the restored windows have been installed and painted. New yard equipment donated to us by some members made maintaining the grounds much easier. New fencing was installed, the solar panel system repaired, and a new flag is now waving proudly over our island.

The christening of the Lady Pomham was held at the East Providence Yacht Club and a chicken BBQ was enjoyed by those who attended.

I hope you saw the excellent article about Pomham Rocks on the front page of the August 24th Sunday edition of the Providence Journal. If you want to see some beautiful night time photos of Pomham, check out David Zapatka's web site: starsandlighthouses.com.

We are continuing to work with Gilbane Construction Co. towards the restoration of the interior of the lighthouse. Nate Chace, Joe Estrella and Mike Tripp have had a number of meetings with the architect and engineers, and some progress has been made. More details of this project will be reported on at our Annual Meeting in November.

There are a number of upcoming events, as reported in this newsletter, and I sincerely hope that many of you will try to attend, especially the Annual Meeting. It is important that the membership support these events that the Board and Event Committee have planned for you.

Sincerely,

Dave Kelleher, Chairman

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org

email: pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com

SUCCESSFUL RAFFLE

The raffle for two overnight stays, one at Rose Island Lighthouse in Newport, and one at Borden Flats in Fall River, plus a two night stay at the Surf Hotel on Block Island was the most successful fundraiser we have had so far for our project. \$4,000 was raised for the restoration of the lighthouse interior.

The winners of the raffle were: Mark Dion of North Attleboro - Borden Flats Lighthouse stay; Natalie Akers of Seekonk - Rose Island Lighthouse stay; Penny Webster of Riverside - Surf Hotel on Block Island stay.

We wish to thank all who bought tickets for the raffle. Thank you to the Board & Event Committee members and everyone else who sold tickets, and to the editor of Lighthouse Digest who gave us a full page ad in the Digest for a discounted price.

A really big thank you to Nick Korstad at Borden Flats, David McCurdy at Rose Island, and Lorraine Cyr at the Surf Hotel for their donations for these stays.

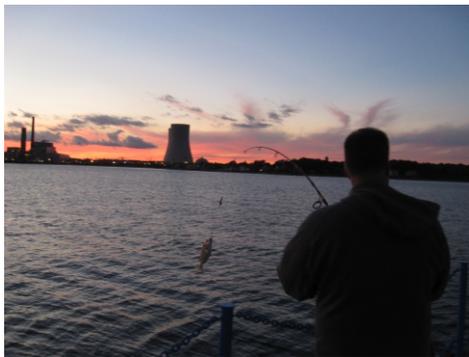
The following is a letter from Mark Dion, winner of the stay at Borden Flats Lighthouse.

At the April 28th RISAA meeting Dave Kelleher of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse gave a fabulous presentation for the members. He brought a wonderful slide show. His revealing of the struggle to bring this lighthouse to life drew me to buy a raffle ticket for a night at an area lighthouse.

I was very excited to receive Dave's call that I had won a night at the Borden Flats Lighthouse in the Taunton River. My wife wasn't as excited. I made it a fishing trip and went with a co-worker.

We anticipated all the fish we would catch that night. As we talked at work in the days leading up to the trip the imagination and size of the fish grew. We had hopes of catching record size fish-42" stripers.

It wasn't to be. We had a great time. Mostly caught scup, a black bass and an almost fluke.



Nick who bought and fixed-up the place did an absolutely amazing job. He restored both the exterior and interior mostly on his own back. Every inch was clean and thoughtfully restored.

Thank you to RISAA for the opportunity. If anyone is thinking about spending the night on a lighthouse get in touch with "Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse" a Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation.

Thank you,
Member RISAA
Mark Dion

EQUIPMENT FOR LIGHTHOUSE AND GROUNDS

Much needed equipment was purchased or donated for the upkeep of the grounds and lighthouse buildings: Two new weed trimmers, a hand saw, a used lawn mower (donated by Dave Kelleher), used shovels, hoe, rake and pitch fork (donated by Judy Kelly).

LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAMS

Dave's Lighthouse Programs were presented at a number of events and schools this year including:

Emerald Bay Manor on April 8, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association on April 28, National Teachers Association on May 6, Young Adult Club at St. Brendan's on September 9 and AARP of East Providence on September 4. School programs included three 4th grades at Alice M. Waddington School on June 18 and four 4th grades as part of a full day program about Rhode Island at Richmond School on May 23.

WINDOW PROJECT COMPLETED

Glad to report that all the windows in the lighthouse are now in good shape following a project started last fall.

The Lizzotte Glass Company refurbished all the 1871 windows. Joe Estrella, Nate Chace, Andy Valerio and others reinstalled the windows, putting in new ropes, painting parts of the casings and even polishing the solid brass pulleys.

Two workers of the Lizzotte Company, Brendan and Cory, replaced one of the large 1871 glass panels in the lantern room.

