



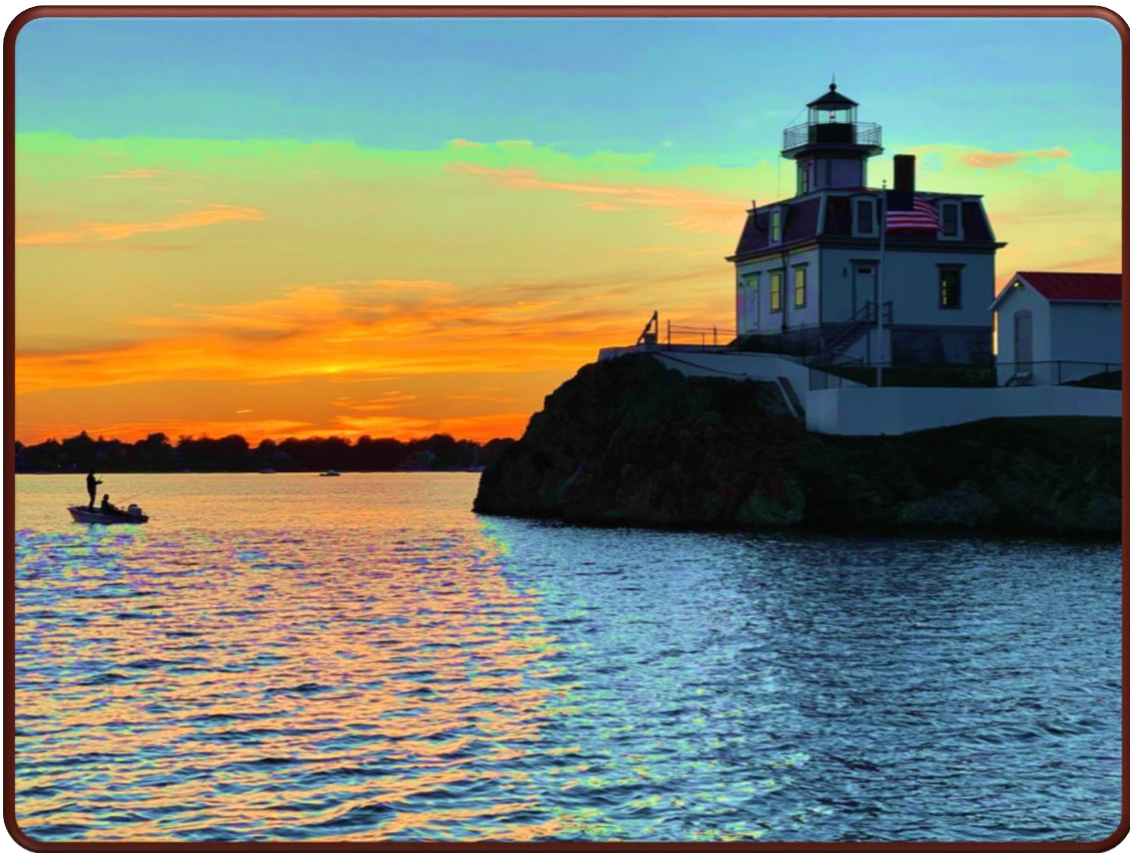
THE POMHAM GLOW

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.

AUGUST 2023

EMBARK ON OUR MEMORABLE TOURS!



LIGHTHOUSE TOURS 2023

The 2022 tour season was such a success that we initially scheduled 60 tours for the 2023 season, starting on June 10th and ending on September 2nd. However, once we noticed that the bookings were only trickling in, and realizing that we may have scheduled too many tours, we trimmed the 2023 tour schedule down to 30 tours and immediately noticed an increase in bookings.



This year we have a much shorter trip to the lighthouse now that our boat is docked at the Edgewood Yacht Club. We are now able to cross the Providence River in ten minutes from EYC, with Pomham Rocks in view the

entire trip. All our passengers, members and non-members alike, have been quite impressed with the tours. The beautiful restoration is always inspiring to see, but tourists are equally struck by the history, artifacts and narratives provided by the museum and its knowledgeable docents. Merchandise sales in our gift shop have been brisk and the survey forms that we have asked visitors to fill out at the end of each tour reflect just how much they have enjoyed themselves at the lighthouse and on the launch.

Many thanks to our Captains, First Mates, Docents, and our Tour Director for their selfless volunteerism that enabled our tours to be so successful.

There are still many open spots available for the remainder of this season to book a tour to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. Hope to see you there!

