



# THE POMHAM GLOW

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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.

## GRANT AWARDED

*by David Kelleher*

On January 11, at the Odeum Theater in East Greenwich, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission announced the State Preservation grant recipients. One of the recipients was the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. The grant was a \$150,000 matching grant. The lighthouse group will now need to raise \$150,000 new funds in order to comply with the matching grant. The award was presented by Mr. Edward Sanderson, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Preservation and Heritage Commission to Mr. Nathan Chace, Director of Development for the Friends. This award is greatly appreciated by the Friends and will be used to continue the restoration of the lighthouse and grounds.

The Friends have been working on the restoration of the lighthouse since 2004, and have successfully restored the exterior of the building, improved the docking facilities and fencing and obtained a new boat for transportation to and from the island.

With this grant, the Friends will now be able to go forward with the installation of a cable to the island to bring electricity to the lighthouse. Once this is accomplished, a heating system will be installed then leading to the restoration of the interior. Much work needs to be done and this grant will greatly help the goals of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

## FRIENDS RECEIVES COUNCIL CITATION

On Tuesday, March 1, the East Providence City Council presented a citation to the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse on their receiving a \$150,000 matching grant from the State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission. Our group is now working on raising the matching \$150,000.

Councilman Timothy Conley presented the citation to David Kelleher who represented the FPRL at the meeting. David thanked the Council and discussed the restoration done so far and the plans for the future in working on getting electricity to the island and restoring the interior. David was pleased with the reception from the audience and the Council members.

## ANNUAL MEETING

*by Jean Zunda*

The Friends came together for our annual meeting at Madeira Restaurant. In addition to a delicious meal the evening included our business meeting and annual election. Treasurer Mike Tripp presented a summation of our financial activity for the year, which included a report on our extra 'Tours and Presentations' income resulting from Dave Kelleher securing donations to the Friends as a result of tours he narrated for both Save the Bay and Providence River Boat Company. He concluded by informing us that we are prepared to pay for the upcoming power restoration.

Nate Chace gave an update on fund-raising efforts for the organization which included the acknowledgement of a \$5000 grant from New England Lighthouse Lovers (NELL) and an anonymous donation of \$50,000. He informed the attendees about the possibility of our receiving a \$150,000 matching grant from funds from a bond issue voters approved in 2014; a grant we ultimately received in early 2016 through the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.

Joe Estrella reported on both maintenance and equipment. The lighthouse exterior was repainted and portions of the foundation repointed using the services of member Andy Leddy's company who gave us an excellent price for the work. He passed around information on the cable that will provide the power to the island and reported on the prep work for the electric installation in the cellar.

The boats were all inspected and properly stored for the season. Joe said he particularly enjoyed his trips out and under the Hurricane Barrier that were offered to those attending the summer BBQ. He is instructing members Alex and Adam Dias on boat handling with the goal of their becoming licensed boaters for the Friends. *(continued on page 3)*

## ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT NEARS KICKOFF

by Nate Chace

As most of you know, the underwater electric cable running from the foot of Whipple Avenue in Riverside to the Lighthouse was severed by a hurricane in the early 1980's and has never been restored. Our inability to heat the interior of the Lighthouse has always been a problem for us because it has meant that maintaining our restored exterior of the structure has been more expensive than anticipated and, in addition, it makes no sense to begin interior restoration work until we have a heat source that will keep the interior of the premises above freezing on a year-round basis.

For the past year, our *pro bono* Project Manager, Carlos Neves, of Gilbane Building Company, has been leading the effort to obtain appropriate engineering studies and building permits. The project has not been a simple one - for example our neighbor, ExxonMobil, has graciously allowed us to run the power line off its power grid on the water side of the East Bay Bicycle Path (thereby saving us the cost of installing telephone poles from the foot of Whipple Avenue to the water's edge, and the aggravation of trying to obtain the permits necessary to run cables over or under the bike path), but that in turn has required time-consuming surveying studies and the signing of appropriate real estate easements with ExxonMobil. Carlos has been successful in obtaining a host of permits from state and federal agencies, including, among others, The Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Resources Management Council, and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission. Cooperation has also been received from the Coast Guard, National Grid and the City of East Providence.

