



# THE POMHAM GLOW

April 2013 · Volume 9 · 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

### ANNUAL CLEAN UP OF LIGHTHOUSE COVE

Date: April 6, 2013  
Time: 9:00 am - Noon  
Where: East Providence  
Water Control Facility  
Crest Avenue  
Riverside, RI

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING "CLIMATE CHANGE"

Dr. John Merrill  
Date: April 25, 2013  
Time: 6:30 pm  
Where: Riverside Library  
475 Bullock's Point Ave.  
Riverside, RI  
More information on Page 3

### TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Date: May 4, 2013  
Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Where: Behind E.P. Chamber  
of Commerce  
Waterman Avenue  
East Providence, RI

### AMERICAN LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION ANNUAL GALA

Date: May 4, 2013  
Time: 6:00-10:00 pm  
Where: Sheraton Portsmouth  
Portsmouth, NH  
More information at:  
[www.lighthousefoundation.org](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org)

### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Date: May 27, 2013  
Time: 10:00 am  
Where: Parade steps off at  
Oldham School  
Riverside, RI

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

I hope all of you here in New England have come through the series of winter storms that have blanketed the area. Spring is on the way. We just have to be patient.

The Friends have been very busy over the last four months even though normally this is the slowest season for activities and events.

In November, we had two events, the Annual Membership Meeting and the visit from Pomham Santa.

In December, three Roger Williams University graduate students worked on their project about rehabilitating Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. They presented their findings to a gathering of staff, fellow students and guests at the University.

In January, we participated in the Providence Boat Show.

Mother Nature gave us a few mild days in early January, so we were able to install new aluminum storm windows on the Lighthouse. We had planned to bring the original windows ashore to refurbish them, but winter weather returned. We are hoping for another break in the weather to get those windows ashore and refurbished.

You will find details of these events and activities as you read through the newsletter.

Also included is the schedule of events for the coming year. Hopefully you will be able to participate in some of them. We will also send notices about some of these events as they draw near.

Looking forward to seeing you and wishing you a pleasant Spring and Summer season.

Sincerely,  
Dave Kelleher  
Chairman





Pomham Santa

by David Kelleher

### POMHAM SANTA

The annual visit of Pomham Santa to the Riverside shoreline was held on Saturday, November 24th.

It was very windy and cold that day and we were grateful that Andy Leddy (Santa), Rob Charbonneau, Joe Estrella and Mark Paiva braved the choppy waves and biting winds out on the Bay to entertain the kids.

Dave Kelleher, Anne Greene and Mary Chace served hot chocolate and Munchkins®

to the kids at Sabin Point Park as well as coffee for the parents. The hot

drinks and Munchkins® were supplied by the Dunkin Donuts on Pawtucket Avenue.



Joe Estrella and Pomham Santa

by David Kelleher

### ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Our members will once again gather at the East Providence Water Pollution Control Facility on Crest Avenue in Riverside to clean up the shoreline.

We will meet on Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 am and work thru 12:00 pm while the tide is low.

The city will provide gloves, water and trash bags. The rain date is Saturday, April 20. This will be our fifth time doing this community event along with United Water.

We are looking for a good turnout in order to show our commitment to our community of East Providence and the shoreline of Narragansett Bay.

### NEW STORM WINDOWS AND DOORS

One of the main concerns about the condition of the lighthouse was the intrusion of water into the structure from the windows. A study was done and a decision was made to install new windows. Working with the Lizotte Glass Company, a plan to use a new line of aluminum windows was brought before the State Preservation Commission. The Commission however did not approve of the use of aluminum replacement windows preferring refurbishing the original windows so that the original fabric of the building stay in place.

It was important, in the meantime, to tighten up the building, so storm windows were proposed to correct the water problem. Again working with the Lizotte Glass Company, new aluminum storm windows were approved by the commission. They were approved by the Preservation Commission since the storm windows would protect the original inside wooden windows.

The windows were ordered in early November in hopes that they could be installed before the winter weather.

Mother Nature began her winter mode but did give us a couple of mild days in early January. That allowed Joe Estrella to take out a crew of four workers from Lizotte Glass to install the windows.

Also two new fiberglass doors were installed that will help improve the overall appearance and security of the building. The



New door

by David Kelleher



Putting in new storm windows

by David Kelleher

Putting in new storm windows

Putting in new storm windows

### PROVIDENCE BOAT SHOW

For the first time, members participated in the annual Providence Boat Show. It was held in the Providence Convention Center on Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse decided to participate in order to have more publicity for our lighthouse to the general public.

Joe Estrella made a new bulletin board for our booth and Dave Kelleher printed out thirty 8x10" colored photos of various events and stages of restoration of the lighthouse. We had a continuous showing of three of our PowerPoint programs on a screen on the back curtain of the booth.



Anne Greene, Joe Estrella & Andy Valerio at FPRL Booth

by David Kelleher

We distributed copies of our latest newsletter and membership applications. We sold merchandise items and talked about our restoration project to hundreds of boaters who stopped by our booth. We also had the chance to meet and talk to various groups in the Upper Bay and exchange ways that we could help one another. Some of the groups were: Auxiliary Coast Guard, Edgewood Yacht Club, Rhode Island Yacht Club and Rhode Island Anglers.