Go to
<https://pomhamrockslighthouse.org/tours/>

VISIT POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE BOOTH AT LOOFF ARTS FESTIVAL

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse will host a booth at The Looff: East Providence Arts Festival on Saturday, August 12th from 12 PM to 6 PM at Rose Larisa Park. Children are welcome to have their photo taken through one of the windows of the replica wooden lighthouse photo display. Festival goers will be able to

interact with one of Pomham's lighthouse pets. A lifelike model of Tommy the Cat, the black and white tuxedo cat of lighthouse keeper Adolf Aaronson, will be at the booth. Tommy was renowned for his ability to jump off the rocky cliff of the island and catch fish in the Providence River. He will be joined by a model of Jennifer, the two-toned companion dog of the last lighthouse keeper, Dennis Tardiff. Both lighthouse pets respond to motion and touch. They are part of the Joy for All Collection and were donated by Ageless Innovation in Pawtucket.

The Lighthouse booth will offer a number of special items for sale. A specially-commissioned replica ornament of the lighthouse's iconic Fresnel lens, on display in the museum, will be available for \$20. Made exclusively for Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse by Beacon Design, a division of ChemArt in Lincoln, RI, the 2-dimensional holiday ornament is made of silver rhodium and is gift boxed. A limited supply of locally produced ceramic mugs, featuring a photo of The Lighthouse, made in East Providence by Barlow Designs, will also be offered. T-shirts commemorating The Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Run, will be available for \$5 each, as well as hats, embroidered with the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse logo, which sell for \$25. A selection of lighthouse-themed books will also be on sale.

Tickets for the *Sun & Fun Raffle*, will be available for \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Prizes

include a Cape Cod getaway at Bay View Resort in West Yarmouth, MA, a 22-inch classic Webber kettle charcoal grill and a seasonal dining package. Proceeds benefit the Dock Restoration Project, to replace the 1939 wooden dock damaged in last year's winter storm. Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse needs to replace the existing dock before it becomes unsafe. Drawing for the raffle will take place at 6 PM at the Pomham booth.

Information will be available on summer tours to the Lighthouse and a summer selfie contest, *I LOVE THE ROCK*. Membership applications will be available for Individuals and families interested in joining Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse. For further details, visit www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org.

SUN & FUN RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE DOCK RESTORATION PROJECT

The 1938 hurricane wreaked havoc on New England. Winds of more than 150 miles an hour caused a massive storm surge, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, widespread flooding and destruction of most coastal homes and marinas on Narragansett Bay. In East Providence, Pomham Rocks Lighthouse weathered the storm intact, but its dock was completely destroyed. In 1939, a new wooden dock was built to replace what was lost in the hurricane. That dock survived more than eight decades until the storm surge

of the powerful winter storm this past December severely damaged the structure. Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse needs to replace the existing dock before it becomes unsafe.

To kick off the campaign for The Dock Restoration Project, estimated to cost nearly \$70,000, Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is sponsoring a raffle.

Prize number 1 - Cape Cod Getaway at Bayside Resort in West Yarmouth, MA. The Cape Cod package, valued at \$175, includes an off-season overnight stay in a deluxe queen room and a full breakfast. The Cape Cod Getaway can be used from September 15 to May 15 and the certificate expires at the end of 2024.

Prize number 2 - A classic 22" Webber Kettle Charcoal Grill. The porcelain-enameled lid and bowl retain heat, and controls allow for precise temperature control. Room for a dozen burgers! Lid hook for cover. One-touch system for hassle-free cleanup. The value is \$140.

Prize number 3 - Seasonal Dining Package, valued at \$120. This prize includes gift cards to local waterside restaurants: \$50 Water Street Kitchen & Bar, East Greenwich; \$50 Quito's Restaurant, Bristol; and \$20 Portside Tavern, Bristol.

The drawing will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 12 at the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse tent at the Loeff Arts Festival at Rose Larisa Park, 701 Bullocks Point Avenue, Riverside. Sun and

Fun Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. They will be sold at the Loeff Arts Festival or just fill out these ticket stubs and send them with a check, made payable to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, c/o 81 Harris Street, Riverside, RI. 02915. Call 401-433-3463 with any questions. The stubs themselves are on the last page of this newsletter before the Events page.

THIRD ANNUAL POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE RUN

On Saturday, April 22nd, over 250 runners and walkers descended upon Rose Larisa Memorial Park for the Third Annual Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Run. Friends of Pomham Rocks volunteers were up to the task and did an amazing job registering, timing, handing out food and water and promoting goodwill to all who showed up.

