



THE POMHAM GLOW

November 2012 · Volume 8 · 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

POMHAM SANTA

Date: November 24, 2012

Time: 10:00-11:00 am

Where: Trip will start at
Bullock's Cove and end
at the Lighthouse

For more information, see
page 5

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

It has been a very busy Spring and Summer for our organization. The Events Committee has worked hard to present our goals to the public, attending several community events and having some excellent coverage and stories about the lighthouse in our local newspapers and on television.

Through the efforts of Joe Estrella, getting all the permits, and working with the Hamilton Ferris Company, we now have some electricity out on the island with the installation of two solar panels which will be used to spotlight the flag, light a lamp in the house and power some motion detectors.

We will be installing new and better storm windows this Fall. Nate Chace is working on a grant proposal to obtain funds for a future restoration of the exterior along with Mike Tripp, Joe Estrella and Rob Charbonneau doing research on contractor proposals.

As you will note as you read through this edition of the newsletter much as been done but much more is needed. Support from the general membership and hopefully from state and federal agencies will be needed to accomplish our goals. Please consider the following opportunities: joining the Event Committee, renewing your membership (notices to be sent shortly), attending our Annual Meeting on November 16, joining one of our work parties, becoming our membership chairman, or taking charge of merchandising.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter

Sincerely,
David Kelleher
Chairman



DO YOU NEED AN UNIQUE GIFT?

Here is a great solution: a membership in the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse!

It's always the right color and always the right fit.

Use the membership application on the back of the newsletter or visit our website:

www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org

ANNUAL TOUCH A TRUCK

Once again, our group was invited to attend the Annual Touch A Truck conducted by the East Providence Chamber of Commerce. The event was held on Saturday, May 5th in the parking lot behind the Chamber's office on Waterman Ave.

The weather was cloudy with one very light shower early on and then brightened up as the morning moved on. The crowd was light at the beginning but grew as the weather improved.

Rob brought the boat over and myself, Jean & Gary Zunda, Mary Chace and Ann Greene talked to many of the adult visitors about our lighthouse project and helped quite a few children into and out of our boat. A few parents also joined their children in the boat, and many kids also had their pictures taken in our lighthouse model.

It turned out to be a good day for our organization in that more people know about us and expressed congratulations and thanks for the work that we were doing out at the lighthouse.

THE AMERICAN LIGHTHOUSE GALA

The American Lighthouse Foundation held their annual volunteer awards night at the Four Points Sheraton in Eastham on Cape Cod.



by Jim Joiner
David Kelleher & Joe Estrella at ALF Gala

Joseph Estrella was our volunteer of the year. He was an easy choice for us seeing all the work he did for the lighthouse over the last couple of years. He was largely responsible for a number of projects including the

restaurant raffle, the solar project, the floating dock and ramps, the refurbishing of the two fireboats, among other things.

We had a good representation at the event: myself, Joe Estrella, Rob Charbonneau, Gary & Jean Zunda, Jim & Carlene Joiner, Laura McNamara and Don & Nancy Doucette.

We enjoyed a delicious buffet, entertainment, and a slide show of each volunteer honoree.

ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Our annual clean up of Lighthouse Cove was held on Saturday, April 14th from the grounds of the East Providence Pollution Control Center in Riverside. Twenty-five people joined up for the event, members of FPRL, members of United Water and members of the public.

The weather was perfect and the tide at its lowest. Forty bags of trash were collected as well as a number of larger pieces of refuse.



by Carlene Joiner
Clean-up crew with trash at Lighthouse Cove

United Water provided refreshments and gave out t-shirts to all who participated.

Also that day, a check for \$500.00 was presented to the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse from United Water to be used for the continuing restoration of the lighthouse. The donation was possible due to the efforts of Jane LeCapitaine. Community Relations Manager, NorthEast Division, United Water.

BOAT SAFETY DAY

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was well represented at the annual Boat Safety Day held at Cove Haven Marina in Barrington on Saturday, May 19th. We set up our table with merchandise and informational materials. We also set up our photo op model of the lighthouse for picture taking.



by David Kelleher
FPRL members plus Keeper at Boat Safety Day

The weather was ideal, although the traffic at the event was light. We met with the public to make them aware of our restoration efforts. Thank you to our members who helped out at this event: Gary Zunda, Carlene Joiner, Ann Greene, Mary Chace, and Lester Nathan.

K-ROB EVENTS AT THE CAROUSEL

One of the biggest events to be held in East Providence each year is the K-Rob Family Day, a day with many exercise events to encourage youngsters to keep active. There are also many vendors, food and merchandise, who attend the affair that help support the activities of the K-Rob Foundation. We decided this year to participate in this event. We set up our table of merchandise and information about our restoration efforts and our photo-op model. Around 4,000 people attended. We did sell some merchandise and again did some PR for our group. Thank you to Nate Chace, Lester Nathan and Ann Greene for helping out at this event.



by David Kelleher
Some of the participants in K-Rob Day at Carousel

RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual Riverside Memorial Day Parade was a great success. The weather co-operated and there were large crowds all along the route. Our decorated boat and crew were well received by kids and adults alike. Thank you to the good attendance of our members: Don & Nancy Doucette, Rob Charbonneau, Ann Greene, Carlene Joiner, Lester Nathan, Mary Chace, Nick Silva and Jean & Gary Zunda.



by David Kelleher
FPRL members who participated in the Memorial Day Parade

Thank you to Carlene for bringing all those lollipops, Rob for bringing and decorating the boat and Nate Wroblinski for lending us his truck.

