



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.

OCTOBER 2019

LADY POMHAM II SET TO LAUNCH IN 2020



NEW LAUNCH ON ORDER!

This past summer we offered scheduled tours of the lighthouse for our members to show them the restored lighthouse that their annual dues helped to pay for. In addition, we took Squantum Association members for a tour of the lighthouse, ferried RIYC members to the annual BBQ and had our usual Work Party runs. In all these runs, our current 21', 1982 vintage launch "Lady Pomham" was used with its passenger capacity of 10. We learned from the experience of conducting these runs that the old workhorse "Lady Pomham" is just too small and slow now to continue using it for the planned use of more member visits and upcoming public tours. With that in mind, the FPRL Board of Directors decided a new larger, faster and covered launch is what is needed for Pomham Rocks Lighthouse's future needs. We are pleased and excited to announce that a new 26' Crosby Yacht Club Launch was just ordered for a spring 2020 delivery. In addition to the crew of two, the new launch will hold 19 passengers and will be about 4 knots faster than the "Lady Pomham". The launch was ordered with a heavy-duty canvas top to shield passengers from rain and sun to make the transit to and from the lighthouse a much more enjoyable experience. A buyer for the current "Lady Pomham" has already been found and will take delivery of the "Lady Pomham" after delivery of our new launch.

LIGHTHOUSE SPEAKER PROGRAM

Our Fall speaker program was held this year at the East Providence Weaver Library on September 23 in a room filled to capacity. We were pleased to join the East Providence Historical Society and Weaver Librarian Joyce May in bringing Jeremy D'Entremont, President of the American Lighthouse Foundation, to present his program. Jeremy is an expert on lighthouses, their histories and an author of many books about lighthouses including a book on Rhode Island lighthouses. Jeremy has also been a guest speaker on numerous radio and television programs as well as having many informative videos on YouTube and podcasts.

Jeremy displayed a beautiful slideshow of the interior restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse before he began his program which elicited excitement from the audience. Nancy Moore then opened the event with some remarks for the members of the East Providence Historical Society. She congratulated Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse for our reward as the 2018 best restoration project in Rhode Island.

Jeremy began his program by first presenting Keith Lescarbeau, President of ABCORE Restorations, the American Lighthouse Foundations' President's Award for his extraordinary work in the restoration of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. We were all very pleased to see Keith receive this well-deserved award. A picture was taken

with Jeremy, Keith and four of the past and present FPRL Chairs. Present were Don Doucette (founder of FPRL), past Chair Dave Kelleher, past Chair, Joe Estrella and present Chair, Dennis Tardiff. Past Chair, Jean Zundra was not able to attend.

Jeremy then began his presentation about the lives of lighthouse keepers. The many stories he told were moving and interesting about how these individuals dealt with the many dangers of living in these lighthouses that were affected by weather, the sea and isolation. He used stories from Boston Light and Minot Ledge light as examples of the dangers of being a lighthouse keeper as well as the tragic stories of Rhode Island lighthouses during the 1938 hurricane.

Refreshments were provided by The East Providence Historical Society, the Weaver Library and FPRL's Ann Greene, Louise Paiva, Carlene Joiner and Dave Kelleher.

RIYC VISITS POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE

For the third year, on September 22nd, members of Rhode Island Yacht Club visited Pomham Rocks Lighthouse to enjoy a Hamburgers & Hot Dogs BBQ hosted by the FPRL Board of Directors. FPRL's "Lady Pomham" launch along with RIYC's "Stillhouse Shuttle" launch were employed to ferry approx. 55 Members from RIYC to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse for a day of good food, conversation and ever-increasing camaraderie between our two organizations.

It was a beautiful sunny day to cross the Providence River, take a tour of our beautifully restored lighthouse and enjoy the selections of salads, chips, drinks, meats and treats.

2019'S SAVE THE BAY TOURS

Another year of lighthouse tours with Save The Bay concluded on Saturday Sept 21st. It was a very successful year for Save The Bay and Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. There were 5 tours this year and 2 (day) Campers visits sponsored by Save The Bay. All the tours were sold out or nearly so. The Save The Bay Tours program began in 2012 and have become more successful each year. Our own Dave Kelleher has been the narrator for the tours and tour guide for Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. Dave receives a stipend for narrating the tours which he contributes to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse for its maintenance and upkeep. In addition, people pay a dollar for a Lighthouse Passport stamp from each of the lighthouses the tour passes or visits. Pomham Rocks Lighthouse receives half of the money raised from the stamp program and Rose Island Lighthouse receives the other half.

Dave will not be doing the Save The Bay Lighthouse tours anymore. "It has been very enjoyable working on these tours" Dave says. "The staff members at Save The Bay have been very enjoyable to work with. I will miss them as well as being on the bay

throughout the summer”. We heartily thank Dave for his continuous untiring contribution of narrating the Save The Bay tours and conducting the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse tours. His knowledge of the Bay’s lighthouses, tour narration and guidance will be missed.

POMHAM SANTA & COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENT

Santa doesn’t always come on a sleigh. In Riverside, he comes by boat! Families are invited to see Santa take a boat ride around Riverside and conclude his journey with a trip around Pomham Rocks Lighthouse on Saturday, November 30th. Santa will leave the dock at Haines Park at 9:45 a.m. on the Lady Pomham, weather permitting, and will motor around the Terrace, arriving at Sabin Point Park at about 10.30 a.m. before continuing to the lighthouse.