First place 10K Winners Overall were Bill Yabroudy from Coventry (38:24) and Linda Spooner from Sturbridge, MA (40:22) and first place 5K Winners Overall were Erick Smith from Providence (19:40) and Marge Bellisle from Warren (23:34).

This event has done so much to promote community awareness. However, the amount of participants has not increased while the cost of organizing a race such as this has steadily gone up. Therefore, it has been decided to discontinue the race and concentrate on new adventures to promote our beautiful landmark.



FPRL MEMBERS SPEND DAY ON BLOCK ISLAND HONORING POMHAM ROCK'S SECOND KEEPER

This past June 7th, fourteen FPRL members honored Pomham Rocks Lighthouse's second keeper, Captain Nathaniel Dodge (1844 – 1905), with the placement of a United States Lighthouse Service Memorial Marker at his gravesite in the Island Cemetery on Block Island. Captain Dodge served as Head Keeper at

Pomham Rocks from 1893 – 1898 and his family name is well known on Block Island as generations of Dodges have inhabited the island with many family members having joined the Lighthouse Service. Little may be known about Keeper Dodge's personal life, but his logbook entries attest to the fact that he kept a good light with his oft repeated entry of "lights bright all night!"

This day of dedication would have been a treat for any lighthouse enthusiast. The day started with an excellent forecast that allowed a wonderfully smooth 8:30am ferry crossing from Point Judith. Once on Block Island, Jim McAloon, a knowledgeable, personable, and quite humorous taxi driver/guide picked up this lively group of FPRL members and brought them straight to Island Cemetery for the dedication. After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Harbor Grill and continued the afternoon being treated to a superb tour of Southeast Light. After being greeted by Southeast's Executive Director, Lisa Nolan, docent Jim Milner led the group through the head keeper's quarters and then up the tower to the lantern and gallery. Not many guests to Southeast are allowed such an up-close and personal view of its first-order Fresnel lens, but being part of a lighthouse organization such as *Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse* certainly has its benefits! And to add to the unique experience, Keith Lescarbeau from Abcore Restoration, who has done so much of the beautiful restoration

at Pomham Rocks, was there at Southeast that day working on the assistant keepers' quarters.



Once the one-and-a-half-hour tour of the lighthouse was complete, the group hopped back into the taxi for more humorous stories and Block Island history from Mr. McAloon and got out at Settler's Rock for a photo opportunity of North Light. Back to Old Harbor they went for souvenir shopping and, of course, ice cream. The 5:00pm ferry carried the high-spirited lighthouse travelers back home with upbeat memories of a day well spent!

SHORE CLEAN UP

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse have had many successful shore clean ups throughout the years. On the morning of May 13th, participants gathered at Veolia, the wastewater management company, equipped with gloves and garbage bags, ready to make a difference. Volunteers combed the coastline on the shore directly behind the lighthouse and removed litter. There is remarkable progress we observed

because of our ongoing shore clean ups along-side Veolia. Our volunteers have noticed every year, there is less and less debris to clean up.

WORK PARTIES

This season has been extremely active out at the lighthouse. Our crew kicked off the season by restoring the north downspout to the cistern. Volunteers then had to climb into the cistern and coat it with a special paint to help seal it. With both downspouts now operational once again, the diverters were flipped and the cistern was then put to the test. Volunteers and tourists watch the cistern fill over the last two months. The heavy rain we have had recently only enhanced the experience. Currently there is approximately 3,000 gallons in the cistern. It is quite a site to see in person. The water is regularly treated and debris is fished out with a net when needed.



