



# THE POMHAM GLOW

August 2010 · Volume 5 · Issue 1

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

### FPRL PICNIC & BOAT LAUNCHING

Date: Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010  
Time: Noon to 4:30 p.m.  
Location: Haines Memorial State Park Boat Ramp  
Route 103  
East Providence, RI

### GENERAL MEETING

*Rhode Island Lighthouses*  
*Come with us on a slideshow cruise to view all 21 Rhode Island Lighthouses plus view 5 lost lighthouses.*

Date: Monday, Sept. 13, 2010  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Oldham School  
Bullocks Point Avenue  
Riverside, RI

### LIGHTHOUSE COVE CLEAN-UP

Date: Sat., Sept. 18, 2010  
Time: 9 am - 12 noon  
Bullocks Point Avenue  
Riverside, RI  
Bags, gloves, water & snacks provided. Wear appropriate footwear and long pants.  
Rain date: Sat., Oct. 2, 2010

### FALL DINNER/DANCE

Date: Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010  
Time: 6:00 - 10:00 pm  
Location: Knights of Columbus Crescent View Avenue  
Riverside, RI  
Caterer will be Uncle Tony's Entertainment for listening and dancing: The Aristocats "Light & Melodic - Small Group Jazz and Swing"

## EXXONMOBIL DONATES RHODE ISLAND'S POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE

Gift to American Lighthouse Foundation Ensures Preservation of Historic Structure

- ◆ Culmination of unique partnership between ExxonMobil and the community
- ◆ Lighthouse listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places

East Providence, RI – ExxonMobil has donated the historic Pomham Rocks Lighthouse to the American Lighthouse Foundation and its local chapter, the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. The donation will allow the nonprofit organization to continue restoring and preserving this historic structure.



photo by Bob Trapani, Jr.

Built in 1871, the lighthouse is listed on the United States National Register of Historic Places and is one of the oldest lighthouses in Narragansett Bay.

“The Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is an important part of Narragansett Bay’s heritage,” said Dennis Houston, executive vice president of ExxonMobil Refining & Supply. “In an era when lighthouses are disappearing from the national landscape, this donation will help ensure Pomham Rocks is preserved for future generations as a symbol of commerce and maritime safety. Pomham Rocks will stand as a majestic and bright light that reinforces the importance of commerce and maritime excellence to Rhode Island, New England and the United States of America.”

ExxonMobil purchased the lighthouse and surrounding property from the U.S. government in 1981. The lighthouse was recently appraised at \$680,000.

In 2004, the American Lighthouse Foundation, the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and ExxonMobil formed a unique community partnership to preserve this historic treasure. Through the partnership, the exterior of the lighthouse was restored in 2005. A red navigational beacon was reestablished inside the historic tower, returning it to its time-honored role along Narragansett Bay.

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The restoration was paid for through a combination of private fundraising and a donation from ExxonMobil.

“We applaud ExxonMobil’s generosity in donating the lighthouse to us and its willingness to partner with us over the years to keep it a part of the Narragansett Bay landscape,” said Bob Trapani, Executive Director, American Lighthouse Foundation. “We now look forward to beginning preparations for the restoration of the interior of the structure and continuing to ‘keep a good light’ for all who admire this Ocean State historic treasure.”

*Posted by Bob Trapani, Jr.*

[www.lighthousefoundation.org/alf\\_lights/pomhamrocks/exxondonates20100417.htm](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org/alf_lights/pomhamrocks/exxondonates20100417.htm)

After a good deal of diligent work by all parties concerned, the generous transfer of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse title by the ExxonMobil Corporation to our parent group, the American Lighthouse Foundation, signals a new era in the life of Pomham Rocks Light.

New possibilities exist for additional restoration and educational resources - as a not-for-profit organization, we (FPRL/ALF) can now compete for funds heretofore unavailable without the property title in hand.

While we continue to maintain our good-neighbor relationship with ExxonMobil, our FPRL board is looking toward the future to continue our restoration program for Pomham Light and enlighten the public as to the historic significance of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse as well as the overall importance for the preservation of lighthouses in general. Lighthouses remain a valuable finite resource.

Your board is looking for possibilities near-term to restore our pier facilities which will lead to eventual structured access events on the island for our members. Please, your partnership with this project is vital as we work toward this goal. Meanwhile, your FPRL board along with our parent organization, the American Lighthouse Foundation, continues planning discussions for the future of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse – we look toward the day when the lighthouse interior is restored - when we can develop an on-site lighthouse educational program including a general Pomham related museum display which will highlight the local Narragansett Bay community, as well.

Diligent work for the future must continue – this is our hope that the continued historic and cultural significance of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse will remain as a legacy for future lighthouse lovers to enjoy. Please commit and persist toward this goal – your gifts and talents are always needed – please be a light to the light.