The original 1871 glass panel is being saved with the possibility that it can be fashioned into some kind of keepsakes.

SAVE THE BAY TOURS

Save The Bay increased the number of tours this year to include two half-day tours from Providence and two from Newport.

The two half-day tours from Providence included, for the first time, a stop at Pomham Rocks. It was a great feeling showing the lighthouse (just the first floor) and grounds to the public. It is just the beginning of our plans to open up the island to many more visitors next year.

Most of the tours were sold out. It is apparent that these tours are becoming more popular with people across the country.



FLOATING DOCK

Joe Estrella has continued his work on getting a new 8 foot floating dock to extend out from the floating dock now in place at the lighthouse. It takes much time and effort on his part to obtain all the permits and necessary paperwork to allow us to put the dock in place. In the mean time Joe ordered all the material to build the dock ourselves and had it delivered to his house. As of July 28th, everything was approved.

Joe, Andy Valerio and Joe's son, Jeff, have proceeded to build the dock in his driveway. Once built, it was then brought to the Sabin Point boat ramp and floated over to the lighthouse and installed.

A&M Marine put in two pilings a few days later at the far end of the new dock. This new dock will be most helpful in docking our new ferry, the Lady Pomham, as we begin plans on more public visits to the island next year.

THE LADY POMHAM

Purchasing the launch last fall from the Bristol Yacht Club was just the beginning of a long process of preparing the boat for launching, including painting the hull. Once in the water Joe and Mike motored the boat to the East Providence Yacht Club. Once there, Joe had to replace a number of safety articles on the boat and also had to take care of a number of certificates and tests to allow him to operate the boat. These included, a drug test, a certificate to operate the radio, the registration of the radio, and the preparation of Lady Pomham for the official inspection by the United States Coast Guard. The inspection was very specific in detail and included an overboard rescue exercise with Oscar, the dummy model, which was very difficult, but Joe successfully passed. All and all it has taken a couple of months for Joe to accomplish all the necessary details.

The Lady Pomham is now officially a ferry; and with Joe's captain's license, she is able to carry 12 people. Thanks, Joe, for all you have done to get the Lady Pomham approved.

ANNUAL EVENTS

As in the past couple of years, our members participated in a number of community events here in East Providence:

Earth Day clean up of Lighthouse Cove shoreline together with members of United Water- May 10.

Touch-A-Truck Event sponsored by the East Providence Chamber of Commerce-May 3.

Family Night Out, sponsored by the East Providence Police Department-August 5.

Watchemoket Square Day sponsored by the Watchemoket Committee and The East Providence Historical Society- October 4.

CHRISTENING & BBQ

On August 9th, at the East Providence Yacht Club, 70 Pomham members and the general public enjoyed a delicious chicken BBQ served by Young's Caterers. Rev. Robert Beirne, a retired priest of the diocese of Providence, officiated the Christening.

It was a beautiful summer afternoon and everyone appreciated being by the water. Two raffles were held and prizes included nine gift certificates to local restaurants, and two large baskets filled with articles, one for "grilling" and the other for "chilling". A big thank you to Louise Paiva for obtaining all the certificates and articles for the baskets.

The event was a great success due to the efforts of all the members of the Event Committee, especially Joe and Pat Estrella, Kathy Turbitt, Jean and Gary Zunda, Louise Paiva, Mary Chace, Lester Nathan and Anne Greene.

Thanks are also due to the Perry Family and its employees of the East Providence Yacht Club for the use of their facilities.



by Lester Nathan
Rev. Beirne and David Kelleher



by Lester Nathan
Some of the participants enjoying the BBQ



by Lester Nathan
Rev. Beirne christening The Lady Pomham while David Kelleher looks on

RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSES

David Kelleher will present a program about all 21 Rhode Island Lighthouses at the Fall Speakers' Meeting. He will show pictures of each lighthouse along with some history of the light and a few interesting stories. The tour will begin in Barrington, proceed down the West Passage of Narragansett Bay turn to view Point Judith and Watch Hill Lights, go to Block Island for North and Southeast Lights, pass by the Sakonnet Light, then on to Newport Harbor, going back to Providence by the East Passage.

The meeting will be on Monday, October 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Riverside Congregational Church, Bullocks Point Avenue at Oak Avenue. Dave's talk is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 15 at 6:00 pm at the Old Oyster House Building on Water Street, East Providence, just below the Washington Bridge. The building has been fully restored and will make a very pleasant setting.

The meal will be served family style. There will be three choices, chicken, roast beef and fish along with potatoes and a vegetable. The meal will also include soup, salad, bread and butter, coffee and dessert.

The cost is \$30.00 per person. Reservation deadline is Monday, November 10.

For reservations, call Dave Kelleher at 401-433-2763 or lighthouse1936@verizon.net or Jean Zunda at 401-433-2506.

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