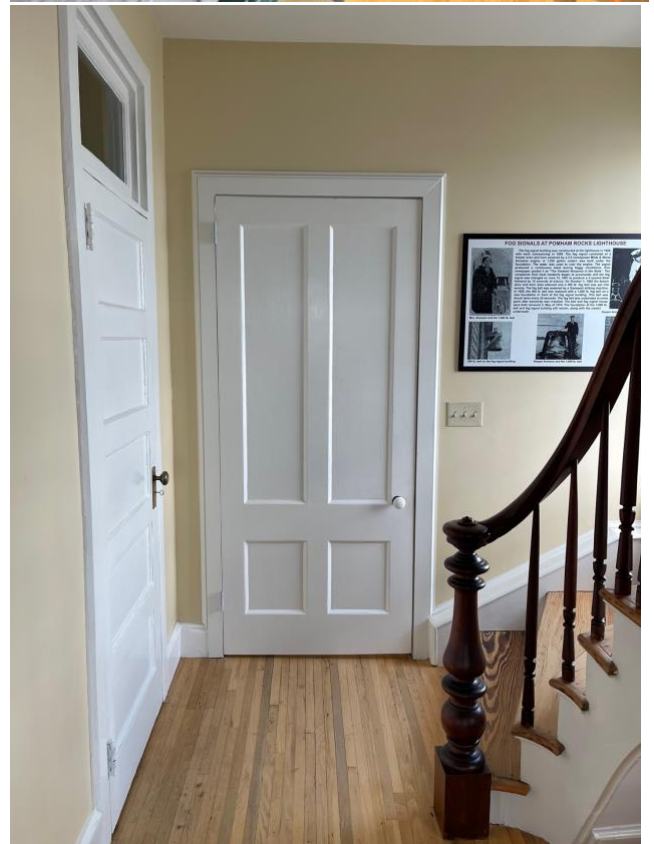
Volunteers then shifted gears to the windows. The exterior facing window panes have not been painted in over a decade and were in need of paint. To bring the windows

back to their 1871 appearance, the panes were painted white. 18 sets of windows were removed, sanded down if needed, and painted. Upon removing the windows, eight window sashes were discovered to not be operational and were nailed in place. These sashes were missing window weights, pulleys and cord. All components needed to make these windows operational were found and donated to FPRL by a volunteer. The windows are now ready to be reunited with their shutters as they were in 1871.

Over the last several months, board member Rick Lux has been working to restore the vestibule door that has been in storage since the interior restoration. The door had a small section some woodwork was needed, mainly in the area for the door knob and lock. Wood had to be filed and replaced in parts, and a vintage lock was found to match the original door. The door was then painted and installed back to where it originally stood and is fully functional.

With the window project completed, the remainder of the regular work party season will be spent on routine maintenance and interior work on the Oil House.

Thank you to all the volunteers for this season this far.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

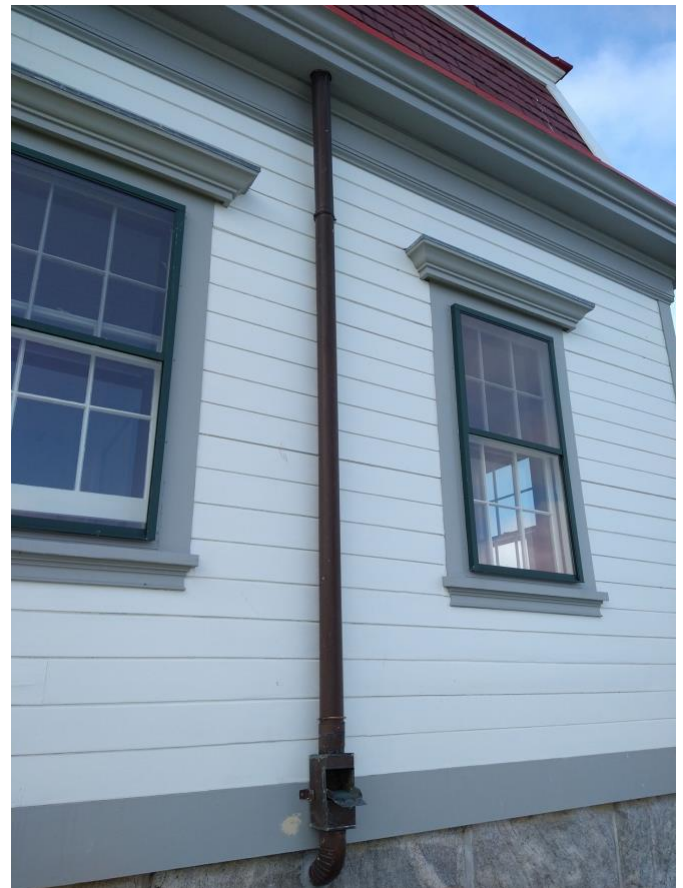
The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse made a memorable appearance at the Riverside Memorial Day Parade. Pulling ‘Lil Pomham (the small red boat) as a float, our volunteers waved flags and walked alongside throughout the parade route. The crowd cheered and congratulated the group for their active involvement. It was a beautiful day, and the event highlighted the organization's commitment to the community. For the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, participating in the Riverside Memorial Day Parade has become a cherished annual tradition. It not only allows us to showcase their commitment to preserving the rich maritime history of the area but also gives us an opportunity to express our community involvement.