Respectfully,  
Don Doucette, Chairperson  
Friends of Pomham Rocks  
Lighthouse  
A Chapter of the American  
Lighthouse Foundation



*PHOTO BY BOB TRAPANI, JR.*

L-R: FPRL BOARD MEMBER, NATE CHACE; CAPT. RAYMOND J. PERRY, U.S. COAST GUARD; MAYOR JOSEPH LARISA, CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE; DENNIS HOUSTON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT EXXONMOBIL PIPELINE COMPANY; FPRL PRESIDENT DONALD DOUCETTE; FPRL SECRETARY NANCY DOUCETTE; FPRL BOARD MEMBER ROBERT CHARBONNEAU; FPRL 1ST VICE CHAIRMAN LAURA McNAMARA; FPRL 2ND VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID KELLEHER

## **BUSY SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS**

*By David Kelleher*

The Events Committee has been busy planning and participating in a number of activities this spring.

The annual clean up of Lighthouse Cove was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. Eight members showed up anyway, but no work could be done. The clean up has been rescheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Touch A Truck event sponsored by the East Providence Chamber of Commerce was held on Sat May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our group participated with the Pomham Rocks Photo model and the “Wendy” boat. About 200 kids climbed into the boat and pretended to do some fishing and some had their pictures taken in the lighthouse model.

We participated in the Maritime Day activities at Cove Haven Marina on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We brought our lighthouse model and passed out information about our group. We were also permitted to sell our merchandise. We found ourselves among “boat people” and were well received.

We took part in the annual Riverside Memorial Day Parade. Besides the float, we also showed off the newly refurbished fire boat that the city had donated to us. Large crowds, friendly reception.

Our trip to the Gaspee Day parade in Warwick was spoiled by a problem on the way when the lantern room fell off the model in the middle of Route 195 and was destroyed by an 18 wheeler. In spite of the accident, the brave members proceeded to the parade route with the boat and parked the damaged float on a side street.

Due to dedicated work by Chris Allen and Rob Charbonneau, a new lantern room was made just in time for the Bristol Independence Day Parade. Some quick decisions were arranged so that both the float and the boat could go to Bristol on that Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. As usual the crowds were huge and our exposure to the general public was well worth all the effort put into this event. Hope you saw us on TV Channel ABC6!

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

*By David Kelleher*

The education program for students in East Providence schools continued for the third year. The Lighthouses of Rhode Island program was presented to the following schools:

James R.D. Oldham School:  
two 4th grade classes and two  
5th grade classes - 80 students

A. B. Hennessey School:  
two 5th grade classes -  
45 students

Martin Middle School:  
two 7th grade classes -  
40 students

The program includes:

- \*A display of lighthouse models
- \*A Power Point presentation\*
- \*A map skill exercise
- \*And if a large area is provided (as at Oldham), a large eight foot one sided model of the lighthouse for photo purposes

Hopefully in the next school year, more schools will take advantage of this program.

The lighthouse program was also presented to the Providence Art Club. Eighty members attended.

Due to work by David Kelleher and Lester Nathan, a new Power Point program was developed to replace a carousel slide show for the presentations. This was made possible with the generous funds approved by the board to purchase a lap top computer and projector.

Dave Kelleher continues to work with Save the Bay during the spring and summer months. On their Ultimate Lighthouse Tours, he is the narrator and gives the members on board information about the 16 lighthouses and 5 sites of former lighthouses that the tour offers.

This year, due to advertising in Lighthouse Digest and in the NELL Newsletter, lighthouses lovers from around the country are coming to these tours. So far people from California, Hawaii, West Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland and Ohio have attended. Part of the profits from these tours goes to the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

### HELP WANTED!

We could use more help, especially on the events committee. We could really use someone to record the notes and notify the members of the events committee. If you would like to serve in any capacity please call any of the listed members.

One of our greatest challenges is to fund-raise for the Lighthouse. It takes money to move forward with the restoration and to protect what has already been restored. This committee is attempting to raise funds and also just as importantly, to build our group through fun activities as we reach out to the community.

We also would gladly accept items or services for raffle prizes. If you know someone with a business that would be willing to donate a gift certificate or item it would be gratefully accepted. The raffles are fun and have become a popular part of our events!

Don or Nancy Doucette

508-226-1185

Dani Medeiros 508-226-4667

Carlene Joiner 508-761-5671

Friends of Pomham Rocks  
Lighthouse  
Post Office Box 15121  
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915

[www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org](http://www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org)  
[pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com)

## EAST PROVIDENCE DONATES TWO FIRE BOATS TO FPRL

*By David Kelleher*

Upon a suggestion from a friend, Rob Charbonneau looked into the possibility that the City might consider donating two fireboats, no longer being used, to FPRL

The City via the maintenance supervisor, the City Manager and the City Council were contacted.

At a City Council Meeting, the Council approved the motion to give the boats to the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse with input from the East Providence Fire Department.

Chief Joseph Klucznik was most helpful in getting all the official paperwork done for us and the workers at the city garage were instrumental in helping remove the boats from the storage yard.

The boats were stored in members' yards over the winter and in late spring, Rob Charbonneau, Joe Estrella and Nate Wroblinski put many hours into the restoration of one of the boats.

The engine was completely refurbished, the deck and steering stand repaired and the hull beautifully painted including large letters "Pomham Rocks Lighthouse" on the sides.

The boat was presented in public for the first time in the Riverside Memorial Day Parade. The boat was also proudly presented in the Gaspee Day and the Bristol July 4<sup>th</sup> parades.