BENCH & INFORMATIONAL SIGN

After a number of years of planning, a bench facing the lighthouse and an informational sign with pictures and a series of articles about the lighthouse are now in place on the East Bay Bike path. The Aecom Company, the company that installed the new sewer line, very generously put in the bench and sign for us. We would like to thank Mr. James Mitchell for all his help to bring this project to a successful conclusion; Jean Zunda, Carlene Joiner and I were involved in the final drafting for the sign.



by Nate Chace
David Kelleher & Carlene Joiner at new Pomham Rocks informational sign at Bike Path

NEW FLOATING DOCK AND RAMPS

After many months of planning, obtaining all the proper permits, and weather delays, our project to secure safer and easier docking facilities to the island is now complete.

A & O Marine, with Mike Miller, owner, and his crew installed a new floating dock, along side the large existing dock, secured with three pilings. An aluminum ramp was put in place from the floating dock to the main dock. Another 40 ft aluminum ramp was then placed slightly above the old wooden ramp to reach the island.

The floating dock and the two ramps now make it a safe and easier way to access the island.

It was a long process to get this project done. Many thanks to Don Doucette, Rob Charbonneau and especially Joe Estrella for finding A & O Marine and working for months with this company. Thanks to Joe Estrella for obtaining all the permits and working with all the state agencies in order to have this project done properly.

In the end, the workmanship of A & O Marine proved to be excellent and we are pleased with the results.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2012

An educational program about Rhode Island Lighthouses was presented to a number of elementary schools this spring season.

A power point program, developed by Lester Nathan, along with a number of working models of several Rhode Island lighthouses and a map game, was presented to students by David Kelleher.

This year the program was presented to students at the following schools in East Providence: Oldham, Waddington, Whiteknact, Kent Heights, Hennessey and Francis.

Dave Kelleher also narrated three Ultimate Lighthouse Tours for Save The Bay.

MEMBERS TRIP TO THE ISLAND

After years of not having access to the island for our members, two days were set aside for bringing some of our members out there.

Fifty members made it out on either of the two days, July 14 and August 18.

We were fortunate to have two beautiful cabin cruisers, one owned by Joe Estrella and the other by Andy Leddy to take us out there in style.

Once on the island the members were finally able to see the building up close and personal. They were able to go inside so they can see the work that needs to be done and go up to the lantern room and enjoy the panoramic view.



by Bob Trapani
David Kelleher sharing the history of the Lighthouse with members

Among the members who came was Bob Trapani, Executive Director of the American Lighthouse Foundation and his family and Eric Davis, Chairman of the American Lighthouse Foundation.

ROGER WILLIAMS STUDENTS PROJECT

Three students from Roger Williams University in a class conducted by Professor Arnold Robinson will be doing a research project investigating the restoration for the interior of the Lighthouse. They will be contacting the U. S. Coast Guard for original drawings of the Lighthouse. Their work in this area will be most helpful to us as we proceed to continue our restoration through various grants.

The final report of their work will be given to us for our files and our use as well as to the American Lighthouse Foundation.

CHOWDER AND CARS FUNDRAISER

After months of planning, our main fundraiser of the year was held at Pazi's Place, a diner on Taunton Avenue in East Providence. The owner of the place, Mrs. Pamela Leite, along with her staff, served chowder and clam cakes and generously donated part of the proceeds to the restoration of the Lighthouse.

A classic car show was also set up in a parking lot next door for viewing and enjoyed by our members and the general public.

A raffle of mostly lighthouse items was conducted and a table of our merchandise materials was also set up.

Members of the Board and Event Committee served as helpers at the Raffle and merchandise tables and in setting up and taking down.

Our red Pomham Rocks boat was on display as well as our Photo-Op Lighthouse model.

