



THE POMHAM GLOW

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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.

ANNUAL MEETING 2014

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse held its annual meeting at a new place this time: Madeira Restaurant on Warren Avenue. Originally the dinner was to be at the new Madeira on the Waterfront – same owner, same menu – but a situation arose four days before the event resulting in our move to the Warren Avenue site.

During the business portion of the evening Treasurer Mike Tripp gave the financial statement and membership chair Jean Zunda reported 95 memberships comprised of 148 people – a record high for our organization. Joe Estrella reported on the year's restoration and maintenance that included his design, construction, and installation of an addition to the existing dock. This addition will allow our launch access to the island regardless of the tide. On the island itself the old fence was replaced and the original window refurbishing was completed and the windows reinstalled with the help of Bill Lizotte Architectural Glass & Aluminum. Time was also spent explaining the ideas of Vision3 for restoring the interior that included some examples and samples brought along for the evening.

And while we normally do not schedule entertainment at our meetings, this year Joe Estrella gave an impromptu report of his efforts in acquiring his 100-ton captain's license. (Yes, he can now legally captain the Staten Island Ferry!) By the time he was through describing everything that happened during his qualifying exam, he had all of us laughing our heads off! Comedy's loss is our gain, besides which we get a Coast Guard certified captain. Take that Billy Crystal!



by Jim Joiner
Joe Estrella, Nate Chace, Mike Tripp, Jean Zunda, David Kelleher, Carlene Joiner and Anne Greene

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election for the 2015 Board for Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse had a change this year. Jean Zunda is now the new Chair. Anne Greene was elected Secretary, replacing Jean, and Dave Kelleher is now a Member-at-Large. Mike Tripp continues as Treasurer, Joe Estrella as 1st Vice Chair, Nate Chace as 2nd Vice Chair and Carlene Joiner as Member-at-Large.

Dave served as chair for four years and brought Pomham Rocks lighthouse ever closer to the Friends' goal of completing the restoration and opening it up for member and public view.

Prior to that he was a member-at-large on the Board and before that he was Treasurer. In honor of his years of service to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, Nate Chace presented Dave with a granite plaque that had an etched picture of the lighthouse. He still serves as historian for our organization and, if you've ever taken one of the Save the Bay lighthouse tours, you will know he is highly qualified for the position. His decision to step down was not an easy one but he felt he needed to spend more time with his family. His ever-patient wife Evelyn is sure to agree with that!



by Jim Joiner
Dave Kelleher being presented with plaque by Nate Chace.

ANNUAL POMHAM SANTA VISIT

Our annual visit from Pomham Santa was a great success. Thanks to the crew on the Lady Pomham, Capt Joe Estrella, son Jeff, Mike Tripp, and his grandson, the trip around Riverside was enjoyable and fun. The weather that day was perfect. We saw quite a few people waving from their decks in the Cove. There were groups waiting for Santa both at the Jetty and at Rose Larisa Park. The largest crowd we have ever had turned out at Sabin Point.

Thank you to Anne Greene, Kathy Turbitt, and Jean & Gary Zunda for helping out with the hot chocolate and munchkins.



by Jeff Estrella
Santa (Andy Leddy) in the Pomham Rocks Lantern Room

We got some nice photos of Santa up in the lantern room. While on the island the American flag was taken down for the season and a large wreath was hung on the oil house.

A NOTE FROM DAVE KELLEHER

Thank you to all members of the Event Committee for a successful year of events. It was a pleasure working with each of you as chair of the committee.

2015 ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE GALA

The American Lighthouse Foundation held its Annual Lighthouse Gala on May 2nd at the Portsmouth Sheraton Harborside Hotel and Conference Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Attendees were greeted by Bob Trapani, Executive Director of the American Lighthouse Foundation.

Following a buffet dinner, the members listened to a presentation by Fred Mikkelsen. Mr. Mikkelsen, a Coast Guard Engineman 3rd class, retired, who, at eighteen years old, was assigned to Conimicut Light Station in Rhode Island. He gave a brief history of the light and also discussed its connection to Nayatt Point Light in Barrington.