Specialty Diving Services, Inc., located in North Kingstown, has been selected as The Trade Contractor to furnish all labor (including underwater divers), material supplies, supervision and equipment for the project at a cost of \$274,885. The single most expensive portion of the contract is the cost of the cable, and we anticipate the contract to buy the cable will be executed within the next week or two. There is a built-in three months' delay between the time the cable is ordered and the time it is delivered to Specialty Diving Services, and thus all interested parties are planning to have the project completed during the summer months.

Special thanks go to Board Members Joe Estrella and Mike Tripp for lending their commonsense advice and expertise as this project has moved forward - their foresight and practical experience has made it easier for us to work with our Project Manager and to make realistic budget projections.

Stay tuned!



## RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSES PROGRAM

David Kelleher continues to bring his Rhode Island Lighthouse Program to various groups and schools throughout the year. So far, he has presented the program to the Barrington Women's Club on January 6 at St. John's Church where about 80 members of the group attended. Jean Zunda also went to help and sell raffle tickets. He and Jean were invited to present the program to the First Unitarian Women's Alliance in Providence on March 7. The program was well received. Jean and David were invited to stay for a gourmet lunch. It was a very pleasant experience.

## PROVIDENCE BOAT SHOW 2016

The Friends of Pomham Rocks once again attended the Providence Boat Show. Thanks to the management of the show, we were granted a nonprofit fee which was half of the cost of a booth. The crowds at the show seemed less than previous years.



Andy Valerio, Deborah Peterson and Joe Estrella

As in the past, bringing attention to our restoration project was one of the goals for our participation in the show and we succeeded in that. We sold some merchandise and distributed membership forms. We also sold about \$700.00 worth of raffle tickets.

Thanks to the following members who worked at the booth at different times over the four days of the event: Jean & Gary Zunda, Alan Dias, Adam Dias, Deborah Peterson, Dave Kelleher, Anne Greene, Nate & Mary Chace, Joe Estrella, Andy Valerio, Paul Kelleher, Louise Paiva, Nancy Moore, Mike Tripp, Beth Anterni and Micheleen McNeill.

## RAFFLE WINNERS

Our raffle this year raised \$1400 thanks to our members and the many folks who bought tickets at the Boat Show. The winners were as follows:

The overnight stay at the Borden Flats Lighthouse was won by Jason Rafferty of Providence.

The two night stay at the Surf Hotel, Block Island was won by Joe Estrella of East Providence.

The cruise and picnic to the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was won by Andy Valerio of East Providence.

The two night slip at Payne's Dock, Block Island was won by Bob Scanlon of Riverside. Bob does not have a boat. There were other offerings suggested for him but Bob very generously wanted memberships for him and his wife and the rest of the value of the slip was donated to the lighthouse.

## BOAT MAINTENANCE

BY JOE ESTRELLA

We now have two boats for use to transport our members out to the lighthouse, our 18 foot Red Boat and our Launch, The Lady Pomham. Since our lighthouse is on an island, it is essential that we maintain good transportation to it. Here are the costs for maintaining these boats: trailer registration-\$9.00, trailer 2 new tires-\$176.00, year storage for Red Boat-\$365.00, Red Boat registration-\$32.00, Launch registration-\$75.00, mooring at Lighthouse-\$200.00, winterizing Red Boat-\$377.00, winterizing the Launch-\$40.00 (we own our covering), storing Launch (winter)-\$550.00, hauling Launch in and out of the water-\$285.00, summer slip for Launch-\$1,360.00, fuel for Launch-\$53.00, fuel for Red Boat per round trip to lighthouse-\$25.00.



The Lady Pomham waiting for warmer weather.

Here are a couple of other facts about our boats: Our floating dock can hold a 32 foot boat on the north side and an 18 foot boat on the south side.

