



THE POMHAM GLOW

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.

FEBRUARY 2018

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE RESTORATION

Celebration on the Rocks



Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

Opening Day
June 10, 2018

INTERIOR RENOVATION PROGRESS

Pomham Rocks Lighthouse interior renovation is progressing extraordinarily well and should be completed by mid-March. While we originally reported a completion date sometime in January, there have been some holdups due to the extreme cold weather period we had and some unforeseen repairs that needed to be done.

Our contractor, Abcore Renovations, has really gone the “extra mile” in returning Pomham Rocks to a historically accurate mid 1950s era. To retain the historical accuracy, all plaster, trim and flooring that was salvageable has been retained. Where flooring or wood trim needed replacement, exact duplication of the original was custom manufactured by Abcore using the highest grades of wood. Plastering repair and replacement when needed was done by highly skilled plasterers.

Additionally, Abcore's Keith Lescarbeau and his nephew Everett Lescarbeau have performed many additional services as well. They have identified and repaired structural deficiencies caused by water damage over the years. They meticulously returned all of the 19 windows to perfect operating condition which involved custom manufacture of wood stops and moldings as well as all new brass fittings and locks.

To quote Keith Lescarbeau:

"This renovation is the most historically accurate I've ever done".

There are also plans to restore the cistern and rain water collection system to return it to service as well. There are many other details that have been done that will be discussed in the near future.

Throughout the restoration, we have been sharing a restoration photo of the week each Friday on the website, Facebook and Instagram. The photos have been highlighting a glimpse into the working being done each week. The photos are giving a sample of what is to come. The images of the completed restoration project will make their debut on June 10th at the Opening Celebration, *Celebration on the Rocks*. Stay tuned, the light is shining brightly at the end of the tunnel!



LIFE IN A LIGHTHOUSE

Step back in time to learn what it was like to be a lighthouse keeper. Fred Mikkelsen, a member of Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, was one of the last keepers at the Conimicut Shoals Lighthouse in Warwick, serving from 1958-1960. The cast iron sparkplug-shaped light station, constructed in 1883, stands at the tip of the Conimicut Point Sandbar at the entrance to the Providence River. Its flashing white beacon can be seen from the East Providence shore.

Mr. Mikkelsen was an 18-year-old Coast Guardsman when he was assigned keeper at the Conimicut Shoals Lighthouse. At that time, the beacon was produced by an incandescent oil vapor lamp and 4th Order Fresnel Lens. In poor weather, the fog bell had to be wound by hand, running for two hours on 10 minutes of winding. Conimicut Shoals Lighthouse was one of the last lighthouses in the country to be converted to electricity in the early 1960s.

Fred Mikkelsen will discuss his fascinating experience of living in a lighthouse at a presentation sponsored by Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. The program will be held on Monday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Brendan School Hall on Turner Avenue in Riverside. The public is invited to the presentation. Pomham Rocks merchandise will be available for sale along with the “Sunset, Moonlight and Daylight Cruise” raffle. Refreshments will be served.





The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is proud to announce **Celebration on the Rocks**, an event highlighting the completion of a 14 year- long restoration of the 1871 Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. The event will be hosted at The Squantum Association on June 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. The day will feature a luncheon, speaking program, remarks by dignitaries, a presentation on the restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and much more. This event is geared toward thanking our dedicated members for making the restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse a reality, along with inviting the public to learn more about the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and what made this day possible. Formal invitations have been mailed out to members with details on how to make reservations for the luncheon and tour. Members will have the first opportunity to make reservations before non-members and the public. Members will also have the opportunity to reserve a spot on an exclusive boat excursion to the lighthouse to see the restoration in person. Non-members and the public may have the opportunity to purchase tickets after the RSVP date has passed for members. We hope to celebrate with you on this historic day!

~Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Celebration Committee~

POMHAM ROCKS BY SUNSET, MOONLIGHT AND DAYLIGHT

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse are selling tickets for three unique experiences – a sunset cruise, a moonlight cruise and a daytime cruise. Three winners of the Cruises to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Raffle will have an opportunity to bring a party of 10 people to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse for one of these fun-filled adventures. Guests will cruise on the Lady Pomham and Captain Joe Estrella will provide a narrated tour. Bring your own refreshments for an exclusive picnic. A grill, table and chairs are available on the island.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The drawing will take place at the Opening Celebration for Pomham Rocks Lighthouse on June 10 at the Squantum Association. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to maintain the Lighthouse. Built in 1871, Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is the last surviving lighthouse in upper Narragansett Bay. It is located just 800 feet from the East Providence shoreline and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lighthouse is a New England landmark and a symbol of East Providence's maritime heritage.

Raffle tickets can be obtained by sending a check, made payable to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, c/o 81 Harris Street, Riverside, RI 02915. Include your name, address and phone number on your check. Call 401-433-3463 with any questions.



Pomham Rocks at Sunset



Pomham Rocks at Moonlight

GREEN JACKET SHOAL PRESENTATION

On October 11, 2017 in the hall of St. Brendan's School, Professor David Robinson presented a program about the Green Jacket Shoal to a meeting of the friends, which was also open to the public. The largest crowd to attend one of our guest speaker programs, 65, were impressed by the presentation. David gave great details about the area off Bold Point where a large group of ships were sunk and left to the elements. It is the largest ship grave yard in the state. David showed many slides, including old maps of the area and pointed out the various ships especially the Bay Queen and the Mount Hope. Work is now in progress to make the shoal a national historic marine district by the East Providence Historical Society.

The evening was possible thanks to members of the Event Committee, Board Members and to Father John Codega, Pastor of St. Brendan parish, who let us use the hall at no cost. Dave Kelleher contacted the speaker and sent articles to local papers along with Louise Paiva, Lisa Dias arranged use of the hall and coordinated the refreshments. Thank you to Deb Peterson, Adam Dias, Jean Zunda, Alex Dias, Louise Paiva, Anne Greene, Mary Chace and Lisa Dias who all supplied the refreshments. Anne Greene designed and prepared the flyers used for this event. Pat Estrella, Anne Greene, Louise Paiva and Kathy Turbitt helped with merchandise.

When more people began arriving than anticipated, Joe Estrella and others helped to arrange more seats, Joe also spoke briefly to the group about our progress in restoring the lighthouse.

It was a very successful evening. We sold some merchandise, picked up new members and enjoyed the use of St. Brendan's Hall. At the end of the presentation, David Robinson was presented with a Pomham Rocks mug and one of our embroidered hats for donating his time to present on Green Jacket Shoal. Thank you, David Robinson!



*Left to Right
David Robinson and Dave Kelleher*

WINTERFEST 2017

Pomham Rocks Lighthouse once again participated in the Winterfest display at the Senior Center in East Providence. The same ornaments Jean made were used from last year, in addition to red and silver balls. We hope all who came out in the cold weather in December enjoyed our tree.



Our Lighthouse Tree

SAVE THE BAY

Dave Kelleher has been communicating with Save The Bay concerning their tours to the lighthouse this coming season. Joe Estrella, Exxon, and Dave have agreed with Save The Bay's request for three visits: June 16th, July 21st and September 15th. These three visits are part of the Northern Lighthouse tours which includes an hour visit to the lighthouse. The Friends of Pomham Rocks are looking forward to showing off all the restorations done inside the lighthouse.

CALL FOR OLD PICTURES

We are currently looking for anyone that may have pictures of the Sabin Point, Bullocks Point, Sassafras Point, Fuller Rock lighthouses and as always, any old pictures of Pomham Rocks.

The Sassafras Point and Fuller Rock lighthouses were twin lights and are unfortunately no longer standing.

The Bullocks Point Lighthouse was badly damaged in the Hurricane of 1938 and was subsequently torn down because of the damage. The Sabin Point Lighthouse, a twin of Pomham Rocks, was destroyed in 1968, leaving Pomham Rocks as the last of 5 lighthouses originally on the Providence River.