He spoke of his many experiences at the station; about his flying a kite that remained aloft for two whole days and what it was like feeling the lighthouse moving about during Hurricane Donna in 1960. At the height of the storm, the surging sea blocked all sunlight through the galley windows on the first level. When he went to the lantern to check the light, he became aware that the lighthouse was moving in the storm, with the greatest movement near the top. "It would bang you against the wall," he said, "and you had to hang on to the handrail of the ladder." He narrated the tragic story of a keeper's morose wife who, in 1922, poisoned herself and her two sons. Only one son survived.

He explained in detail some of the equipment used during his tenure there. When fog rolled in, a Fog Bell Striker was put to work. The machine had to be maintained, oiled and cleaned. It ran about two hours on 10 minutes of winding. The bell would strike automatically every 10 seconds, but inside the tower the noise of the striking machine was louder than the bell itself. When the striker stopped, "the silence would wake me from a sound sleep," he recalled.

Bob Trapani then introduced the 2015 Len Hadley Volunteerism Awards. We are proud to announce our recipient is Anne Greene. Bob read a description of the way Anne has contributed to our lighthouse over the last eleven years.



by Ann-Marie Trapani
David Kelleher, Award Winner Anne Greene, ALF President Eric Davis

Dave Kelleher exhibited some of the posters and flyers that Anne has made for us using her talents as a graphic artist. It was an impressive presentation. In addition to Dave, Anne was escorted to the Gala by Mike Skorvanek and Gary Zunda.

ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse held our annual clean up of the Riverside shoreline near the lighthouse on April 25th. We joined forces with members of United Water and worked the area from the East Providence Water Pollution Control Plant north to the Exxon property line. This was the sixth time that the two groups have worked together on this project. Due to all our hard and consistent work each year this part of the shore is now in pretty good shape. After about two hours we even ran out of debris to pick up!

Tom Azevedo and seven other members of United Water came out that morning along with four members of the Friends: Anne Greene, Carlene Joiner, Andy Valerio, and Dave Kelleher.

We thank Tom and United Water for supplying coffee and snacks. The City of East Providence provided the bags and gloves we used and the state removed our 15 bags of debris.



by Jean Marie Cataldo
The debris collected at the Annual Clean Up



Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

invites you to join us for a

SUMMER BBQ

**Madeira at Oyster House Marina Waterfront
28 Water Street, East Providence, RI
Saturday, August 15, 12 - 4 PM**

Reservations by August 10

Contact Jean Zunda, 401-433-2506, pomhamrockslighthouse@aol.com
or Mail check and reservations to FPRL, PO Box 15121, Riverside, RI, 02915

Everyone is welcome!

Tickets will not be available at the door.

**\$20 per
person**

BBQ Menu

Garden salad, Potato salad

Corn on the cob

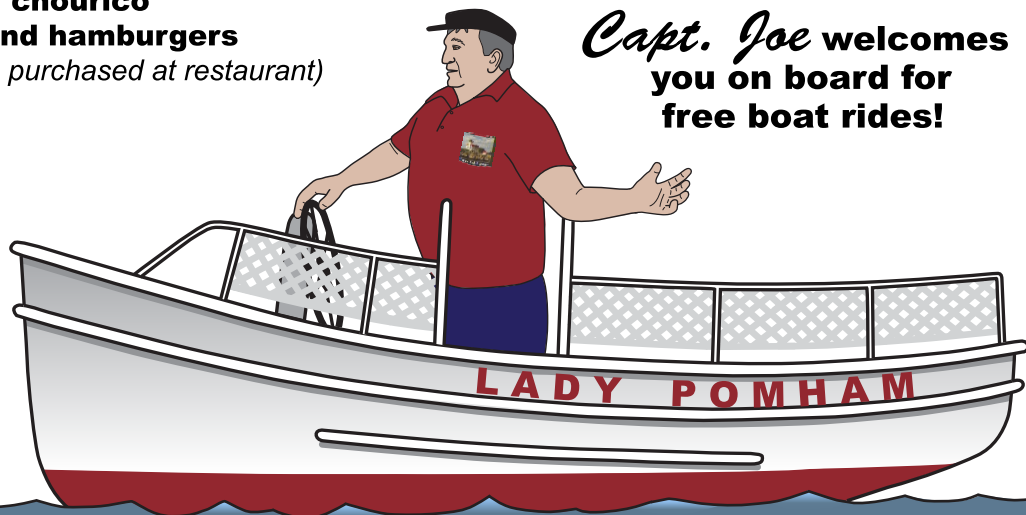
Barbeque pork ribs

Grilled chourico

Hot dogs and hamburgers

(Beverages can be purchased at restaurant)

Capt. Joe welcomes
you on board for
free boat rides!