To celebrate Santa’s arrival, members of Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse will greet guests at Sabin Point Park with Munchkins and hot chocolate, courtesy of local businesses.

Just in time for holiday gift giving, Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse will have available for sale at Sabin Point a new commemorative ornament that features a colorful picture of Santa on top of the East Providence lighthouse. The 2.5 x 3” classic ceramic ornament has a ribbon hanger and is packaged in cellophane. It is made exclusively for Friends of Pomham Rocks

Lighthouse by Barlow Designs. A card describing the history of this New England landmark accompanies the ornament.

Buy one for your Christmas tree and order extras for family and friends who have moved away. Priced at only \$10, these also make great gifts for teachers or co-workers. If you are unable to attend Pomham Santa, the ornaments will also be available, along with other merchandise and apparel featuring the historic lighthouse at the city’s Winterfest at the East Providence Senior Center on Saturday, December 7 from noon to 5 pm.

Built in 1871, Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is the last surviving lighthouse in upper Narragansett Bay. It still serves as an aid to navigation and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Proceeds from the sale of the ornaments will be used to maintain the lighthouse.



2019 Commemorative Ornament

ANNUAL PICNIC AT THE SQUANTUM ASSOCIATION

The beautiful Squantum Association overlooking the Providence River was the setting for our annual “picnic” on Sunday, August 25. Seventy-three of our members and guests lunched on hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecued chicken, salads and shortcake prepared by the Association’s kitchen.

Although the weather teased us with alternating clouds, sun, and a few raindrops, the sun appeared in a timely fashion to enable us to lounge outside on the deck, while our captains, Dennis Tardiff and Alex Dias, were able to ferry three groups to the island for a brief visit and lighthouse tour given by Alex. The passengers returned, delighted by the trips, and impressed by not only the restoration, but the Museum Committee’s handiwork in decorating the interior.

It takes many hands to put together a successful event. Thanks goes to the Events Committee volunteers: Pat Estrella (joined by her daughter, Jennifer), Kathy Turbitt, Anne Greene, Louise Paiva - our indefatigable organizer of the raffles, Judianne Point, Eileen Moser, Lisa Dias, Paula Muggleton, Dave Kelleher and Mary Chace. Of course, to our captains, Dennis and Alex, and a special thanks to Paul Williams, who facilitated our Squantum event with the Association. A huge thanks to Squantum for waiving the dining room fee and being so easy to work with.

We are also grateful to the following raffle donors: Applebee’s, Cardi’s Furniture, IHOP, Jordan’s Liquors, Lee’s Chinese Restaurant, Madeira Restaurant, Medici Italian Kitchen, MaryJo Pouliot, Miller’s Roast Beef, Outback Steakhouse, Paul Williams, Portside Tavern, Red Bridge Tavern, Schroder’s Deli & Catering, Thames Waterside Bar & Grill, The Simple Greek, Town Wine & Spirits and Nancy Doucette for the door prize.

2019 MEMBERS’ VISITS TO POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE

In recent years we have witnessed a tremendous transformation of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. The year 2006 saw the completion of the exterior restoration, in 2017 electricity was restored to the lighthouse and in 2018 the restoration of the interior was finished.

This year, the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Board decided that it was high time to let the FPRL membership see the results of their generous donations for themselves. Several visits to the lighthouse were scheduled on scattered dates throughout June, July, August and September.

Due to the fact that Mother Nature did not always cooperate with us, three days of trips were cancelled and rescheduled. We also offered an extra make-up date for anyone who was unable to take advantage of the new arrangements in order to get as many of you

out to the lighthouse as we possibly could. Many members also enjoyed the trips that we offered from the Squantum Club dock on August 25, the day of our Annual Picnic.

All in all, over one quarter of our membership joined us on the lighthouse visits this year and members were truly surprised and impressed about how well the interior restoration came out.

We appreciate our members' support, and next year we will continue to offer these trips to you, free of charge, as our way of saying THANK YOU. We hope that you will spread the word so that our membership may grow and guarantee a long and prosperous future for your Pomham Rocks Lighthouse!

2019 WORK PARTIES

This season of work parties saw a much higher turnout than in years past. New to this season, each work party was pre-planned from March until September. All members that checked off an interest on their 2019 membership applications received a mailed booklet listing all work parties for them to sign up for. Those that participated in three or more were invited to an autumn sunset dinner at the end of September. Thank you to all those that helped out this season! We hope to see you again in 2020!!

2019 FPRL Membership

FPRL wishes to thank those who have renewed their memberships and the new members this year. There are still members who have not renewed their memberships for 2019. Your membership will keep you included in our events and tour schedules.

2019 EVENTS

- **FPRL Annual Banquet**

- November 17, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Location: RIYC
 - 1 Ocean Ave Cranston, RI
- RSVP by November 5th
- Cost: \$35
 - Members may bring one guest

- **Pomham Santa**

- November 30, 2019
- Leaving Haines Park by boat at 9:45 a.m. passing Sabin Point at approx. 10:30 a.m.

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