SQUANTUM GRANT RESTORES HISTORY AT POMHAM ROCKS

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse has continued efforts to restore the century-and-a-half-year-old light station with historical accuracy. In 2021, Friends repaired the piping system on the south side of the building and resealed the lighthouse's cistern. This brick-walled underground water reservoir is located in the building's cellar. With a generous grant from the Squantum Association Charitable Foundation, volunteers have succeeded this summer in replacing piping and connecting the north system to the cistern. This project

completely restores to full operation an historical water storage system that was used since the lighthouse was built in 1871. “We appreciate the support of the Squantum Association Charitable Foundation in enabling us to bring history to life,” stated Dennis Tardiff, chair of the Friends’ Board of Directors. “The cistern will be an important feature of our lighthouse tours this summer,” he added.

Pomham Rocks Lighthouse has relied on rainwater collected from its



red tile roof to furnish water for cooking, bathing and drinking. A large gutter surrounding the roof and two downspouts

direct the rainwater collected by the roof into pipes which lead down the sides of the two-story building to the storage cistern in the lighthouse cellar. Originally, the system was connected to a hand pump in the kitchen, which allowed the keeper to pump water out of the cistern as needed. The system now feeds the faucets on the first and second floors of the lighthouse and a flushing toilet. A diverter valve on the exterior piping allows the water flowing from the roof to be monitored. When the water runs clear and it is needed, the diverter valve can be closed manually, allowing the clear water to flow into the cistern for future use. When the cistern is full, the diverter can be opened to allow the water to flow off the island.

THE PRIME FIREWORKS OBSERVATION POINT, NIGHT BEFORE THE 4TH OF JULY, 1958

The search and collection began even before school had let out for the summer but intensified as the later weeks of June brought more free time to the neighborhood kids living in bayside communities of the Narragansett Bay. In the days when wooden crates and boxes were more common than plastics are today, they could be easily found behind any business and mostly free for the taking. The collection would wait for older kids and even knowledgeable adults to get involved because the construction required learned expertise. A solid foundation and strategic placement of the items would create

a stable pile that not fall over in the first few moments of its most important function.

The very best place to watch any celebration associated with the Fourth of July was Conimicut Lighthouse. The onshore breezes that appear each afternoon in summer would play themselves out by sunset. And so at dusk, the mountains of driftwood, crates and boxes collected by the folks who lived along the shore, and entered into some unofficial conflagration competition, would be touched off. Dozens of huge bonfires, tongues of flame blazing towards the heavens illuminating the reveling faces all along both sides of the bay to begin celebrating the night before America's birthday.

Later the fireworks displays would begin with a bang, starting with Rocky Point and Crescent Parks, which were clearly visible from our bell deck 60 feet above the water. Even the high rockets from Roger Williams Park, the Shipyard Drive-in Theater and Pierce Field in East Providence would stretch the limits of one's attention. Several of the yacht clubs and Rhode Island Country Club had lesser shows but all visible from our lonely outpost.

Each display would eventually end with a final spectacular burst of bright colors and a loud report that would echo across the calm water. The fires would die to small glowing spots along the shore and we would imagine the neighbors, congratulating themselves for the best bonfire ever, and then drifting off

toward their homes and beds wondering if tomorrow's cook out might just be the greatest one yet. We would make one last check of the main light and all aides to navigation, the final day's entry into the log and head for our bunks.

Fred Mikkelsen, EN3 Conimicut Light Station, July, 1958



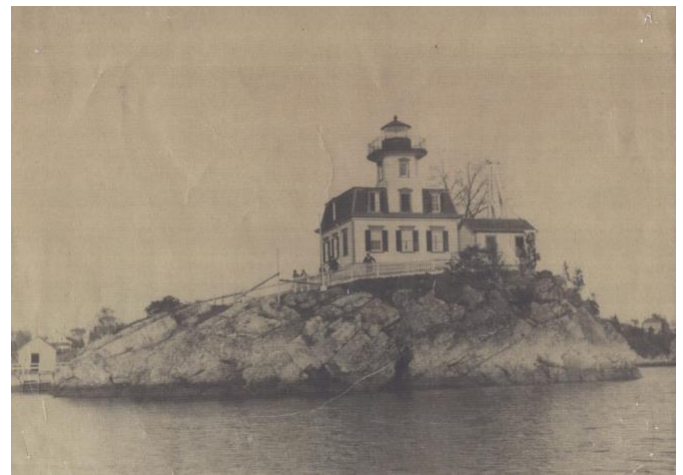
**FRIENDS AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT
FROM THE 1772
FOUNDATION/PRESERVE RI**

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse was one of 16 non-profit organizations awarded a matching grant for historic preservation from The 1772 Foundation in cooperation with Preserve Rhode Island. A total of \$125,000 in grants, ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 were awarded. The \$10,000 grant for Pomham Rocks will assist

us in installing historically accurate operable shutters on The Lighthouse.