Our profit from the event was just over \$1000.



by Carlene Joiner
Pazi's Place, Taunton Avenue, East Providence

RAFFLE WINNERS

Maine Lighthouse Museum photo - Jean Zunda

Framed/matted Lighthouse picture - Ms. O'Connell

Tissue Holder - K Lizotte

Maine Lighthouse note cards - Nancy Doucette

Wooden Lighthouse plaques/hangers - Dave Kelleher

Two frame set - Laura McNamara

Pomham Rocks water color - Andy Leddy

Pomham Rocks Hat - Marilyn Johnson

Pomham Rocks Suncatcher - Nancy Doucette

Oven mitt set - John Andrade

Stone/slate plaque - Deb Barboza

Montauk Coasters - Ms. O'Connell



by Carlene Joineri
A participant in the Classic Car Show

Pomham Rocks Sweatshirt - Andy Leddy

Note Paper - Lester Nathan

Portland Head puzzle - Lester Nathan

Little River ornament - Helen Hubbard

'By the Sea' plaque - J Curty

Pomham Rocks Coasters - Deb Barboza

Sailboat note paper - AJ Schneider

Sailboat night lite - Helen Hubbard

4/500 piece puzzles - Lester Nathan

Fisherman lamp - Kathy Leroy

Nancy throw #1 - Betty McKenzie

Nancy throw #2 - Marilyn Johnson

GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS

We have worked very hard this year to spread the word about the Restoration of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and I think we succeeded. With the new informational sign and bench on the East Bay Bike Path and an informational table organized by Nate and Mary next to the sign, our exposure was greatly increased along that route.

Our informational literature and our model was set up at a number of events: Touch-A-Truck, Boat Safety Day, K-Rob Day at the Carousel and Family Night.

The media came alive for us too. WJAR gave the FPRL a Coffee Cup Salute in January. WJAR also ran a story about the Lighthouse in September. The East Providence Post and East Bay Papers had a story about the Lighthouse during the week of September 13. The Providence Journal had a story and video about the restoration effort in September.

I think more people across the state now know about our restoration efforts.

SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED

After a couple of months of planning and obtaining all the proper permits from the city and the state and the approval of the State Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and the American Lighthouse Foundation, two solar panels were installed on the roof of the oil house. We are pleased with the solar panels and the installation of them by the Hamilton Ferris Company of Bourne. Joe Estrella spent a great deal of time and effort to make this project successful. We now have a spot light on our flag, a lamp in the second floor of the lighthouse and two motion detectors near the house and the dock.

NEW STORM WINDOWS

Upon inspection this spring, it was apparent that some water was getting into the house through openings on the sides of some of the windows, especially on the second floor. This situation needed to be addressed as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration of the walls and ceilings. The best way to correct this was determined to put new aluminum storm windows to encapsulate the windows.

Later on we will address the refurbishing of the original 1871 windows themselves. Approval for this project was obtained from the Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission as well as American Lighthouse Finance Committee and permits from the state and city.



by Bob Trapani
Joe Estrella showing members damage from leaking windows

POMHAM SANTA

Our annual Pomham Santa boat trip will be held on Saturday November 24th starting at 10:00 A.M. Santa's trip will begin from Bullock's Cove, reach the jetty on the terrace around 10:15, go around the Terrace to Rose Larisa Park by 10:30. Then Santa will continue to Sabin Point Park by 10:45 where hot chocolate, coffee and munchies will be served. Santa will continue to the Lighthouse for a wave from the lantern room (Santa can be seen from the Bike Path). Rain/snow date: Sunday November 25th.

WORK PARTY OUT AT THE ISLAND

On a beautiful Saturday in Late August, some of our members went out to the island and began a number of jobs that needed to be done to spruce up the grounds.

Rob, Dave, Nate, Mary and Andy V. removed the old steel mesh of the link fence and painted the poles and rods green to match the trim on the house. New plastic covered mesh, also green, will replace the steel mesh and prevent rusting which in turn would stain the cement wall.

Joe and Andy Leddy worked on the solar system, installing a spotlight for the flag and pulling a cable from the oil house to the Lighthouse for a planned lamp in a second floor window.

Another day is planned to complete these jobs and paint the oil tank, which is badly rusted.

THE RIGHT TO CROW: A LOOK AT R.I.'S FIRSTS, BESTS AND UNIQUES

Roberta Humble, author of numerous books about Rhode Island, made a presentation at the June meeting of The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

The presentation explored some of the bests, firsts and uniques of Rhode Island, including the uniqueness the author found in writing about the nation's smallest state.

A quiz was given to the audience to see how much they already knew. Participation was requested in routing out more superlatives and stories about Little Rhody.

The audience reminisced, learned, and gathered sufficient ammunition to combat out-of-staters who think Rhode Island is part of New York.



Rob Charbonneau painting
by David Kelleher



Mary Chace helping on Work Day
by David Kelleher



Joe Estrella dismantling the old metal chain link fence
by David Kelleher

HURRICANE SANDY AFTERMATH

Glad to report that the lighthouse, oil house, and the large maple tree survived Sandy. We had a work party on the Saturday before the storm, secured the house and took down the flag.

As in past storms (1938, Carol, Bob, Irene) due to the height from the bay and good construction little or no damaged was caused.



by Bob Trapani

FRIENDS OF POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE

A chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Level:

- | | | | |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Light Keeper | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Member Light Lighter | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$ 45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member | \$ 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation | | \$ _____ | |

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Check/Money Order enclosed (payable to: Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse)

Mail application to: Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, P.O. Box 15121, East Providence, RI 02915

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse
A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation
P.O. Box 15121
East Providence, Rhode Island 02915