Our Launch carries 12 people including the captain, our Red Boat carries 6 people including the captain. The boats are insured by ALF. Our mooring out at the lighthouse will hold a 36 foot boat.

### STARS AND LIGHTS BY DAVID ZAPATKA

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse are inviting its members and the public to a pleasant evening of viewing stunning photographs of lighthouses at night. The photographs will be displayed in a PowerPoint format.

Mr. David Zapatka, president of the Plum Beach Lighthouse Association, started a project in 2013 to take pictures of the lanterns of many of our local lighthouses at night in ideal conditions. The skies needed to be clean and pictures taken at the new moon of the month. There are thousands of pictures of lighthouses in the daytime, but few at night when the lighthouses are in their most important function.

Mr. Zapatka's photographs have been shown at many festivals and exhibits throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. David began his career when he was in high school in Westerly. He became a camera man at WJAR and became a freelance photographer. He did work for NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, HBO and CNN. He has photographed events in 49 states and 30 countries. He has covered 6 Super Bowls, 17 NCAA Basketball tournaments and 4 Olympics.

**The program will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Riverside Congregational Church, corner of Oak and Bullocks Point Avenue in Riverside.**

### ANNUAL MEETING

*(continued from page 1)*

Adam Dias reported on our brand-new-this-year website which he worked on along with his brother, Alex. Our site went live on July 7<sup>th</sup> and everyone is encouraged to check it out and see what a good job they did: [pomhamrockslighthouse.org](http://pomhamrockslighthouse.org).

A request was included to send up any information - including pictures and personal stories - you might have to the email listed on the site: [pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com)

Dave Kelleher reported on all his many activities in promoting Pomham Rocks through Save the Bay and the Providence River Boat Company. He believes the future of the lighthouse lies in activities such as these to get people out to the island and encourage continuing interest in it to other audiences besides the local ones and our membership. He ended with a report on his lighthouse presentations to schools throughout the state.

The Board reports were followed by our annual election. All current Board members expressed willingness to continue in the same positions and, when no further nominations were received from the floor, were re-elected for another year. Positions include:

Chair:	Jean Zunda	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair:	Joe Estrella
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair:	Nate Chace	Secretary:	Anne Greene
Treasurer:	Mike Tripp	At Large:	Carlene Joiner Dave Kelleher

The 2016 raffle was announced and members were encouraged to support the light by purchasing chances for several overnight trips to Block Island along with a night at Borden Flats Light in Fall River. This year a new prize was offered: a private catered picnic on the island.

Following the business portion of the meeting we enjoyed a presentation recounting the activities of the organization throughout 2015. This PowerPoint was developed by Anne Greene, our Board secretary, and was narrated by Dave Kelleher using his school teacher voice in order to be heard above the din of nearby revelers.

If you missed this year's dinner we hope you will be able to join us next year. We always have a good time!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSES AND STARS PRESENTATION BY DAVID ZAPATKA**

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Riverside Congregational Church, corner of Oak & Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside, RI

Stunning photographs of all of Rhode Island's lighthouses at night! Mr. Zapatka went to the lighthouses on new moon nights to view the lantern in ideal conditions with dark skies and stars. If you cannot attend this presentation, Mr. Zapatka has a website: [www.starsandlighthouses.com](http://www.starsandlighthouses.com). Please come & enjoy!

### **RESTORATION OF POMHAM ROCKS PRESENTATION BY DAVID KELLEHER**

#### ***EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING***

Date: Monday, April 25, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Riverside Public Library, Riverside, RI

### **EAST PROVIDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOUCH A TRUCK**

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2016

Time: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Where: Behind East Providence Chamber of Commerce  
Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

### **LIGHTHOUSE COVE CLEAN UP**

Date: Saturday, May 14, 2016

Time: 9:00 am-Noon

Where: Meet at East Providence Water Control Center, Riverside, RI

Bags and Gloves will be provided by the City.

### **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

Date: Monday, May 30, 2016

Time: 10:00 am

Where: Meet at the Looff Carousel parking lot, Riverside, RI.

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