“We are so grateful to be selected to receive this prestigious award,” noted President of Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Dennis Tardiff. “It will allow us to safeguard this important landmark, so it will be a lasting symbol of the crucial role our community played in maritime safety. This grant,” he added, “will also enable us ensure the completion of efforts to accurately replicate the exterior of the building.”

The shutter project will help preserve and protect Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, while restoring the exterior appearance to its original façade. The project includes the design, fabrication and installation of 19 sets of exterior window shutters on



the century-and-a-half-year-old lighthouse. Located on an island, Pomham is vulnerable to the harmful effects of New England weather. Wooden shutters, which can be latched closed, will provide an additional barrier to extreme weather conditions, such

as heavy rainfall and winds related to climate change. Once secured, the fully-operational shutters will help to protect the restored interior of the building and the artifacts in the museum, including Pomham's antique Fresnel lens. The shutters will also restore the exterior of the building to its former historically accurate appearance in its early years. Installation of the shutters is planned to take place in the fall.

I LOVE THE ROCK CONTEST

Ever walk or bike past Pomham Rocks Lighthouse on the East Bay Bike Path? Take your kayak or boat on the Riverside coast of the Providence River? Next time, take a selfie with The Lighthouse in the background. Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse invite you to show you LOVE THE ROCK this summer, by day or night, from land or sea, on a solitary run or on a group tour. Amateurs, professionals, young and old, local residents and those from afar are welcome to participate in this fun contest. Visitors are only allowed on the island on scheduled tours and personal watercraft are prohibited from accessing the lighthouse. But no need to worry, we just want you to put the historic light station in perspective.

Share your photos with friends on your social media and let them know you are in East Providence and that you LOVE THE ROCK. And then send your selfies to Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse at pomhamrockslighthouse@yahoo.com.

We will post a variety of photos on our social media sites as well. If your selfie is selected as a Friends' favorite, you will receive Pomham Rocks' merchandise. Prizes include hats and t-shirts, embroidered with a design of The Lighthouse and mugs, featuring a sketch of the local landmark. The contest runs until August 31.

POMHAM SANTA

The weather may still be warm, but the date is set for Santa to return to the Riverside shore. Santa will make his way from the Riverside Terrace to Sabin point aboard the Lady Pomham II again this year, on November 18th, 2023. We encourage everyone to gather at Sabin Point park, in Riverside, at 10:30 a.m. to await Santa's arrival. Refreshments are planned to be at the park while gatherers welcome Santa's arrival by boat. This event is weather permitting.

MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!!

The 2023 Friends of Pomham Rocks Annual Meeting will be held at the Squantum Club in East Providence on Friday evening, December 1st. We are very excited to be at this venue not only for its history and fabulous location, but for the wonderful generosity that Squantum has shown us by contributing to our own historical restoration.

Stay tuned for more details!

<p>Friends of Pomham Rocks <i>Sun and Fun Raffle</i></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p>	<p>FRIENDS OF POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE <i>Sun and Fun Raffle</i></p> <p>PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE DOCK RESTORATION PROJECT <i>Donation: \$10 each or 3 for \$25</i> <i>Make out check payable to: Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse</i> <i>c/o 81 Harris Street, Riverside, RI 02915</i> <i>Drawing on 8/12/23 at 6 PM – Pomham Tent</i> <i>at The Looff: East Providence Arts Festival at Rose Larisa Park</i> www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org</p>
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Friends of Pomham Rocks
Sun and Fun Raffle

Name: _____

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EVENTS

- **Looff Arts Festival : August 12th, 12 pm to 6 pm**
 - **Location: Rose Larissa Park, Riverside**

- **Pomham Santa: November 18th, 10:30 am**
 - **Location: Sabin Point Park, Riverside**

- **Annual Meeting: December 1st, Time TBD**
 - **Location: Squantum Association, Riverside**

FOLLOW THE RESTORATION WORK @

www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org

Facebook: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

YouTube: Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

Instagram: @pomham_rocks_lighthouse