We are hoping to preserve the history of these other Providence River Lighthouses that are no longer standing. If you have pictures of either of these lighthouses and would like to donate them please send them or a copy to, P.O. Box 15121 Riverside, RI 02915, or they can be emailed to history@pomhamrockslighthouse.org

Thank you!



Bullocks Point Lighthouse c. 1920s

2017 ANNUAL BANQUET

On December 30, 2017 we returned to the Rhode Island Yacht Club to hold our Annual Meeting and banquet. Seventy-five members and guests mingled, and dined on the fine fare catered by Revolution, a nearby restaurant, which services the Club. The Yacht Club again offered us their dining room and couldn't have been more hospitable.

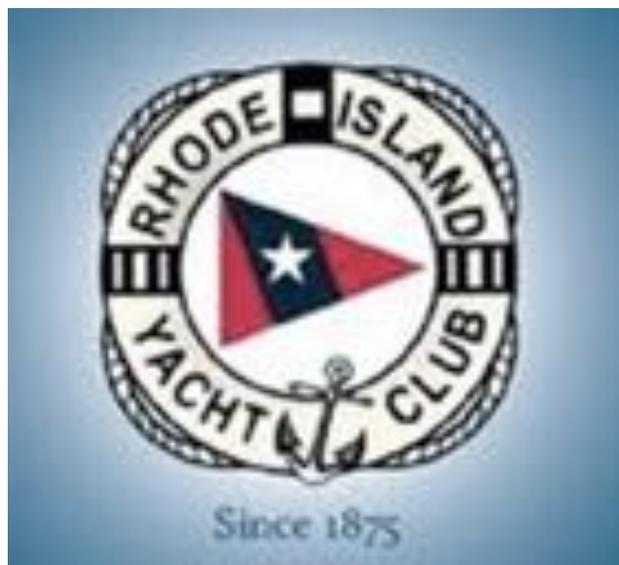
After a welcome from our Chairman, Joe Estrella, who also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Board and the Events Committee over the course of the year, Mike Tripp reported on the state of our treasury; there was a fund-raising summary from Nate Chace, and report on the boats by Dennis Tardiff. Carlene Joiner reported on the lighthouse's Facebook.

Jean Zunda, past Chairman and most recently Membership Chair, resigned from the Board. Jean was appointed to the ALF Board and according the guidelines she cannot serve on both Boards. Although she has stepped down from Pomham Board she still continues to be active with Pomham. Joe honored her for the multiple roles in the FPRL she has had over the years. Louise Paiva, has agreed to step into her shoes on the Board, and Lisa Dias will replace her as Membership Chair.

Alex Dias reported on summer work parties for the 2017 season and upcoming 2018 season. Alex then presented us with a slide show of the events from this year and a picture of the renovation which is taking place. The complete unveiling of the restoration will take place June 10, 2018. (Stay tuned.)

As we have come to expect, some of our very dedicated Events Committee members, Louise Paiva, Pat Estrella, Kathy Turbitt, and Anne Greene, along with other members collected raffle items, ran a silent auction, and had merchandise for sale during the afternoon.

The Annual Meeting was a chance to celebrate the many accomplishments achieved by dedicated members of our organization and enjoy each other's friendship while viewing our lighthouse from the Rhode Island Yacht Club, our across-the-river neighbor.



Thank you for hosting us RIYC

GOOD LUCK JEAN!

Jean Zunda is a charter member of the Friends and has been with us from the beginning. She has been a lighthouse enthusiast for many years, being a member of New England Lighthouse Lovers and the American Lighthouse Foundation. She has supported many lighthouse groups across the country. She brought a great deal of experience to our program. She has served with great distinction in her many roles, including becoming a member of the Board as Secretary, as well as Membership Chair. She then became Chairman of the Board in 2014. She served for two full terms, while still being Membership Chair.