## **MEDIA COMMITTEE ACQUIRES NEW EQUIPMENT FOR PRESENTATIONS**

*By Lester Nathan*

Last December, in an effort to stay up-to-date with the latest in presentation technology, the Media Committee (Dave Kelleher and myself) helped the FPRL purchase a personal computer, flash drive, photography software, a printer/scanner, projector and carrying case. We began collecting, editing and organizing the digitized photographs taken by our members. Then, we created several slideshows which will be used to spread the FPRL's message to the public.

During the first half of 2010, Dave and I presented two PowerPoint presentations to audiences and we are working on a third one. The first, *The Restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse*, chronicles the formation of our ALF chapter and the

restoration project of the lighthouse's exterior in 2005. We showed it at the February meeting (see article on February's Lighthouse Presentation at Oldham Elementary School).

The second presentation, *A Tour of Rhode Island Lighthouses*, replaces a presentation which used photographic slides and was used by Dave at local elementary schools to introduce the fifth graders to our state's many lighthouses. We plan to show it again at the upcoming meeting in September at Oldham Elementary.

The third presentation will cover pictures taken at FPRL events during the past five years, including the relighting ceremony in 2006, several lighthouse cruises, Pomham Rocks Santa, Earth Day clean-ups and more. It will be shown at the annual meeting in December.

Our new digital photography software is Adobe's Photoshop

Elements, which comes with basic and advanced editing and organizing features. Also included is access to a free website for backing up pictures and display of pictures to the public [go to: [www.photoshop.com/user/pomhamrocks\\_light](http://www.photoshop.com/user/pomhamrocks_light)]. We will continue posting pictures and slideshows about Pomham Rocks Lighthouse to this site during the second half of this year. This gives FPRL another media outlet on the Internet, in addition to the ALF website [go to: [www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org](http://www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org)] and the group page on Facebook.

If you have digitized pictures or prints of the lighthouse, FPRL events or related matters which you'd like to share with us, please contact either Dave Kelleher (Lighthouse36@cox.net) or myself (Lnathan12@aol.com) by e-mail.

## **LIGHTHOUSES OF MAINE'S CASCO BAY**

**WHEN: Saturday, August 28, 2010**  
**Departs at 10:00am & Returns at 2:00pm**

**WHERE: Aboard the Casco Bay Lines, Portland, Maine**

**TICKETS: \$45.00 per person**  
**Special Members-only price...\$40 per person!**



*Portland Head Lighthouse  
Photo by Ron Foster*

Sail with the American Lighthouse Foundation on Sat. August 28, 2010 aboard the Casco Bay Lines leaving Portland Harbor, ME for the opportunity to see 7 lighthouses in Casco Bay.

Ticket price includes a box lunch, please choose from: ham, turkey breast, roast beef, or marinated vegetable roll-up.

Lighthouses we will see... Portland Breakwater (Bug Light), Spring Point, Portland Head, Ram Island Ledge, Cape Elizabeth (distant view), historic Little Mark Island daybeacon & Halfway Rock.

**You can purchase tickets for this cruise online (using PayPal), by mailing the printable form (pdf) or by calling the American Lighthouse Foundation's Rockland office at 207-594-4174.**

# Restored Fire Boat #1 Official Launch and Celebration Picnic

**Saturday, August 21, 2010 12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Location – Haines Memorial State Park  
Rte. 103, East Providence, Rhode Island

Please join us in the launch celebration of surplus fire boat #1 donated by the City of East Providence. Representatives from the City will be present for the official boat launch into Bullock's Cove.

Thanks to the fine craftsmanship of Rob Charbonneau and volunteers, Joe Estrella and Nate Wroblinski, the first of the two donated, retired boats has been functionally restored and is ready to be launched and utilized by our organization for public promotional display and for transport of future work crews to the Lighthouse.

The celebration includes a traditional summer picnic with hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelon and all the fixings; compliments of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse made possible through our loyal and generous community sponsors.

Directions to Haines Memorial State Park: Rt. 103(East Providence/Riverside) to Metropolitan Park Drive

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Please call a committee member below to RSVP your attendance, so we can plan appropriately for the food. Also, bring folding/lawn chairs for your comfort!

Please call (between the hours of 9 a.m. & 8 p.m.) or email by August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**E-mail: [pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com](mailto:pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com) or [donan1@comcast.net](mailto:donan1@comcast.net)**

**Call: Dani Medeiros: 508-226-4667 or Florence Quigley: 401-433-1629**

There is no cost to FPRL members to attend this event.

## SPRING & SUMMER 2010 PICTURES



Don Doucette with Jamie Silva, member of the Super Bowl Champs Indianapolis Colts before the Bristol Independence Day Parade.



FPRL volunteer, Gary Zunda, "tangles" with the famous Narragansett Bay Crab at the National Maritime Day-Boat Safety Open House at Brewer Cove Haven Marina, Barrington, RI



Providence Bruins mascot enjoying the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse boat at Touch-a-Truck, East Providence, RI

FPRL float and restored boat, Memorial Day Parade, Riverside, RI



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*More information on page 5.*

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