Merchandise!



Raffles!

*Proceeds to be used for restoration of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse
Support your local lighthouse!*

2015 SUMMER LIGHTHOUSE TOURS FROM SAVE THE BAY

Once again Save the Bay is offering all day tours of Narragansett Bay Lighthouses. They have added some half-day upper and lower Bay tours as well. Dave Kelleher will continue to narrate these trips ensuring an interesting and fun time for all. We encourage you to attend one of these tours since they help FPRL. In lieu of salary to Dave, Save the Bay donates a portion of the proceeds of all tours he narrates to FPRL, which through the course of a season adds up to a substantial donation to our organization.

Join Dave on one of their narrated cruises to see close to two dozen of Rhode Island's historic lighthouse sites in Narragansett Bay. With breathtaking views of the Newport Pell Bridge, Gaspee Point, Prudence Island, and historic Fort Adams, you'll be amazed of just how many notable sites you'll see in just one tour. Save The Bay's Lighthouse Tours are the ONLY cruises that include a stop to tour the inside of a lighthouse!

Information and Reservations
Contact: [Rupa Datta](mailto:Rupa.Datta@save-the-bay.org) at 401-272-3540 x133.

2015 "Ultimate Lighthouse" Tour

This Tour leaves from Save the Bay campus in Cranston and runs from 9 am to 4 pm. You will see 20 sites of current and former lighthouses. Includes lunch on Rose Island.

DATES:

AUGUST 8 \$85 FOR SAVE THE BAY [MEMBERS](#)
SEPT 12 \$100 FOR NON-MEMBERS
OCTOBER 3



Picture from Save the Bay

2015 NORTHERN NARRAGANSETT BAY TOUR

The only lighthouse tour to include a stop at Pomham Rocks Lighthouse! You will view ten active and inactive lighthouse sites on the 3.5 hour tour.

DATES:

SEPTEMBER 19 (SOLD OUT)



Picture from Save the Bay

PROVIDENCE RIVER BOAT TOURS

Offers a two-hour tour of the Providence Harbor and the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. Explore the exterior of our beautifully restored gem from 1871, while lighthouse expert Dave Kelleher walks you throughout the exterior of the property. A delicious boxed breakfast or lunch on the grounds of Pomham Rocks is included. providenceriverboat@gmail.com
401-580-BOAT

DATES:

AUGUST 15 AT 9AM AND 11:30AM.
\$39.00 PER PERSON, ALL AGES

NEW WEB SITE

We have a new and improved web site! The address is: pomhamrockslighthouse.org.

We can thank member Alex Dias for setting up the web site and filling it with all sorts of history and photographs of our beautiful lighthouse.

If you have any photographs, interesting personal stories or additional information, use the "Contact Us" form and let us know.



TOUCH-A-TRUCK

On May 2nd FPRL participated in this East Providence Chamber of Commerce fundraiser. For those of you who have never been to one, a Touch-a-Truck event consists of a collection of as many motorized vehicles as can fit into the location it is to be held. This year there were more than thirty vehicles.

Children are invited to examine the trucks inside and out. Usually the kids are able to run the police car sirens and sound horns from the various vehicles - the noisier the better! Ambulances and fire trucks are very popular because of their potential noise factor. FPRL brings its red boat to the event and, while not one of the noisier exhibits, still attracts a large number of children; especially the smaller ones. There is a ladder for them to climb (with help) in and out of the boat which is sitting on its trailer and they get a kick out of posing with Keeper, our mascot, a life size golden retriever stuffed animal. We bring along the photo model, a ten-foot tall replica of Pomham Rocks as well. Since everyone has a camera in their phones these days there are ample opportunities for Mom and Dad to photograph their little darlings having a good time.

Joe Estrella and his boat committee prepared the boat for the event. He and Harry Moore helped set up the lighthouse photo model and secured the boat for the day as well as returning to pick up the boat at the end of the afternoon. Dave Kelleher maintained order with the children in the boat while Gary Zunda helped them on and off the ladder. Carlene Joiner supplied the lollipops, Anne Greene told of our efforts to restore the lighthouse to the many people who stopped by, and Louise Paiva worked the crowd selling raffle tickets.