Jean is now serving on the American Lighthouse Foundation's Board of Directors. The by-laws of ALF state that one cannot be on the ALF Board and one of their Chapter's Boards (Pomham Rocks) at the same time. At the November board meeting, Jean was presented with a plaque, thanking her for years of dedication to our organization. Thank you, Jean, for your many years of service and we wish you the best of luck in your new position!



Best of Luck Jean!

RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSES PROGRAM

Dave Kelleher continues to present his Rhode Island Lighthouses program to various groups. On January 16th, Dave presented the program to the Newport County AARP. Dave was surprised at the size of the crowd that attended the program. It was well over 100 members of the club. They were very attentive to his presentation and asked many questions. They gave a generous donation to The Friends. Dave will present the program in April to the staff at Save The Bay as part of a workshop on lighthouses requested by the staff as they continue to present one of the best lighthouse tours in the country. Dave will be preparing them for this summer's season when Dave will not be able to attend all of the tours. Dave will also be talking to the staff of Brookdale Center in North Smithfield for a presentation there this summer.

2017 POMHAM SANTA

Santa made his annual visit to the Riverside Shoreline onboard the Lady Pomham. Santa (Andy Leddy) met the Pomham Crew at the Haines Park boat ramp and boarded the Lady Pomham to begin his trip around the Riverside shoreline. Joe Estrella was the captain of the Lady Pomham with help from Alex Dias, Dave Kelleher and Dennis Tardiff.

The group was greeted by cheers as they rounded the jetty and went out to just north of Bullocks Point Light where they then began the trip on the shoreline of Terrace Avenue. Several residents waved from their decks, windows and backyards along the journey to Sabin Point Park. At the park, The Friends served hot chocolate, coffee and munchkins to the crowd that gathered there, all of which were donated by the Dunkin Donuts on Pawtucket Ave. Anne Greene picked up the donated treats and brought them to the park. Volunteers on the shore from our membership included Pat Estrella, Kathy Turbitt, Carline Joiner, Jean Zunda, and Jason Rafferty who served the crowd.

Santa circled around the park a couple of times as the children and their parents cheered and waved. The weather was far more cooperative than in years past which allowed the boat to continue to the lighthouse for Santa to hang the wreath on the Oil House.



Santa onboard the Lady Pomham

2018 WORK PARTIES

Weather permitting, this season's work parties will commence in late spring. With construction and restoration work reaching its last stages this month at the lighthouse, work parties will now focus on ground maintenance. If any members are interested in taking part in a work party this season, please contact workparty@pomhamrockslighthouse.org or 401-585- 4731. Be sure to include your name and contact information. A check off box is also on Membership renewal forms. Please note that the sign-up list from last year's work parties will not be used. A new list will be compiled each year from interested members to help keep our information up to date.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

As a reminder, membership dues for 2018 are due by April 1, 2018. Dues can be mailed to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Attention Lisa Dias, P.O. Box 15121 Riverside, RI. Checks can be made payable to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

2018 EVENTS

- March 19:** *“Life in a Lighthouse”*
Location: St. Brendan’s Hall
Turner Ave, Riverside, RI
Time: 7:00 p.m.
- April 14:** **Annual Shore Clean Up**
Location: Sqauntum Association *Meet in parking lot
Time: 10:00 a.m.
- April 29:** **ALF Gala**
Location: Kennebunkport, ME
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- May 13:** **Touch-A-Truck**
Location: Seekonk Speedway
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- May 28:** **Memorial Day Parade**
Location: Members are to meet in the parking lot of
Oldham School (On Bullocks Point Ave) at 9:30 a.m.
- June 10:** **Celebration on the Rocks**
Location: Squantum Association
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

* Note: Celebration on the Rocks will take place in lieu of the Summer BBQ this summer

FOLLOW THE RESTORATION WORK @

www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org

Facebook: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

YouTube: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

Instagram: @pomham_rocks_lighthouse