The members who worked at the booth: Joe Estrella, Dave Kelleher, Nate and Mary Chace, Lester Nathan, Andy Valerio, Rob Charbonneau, Mike Tripp, Anne Greene and Jim and Carlene Joiner.

The job was accomplished in three days, with a fourth day used to remove all the old storm windows and doors.





## TALK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr. John Merrill, a professor of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, will be giving a talk on Climate Change at the April meeting of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

Dr. Merrill earned his BA in Physics from the University of California-Berkeley, received an MS in Physics from the University of Illinois and his PhD in Atmospheric Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

At URI, he teaches a graduate course in Climate Change. He also teaches some under-graduate courses in Oceanography and is an advisor to graduate students.

Climate Change is being addressed worldwide and should be of interest to the audience.

The meeting will be on **Thursday, April 25th at the Riverside Public Library, 475 Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm.** The public is invited to attend.

## NEW POWERPOINT PROGRAM

At the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse in November, a PowerPoint program about the History of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was presented by David Kelleher and Lester Nathan.

David and Lester have been working on this program since April 2012 and the result was well received by the membership.

The program was divided into sections concerning the various personnel that lived in the lighthouse.

The program began with a brief history of the construction of the buildings in 1871 and then described the times of the five keepers and their families. The Coast Guard years were then chronicled followed by the years that the lighthouse was occupied by the Charbonneau and Allen families. The Mobil Oil purchase was described and finally the partnership with the American Lighthouse Foundation.

The program will be available for presentations to the public during the coming years. The first one is scheduled for 1:00 pm on April 9 at the Forever Young Club at St. Brendan Church.

## A SPARK LIGHTS A PASSION FOR LIGHTHOUSES

When Alex Dias was in fifth grade at the Waddington School, he enjoyed a presentation about Rhode Island lighthouses given by David Kelleher. This began his interest in lighthouses.

Alex is now a senior at East Providence High School. When it was time to choose a topic for his senior project, he chose Rhode Island Lighthouses.

Working with David Kelleher as his mentor, he did intensive research, went on the Save The Bay tour of 21 lighthouses and sites, visited Block Island to tour its two lighthouses, visited Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and went to a number of other lighthouses on the Rhode Island mainland. He made a large poster with photos he had taken on his trips and made an excellent model of the no longer existing Bullocks Point Lighthouse. It is 5 feet long, 4.6 feet tall and 31 inches wide, made of foam board and 1,500 popsicle sticks.

He received much praise for his work from the judges on his project and the model was displayed in City Hall during the months of February and March.



by David Kelleher  
Alex and his model of Bullocks Point Lighthouse

## ROGER WILLIAMS STUDENTS & POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE

Three graduate students at Roger Williams University, Nina Caruso, Caitlin Merritt and Derek Dandurand, completed a project about Pomham Rocks Lighthouse as part of their Historic Preservation program with the guidance of their instructor, Arnold N. Robinson, AICP.



by David Kelleher  
Nina Caruso, Caitlin Merritt & Derek Dandurand used Pomham Rocks Lighthouse as part of RWU Historic Preservation program

Their final report contained the following elements: History/Historical and Architectural Significance, Existing Conditions, Applicable Regulations, Proposed Use, Rehabilitation Plan and Cost Estimates.

Thanks to Mike Tripp, the students were taken out to the lighthouse for their examination and study. The students worked closely with Dave Kelleher and Lester Nathan. They compiled an excellent list of historical information and a gallery of old pictures, which they presented to FPRL for our future studies and projects.

The students produced plans for using the property as a museum and a classroom for a number of nautical topics.

They produced a PowerPoint program which they presented to their fellow graduate students, their instructor and invited guests.

## EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2013

- April 6 Annual Clean Up at Lighthouse Cove (details on page 2)
- April 25 Membership Meeting - "Climate Change" with Dr. John Merrill (details on Page 3)
- May 4 Touch-A-Truck (details on page 1)
- May 4 American Lighthouse Foundation Gala  
Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH  
Celebration begins at 6:00 pm  
Evening Festivities include: "From the Shoreline" -  
A Multimedia Maritime concert Experience by John Mock  
Buffet Dinner  
Silent Auction  
Tickets are \$48.00 per person. They can be purchased online  
at [www.lighthousefoundation.org](http://www.lighthousefoundation.org), by calling American  
Lighthouse Foundation at (207) 594-4174 or by downloading  
printable forms at the web site.
- May 27 Riverside Memorial Day Parade  
Parade steps off at 10:00 am from Oldham School
- June 15, July 13, September 28  
Lighthouse Tours with Save the Bay  
Includes a lunch at Rose Island Lighthouse  
A day-long tour is \$85.00 per person for Save the Bay  
members; \$100 for non-members. **Reservations are required.**  
Check Save the Bay web site for details and reservations.  
([www.savebay.org/Lighthouse](http://www.savebay.org/Lighthouse))
- October 18 Membership Meeting (details to be announced)
- October 20 ALF Board Meeting at 10:00 am at Riverside Library
- November 15 FPRL Annual Meeting (details to be announced)
- November 30 Pomham Santa



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