Touch-a-Truck gives us an opportunity for publicity and to remind people of the lighthouse located in their city. We look forward to the time when we no longer hear; "I didn't know there was a lighthouse in East Providence!"

NEW LAUNCH

FPRL approved the purchase of a larger boat for us to transport work crews and other doing business on the island. It was obtained for the purpose of future transportation for members and others as well. It should handle our needs for many years.

To celebrate our acquisition, a celebratory symbolic re-christening was held in August at the East Providence Yacht Club that concluded with a fine BBQ dinner from Young's Caterers. It was the largest single event ever hosted by the Friends with nearly 80 members and guests attending. The raffle drew quite a number of participants and included, in addition to many restaurant offerings, two special 'Hot & Cold' themed drawings; one for an ice chest full of cold goodies such as Del's Lemonade mix and the other for a basket full of BBQ sauces and accompaniments.

Everyone had a good time and the event committee received many positive reviews from attendees.



by Rachel Joiner-Escala
The Lady Pomham with a freshly painted hull

LAUNCH PREPARATION

In advance of putting the Lady Pomham into the water, the hull needed to be prepared. Because the launch was in brackish water, sea grass and mussels were growing on the hull. The hull was cleaned using high pressure. Then it needed to be painted with a product made for the brackish water condition. Joe, Andy Valerio and Jim Joiner did a great job.

Several days later, the launch was put in the water. It is now moored behind Madeira on the Waterfront.



*Thank you to those who
gave donations in the
memory of Gloria Cady.*

HELP WANTED:

The Membership Committee is looking for someone to help maintain membership records. Duties include sending out renewal notices each January and, if necessary, reminder notices to those who fail to respond the first time. Acknowledgments, which also serve as the tax receipts for the donations, are also sent along with the current membership card. There are pre-existing templates for all of these functions and you would, of course, be free to come up with your own as well.

If you like to write, you could help write articles for the newsletter.

We are also looking for someone to help with the merchandise. You will need a smartphone to utilize the Square.

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Jean Zunda 401-433-2506.

SPRING PROGRAM

The spring program featured Tom Kutcher from Save the Bay. He gave us insight into what that organization is all about, what it is currently focused on, and a recap of any advances or roadblocks it has encountered. Tom leads the Narragansett Baykeeper program, which is Save The Bay's on-the-water advocacy and watchdog presence.

Save The Bay is one of largest independent non-profit environmental organizations in New England, dedicated to the protection, restoration, and improvement of the ecological health of Narragansett Bay, its watershed, and adjacent coastal waters.

The Narragansett Baykeeper is a licensed program of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a network of more than 200 similar programs worldwide.

Some interesting facts from Tom's excellent presentation:

The sea level has risen ten inches since the 1920's.

Sea grass stays level with the mean high tide. Sea levels have risen so fast lately that the grasses cannot acclimate to the higher level. The sea is now drowning the grasses. The grasses are used by shellfish and small fish as a hiding spot as they grow larger.

Hopefully, in the next 5-8 years, there will spots along the Upper Bay clean enough to allow swimming.



RESTORATION RAFFLE WINNERS!

The winners names were drawn by the Librarians at the Riverside Library.

Valerie LaCross, Riverside, RI won the One Night Stay at Borden Flats Lighthouse.

Joe Lamountain won the Two Night Mooring at Payne's Dock on Block Island.

Michelean McNeill won the Two Nights Stay at the Surf Hotel on Block Island.

Thank you to all who bought tickets. Congratulations to the winners!



by Carlene Joiner
Tom Kutcher being presented with a gift of appreciation by David Kelleher



by Carlene Joiner
Cake from the Lady Pomham Re-Christening, August 2014

AUGUST PARTY

The BBQ was such a success last year that we are doing it again this year! On August 15th, the Friends are hosting a summer gathering at Madeira's on the Waterfront. After our disappointment in not holding the annual meeting there last November this is sure to make up for it. Join us to see what marvelous things have been done to the former Oyster House since the last time you went there! Details are included on Page 3 in this newsletter.

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

